



BREAKDOWN

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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 22, 2014 PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at Mount Laurel Park, Harrisburg, PA on Feb 22, 2014 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 22, 2014
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*



- *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 22, 2014 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!

Fall 2013 MAR Field Meet

Lincoln Caverns, Pennsylvania

September 27-29, 2013 By Joe Turchick NSS 26043

The Fall 2013 MAR Field Meet was held at Lincoln Caverns Campground on the weekend of September 27-29. It was hosted by the Nittany Grotto in celebration of our 65th anniversary. 120 cavers from 14 grottos and at least 6 states attended. Four Vendors attended too; Barry Duncan's Cavers Connection; Danger with his Highline Ropes from Canada; Tom Metzgar representing MAKC; and Kim Fleischmann with NSS Convention goodies. We enjoyed very nice early Fall weather.

Registration opened at noon on Friday. The pavilion in the campground was decorated for Fall and Halloween, and featured the MAR and Nittany Grotto flags. Paul Winter was in charge of registration, and was ably assisted by Keith Wheeland, Bryan Crowell and others. Thanks, guys! Friday evening featured a zipline (thanks to Terrance Lovell and his helpers!), guided tours of Lincoln Caverns and Whisper Rocks (generously included in the registration fee), and a bonfire with wood donated by George Bange, assisted by a convoy of volunteers that hauled it from the Rupert property.

Cave trip sign-ups were available at 10:00 p.m. Friday evening. A feeding frenzy ensued. There were trip sheets for Sugar Cave (Todd Hancock), McAlisterville Cave (Dave Ader), Penn Aqua (Katherine Thorwart), Blue Hole (Derek Flaig), Big Ridge Cave (Paul Winter and Pat Minnick), Hesston Cave (Kerry Speelman), Ruth Cave (Andy McKinnon), Kookan Cave (Terrance Lovell), and Alexander Caverns (Sara Ulrich, with a special thanks to Brian Ulrich for running a second trip as it was over-subscribed!), and Rupert Cave (Karen Bange). Miller/Chime and Deerbone/Hennigh trips were offered, but unsubscribed. I would like to offer a special thanks to Erich Spotts for offering to lead the Deerbone/Hennigh trips. Thanks to Gary

Dunmire for setting up all the trips, as well as leading some people on a trip to Hall and Tytoona Caves to make sure that everyone who wanted to, got underground.

Saturday morning cavers were offered coffee and pastries and another guided tour of Lincoln/Whisper Rocks. Guided wild cave trips started leaving around 8:30 am. A few more attendees trickled in throughout the day. Most of the trip groups returned in time for dinner. We all moved down to the larger pavilion for the evening activities. The meal was catered by Clem's BBQ. I would like to thank Deb Pearson for the great meal. There was plenty of food. Katherine Thorwart then handed out all of the door prizes that she had collected. Thanks, Katherine and all who donated door prizes! Next up was Dr. Will White's presentation on the history of exploration in the Burnsville Cove in Virginia. This was a preview of an upcoming book by the good doctor. We all then returned to the campground for more bonfire fun.

Sunday morning the PCC had a nice breakfast for us, followed by the PCC meeting. Christopher Catherman thanked all who helped with the breakfast. There was one last tour of Lincoln and Whisper rocks. Cavers packed up and it was time to go home after a great weekend event. Thanks to all who helped clean up.

I wish to thank Ann Dunlavy for her hospitality. The campground is beautiful, and the tours were popular. I would also like to thank Hope Brooks and Eric Pelkey for creating the excellent guidebook, and Terrance Lovell for getting it printed. Thanks also go to the NG crew that put them together. Thanks to all the trip leaders too, and to everyone who donated items for the event. I would especially like to thank all who attended for making this an outstanding MAR!



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

Minutes of Regular Meeting - September 29, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am by President Pat Minnick at Lincoln Caverns Campground, Huntingdon, PA on Sunday, September 29, 2013.

The following officers were present:

President	P. Minnick	Vice President	C. Catherman
Secretary	G. Schock	Treasurer	G. Dunmire

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	---	Greater Allentown Grotto	Dean Snyder
Baltimore Grotto	---	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	---
Bucks County Grotto	---	Nittany Grotto	Gary Dunmire
Central New Jersey Grotto	Amos Mincin	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Commander Cody Caving Club	---	Seven Valleys Grotto	Gretchen Schock
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick	York Grotto	Randy Hurst

Secretary Report: The minutes from the May 5, 2013 meeting were read and accepted as published in the August 2013 MAR Breakdown.

Treasurer Report: Gary Dunmire reported that the PCC received a \$50 donation from Speleosoap from their sales at the 2013 NSS Convention in Shippensburg PA. The PCC breakfast raised \$241 and the 50/50 raffle contributed another \$18 for the PCC.

Web Page: The PCC web page continues to be up and running.

PCC Breakfast: Christopher Catherman did an excellent job of coordinating the PCC breakfast which sold 48 tickets during the 2013 Fall MAR event, raising \$241 for the PCC. Joe Schock will transport the pancake griddle to his home for maintenance. George and Karen Bange will store the remainder of the breakfast equipment until the next use. The PCC Breakfast crew will assume they will hold a breakfast fundraiser at the next MAR field meet unless otherwise notified. Karen Bange agreed to provide paper products for the next event.

