



BREAKDOWN

Volume 27, Number 3, January 2013

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:** Paul Winter
State College, PA 16803
(412) 849-6824
paw5051@psu.edu
- Vice Chair:** Gary Dunmire
657 Valley View Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 357-1134
mudtube@yahoo.com
- Secretary:** Hope Brooks
University Park, PA 16802
(443) 510-0312
hzb5048@psu.edu
- Treasurer:** Bette White
4538 Miller Road
Petersburg, PA 16669
(814) 667-2709
wbw2@psu.edu
- Editor:** Gretchen "Red" Schock
81 Appalachian Drive
Carlisle, PA 17015-8515
(717) 697-3264
redcaver@verizon.net

MAR BUSINESS MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2013 PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at Mount Laurel Park, Harrisburg, PA on Feb 23, 2013 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.



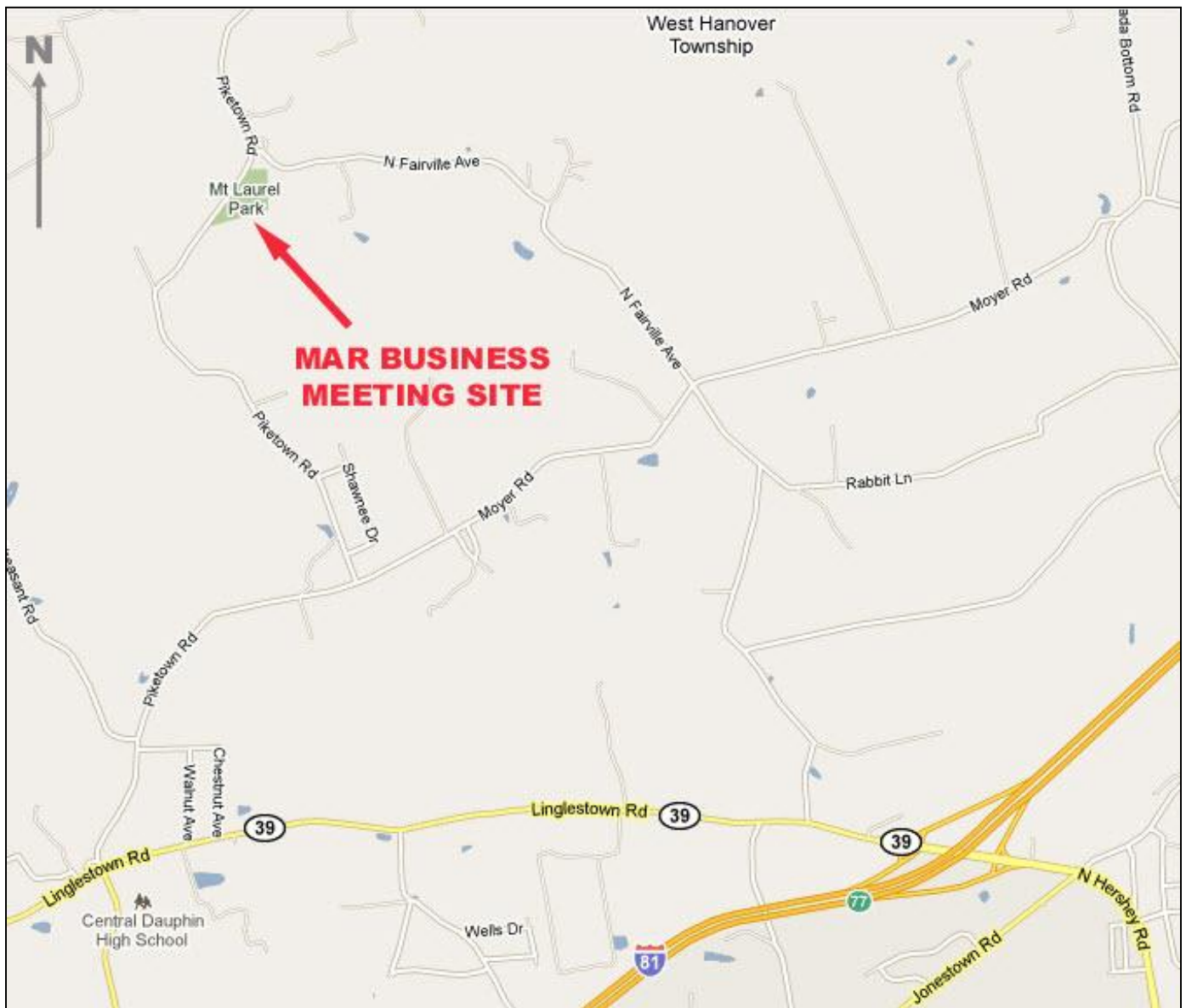
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Mount Laurel Park 1157 Piketown Road Harrisburg, PA 17112



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 23, 2013
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_foodsignup.htm)
- *Bring your beverage of choice*
- *See attached sheet for map and directions*

PCC Officer Elections

There will be a PCC meeting February 23, 2013 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!

