



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 34, Number 2, August 2019

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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The Fall MAR is hosted by the **York Grotto** in celebration of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**When:** September 20-22, 2019

**Where:**  
Newville Lions Club Fairgrounds  
437 Shippensburg Road  
(PA Route 533)  
Newville, PA

**Online Registration:**  
<https://yorkgrotto.org/fall-mar-2019/>

**Price:** On-line Pre-Registration Closes on **September 6.** After that, you must register at the door.

**Pre-Registration Cost:**

Adult (16+) (With T-shirt):	\$46
Adult (16+) (Without T-Shirt):	\$30
Children (8-15) (With T-Shirt):	\$36
Children (8-15) (Without T-Shirt):	\$20
Children under 8:	Free

**AT-THE-DOOR REGISTRATION** opens at noon Friday and is **\$40.00** (kids at same price as pre-registration)

Because of the need to order a correct number of chickens in advance, dinner cannot be guaranteed for at-the-door registrants, although we will make every effort to do so.

**Note:** If ordering a t-shirt, specify the size in the Notes section on the payment confirmation screen. If you require a vegetarian selection, please include that info in the Notes section too.

If you cannot use PayPal, mail a check to:

Randy Hurst  
3629 N 6th Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-1517

Included with your registration fee: Saturday Continental Breakfast; Saturday BBQ Chicken dinner; soft drinks and water; entertaining presentations and Door Prizes following dinner.

No vegetarian entrée, although sufficient non-meat sides are available.

The PCC will be offering the usual Sunday breakfast for an additional \$5 fee at the door.

**T-SHIRTS ARE EXTRA:** Order with registration above. **Cost is \$16.**

A limited number of T-shirts will be available for sale at the event for a higher price. See design above, please include size in the notes with your registration.

**CAMPING:** The Fairgrounds has primitive camping; no hookups, no electric, but there is parking for RVs. Motels are available in Shippensburg, about 8 miles away.

Indoor toilet facilities as well as porta-johns will be available.

Gear washing (*not decon level*) will be available.

Fires are allowed, with appropriate restraint and precautions.

Dogs are allowed; please be able to clean up after them.

Alcohol is allowed (ignore the Fairground signs to the contrary), but is **BYO**.

**CAVING:** Many caving trips are being planned, including WV Panhandle caves Silers and Cricket Maze. A Guidebook will be provided. Several trips are “led” trips to sensitive caves and limited in number. Signup sheets for these trips will be available starting Friday afternoon.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** Local Rail-to-trail hiking and bicycling; canoeing nearby. A list of other local activities will be available on-site.

### **SPECIAL ATTRACTION: SILENT AUCTION**

Interested in the history of caving? The York Grotto is pruning its extensive collection of caving publications amassed by Dale Ibberson over many years. Old (1950's–1980's) NSS News's, Bulletins, Speleo-Digests and other pubs will be available for bidding.

**More info:** Contact Randy Hurst [rghurst@comcast.net](mailto:rghurst@comcast.net) or 717-575-6389

**THIS IS A BYO EVENT. BEER WILL NOT BE PROVIDED. ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED ON THE FAIRGROUNDS (ignore the signs).**

### **Directions:**

Take Exit 37 on I-81, West on Rte 233 towards Newville, Turn Left onto **Pa 533** as you enter Newville (do NOT take Greenspring Rd, Rte 641). Fairgrounds are about 1 mile west of town, on the left.



# Spring 2019 MAR Field Meet

## Woodward Cave Campground, Woodward, PA

*May 3-5, 2019 by Marissa Loftus*

Spring MAR 2019 at Woodward, PA was hosted by Bald Eagle Grotto on May 3-5. Sara Bidlespacher and Lyndsey Cameron created a Star Wars and Cinco de Mayo theme, complete with a piñata, while Vik Garg provided sombreros and light sabers. Despite the heavy rainstorms that drenched the campground, there were over 85 attendees.



*Saturday Dinner – by John T. Karge II*

Individuals from Bald Eagle, York, Nittany, and Philly Grottos offered to lead trips and assist with both presentations and logistics. Paul Winter assisted with keys and access to caves before traveling on an expedition, and Rick Smith brought the needed keys to the MAR. On Saturday, members of Bald Eagle including Sara, Christy Reed, and Lyndsey prepared a taco dinner, while Marissa Loftus made a vegetarian taco option.



*McAlisterville – by John T. Karge II*

Following dinner, there was a raffle with tee-shirts, books, gear, and plenty of Bald Eagle stickers. On Saturday night, Justin Arthur of York Grotto gave a highly informative presentation regarding White Nose Syndrome. Although it later began raining significantly, forcing people to move from the bonfire to the pavilion, tarps were soon used to block the rain and allow the party to continue.



*The Campground*

We would like to thank everyone who assisted in some way with this MAR and everyone who attended. Everyone had a great time both in cave and at camp!



