

## 2016 SERA WINTER BUSINESS MEETING

### MEETING NOTES, SUMMARY, TO-DO LIST

A full digital recording of the meeting, including grotto reports, is available in the archive file.

20160312 Smoky Mountain Grotto hosts meeting at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee

1300hrs Chair Candice Eagle conducts meeting.  
Vice Chair Peter Michaud absent  
Secretary/Treasurer John Hoffelt present

Matt Tomlinson welcomes on behalf of SMG

Maureen Handler announces that Sewanee Mountain Grotto will host the NSS BOG meeting Halloween weekend, 2016

M. Handler also announces NSS 404 Team fund raising opportunity on behalf of Bill Jackson

Matt Fisher announces River City Grotto is hosting Florida Cave Crawl March 18-20, 2016

Silent Auction is held during WBM with proceeds to benefit SMG for meeting costs.

Salons (Reports attached)

Fine Art – 9 photos, 1 art piece (show only)

Judges = Chrys Hulbert, Matt Tomlinson, Jim Whidby (Best of Show = Frank Bogle)

Map – 7 maps, 1 map show only, 4 cartographers

Judges = Brent Aulenbach, Frank Bogle, Matt Tomlinson (Best of Show = Ben Miller)

Amend 2015 WBM minutes to note 13 IOs represented (see 2015 Sign-in sheet) and Richard Schreiber Award judge Lyle Lassiter to Kyle Lassiter

No IO changes (additions, subtractions) over last year

Will need to expand award plaques within 2 to 4 years. Also, Sec. will contact NSS about hanging award plaques in new headquarters.

SKTF conducted 2 cleanups at Run to the Mill Cave. Newsome Gap cleanup scheduled for March 19, 2016

Cory Holliday (Tennessee Nature Conservancy) provides WNS update. Northern Long Eared Bats are most seriously affected

Old Business

Expand SERA to include IOs in surrounding states – notice provided to member IOs 60 days prior to meeting

Motion to amend Section III of SERA Constitution

“Membership shall be extended to all active members of the NSS residing within the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and any adjacent state wishing to participate.”

Moved, East Tennessee Grotto; Seconded, Central Alabama Grotto and Tennessee Cave Survey

Vote carries 9 For, 3 Against

2015 SERA Cave Carnival report – East Tennessee Grotto, 376 people, provides spreadsheet and templates

2016 SERA Cave Carnival report – Nashville Grotto, Cherokee Farms (Smokey's), LaFayette, GA, June 2-5, 2016

2017 Winter Business Meeting report – Upper Cumberland Grotto, expect Cookeville area

1515hrs meeting break

1530hrs meeting reconvenes

Roll Call/Grotto Reports – 13 IOs represented (see sign-in sheet)

#### New Business

ETG moves for SERA to obtain patches for sale (second by Sewanee Mtn Grotto); motion passes 10-0

ETG will follow up

Green River Grotto membership – C. Eagle will send letter to GRG

Insert for Responsible Caving – Tabled, may be brought up to NSS conservation division

Request to have WBM reports posted within 45 days of the meeting – past unanimously

Request to format SERA webpage for providing Summer Cave Carnival logistics and information

Will need to be developed by Nashville Grotto Cave Carnival committee and Brent Allen

#### SERA Awards

Francis Mckinney Award – awarded to Ben Miller

Judges: Jay Manneschmidt, Gerald Moni, Jeff Patton

Richard Schreiber Award – not awarded

Judges: Emily Davis, JP McClendon, Jeff Patton

Alexis Harris Conservation Award – no nominees

Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award – awarded to Marie Winfree

Judges: Frank Bogle, Doug Luther, Cheryl Pratt

Meritous Service:

“East Tennessee Grotto SERA Committee for the 2015 SERA Summer Cave Carnival event, reporting, and information sharing”

#### Cave Trips

20160311 Cheryl Pratt led a trip to Blue Spring

20160313 Jay Manneschmidt (Blowing Hole and Keller Bend Cave) and Chris Kerr (Cherokee Bluff)

#### Election

Vice Chairman = Jeff Patton

Sec/Treas = John Hoffelt

1645hrs meeting closes

Banquet speaker Chris Kerr

2016 SERA FINE ARTS SALON RESULTS  
(No entries in the Art Salon)

Judges: Matt Tomlinson  
Chrys Hulbert  
Jim Whidby

Photo Salon:

