



BREAKDOWN

Volume 21, Number 1, April 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

Spring MAR Field Meet Hosted by Franklin County Grotto May 5-7, 2006 Williamson, PA

Registration Form And Details of the Event On Page 9



Check out both the MAR web site and the PCC web site for the latest caving information

The MAR web page is at:
www.caves.org/region/mar/

The PCC web page is at:
www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc



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MAR Meeting Minutes

25th of February 2006



Meeting was called to order by Bob Gulden at 1:25 p.m. Feb 25th 2006 at the home of Jay Herbein, Harrisburg, PA.

Secretary's Report: Baltimore Grotto made a motion to accept the 2005 Business Meeting minutes as published in the April 2005 Breakdown. Nittany Grotto seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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. Material can be in hardcopy or sent electronically to riverbat@localnet.com.

George Bange 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.

2005 Spring Field Meet: The event was hosted by Nittany Grotto at Rupert Cave in Mifflin County. The write up of the event can be found in the August 2005 Breakdown.

2005 Fall Field Meet: The event was hosted by Pennsylvania Inner-Earth Grotto at Lincoln Cavern in Huntingdon County. The write up of the event can be found in the January 2006 Breakdown.

MAR Web Site: Christopher Catherman continues to keep the website up and running. The listserv is up and going and continues to get new members. Christopher reported there is an occasional problem with messages being bounced. If anyone experiences this problem, send messages directly to Christopher for posting. Electronic versions of the Breakdown can be found on the MAR web site.

Nature Conservancy: Rocky Gleason, an inventory ecologist with the Pennsylvania Heritage Program, reported on the ongoing inventory of cave invertebrate taking place in Mifflin County. An update of cave invertebrate is starting Lancaster County.

MAR Bulletins: Will White reported there is little progress on the bulletins for the *Mid Susquehanna Valley, Huntingdon County or Kooken/Tyrone area*.

Pennsylvania Cave Database: Keith Wheeland gave a report on the 1,604 items listed on the cave database.

Game Commission: Dale Ibberson reported Brad Myers is the new contact for Shofer Cave. Mike Spencer reported he has been in contact with the area biologist and together they are working on an access plan for the cave.

MAKC: No report.

MAR Incorporation: Keith Wheeland reviewed the proposed changes to the MAR Bylaws drafted by the MAR Incorporation committee.

After the review there was a motion by Baltimore Grotto and seconded by Greater Allentown Grotto (GAG) to change the wording under Article IV to read: *Membership in the MAR shall be comprised of NSS Internal Organizations (I/O)(Chapters aka Grottos, State Surveys, and Sections) located within the region that decide to become members.* This motion was passed.

Franklin County Grotto (FCG) made a motion, seconded by Nittany Grotto, to change the wording under Article IV to read: *Individuals residing within the region may become non-voting members by registering as a participant at the MAR field meet.* This motion was passed.

GAG made a motion which was seconded by FCG, to clarify how I/Os become members of the MAR. The motion passed to include the following addition to the bylaws:

A. I/Os indicate their willingness to become members of MAR by attending a Regional Business Meeting.

B. I/Os that fail to attend two consecutive Regional Business Meetings will be considered inactive, and thus not be counted in the totals for deciding a quorum. A valid proxy is considered attending.

Article V - Regional Council: *The governing body of the Region shall be a Regional Council. The*

Regional Council shall consist of the officers of the Region, representatives from member I/Os, and regional members not affiliated with any I/O. Each member I/O is entitled to two votes. I/Os may be represented by proxy.

A. Proxies must be in writing and indicate (1) the name of the holder of the proxy, (2) the I/O for which the proxy is sent, and (3) the meeting date. Proxies may be restricted to a particular topic or may be general in nature.

B. A person may represent only one proxy per meeting.

Baltimore Grotto made the motion, seconded by GAG, to change the wording under Article VI, under Executive Committee, to read: *The slate of candidates, with secret ballot, shall be given to all voting members present at the Regional Business Meeting. The ballots shall be counted on the same day.*

A draft of the bylaws, including the proposed changes, can be found on page 5 and also on the MAR web site. At the 2007 MAR Business Meeting there will be a vote on accepting the proposed changes.

2006 Spring Field Meet: Will be hosted by Franklin County Grotto May 5-7 at the American Legion Picnic Grounds, Williamson, PA. FCG is looking for cave trip leaders. Flyers were available at the meeting. More information can be found on the MAR web site.

2006 Fall Field Meet. Bald Eagle Grotto is hosting the event in honor of their 20th anniversary. The event will be October 6-8 in Bellefonte, PA.

