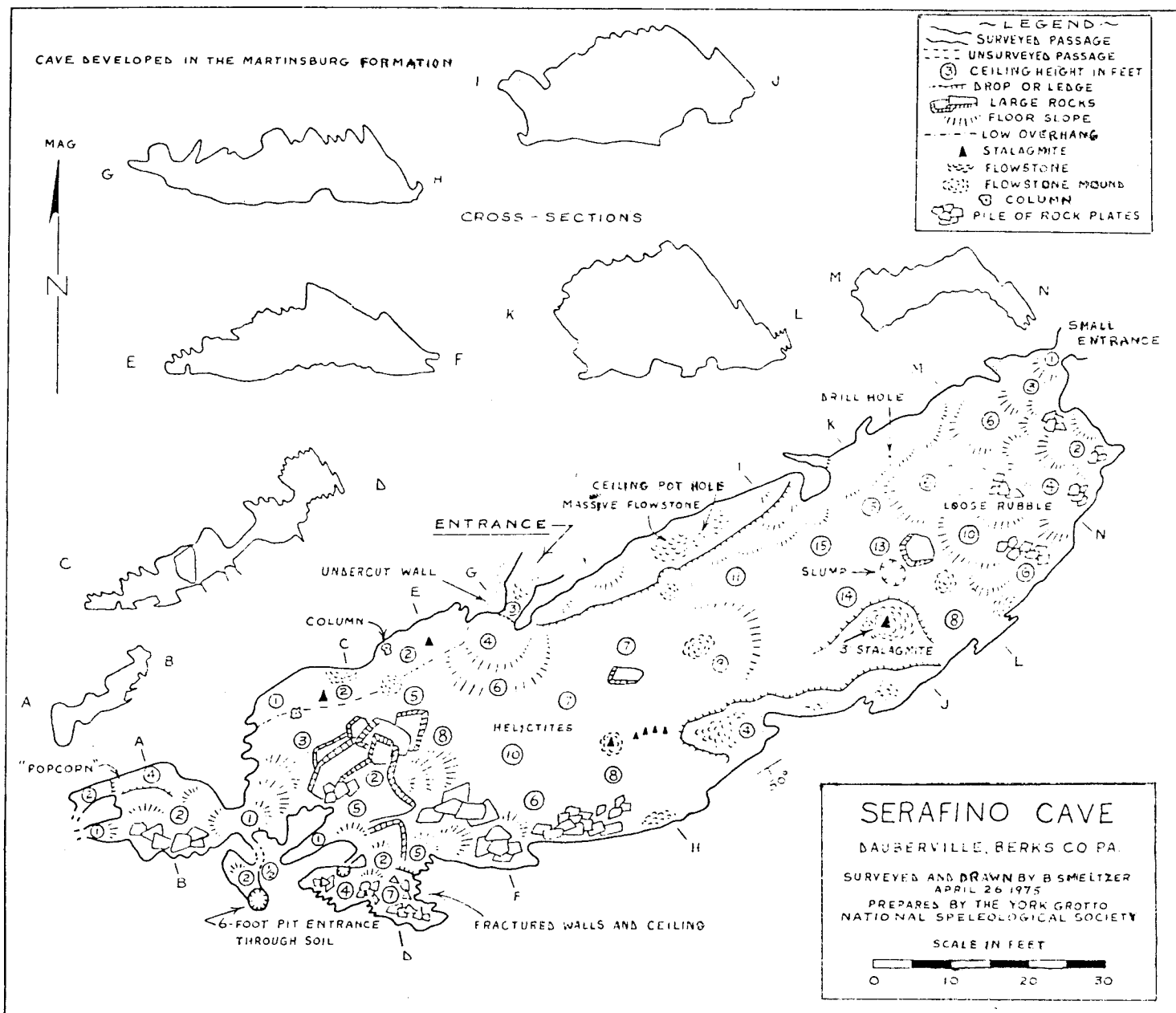


COMPASS & TAPE

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Cover: A 1975 map of Serafino Cave (Berks County, Pennsylvania) by Bernard Smeltzer. Originally published in the York Grotto Newsletter 13(2) 28 (1975) and reprinted in the 1975 Speleo Digest.

THE MINUTES OF THE 1992 SURVEYING AND CARTOGRAPHY SECTION

george dasher

On Thursday, August 6th, 1992, the annual meeting of the Surveying and Cartography Section of the National Speleological Society was held in conjunction with the 1992 NSS Convention in Salem Indiana. Chairperson Carol Vesely called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

Twenty-two members and friends of the Section were in attendance. These persons were:

Barry Chute	Dale Ibberson	Bill Putnam
Don Conover	Howard Kalnitz	Bru Randall
Don Coons	Pat Kambesis	Greg Sholly
Hubert Cromwell	Robert Lenz	Hope Uhl
George Dasher	Angela Morgan	Jeff Uhl
Ed Devine	Bill Nelson	Carol Vesely
Thom Engel	Barbara Schomer	
Bob Hoke	Nancy Pistole	

The first order of business was the Officers' Reports. Carol made no report; Vice Chairman Doug Dotson was not present. Secretary George Dasher stated that the minutes of last year's meeting had been published in the Compass and Tape and no one had complained.

Treasurer Bob Hoke said that SACS had plenty of money and that a more formal report was available at the meeting for those people who desired such. The Section had approximately \$2100 in its accounts, \$520 of which was money intended for future issues of the C&T.

Tom Kaye, the C&T Editor, was not present, and Bob Hoke gave his report. Bob said that SACS had printed two issues of the C&T within the past year, but--because of a lack of material--that both issues had been combined issues. They were Volume 9, numbers 1 and 2, and Volume 9, numbers 3 and 4. Bob said that the C&T needs material desperately.

