



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 23, Number 1, April 2008

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 \$3 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 \$3 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@statecollege.com

**Treasurer:** **Bette White**  
4538 Miller Road  
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118 Ridge Road  
Centre Hall, PA 16828  
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**2008 Spring MAR  
PINE HILL CAMPGROUND  
Hazelton, West Virginia  
May 16 - 18, 2008  
Hosted by:  
Commander Cody Caving Club**



Attendees at the MAR Business Meeting

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# MAR Meeting Minutes

## 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2008



Meeting was called to order by Bob Gulden at 1:35 p.m. February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008 at the home of Jay Herbein, Harrisburg, PA.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made to accept the 2007 Business Meeting minutes as published in the April 2007 Breakdown. The motion was seconded. Motion passed.

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

Bette proposed reducing the MAR money collected at field meets to \$3.00. A motion was made to this effect, seconded and passed by a unanimous vote.

**MAR Breakdown:** Karen Bange reported the glitch in the MAR mailing list database has been corrected thanks to Dave Fricke. Karen reminded everyone that electronic versions of the Breakdown can be found on the MAR website.

Send any Breakdown articles for publication to Karen Bange. Material can be in hardcopy or sent electronically to riverbat@statecollege.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@statecollege.com. George requested people write neatly when registering for MAR field meets. The mailing list is maintained from the registration forms.

**2007 Spring Field Meet:** The event was hosted by Buffalo Valley Grotto, at Woodward Campground. The write up of the event can be found in the August 2007 Breakdown.

**2007 Fall Field Meet:** The event was hosted by Philly Grotto in honor of their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The write up of the event can be found in the January 2007 Breakdown.

**MAR Web Site:** Christopher Catherman continues to keep the website up and running. Christopher reminded

grottos to send MAR field meet information to him in a timely manner for posting on the MAR website.

**Landowner Liability Act:** Karen Bange gave a follow up report on changes to the landowner liability act. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, Governor Rendell signed into law (Act 11) that closes the loophole in the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act. This change was brought about by a shooting accident that occurred in Lehigh County in 2004. Christopher Catherman will update the MAR website with links to the current law.

**Nature Conservancy:** Keith Wheeland gave a report on a recent two day conference hosted by The Nature Conservancy in Hot Springs, VA. The purpose of the meeting was to categorize areas in various states with karst and cave features. The goal is to prioritize significant areas for conservation and appropriate protection. Keith emphasized the importance of keeping the PA Cave Database up to date as this will help protect significant karst and cave features in PA.

Charlie Eichelberger and Jim Hart spoke on White Nose Syndrome (WNS). This extremely serious situation effecting bats has now been confirmed in mines and caves in NY, CT, and MA. There are still no confirmed cases in PA. The NSS is asking people to avoid going into caves and mines that are significant bat hibernacula for a year. There was discussion about posting a list of specific caves and mines to avoid for the next year.

It seems that bats with WNS are found at cave entrances or out flying at odd times. Therefore, cavers interested in helping to look for WNS can limit visitation to cave entrances. If any evidence of WNS is found, people should contact Greg Turner immediately: 841 237-1432 or grturner@state.pa.us.

**MAR Bulletins:** Will White reported the bulletin for *Huntingdon County* is almost complete. The new map of Tytoona is almost finished. The bulletin for the *Upper Susquehanna Valley* is in text, just waiting on the maps to be finished.

Dale Ibberson reported Todd Hancock has volunteered to redo the *Mifflin County* MAR Bulletin. Todd is

asking for help from cavers. Anyone interested in helping Todd can contact him at 740 448-1185 or cavertodd@yahoo.com

**Pennsylvania Cave Database:** Bill Herr has volunteered to be the new PA Cave Database steward. Bill is asking for volunteers to be county stewards and provide him with updates in specific geographic areas throughout PA. Garrett Czmor has volunteered to be the steward of Huntingdon County and JD Lewis has volunteered to be the steward in North Central PA. Mike Spencer volunteered to be the steward for Lehigh and North Hampton counties; Jim Hart, Don Arrowood, Ken Jones will be county stewards for Cumberland, Franklin and Fulton counties. Any other volunteers to be county steward for the PA Cave Database should contact Bill Herr at wherr@maserconsulting.com. Everyone is encouraged to contact Bill with all updates and changes to caves status in PA. Grottos are encouraged to put Bill on their newsletter mailing lists as information in newsletter is a good resource for updates/changes throughout the state.