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

Mail: Dean Snyder reported no mail was received.

Christmas Cards: Karen Bange continues to manage the yearly distribution of Christmas cards to cave landowners. PCC will reimburse Karen for the postage of the cards sent. 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: Tony Canike continues to do an excellent job maintaining the PA Cave Database.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project List:

Dragon Cave (Berks County, PA) – Dean Snyder stated the landowner still appears semi-friendly. Dean stressed the need to contact the landowner for permission to access the cave.

Red Church Cave (Schuylkill County, PA) – Dean Snyder indicated there is nothing new to report. Dean has the key to the cave gate and is available to lead a few trips per year. Interested individuals must be NSS members.

Merkle Cave (Berks County, PA) – Dean Snyder reported there is a need for small framed people to do some work. Amos Mincin offered his assistance.

Cleversburg Cave (Cumberland County, PA) – Pat Minnick reported that the MAKC and FCG continue to maintain and control access to the cave.

Schofer Cave (Berks County, PA) – Dean Snyder plans to continue to pursue contact with the Game Commission.

Corker Hill and Frustration Pit (Franklin County, PA) – Trips were taken during the 2013 NSS Convention. FCG continues to control access. Amos Mincin plans to complete the survey in the near future.

Peiper Cave (Cumberland County) – No new issues to report. Several trips were taken to this cave during the 2013 NSS Convention. Anyone interesting in gaining entry into Peiper Cave should **ALWAYS** contact the cave owners, Kim and Ed Kehs Sr., for entry permission and to complete the required waivers prior to gaining entry to the cave.

Dreibilbis Cave (Berks County) – Amos Mincin assisted with a recent bat count survey. Only 5-6 bats were found. Mike Mostardi or Bill Schultz can be contacted and will act as a trip leader when needed.

J4 Cave (Centre County) – Gary Dunmire had no new information to report. No reply has been received from Graymont since the last attempt to contact them. Gary stated that he will continue to attempt contact at a higher level.

PCC Tax Exempt Status: Gary Dunmire received notification that the Tax Exempt Application was received and is under review. Gary does not foresee a problem with the application being accepted.

PCC Grotto membership: Any grotto is welcome to apply to join the PCC. The PCC would like to stress the importance of a grotto representative being present at all meetings in order for the PCC to obtain a quorum and continue to conduct business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bats as Endangered Species: Karen Bange indicated that some bat species were being considered for the endangered species list. Karen had attended a session by Greg Turner during the 2013 NSS Convention and expressed her concern regarding the impact the Endangered Species Act may have on the caving community, stating it could end caving as we know it. Penalties could include a monetary fine or 10 years in jail. The updated list is scheduled to be posted on September 30, 2013.

Allensville Cave (Mifflin County): George Bange reported a status change for Allensville Cave, which has been closed for decades. There has been an owner change. Todd Karschner had recent contact with the new cave owner and reported that the owner is willing to allow caver access. For cave trip access, contact Todd Karschner at 717-513-3545.

Milroy 2 Cave (Mifflin County): Todd Karschner reported there was land owner change several years ago. Todd, as well as Joe Schock, have been in contact with the current cave owner and are working on arrangements for an agreement with the new owner for continued access to the cave. Joe will also be performing some maintenance on the cave gate with the cave owner's permission.

Spring MAR 2014: Karen Bange proposed a motion that the PCC host the 2014 Spring MAR. The motion was seconded, voted on, and passed. Amos Mincin agreed to coordinate the field meet. Additional information and details will be found on the MAR website as they become available.

PCC's Conservation Role: Amos Mincin expressed an interest in seeing the PCC become more active in cave conservation and possibly managing caves, similar to some other cave conservation organizations.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2014 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>).

Randy Hurst moved and Amos Mincin seconded to conclude the PCC meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

Upcoming 2014 MAR Field Meets

2014 Spring MAR - The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) will be hosting the 2014 Spring MAR. The event will be held on the weekend of May 16-18, 2014 at a place to be determined, however the organization is looking at the West Virginia and Virginia regions. This event is currently "*Tentative*" and will be presented at the MAR Business Meeting for consideration/approval.

2014 Fall MAR - The Seven Valleys Grotto will be hosting the 2014 Fall MAR. The event will be held on the weekend of October 10-12, 2014 at the Rupert Cave Preserve located near McVeytown, PA (Mifflin County). This event is currently "*Tentative*" and will be presented at the MAR Business Meeting for consideration/approval.

More information regarding these events will be discussed at the MAR Business Meeting in February 2014.

***** **NOTICE** *****

The MAR Breakdown will be going "digital" in the near future. To ensure that you receive notification of the latest MAR Breakdown publications, please provide your email information to George Bange (riverbat@eawireless.net) making the email title "MAR Breakdown"

-OR-

subscribe to the MAR Listserv: <http://nss.caves.org/region/mar/listserv.htm>

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

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 B \$2.50 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address
 C \$3.00 postage for each bulletin #20

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