

**2017 SERA WINTER BUSINESS MEETING
MEETING NOTES, SUMMARY, TO-DO LIST**

20170311 Upper Cumberland Grotto hosts meeting at Buffalo Valley Community Center, Buffalo Valley, Tennessee

1300hrs Chair Peter Michaud (Mudpuppy) conducts meeting, which is held on a compressed schedule due to inclement weather.

Vice Chair Jeff Patton present

Secretary/Treasurer John Hoffelt present

Natasha Moseley welcomes on behalf of Upper Cumberland Grotto.

Mudpuppy proposes Meritorious Service Award to Moore J. Smith, III for services as spiritual advisor to SERA for many years (early action motion for memorial service).

Jay Manneschmidt (Smoky Mtn. Grotto) provides report for upcoming 2017 SERA Summer Cave Carnival, to be held May 19-22 at Trials Training Center on the Little Sequatchie River (Coppinger Cove).

SKTF conducted a total of 3 cleanups at Run to the Mill Cave, removing about 175 tires, and a cleanup at Johnson's Crook.

Zeke McKee reports on surveys in Enigma Cave (aka Gooseberry Grotto) at 2.1 miles and Blue Spring Cave at 41 miles.

Larry Matthews and Bill Walter are updating the Blue Spring Cave book.

Old Business

SERA Patches: CAG (Central Alabama Grotto) moves that proceeds from the sale of patches go to SERA (Birmingham seconds) (motion carries) (later clarified that patches sell for \$5 with \$4 to SERA and \$1 to vendor)

Cory Holiday (The Nature Conservancy) reports that the 2017 WNS surveys are complete: Northern Long-Eared bats appear gone; Little Brown, Tricolored, and Indiana bats continue to decline; Gray bats appear to be doing OK with an estimated 1.2 million in Tennessee

New Business

Green River Grotto (KY) is welcomed as a SERA member (Annette Posani delegate)

Discussion to provide SERA Summer Cave Carnival Toolbox on SERA webpage (Jay Manneschmidt, Chuck Sutherland, John Hoffelt)

Announcement that a proposal is being put together to host the 2019 NSS Convention at Tennessee Tech (Maureen Handler).

Bill Stringfellow requests issues for consideration by the Congress of Grottos.

I/O Roll Call – no reports due to compressed schedule – 15 IOs represented

SERA Awards

Francis McKinney Award – awarded to Mike Rogers

Judges: Jay Manneschmidt, Chuck Sutherland, Kyle Lassiter

Richard Schreiber Award – awarded to Zeke McKee

Judges: Rebecca McNabb, Gerald Moni, Anne Elmore

Alexis Harris Conservation Award – no nominees

Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award – awarded to Mike Cardin

Judges: Cory Holiday, Jon Zetterberg, Warren Wyatt

Meritorious Service:

Moore J. Smith III (spiritual advisor)

Cheryl Pratt for service as SKTF secretary for 10 years.

Map Salon – 8 maps by 6 cartographers (report attached)

Best of Show = Zeke McKee for Merrybranch Cave, White County, Tennessee

Election

Vice Chairman = Jay Mannes Schmidt

Sec/Treas = John Hoffelt

1645hrs meeting closes

1700 Banquet

Banquet speaker: Jon Zetterberg – LiDAR Surveys

1800 Mudpuppy reopens meeting to distribute SERA donations

\$100 to Don Hunter for costs associated with Art and Photo Salons and publication of The
Southeastern Caver

\$150 to PESH Expedition to Mexico (Bill Steele project leader)

John Hoffelt

From: mossyguy@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 7:22 AM
To: John Hoffelt
Subject: Fwd: Results of the 23rd Annual SERA Map Salon

From: "GSS Website" <gssweb@bellsouth.net>
To: etncaver@yahoo.com, "John Hoffelt" <mossyguy@comcast.net>, "Peter Michaud" <pup@mud-puppy.com>, obedrivercaver@gmail.com, Mendy567@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:27:46 PM
Subject: Results of the 23rd Annual SERA Map Salon

The 23rd annual SERA Map Salon was held on Saturday, March 11th, 2017 at the SERA Winter Business Meeting. The meeting was hosted by the Upper Cumberland Grotto in Buffalo Valley, Tennessee.

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

There were eight maps entered for competition this year by six different cartographers representing caves from two states. All the maps were of very high quality. Maps were judged in two categories, new cartographers (4 maps) and experienced cartographers (4 maps). Five of the maps received awards.

In the experienced cartographer category:

Second Place went to Ken Oeser for Avant Cave, Dekalb Co., TN.

First Place went to Jason Hardy for Motlow Cave, Moore Co., TN.

In the new cartographer category:

Jon Zetterberg received a Merit Award (for achieving a high level of proficiency) for Harambes Hideout Hole, Jackson Co., AL.

Second Place went to Cody Munday for Watertown Pit, Wilson Co., TN.

And First Place and Best of Show went to Zeke McKee for Merrybranch Cave, TN.

The other fine entries included: Shoffner Cave, Bedford Co., TN by Brian Roebuck; Blue Spring Cave, TTB Survey, White Co., TN by Zeke Mckee, and; Godwin Cave, Maury Co., TN by Ken Oeser.

Thanks to all the cartographers for their excellent maps!

And thanks to the judges: Mendy Thomas Swain, Chuck Sutherland, and Brent Aulenbach.

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

-Brent