



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 19, Number 3, January 2005

The *MAR Breakdown* is the journal of the Mid Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society. It is published three times a year; prior to the annual business meeting and prior to the Spring and Fall field meets.

### Subscriptions-

A complimentary copy is sent to each grotto in the MAR. For individuals it works this way: When you attend a field meet \$5 of your registration fee goes directly to the MAR to pay for three issues of this newsletter and other MAR projects. You may also subscribe by sending \$5 to the treasurer. The number of issues you have remaining immediately follows your name on the mailing label.

### Meetings and Meets-

The annual business meeting is held the last Saturday in February. Each spring and fall there is a field meet. Watch for dates.

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## MAR Business Meeting set for February 26, 2005 PCC Meeting to follow

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at the home of Jay Herbein on February 26, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

You will find a map to the meeting on page 2.

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) will follow the MAR Business Meeting.

Elections were held at the Fall MAR field meet. The current officers were re-elected.

MAR officers are listed to the left on this page.



## Inside

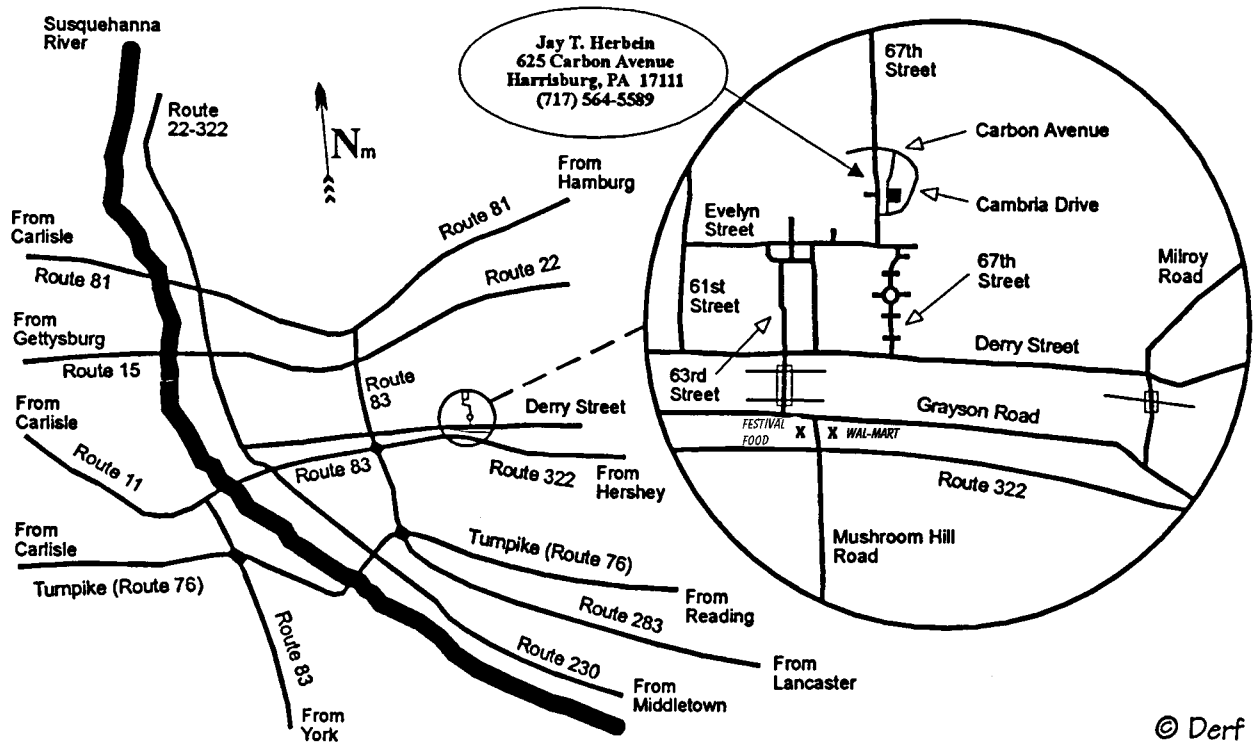
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# Map of Business Meeting Site

Maps to Dale Ibberson's will be available at the business meeting



## From the East on Route 322:

Turn right on Mushroom Hill Road (look for the Wal-Mart and Weis Markets Store) at the second traffic light after Hummelstown.

