



BREAKDOWN

Volume 5 Number 1 March 1990

SPRING MAR/VAR FIELD MEET TO FEATURE MYSTERY EVENT

May 4-6, 1990

Details inside.

Also Inside
A Brief History of MAR
by Will White

Mark these dates
MAY 4-6, 1990
on your calendar.



MINUTES OF MAR BUSINESS MEETING - FEBRUARY 24, 1990

Minutes of the business meeting of the Mid-Appalachian Region, NSS held Saturday, February 24, 1990 at Herbein's, 625 Carbon Ave., Harrisburg, PA

The meeting was called to order at 1:43 pm. An attendance sheet was passed around, but it never made it the whole way.

The current officers were present and introduced. They are:

Jeanne Wetterling, Chairman
Keith Wheeland, Vice-Chairman
Bert Ashbrook, Secretary
Bette White, Treasurer

Jeanne Wetterling thanked last year's officers for their work:

Hope Uhl, Chairman
Bob Keinst, Vice-Chairman
Barb Ritz, Secretary
Bette White, Treasurer

Minutes -- Bert Ashbrook read the minutes from last year's business meeting, which were read and accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report -- Bette White presented the report, which is included on a separate page. The region had a net loss of \$215.19 in 1989. This is because there was not enough money collected for MAR at either the spring or fall field meet. There should be \$1 collected for the MAR and \$1 collected for a 3-issue MAR Breakdown subscription (total of \$2) from each person at each meet. It was determined that there had been some confusion on that point by the organizers of both field meets. Carol Tideman and Hope Uhl agreed to prepare a one page guideline for anyone hosting a field meet, to be edited and distributed by the chairman.

The current balance is \$1083.82, which is enough up-front money to publish one or possibly two small MAR Bulletins. This is a potential cash flow problem, since most MAR bulletins are expensive to print (about \$750), although they ultimately make a large profit (after 5 or 6 years).

A general discussion followed concerning finances.

Minutes of MAR Business Meeting - February 24, 1990 (Cont.)

It was the consensus of the meeting that MAR field meets have been quite inexpensive (especially compared to VAR field meets) and that a higher price to ensure adequate funding for MAR would not be a problem. The idea of charging grottoes dues to belong to the MAR was also discussed.

At 2:03, Randy Hurst was declared out of order.

OLD BUSINESS

Cave Legislation Report -- Judy Stack reported that a senate bill has been passed, but is not being acted upon in the house because of partisan politics. Calls and letters to legislators are still very important and should support both senate and house bills, which are identical. If the legislation is not passed by Thanksgiving, it will die and we will have to start over.

County Surveys and Bulletins -- Will White reported that John Ganter has completed the maps for the Bedford County Survey, but that there is a lot of accompanying text which needs to be written. Will hopes to complete the project by the NSG Convention.

Bert Ashbrook reported that the Northumberland County survey is complete except for a geologic description of the county. It will be completed this year. If more than one bulletin is to be published this year, there will be a cash flow problem. Photographs add to the cost of publication and should be kept to a minimum.

No one from Philly Grotto was present to report on the status of the Berks County survey. Volunteers are being sought to do the Upper Susquehanna Valley (Union, Montour, Clinton, and Lycoming Counties).

During the past year, MAR Bulletin 16 (Northampton County) was published. Dean Snyder edited the material.

Bette White has beautiful new shelves in her garage for storing inventories of bulletins; stop by to browse at any time.

NCRC Report -- Jeff Uhl reported that there will be

1 or 2 orientation weekends each month for the next year, with detailed information to follow. A new study guide/workbook has been developed and will be used. Also, 9 advanced modules will be taught in the next two years. Butler Cave will receive a rescue cache from the Eastern Region.

PA Cave Database -- Keith Wheeland reported that an informational article has been published in many grotto newsletters. 1026 caves are currently listed, and a wide variety of information is available for use in conjunction with research. An impressive mapping package is available. Bat survey data from the PA Game Commission is also included in the database.

