



BREAKDOWN

Volume 30, Number 3, January 2016

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-

Event notices and MAR Breakdown newsletters are distributed electronically. When you attend a field meet, the email address provided on your registration form is added to the distribution list. You may also add yourself to distribution by going to <http://eepurl.com/P2f5j> and completing a short registration form.

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
pawwinter@gmail.com
- Vice Chair:** J.D. Lewis
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(570) 220-4045
Lewjam15@hotmail.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 27, 2016 PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at Mt. Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, PA on Feb 27, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

You will find additional information and directions on pages 2-3

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) will follow the MAR Business Meeting



Inside Page

Details on the 2016 Business Meeting Site	2
Call for MAR Officer Nominations	3
AMM	3
PCC Minutes	4
PCC Officer Elections	6
2016 Spring MAR Announcement	6
2016 Upcoming Events	7
MAR Bulletins for Sale	7

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MAR BUSINESS MEETING
February 27, 2016 at 1:30 pm
Mount Laurel Church of God
1295 Piketown Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112

The next MAR annual business meeting will be held at the Mt. Laurel Church of God (the same location as last year). The church is located at 1295 Piketown Road, at the intersection with Sleeping Hollow Road and Appalachian Trail, in W. Hanover Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania (just East of Harrisburg).



The meetings will be held in the Small Meeting Room located down stairs from the main church (same room as last year). The entrance to the room is at the small handicap parking lot on the lower level of the church. Ample parking with snow removal is at the top of the hill across from the cemetery and the church. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE FIRE HOUSE PARKING LOT!**

A path up the steps and to the right side of the church leads down to the handicap parking lot and the hall entrance. Use the side entrance door, it will be marked “MAR”.

The MAR meeting attendees will have use of the small meeting room with kitchen and clean modern bathrooms next to the meeting room. The facilities are heated and quiet, hopefully eliminating the problems some had hearing meeting discussions at the previous location. The rest of the hall will be off limits.

We do not have use of the large meeting hall, stage, or any equipment we do not own. Tables and chairs will be provided but we must set them up and take them down. Also, no open flames please! Judi Stack will provide the tablecloths for the tables as well as signs for the recycling, trash, and entry door. Recycling containers for plastic bottles and aluminum cans will be placed near the kitchen. **PLEASE** use them to reduce the amount of trash that must be disposed of. These containers will be marked **RECYCLING** or **TRASH**. Everyone’s cooperation will be greatly appreciated!

Please don't forget to bring a covered dish for the after-meeting meal. A sign-up sheet is available to help MAR cavers plan for the event. The sign-up sheet can be found on the MAR website (http://caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg_foodsignup.htm). Please consider a dish that you wish to bring to the meeting to share with other hungry cavers. Also be sure to bring your non-alcoholic beverage of choice. Please Note: alcoholic beverages are *NOT* permitted on the church grounds.

Directions:

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 miles to N. Fairville Ave. (pass McDonalds, Perkins, and various truck stops). Make an 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 right onto Piketown Road and proceed up over the mountain approximately 0.7 miles to the intersection with Sleepy Hollow Road and Appalachian Trail. The Mt. Laurel Church of God is located on your right side (east of Piketown Road) and the West Hanover Fire Company is located across the street on the left side (west of Piketown Road). Additional church parking is available at the lot diagonally across the intersection from the church. A cemetery is located across the street from the parking lot area.

From the North on S.R. 322:

Exit S.R. 322 at the North Front Street exit (Fort Hunter). Proceed several hundred feet and turn left onto Fishing Creek Valley Road (S.R. 443 East). Proceed approximately 7.3 miles and turn right onto Sleepy Hollow Road. Proceed on Sleepy Hollow Road for approximately 1.8 miles to intersection with Piketown Road. The church is located directly in front of you at the intersection.

Call for MAR Officer Nominations!!

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS - ONLINE VOTING TO START 2/1/2016

Since there was no 2015 Fall MAR field meet to hold the MAR Officer Elections, please submit nominations for the MAR board to [<caverhope@gmail.com>](mailto:caverhope@gmail.com) by January 30, 2016.

(NOTE: The current officers have all accepted nominations: Hope Brooks, JD Lewis, and Paul Winter.)

An online vote will be held over the MAR listserv after the end of the nomination period.

AMM

An After-Meeting Meeting, commonly referred to simply as an "AMM" will be graciously hosted by Mark Wolfe at his residence. The event, not really a meeting but rather an informal time for gathering, socializing, and food consumption, will be held immediately after the conclusion of the MAR Business Meeting / Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) Winter Meeting. Mark's residence is located approximately 15 minutes or approximately 6.5 miles from the church. His address is 492 Quiggly Circle, Harrisburg, PA 170112. Additional information can be obtained at the business meeting.



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

Minutes of Regular Meeting - September 27, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by President Pat Minnick at 81 Appalachian Drive, Carlisle, PA on Sunday, September 27, 2015.

The following officers were present: **President** P. Minnick **Treasurer** J. Boswell
Secretary G. Schock

Representation was as follows:

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

Secretary Report: The minutes from the June 14, 2015 meeting were read and accepted as published in the August 2015 MAR Breakdown.

Treasurer Report: John Boswell stated the check for the PCC funds had been received from Gary Dunmire to finalize the transition of the treasurer's duties. A new account was established with F&M Trust. John plans to add Pat Minnick as an alternate authorized user on the PCC bank account in the near future.