Bill also reported that Bru Randall, Western PA Sub-region Coordinator, ER, NCRC and Cave Rescue Coordinator for AMRG is working on a system to help identify caves in a specific area to streamline rescues. Bill is working with Bru on this process.

Jim Hart reported he is still working on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. The Nature Conservancy has been working on an inventory in Lancaster County to help identify karst areas that need protection.

**Game Commission:** Mike Spencer reported he continues to have good relations with Greg Turner of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The Game Commission has been working closely with cavers the past months to help share knowledge about caves and cave wildlife in light of White Nose Syndrome

**MAKC:** Kim Metzgar displayed the newly published map/poster of Lincoln Cavern and Whisper Rock Cave, Huntingdon County. The map is for sale and all proceeds benefit MAKC. She also reported Hesston Cave has been resurveyed and the map is almost complete. This year's annual MAKC member weekend will be June 13-15 at Shofer Cave. It is MAKC's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Details of the event will be posted on the MAKC website.

An update on Cleversburg Cave was given. The relationship between South Hampton township and

MAKC is good. A new ladder has been installed in the cave. Signs will be posted in the area asking people not to use the township building facilities. Franklin County Grotto has plans to update the onsite kiosk.

**Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy:** Meeting to follow the MAR Business Meeting.

**MAR Incorporation:** Keith Wheeland has met with a lawyer and plans to use a new approach this year moving forward with incorporation and changes to the bylaws to ensure these two items compliment each other.

**2008 Spring Field Meet:** Will be hosted by Commander Cody Caving Club May 16-18<sup>th</sup> in Hazelton, WV at the Pine Hill Campground. Registration forms are published on page 9. More information can be found on the MAR web site.

**2008 Fall Field Meet.** Nittany Grotto is hosting the event in honor of their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.. The event will be October 10-12<sup>th</sup> at Woodward Cave, Woodward, PA. All checks for the event should be made out the MAR and not Nittany Grotto. Jim Kennedy of Bat Conservation International will be the guest speaker. Information will be posted on the website.

**2009 Spring Field Meet:** No takers.

**2009 Fall Field Meet:** York Grotto is hosting the event in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event will be at Rupert Cave, Mifflin County PA the weekend of October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **New Business:**

The **Spring VAR/SERA** is June 5-8, 2008 at Bristol Campground, Bristol TN.

The **Baltimore Grotto Swine and Dine**, at Friars Hole, WV, is May 23-26<sup>th</sup>.

The **NSS Convention** is August 11-15<sup>th</sup> in Lake City, Florida. Check the NSS web site for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

The next meeting is February 28, 2009

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, Bald Eagle Grotto, Bucks County, MAKC



# 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 23, 2008.

The following officers were present.

<b>President</b>	P. Minnick	<b>Vice President</b>	C. Catherman
<b>Secretary</b>	K. Bange	<b>Treasurer</b>	G. Bange

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	JD Lewis
Baltimore Grotto	Craig Hindman
Bucks County Grotto	---
Buffalo Valley Grotto	Eric Snyder
Central New Jersey Grotto	---
Commander Cody Caving Club	Mike Mostardi
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick
Greater Allentown Grotto	Dean Snyder

Huntingdon Co.Cave Hunters	Dean Snyder-proxy
Nittany Grotto	Gary Dunmire
Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Pennsylvania Inner-Earth Grotto	----
Pittsburgh Grotto	----
Seven Valleys Grotto	Gretchen Williams
York Grotto	Dale Ibberson

**Secretary Report:** The minutes from the September 2007 meeting were accepted as published in the January 2008 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. Dave asked that PCC reps keep him up to date with current/correct grotto and contact information.

**PCC Breakfast:** PCC will put on a Sunday morning breakfast at the Spring MAR. The Cathermans will coordinate with Commander Cody Caving Club the amount of food needed.

