



BREAKDOWN

Volume 23, Number 3, January 2009

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 \$4 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 \$4 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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Vice Chair: **Gary Dunmire**
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MAR Business Meeting set for February 28, 2009 PCC Meeting to follow

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at the home of Jay Herbein on February 28, 2009 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.

Officer elections were held at the fall MAR field meet. Bob Gulden and Gary Dunmire were re-elected as MAR officers. There was no one willing to be MAR secretary. Karen Bange agreed to be the secretary again.



Inside

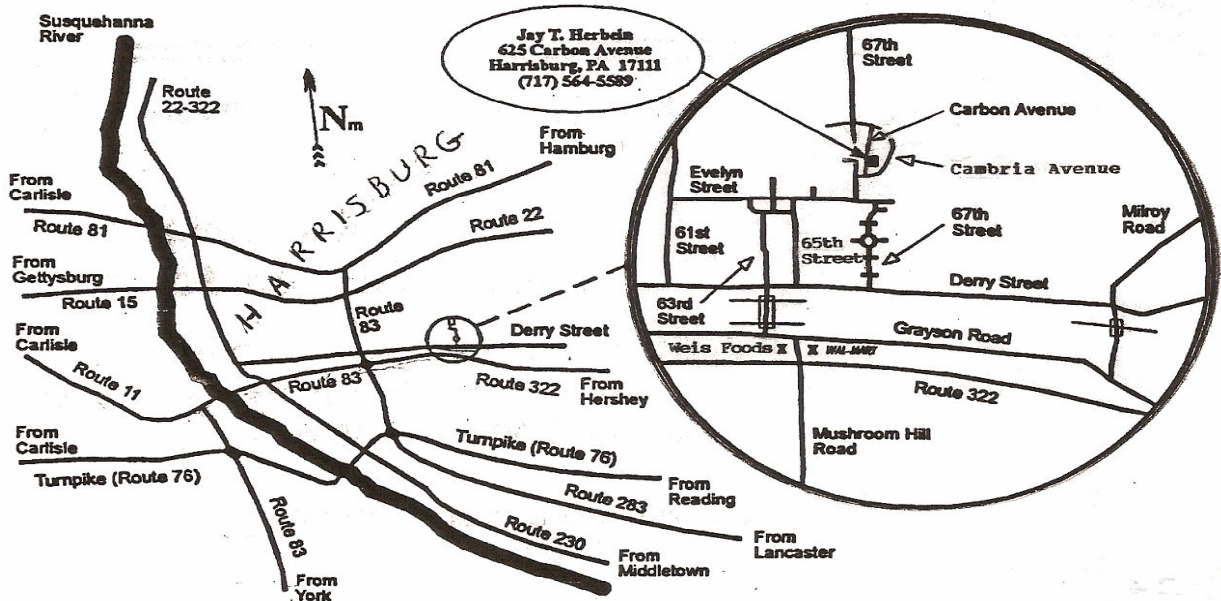
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Map of Business Meeting Site

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.

Final Note From The Current MAR Breakdown Editor:

10 years ago I took over being editor of the MAR Breakdown. It's been my pleasure to keep everyone in the region up to date with field meets and business meetings. I've certainly learned a lot over the years, made my fair share of typos, mailing blunders and website faux pas. I appreciate everyone's patience and understanding over the years.

Derek Flaig has agreed to be the new MAR editor. I know he will do an outstanding job and I look forward to reading the new and revised MAR Breakdown. Breakdown material is always welcomed, preferably in electronic format. Derek's contact information is:

RR 5 Box 807
Altoona, PA 16601

Phone: 814 946-4262
Email: derekcaver2000@yahoo.com

FALL 2008 MAR Field Meet

By Karen Bange

The 2008 fall MAR was hosted by Nittany Grotto in honor of their 60th anniversary. The event was held October 10-12th at Woodward Campground in Central PA. Lots of planning and preparation went into the event to help make it a success. The absolutely perfect fall weather was a huge factor in the success of the event; plenty of warm, sunny days and cold nights. The fall foliage was at its peak during the event.

