

1998 SACS MINUTES

george dasher
16 August 1998

The 1998 meeting of the Surveying and Cartography Section of the National Speleological Society was held on Thursday, August 6th, 1998 in conjunction with the NSS' annual convention. The Convention took place at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. The Section meeting was held in Blackman Hall of the Wood Laboratory building. Attending were the following 17 members and friends of the Section:

Darrell Adkins	Hubert Crowell	Kirk MacGregor
Roger Bartholomew	George Dasher	Roger Ryan
Rich Breisch	Frank Filz	Bob Thrun
Todd Bryan	Walt Hamm	Carol Vesely
Berry Chute	Bob Hoke	Arnie Weisbrot
Don Coons	Pat Kambesis	

Chairman Carol Vesely called the meeting to order at 12:53 pm. She thanked Roger Bartholomew for the excellent job he had done in running the morning session, and she said that she had nothing to report.

Roger then gave his Vice-Chairman report. He said he had gotten a few more papers this year, and had thus had to phone less people beforehand to solicit papers.

Secretary George Dasher said that he had done nothing since the previous year's meeting, and that nothing had been required.

Treasurer Bob Hoke said the Section "has more money than we know what to do with." He said SACS has approximately 211 members and \$3882, that SACS makes money on every issue of the Compass and Tape, that the recent color cover was a donation by Bob Richards, that the C&T gives only a few free issues, and that we exchange only with Compass Points, the British equivalent of the C&T.

Editor Pat Kambesis then said that two issues of the C&T had recently been mailed, and that she plans to complete another immediately after the Convention. She also said that she had recently constructed a SACS web page, and that this is linked to the NSS page. She said that the SACS web page included general information on the Section, a call for papers, and some Convention information. She said it cost \$12 per year, and she had made a decision that SACS should pay for this without any opinion from any Section officer or member.

Bob Hoke said that the web page had already brought in two new members. Arnie Weisbrot said that a set of the NSS cave symbols should be included for people to download. Bob suggested that the C&T bibliography could be included. George Dasher said that he wasn't sure he could locate that bibliography as he had completed it two computers ago. Everyone agreed that Pat was right to have spent the \$12.

Don Coons next gave a report on the Cartographic Salon. He said that this year he had experimented breaking the Salon into several categories with different judges for each category. He was "well satisfied" with the results. The Salon had been much more complicated and there had been six categories. The largest and most popular of these categories had been the Open Salon, where over 40 maps had been entered. The judges for this category had been Rick Graham, Ron Horrocks, and Paul Burger. Don thanked all the judges for their hard work.

The next category were the computer maps, and had been judged by Aaron Addison, Mike Yocum, and Bernie Szukalski. This had been divided into two sub-categories computer-generated maps and monitor-viewed maps. Don had entered one of his own maps in this last group MOS Cave, which is Alabama's deepest cave. He had done this to get the category "going," and he had subsequently disqualified his entry because he was this year's Cart Salon chairman.

The third category had been the Junior Speleological Society maps, and this had been the "most fun." There had only been three entries, and two had been so good that they were originally mistaken for adult maps and entered in the open category. The judges here were Pat Kambesis, Carol Vesely, and Hazel Medville.

The fourth category had been published maps. There were seven entries and the judges were Dave Bunnell and Bob Richards. Don said that one good thing about this year's Salon was that an individual, such as Bob, could enter in one category and judge in another.

The fifth category was experimental. There were no entries in this group.

The six category was First Time Entries. Five people entered this group, and one green ribbon was awarded. The judges were again Dick Graham, Ron Horrocks, and Paul Burger.

Don said over 80 maps overall had been entered. The Medal Award was given this year to Joel Despain and Greg Stock for their computer-drawn map of California's Crystal Cave-Sequoia and Kings Canyon Series. There was some general discussion of the Salon, and Don said that each judge will be given a critique form in which to assess the overall Salon. These will be printed in an upcoming C&T.

Hazel Barton will be the 1999 Cart Salon Chairman. There was then a call for a 2000 Cart Salon Chairman. No one volunteered. (Secretary's Note: Ron Horrocks later volunteered for this job.)

Don concluded his report by saying that he appreciated the opportunity to chair the Salon and that he "enjoyed doing it."

Hubert Crowell then gave a report on this year's surveying contest. He said that six survey teams had entered the Salon, and that Art and Peg Palmer had won the contest with a 0.14% error a new "world's record." Hubert also said that Bob and Bob had donated a \$20 gift certificate and that this, together with the \$10 given by SACS, had allowed him to award the winners \$30.