2007 Spring Field Meet: No grottos were interested in hosting the event.

2007 Fall Field Meet: Philly Grotto is hosting the event in honor of their 60th anniversary. Tentative plans are to hold the event at the OTR site October 12-14 as a joint VAR/MAR.

New Business:

Jay Herbein acknowledged Steve Taylor, of Philly Grotto. Currently Steve is down in Biloxi, Mississippi involved in the cleanup of Hurricane Katrina.

Bette White made a motion, seconded by Baltimore Grotto, to increase the number of Breakdowns given to subscribers. Everyone currently with one or more Breakdown left to be delivered to them would receive three extra Breakdown issues. Also, for 2006 only, all field meet registrants would get three extra Breakdowns per meet. The proposal was made due to excess funds in the MAR Breakdown treasury. The motion passed.

Amos Mincin reported on the NSS Youth Groups. There are three areas in the US with regional youth coordinators. Allen Maddox, of Philly Grotto, is a regional coordinator. More information on youth/scout caving can be found on the NSS web site.

Stony Creek: Dale Ibberson gave a brief history of Stony Valley, a 44,373 roadless wilderness area in Central Pennsylvania. Thirty two years ago the area was saved from development but is currently threatened by a proposed expansion of Fort Indiantown Gap military range. York Grotto made a motion, seconded by Baltimore Grotto, to sign the MAR as a supporting organization in the efforts to save Stony Valley. The motion passed.

The **Spring VAR** is April 28th through the 30th at Grand Caverns, VA.

The **Baltimore Grotto Swine and Dine**, at Friars Hole, WV, is May 26th through 29th.

There is a clean up of **Donaldson's Cave**, Berkeley County, WV, June 10th.

The **NSS Convention** is August 7- 11 in Bellingham, WA.. Check the NSS web site for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.
The next meeting is February 24, 2007

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, Seven Valleys Grotto, Buffalo Valley Grotto, Central Jersey Grotto, Bald Eagle Grotto

Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society Constitution

Article I - **Name and Area:** The name of this Region shall be the Mid-Appalachian Region (MAR) of the National Speleological Society (NSS). It shall comprise the area as provided for in the bylaws of the MAR.

Article II - **Subordination:** The Constitution and Bylaws of the NSS shall be binding on this region.

Article III - **Purpose:** The purpose shall be to promote interest in and advance in any and all ways the study and science of speleology and the protection of caves and their natural contents, to promote fellowship among those interested therein, particularly within the region represented by the MAR, and to promote the goals of the National Speleological Society.

Article IV - **Membership:** Membership in the MAR shall be comprised of NSS Internal Organizations (I/O) (Chapters aka Grottos, State Surveys, and Sections) located within the region that decide to become members. Individuals residing within the region may become non-voting members by registering as a participant at an MAR field meet.

A. I/Os indicate their willingness to become members of MAR by attending a Regional Business Meeting.

B. I/Os that fail to attend two consecutive Regional Business Meetings will be considered inactive, and thus not be counted in the totals for deciding a quorum. A valid proxy is considered attending.

Article V - **Regional Council:** The governing body of the Region shall be a Regional Council. The Regional Council shall consist of the officers of the Region, representatives from member I/Os, and regional members not affiliated with any I/O. Each member I/O is entitled to two votes. I/Os may be represented by proxy.

A. Proxies must be in writing and indicate (1) the name of the holder of the proxy, (2) the I/O for which the proxy is sent, and (3) the meeting date. Proxies may be restricted to a particular topic or may be general in nature.

B. A person may represent only one proxy per meeting.

Article VI - **Organization:**

A. **Executive Committee:** The current officers shall act as a nominating committee to select a slate of candidates for Regional Officers, consisting of at least three members of the NSS chosen from within the MAR to serve for a term running from the day after the Regional Business Meeting through the next.

The slate of candidates, with secret ballot, shall be given to all voting members present at the Regional Business Meeting. The ballots shall be counted on the same day.

The three candidates who receive the most votes shall become the new officers-elect.

B. **Officers:** The newly elected officers shall determine among themselves who shall fill the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary.

They shall appoint a Treasurer who must be an NSS member within the region. The Treasurer shall serve until replaced by the Regional Council.

Article VII - **Amendments:** Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the Regional Council. A proposed amendment shall become effective upon its ratification by a majority of the Regional Council provided this ratification occurs within one year of its proposal.

Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society Bylaws

Article I - **Regional Council Meeting**

A. **Meeting notification:** The time and place of the Regional Council meetings may be designated by either the chairman or the Council. Notice of the Council meetings must be delivered to all Regional Officers and members at least two weeks before the meeting.

B. **Quorum:** Twenty percent of the eligible voters in the Regional Council shall constitute a quorum.

C. **Conduct of Meeting:** Roberts Rules of Order, revised edition, shall be the parliamentary authority for all Regional Council meetings.

Article II - **Officers**

A. **Chairman:** The Chairman shall direct the affairs of the Region but shall be subordinate to the Council. The Chairman shall preside at Council meetings.

B. **Vice-Chairman:** The Vice-Chairman shall perform duties as assigned by the Chairman and the Regional Council. The Vice-Chairman shall assume the authority and duties of the Chairman in case of the Chairman's resignation or inability to serve. The Vice-Chairman shall assume that portion of the Chairman's visitation and representation duties that the Chairman deems necessary.

C. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Council meetings, be custodian of the records, conduct correspondence as directed by the Chairman, keep the MAR records up to date with the NSS, and submit the Annual Report to the NSS.

D. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall hold and manage the Region's funds. The Treasurer shall maintain a detailed record of all MAR income and expenditures, shall make a financial report at each MAR business meeting, and shall discharge MAR funds only as directed by the Regional Council.

Article III - **Standing Committees**

The Regional Chairman shall make all appointments to the standing committees.

A. **Region Cave File:** The Region Cave File Committee shall collect data on caves within the Region.

B. **Program:** The Program Committee shall plan and conduct the Spring and Fall Meets subject to the approval of the Regional Chairman.

C. **Publication:** The Publication Committee shall publish the MAR Bulletins.

Article IV - **Regional territory:**

The Regional territory shall include New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland.

Article V - **Meetings**

A. **Annual Meeting:** There shall be an annual Regional Business Meeting at a time and place designated by the Regional Officers.

B. **Field Meets:** There shall be a Spring and Fall Regional Field Meet at a time and place designated by the Regional Officers.

Article VI - **Amendments:** These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Regional Council.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 pm by President Pat Minnick at the home of Jay Herbein, Saturday February 25, 2006.

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	Craig Hindman	Nittany Grotto	Christopher Catherman
Bucks County Grotto	---	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Buffalo Valley Grotto	Matt Neyhart	Pennsylvania Inner-Earth Grotto	----
Central New Jersey Grotto	Frank Strahan	Pittsburgh Grotto	----
Commander Cody Caving Club	Mike Mostardi	Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick	York Grotto	Dale Ibberson
Greater Allentown Grotto	Dean Snyder		

Secretary Report: The minutes from the May 2005 meeting were accepted as published in the Breakdown.

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

Web Page: Dave Fricke gave an update on the PCC web site. The site still continues to receive inquires and increase in visibility in the caving community with more listings on caving-related link web sites. The latest feature to the PCC web site is an addition of a News Page. Currently, this page includes the PCC brochure and the NPR radio interview from April 2005. Additional items for this page are welcome.

PCC Breakfast: The Cathermans will be coordinating the PCC breakfast at the 2006 spring MAR. Christopher distributed a draft of *Hosting a PCC Breakfast*. The information is to be used as a guide for putting on a PCC breakfast and will be posted on the PCC web site. The Cathermans are receptive to the idea of doing the PCC breakfast at the 2006 fall meet.

Fund Raising T-Shirts. Frank Strahan, Central Jersey Grotto, submitted a T-shirt design for the 25th PCC anniversary T-shirt. The design, along with future designs, will be posted on the PCC web site for everyone to view. Grottos and individuals are encouraged to submit T-shirt designs for the 25th PCC anniversary. Submission deadline

is February 2008 with T-shirts to be printed in the spring of 2009.

PCC Brochure: The supply of PCC brochures is dwindling. George Bange will inventory the amount left and give a report at the spring meeting. There are many brochures with the misprinted address remaining. Mike Spencer volunteered to put stickers, with the correct address, on these brochures. George will give the misprinted brochures to Mike at the spring field meet. 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. The cave will be removed from the project list.

J-4: Centre County, PA-status quo-CLOSED Gary Dunmire gave an update on the cave. Graymount Quarry has a contract to have the cave cemented shut. There are new No Trespassing signs on the property.

Red Church Cave: Schuylkill County, PA- No change in status

Merkle Cave: Berks County, PA.- No update

Cleversburg Cave: Franklin County, PA.- Pat Minnick reported on the gate refurbishing project done this fall by FCG.

The historic entrance to the cave is completely closed now. There is no change in the key status. The kiosk on the property still needs to be refurbished. This will be done by the spring MAR..