Jeff Morrissey did an excellent job of orchestrating registration. 134 cavers registered for the event. Each registrant was given a guidebook (put together by Keith Wheeland), a door prize ticket, a packet of materials from local businesses and a ballot for the MAR officer election held at the event.

Friday night there was a toasty fire near the registration pavilion to welcome arrivals and a place to gather to meet up with friends. The half keg of Yuengling helped to ward off the chills (thanks to Pat Hensel for doing beer duty). Many younger attendees enjoyed giving the squeeze box a try. Sign up sheets for cave trips went out Friday night and were quickly filled. Gary Dunmire did a wonderful job organizing cave trips. Gary also set up a zip line in the campground which many people tried throughout the event.

Saturday morning the cave trips headed out to various caves; Chime and Miller, Coonscat, Deerbone, Henningh, Kookan, McAlisterville and Rupert. Everyone was back in time for the excellent spread put out by Clem's. The banquet feast included pulled pork sandwiches, chicken quarters, ribs, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, baked beans and garlic mashed potatoes. Dessert was a choice of a whoopie pie or

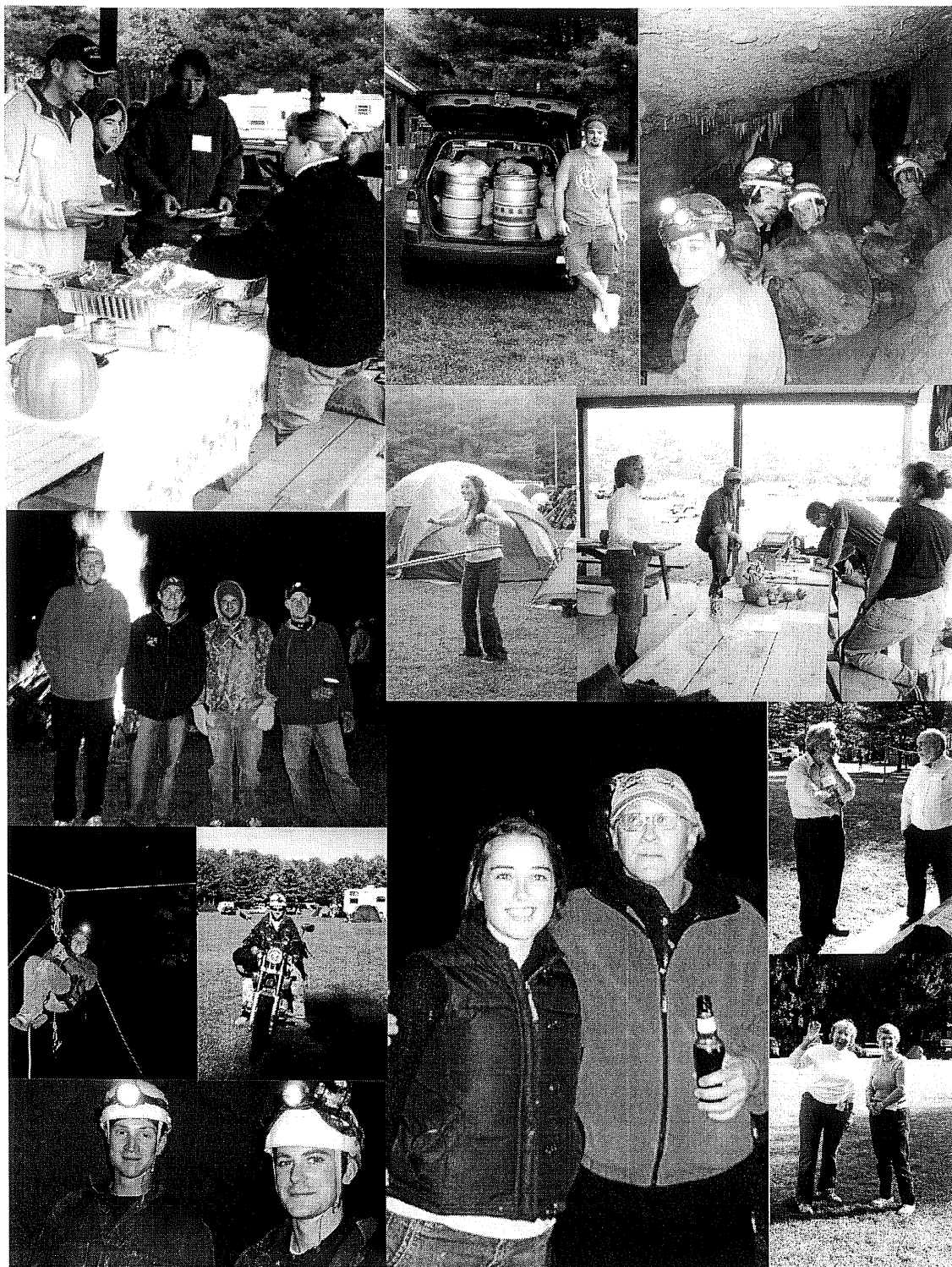
apple dumpling. Of course all this washed down with more Yuengling on tap. Sodas, water and coffee were available throughout the weekend.