Old Business was next discussed.

George Dasher gave a report on On Station, the surveying book he is writing and editing for the NSS' Board of Governors. Last year George had said that OS was pretty much dead in the water. Although the text has been finished for approximately three years, the illustrations have not been forthcoming.

George said that his old Digital Equipment computer had died a timely death last Labor Day and he had purchased an IBM clone. Because of this, he has a newer, more-state-of-the-art word processor and has reformatted the entire book. With a newly formatted book, he could see exactly what was needed where, and he has been drawing the illustrations himself. In addition, Hope Uhl has provided some illustrations, Don Conover one, and Bob Cronk one. Tom Rea has been made aware of how close to finished OS is and may--in the future--become a serious player in the publication.

The bottom line: OS is nearly complete. George has been distributing manuscripts during the Salem Convention for one last technical review. He hopes to--let's cross our fingers!--have the entire thing finished before the winter is over.

The Cartographic Salon was discussed next. George Dasher--the Cart Salon Coordinator--began this with some general bitching. He was unhappy with his placement as last at the Salon Ceremony the previous evening, and he is still unhappy that he is not allowed to bring the Cartographic Salon winners up on stage during the

ceremonies. Each of the winning maps requires an enormous amount of time and effort, and George feels that the Society could reward its cartographers with just a few minutes on stage.

There was an enormous amount of discussion. Many felt that the Cartographic Salon was an extremely popular event at Convention. Bob Thrun asked if a slide could be taken of each winner and shown during the ceremony. George said that was Paul Stevens'--the coordinator of the Salon Ceremony--strategy; however, as of yet George had not had the time or the energy to initiate any such program. George also said that the rules for all the BOG Salons require a one dollar entry fee and a slide of each contestant--and that both rules are usually not noticed by the Cart Salon entrants.

Bob Hoke brought up the subject of the Cart Salon Medal award. It is extremely small and very unprestigious. Bob said that with SACS' surplus of funds, that SACS could give cash to the annual Cart Salon medal winner or improve the quality of the medal award. He personally was in favor of improving the medal award.

Barry Chute made the motion to allocate \$100 and establish a committee to come up with a new medal award design. Bob Hoke seconded this motion and a vote was taken. All but one were in favor, no one was opposed, and one person abstained. The motion passed. Barry and George were appointed to the committee, and it was generally understood that Hope Uhl would help with any art work.

George mentioned that he would probably not be able to make the 1993 Oregon Convention. His father had recently died and he feels an urge to spend his 1993 vacation doing family things. Earlier he had asked Carol Vesely to stand in for him; however, Carol is always very busy at Convention running the International and U.S. Exploration Sessions. There was a general call for volunteers to run the 1993 Cart Salon--no one volunteered.

New Business followed.

Bob Hoke brought up the issue of accounting and dues. It was his opinion that the membership should be regulated not by years, but by the number of C&T issues each person had received. He said a lot of people paid for several years of membership at one time and he personally felt they should not be getting only one or two issues of the C&T within that time period. He said that any such membership changes would have to be reflected in the C&T masthead.

There was much discussion. Bill Putnam said that he had joined SACS to be a member of the Section not--as a primary reason--to receive the C&T. Don Coons said he saw nothing wrong with making money. Bob Hoke stated that Tom Kaye had taken the editorship of the C&T with the explicit understanding he would not have to hound people for articles. It was also mentioned that, when Tom took over his editing job, that Doug Medville had volunteered to hound people for articles. A very-unserious suggestion was made to replace Tom as editor, but no one was in favor of this idea.

Bob Hoke made a motion to change the membership from yearly to the number of C&T issues received. Hubert Cromwell seconded the motion and a vote was taken. Five persons were in favor, eight opposed, and three abstained. The motion failed.

Bill Putnam made a motion to add issue numbers to the C&T and to publish the C&T by those numbers, not by volume and number. Bob Hoke interceded and much discussion followed. Afterwards, Bill again made his motion, adding that the C&T masthead be changed to reflect that the C&T intends to publish quarterly, but that it might be published irregularly. Jeff Uhl seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The vast majority were in favor, no one was opposed, and four abstained. The motion passed.

Next was a discussion to name the Cart Salon Medal award after Bernie Smelzer, a Pennsylvania cave

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surveyor who had recently died and who had consistently published quality cave maps for the past three or four decades. Hope Uhl gave the "pro" side to this argument--she told a little bit about Bernie, said there was a display of his maps upstairs, and that the last issue of the York Grotto Newsletter (V28#4) was dedicated to him and contained a lot about what he had done. Hope also said that the NSS has a lot of named awards, i.e., the Lew Bicking Award, the Sara Corrie Award, etc. (Secretary Note: None of these awards are BOG Salon awards, as is the Cart Salon Medal award.)

Hope also said, more or less, "We in Pennsylvania know Bernie's work, his maps set the standard for many of our maps, and most of our cartographers have descended from Bernie." In addition, Bernie was "an extraordinarily person, a true caver and friend, a publisher of cave maps and articles, willing to pass on his knowledge, and always leading trips for younger persons." Hope proposed that the Medal be named the "Bernie Smelzer Award." She did not want it to say the "Father of Cave Cartography," or the "Greatest Cave Mapper."

The NSS Board was aware of the Bernie Smelzer Award idea and they had suggested Hope, etc. talk to SACS and convince SACS. The BOG decision would follow SACS' decision. (Secretary's Note: On Friday, Paul Stevens informed me, as the Cart Salon Chairman, that the BOG had decided to allow me to make the decision.)