Slide Show -- Dale Ibberson stated that the cave law slide show would need reworking to make a general interest show, after the law is passed.

Spring '89 Field Meet -- Jeanne Wetterling reported that 46 people attended despite rainy weather. Loyalhanna Grotto hosted.

Fall '89 Field Meet -- Jeff Uhl reported that 77 people attended, a new record. Prizes in the speleo orienteering/cycling event totaled nearly \$450. Jeff and GAG hosted. Caves are not necessary for a successful meet, good organization is.



NEW BUSINESS

The issue of MAR finances and of charging grottoes dues was again discussed, but there was little support for the idea.

Carol Tideman moved that if the MAR continues to lose money after the guideline for hosts of MAR field meets is made available, that the \$1 collected for a subscription to the MAR bulletin cover only 2 issues instead of 3. After a lot of discussion, the motion was voted upon and passed.

Spring '90 Field Meet -- It was reported that Bill Wolford from Loyalhanna Grotto was helping GROSS Grotto host a joint MAR-VAR at the OTR site, May 5-6.

Minutes of MAR Business Meeting - February 24, 1990 (Cont.)

The major event will be an Easter related mystery event. The attendance of Head Bunny, Dale Ibberson, will guarantee success.

Fall '90 Field Meet -- Jeff Uhl is exploring the possibility of a joint MAR-NRO meet in the Surprise Cave area of New York. No dates have been set.

Winter '91 Business Meeting -- Jay Herbein has graciously consented to the allow the use of his house again. It was scheduled for February 23, 1991 at 1:30 pm.

Spring '91 Field Meet -- Mark Fanto and Baltimore Grotto will host the event in Southern Pennsylvania, May 18-19, 1991.

Congress of Grottos -- Carol Tiderman is soliciting issues for the COG to consider.

MAR Breakdown -- Editor Keith Wheeland needs articles to publish, especially schedules of events. The next issue will appear about in two weeks. The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 pm. Refreshments were provided by Jay Herbein, and dinner followed at Dale and Judy's.

Respectfully submitted,

Bert Ashbrook, Secretary

The DC Grotto and the Potomac Speleological Club
in cooperation with
Pendleton County Rescue, Inc.



MAY 12-13, 1990
FRANKLIN, WEST VIRGINIA

This seminar, taught by the Eastern Region of the National Speleological Society's National Cave Rescue Commission, will bring together local emergency services personnel and cavers to foster a better understanding of the unique nature of cave rescues. Saturday will include classroom training in rescue organization, patient care, equipment demonstrations, and practical exercises. Sunday will be devoted to a "mock rescue" in a nearby wild cave, where students will get hands-on experience in a simulated in-cave rescue situation.

The seminar will be based at Thorn Springs Park, near Franklin. The registration fee is \$25.00, which includes training material, continental breakfast and lunch both days, dinner and a Saturday evening party. Camping is available at the Park for \$3.00 per person per night. The seminar will start at 8 AM Saturday and will be finished by 8 PM Sunday. Cavers are not expected to have rescue training, and emergency services personnel are not expected to have caving experience. Some hard hats and lights will be available for non-caving participants.

The deadline for registration is April 28 and class size will be limited, so register early. A detailed information packet will be mailed to all registrants prior to the event. The form below, and a check payable to "D. C. Grotto" should be sent to John Hoover, 14753 Waxhall Terr., Burtonsville, MD 20866. (301-890-0932 evenings)

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Experience: (Ifra, rescue, medical, caver, etc) _____

The Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society:
A Brief History

by William B. White

The Mid-Appalachian Region was established on June 13, 1953 by a small group of cavers meeting in Hagerstown, Maryland (NSS News, v. 11, no. 8, p.3 (August, 1953) . It was originally called the Eastern Region and was intended to include Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. Like its predecessors, the Northeastern Regional Association and the Virginia Region, it was set up as an organization of grottoes, not an organization of cavers. The first formal meeting was held October 10-12, 1953 at Shippensburg State Teachers College (NSS News, v. 11, No. 11, p. 1, November, 1953). At this meeting the constitution and by-laws were drawn up and were ultimately approved on November 12, 1953. DC Grotto decided to go with the Virginia Region and northern New Jersey affiliated with the NRO. The name was changed to the Mid-Appalachian Region. The Shippensburg meeting also set the tone for the next several years. There were cave trips but the main part was a technical meeting of talks and slide shows. It was also decided to produce a publication. Two of the papers given at the Shippensburg meeting became MAR Bulletin 1.

