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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.

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**MAR BUSINESS MEETING
SET FOR
FEBRUARY 25, 2012
PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW**

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at Mount Laurel Park, Harrisburg, PA on Feb 25, 2012 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.



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Mount Laurel Park 1157 Piketown Road Harrisburg, PA 17112



From the East on Interstate 81 Southbound and/or Interstate 78:

Exit Interstate 81 at Exit 77 (Route 39). Bear right onto Route 39 West (Linglestown Road).

From the West on Interstate 81 Northbound:

Exit Interstate 81 at Exit 77 (Route 39). Bear left onto Route 39 West (Linglestown Road).

Once on Route 39 (Linglestown road), proceed 0.6 mile to N. Fairville Ave. (Pass McDonalds, Perkins, and Truckstops). Make immediate right onto N. Fairville Avenue at the Comfort Inn and proceed approximately 2.8 miles from Route 39. Bear left several times to stay on N. Fairville Avenue (there are several jogs in the road). Turn Left on Piketown Road and proceed less than 0.1 mile. Mt. Laurel Park will be immediately on your left.

MAR BUSINESS MEETING

February 25, 2012

1:30 pm

Mount Laurel Community Park
1157 Piketown Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112

- *Heated, clean, spacious meeting house*
- *Heated bathrooms in adjacent building*
- *Ample parking with snow removal*
- *Kitchen on the premise*
- *Kettle of chicken soup will be provided*



- *Plan on bringing a side dish to share with others*
- *Sign up sheet for food items can be found at the MAR website (http://caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg_foosignup.htm)*
- *Bring your beverage of choice*
- *See attached sheet for map and directions*

Fall 2011 MAR Field Meet

September 16-18, 2011 by Jenn Ulmer, BEG secretary

Bald Eagle Grotto hosted the Fall 2011 MAR Field Meet, in commemoration of our 25th Anniversary, on September 16-18 at Woodward Cave Campground, Centre County PA. We had 75 participants. The weather cooperated (NO RAIN!), with above-ground highs Saturday in the 50s; only a chilly wind to contend with. Woodward Cave Campground has been used in the past for MAR Field Meets, and the owners have proven to be great partners.

Those that arrived Friday were able to view the movie Sanctum under the pavilion if they desired. Cave trip sign-up sheets filled up quickly. Also, we had a nice bonfire going, and some Miller Lite and Yuengling. Woodward Cave management had suggested a different location for the bonfire, and it seemed to work well. Any noise and reveling was kept far away from the campground's seasonal campers. We appreciate that everyone obeyed the 10pm quiet hour restriction and also cleaned up after themselves.



Clem BBQ Saturday evening Photo by J.D. Lewis

Saturday morning found the campground soon deserted, except for a couple of us manning registration. There were led trips to McAlisterville, Rupert, Kookon, Penn Aqua and Deer Bone, as well as two trips to Alexander Caverns. As cavers trickled back to the campground, they were able to decon and power wash their equipment at the decon station. Unfortunately, vendors we spoke with were not able to make it to the MAR weekend, but thank you to those who purchased BEG t-shirts and patches. Soon, Clem's arrived with their awesome wood-fired BBQ for the dinner. We chowed down on delicious pork BBQ and chicken BBQ with sandwich rolls, cole slaw,

macaroni and cheese, and baked beans. After dinner, door prizes were distributed to the lucky recipients.



Dr. Luis Espinasa presentation Photo by J.D. Lewis

Our speaker after dinner was none other than esteemed biologist, Dr. Luis Espinasa, from Marist University in NY. He enlightened us all with a presentation on the work he has done with sculpins (smaller scavenger fish) in Nippenose Valley in central Pennsylvania. This valley, dear to the hearts of Bald Eagle Grotto members for its treacherous and difficult caves, was looking at almost certain pollution of the karst aquifer if a proposed hog factory was allowed to proceed as planned. BEG member Dave Hollick told Luis about some possibly troglomorphic fish seen in some of the caves. Luis was intrigued, as these could be the northernmost cave-adapted fish in the world. Not only were the sculpins determined to be cave-adapted, Dr. Espinasa and his students also isolated an entirely new species through DNA sequencing. Hooray for the residents of Nippenose Valley (both above and under ground), there would now be no pig farm!