After dinner 21 door prizes were given out. Joe Turchick spent a lot of time and effort gathering in the great door prizes: a Petzel headlamp, a Petzel ascender, gift certificates from various outdoor outfitters, books, coffees, Tshirts, miscellaneous bat items. Gary Dunmire was presented a plaque recognizing his years of leading Wednesday night grotto cave trips. Joe Turchick was given a blow up Godzilla in honor of the one that died in J4 years ago. The highlight of the evening was Jim "Crash" Kennedy's presentation on **Caves, Cavers and Bat Management**. Jim is from Bat Conservation International and flew in from Texas for the event. The bonfire was lit immediately following the presentation. The fire was the center focus for the rest of the evening as it gave off tons of heat. Many thanks to George Bange, Bryan Crowell, Joe Kearns and Rob and Amanda Martin for securing the firewood. The full moon lit up the campground beautifully.

Early Sunday morning people were up preparing the PCC breakfast. There was a fall theme to the breakfast this time; pumpkin pancakes, hot spiced apples, mulled cider were on the menu. Following breakfast, PCC held its regular meeting before everyone tore down camp and headed for home.

Thanks to everyone for helping to make this a fabulous celebration of Nittany Grotto's 60th anniversary.

Having fun at the Fall MAR



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

The meeting was called to order 9:45 am by President Pat Minnick at Woodward Cave, Woodward, PA Sunday October 12, 2008.

The following officers were present.

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

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	---	Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick
Baltimore Grotto	---	Greater Allentown Grotto	Mike Spencer
Bucks County Grotto	Pat Richard	Huntingdon Co.Cave Hunters	---
Buffalo Valley Grotto	Eric Snyder	Nittany Grotto	Gary Dunmire
Central New Jersey Grotto	---	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Commander Cody Caving Club		Seven Valleys Grotto	Gretchen Williams
		York Grotto	---

Secretary Report: The minutes from the May 2008 meeting were accepted as published in the August 2008 Breakdown.

Treasurer Report: Gary Dunmire distributed a copy of the PCC financial summary.

Web Page: Dave Fricke continues to maintain the PCC web page.

PCC Breakfast: The Catherman's did a wonderful job with the festive fall theme for the PCC breakfast.

The breakfast was well attended with approximately 90 attendees. The Catherman's announced that after 4 years of doing the PCC breakfasts they will no longer be coordinating the PCC breakfast. This led a discussion on the issue of maintenance and transporting of the grill to the MAR events. The Banges agreed to store the grill until the next MAR. Steve Shawver volunteered to look into design and cost of obtaining a stainless steel grill that can be easily transported. Steve will look into this and report back at the next PCC meeting. The Cathermans would like to express a sincere thank you to all the volunteers who graciously helped with the breakfast over the past several years.

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

Mail: Karen Bange reported for Dean Snyder. PCC received a request from the Bristol Community Organization, Inc. in Bristol, Connecticut asking for support for their upcoming fundraiser. A vote was taken to honor this request, it did not pass.

The National Geographic sent the PCC a request asking for their support on their expedition to Gabon, Africa. Since the date of the expedition had already passed, no action was taken.

