



BREAKDOWN

Volume 34, Number 3, January 2020

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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MAR BUSINESS MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 29, 2020 PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at Mt. Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, PA on Feb 29, 2020 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



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MAR BUSINESS MEETING
February 29, 2020 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, 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 covers 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. The MAR will, once again, be providing warm beverages (coffee/tea/hot cider) for the meeting attendees. 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 Holiday Inn Express 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.

2020 Spring MAR-VAR

Save the Date! The Seven Valleys and Charlottesville Grottoes invite you to the 2020 Spring MAR-VAR to be held May 1-3, 2020 at Grand Caverns in Grottoes, VA. More details will be posted on the web site as they become available:

<http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm>

or

<http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var>

Host Needed for the 2020 Fall MAR

As of January 2020 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 (<http://caves.org/region/mar/hosting.htm>). 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.

Fall 2019 MAR Field Meet – Newville, PA

September 20-22, 2019 by Randy Hurst (representative for York Grotto)

The Fall 2019 MAR was held at the Newville Lions Club fairgrounds on the fair-weather weekend of September 20 - 22, 2019. It was sponsored by the York Grotto in commemoration of its 60th anniversary. One hundred and four people attended, of which 62 had pre-registered online or by mail. Caving trips were offered to 21 southern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia panhandle caves. The guidebook featured descriptions and maps for all but one of these caves. Some trips were offered by special arrangement with the responsible parties. One popular trip was to Silers Cave, which had been reopened by the Big Dig in April. Cleversburg Sink also cooperated with low water levels. A vertical practice session was also offered on Saturday afternoon. In addition to caving, some people took advantage of a nearby rail trail and the fine weather to enjoy the above-ground world.

The guidebook featured an article by Grotto Founder Jay Herbein detailing the 1963 discovery, exploration, and eventual destruction of Crystal Paradise Cave.

A special feature of the event was a silent auction of 60 years' worth of NSS News from the Dale Ibberson library. These included issues dating back to 1948, which reported events such as the first Old Timers Reunion, the formation of the MAR and VAR, and the formation of the Nittany Grotto. We still have a large collection of NSS Bulletins and Journal of Cave and Karst Studies,

which will be offered for sale at some future event.

Included with registration was a lavish Saturday morning continental breakfast and a fine barbecue chicken dinner by the local fire company. Saturday evening's entertainment started with a talk by professor Mike Meyer of Harrisburg University on earthquakes in the Appalachians and their relationship to caving. (Don't worry.) Dr. Myer's talk was followed by a presentation on caving (and culture-including a fascinating discussion about horse milk cheese and how it is made) in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan by Andy and Mindy Filer and Mike Shank of the York Grotto. After acknowledging the increasing age of Craig Hindman with a cake and a song, a nice selection of door prizes was then raffled off and partying continued into the night. After the usual PCC pancake breakfast, a few hardy souls also went caving on Sunday before heading home.

Overall, the event was successful, with a profit of just under \$1,600. Special thanks are owed to Andy and Mindy Filer for arranging and acquiring the continental breakfast and drafting the Guidebook; Mike Shank for the thankless and exasperating task of arranging and organizing nearly two dozen cave trips; and Debbie Jacobs, Cathy Hartwick, and Patty Biddison for running registration, overseeing the silent auction, and generally keeping things organized.

PCC Officer Elections

There will be a PCC meeting February 29, 2020 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!



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

Minutes of Regular Meeting – September 22, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 am by Vice President Andy Filer at the Newville Lions Club Fairgrounds, Newville, PA on Sunday, September 22, 2019.

The following officers were present: **Vice President** Andy Filer **Secretary** Gretchen Schock

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	---	Greater Allentown Grotto	Dwight Kempf (proxy)
Baltimore Grotto	Craig Hindman	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	--
Bucks County Grotto	--	Nittany Grotto	Rick Smith (proxy)
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	Mike Shank

Secretary Report: The minutes from the May 5, 2019 meeting were accepted as published in the August 2019 MAR Breakdown.

