



BREAKDOWN

Volume 20, Number 3, January 2006

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**
1333 Chapelview Drive
Odenton, MD 21113-2129
(410) 674-4474
caverbob@aol.com

Vice Chair: **Gary Dunmire**
657 Valley View Rd.
Bellefonte, Pa. 16823
(814) 357-1134
mudtube@yahoo.com

Secretary: **Karen Bange**
118 Ridge Road
Centre Hall, PA 16828
(814) 364-1601
riverbat@localnet.com

Treasurer: **Bette White**
4538 Miller Road
Petersburg, PA 16669
(814) 667-2709
wbw2@psu.edu

Editor: **Karen Bange**
118 Ridge Road
Centre Hall, PA 16828
(814) 364-1601
riverbat@localnet.com

MAR Business Meeting set for February 25, 2006 PCC Meeting to follow

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at the home of Jay Herbein on February 25, 2006 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 newly elected MAR officers are listed to the left on this page.



Inside

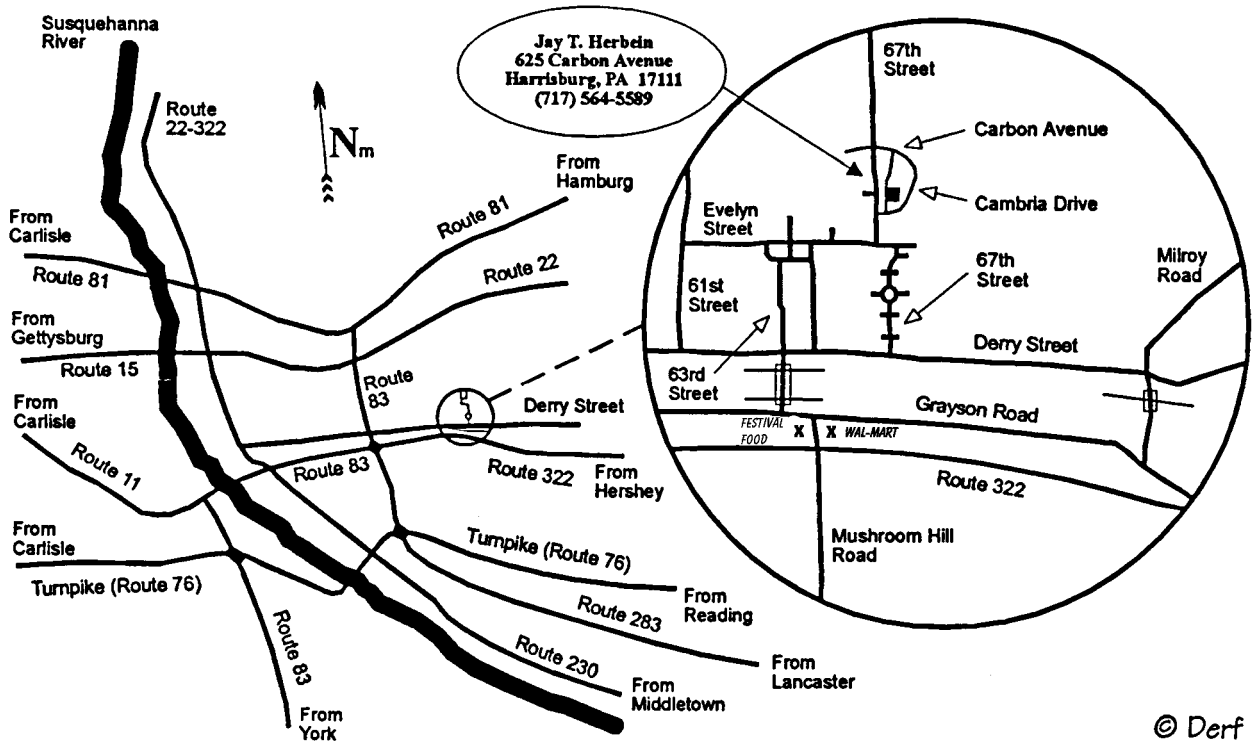
Page

MAP TO THE MAR BUSINESS MEETING	2
2005 FALL MAR FIELD MEET WRITE UP	3
PCC CORNER	4
UPCOMING EVENTS/GENERAL INFORMATION	7

Non-copyrighted materials may be used by other speleo publications provided credit is given to the *MAR Breakdown*

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.

The P.I.G.'s Do M.A.R.

By Rich Monty

September 16th-18th, cavers from all over the MAR region of the National Speleological Society gathered at the Warrior Ridge Campground for a weekend of caving, socializing and other general craziness with the members of the Pennsylvania Inner-Earth Grotto.