*Christy, Lyndsey, and Rex – by John T. Karge II*



# Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

## Minutes of Regular Meeting – May 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Treasurer John Boswell at the Woodward Cave Campground, Woodward, PA on Sunday, May 5, 2019.

The following officers were present: **Treasurer** John Boswell **Secretary** Gretchen Schock

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	Matt Neyhart (proxy)	Greater Allentown Grotto	--
Baltimore Grotto	Kim Fleischmann (proxy)	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	Joe Schock
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick	York Grotto	Randy Hurst

**Secretary Report:** Amos Mincin moved and Matt Neyhart seconded to accept the minutes from the February 23, 2019 meeting as published in the April 2019 MAR Breakdown. The motion passed.

**Treasurer Report:** John Boswell provided the PCC account activity since the last meeting.

## Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

### Financial Summary 2-24-19 through 5-5-19

#### Interest Checking Account

Checking Balance 2/23/19	F&M Trust Bank checking	2/23/2019	\$7331.49
Check #1010	MAKC Sarah Furnace Acq Fund	2/23/2019	(\$1000.00)
Deposit	Interest Credit	2/28/2019	\$0.84
Deposit	CNJG Donation	3/20/2019	\$50.00
Deposit	Interest Credit	3/31/2019	\$0.83
Deposit	Interest Credit	4/30/2019	\$0.78
<b>Ending Balance :</b>			<b>\$6,383.94</b>

#### SAVINGS ACCOUNT (CDs):

#### Maturity Date

Certificate of Deposit *75	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,127.53
Certificate of Deposit *29	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,127.53
Certificate of Deposit *65	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,127.53

\* \$2.83 Interest credit applied to each 1/26/2019

**COMBINED TOTAL :** **\$9,766.53**

**Web Page:** no report.

**PCC Breakfast:** John Boswell reported 33 breakfasts and 3 coffee only sales were served during the 2019 Spring MAR field meet. Thank you to MAKC for providing the coffee service Saturday  
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and Sunday morning during the field meet! Bald Eagle Grotto was uncertain of the number of pre-sale breakfast tickets sold through registration; therefore they provided the PCC with \$200 as an estimate. There were also 15 cash sales during the morning of the breakfast, along with a 26 cent donation to the PCC. A total of \$278.26 was collected for breakfast and coffee sales, \$240.26 for PCC breakfasts and \$38 for MAKC coffee sales. Supplies for the PCC breakfast were donated by Dave Briggs, John Boswell, as well as Karen and George Bange. Thanks to all of them for their generosity! The PCC officers indicated that a pancake breakfast will be provided at the upcoming 2019 Fall MAR field meet hosted by York Grotto.

**PCC Brochure:** Dave Briggs has the supply of PCC brochures. Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact Dave Briggs.

**Mail:** no report.

**Christmas Cards:** Kim Kehs assumed the task of sending the PCC Christmas Cards beginning in 2018. Please contact Kim if you know of a landowner you would like added to the PCC Christmas card list.

**T-shirts:** The PCC t-shirts are available for purchase on the PCC web site for \$15, which includes shipping and handling.

**PA Cave Database:** no report.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Project and Caves of Interest List:**

**Cold Air Cave** (Northampton County) – no report.

**Red Church Cave** (Schuylkill County, PA) – no report.

**PCC Event Insurance:** The PCC is not covered under the NSS insurance umbrella since it is not considered one of the NSS Internal Organizations (I.O.). The PCC will continue to investigate other avenues for liability coverage during conservation events. \*\* Post-meeting update: Per Carol Tideman, all Conservancies affiliated with the NSS are covered by insurance.

**Sarah Furnace Cave:** Tom Metzgar reported MAKC is scheduled to close on the property May 31, 2019 and that most of the required funds have been raised. MAKC has additional information about the Sarah Furnace Cave property for those who are interested.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Decker Sink Cleanup:** Gary Dunmire requested the assistance of the PCC membership for a potential sinkhole cleanup in Centre County. Decker Sink is reported to take an estimated 60-80 gallon/hour water flow. The sink hole is full of trash, tires, and oil drums. A rope and pulley system may be required for the cleanup efforts due to the steep walls at the site. A significant amount of manpower will be required for this cleanup. Gary has been in contact with DCNR, Penns Valley Conservation Association, and Clearwater Conservancy regarding efforts to clean

this sink hole. Gary is hoping for a quick timeline and something to be coordinated within the next few weeks. He will provide the PCC with updates as they become available.

\*\*\* Post Meeting Note from Gary Dunmire May 20, 2019: Matt Beaver from DCNR indicated that hands-on cleanup with volunteers in the Decker sink hole will be postpone until a later time, perhaps a late fall (leaf off) or early next spring. \*\*\*

**Spring MAR 2019:** A huge thank you to Bald Eagle Grotto for hosting a wonderful MAR field meet! A great time was had by all!

