



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 19, Number 1, April 2004

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.

**Chair:** **Bob Gulden**  
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## York Grotto to Host Spring 2004 MAR May 14 – 16, 2004 Raystown Lake Registration Form and Details of the Event Inside



## Fall MAR Field Meet Hosted by Buffalo Valley Grotto October 1—3, 2004 Woodward Campground



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# MAR Meeting Minutes

## 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2004



Meeting was called to order by Bob Gulden at 1:35 p.m. Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 2004 at the home of Jay Herbein, Harrisburg, PA.

**Secretary's Report:** Baltimore Grotto made a motion to accept the 2003 Business Meeting minutes as published in the April 2003 Breakdown. Nittany Grotto seconded the motion.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was read by treasurer Bette White. Printed copies were distributed.

**MAR Breakdown:** Send any articles for publication to Karen Bange. There was a discussion on electronic posting of the Breakdown. General consensus is to continue with a hardcopy mailing and to also post a PDF file of the Breakdown on the MAR website.

George Bange now maintains the mailing list database for the Breakdown. All changes to mailing addresses and all MAR field meet registrations should be sent to George at riverbat@localnet.com.

**2003 Spring Field Meet:** Bob Gulden reported the event was extremely wet. 41 persons registered for the MAR only and 32 registrants registered as both MAR and VAR attendees.

**2003 Fall Field Meet:** This event was wet also. A write up of the event was published in the January 2004 Breakdown.

**MAR Web Site:** Christopher Catherman reported there have been numerous updates and new sections added to the site in the past six months. The listserv is up and going and continues to get new members. There are 53 listserv members as of this meeting.

**MAR Bulletins:** Will White reported Keith Christenson is living in the States now and is starting to piece together the final layout of the long awaited CCLUM (Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Union and Montour) Bulletin. Will

spoke to Garrett Czmor recently and Garrett reported the Huntingdon County Bulletin is slated to be published this year. Bryan Crowell has the Kooken map inked and the bulletin for Kooken Cave is partially constructed. If all goes well, there should be three new bulletins published this year.

**Pennsylvania Cave Database:** Keith Wheeland reported there are 1,587 entries in the database. The *Daily Collegian* (The Penn State University Campus Paper) published an article on J4 February 14<sup>th</sup>. The article was about the fact that J4 is closed to spelunkers.

**Game Commission:** Dale Ibberson continues to be the liaison between the MAR and the Game Commission. There is a new contact person with the Game Commission. Everything else is status quo.

**MAKC:** Kerry Speelman gave an update on the activities of MAKC. Harlansburg Cave has been gated, cleaned up and MAKC is in the process of resurveying the cave.

There is a possible lease pending on a plot of land containing a number of caves in Western PA. If the lease goes through MAKC's insurance premium will increase dramatically. Membership is encouraged to help off set the cost. Membership currently stands at 253; an all time high.

**MAR Incorporation:** Copies of the MAR Article of Incorporation were attached to the agenda. There was a discussion regarding whether the MAR has the proper systems and processes in place to address the proposed changes to the structure of the MAR. An ad hoc committee was formed to review the bylaws of the MAR and the changes necessary in order for the articles of incorporation to be compatible with the bylaws. The committee (Bob Gulden, Keith Wheeland, Bette White and Will White) will report back at the next MAR Business Meeting.

Several typos were pointed out and will be corrected. Under the fourth article the principal office will be changed to read Resident Agent.

**2004 Spring Field Meet:** The Spring MAR Field meet will be May 14-16 and will be hosted by York Grotto at Raystown Lake. The Saturday night banquet will be chili and Alan Horn has lined up a guest speaker. Keith Christenson will speak on *Bats, Bones, Bugs and Bootie- Caving in the Caribbean*. Flyers were available at the meeting.

**2004 Fall Field Meet:** Buffalo Valley Grotto is hosting the event October 1 – 3 at Woodward Cave. Flyers will be published in an upcoming Breakdown.

**2005 Spring Field Meet:** To be hosted by Nittany Grotto and Seven Valleys Grotto in conjunction with Steve Shawver and Carrie Shafer's wedding. The event will be at Rupert Cave in McVeytown in late April or early May.