Corker Hill and Frustration Pit: Franklin County, PA- Amos Mincin reported the survey of Corker Hill Cave will be complete in one more survey trip. Anyone interested in helping with the survey project should contact Amos. There is a rough map of the cave. Amos reported there are many beginner trips going into the cave.

Schofer Cave: Berks County, PA.- Mike Spencer is working with the PA Game Commission to determine the scientific reason to keep the cave closed. Mike will be going on the next bat count. Mike is working on a plan to address keeping the cave open for educational and scientific purposes.

Amos Mincin reported on the Ridley Creek State Park cave conservation presentation done last fall. Amos's cave conservation presentation is available, on CD, from the PCC archive and will also be posted on the PCC web site.

George Bange gave an update on Penn Aqua Cave. George and Dale Ibberson met with the owner this past fall to discuss the possibility of PCC obtaining the cave. At the time the owner was interested in subdividing the 8+ acres of land he is planning to sell. The subdivision would portion off the cave entrance. George spoke with the land owner this past week. At this time the owner has changed his mind about subdividing the land. PCC will approach the owner again this summer.

Philly Grotto has surveyed 400 to 500 feet of cave past the Wendler Extension in McAlisterville Cave. A rough map of the newly surveyed passage exists.

NEW BUSINESS:

Karen Bange will be doing a presentation May 13th for a group of women in an outing club. The presentation will be on caving and cave conservation.

Dale Ibberson gave a brief history of Stony Valley, a 44,373 roadless wilderness area in Central Pennsylvania. Thirty two years ago the area was saved from development but is currently threatened by a proposed expansion of Fort Indiantown Gap military range. PCC will sign as a supporting organization in the efforts to save Stony Valley.

Karen Bange distributed forms for grottos to use to update and/or change grotto representative information.

Officer elections were held. The current officers were all voted back into office.

President	P. Minnick
Vice President	C. Catherman
Secretary	K. Bange
Treasurer	G. Bange

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be on Sunday May 7, 2006 at the spring MAR field meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Bange, Recording Secretary

Support PCC Breakfast Efforts!

Purchase Breakfast Tickets at the Spring MAR Field Meet

Volunteer your efforts to help make the breakfast a success.
Contact Christopher Catherman at cavevader@yahoo.com

Spring MAR

Hosted by
Franklin County Grotto
May 5-7, 2006
American Legion Picnic Grounds
Williamson, PA.



Registration on site. Grounds open at 4 p.m. Friday
\$25 per person, 12 and under \$10
Includes dinner at 6:30 p.m. Saturday evening BYOB

Local Cave Trips

Saturday night

- Campfire
- Drawing for door prizes
- Program (A visit to the Turks & Caicos Islands) by Jim Hart

GPS coords. for MAR site Lat. N39 50 48.25 Long. W77 46 57.52
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Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy will be selling breakfast on Sunday morning as a fund raiser, followed by the PCC Meeting.

Directions from Greencastle East and South

From intersection of Rt 81 and Rt 16 in Greencastle, go west on Rt 16 for 0.5 mile. Turn right onto Rt 11 (Molly Pitcher Highway) for 0.2 mile. Turn left onto Williamson Ave. which then turns into Williamson Road. Proceed about 5 miles and turn right into the MAR site.

Directions from Chambersburg and North

From intersection of Rt 81 & Rt 30 in Chambersburg, go west through Chambersburg about 3.5 miles to Rt 995 (Warm Spring Road). Turn left onto Rt 995 and go approx. 10 miles. Turn left onto Williamson Road (towards Greencastle). Go approx. 1 mile and turn left into the MAR site.

Directions from McConnellsburg and West

Follow Rt 16 from McConnellsburg to Mercersburg (aprox 10 miles). Proceed on Rt 16 to Woods Road (aprox 5 miles from Mercersburg). Turn left onto Woods Road and go one mile to stop sign. Go straight through and the road becomes Warm Spring Rd (Rt 995). Go approx. 3 miles and turn right onto Williamson Rd. Go 1 mile and turn left into the MAR site.

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 No. 1-4	7.00 + postage
5	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Western PA 29 caves, 19 maps 76pp Armstrong, Clarion, Fayette, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Westmoreland Counties	8.00 + postage A
6	REPRINT VOLUME: 93 caves 69 maps, 5 large maps 126 pp Caves of Southern Cumberland Valley, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin Counties	12.00 + postage B
7	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Fulton Co., PA 4 caves, 4 maps 17 pp	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 No.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