## From the West on Route 322:

Intercept Route 322 toward Hershey. Turn left on Mushroom Hill Road (look for the Wal-Mart and Weis Markets).

Once on Mushroom Hill Road, proceed one block to Grayson Road (T-intersection) and turn left. Travel one more block and turn right onto a bridge which crosses the railroad tracks. Turn right on Derry Street. Follow Derry Street to 67th Street which will be a left hand turn up the hill. Follow the inset map above to reach Jay's house.

**Note:** If you are driving from the West on I-83 N., there is no exit at Derry Street. Use the Route 322 exit.

# Fall 2004 MAR Field Meet

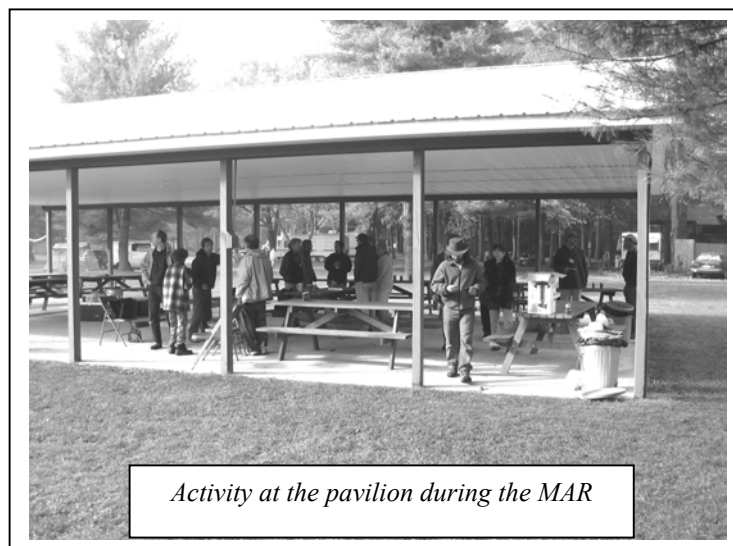
By Matt Neghart

Well, the 2004 Fall MAR Field meet went off without too many hitches. Friday was marked by set-up, some lager and half decent bonfire. One of the local cave landowners liked the whole idea of the festival that much he extended quite a bit more access than he had considered prior. Registration went smoothly, however it left some of us frightful of a financial loss.

Saturday morning started with coffee brewed in the MAKC pot, followed with a few trip sign-ups. One of the trip leaders lost his fuel pump that morning, however a few others from the Bald Eagle Grotto took his place, while he made other plans to retrieve his truck from a local diner. The guided trips went well, and the folks who took off for other caves or digs had a good time of it too. Then the rain came, thankfully while a fair amount of folks were still underground but it sure made moving wood for the bonfire a tad more interesting. Then dinner came, and man quite the dinner. Clem cooked up some good ribs & chicken and Manhattan Vegetable chowder was made for the vegetarian folks by some Buffalo Valley Grotto members.

Kevin Patrick came to the forefront of the pavilion and gave a great presentation on his recently published book, "Pennsylvania Caves and other Rocky Roadside Wonders". This followed up with some book signing, a few more trips to the pavilion for beverages, and some digging just down the road by some folks from Philly Grotto who re-opened Woodward #2.

In short, the event went well, but it couldn't have without the help of so many folks. Special thanks goes out to all those lead trips, to a few members of Bald Eagle Grotto for helping with set-up, to George Bange for his donation of wood for the bonfire, Kim Metzgar for setting up Kevin's presentation, Keith Wheeland for his much needed assistance with the guidebook, Philly Grotto for bringing their squeeze-box, and to everyone who helped out in any way. It was a good MAR, and on the financial side of things, the BVG only lost around a hundred dollars. In total, 84 people registered for the event.



# Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

The meeting was called to order by Secretary, Karen Bange, at Woodward Cave and Campground on Sunday October 3, 2004

The following officers were present.