Karen Bange received an email request from an Eagle Scout/Scout Master asking to link his webpage from the PCC website. A vote was taken and did not pass.

T-shirts: One design for the PCC 25th anniversary Tshirt is posted on the PCC website. Gary Dunmire volunteered to look into the costs of printing the Tshirts and report back at the next meeting. Everyone is encouraged to submit a design for the Tshirts. All submitted Tshirts designs will be available at the next meeting. Further discussion of Tshirts was tabled until the next meeting.

PA Cave Database: Bill Herr continues to be the PA Cave Database Steward.
Jim Kennedy was added to list of county stewards. Jim is the de facto steward for Fayette County and continues to work on the bulletin for this county.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project List:

Baker Caverns: Franklin, County, PA- Pat Minnick reported no changes

Dragon Cave: Berks County, PA – No changes

Red Church Cave: Schuylkill County, PA-No changes

Merkle Cave: Berks County, PA.- No changes

Cleversburg Cave: Cumberland County, PA.- FCG continues to manage access into the cave under the lease agreement through MAKC. A new ladder was installed in the cave in January 2008. The kiosk at the cave entrance is in need of an update.

Pat Minnick reported that Carnegie Cave has seen a lot of heavy traffic recently, including bus trips. These groups have been using the public restrooms at the truck stop after their cave trips and leaving the bathrooms muddy and dirty. Signs have been posted in the restrooms prohibiting the use of the bathrooms as a place to clean up after a cave trip.

Schofer Cave: Berks County, PA- Mike Spencer reported the MAKC open house this summer was a success. A clean up was done at the event. The relationship between PCC and the game commission continues to be positive.

Durham Cave: Bucks County, PA- No changes

Corker Hill and Frustration Pit: Franklin County, PA- Franklin County Grotto took a group from WASHCO Homes into the cave this spring. There has since been an ongoing discussion about deeding off the land and the cave. Things continue to be positive and Ken Jones and Jon Peterson are still talking with WASHCO Homes. One request of WASHCO Homes is to have a survey of the cave matched to a ground survey.

Karen Bange will be sending out **Christmas cards** to landowners soon. Contact Karen if you have a landowner you want added to the Christmas card list.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim Kennedy of Bat Conservation International announced the International Congress of Speleology will be held in July in Kerrville, Texas. Jim asked if the PCC would be interested in doing a presentation on Pennsylvania cave surveys at the convention. The deadline for submitting the abstract is December 1st. Bill Herr will be contacted to see if he would be interested in attending.

Art Rafferty, Northern New Jersey Grotto, is coordinating a grotto dinner in December/January. Art inquired if anyone from PCC would be interested giving a talk on cave conservation and/or exploration. Anyone interested can contact Art Rafferty at: ARTNJCAVE@aol.com

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be on Saturday February 28, 2009 following the MAR Business Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Bange, Recording Secretary

PCC Officer Elections

There will be a PCC meeting February 28, 2009 following the MAR Business Meeting. It is at this meeting that PCC officers are elected. Anyone wishing to run for office can put their name on the ballot by contacting any PCC officer.

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

Get involved with PCC!



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

Financial Summary
5/17/08 >10/13/08

Interest Checking Account

Account Balance	Nittany Bank	5/17/2008	\$6,819.62
Deposit Spring MAR		5/29/2008	\$204.00
Interest: Payment		5/31/2008	\$5.40
Three CD's	\$1000.00 Each	5/29/2008	#####
Interest: Payment		6/30/2008	\$1.37
Interest: Payment		7/31/2008	\$1.37
Interest: Payment		8/31/2008	\$1.37
Donation	Franklin County Grotto	9/26/2008	\$100.00
Interest: Payment		9/30/2008	\$1.38

Total Expenses :

-

Ending Balance :

\$4,134.51

SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

	Maturity Date	
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2010	\$1,000.00
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2010	\$1,000.00
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2010	\$1,000.00
Account Balance		\$3,000.00

Other Income

Withdrawals :

\$0.00

COMBINED TOTAL :

\$7,134.51

MAR Breakdown
118 Ridge Road
PO Box 426
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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