Dean Snyder proposed the consideration of better ways of investing the PCC funds that would offer improved interest rates. John Boswell agreed to research possible avenues for investment that would continue to keep the funds available for use when needed. John will report on his findings at the business meeting in February.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

Financial Summary 6-14-15 Thru 9-27-15

Interest Checking Account

Cashier's Check Red'd	Nittany Bank	10/11/2014	\$10,632.99
Deposit	F&M Trust Bank checking	7/27/2015	\$7,292.46
Deposit	MUDfest Bkfst 8/2	8/10/2015	\$205.00
Interest Payment			\$-
Ending Balance :			\$7,497.46

SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

		Maturity Date	
Certificate of Deposit	F&M Trust Bank	7/27/2017	\$1,113.51
Certificate of Deposit	F&M Trust Bank	7/27/2017	\$1,113.51
Certificate of Deposit	F&M Trust Bank	7/27/2017	\$1,113.51

COMBINED TOTAL : \$10,837.99

Web Page: Dave Fricke reported that the web site (<http://www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc/>) is up and running. No issues to report.

PCC Breakfast: Pat Minnick stated the PCC fund raiser pancake breakfast held during the 2015 MUDfest was a success, earning \$205 for the PCC. Thanks to everyone who helped during the event. All the PCC breakfast equipment was returned to Steve Shawver's barn for storage with the exception of the grill, which is with Joe Schock. The PCC will be hosting a pancake breakfast at the upcoming 2016 Spring MAR in Shade Gap.

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

Mail: Dean Snyder received statements from F&M Trust, a newsletter and banquet invitation from WVCC, as well as a request for some cave brochures from Miroslav Dubravay from the CZECH Republic. Dean sent some local cave-related brochures to Miroslav Dubravay.

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

T-shirts: No report.

PA Cave Database: Amos Mincin stated that no action has been taken to date concerning the review and updates to the county stewards list.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project and Caves of Interest List:

Dragon Cave (Berks County) – No report.

J4 Cave (Centre County) – No report.

Kepler Cave (Centre County) – No report. Cave is to remain on project list until there is a known change in status.

Cave List: Randy Hurst moved and Amos Mincin seconded to change the cave list title from "Project List" to "Project and Caves of Interest List" to allow continued discussion of caves which PCC is not directly involved but continues to hold an interest. The motion passed.

PCC Tax Exempt Status: Gary Dunmire has provided the tax exempt status filing information to John Boswell. Filing deadline is May 15 annually.

NEW BUSINESS:

Spring MAR 2016: Franklin County Grotto (FCG) will be hosting the Spring MAR field meet on May 13-15, 2016 at Harper's Park, in Shade Gap, PA. Pat Minnick reported FCG has decided on a logo for the 2016 Spring MAR. They are discussing other costs and plan to have an event flyer available by the business meeting in February. FCG is also working to have the field meet listed in the calendar of events in the NSS News. Additional information and details can be found on the MAR website as they become available.

Spring MAR 2017: Philadelphia Grotto is tentatively planning to host the 2017 Spring MAR in celebration of the grotto's 70th Anniversary.

WNS Update: Randy Hurst provided an update on the WNS status, citing that the act of disturbing hibernating bats that have been deemed "threatened" (Northern Long-eared bat) will now be considered a federal offense. The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy is urging all cavers to avoid caving in caves that

may contain hibernating bats. It is strongly recommended that hibernacula only be visited during the May-August non-hibernation period.

Amos Mincin suggested posting the information in public forums, like Facebook, in an effort to disseminate the information. Additionally, Randy Hurst agreed to draft a notice summarizing the rulemaking in an easy to understand format. This notice will to be distributed by the PCC to organizations that may offer cave-for-pay trips in Pennsylvania to make them aware of the ruling. Carol Tiderman will work with Gretchen (Red) Schock to compile a list of recipients for the notice.

Karst Information Portal (KIP): Craig Hindman reported that the VAR received notice that their newsletters are being stored on KIP, a publicly accessible internet forum. Dean Snyder also received similar information for the History Section via Bob Hoke. The PCC and other caving organizations should be aware that past newsletters or other publications may have been provided to and stored on KIP.

Hershey-Coy Cave: John Boswell stated the landowner of the Coy entrance request some assistance to improve the cave entrance area. Members from York and Franklin County Grottos performed some of the requested work on Saturday, September 26, 2015. A request was submitted to PCC to offset the cost of materials for the project (\$90 for pipe and \$20.27 for concrete). Craig Hindman moved and Randy Hurst seconded to reimburse York Grotto \$110.67 for the cost of the project materials. The motion passed.

Red Church Cave: Dean Snyder described the ongoing effort involved with keeping the cave entrance clear each year. Dean suggested a barricade could be constructed to improve the current situation. He also noted that the deteriorating oil drums will need to be replaced in the near future.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at the Mt. Laurel Church of God, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania following the MAR Business meeting. For directions and details, please see the MAR Web Site (<http://www.caves.org/region/mar/main.htm>).

Dave Fricke moved and Randy Hurst seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

PCC Officer Elections

There will be a PCC meeting February 27, 2016 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!

2016 Spring MAR

Franklin County Grotto will be hosting the 2016 Spring MAR field meet the weekend of May 13-15, 2016 at Harper Park in Shade Gap, PA. More details will be posted on the MAR web site as they become available (<http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm>).

2016 Upcoming Events

April 22-24	2016 Spring VAR at Endless Caverns, VA hosted by Tri-State Grotto
May 13-15	2016 Spring MAR at Harper Park in Shade Gap, PA hosted by Franklin County Grotto
July 17-23	2016 NSS Convention in Ely, Nevada
Sept 30 – Oct 2	2016 Fall VAR hosted by Greenbrier Grotto, location TBA

NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

(Effective April 2015)

MID-APPALACHIAN REGION BULLETINS (including reprinted Bulletins)

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 Revised/Corrected	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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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

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NOTE: All checks must be payable in U.S. dollars on U.S. bank or U.S. money order

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