After some more discussion with Luis, cavers trickled to the bonfire area for another enjoyable evening of camaraderie and trading caving stories. The zip line through the woods near the bonfire was well used; it was awesome to see a headlamp whiz by above us. The theme that Bald Eagle Grotto devised for the MAR was "Stalagtoberfest", for cavers to celebrate Oktoberfest and local craft beer. Fortunately, everyone left the lederhosen at home. Near the bonfire, attendees of legal age were able to enjoy brews from various local microbreweries and brewpubs, as well as some delicious homemade wine from the Ulrich siblings. Represented were nearby Elk Creek

Aleworks from Millheim with Brookie Brown Ale, as well as their Oktoberfest beer, Bavarian Barbarian in Williamsport with Hammerin' Ale, Bullfrog Brewing in Williamsport with Edgar IPA, Berwick Brewing in Berwick with Front St. Wheat Ale, and Old Forge Brewing in Danville with Petey's Porter. We believe the craft beers were a great hit- all that was left was some Miller Lite. A likely new BEG tradition was initiated with the midnight deep-frying of curly fries and whatever else Rex and Sara could get their hands on.

Sunday morning began with the wonderful and filling PCC breakfast of pancakes, ham slices, fruit, juice and coffee. After breakfast, the PCC meeting took place, then cavers started packing up and heading home. We sincerely hope everyone had a great time! We can't recall hearing any negative comments from MAR participants.

We would to extend lots of gratitude to the following individuals. First and foremost to Woodward Cave Campground for their gracious hospitality. Thank you to trip leaders Dave Hollick and Mike Vaughn

(Alexander), George and Karen Bange (Rupert), Kerry Speelman (McAlisterville), Dave Bookhammer (Kooken), Rex Ulrich (Penn Aqua) and J.D. Lewis (Deer Bone). Thanks to Sara Ulrich for compiling and printing the guidebooks and name tags, and for use of the projector and movie, and all the grocery items (especially coffee!). Thanks to Mike Vaughn for procuring the slab wood for the bonfire. Thanks to Vik Garg for building and setting up the decon. station, and for the decorations and registration area assembly, and Rex for the power washer for decon. Thanks to Dave Hollick for securing our witty and engaging speaker, and for the sound system and microphone. Thank you to Lyon Camping in Montoursville for providing a gift certificate for a door prize. Many thanks to all grotto members and MAR participants that supplied a bounty of awesome door prizes; so sorry I did not write down names. Kudos to Terrance Lovell and Rex Ulrich for rigging the zip line, and thanks to Nittany Grotto for providing the squeezebox, which unfortunately didn't make it off the trailer. Thanks again to everyone who helped us celebrate our 25th Anniversary, and make the Fall 2011 MAR a success!

Hosts Needed For The 2012 Spring and Fall MAR

As of January 2012 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2012 Spring or Fall MAR. If you are interested in hosting one of these events a helpful guide to hosting a MAR field meet can be found on the MAR website. Think about it - can you or your grotto host the event? If there are no volunteers there will be no field meet. If you're interested in hosting the event, please contact a MAR officer.

PCC Officer Elections

There will be a PCC meeting February 25, 2012 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!

RED CHURCH GATE

By Carol Tideman

Dean Snyder contacted Craig Hindman regarding Dale Ibberson's last project, the reopening of Red Church Cave. The cave had been buried 26 years ago. The plan was to locate it, excavate it and gate the entrance. Dean and company found the location and dug the cave open. The entrance originally had a 55 gallon barrel encased in a concrete block. The previous owner had both ends of the barrel sealed with metal plates and then the entrance was buried under many feet of earth.