A great deal of discussion followed. George Dasher said that he was concerned that naming the Cart Salon Medal award after any one person, no matter how the award was worded, would give the impression that that person was the father of American cave cartography. Carol Vesely suggested that instead of making a decision at this meeting, the pros and cons be presented in the next issue of the C&T. She asked Hope to write the "pro" side of the argument and Bob Hoke write the "con." Unfortunately, because of a lack of time--Carol was in charge of the International Session and she had to return to that auditorium--the discussion on this subject had to be terminated.

Elections next followed. Hubert Cromwell made the motion to continue with the present slate of officers. Thom Engel seconded the motion, and Barry Chute moved that we accept the present officers by acclamation. No one objected, and the present officers were thus railroaded back into their positions.

Thom Engel made the motion to adjourn, and Carol adjourned the meeting at 1:02 pm. Many persons stayed afterwards and participated in a discussion on the possibilities of a Bernie Smelzer Cartographic Salon Medal Award--or possibly in a second award, named after Bernie, given at each Convention and in conjunction with the Cart Salon Medal.

LOST: CRITIQUE SHEET

- George Dasher

[Tom:] Please run a short not saying that someone accidentally took home the critique sheets home for Carlene Allred's Dragon's Breath Cave. Ask that that someone please return the sheets to me so I can send them to Carlene.

CALL FOR CONVENTION PAPERS AND MAPS

by Bob Hoke

A highlight of the 1993 NSS Convention (in Pendleton, Oregon) will be the annual Survey and Cartography Session, which is sponsored by SACS. Anyone interested in presenting a paper on any aspect of cave mapping is welcome. The session is informal and all cave mappers are encouraged to give a presentation on any mapping topic that may be of interest to others. If you have developed a useful trick or technique, it is probably of interest to other SACS members and is worth presenting if you are attending the Convention.

If you have questions or want to discuss a possible presentation, contact Doug Dotson (the SACS Vice Chair).

The annual Cartographic Salon will be held in Pendleton. It is not too early to get that map you are finishing up ready to be submitted. More information about the Salon will be forthcoming in the *NSS News*, or you can call George Dasher (the SACS Secretary and Map Salon Chair) for more information.

LETTER TO THE C&T EDITOR:

by Bob Hoke

Dear Editor,

I have noticed that *Compass & Tape* contains very few articles reprinted from other caving publications. As librarian for the D. C. Grotto I see many exchange newsletters and I occasionally see articles that would be of interest to the national *Compass & Tape* readership. Since most newsletters reach a relatively small readership, I think we would be doing SACS members a service if we reprinted some of these articles.

If you are interested in reprinting survey-related articles, I will start keeping a lookout for them in the D. C. Grotto exchanges. When I find a candidate I will obtain permission to reprint it and get you either the original publication or a disk containing the original text (to avoid the inevitable retyping or scanning errors).

Since I obviously do not see every caving publication, I hope that *Compass & Tape* readers will help by sending you potential reprint articles. I'm sure there is lots of interesting stuff out there and I think we can provide SACS members with a valuable service by reprinting it.

THE PERFECT CAVE TRIP

by Hubert Crowell NSS 13289

Sometimes we take too lightly the exploring of an underground river or a void in the earth larger than a building.

A failure to record and publish a find could and usually does result in a lot of extra work by a lot of cavers. My personal failure to publish a major find resulted in a re-mapping project in the same cave two years later which overlooked this new section and it was fifteen years before the cave was fully mapped.

All new leads and finds should be mapped and published to allow others to push new leads and enjoy the discovery, not of old passages but new unexplored passages. It is very clear when you enter a virgin passage and mapping should start then. Find an easily recognized feature and describe its location, then without marking up the cave, survey in with as much detail as possible.

Provide copies of your original survey to the local Grotto, even if you plan to draw a map. Draw a map, even if it is only a small section of a larger cave, never wait for the cave to be completed or re-mapped. Any

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delay will usually result in loss of information.

All of this sounds good and I am sure there would be a lot more known caves and more known about existing caves if we all mapped as we explored. However the fact is we don't! We explore, find new passages, others follow out paths and assume it is well known cave. At some point in time a group may map the cave and then only the parts they were aware of.

Let us take a cave trip of the future:

A group planning a trip, contacts the bulletin board of the Grotto in the area and inquires about unchecked leads. A list of caves in the area in question are downloaded along with current maps and entrance locations. The group reviews the data, difficulty of the caves, equipment required, number of possible leads, etc.

The cave is selected and another call to the bulletin board is made to post the cave trip. Information is left about who is going, who is leading and what area of the cave is going to be checked or visited along with the date of the planned trip.

A GPS (Global Positioning System) is used to locate the entrance and the team leaders activate their inertia tracking device and enter the cave. The tracking device will record their path through the cave for a line plot. This will later be used to overlay an existing map to see if the map is complete or if some mapping is required to update the map.

Following the map downloaded from the bulletin board, the group quickly locates the first unchecked lead, this appears too tight for even the smallest in the group, some digging results in the lead being enlarged to about 14 inches with a large rock blocking the progress. This is all noted for later uploading to the bulletin board for future cave trips.

The group moves on to the next lead, this one involves a difficult climb and a virgin passage is found. The survey equipment is unpacked and the survey is started with notes about all aspects of the cave. After four hours of exploring and mapping two additional leads are noted with details location the nearest survey station and the cave is left for the next trip or group of cavers.

On the trip home the data is entered into a computer, plotted and overlain on the previous map. That evening all the survey data is uploaded to the bulletin board along with notes, scanned copies of cross sections and key-words for relocation of possible leads.

If the above were true there would always be a long list of caves begging to be explored and mapped. The status of any cave could be checked before each trip.