Treasurer Report: Andy Filer read the PCC account activity since the last meeting that was provided by John Boswell.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

Financial Summary 5-6-19 through 9-22-19

Interest Checking Account

Checking Balance 5/5/19	F&M Trust Bank checking	5/5/2019	\$6383.94
Deposit	Spring MAR PCC B-fast Proceeds	5/5/2019	\$240.26
Deposit	Amazon Smile	5/9/2019	\$5.00
Deposit	Interest Credit	5/31/2019	\$0.82
Deposit	Interest Credit	6/30/2019	\$0.79
Deposit	Interest Credit	7/31/2019	\$0.81
Deposit	Interest Credit	8/31/2019	\$0.66
Ending Balance :			\$6,632.28

SAVINGS ACCOUNT (CDs):

		<u>Maturity Date</u>	
Certificate of Deposit *75	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,130.33
Certificate of Deposit *29	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,130.33
Certificate of Deposit *65	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,130.33

* \$2.80 Interest credit applied to each 7/26/2019

COMBINED TOTAL : **\$10,023.27**

Web Page: no report.

PCC Breakfast: Pat Minnick reported 43 breakfasts were served during the 2019 Fall MAR field meet. Additionally, \$30 in donations were collected, for a total of \$245 raised for the PCC. Thank you to Dave Briggs for donating the food supplies for the breakfast and to John Boswell for storing and transporting the cooking gear. Red Schock will be storing the PCC breakfast supplies/gear until the next PCC breakfast.

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) – Ed Kehs reported that all proposed work has been completed. This cave can be removed from the project list.

Decker Sink Cleanup – 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.

PCC Event Insurance: Carol Tideman reported that all Conservancies affiliated with the NSS are covered under the NSS liability insurance policy, which would include the PCC.

NEW BUSINESS:

Baker Caverns: Pat Minnick stated that Baker Caverns in Pennsylvania may be up for sale in the future. Don Arrowood has been in contact with the land owners. At this time the property is not for sale.

Fall MAR 2019: A huge thank you to York Grotto for hosting a wonderful MAR field meet! A great time was had by all!

Spring MAR/VAR 2020: Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto are planning to co-host the Spring 2020 MAR/VAR Field Meet. The event will be held on May 1-3, 2020 at Grand Caverns in Grottoes, VA. More details will be posted on the MAR web site as they become available.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be held on Saturday, February 29, 2020 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>).

Pat Minnick moved and Amos Mincin seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

Upcoming Events

- 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
- NCRC Level 1 & 2 Modular at Blacksburg, VA** March 13-29, 2020
Level 1 and 2 Modular Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad, Blacksburg, VA, (weekends only)
sponsored by Eastern Region NCRC. \$60 for NSS members.
URL: <https://caves.org/commission/ncrc/ncrc-er/index.html>
- Grand Caverns Easter Restoration Field Camp** April 17-19, 2020
Grand Caverns
Grottoes, VA (Augusta County)
28th Annual
Hosted By: Conservation Committee of the Virginia Region (VAR)
URL: var.caves.org/index.php/events/easter-at-grand-caverns
Contact: Meredith Hall Weberg 
- '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> -or-
<http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var>
- 2020 NSS Convention** July 27-31, 2020
Elkins, WV (Randolph County)
79th Anniversary
URL: <https://caves.regfox.com/nss-convention-2020>
- Old Timers Reunion (OTR)** Sept. 3-7, 2020
OTR Site/Campgrounds
Dailey, WV (Randolph County)
71st Annual
URL: www.otr.org
- '20 Fall MAR Field Meet** Fall 2020
Location: TBD
Hosted TBD
URL: <http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm#fall>
- '20 Fall VAR Field Meet** Fall 2020
Location: TBD
Hosted TBD
URL: var.caves.org
- '20 Bridge Day** October 17, 2020
New River Gorge Bridge
Fayetteville, WV
39th Anniversary
URL: www.officialbridgeday.com -or-
www.nps.gov/neri/bridgeday.htm -or-
www.bridgeday.info/
- 2021 MAR Annual Business Meeting** February 27, 2021
Mt. Laurel Church of God
1295 Piketown Road, Linglestown, PA
URL: www.caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg.htm
URL: www.caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg.htm
- 2021 NSS Convention** June 28 -July 2, 2021
Weed, CA
80th Anniversary
URL: <http://nss2021.caves.org/>

NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

Effective October 2018

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	6.00 + 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	10.00 + 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 Kookon 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



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