On Saturday August 13th we drove to the property with a gate that had been preassembled by Kevin Mulligan & Craig. It took a strong crew to get the 650 pound gate off the truck bed and lowered down the 30 foot cliff to the cave entrance. Then the gate was positioned against the concrete face, which it turned out was not exactly vertical. With the gate hanging in position, the first holes were drilled, bolts inserted through the gate and into the concrete. At this point the laborers could release the tension on the rope and it was unrigged from the gate. Drilling commenced and more bolts were inserted until the gate was secured to the concrete.



About 2 hours into the project, all was going well, until the generator ran out of gas. The project came to a screeching halt. Anyone have a gas tank or a siphon? No. Nothing more could be done until there was gas on site. Everyone took a break as a crew went off in search of a gas can and gas.



An hour later the crew returned bearing not only gas for the generator but also food for the labor force.



With the generator back in action, the bolts were then welded to the gate. At this point there was not much for the labor force to do, other than watch the proceedings.



That aforementioned tilt caused there to be some difficulty in opening and locking the gate. Adjustments were made until it all come together easily.

The gate was in, the job was complete and we all hoped Dale was smiling down on us.

Project participants were:

Dean Snyder
 Vince Kappler
 Susan Kappler
 JoAnne Beliveau
 Doug Soroka
 Lynn Kleina
 Dave Moyer

George Jaegers
 Mike Spencer
 Stephanie Spencer
 Jon Haggert
 Scott Molnar
 Craig Hindman
 Carol Tiderman

Vince, Susan, and JoAnne spent many hours assisting Dean to locate and dig open the cave entrance.

2013 NSS CONVENTION

Would you like to see another NSS Convention be held in Pennsylvania? It has been 40 years since the 27th Annual NSS Convention was last held in State College, Pennsylvania in August 1970. The 2013 NSS Convention is currently being planned to be held in Shippensburg, PA on August 5-9, 2013. 2013 is also the 60th Anniversary of the MAR! Please contact Russ Kennedy (uaimh@verizon.net) if you would like to help!

OLD BUSINESS:

The lawsuit between the Juniata Valley Audubon Society and the Pennsylvania DEP is in process. The lawsuit is in response to the PA DEP issuing a mining permit within the Heller Cave Biological Diversity Area in Catharine Township, Blair County. A hearing is scheduled for a possible court date in October 2011.

Project List:

Dragon Cave (Berks County, PA) – No update was given.

Red Church Cave (Schuylkill County, PA) – An entrance gate was installed and is in search of a management plan, possibly through Greater Allentown Grotto (GAG). Dean Snyder submitted a request for funds to cover costs for the gate (*see New Business*).

Merkle Cave (Berks County, PA) – No update was given.

Cleversburg Cave (Cumberland County, PA) – No change in status.

Schofer Cave (Berks County, PA) – No update was given.

Durham Cave (Bucks County, PA) – The property is potentially still for sale.

Corker Hill and Frustration Pit (Franklin County, PA) – Franklin County Grotto continues with ongoing positive relations with WASHCO Homes. They are continuing negotiations under the PCC approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Tippery Cave (Huntingdon County) – No update was given.

Peiper Cave (Cumberland County) – A clean-up trip was proposed but has not been scheduled. If interested, please contact Ed Kehs, owner of the cave. Russ Kennedy expressed interest in the possibility of the 2013 NSS Convention assisting with the clean-up efforts and will contact Ed Kehs to discuss.

Dreibilbis Cave (Berks County) – No update was given.