**2005 Fall Field Meet:** Pennsylvania Inner-Earth Grotto (PIG) will host the event in Huntingdon County.

**2006 Spring Field Meet:** Franklin County Grotto is considering hosting the event in honor of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**2006 NSS Convention:** Carol Tideman reported Fred Grady is spearheading a committee to host the 2006 convention in the Shippensburg area of Southcentral Pennsylvania.

**New Business:**

**Cleversburg Sink Caves:** Ken Jones reported that South Hampton Township officials do not want the responsibility of determining who is capable of going into the caves. They have contacted Franklin County Grotto in regards to managing the cave. FCG anticipates in the next 30 to 60 days the policy will be finalized and put into place. Grottos will be contacted regarding the access policy and cave management. Currently none of the keys work on the cave gate as the township put a lock of their own on

the cave. New keys will be distributed by FCG when the policy goes into place.

Ken also reported on Valley Quarry in the Williamson area. The quarry wants a management policy and Franklin County Grotto is working with the head geologist from Valley Quarry to develop a management plan. This is a sensitive undertaking as another quarry is looking into starting up quarry operations in the St Thomas area forcing competition between the two quarries.

**Keith Wheeland** has been approached by an individual about the status of several caves in the Lancaster area. If anyone has information on Mummau, Mt Joy, Lisburn and/or North and West York Caves, please contact Keith.

Keith also announced that as of last month South Jersey Grotto is officially inactive.

**Upcoming events:**

The Spring VAR is April 23 –25<sup>th</sup> at Grand Caverns. There should be lots of caving opportunity along with clean ups.

The annual Bowden Cave Clean Up is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>.

NSS Convention is July 12 –16<sup>th</sup> in Michigan.

Several people had items for sale at the meeting; bulletins, t-shirts, bumper stickers, windshield shades and cave signs.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next meeting is February 26, 2005

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Bange, MAR Recording Secretary

**Representatives at the MAR meeting:**

Baltimore Grotto, York Grotto, Nittany Grotto, Greater Allentown Grotto, Franklin County Grotto, Philly Grotto, Commander Cody Caving Club, Mid Atlantic Karst Conservancy, Seven Valleys Grotto, Buffalo Valley Grotto, Loyalhanna Grotto



# Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Rich Rosevear, at the home of Jay Herbein February 28, 2004 at 4:15 pm

The following officers were present.

**V. Pres.** R. Rosevear      **Secretary** K. Bange      **Treasurer** G. Bange

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	----	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	----
Baltimore Grotto	Craig Hindman	Nittany Grotto	Christopher Catherman-proxy
Bucks County Grotto	Rich Rosevear	Philadelphia Grotto	Mike Mostardi
Buffalo Valley Grotto	Matt Neyhart	Pennsylvania Inner-Earth Grotto	----
Central New Jersey Grotto	----	Pittsburgh Grotto	----
Commander Cody Caving Club	Harris Martin	Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
Franklin County Grotto	----	York Grotto	Dale Ibberson
Greater Allentown Grotto	Dean Snyder		

There were other individuals present

**Secretary Report:** The minutes from the September 2003 meeting were accepted as published in the Breakdown.

**Treasurer Report:** George Bange, reported a balance of \$216.84 in the checking account, and \$4,066.50 in the savings account for a total of \$4,234.34

**Web Page:** David Fricke, the web master, reported the site still continues to receive inquires and an increase in visibility in the caving community with more listings on caving-related link web sites. There was a problem with the NSS server this past month but everything is back on track and functional now.

**PCC Breakfast:** Nate Hirneisen is coordinating the breakfast at the spring MAR field meet.

**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; Ellen Hofler distributed approximately 150 brochures at a Rotary Club function the other week.

## OLD BUSINESS:

## PROJECT LIST:

**Baker Caverns:** No report

**Dragon Cave:** Berks County, PA –Rich Rosevear reported there has been no communication with the landowner.

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

**Merkle Cave:** Berks County, PA.- Mike Mostardi reported he and Bill Wentz are planning to speak with the caretaker this spring.

**Cleversburg Cave:** Franklin County, PA.- Franklin County Grotto is currently working with the South Hampton Township officials on a management policy. The township is paying for all costs of associated with the project (ie gating, backfill, etc). PCC designated FCG to be the liaison between PCC and the township.

