



BREAKDOWN

Volume 31, Number 2, August 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.

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Spring 2016 MAR Field Meet

Shade Gap, PA

May 13-15, 2016 by Pat Minnick

As has been our custom, the Franklin County Grotto (FCG) again chose to host a MAR meet in the spring, five years after we last hosted an event. 2016 marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of the Grotto. After some discussion, the decision was made to return to Shade Gap, Huntingdon County, and the Harpers Memorial Park, owned by the Shade Gap Volunteer Fire Department (SGVFD). The site offers good camping, adequate parking, numerous pavilions, a stage, bathrooms and showers, nearby caves and the SGVFD is caver-friendly (John Appleby, former cave rescue instructor, is a SGVFD member and lives nearby.)

Planning for the event began at regular FCG meetings and was supplemented with on-line meetings, arranged by Dave Briggs, which saved travel time. We set the date at May 13-15, 2016 based on the site availability and the anticipated spring weather.

Everybody in FCG (to the best of my knowledge) was pretty happy with the 2011 Spring MAR, and we were hoping for a repeat of the positive aspects.

On-line registration was implemented by John Boswell and he got the flyers and registration information out in plenty of time. Don Arrowood contacted the SGVFD Auxiliary, which agreed to provide the Saturday dinner meal for the event. FCG also had a Tee Shirt Design Contest, which was won by Dave Briggs. This tee shirt was subsequently submitted and displayed at the Fine Arts Salon during the 2016 NSS Convention in Ely, Nevada (it did not win, but there was some stiff competition).

The tee shirt design is also on the guidebook (foreword by FCG Chair Glen Sarvis).



What is a caver event without a bonfire? By April, the weather was dry and the Shenandoah Valley was full of smoke from forest fires. Things got a little damper and cooler during the event weekend, and so we had a fire with wood and assistance provided by Dave Scamardella, Howard White, Gordy Ley, and George Bange.

Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC); (Dave Field) agreed to provide coffee on both Saturday and Sunday and the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy planned a pancake and sausage breakfast for Sunday morning with the usual crew (the Schocks et al).

For an after-dinner speaker, we contacted Andy Filer (and Mindy) who put together a presentation on "Caving in the United Kingdom." A squeeze box was obtained and also on site. FCG rounded up some door prizes and agreed to spend a couple bucks to get good ones (J. Boswell coordinated).

The band “Flowstone” (Dane Wagle, Susan Wagle, Jim Welsh and Sue Welsh) agreed to perform, as in 2011.

So everything was ready to go, the site, registration, cave trips, food, bonfire, after-dinner speaker, door prizes, musical entertainment, coffee and breakfast, etc, etc.

So how did it all turn out??

Well, pretty well, if you ask me, not an unbiased opinion.

The following led cave trips went out and came back with no incidents:

Trips and trip leaders-

1. Alexander Caverns- Bald Eagle Grotto- Sara Ulrich
2. Penn Aqua- Jose Martinez

3. Kookan- Andy Filer
4. McAlisterville- Mike Shank
5. Long Quarry- Dave Scamardella
6. Nelson’s Pit- Gordy Ley

The food was good, the speaker was well received, and the band played on. A good time was had by all. I should note that the band played to a small crowd. Because of the windy, cool weather, most of the people were clustered around the fire. In spite of the fact that it was the middle of May, on Sunday morning, just after midnight there were snow flurries.

On Sunday AM, after the PCC breakfast, we cleaned up the site and departed. (Recycling was handled by Dave Scamardella.)

Total paid attendance was 90.

Upcoming Events

Sept 1-5	Old Timers Reunion in Davis, WV
Sept 23-25	Fall MAR at Woodward Cave, PA, hosted by Bald Eagle Grotto
Sept 30 – Oct 2	Fall VAR at Poor Farm, WV, hosted by Greenbrier Grotto
Oct 6-9	TAG Fall Cave-In at Lookout Mountain, GA
Oct 15	Bridge Day at New River Gorge Bridge, WV
June 19-23, 2017	2017 NSS Convention in Rio Rancho, New Mexico



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

Minutes of Regular Meeting – May 15, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 am by President David Briggs at Harper’s Park, Shade Gap, PA on Sunday, May 15, 2016.

The following officers were present: **President** D. Briggs **Treasurer** J. Boswell
Secretary G. Schock

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	J.D. Lewis	Greater Allentown Grotto	---
Baltimore Grotto	---	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	---
Bucks County Grotto	Steven Warneck	Nittany Grotto	Paul Winter
Cave Hill Grotto	John Boswell	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Central New Jersey Grotto	Amos Mincin	Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
Commander Cody Caving Club	---	York Grotto	Randy Hurst
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick		

Secretary Report: The minutes from the February 27, 2016 meeting were accepted as published in the April 2016 MAR Breakdown.