Upcoming 2013 MAR Field Meets

2013 Spring MAR - The Philadelphia Grotto and the Commander Cody Caving Club will be co-hosting the Spring MAR. The event will be held in May 2013 at the Woodward Cave and Campgrounds in Woodward, PA.

2013 Fall MAR - The Nittany Grotto will be hosting the Fall MAR in recognition of their 65th Anniversary. The event will be held on the weekend of September 27-29, 2013 at Lincoln Caverns, located near Huntingdon, PA.

More information regarding these events will be discussed at the MAR Business Meeting in February 2013.

Fall 2012 MAR Field Meet Crystal Cave, Pennsylvania

September 28-30, 2012 by Dean H. Snyder

Under cloudy skies, the MAR field meet was held for the first time ever at Crystal Cave, Pennsylvania, the weekend of September 28, 2012. This was also the first time in a hundred years that visitors have stayed overnight on the cave property. The event was a success with 81 cavers registering for the event.

Lynn Kleina, Doug Soroka, Val Gardner, Dean Snyder, and Vince Kappler manned the registration desk on Friday afternoon and night. More than half of the cavers who attended had pre-registered, which made the process so much easier. At dark, old tv shows (not videos nor DVDs!) that had a cave or bat theme were shown at the pavilion. John Dougherty, who attended high school with me and lives just up the road from the cave, served as projectionist. Seen were actual episodes that television stations broadcast to their viewers 50 years ago. These included The Andy Griffith Show, The Munsters, Timmy and Lassie, Sky King, The Adventures of Robin Hood, and Assignment Underwater. Nathan's hot dogs, popcorn, and drinks were served to those who attended by Pat Richard. At 10 PM, signups for Saturday's cave trips took place.

Donuts, coffee, and juice were available early Saturday morning. Doug and I took several trips into Crystal Cave, with about 50 people viewing the cave. There were guided or self-guided trips into Dragon Cave, Dreibelbis Cave, Spider Hell Cave, and Pinnacle Cave. For the first time in 25 years, Red Church Cave, which had been buried and closed by its former owner, was open for visitation. Some attendees also visited Cabellas and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, both located just minutes away.

Saturday's dinner was catered by My Place in Bath, Pennsylvania. I had sampled their food previously and found it to be of excellent quality. The menu consisted of Roast Beef, Sausage with Peppers and Onions, Chicken Tenders, Vegetable Lasagna, Fried Tri-Color Potatoes, Roasted Green Beans, Salad, with Rolls and Butter. After dinner, attendees moved to the Crystal Cave Theater, where \$1500 of door prizes were awarded. The speaker was presented by Doug the Cave Guide, who was wearing authentic 19th Century cave guide attire. The eccentric Professor IDT Schnitzelbunk then gave his illustrated lecture titled, "Crystal Cave, the Good, the Bad, the Bizzare." After the show, many cavers headed for the campground, where a fire provided the central point for refreshments and stories.

After the PCC breakfast on Sunday morning, served to about 50 people, the PCC meeting was held. By noon, just about everyone had broken camp and headed back home. The Greater Allentown Grotto hopes that registrants found the weekend to be rewarding.

Financially, we were able to break even, thanks in part to our good friends and Crystal Cave and Lost River Caverns. My aim was to run the best MAR possible given our resources. In the future, I would like to see attendance at these MARs go above 100 people.

I would like to thank those GAG members who helped with this event, and the trip leaders who led tours of local caves. Dutch, Dwight, and Jon deserve special mention for cleaning up the leftover food after dinner. Special thanks go to Kathy Campbell, Crystal Cave President, and her staff for their hospitality and assistance.

2013 NSS CONVENTION

The NSS Convention is COMING to Pennsylvania! It has been over 40 years since the 27th Annual NSS Convention was held in State College, Pennsylvania in August 1970. The NSS Convention is returning to the MAR as the 2013 NSS Convention will be held in Shippensburg, PA on August 5-9, 2013 (web site: <http://nss2013.com>). 2013 is also the 60th Anniversary of the MAR! If you have questions or would like to get involved, please contact Gordon Birkhimer (birkhimer@cox.net) or Craig Hindman (craighindman@verizon.net), both Co-Chairs of the event.