All of the items mentioned are available with maybe the exception of the inertial tracking device. The mapping software, GPS, Bulletin Boards, and computers are within the reach of most cavers or at least to groups of cavers. Even if the bulletin board was not used, a central location for the cave data could be maintained for cavers looking for a cave to explore. They could check in, agree to the rules and proceed on the perfect cave trip.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

by Philip Moss

19 August 1992

I must take issue with George Dasher (letter dated 8 March 1992), who urges cartographers to put their cave locations on cave maps and advocates that precise locations be a requirement for entries in the Cartographic Salon. The reasons he offers are that failure to put cave locations on maps 1) protects caves only from organized cavers and 2) will lead to the loss of cave locations.

Admittedly, there is an argument for putting cave locations on maps as that would make them "stand alone" documents. Apart from that, however, there are overriding disadvantages. First, it has been my experience that NSS and other organized cavers have damaged caves. I have observed two instances in the Mid-West where caves were gated almost immediately after discovery. Only organized cavers (mostly NSS members) went into these caves. Nevertheless, there has been very significant degradation from unintentional damage. I am not saying that this was due to the locations being on the map, but the damage was due to organized caver traffic. This same topic is addressed by John Ganter and Angela Morgan in the NSS News (May 1992) in Ganter's article "Caves in Magazines, Caves on Television: Mass Publicity and the Growth of Caving". This issue is also approached in a Bruce Unger poem reprinted in the NSS News (July 1992, p.172). Anyone can join the NSS or most grottos for a few dollars, but this is not a guarantee of good intentions or of caving skills. Not putting locations on cave maps doesn't keep these locations only from organized cavers. Many caver publications are disseminated to institutions as well as to individuals. Institutions, especially libraries exist to make information available to the public. The NSS, for example has 41 institutional members at last count. The individuals that have access to these publications through institutional subscriptions may not be as aware of conservation practices as organized cavers.

The goal of maintaining data is admirable, but there is a better alternative to putting the cave locations on maps: the state or regional cave survey. The state survey that I use is the Missouri Speleological Survey. It maintains files on over 5,000 caves, including about 2,100 cave maps, and this information is readily accessible to contributors to the Survey. If there is not a survey in one's area, I think it is much better for the preservation of caves to start one than to accept their degradation by limiting one's options to putting locations on cave maps. By using these organizations, cave maps and locations can be maintained for generations without detrimental effects on the cave by increasing traffic. The cave map can be disseminated through publications, if the cartographer so desires, or entered in the Cartographic Salon without giving the location to those cavers who have no "need to know". Recreational cavers do not have a need to know. Such cavers account for the majority of organized cavers as well as the majority of traffic in caves that have a "must see" reputation. Mapping a cave is a major step in the study of a cave. Those people who are engaged in research are aware of the surveys and get the cave locations and maps that they need through them. There is also the implication that the cave maps themselves will not be lost. Preventing this loss requires fairly widespread dissemination of cave maps. Once something is in print, there is no way to remove sensitive material from the distributed copies. Eventually, this material will find its way into the public domain.

In conclusion, it is better not to put locations on cave maps, and it would be very irresponsible to require locations to be on maps entered in the Salon since the Salon sets the standard for cave maps. The requirement would discourage cartographers who disagree with the policy from entering maps in the Salon, which would diminish the benefits of the Cartographic Salon.

CAVE LOCATIONS ON MAPS

by Tom Kaye

After reading the previous two articles, I decided to add my two cents' worth to the discussion.

It is obvious to all by this time that Western cavers and Eastern cavers are statistically different in their opinions on the topic of revealing cave locations on maps and in caving publications. Being an Eastern caver, I side with the "if no location then no science and therefore just another sport (or art)" opinion. But the opinion that cave locations should not be required on Salon maps probably has equal merit, I must admit. There are really two questions involved: 1) whether all cave maps should have locations on them AND be published in a publication or stored in an official establishment 2) whether the cave's location should be a requirement of Cartography Salon entries. One could reasonably say yes to question one and no to question two. In fact....

The discussion about state or regional cave surveys by Philip Moss is a refreshing compromise between the usual "you must do it" and "you can't require it" arguments. Of course, his location in the middle of the country may very well have something to do with his having a compromise position. This compromise begs the question about the policies of all Cave Surveys. It would be interesting to collect information about each of them (maybe someone would like to do such an article), asking specifics about what Philip alluded to: what are the policies of information input and output. Who controls it and who decides who has a "need to know"? Is it true for some Surveys that those who input some stuff have subsequent access to all of it? Philip Moss speaks of the Missouri Speleological Survey, I have seen (but do NOT have) a printout of the Tennessee Cave Survey database which contains a few thousand entries. (No, I did not memorize any of them!) I don't know much about the Surveys in Virginia and West Virginia, although I do know that they exist and who is doing them. Although I survey caves in these states, I have never seen these Surveys' information nor do I know what fields are in databases, etc. I know there are "secret caves" in these states, but I don't know whether their locations are in the databases. What about the West? Does the location anxiety there prohibit even the existence of Cave Surveys and databases?

The article by Hubert Crowell presents a futuristic view of something like cave survey databases, a view that would likely bother Philip Moss! It all depends on where you are on the scale of "us" vs. "them". To some, "us" is organized cavers, to others, "us" is those whose hobby is cave surveying, and to others, "us" is 'me and thee and I'm not so sure about thee'.

1992 NSS CARTOGRAPHIC SALON

george dasher

This year, at the 1992 Convention in Salem, Indiana, 38 maps were entered in the Cartography Salon.

These maps were from fourteen of the United States' states, Provincia de Puntarenas in Costa Rica, Geike National Park in West Australia, and the Guizhou Province in the Peoples Republic of China. The U.S. states were Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. 13 green ribbon Honorable Mentions were awarded, 3 blue ribbon Merit Awards, and two overall Medal Awards.

