

Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2013

The meeting was called to order by MAR Chair, Paul Winter at approximately 1:58 PM, February 23, 2013, at the Mount Laurel Community Park, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was read by MAR treasurer, Bette White. Printed copies were distributed. Total income of the year was \$3,029.22, with \$4,706.17 in expenditures. Net Income loss for the year was \$1,676.95.

MAR Breakdown:

The digitization of the MAR Breakdown was discussed. Digitization is currently a voluntary process. It was suggested that MAR field meet registration forms be used to get more accurate addresses and emails for use of compiling a list of registrant emails to be used for disseminating information in the future, such as the MAR Breakdown. Anyone who would like to receive the MAR Breakdown digitally should give George Bange their email. Overall concerns were raised regarding the cost-benefit and logistics of digitization. After discussion, Paul Winter suggested we continue to collect emails and formalize our distribution next meeting. [1140 credits of breakdowns due.]

Table Fire:

There was a small recess at 2:15 when a small fire, started by a Sterno, was extinguished. The meeting resumed at 2:20 pm. No casualties or injuries were reported.

2012 Spring Field Meet:

There was no 2012 Spring Field Meet.

2012 Fall Field Meet:

The 2012 Fall Field Meet was with Greater Allentown Grotto and was held at Crystal Cave in Kutztown, Pennsylvania. A report of the Fall Field Meet was given by Dean Snyder. [81 MAR registrants.]

MAR Web Site:

George Bange reported that the registration template form for MAR field meet should include a line for emails along with the registrant's addresses and contact information. Christopher Catherman indicated that the form available on the MAR website has been changed and reflects the most recent additions.

The MAR webmaster, Christopher Catherman, reported there have been no major changes to the MAR website and it continues to be functional. As of recently, all of the issues of the MAR Breakdown, since its inception in April 1986, have been scanned and are available digitally on the MAR website. Please send any corrections or additions to Christopher at mar_nss@yahoo.com

MAR Bulletins:

Will White report that MAR Bulletin #21: *Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookan Cave, Huntingdon and Blair Counties* is complete and is for sale for \$27.50.

It is projected that the MAR Bulletin #22: *Caves of Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Union, & Montour Counties (CCLUM) or Mid-Susquehanna Valley* will be published in the next year. The Bald Eagle Grotto was approached to provide information to the MAR Bulletin #22.

Currently, there have been no updates to the Huntingdon County Bulletin. It was also noted that some bulletins do not contain up-to-date information on cave openings, closures, and access.

Will also reported that the Pennsylvania Cave Survey files have been transferred and currently reside with Kim Metzgar of the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC).

Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC):

No changes in status of endangered and threatened bat species lists. The subject was tabled at the last PGC meeting.

MAKC:

No report.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC):

Pat Minnick reported that there will be a PCC meeting, following the MAR Annual Business Meeting.

WNS:

Bill Schultz reported that, over a period of fifteen years, the bat population in Driebelbus Cave has dropped from a maximum of 30 bats to a total of 2 bats in 2013. None of the bats exhibit WNS symptoms.

New Business

Cave Hill Grotto:

Amos Mincin reported that Cave Hill Grotto has expressed interest in the MAR and PCC and suggested further efforts at outreach.

Convention at Shippensburg:

Randy Hurst reported that advertisements for the convention were solicited. The deadline for advertisements is the end of May. Advertisement sheets were distributed at the meeting.

Dean Snyder made a motion that the MAR contributes \$250 to sponsor the MAR's 60th anniversary celebration at Convention. Subsequently, Randy Hurst made a motion to authorize the MAR board to coordinate food donations with the 2013 Convention Committee. Both motions passed.

Banner for Field Meets:

Amos Mincin proposed that the MAR should acquire a banner for use at business meetings, at the coming convention banquet, and field meets. The Philly Grotto offered to match half the cost of the banner.

Carol Tiderman made a motion that, under Amos Mincin's leadership, the MAR should purchase a banner for use by the MAR. The MAR offered an initial budget \$200 and agreed that it is responsibility of the officers of the MAR to get the banner to necessary events. The motion passed.

Mentor Needed:

Karen Bange reported that a student in Buck's County is working on his senior project. He needs 20 hours working with a mentor and is interested in geology. Contact Karen Bange for more information.

2013 Spring Field Meet:

Bill Schultz reported that Commander Cody and Philly Grotto will be co-hosting the 2013 Spring Field Meet at Woodward Cave. Fliers for the Spring Field Meet were distributed, and the edited registration forms will be available on the MAR website. Pre-registration is open. Barry Duncan, from Caver's Connection, will be a vendor at the Spring Field Meet. A volunteer from the Commander Cody Grotto offered to make new signs for the MAR. It was reported that programs are not lined up yet and help arranging cave trips was solicited.

2013 Fall Field Meet:

Joe Turchick announced that the Nittany grotto will be hosting the 2013 Fall Field Meet at Lincoln Caverns on Sept 27 – 29. Catering will be provided by Clemm's Barbeque. Registration forms will be revised to contain an email field and will be available on the MAR website.

Rupert Conservation Easement:

George Bange announced that the Rupert Cave property now has a conservation easement through Clearwater Conservancy as of September 17, 2012!

Upcoming Events**Spring VAR:**

Bill Schultz reported that the 2013 Spring VAR will be held on May 18 – 19 in Pocahontas County, WV.

NSS Convention:

Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. August 5 – 9, 2012.

A motion to was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Brooks
MAR Recording Secretary

Representatives at the MAR meeting:

- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Bucks County Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Nittany Grotto
- Philadelphia Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- York Grotto
- Baltimore Grotto
- DC Grotto
- Commander Cody Caving Club
- Central New Jersey Grotto
- NJ Tri-State Speleological Society
- MAKC