The PIG's volunteered to host the Fall MAR Field Meet over a year ago in order to introduce themselves to other MAR grottos and cavers, and to prove that it is possible to have a MAR event without overly politicized debates that tend to keep some cavers away.

For most of the PIG's the event started on the 15th. Five of us arrived a day early to begin the preparations for the event. However, by Friday morning people began to arrive in small numbers. There was only one guided cave trip that took place on Friday. Rich Monty took some of the early arrivals to Hipple's Cave in Bedford County. By the time the trip got back to the campground, many more people had arrived and the welcome party slowly began to pick-up speed. DJ Yuengling John began to play some tunes over the rudimentary music system that was set up previously. Everyone who was around the stage that evening got a pretty good show from some of the lovely ladies that imbibed a bit of CaveDad's top shelf quality spirits. A barrel of Yuengling Lager was also brought forth to quench anyone's adult thirsts that evening. Of course we were careful to lock up the other two barrels in Lincoln Caverns as to prevent pilfering that would leave us a dry Saturday evening.

Saturday morning was the beginning of the guided caving trips. Trips went out to Black Log, Hipples, Blue Hole, Alexander caves. Unfortunately the Kooken Cave trip fell through but very few people signed up for that trip. Directions were also given to many of the local caves that were not being guided. It seemed that everyone got to do some activity. Saturday also was the day that Ann Dunlavy (owner of Lincoln Caverns & Whisper Rocks) opened up the two commercial caves for a free

tour for the MAR registrants. Mark Lancaster (Lincoln Caverns resident geologist) guided the tour and did one of the best geological tours that I have seen done in either cave.

Following the guided tour of Lincoln Caverns and Whisper Rocks it was chow time. The banquet dinner was catered by Brenneman's meat market. It consisted of BBQ and Plain Pork sandwiches with sauerkraut and pork stuffing. I'm not talking pulled pork either! We had nice big filets of pork. A meat eater would have had to be out of their minds to complain about that, and only one person was heard complaining, malcontent! For those in attendance who do not eat meat, Robin and Lance Mitchell served up an outstanding vegetarian entrée.

After the banquet was over, everyone retired to the visitor center for a presentation on the new discoveries in both Lincoln Caverns and Whisper Rocks. Mark Lancaster once again did an outstanding job presenting the photos and the history of the exploration taken place in both caves.

The rest of the evening was typical for a caving event, someone broke out a squeezebox, someone tapped a keg, someone started a bon-fire etc., etc., etc.,. Actually, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Jess Martin AKA "Love Rhombus" entertained the crowd with his guitar and for those who didn't get their fill at dinner, the leftovers were set out and by early morning were devoured.

Sunday's only planned activity was the PCC breakfast and meeting held at the visitors center. Dave "CaveDad" Akers Jr. was the only PIG out of bed early enough to make that (of course some PIGs never made it to bed). He reported that it was a fine breakfast. Once everyone left, the PIG members wandered down to the visitor's center for a private tour of the caves, it seemed that some of the members missed the trip the day before due to working the banquet and had never seen the caves before.

Over all it was a pretty successful event. There were only 61 registered for the

event but it seemed like many more when you consider that everyone participated in the revelry every evening. I would like to put out special thanks to Ann Dunlavy for the generosity and hospitality in providing such a great location to meet. I would also like to thank all the trip leaders whose help was invaluable in accessing some of the prettiest caves in the state. Special thanks goes out to Robin & Lance Mitchell for preparing the vegetarian meal (I thought that vegetarians

only eat lettuce). Mark Lancaster was an integral part of the organizing as well as providing an outstanding program and I owe him a large debt of thanks. And of course, to all of the PIG members who gave up their time and effort to make the MAR a success, Thanks!

** A full spread of pictures from the 2005 Fall MAR will be included in the 2005 Winter issue of the "PIG Pen" due out in December**



Having fun at the Fall MAR

Photos taken by Dave "CaveDad" Akers Jr.

Some of the MAR hosts from PIG Grotto



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by President Pat Minnick at Lincoln Caverns Sunday September 18, 2005.

The following officers were present. **President** P. Minnick **Vice President** C. Catherman
Secretary K. Bange **Treasurer** G. Bange

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	JD Lewis	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	----
Baltimore Grotto	---	Nittany Grotto	Christopher Catherman
Bucks County Grotto	---	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Buffalo Valley Grotto	---	Pennsylvania Inner-Earth Grotto	----
Central New Jersey Grotto	----	Pittsburgh Grotto	----
Commander Cody Caving Club	---	Seven Valleys Grotto	Steve Shawver
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick	York Grotto	---
Greater Allentown Grotto	---		

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 2005 meeting were read by Pat Minnick. Karen Bange pointed out a typo in the minutes. The minutes should read under **Fund Raising T-shirts** "It was decided to plan for a new design for the **2009** anniversary." There was discussion about a deadline for submission of the T-shirt designs. The group discussed a deadline of February 2008 and the T-shirt to be printed in the spring of 2009.