The winners were:

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

1. Bob Alderson
Catawba Murder Hole, Botetourt County, Virginia
2. Bert Ashbrook
Carney's Pit, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania
3. Keith Dunlap
Suicide Cave, Washington County, Indiana
4. Carlene Allred
Dragon's Breath Cave, Tongass National Forest, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska
5. Carlene Allred
El Capitan Pit, Tongass National Forest, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska
6. Eric Hutcheson
Eagles Nest Cave System, Hernando County, Florida
7. Dottie Eckert
Pinney Cave, White County, Tennessee
8. Walt Hamm
Rattlesnake Pit, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania
9. Pat Kambesis
Long Qi Dong, Zhijin County, Guizhou Province, Peoples Republic of China
10. Pat Kambesis
Duo Ba Dong, Ping Ba County, Guizhou Province, Peoples Republic of China
11. Pat Kambesis and Tom Stockert
Lao Wa Dong, Ping Ba County, Guizhou Province, Peoples Republic of China
12. Pat Kambesis and Don Coons
Xiao Lu Dong, Ping Ba County, Guizhou Province, Peoples Republic of China
13. Pat Kambesis and Don Coons
Hua Ta Dong, Ping Ba County, Guizhou Province, Peoples Republic of China

MERIT AWARDS:

1. Pat Kambesis and Don Coons
Chui Feng Dong, Ping Ba County, Guizhou Province, Peoples Republic of China
2. Pat Kambesis
Caves and Kart Features of the Zhijin River Gorge, Zhijin County, Guizhou Province, Peoples Republic of China
3. Bert Ashbrook
Richlands Cave, Greenbrier County, West Virginia

MEDAL AWARDS:

1. Jeff and Hope Uhl
El Rectángulo, Provincia de Puntarenas, Costa Rica
2. Mick Sutton
Mammoth Cave, Kentucky Avenue, Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky

The numbers have absolutely no meaning as far as order of map quality. The map of Eagles Nest Cave was of an underwater cave, the maps of Carney's Pit and Richlands Cave were CAD--or Computer Aided Drafted--maps.

This year's judges were Ron Morton, of RASS and Richmond, Virginia; Dale Pate, of Carlsbad National Park and Carlsbad, New Mexico; and George Dasher, of WVACS and Cross Lanes, West Virginia. I would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Cartographic Salon, both entrants and judges, and I hope that next year we see even more maps entered in the Salon.

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NSS CARTOGRAPHIC SALON MEDAL WINNERS

george dasher
11 August 1992

1978 New Braunfels, Texas	Natural Bridge Caverns	Orion Knox
1979 Pittsfield, Massachusetts	Williams' Cave, Virginia	Ward Foeller
1980 Saint Paul, Minnesota	Hoya de Quital, Mexico	Peter Sprouse
1981 Bowling Green, Kentucky	Grotte de Reclere, Switzerland	Remy Wenger
	Natural Bridge Caverns, Texas	Orion Knox
1982 Bend, Oregon	No Medal Award was Given	
1983 Elkins, West Virginia	Nikki Ananda, New Guinea	Carol Vesely
1984 Sheridan, Wyoming	Nambawan Ananda, New Guinea	Carol Vesely
1985 Frankfort, Kentucky	Corinth Church Cave, Kentucky	John Ganter
1986 Tularosa, New Mexico	Sotano de San Marcos, Mexico	Peter Sprouse
1987 Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan	Buckeye Creek Cave System, West Virginia	George Dasher
1988 Hot Springs, South Dakota	Dunco Spring, Jamaica	Mike Futrell
1989 Sewanee, Tennessee	Cave Spring Cave, Virginia	Tom Spina
1990 Yreka, California	Snowflower Pit, Alabama	Pat Kambesis
1991 Cobleskill, New York	Bananal, Costa Rica	Hope Uhl
1992 Salem, Indiana	El Rectángulo, Costa Rica	Hope and Jeff Uhl
	Kentucky Avenue, Mammoth Cave Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky	Mick Sutton

NSS CARTOGRAPHIC SALON CHAIRMAN RAMBLINGS

by george dasher

First of all, in the last issue of the Compass and Tape, I wrote a letter. The original of this letter was clearly marked as an editorial letter; however, Tom Kaye accidentally deleted an all important paragraph from the letter in the C&T. I wish to state--for the record--that my letter in last issue of the C&T was an editorial letter by a member of the Surveying and Cartography Section. It was not a statement of policy by the chairman of the NSS Cartographic Salon.

Second, this year's Cartographic Salon went incredibly smoothly and I was very pleased with the outcome. Of note: The three judges voted to include all of Pat Kambesis' maps in the Salon (she had entered four and was displaying six more). This effectively destroys the four-maps-only rule in the Cart Salon. It was interesting to note that, while we pondered this weighty decision, we failed to notice that Carlene Allred had already entered five maps in the Salon and that they were hanging only a meter or two from where we were standing.

A second important happening this year was that we gave two medal awards. Speaking as one of this year's judges, I feel that it would have been very possible to have nit-picked and chosen only one medal winner. However, two maps were clearly of medal quality and I am very glad we choose to give both maps medals. Of equal interest, other winners were not judged "Best of Class" or anything like that--they were simply judged worthy of their respective awards. The Cart Salon is not a Super Bowl, and I personally feel that we do not have to pick a best map, nor should we have to toss one map aside because a second map is just a wee little bit better. So: Potential new policy here.

There is a movement afoot to name the NSS Cartography Salon Medal award after Bernie Smelzer, a Pennsylvania cave surveyor who recently died and who had consistently published quality cave maps since the 1940's. At present, the choices include naming the Medal award after Bernie, not naming the Medal after Bernie, or naming a second award after Bernie. Current strategies call for giving this second award at Convention and in conjunction with the Cart Salon Medal. Elsewhere in this issue, if all goes according to "Da Plan," Hope Uhl should be giving a "pro" side to this argument, and Bob Hoke the "con." The NSS BOG, in a masterful, last-minute job of playing hot potato, has given me the responsibility of making the final decision. I am interested in everyone's opinion, and it may be that we will poll the SACS membership in the C&T as to what to do.