Your help is greatly appreciated!



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

Minutes of Regular Meeting - September 30, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Vice President Christopher Catherman at Crystal Cave, Kutztown, PA on Sunday, September 30, 2012.

The following officers were present. **Vice President** C. Catherman **Secretary** G. Schock

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	---	Greater Allentown Grotto	Mike Spencer
Baltimore Grotto	---	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	Dean Snyder (proxy)
Bucks County Grotto	---	Nittany Grotto	Christopher Catherman
Central New Jersey Grotto	---	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Commander Cody Caving Club	Mike Mostardi	Seven Valleys Grotto	Gretchen Schock
Franklin County Grotto	---	York Grotto	---

Secretary Report: The minutes from the June 2012 meeting were accepted as published in the August 2012 Breakdown.

Treasurer Report: Gary Dunmire will provide the secretary with the latest treasurer's report to be published in the PCC meeting minutes. The following financial summary was submitted on October 4, 2012:

Financial Summary 06-10-12 Thru 09-30-12

Interest Checking Account

Account Balance	Nittany Bank	6/30/2012	\$4,285.14
Interest: Payment		6/30/2012	\$0.36
Interest: Payment		7/31/2012	\$0.36
Interest: Payment		8/31/2012	\$0.36

Total Expenses : -

PCC T-Shirt Fund	Cash		\$120.00
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Ending Balance: \$4,406.22

SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

	Maturity Date	
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2012	\$1,077.34
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2010	\$1,077.34
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2010	\$1,077.34

Account Balance: \$3,232.02

Other Income

COMBINED TOTAL : \$7,638.24

Web Page: Dave Fricke has applied the requested updates. There has been no email activity and there are no issues to report.

PCC Breakfast: The PCC breakfast provided during the Fall 2012 MAR collected \$235.00 to be donated to the PCC. Funds will be provided to PCC treasurer Gary Dunmire. There are plans to have a PCC breakfast at the upcoming Spring MAR.

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

Mail: Dean Snyder reported that nothing of significance had been received. The PCC has agreed to provide the funds to cover the cost of the post office box fees for the upcoming year.

Christmas Cards: Karen Bange continues to manage the yearly distribution of Christmas cards to cave landowners. Contact Karen if you have a landowner you want added to the Christmas card list.

T-shirts: Gary Dunmire continues to have PCC 25th anniversary T-shirts available at \$15 each (approximately \$17.65 with shipping). Dean Snyder also has older PCC shirts available for sale at \$5 each.

PA Cave Database: Paul Winter reported that Tony Canike has the web site up to date with the most current information. Christopher Catherman has been communicating with Tony to determine how best to present available information. Mike Spencer moved and Paul Winter seconded to publish the Longest and Deepest caves list on the PCC web site. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project List:

Dragon Cave (Berks County, PA) – Dean Snyder reported that several trips were taken into Dragon Cave during the MAR event.

Red Church Cave (Schuylkill County, PA) – Dean Snyder stated the cave is gated. Thirty-five cavers visited the cave during the MAR event. Dean is available to lead a few trips per year and interested individuals must be NSS members. The previous plans to construct a retaining wall have been postponed until the landowner completes some landscaping in the area.

Merkle Cave (Berks County, PA) – Dean Snyder is in contact with the cave owner and is working to gain visitor access to the cave.

Cleversburg Cave (Cumberland County, PA) – The scientific study is ongoing and the water levels are being actively monitored. A geology trip is planned for the 2013 NSS convention.

Schofer Cave (Berks County, PA) – Dean Snyder has attempted contact with the owner but has received no response. Dean is actively working to gain access to this cave.

Durham Cave (Bucks County, PA) – A motion was made by Dean Snyder and seconded by Karen Bange to remove Durham Cave from the project list. The motion passed.

Corker Hill and Frustration Pit (Franklin County, PA) – Glen Sarvis reported that Franklin County Grotto (FGC) continues to work with the landowner. Amos Mincin stated a waiver is required to gain access via FGC. Access is limited based on FGC discretion.

Tippery Cave (Huntingdon County) – A motion was made by Karen Bange and seconded by Paul Winter to remove Tippery Cave from the project list. The motion passed.

Peiper Cave (Cumberland County) – Additional vandalism has been reported. Anyone interesting in gaining entry into Peiper Cave should **ALWAYS** contact the cave owners, Kim and Ed Kehs Sr., for entry permission and complete the required waivers prior to gaining entry to the cave.