Treasurer Report: John Boswell reported that a PayPal account has been established for PCC. John will also be working on acquiring a credit card reader to be used during events.

Web Page: No report.

PCC Breakfast: Proceeds from this morning’s pancake breakfast earned \$257 for the PCC and \$51 for MAKC. A big thank you goes out to MAKC for providing coffee on both Saturday and Sunday mornings of the field meet. The PCC plans to host a pancake breakfast at the upcoming 2016 Fall MAR field meet at Woodward Campground. Arrangements will have to be made to transport the breakfast equipment from Steve Shawver’s barn to Woodward.

PCC Brochure: George Bange stated that he still has a supply of brochures available. Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact George.

Mail: John Boswell reported that he received a bill for the web site.

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

T-shirts: No report.

PA Cave Database: The PA Cave database is up and running. Tony Canike continues to maintain the database as well as generating data backups to preserve the information. Tony should be contacted with any updates or questions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project and Caves of Interest List:

Hershey-Coy Cave (Cumberland County) – Mike Shank stated that a concrete form should be poured that will be flush with the yard to assist the land owner with ease of mowing.

J4 Cave (Centre County) – Paul Winter stated there have been no updates since the last PCC meeting.

Kepler Cave (Centre County) – Paul Winter reported that conversations with the owners revealed that the land is not for sale. Landowner relations remain good.

McAlisterville Cave (Juniata County) – Keith Wheeland has made preliminary contact with the cave owner regarding a cleanup effort of the area surrounding the cave entrance. Additional preparations must be coordinated to make the cleanup effort a success. Anyone interested in assisting with the arrangements should contact Red, particularly anyone familiar with the McAlisterville area. Additional information about the cleanup effort will be provided as it becomes available.

Red Church Cave (Schuylkill County, PA) – Nothing new to report. Dave Briggs suggested a site visit may be in order to assess the condition of the cave entrance.

NEW BUSINESS:

Future thoughts for the PCC: David Briggs led a discussion on ideas for the PCC moving forward. Topics of discussion included:

- Rebranding
 - Update Logo Design
 - Update Website Design
 - New Streamlined URL for Website
- Updated Logo
 - Existing logo Becomes Our Legacy Seal
 - Logo Design Competition
 - More Visually Appealing
 - Signal Our Evolution
- Updated Website
 - Modern Visually Appealing Design
 - Responsive Design
 - Integrate Content Management System
 - Improve User Experience (UX)
 - Improve Functionality
 - Improve Content Strategy
 - Improve Communications
- Streamlined URL
 - Existing URL: caves.org/conservancy/pcc/Home.shtml
 - Proposed URL: pacaveconservancy.org
- Marketing the PCC
 - Grab People's Attention
 - Increase Social Media Presence
 - Create Conservation Minded Videos
 - Take Compelling Photography
 - PCC Blog
 - Make It Personal
 - Give Value to Our Members
 - Promote Our Successes
- Conservation Efforts
 - Annual Cave Clean-Up
 - Conservation Awards Given Annually

- Highway Clean-Ups
- Sinkhole Clean-Ups
- Community Outreach
- Videos To Increase Awareness
- Fieldwork
 - Cave Owner Introductions
 - PA Cave Database
 - Bat Counting
 - Installing Bat Houses
 - Assist In NSS Initiatives
 - Cave Discovery and Further Exploration
- Increase Membership
 - Encourage General Public Membership
 - Member Grottos Retain Voting Rights
 - More Members = More Volunteers = More Donations
- Enlist Volunteers
 - Writers and Bloggers
 - Multimedia
 - Web Content Managers
 - Administrative
 - Event Planning
 - Cave Acquisition
 - Fundraising
- Assist Volunteers
 - Give Them The Tools To Succeed
 - Project Management
 - Calendar System
 - Email Mailing List Management
 - Assist County Stewards
 - Annual Check-Ups
 - Online Form for Submissions
 - Steward Assistants
- Fundraisers
 - Donate Now Button
 - Smile.Amazon.Com
 - Online Apparel Store
 - Charity Events
 - Gear Auctions, 50-50, Raffles
 - Apply For Grants
 - And Who Could Forget the Pancake Breakfasts
- Achieving Our Goals
 - Have a Clear Vision
 - Set Achievable Long And Short Term Goals
 - Plan Things Out
 - Use The Right Tools For The Job
 - Surround Ourselves With The Right People
 - Be Realistic
 - SMILE
- Open Discussion
 - Paul Winter suggested the possibility of having a conservation project during the MAR field meet events.
 - David Briggs announced the PCC has been signed up for Smile on Amazon. When utilized, this program donates a percentage of every Amazon purchase to the specified charity, in this case the PCC. Using this feature does not cost the buyer anything additional, it just designates a portion of the purchase price to the designated organization.