Regardless of what the Medal is or is not named, the Surveying and Cartography Section has approved plans to better the Medal award. The present Medal award is extremely small and very unprestigious--most Western belt buckles are larger. I had brought only one Medal award to this year's Convention--I was figuring on personally bettering the award next year. Unfortunately, this meant I had no back up Medal in case of a tie--and we did have a tie. Because Jeff and Hope Uhl were present at Convention and Mick Sutton was not, the Medal Award I brought to Convention was given to the Uhls.

Once home in Charleston, I ordered the second Medal. When I told the store owner what the award was for, he put in his two cents, and the result is a larger Cart Salon Medal award. Hopefully, by next year, SACS' committee--Barry Chute, Hope Uhl, and myself--will have designed a new, more-prestigious Medal award. Those people who received awards prior to Mick have received the small award; those people post-Mick will receive the larger, specially-designed Medal; and Mick will receive a Medal award somewhere in the middle range. I hope that is acceptable to everyone.

The 1993 Cart Salon: I would like to spend my 1993 vacation doing family things. This means I will probably not be at the Oregon convention. I have asked Carol Vesely to "pitch hit" for me for one year; however, she is extremely busy with the International and U.S. Exploration sessions and has not yet said yes. I also asked Ed Devine, who judged last year's salon and who has an excellent grasp on the way the Cart Salon is run; however, Ed is a BOG widower and feels he will not have the required time at Convention. The Cart Salon job is more administrative than cartographic, but some knowledge of cave surveying and cave cartography

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is required. Any volunteers? The job will pretty much eat into your entire Convention schedule, but you will have the chance to increase your knowledge of world geography, learn foreign languages, and embarrass yourself in front of all your friends on award night. So how would you pronounce, "Xiao Lu Dong?"

Other things: Paul Stevens--who runs the Salon Presentations at Convention--and I have been waltzing around each other since he took over that job in 1989. Prior to that year, all the Salon Chairpersons announced all their winners immediately before the Thursday night slide show and we brought all our winners up onto the stage. I would like to return to this style of program.

Paul, on the other hand, wants to space out the Print, Cart, and Graphic Salon presentations between the Slide and Video shows. I went last this year. In addition, Paul would like everyone entering the Cart Salon to send me a slide of themselves doing caving- or cartographic-type things. Then, while I announce the winner, Paul shows the slide of the winner on the screen behind me. Only the Medal winner would be brought up on the stage.

Paul's overall strategy is to speed through the Cart, Graphics, and Print Salons and to move into the Slide and Video shows. The Slide and Video people have spend a lot of time and money on their entries and feel it is important that their stuff is shown. I am unhappy with this strategy. The Cart Salon entrants have spend mega-hours preparing their maps--perhaps more than all the other NSS Salons combined, and I think the Society could spare five minutes on Salon Night and bring the ribbon and medal winners up onto the stage.

Because Paul is in charge of the Salons at present, we will continue to do the Salon Night in the manner he feels appropriate. I have no answer to this situation, and possibly no answer is required. This year, Salon Night was on Wednesday evening of Convention. I have no problems with this, and in fact it made for an easier tail end of Convention.

Last thing: Karen Kastning, who has run the Print Salon since way-back-when, and whose husband, Ernest, used to run the Cart Salon, paid the Cart Salon one hell of a compliment this year. She said that there is a world of difference between the maps that were entered in the Cart Salon in the late 1970's and early 1980's and those maps in the 1992 Salon. The purpose of the Cart Salon is not to foster competition between the NSS' cartographers, but rather to raise the level of cave surveying and cartography. If Karen is correct, then it looks as if we might be achieving our goal.

Last things: Please continue to enter your maps in the NSS Cartographic Salon. Next year: Please send me a slide of yourself doing something speleo or cartographic. Also please send me one buck per entry. The BOG has decreed all the Salons will pay for themselves and the fee rule is in effect for all the BOG Salons. It does not matter if you donate your map to the NSS after the Convention.

And, I donated all the maps not picked up at Convention to the NSS Library in Huntsville.

That's all. Enough rhetoric! Enter maps in 1993!

CARTOGRAPHIC SALON MEDAL AWARD NAME

by George Dasher 14 November 1992

Dear SACS Members:

As you may or may not be aware, there has been a good deal of recent discussion concerning the possible naming the Board of Governors' (BOG) Cartographic Salon's highest award, the Medal Award, after Bernie Smeltzer, a Pennsylvania cave surveyor who died earlier this year. As the Cartographic Salon Chairman, I wish to summarize the situation.

The Pros:

Virtually all of the people in favor of naming the Cart Salon Medal after Bernie are from eastern Pennsylvania. Their arguments include:

- 1.) Bernie consistently mapped caves for about four decades;
- 2.) Bernie's maps were consistently of a very high quality, and are considered by many to be state-of-the-art for their time;
- 3.) Bernie was always very willing to share his knowledge with other cavers, cave surveyors, and cave cartographers;
- 4.) Bernie always published his cave maps;
- 5.) Bernie was very nice guy; and
- 6.) The NSS has a lot of "named" awards--why not one more?