Carol Vesely said there was quite a turn out for Monday's Survey and Cartographic Workshop, and that the students had been a very mixed group. Carol said that Pat Kambesis had led the surveying part with Carol's assistance, and that Carol had led the cartographic part with Pat's assistance. Carol also said

that the in-cave portion had been in Dry Cave, which as it turned out was located a lot further from the Convention site than either Carol or Pat remembered.

Carol said that Bob Gulden and Cindy Walk had assisted with the workshop, and that they had been a great help. She also advised that, if the workshop is repeated at another convention, then more assistance will be required. Carol said that the workshop went really well, and that in the afternoon some people drew up the sketches they had made that morning in Dry Cave while other persons drew up sketches that they had brought with them.

Carol next said that the minutes of the 1997 SACS meeting had been published in a recent C&T and that no one had complained. She then asked if there was any old business.

Arnie Weisbrot said that he had presented a paper and made a motion to standardize the different sizes of map sheets at the 1997 SACS Session. He said that this standardization would include the size of the sheets, the title blocks, and the margin drawing number block as specified in ASME Y14.1 and 414.1M. Those maps agreeing with these standards would be awarded bonus points in the Cart Salon.

Carol asked why standardize, and Arnie replied that standardization would make it easier on the cartographers, it would economize, it would simplify filing, it would ensure completeness, it would simplify publication, and it would simplify electronic exchange. There was some general discussion, chiefly by Carol, Bob Hoke, Arnie, and Roger Bartholomew, and Bob Thrun. It was also noted that Bob Hoke seconded Arnie's motion in 1997, and that voting on the motion had been delayed to allow the information to be disseminated via the C&T.

Carol noted that the Cart Salon part seemed to be the sticking point of the issue. George Dasher said that the Cart Salon judges had the ultimate say in whether or not bonus points could be awarded for any criteria. The discussion became quite lengthy and in the end Arnie withdrew his motion. Hubert Crowell immediately remade the motion without the Cart Salon bonuses. Roger seconded the motion, Carol called for discussion there was none, and a vote was taken. This was four in favor, nine opposed, and one undecided. The motion failed.

Hubert next brought up the issue of SACS purchasing video equipment. He said the price of this equipment is going down and the technology is going up, and he recommended that the Section again hold off on purchasing the equipment. No one had any objections to this plan.

Hubert then brought up the prizes for the Convention Surveying Course. He made a motion that \$40 be allocated for three prizes 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Arnie seconded the motion, there was some discussion, and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Carol then asked if there was any new business. Bob Thrun said it would be nice if someone would review the presently-available cave survey programs. He said that this "someone" should type in the data and take the program as far as possible. They would then determine what is good and not good about each program. Bob said that he should not be the person to do this evaluation. No one volunteered as this would be a fair amount of work.

Bob Hoke asked if it would be better to do this in the form of a questionnaire, and a casual reviewer might miss some of the programs options. Darrell Adkins said that the evaluation should include the data entry process. George Dasher said he would put together a draft questionnaire.

There was no additional new business, and Carol asked if all of the officers would be willing to continue with their positions all were, but George said he probably would not be attending the 1999 convention. Barry Chute moved that the current slate of officers be accepted by acclamation, Arnie seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Carol closed the meeting at 1:55 pm.

Secretary's Note: There was also a list of SACS members and their e-mail messages found in the SACS meeting room. This list is as follows:

Evelyn Bradsaw	ebradshaw@stoffnet.com
Terri Brown	vakarst@juno.com
John Cole	jlcole1@pop.uky.edu
Dave Cowan	oma00019@mail.wvnet.edu
Rane Curl	ranecurl@umich.edu
George Dasher	wvcaver@juno.com
Bill Frantz	frantz@netcom.com
Val Hildrith-Wesler	werks@worldnet.atl.net
George Huppert	huppert@mail.vwlax.edu
David Jagnow	djagnow@roadrunner.com
Lynn Ott	furinyourface@juno.com
Roger Ryan	rryan@pdsengr.com
Daniel Salzler	furinyourface@juno.com
Jerry Trout	jtrout/rs.coronado.fs.fed.us
George Veni	gveni@flash.net
Jim Werker	werks@worldnet.att.net
John Wilson	wilsonjml@earthlink.net