**Christmas Cards:** 14 Christmas cards were mailed during the holidays. Anyone wishing to add a landowner to the Christmas card list should contact Karen Bange.

**Mail:** There was an item from the IRS that was forwarded onto George Bange, treasurer.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**IRS Report:** George Bange received a form from the IRS in regards to the PPC's 501(c)3 status. Five years ago when PCC applied for 501(c)3 status, the IRS gave the organization an advanced determination of the status. Now the IRS is asking PCC to show that at least one third of the total income over the past years has come from public support. 56% of PCC's income over the past five years has come from public support. Therefore PCC has fulfilled their obligation in this area. The completed form will be sent back to the IRS for filing.

**Conservancy Forum:** The Northeast Cave Conservancy and West Virginia Cave Conservancy are hosting a conservancy forum in Lewisburg, West Virginia April 15, 2004. The forum will discuss standardized criteria, fundraising, management plans, stewardship with a focus on federal land management.

**Elections:** The following slate of officers was presented and voted on:

Rich Rosevear- Chair  
Alan Horn- Vice Chair  
Karen Bange- Secretary  
George Bange- Treasurer

All nominee were voted in as officers for the upcoming year.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the PCC will be on Saturday May 16, 2004 at the spring MAR field meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Bange, Recording Secretary

**Don't forget to check out both the  
MAR web site and the PCC web site  
for the latest information and upcoming events!**

**The MAR web page is at:**

[www.caves.org/region/mar/](http://www.caves.org/region/mar/)

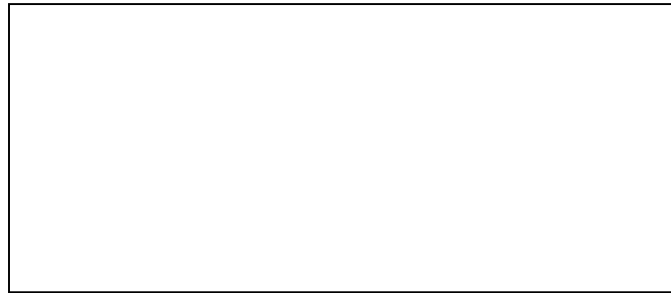
**The PCC web page is at:**

[www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc](http://www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc)

**The MAR web page also has a listserver which can be found at**

[www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/MAR-NSS/](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/MAR-NSS/)

MAR Breakdown  
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McVeytown, PA 17051



## **Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins including reprinted Bulletins**

NSS Member Price List

Effective May 2002

1-4	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Bulletins #1-4		<b>7.00</b> + postage
5	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Western PA	29 caves, 19 maps 76pp	<b>8.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
	Armstrong, Clarion, Fayette, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Westmoreland Counties		
6	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b>	93 caves 69 maps/5 large maps 126 pp	<b>12.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
	Caves of Southern Cumberland Valley, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin Counties		
7	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Fulton Co., PA	4 caves, 4 maps 17pp	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
8	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Blair Co., PA	89 caves, 40 maps 90 pp	<b>7.00</b> + postage
9	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA	94 caves, 36 maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA	20 caves, 14 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
11	Caves of Centre Co., PA	71 caves, 56 maps/1 large map	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
12	Caves of Mifflin Co., PA	47 caves, 31 maps/5 large maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
13	Caves of Perry Co., PA	13 caves, 6 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
14	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Bucks Co., PA	24 caves, 6 maps 43 pp	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
15	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Lehigh Co., PA	25 caves, 13 maps 35 pp	<b>6.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
16	Caves of Northampton Co., PA	24 caves, 13 maps/1 large map	<b>6.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
17	Caves of Northumberland Co., PA	20 caves, 10 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
18	Caves of Berks Co., PA	64 caves, 32 maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
19	Caves of Bedford Co., PA	54 caves, 33 maps	<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
20	Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA	337 caves/187 maps/10 large maps	<b>29.50</b> + 3.00 each

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

**MAR Bulletin Orders: Please make checks payable to MAR. All checks must be payable in US dollars on US bank or US money order**

**Order from: Bette White, 4538 Miller Road, Petersburg, PA 16669-2711**