The Cons:

No non-Pennsylvanian I have personally talked to--other than Mike Dyas--is in favor of naming the Cart Salon Medal Award after Bernie. The arguments for not naming the award after Bernie include:

- 1.) There were other cave cartographers who historically produced quality cave maps (the most frequently mentioned names are Bill Davies and Orion Knox);
- 2.) Bernie was not well known on the national caving scene, only in Pennsylvania;
- 3.) Bernie's maps are good, but they are not of the quality most people expect of the Cart Salon;
- 4.) Bernie never entered the Cartographic Salon; and
- 5.) None of the NSS' Salons are "named" awards, and does the NSS have to name every award after someone who has died? One could say it is not important to have been good, only to have died first.

The History of the Discussion:

- 1.) Hope Uhl called me a month or so before the Salem Convention. I had never met Bernie and this was the first I had heard he had died--or even that he was a cave cartographer. Later research on my part found that John Ganter's short speleo-cartographic history had included some of Bernie's contributions. This history was printed in the Fall 1988 issue (V6n2p9) of The Compass and Tape (C&T).
- 2.) Paul Stevens called me about a week before the Salem Convention. Paul was considering making a motion at a Convention BOG meeting to name the Cart Salon Medal after Bernie. When Paul discovered that I was not much more than lukewarm about the idea, he changed his mind. The two of us decided to wait and see what SACS' opinion would be at Convention before making a decision.
- 3.) The York Grotto Newsletter dedicated their July 1992 issue (V28n4) to Bernie and his contribution to

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caving, cave surveying, and cave cartography. This publication included Bernie's obituary; a copy of his Certificate of Merit; reviewed his caving history from 1948 to 1992; told of Bernie's involvement in 1950 with Charles Mohr and the publication of NSS' Bulletin #15, The Caves of Pennsylvania; contained a list of the 145 caves Bernie surveyed; and discussed Bernie's geological descriptions of some of the caves.

- 4.) Hope and Jeff Uhl put together an exhibit on Bernie which was displayed at the Salem Convention. This display took up about 50 feet of linear wall space and put great emphasis on Bernie's 40 year effort of mapping caves and drawing cave maps. This exhibit included approximately 25 cave descriptions, drawing, and maps, some of the last were of very good quality.
- 5.) The subject of naming the Cart Salon Medal after Bernie was presented by Hope and Jeff Uhl--as well as a host of Pennsylvania cavers--to SACS at the Section meeting on the Thursday of the Salem Convention.

Because SACS had other business to discuss, the Bernie subject was broached about 45 minutes after the hour. Because Chairwoman Carol Vesely was also coordinating the International Exploration Session, scheduled on the same day, and because Vice-Chairman Doug Dotson was not present, the SACS meeting had to limited to only one hour. In addition, the required last order of business was the election of officers.

Thus, SACS only discussed the renaming of the Cart Salon Medal for about 10 minutes. A lot of this discussion was negative. But--on the other side of the coin--SACS saw absolutely no reason to hurry the decision, and they decided to publish the Pro and Con Arguments in the next issue of the C&T. It was further decided that Hope Uhl would write the Pro Argument and Bob Hoke would write the Con Argument.

Some discussion followed the SACS meeting, and a compromise was suggested in which a second Cart Salon award could be named after Bernie. This award could be given for best novice cartographer, or to a cartographer who was entering his first Cart Salon.

- 6.) Paul Stevens, when he heard that SACS had decided to not hurry their decision, deferred from introducing the subject at the Friday-of-Convention BOG meeting. He told me after the meeting that the BOG had decided to let me, as the Cart Salon Chairman, make the decision concerning renaming the Cart Salon Award.
- 7.) About two months after Convention, Mike Dyas jumped into the ballgame. This is where the serious discussion began. Mike wanted the Cart-Salon-Medal-Name decision made immediately, he did not want SACS' opinion, he wanted the BOG to make the decision, and he wanted the Cart Salon Medal named after Bernie.
- 8.) At their October Board meeting, the D.C. Grotto proposed that no NSS award could be named after a deceased person until five years after that person has died. This motion was presented to the NSS' BOG at the Fall 1992 Board meeting.
- 9.) The NSS' BOG, after discussing the issue at their Fall 1992 meeting, voted to formally allow me to make the decision concerning the name of the Cart Salon Medal.

My Thoughts on the Subject:

Of all the arguments in this debate, both positive and negative, two keep sticking in my mind. These are:

-- There were other cave cartographers who produced cave maps of extremely good quality as far back as the late 1940's. One of these, Bill Davies, may have been a mentor of Bernie's.

-- As unfortunate as it may be, Bernie caved and mapped almost exclusively in eastern Pennsylvania. He is virtually unheard of outside this area and he has no history of participation in the Cartography Salons. Because of this, I have serious qualms about naming a national award after him.

Thus, it is my opinion that it is inappropriate to name the Cart Salon's Medal Award after Bernie. I do, however, feel it would be suitable to name a second award after him. This award would be picked by the Cart Salon judges at each Convention, and it can be for a myriad of different possibilities, including best novice cartographer, best first time Salon entrant, best project or long cave, most innovative map, or perhaps to an individual who has entered a large number of quality maps in the Cart Salon and have yet to receive a Medal award. After discussions with Bob Hoke concerning the time and effort Bernie invested in new cavers and new cave cartographers, the most appropriate choices appear to be the "Best First Time Salon Entrant" or the "Best Novice Cartographer."

This "Bernie Award" could be given every year, every two or three years, or two awards in one year. The number would depend the quality and quantity of the entrants. The "Bernie Award" and the Medal Award could be given to the same map. In addition, SACS voted at this year's convention to "upgrade" the Cart Salon Medal with moneys from their treasury. This money could be split, and two wall plaques could be purchased, one for the Medal Award and one for the "Bernie Award."