Fifteen entries by three photographers in four categories  
Maximum score possible 45 pts

Color/People:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Frank Bogle for "Virgin Pit"  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Cheryl Pratt for "Popping Out"  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Cheryl Pratt for "Pool Room"  
HM: Frank Bogle for "Slimed"

Color/Macro-Closeup:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Cheryl Pratt for "Sallie"  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Mendy Swain for "Almost There"  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Frank Bogle for "Sharks Tooth"  
HM: Frank Bogle for "The Drip"

Color/Artistic:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Frank Bogle for "Formation"  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Mendy Swain for "Reflecting Pool"  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Mendy Swain for "Baby Rimstone"  
HM: Cheryl Pratt for "The Wall"

Color/Entrances-Exterior Scenes:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Frank Bogle for "Anticipation"

Best of Show: Frank Bogle for "Formation" Scored 40.5 pts out of 45 maximum

## John Hoffelt

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**From:** mossyguy@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 8:04 AM  
**To:** John Hoffelt  
**Subject:** Fwd: Results of the 22nd Annual SERA Map Salon

\*\*\* This is an EXTERNAL email. Please exercise caution: DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. - STS-Security\*\*\*

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**From:** "GSS Website" <[gssweb@bellsouth.net](mailto:gssweb@bellsouth.net)>  
**To:** "John Hoffelt" <[mossyguy@comcast.net](mailto:mossyguy@comcast.net)>, "Candice Eagle" <[TennEagle@gmail.com](mailto:TennEagle@gmail.com)>, [etncaver@yahoo.com](mailto:etncaver@yahoo.com), [pup@mud-puppy.com](mailto:pup@mud-puppy.com)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 20, 2016 7:03:42 PM  
**Subject:** Results of the 22nd Annual SERA Map Salon

Posting to TAG-Net tonight! Mailing out award certificates/critiques tomorrow. Beat the deadline by 38 days! Average in last years procrastination and it will take me a decade before my average meets the requirement! :) -Brent

The 22nd annual SERA Map Salon was held on Saturday, March 12th, 2016 at the SERA Winter Business Meeting. The meeting was hosted by the Smoky Mountain Grotto in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The goals of the map salon are to encourage and improve mapping of caves in the SERA region by (1) providing a venue for cartographers to display their maps, (2) give an opportunity to view other cartographer's maps and techniques, (3) provide helpful critique, and (4) provide an incentive through healthy competition.

There were seven maps entered for competition this year by four different cartographers representing caves from two states. All the maps were of very high quality and the top three maps were scored very close to each other. All maps were judged in a single category. Five of the maps were given awards:

Two maps received Merit Awards for achieving a high level of proficiency:  
River Top Drop, Jackson Co., AL by Stephen Brewer  
Only Used Once Pit, Marion Co., TN by Jason Hardy

Third Place went to Jason Hardy for Snowflake Pit, Franklin Co., TN.

Second Place went to Alan Grosse for Earth Day Cave, White Co., TN.

And Best of Show went to Ben Miller for Shiver Hole & Copena Skull Pit, Overton Co., TN.

The other fine entries included:

Goodman Salpetere Cave, Grundy Co., TN by Jason Hardy.

Well Bat Well, Marion Co., TN, by Jason Hardy

Waterworks Cave, Marion Co., TN by Alan Grosse (For show only – map previously won award at NSS Cartography Salon so could not be entered in SERA Map Salon)

Thanks to all the cartographers for their excellent maps!

And thanks to the judges: Frank Bogle, Matt Thomlinson, and Brent Aulenbach.

Looking forward to lots more great maps next year! Get mapping & drafting!

-Brent

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Georgia Speleological Survey: [www.caves.org/survey/gss](http://www.caves.org/survey/gss)



## TREASURER REPORT

### SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE NSS

**JANUARY 1, 2016**

(Covering the Period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015)

BEGINNING BALANCE		\$938.56
(Balance Forward from December 31, 2015)		
INCOME (\$548.00)		
2015 SERA Cave Carnival		\$ <u>548.00</u>
	Subtotal	\$1,486.56
EXPENSES (\$557.16)		
SKTF SERA Cave Carnival (2014 and 2015)		\$ 297.50
2015 SERA Awards		\$ 150.00
Plaques, Frames, Mailing		\$ 97.66
2015 Web Space		\$ <u>12.00</u>
	(Subtotal Expenses)	\$ <u>557.16</u>
ENDING BALANCE		\$ 929.40