- David Briggs has already secured the new proposed url, pacaveconservancy.org, as well as a secure web site. The old url would automatically forward to the new url.
- George Bange suggested outreach programs to youth, scout troops, etc, providing educational opportunities for our youth.
- Pat Minnick moved and Amos Mincin seconded to approve the proposed changes for the new url, logo change and increasing the PCC social media presence. The motion passed.

The “P” Caves: John Boswell stated that the “P” caves of Franklin County are currently closed. Franklin County Grotto (FGC) participated in meetings with the Valley Quarry Company, owner the caves. The company provided FGC with insurance requirements to keep the caves open and accessible for cave trips. John is in the process of investigating quotes for insurance policies in order for the PCC to determine if this is an expense we would like to consider. Pat Minnick moved and Paul Winter seconded that FCG move forward with investigating insurance policy quotes. The motion passed.

Northumberland County Caves: Steven Warneck requested information regarding caves located in Northumberland County. He is interested in cave trips in the area and requests that anyone with information please contact him.

PCC Form Letter: Don Arrowood requested that a form letter be drafted which can be used when contacting landowners on behalf of the PCC.

Spring MAR 2016: Thank you to Franklin County Grotto (FCG) for hosting an excellent Spring MAR field meet!

Fall MAR 2016: Bald Eagle Grotto (BEG) will be hosting the Fall MAR field meet on September 23-25, 2016 at Woodward Campground, Woodward, PA. The theme of the field meet will be “Glow in the Dark Party”. Additional information and details can be found on the MAR Web Site as they become available.

Spring MAR 2017: Philadelphia Grotto is planning to host the 2017 Spring MAR in celebration of the grotto’s 70th Anniversary. Philadelphia Grotto will be teaming with Central Connecticut Grotto to host a joint MAR/NRO field meet in Cobbleskill, NY near Albany. Site arrangements are still being finalized which will determine the event date, possibly in early June. Amos Mincin encourages those who have not caved in that area to attend and enjoy some new and different caves!

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2016 at Woodward Campground, Woodward, PA. Meeting time 9:30 am.

Paul Winter moved and Amos Mincin seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

Host Needed For the 2017 Fall MAR

As of August 2016 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2017 Fall MAR. If you are interested in hosting this event, 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.

2016 Fall MAR

BALD EAGLE GROTTO

PRESENTS:

FALL M.A.R. 2016



**Glow in the Dark
Party**

SEPTEMBER 23, 24 & 25 2016

AT WOODWARD CAMPGROUND

The registration form can be downloaded from the MAR web site:
http://caves.org/region/mar/2016_fall_mar_fieldmeet_registration_form.pdf

Please make all checks payable to Bald Eagle Grotto
and mail the registration form to:

**Bald Eagle Grotto
PO Box 71
Cogan Station, PA 17728**



FALL MAR 2016



September 23, 24, & 25

HOSTED BY BALD EAGLE GROTTTO

Woodward Cave Campground

Route 45 in Centre County, Woodward, PA 16882

*****If you are planning on bringing a camper you must call the campground and reserve a camping spot and pay separate costs for it.**

The Phone# is: 814-349-9800***

Principle Adult Registrant: _____ NSS#: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone#: _____ Alternate#: _____

Email: _____ Primary Grotto Affiliation: _____

Additional Attendees:

Name	Age (indicate 'adult' if 18 or over)	Relationship to Principle Registrant

	Quantity	Postmarked by Sept. 1	Postmarked after Sept. 1	Extended Total
Adult Registrants		\$30 Each	\$35 Each	
Age 6-12		\$20 Each	\$25 Each	
Age 5 and under		FREE	FREE	
Total Enclosed				

Please make all checks payable to **Bald Eagle Grotto** and mail the registration form to:

Bald Eagle Grotto
PO Box 71
Cogan Station, PA 17728

NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

(Effective February 2016)

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	<u>Revised/Corrected</u>	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 maps/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-out maps, 2 large maps	27.50 + postage B
22	Caves of Middle Susquehanna Valley		140 pages with color photos	16.00 + postage D

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.

D \$3.50 postage for each bulletin #22

MAR Bulletin Orders: Please make checks payable to MAR

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

Order from: **Bette White, 4538 Miller Road, Petersburg, PA 16669-2711 U. S. A.**