My argument for an additional award: An incredibly immense amount of effort goes into the mapping of each cave and the drawing of each cave map. A worse case senecio was entered in this year's Salon. It was a map requiring literally decades of work in the cave and hundreds and hundreds of man-hours of cartographic work. And, it was a map entered by a first-time Cart Salon entrant. Consequently, giving an additional Cart Salon Award would allow the NSS to further recognize that aspect of caving which requires the absolutely most effort, commitment, and dedication--that is, surveying the cave and the drawing of the cave map. And giving an additional award would give Bernie the cartographic recognition he deserves.

And: Already my little mind is conjuring up a third award, one given to the map of a longer-and-more-complex-than-most cave requiring years and/or many, many trips to map.

What To Do?

Despite the fact I have been formally charged with making the decision, despite the fact the Cart Salon--as well as all the other Convention Salons--is a BOG-controlled Salon, and despite the fact I have already formed an opinion of my own, I would still like to hear SACS' members' opinions.

So: The first order of business is to solicit these opinions. There are three choices at present. These are:

- Name the Cartography Salon Medal (Best Map of Salon) after Bernie, -- Do not name the Cartography Salon Medal after Bernie, or
- Name an additional Cart Salon award after Bernie.

Send your opinions and thoughts to myself. Sending no letter equals having an indifferent opinion. My address and phone number is:

George Dasher
5096 Washington Street West
Apartment #101
Cross Lanes,
West Virginia 25313
304-776-8048 home

Be forewarned, I do not intend on answering each letter personally. And, if you wish, you can also send an editorial letter to the C&T for a much wider distribution. Tom Kaye has told me personally he wants none of these, but the mere thought of poor, poor, pitiful Tom whiling away his time and fingers typing in all those letters does my little heart a world of good.

I will, using the opinions heaped upon me, make a decision concerning the naming of the Cart Salon awards, and I will probably involve the committee SACS appointed to "upgrade" the Medal Award. These people are Barry Chute, Bob Hoke, Hope Uhl, and myself. There is also a slight chance that I may wait and hear SACS' opinion at the 1993 Convention and then make my decision there.

Other Things That Have Gone Bump in the Dark:

Mike Dyas, in his many letters, has brought up three other issues I would now like to address.

1.) SACS has--at no time--said, attempted, pretended, or hallucinated that they have control of the Cart Salon. SACS fully realizes that the Cart Salon is a BOG Salon, and that they are only being asked their opinion by the BOG as to what to do. An identical situation existed when I was appointed as Chair of the Cart Salon. The BOG asked SACS their opinion, SACS gave their opinion, and the BOG appointed me Chair.

2.) SACS' leadership is not to blame for the lack of time given to discussing the Cart Salon Medal at the Salem Convention. There were other issues to be discussed (one of which was the funding of a more prestigious Cart Salon Medal) and Carol had a serious time conflict. I'm sorry it happened, but trying to put the blame on Carol Vesely is just piss-poor politics.

3.) This Cart Salon debate is not hand-me-down politics from the Trout Rock Cave controversy. It is true that Bob Hoke, who has written the Con Argument, Tom Kaye, who is editor of the C&T, and myself were on the Keep-It-Open side of the Trout fight; and that Mike Dyas was on the Close-It side--however, I feel this is coincidence and nothing more. Mike is clearly the late-comer into the Cart Salon Medal debate. I do not feel that Bob, Tom, or I--who have been involved with SACS since its founding in 1983--should have to abandon ship just because Mike has now decided to become a player. I personally find it distasteful that the Trout Rock upscuddle was even mentioned in the Cart-Salon-Medal-Name debate.

That's all. I'm am out of here!

Sincerely,

George Dasher
Cartographic Salon Chairman

KEEP THE CARTOGRAPHIC MEDAL DEPERSONALIZED

by Bob Hoke

I don't dislike Bernie Smeltzer. I never even met the gentleman. I know he was one of the pioneers in modern cave cartographic techniques and that he published numerous high quality maps in Grotto newsletters. However, I do not think it is appropriate to name the NSS Cartography Salon Medal after him.

There is a tendency to memorialize a fellow caver after an untimely death by naming something after him or her. However, once an award is associated with someone's name, it is effectively impossible to similarly honor future cavers who may have had as much or more influence as the unfortunate caver who died first. It can be argued that some of the major awards of the NSS are named after cavers whose primary claim to fame was that they were unlucky enough to die first, not that they were the greatest person in their field of caving.

The Society should have a policy of not honoring any deceased member by naming something after them for at least five years after their death. I believe a similar policy is used for several sports Halls of Fame and it is intended to insure that only the truly significant players are inducted, not the "hero of the moment".

Clearly, Bernie Smeltzer did some significant pioneering work in cave mapping techniques and his maps were of outstanding quality. However, his work was generally confined to Pennsylvania caves and I am sure that equally good work was done by other cartographers in other areas of the country during the same period. If the Cartography Salon Medal really should be named after someone (and it is not clear this is a good idea), the Society should wait several years and then revisit the question. If Bernie Smeltzer still looks like the person who most influenced the development of cave mapping, then perhaps the medal should then be given his name. However, nothing should be done until the tragedy of his death has faded with the passage of time.

Any SACS member who feels strongly about naming the Cartography Salon Medal after Bernie Smeltzer (or anyone else) should let George Dasher know how they feel.

BERNIE SMELTZER 'PRO' ARTICLE

- Tom Kaye, ed.

Although George Dasher's intent was that Hope Uhl would write a 'pro' article and Bob Hoke would write a 'con' article about the naming of the Cartographic Salon Merit Award after Bernie Smeltzer, Hope Uhl decided not to print her article in the Compass & Tape.

YOU COULD BE THE EDITOR

by Tom Kaye

If YOU would like to be the editor of the Compass & Tape, this is your opportunity to exercise your editorial and publishing talents. If there are no offers, I will persevere, but once again, I remind you that I wouldn't mind passing the torch to a new editor.



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