PCC will decide at the Spring MAR field meet about hosting a Sunday morning breakfast at the Fall MAR field meet.

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

**Mail:** The Christmas card for the landowner of Penn Aqua Cave was returned. Anyone with the correct address for the landowner should contact Karen Bange.

**T-shirts:** Dean Snyder has PCC t-shirts for sale.

Submission for funding raising T-shirts for PCC's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary is February 2008. Designs are posted on the PCC website. T shirts are to be printed in spring of 2009.

**PA Cave Database:** Bill Herr has volunteered to be the new PA Cave Database steward. Bill is asking for volunteers to be county stewards and provide him with updates in specific geographic areas throughout PA. Garrett Czmor has volunteered to be the steward of Huntingdon County and JD Lewis has volunteered to be the steward in North Central PA. Mike Spencer volunteered to be the steward for Lehigh and North Hampton counties; Jim Hart, Don Arrowood, Ken Jones will be county stewards for Cumberland, Franklin and Fulton counties. Any other volunteers to be county steward for the PA Cave Database should contact Bill Herr at [wherr@maserconsulting.com](mailto:wherr@maserconsulting.com). Everyone is encouraged to contact Bill with all updates and changes to caves status in PA. Grottos are encouraged to put Bill on their newsletter mailing lists as information in newsletter is a good resource for updates/changes throughout the state.

Bill will supply county stewards with information from the database for their specific county. There was discussion about posting a listing of counties and county stewards on the PCC website.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### Project List:

**Baker Caverns:** Franklin, County, PA- Pat Minnick reported the property is off the market. The home is occupied by renters.  
**Dragon Cave:** Berks County, PA – no report  
**J-4:** Centre County, PA- status quo  
**Red Church Cave:** Schuylkill County, PA- GAG will look into the status of the landowner  
**Merkle Cave:** Berks County, PA.- no change  
**Cleversburg Cave:** Cumberland County, PA.- FCG is managing access into the cave. Currently the cave is flooded.  
**Schofer Cave:** Berks County, PA- The MAKC open house will be at Shofer Cave June 13-15<sup>th</sup>.  
**Durham Cave:** Bucks County, PA- no change  
**Corker Hill and Frustration Pit:** Franklin County, PA- A motion was made, seconded and passed for Amos Mincin to call Paul Trodonovich of WASHCO Homes to introduce Ken Jones as the contact person for PCC to enter into negotiations with WASHCO Homes for acquisition of the land containing Corker Hill and Frustration Pit. If an agreement is reached between PCC and WASHCO Homes in regards to the acquisition of the land, PCC will accept the property.

Joel Jacobs reported that he has spoken to Mike Walsh of the Texas Cave Conservancy (TCC). Mike continues to voice interest in helping PCC with the possible acquisition of this land.

**Inactive Members:** A motion was made, seconded and passed that effective immediately grottos that have missed 6 consecutive PCC meetings have to reapply for PCC membership. Inactive grottos are: Central New Jersey, Pennsylvania Inner Earth Grotto and Pittsburgh Grotto. Karen Bange will send out a notification to these three grottos.

**Officer elections** were held.

<b>President</b>	Pat Minnick
<b>Vice President</b>	Christopher Catherman
<b>Secretary</b>	Karen Bange
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gary Dunmire

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the PCC will be on Sunday May 18, 2008 at the spring MAR field meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Bange, Recording Secretary

**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)



## Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

### Financial Summary

8/31/2007 to 2/22/2008

#### CHECKING ACCOUNT:

Beginning Balance : \$241.84

Deposits : Donation to avoid dormant fee \$25.00

#### Expenses

Total Expenses : \$0.00

**Ending Balance :** \$266.84

#### SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

Beginning Balance : \$6,460.52

#### Donations

Total Donations : \$0.00

#### Other Income

Total Income: \$0.00

Interest : \$53.37

Withdrawals : \$0.00

**Ending Balance :** \$6,513.89

**COMBINED TOTAL :** \$6,780.73

HOSTED  
BY:



**2008 Spring MAR  
PINE HILL CAMPGROUND  
Hazelton, West Virginia  
May 16 - 18, 2008**

Registration Fee Includes:

- Campsite Friday and Saturday nights.
- Group bonfire both nights.
- DJ Music provided by Jess Wilson.
- Spaghetti Dinner Saturday night (bring your chair to dinner).
- Beer under the pavilion on Saturday night.
- Soft drinks served throughout the MAR.
- 2008 Spring Guidebook (while they last).



