

## 1995 SURVEYING AND CARTOGRAPHY SECTION MEETING

george dasher  
20 August 1996

The 1996 meeting of the Surveying and Cartographic Section (SACS) was held during the NSS' annual convention in Salida, Colorado. The meeting was took place on Thursday, August 8th, in the Salida High School, and was called to order at 12:14 pm by Chairperson Carol Vesely. Carol said that Cartographic Salon would be discussed last, as she expected this discussion to be the most intense and would require the most time.

Attending the meeting were 38 members and friends of the Section. It was asked that, as the membership signed the meeting roster, that they provide their e-mail address. The attendees were:

Bert Ashbrook	610-797-3981
Bill Balfour	
Rick Banning	
Roger Bartholomew	
Dave Black	
Barry Chute	bchute@ggpl.arsuson.gov
Don Conover	conovedw@asc-yw.wpafb.af.mil
Hubert Crowell	
George Dasher	
Miles Drake	karstmd@gnn.com
Dave Engel	dengel@earthlink.net
Andrea Futrell	
Mike Futrell	futrell.s@postbox.acs,ohio-state.edu
John Ganter	jganter@sandia.gov
Daniel Hazelton	dehazelton@msn.com
David Herron	caverdave@aol.com
Bob Hoke	
Paul Jorgenson	paul@mail.hvs.com
Howard Kalnitz	
Tom Kline	Idc! pdx5! 3441@idchg.attmail.com
Dave Lemberg	lemberg@geog.vcsb.edu
Robert Lenz	
Phil Lucas	Virginia Speleological Survey
Doug Medville	medville@patriot.net
Hazel Medville	medville@patriot.net
Pat O'Connell	pato@nmia.com
Jim Pisarowicz	pisarowi@rmii.com
Nancy Pistole	nancy@wb6hgk.ampr.org
Scott Schmitz	
Ted Steinke	tsteinke@garnet.cla.sc.edu
Bob Thrun	bob.thrun@wdn.com
Carol Vesely	

Jim Washington	jwashin@vt.edu
Beth Ann Webb	bwebb@paltech.com
Fred Wefer	
Arnie Weisbrot	weisbrot@clark.net
Mark Weisbrot	weisbrot@clark.net
Stephanie Woodward	

First were the officers' reports. Roger Batholomew, the Vice-Chairman, said that he really appreciated those who had helped with the SACS' session at this Convention. He urged everyone to submit papers for the 1997 Missouri Convention.

George Dasher, the secretary, said that he had written no letters during the past year and that he really had nothing to report.

Bob Hoke, the treasurer, said that SACS had "lots of money." He said that the Section had published two issues of The Compass and Tape in the past year and that an additional issue was mailed about one and a half weeks prior to the Colorado Convention. He asked for a show of hands of who had received this last issue. Bob also said that the Section presently had 212 members. He recommended that the Section charge \$1 for 1 or 2 back issues of the C&T, 0.75 for 2 to 6 back issues, and \$0.50 for more than 6 back issues. He made a motion to this effect, which Mike Futrell seconded, and which passed unanimously with one exception Dave Engel said that he was indifferent to the motion.

Pat Kambesis, the editor of the C&T, was not present at the meeting. Carol gave Pat's report, and said that Pat has some material for future issues; however she needs more articles. Pat also plans to start a new column, called the "Cartographer's Column," and this will profile a map in each issue of the C&T, giving only the positive points of the map, not the negative points.

Carol gave the Chairperson's report. She said that last meeting's goal of having a computer-drafting talk had been obtained, and that Bert Ashbrook and Hubert Crowell had both given good talks on the subject. She said that many of the Section's members were presently unclear on the pluses and minuses of the various cartographic software on the market, and she asked that if anyone can make comparisons between the cartographic softwares which might require temporary donations of the software to the reviewer then she would be appreciative. Bob Hoke said that this would be an good article for the C&T.

Next was Old Business. Bob Hoke said that SMAPS had disappeared from sight, and that on June 11th he had written Doug Dotson a letter specifically asking on the status of his software and specifying that he would like an answer before the Convention. Bob received no reply to his letter, and his next action will be to send an identical letter via certified mail. No one at the meeting knew anything regarding the status of the SMAPS software, and Bob said that people had been trying to purchase it, but that Doug would not respond.

Next was New Business, and Hubert Crowell gave a report on this year's Convention Compass Course. He said that three teams had entered, and that the winners had had a loop closure of 0.56%, He also said that people had been constructing equipment specially to run the contest.

Tom Kline then asked if there was any standardized list of lava cave symbols. This instigated a rather long discussion, and it is not certain that any final resolution or course of action was reached. It was suggested that perhaps this would be a good article for the C&T.

Next was the elections. There was the general consensus that the current slate of officers should remain in office. These are, as reviewed at this time in the meeting, Roger Bartholomew as vice-chairman, George Dasher as secretary, Bob Hoke as treasurer, and Carol Vesely as chairperson. Barry Chute made a motion that these officers continue. Bob Hoke seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Finally was the discussion of the Cart Salon. Chief among the concerns were that George Dasher would like to retire as Salon Chairman as the repeated Convention workload is too intense. Additional concerns are: Is there any way the Salon can give the Society's cartographers more recognition?, and is the Salon driving a NSS- approved map too far in one direction. George had given a talk regarding these concerns in the morning SACS' session, and these issues had not been resolved then.

This discussion took a very long time, and suggestions were made to give more awards, to give an award to first-time cartographers, that the Salon criteria should again be published in the C&T, and when no one volunteered to replace George to have a rotating Convention Cart Salon Chairman, who will work under George. It is was further suggested that, each year at Convention, there would be two chairman, one of which would be subordinate to the other. This subordinate chairman would become the dominate chairman at the following convention, and a new subordinate chairman would come on board to learn the ropes. David Herron, Howard Kalnitz, Scott Schmitz, Bert Ashbrook, Nancy Pistole, Dave Engel, Carol Vesely, Darrel Adkins, and Robert Lenz all volunteered to help with future Cart Salons.

Hazel Medville then brought up a new issue. This was GINIS, or the Geographic Name Information System, which has been instigated by the USGS. Evidently the USGS is contracting to locate exact coordinates for many geographic features, including cave entrances, and complete lists of several state's wild caves' entrance coordinates have already been added to this system. These lists are now available to anyone on one of the web systems, and these people can obtain the exact coordinates for all the wild cave entrances in many states.

There had been an impromptu meeting concerning this issue before the SACS meeting, and suggestions which were passed on to SACS included that the Hawaii Speleological State Survey recently provided the USGS with a list of all their caves, with the locations marked "unknown"; that there would be an upcoming article in the NSS News on the subject; that persons are trying to work with Roger Cane, the Branch Chief of the USGS supervising this system; and that the individual state cave surveys will all have to soon make some very quick and important decisions.

This was the last of the business to be discussed. Carol adjourned the meeting at 1:33 pm.