J4 Cave (Centre County) – Gary Dunmire reported that positive negotiations have been underway with Graymont concerning access to the cave. Discussion items have included various topics including the Landowner Protection Act, waiver forms, parking, as well as gating the entrance with PCC and Central Region Emergency Strike Team (*C.R.E.S.T*) maintaining access. The PCC will require a MOU in order to formerly approve any proposals. Graymont has expressed interest in discussing experiences with other existing landowner relations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Red Church Gate Materials: Dean Snyder has submitted a bill in the amount of \$491 to cover the cost of materials used to construct the gate for Red Church cave. A motion was made by Gary Dunmire and seconded by Karen Bange for the PCC to pay \$491 for the materials of the gate. The motion was voted and was unanimously passed. A check will be issued to Craig Hindman for the requested amount.

PCC Breakfast Supplies: Pat Minnick and Anne Sheppard have agreed to take the PCC breakfast supplies and arrange for their storage until such time as they are needed again.

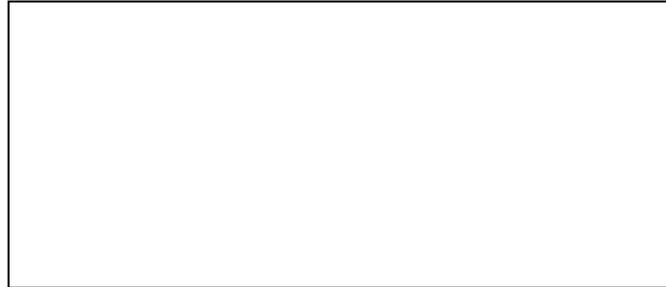
2013 NSS Convention: Russ Kennedy, 2013 NSS Chairman, encouraged the PCC to set up a stand and provide visibility for the organization during the upcoming convention being held August 5 – 9, 2013 in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. Russ emphasized that this was an opportunity to educate the caving community about the PCC organization. Additionally it provides an excellent venue for fund raising opportunities. Russ also suggested that the PCC consider participating in the nearby 2012 NSS convention in Greenbrier County, West Virginia as a warm-up for 2013.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be on Saturday, February 25, 2012 following the MAR Business meeting at the Mount Laurel Community Park, near Linglestown, PA.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am. Motion made by Amos Mincin and seconded by JD Lewis.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Schock, Recording Secretary

MAR Breakdown
 81 Appalachian Drive
 Carlisle, PA 17015-8515



Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins [including reprinted Bulletins]

NSS Member Price List

Effective January 2010

1-4	Reprint Volume: Bulletins #1-4		7.00 + postage B
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: Caves of Southern Cumberland Valley	93 caves 69 maps 126 pp	17.00 + postage B
7	Reprint Volume: Caves of Fulton County, PA	4 caves, 4 maps 17pp	5.00 + postage A
8	Reprint Volume: Caves of Blair County, PA	89 caves, 40 maps 90 pp	7.00 + postage B
9	Reprint Volume: Caves of Huntingdon County, PA	94 caves, 36 maps	10.00 + postage B
10	Caves of Snyder County, PA	20 caves, 14 maps	5.00 + postage A
11	Caves of Centre County, PA	71 caves, 56 maps	10.00 + postage B
12	Caves of Mifflin County, PA	47 caves, 31 maps/5 large maps	10.00 + postage B
13	Caves of Perry County, PA	13 caves, 6 maps	5.00 + postage A
14	Reprint Volume: Caves of Bucks County, PA	24 caves, 6 maps 43 pp	5.00 + postage A
15	Reprint Volume: Caves of Lehigh County, PA	25 caves, 13 maps 35 pp	6.00 + postage A
16	Caves of Northampton County, PA	24 caves, 13 maps/1 large map	6.00 + postage A
17	Caves of Northumberland County, PA	20 caves, 10 maps	5.00 + postage A
18	Caves of Berks County, PA	64 caves, 32 maps	10.00 + postage B
19	Caves of Bedford County, PA	54 caves, 33 maps	7.00 + postage A
20	Caves of Westmoreland County, PA	337 caves/187 maps/10 large maps	29.50 + postage C

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