**Secretary** K. Bange  
**Treasurer** G. Bange

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	Dave Hollick
Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	----
Baltimore Grotto	---
Nittany Grotto	Gary Dunmire
Bucks County Grotto	---
Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Buffalo Valley Grotto	Matt Neyhart
Pennsylvania Inner-Earth Grotto	----
Central New Jersey Grotto	----
Pittsburgh Grotto	----
Commander Cody Caving Club	---
Seven Valleys Grotto	Steve Shawver
Franklin County Grotto	---
York Grotto	---
Greater Allentown Grotto	Dean Snyder

There were not enough grottos represented for a quorum. An unofficial meeting did take place. The following was discussed:

**Secretary Report:** The minutes from the May 2004 meeting were published in the Breakdown.

**Treasurer Report:** George Bange distributed a copy of the PCC financial summary.

**Web Page:** David Fricke, the web master, sent a written report. The website problems from last spring have been corrected. The site continues to receive inquiries and is increasing in visibility in the caving community with more listings on the caving related link web sites.

**PCC Breakfast:** PCC will ask Nate Hirneisen if he is interested in doing the PCC breakfast at the spring MAR. Christopher and Christine Catherman are interested in coordinating a breakfast.

**Fund Raising T-Shirts.** Dean Snyder has PCC bumper

stickers for sale at \$2 a piece and PCC T-Shirts for sale at \$8 each.

**PCC Brochure:** Brochures are available. Anyone interested in brochures should contact George Bange.

## Project List:

**Baker Caverns:** Franklin, County, PA-  
No one present to report

**Dragon Cave:** Berks County, PA –  
No one present to report

**J-4:** Centre County, PA-status quo-  
CLOSED

**Merkle Cave:** Berks County, PA.-  
No change

**Red Church Cave:** Berks County, PA-  
Was not discussed

**Cleversburg Cave:** Franklin County, PA.-  
No one present to report

**Corker Hill and Frustration Pit:** Amos Mincin gave a power point slide presentation on this project. Amos displayed four aerial maps overlaid with USGS maps to show exactly where the caves are located. The owner for both caves lives in Minnesota. Amos has tried to contact the owner without success. Currently there is no valid access policy for the caves. There is no map of Corker Hill and the map of Frustration Pit is dated. A discussion pursued on the best way to proceed with mapping the caves. Franklin County Grotto has given Amos the okay to proceed with the survey. The group present at the PCC meeting felt this was appropriate, too. Amos will proceed with the survey project and report back at the next PCC meeting.

**Christmas Cards:** Anyone wishing to add a landowner to the Christmas card list should contact Karen Bange.

**Mail:** Karen sent a thank you note to the Delaware Society of Natural History for their \$50 donation to PCC in appreciation of a Commander Cody Caving Club trip to several caves in Berks County.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the PCC will be on Saturday February 26, 2005 after the MAR Business Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Bange, Recording Secretary

## **PCC Officer Elections**

There will be a PCC meeting February 26, 2005 following the MAR Business Meeting. It's at this meeting that PCC officers are elected. Anyone wishing to run for office can put their name on the ballot by contacting Karen Bange at [riverbat@localnet.com](mailto:riverbat@localnet.com)

Cave conservation and protection can only happen if we all work together towards the same goals.

Get involved with PCC!

Put your name on the ballot and run for office

## **Be sure and mark your calendars for the Spring MAR !**

When?	May 13-15, 2005
Where?	Rupert Cave, Mifflin County
Co-hosts?	Nittany Grotto and Seven Valleys Grotto

Steve Shawver and Carrie Shafer will be getting married May 14<sup>th</sup> during the MAR. Watch for details in the Spring 2005 Breakdown.

**For the latest news and information on upcoming events check out the MAR web site and the PCC web site!**

The MAR web page is at: [www.caves.org/region/mar](http://www.caves.org/region/mar)

The PCC web page is at: [www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc](http://www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc)

MAR Breakdown  
1536 S. River Road  
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## **Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins including reprinted Bulletins**

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U.S. Postage:

**A** \$1.80 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address.

**B** \$2.00 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address.

◆ \$3.00 postage for each bulletin #20

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