Dreibilbis Cave (Berks County) – The cave is open and 14 people visited the cave during the MAR event. Mike Mostardi or Bill Schultz can be contacted and will act as a trip leader when needed.

J4 Cave (Centre County) – Paul Winter and Keith Wheeland reported that negotiations between Nittany Grotto and Graymont are ongoing and continue to appear promising.

NEW BUSINESS:

Spring MAR 2013: CCCC and Philly Grotto have agreed to co-host the Spring MAR. More details will be available on the MAR website as they become available.

Fall MAR 2013: Nittany Grotto is considering hosting the Fall MAR. They will make a final decision prior to the MAR Business Meeting in February.

MAR 60th Anniversary: There will be a MAR 60th anniversary celebration being held on Tuesday, August 6th during the 2013 NSS Convention in Shippensburg, PA.

Parking at Carnegie Cave: Ken Tayman had recently distributed an email containing updated information regarding parking at Carnegie Cave. The following information was contained in that message:

To All Carnegie Cave Users,

Franklin County Grotto recently received information that the new owner (new business manager) of the property where we have been parking does not want any cavers parking in the gravel lot.

This gravel lot, 1/10 mile west of the cave, has been the approved parking area for Carnegie Cave visitors for the last couple of years. We sent two grotto representatives out to discuss it with the owner and manager, with hopes of re-negotiating a corner of his lot for caver parking. He was not interested and does NOT want anyone parking there. Apparently he is anxious to have anyone parked there TOWED. We agreed to put out this new information to cavers as wide as possible.

We informed the Township of the change in parking. We will try and get permission to park in the Township Park's gravel lot just east of the cave. They had previously said it was OK to park there, but the gate was frequently closed. If you find the parks gravel lot gate is not locked you should be able to park there and walk down to the cave.

We will promptly inform you of any updates in the parking situation.

So, effective IMMEDIATELY **"Do Not Park in the gravel lot 1/10 mile west of the cave"**.
If you do, you may be towed!!—

All grottos and organizations, please forward this to your members

Note: Sorry if you receive multiple emails on this. I sent it to: FCG List, Carnegie User List, MAR Grottos and FCG_Friends List. I just want to make sure everyone is informed and hope no one gets towed!

Ken Tayman
Chair, Franklin County Grotto

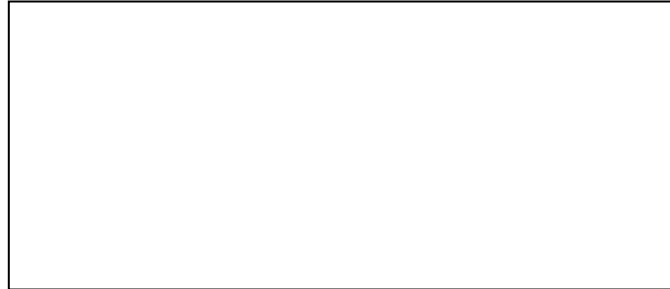
Game Commission Board Meeting: Bats were tabled as a species to be added to the endangered list at the game commission board meeting. A decision on this subject could have a significant impact on the caving community.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2013 at the Mt. Laurel Park, near Linglestown Pennsylvania following the MAR Business meeting. For directions, please see the MAR Web Site (<http://www.caves.org/region/mar/main.htm>).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am. Motion made by Amos Mincin and seconded by Paul Winter.

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 March 2012

1-4	Bulletins Caves of Shippensburg Area #1-4 REPRINT		7.00 + postage A
5	Caves of Western PA REPRINT	29 caves, 19 maps	8.00 + postage A
6	Caves of S. Cumberland Valley REPRINT	93 caves 69 maps+6 large maps	17.00 + postage B
7	Caves of Fulton Co, PA REPRINT	4 caves, 4 maps	5.00 + postage A
8	Caves of Blair Co., PA REPRINT	89 caves, 40 maps	7.00 + postage A
9	Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA REPRINT	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	Caves of Bucks Co., PA REPRINT	24 caves, 6 maps	5.00 + postage A
15	Caves of Lehigh Co., PA REPRINT	25 caves, 13 maps	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 map/10 large maps	29.50 + postage C
21	Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookan Cave Huntingdon and Blair Counties	103 pages with color photos, 4 fold-outs, 2 large maps	27.50 + postage B

U.S. Postage: **A** \$2.00 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address
 B \$2.50 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address
 C \$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 U.S.A.