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

Web Page: Pat Minnick reported talking to David Fricke, the web master, at OTR. The NSS server crashed over the summer but Dave reported, via Pat, that the PCC website is up and functional. The group discussed the pros and cons of establishing a PCC list serve.

PCC Breakfast: Christopher and Christine Catherman coordinated the PCC breakfast at the field meet. They donated all the food items. They put on an excellent breakfast complete with both Maine blueberry pancakes and chocolate chip pancakes. The breakfast made \$163. The PCC 50/50 raffle brought in \$13.87.

The Cathermans will be coordinating the PCC breakfast at the 2006 spring MAR. Christopher is still working on writing the guidelines for hosting a PCC breakfast. The group discussed ideas on how to get a headcount for the breakfast prior to the event. There was also discussion on PCC purchasing coffee equipment and supplies for future breakfasts.

Fund Raising T-Shirts: Grottos and individuals are encouraged to submit T-shirt designs for the 25th PCC anniversary.

PCC Brochure: Anyone interested in brochures should contact George Bange.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project List:

Baker Caverns: Franklin, County, PA- No change in status or access; the property remains for sale.

Dragon Cave: Berks County, PA –Nate Hirneisen reported that Frank Eckert is the contact person for access into the cave. Access is limited.

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

Red Church Cave: Schuylkill County, PA- No update

Merkle Cave: Berks County, PA.- No update

Cleversburg Cave: Franklin County, PA.- Franklin County Grotto is hosting a gate refurbishing project September 24th and 25th. The project will shore up the entrance area around the gate and redo the kiosk on site.

Corker Hill and Frustration Pit: Franklin County, PA- Amos Mincin reported the survey of Corker Hill Cave will be complete in two more survey trips. Anyone interested in helping with the survey project should contact Amos.

Schofer Cave: Berks County, PA.- No update

Amos Mincin will be present at Ridley Creek State Park cave conservation presentation scheduled for November 6th.

NEW BUSINESS:

George Bange reported Penn Aqua Cave and property is for sale. The property includes 10 acres of land that is Clean and Green along

with a house, barn and the entrance to the cave. George Bange has contacted the owner. George and Dale Ibberson will be meeting with the owner to discuss the situation.

Dale Ibberson's father passed away September 3rd. The group agreed to have a sympathy card sent to Dale. Karen will send the card.

A scouting club from Lansdale, PA has contacted the PCC in regards to scheduling a caving trip. **Amos Mincin** will follow up with the group.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be on Saturday February 25, 2006 after the MAR Business Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am
Respectfully submitted,
Karen Bange, Recording Secretary

PCC Officer Elections

There will be a PCC meeting February 25, 2006 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 any MAR officer. Officer contact information is listed on the front page of the Breakdown.

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

Kudos to Amos!

Thank you to Amos Mincin for a job well done in representing the PCC at Ridley Creek State Park on November 6, 2005. Amos put together a power point presentation on cave conservation. Here is a small sample of some of the slides used. The power point presentation is on CD and in the PCC archive.

Caves can be DANGEROUS !

- SAFETY – Requires Training and:
- 3 Sources of Lights
- Helmet and Headlamp
- Good Footwear
- Food and Drink
- Being Careful – Proper Gear

CAVE CONSERVATION
CAN INVOLVE REMOVING
DAMAGE DONE BY OTHERS

CLEANING OFF
SPRAY PAINT



Caves ARE SOMETIMES VANDALIZED !

- SPRAY PAINTED
- BROKEN FORMATIONS
- SOILED OR DEFACED
- TRASHED

**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

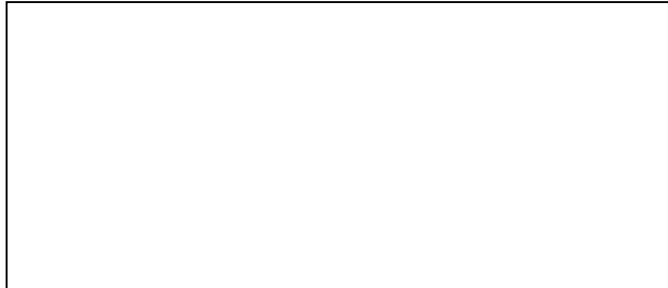
The PCC web page is at:

www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc

The MAR listserv is at:

www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/MAR-NSS/

MAR Breakdown
118 Ridge Road
PO Box 426
Centre Hall, PA 16828



Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins

Including Reprinted Bulletins

NSS Member Price List

Effective May 2002

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