The founding father of the MAR was Challis N. Bruce of New Castle, Pennsylvania. Although he got the MAR off to a good start, his health failed shortly thereafter and for several years the MAR was moribund. It was rejuvenated by cavers from Pittsburgh and Nittany Grottoes and meetings were again held and the MAR Bulletin published in 1957 and 1958. A formal meeting of the Region Council on October 5, 1957 revised the constitution and by-laws to the form in which they stood for thirty years until some revisions in the late 1980's. However, the format of the annual Regional meeting, modeled as a mini-NSS Convention, proved unworkable. Although the constitution called for both an annual field meet and an annual convention, no further conventions were held and instead two field meets, one in the Spring and one in the Fall became the Regions main membership activity.

From the beginning, the MAR took on responsibility for the Pennsylvania Cave Survey following R.W. Stone's Caves of Pennsylvania in NSS Bulletin 15, 1953. Beginning with issue No. 4 in 1958, the MAR Bulletins have been county cave surveys. Responsibility for exploring and mapping caves, preparing written reports, and drawing together the survey document lies with individuals or grottoes. The MAR provides coordination, does the final editing of the Bulletins, provides funds for publishing them, and maintains stockpiles and handles sales. It has been a good arrangement and as of 1989, 16 Bulletins have been issued.

The boundaries of the Mid-Appalachian Region have always been a little vague. Pennsylvania was always in; DC was always out. Maryland was mostly in but the Hagerstown Grotto that founded MAR quickly became inactive and the Baltimore Grotto is often active in the Virginia Region. New Jersey has often split with the north in NRO and the south in MAR. Northeastern Ohio, mainly Cleveland, participated sometimes. Northern West Virginia was often part of MAR and many field meets have been held in West Virginia. In the early days the boundaries were important because each Region elected a regional representative to the NSS Board of Governors. At present Regions serve to outline areas of caving activity with a good deal of mixing across vague boundaries and the regions have been able to live with this very comfortably.

SPRING FLING

Combined

VAR/MAR

May 4, 5, and 6, 1990 at the OTR site, Dailey, WV
Be There or Be Square!

Italian Feast

Spring Fling VAR/MAR ushers in a new era in gastronomical pleasure. The Saturday evening Italian Feast is certain to tickle your palate with a host of Italian Dishes.

Spring Fling Italian Feast Menu:

Summer Preview Salad
Italian Bread
Spaghetti Classico
Fettuchini Basiletta
Linguini with Garlic
Vino Classico
Draft Beer (kegs tapped with supper)

Team Activity has Great Prizes

On Saturday, a Mystery Activity will be held for teams of cavers. We can't tell you what the activity will be, but we can tell you it will be fun, challenging, and rewarding.

We've gotten some really great prizes and awards, and everyone who participates will have an equal chance to win. There's a one-dollar per person entry fee to cover our expenses.