Registration Information:

- Registration Form on reverse side.
- Make checks payable to:  
**Judy Obetz**  
**802 Wharton Court**  
**Newtown Square, PA 19073**
- Any questions, please call Dana Schropp (302) 521-4665 or [dschropp22@comcast.net](mailto:dschropp22@comcast.net)

Directions:

Pine Hill Campground – 304-379-4612

Take 95 South to 695 around Baltimore to 70 West to 68 West. Cross over INTO West Virginia and take Exit 29. Debbie from the campground said there is an Exit 29 in Maryland and people think they are there already, but you HAVE to cross into WV to be at the “right” exit, so beware of this. Turn left off of the exit and go 3 miles. Take a right on Cherry Grove and the campground is about 1-1/2 miles down on the right.



**2008 Spring MAR – Registration Form**  
**PINE HILL CAMPGROUND**  
**Hazleton, West Virginia**  
**May 16 - 18, 2008**

Principal Registrant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Grotto Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Registrants**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Principal Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Principal Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Principal Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_

	Unit Cost	Quantity	Cost
Adult Registration	\$28.00		
Child Registration (Age 13-17)	\$23.00		
Children 12 and under are Free			
		TOTAL	

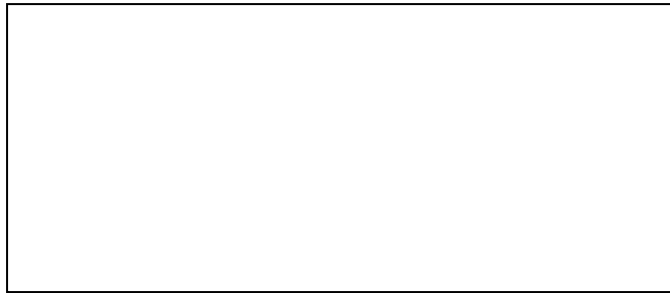
Commander Cody Caving Club, its members, the MAR and private landowners take no responsibility for any injuries or losses that might be sustained during the 2008 MAR meet and any associated activities. Participation by the undersigned is at their own risk, and they accept responsibility for the safety of all other participants (children and adults) who are listed on this registration form under "Additional Registrants".

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Judy Obetz and send form with registration fee to:

2008 Spring MAR c/o Judy Obetz  
802 Wharton Court  
Newtown Square, PA 19073

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	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Bulletins #1-4		7.00 + postage
5	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Western PA	29 caves, 19 maps 76pp	8.00 + 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	12.00 + 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	5.00 + postage <b>A</b>
8	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Blair Co., PA	89 caves, 40 maps 90 pp	7.00 + postage
9	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA	94 caves, 36 maps	10.00 + postage <b>B</b>
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA	20 caves, 14 maps	5.00 + postage <b>A</b>
11	Caves of Centre Co., PA	71 caves, 56 maps/1 large map	10.00 + postage <b>B</b>
12	Caves of Mifflin Co., PA	47 caves, 31 maps/5 large maps	10.00 + postage <b>B</b>
13	Caves of Perry Co., PA	13 caves, 6 maps	5.00 + postage <b>A</b>
14	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Bucks Co., PA	24 caves, 6 maps 43 pp	5.00 + postage <b>A</b>
15	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Lehigh Co., PA	25 caves, 13 maps 35 pp	6.00 + postage <b>A</b>
16	Caves of Northampton Co., PA	24 caves, 13 maps/1 large map	6.00 + postage <b>A</b>
17	Caves of Northumberland Co., PA	20 caves, 10 maps	5.00 + postage <b>A</b>
18	Caves of Berks Co., PA	64 caves, 32 maps	10.00 + postage <b>B</b>
19	Caves of Bedford Co., PA	54 caves, 33 maps	7.00 + postage <b>A</b>
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**