**Fall MAR 2019:** York Grotto plans to host the 2019 Fall MAR at the Newville Fairgrounds, Newville, PA on September 20-22, 2019. The Saturday evening meal will be provided by the local fire company. More information will be provided on the MAR website as it becomes available.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the PCC will be held during the 2019 Fall MAR at the Newville Fairgrounds, Newville, PA on September 22, 2019 at 9:30am.

Randy Hurst moved and Matt Neyhart seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

### ***2020 Spring VAR/MAR***

Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto plan to host the Spring 2020 VAR/MAR Field Meet May 1-3, 2020 at Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA. More details will be posted on the MAR web site as they become available (<http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm>).

### ***Host Needed for the 2020 Fall MAR***

As of August 2019 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2020 Fall MAR Field Meet. 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 one of the events, please contact a MAR officer.

## *Upcoming Events*

- Old Timers Reunion (OTR)** ..... August 29-Sept. 2, 2019  
OTR Site/Campgrounds  
Dailey, WV (Randolph County)  
70th Annual  
URL: [www.otr.org](http://www.otr.org)
- '19 Fall MAR Field Meet** ..... September 20-22, 2019  
York Grotto 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Newville, PA  
Hosted By: York Grotto  
URL: <https://yorkgrotto.org/fall-mar-2019/>
- '19 Fall VAR Field Meet** ..... September 26-29, 2019  
Friars Hole Cave Preserve  
Renicks Valley, WV (Greenbrier & Pocohontas Counties)  
Hosted By: DC & Baltimore Grottoes  
URL: [var.caves.org](http://var.caves.org)
- '19 Bridge Day** ..... October 19, 2019  
New River Gorge Bridge  
Fayetteville, WV  
39th Anniversary  
URL: [www.officialbridgeday.com](http://www.officialbridgeday.com) -or-  
[www.nps.gov/neri/bridgeday.htm](http://www.nps.gov/neri/bridgeday.htm) -or-  
[www.bridgeday.info/](http://www.bridgeday.info/)
- 2020 MAR Annual Business Meeting** ..... February 29, 2020  
Mt. Laurel Church of God  
1295 Piketown Road, Linglestown, PA  
URL: [www.caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg.htm](http://www.caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg.htm)  
URL: [www.caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg.htm](http://www.caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg.htm)
- '20 Spring VAR/MAR Field Meet** ..... May 1-3, 2020  
Grand Caverns  
Grottoes, VA  
Hosted By: Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto  
URL: <http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm#spring>
- 2020 NSS Convention** ..... July 27-31, 2020  
Elkins, WV (Randolph County)  
79th Anniversary  
URL: <https://caves.regfox.com/nss-convention-2020>



# NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

Effective October 2018

## MID-APPALACHIAN REGION BULLETINS (including reprinted Bulletins)

1-4	Bulletins Caves of Shippensburg Area #1-4 <b>REPRINT</b>		<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
5	Caves of Western PA: <b>REPRINT</b>	29 caves, 19 maps	<b>8.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
6	Caves of S. Cumberland Valley <b>REPRINT</b>	93 caves 69 maps+6 large maps	<b>17.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
7	Caves of Fulton Co, PA <b><u>Revised/Corrected</u></b>	4 caves, 4 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
8	Caves of Blair Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	89 caves, 40 maps	<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
9	Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	94 caves, 36 maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA	20 caves, 14 maps	<b>6.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
11	Caves of Centre Co., PA	71 caves, 56 maps+1 large map	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
12	Caves of Mifflin Co., PA	47 caves, 31 maps+5 large maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
13	Caves of Perry Co., PA	13 caves, 6 maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
14	Caves of Bucks Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	24 caves, 6 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
15	Caves of Lehigh Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	25 caves, 13 maps	<b>6.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
16	Caves of Northampton Co., PA	24 caves, 13 maps+1 large map	<b>6.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
17	Caves of Northumberland Co., PA	20 caves, 10 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
18	Caves of Berks Co., PA	64 caves, 32 maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
19	Caves of Bedford Co., PA	54 caves, 33 maps	<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
20	Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA	337 caves, 187 maps/10 large maps	<b>29.50</b> + postage <b>C</b>
21	Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookan Cave Huntingdon and Blair Counties	103 pages with <b>color photos</b> , 4 fold-out maps, 2 large maps	<b>27.50</b> + postage <b>B</b>
22	Caves of Middle Susquehanna Valley	140 pages with <b>color photos</b>	<b>16.00</b> + postage <b>D</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.

**D** \$3.50 postage for each bulletin #22

**MAR Bulletin Orders: Please make checks payable to MAR**

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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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Order from: **Bette White**

**4538 Miller Road**

**Petersburg, PA 16669-2711 U. S. A.**