So get your team together, and plan to be at the registration area at 10:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

Spring Fling VAR/MAR Event Schedule

Friday, May 4:	3:00P-10:00P	Registration
	8:00P-1:00A	Light Music in the Pavilion
Saturday, May 5:	7:00A-7:00P	Registration
	10:00A-5:00P	Kiddie Corral Work Party, Kiddie Corral Area
	10:30A-11:00A	Mystery Event Team Registration, Registration Area
	11:00A-6:00P	Mystery Event
	1:00P-5:00P	Squeeze Box Events, Behind Pavilion
	6:30P-8:00P	Italian Feast Supper, Pavilion*
	8:00P-8:30P	Jack Lake, WVACS, Paper and Slide Show, Pavilion*
	8:30P-9:00P	Awards and Prizes*
	9:00P-1:00A	Dance to the Music, Pavilion* (Music by Johnny)
Sunday, May 6:	10:00A	VAR General Meeting, Pavilion
	12:00N-6:00P	Campsite Cleanup, A Safe Trip Home

* Beer Provided

Registration Fees

To keep it simple, the registration fee for Spring Fling VAR/MAR '90 will be:
\$12.00 per person 18 years old or older, \$12.00 per dog or other animal,
\$6.00 per person aged 12 to 17, \$3.00 per person aged 6 to 11, under 6 free.
The registration fee includes camping, an Italian Feast supper Saturday night, door prizes, and music. For those of legal age it also includes beer Saturday night. Because of the low registration fee, no discounts will be given for late arrival, no beer, or no supper.

Kiddie Corral Needs Your Help

Saturday afternoon Nancy Hamm (for the OTR kiddies) needs your help working on the Kiddie Corral. She plans to erect a fence (ground conditions permitting) and put up climbing platforms.

Why is this important? Well, the experience our kids have at caving outings determines the future of VAR, MAR, OTR, and caving as we know it!

Especially needed for the work party are an electric generator or some long extension cords, power sanders, and people with hand tools.

Please come prepared to help, with tools, if you can. You're needed, no matter what skills you have.

Other Events:

Squeeze Box Fun

Saturday afternoon the famous "Squeeze Box" will be available for all the nimble, skinny cavers. Try it out, and see what all that beer does to your figure!

Saturday Evening Program Features Jack Lake

Saturday evening, toward the end of the Italian Feast supper, Jack Lake of WVACS will present a slide show and paper in the pavilion. He will give the preliminary conclusions of the Lower Spring Creek Hydrology Study. You'll enjoy seeing and hearing about this fascinating work.

Prizes Given Away Saturday Night

Following Jack Lake's program and before the PARTY the great prizes for the winners in the afternoon's Mystery Activity will be given away. Who knows, maybe there'll even be a door prize!

Party Saturday Night

From 9:00 to whenever, you can sip some suds and boogie to the music in the pavilion. You'll sing, sway and dance to the rock and roll and country sounds of the 60's, 70's and 80's, with a few 90's tunes thrown in for good measure. Music and sound system by Johnny.

MAR BULLETINS AVAILABLE

No.	County in Pennsylvania		Cost	Postage
10	Snyder	20 caves, 14 maps	1.25	*
11	Centre	71 caves, 56 maps/ 1 large map	4.75	*
12	Mifflin	47 caves, 31 maps/5 large maps	5.50	**
13	Perry	13 caves, 6 maps	1.50	*
14	Bucks	24 caves, 6 maps	3.00	*
15	Lehigh	25 caves, 13 maps	3.25	*
16	Northampton	24 caves, 13 maps/1 large map	5.50	*

*U.S. Postage: \$0.75 each copy: \$0.25 each additional to same adr.

**U.S. Postage: \$1.00 each copy: \$0.50 each additional to same adr.

Make check payable to MAR Order from Bette White
 542 Glenn Road
 State College, PA 16803

DATES OF INTEREST

- April 8, 1990 4th Annual Bear Cave Cleanup. 11 a.m. at Bear Cave parking lot.
- Apr. 21-22 NCRC Eastern Region Basic Cave Rescue Virginville, PA (See inside for details)
- May 4-6 MAR Spring Meet (See inside for details)
- May 12-13 NCRC Eastern Region Basic Cave Rescue Franklin, WV (See inside for details)
- May 26-28 BCCS Expedition at Butler Cave, VA
- June 23-24 BCCS Expedition at Butler Cave, VA
- July 9-13 NSS Convention, Yreka, CA
- Sept. 8-9 Pittsburgh Grotto Picnic

