

***Mid-Appalachian Region of
the National Speleological Society***

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2014

The meeting was called to order by MAR Chair, Paul Winter at approximately 1:46 PM, February 22, 2014, at the Mount Laurel Community Park, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary's Report was read by MAR secretary, Hope Brooks. The minutes were approved without change.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was read by MAR treasurer, Bette White. Printed copies were distributed. Total income of the year was \$3,282.33, with \$1,976.98 in expenditures. Net Income gain for the year was \$1,305.35.

Vice Chairman's Report:

No Report.

MAR Breakdown:

The MAR Breakdown report was given by Gretchen "Red" Schock. The MAR breakdown was printed and distributed on schedule.

MAR Breakdown Address List and Digitization:

The digitization of the MAR Breakdown was discussed.

Randy Hurst made a motion to continue collecting emails for disseminating the digital version of the MAR Breakdown, to print and mail hard copies of the MAR Breakdown for people who do not have email addresses, to begin sending the MAR Breakdown in digital form to the emails collected, and to reduce the MAR registration field meet fee from \$4 to \$1. Keith Wheeland seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Christopher Catherman made a motion to publish one more physical issue of the MAR Breakdown, with Volume 29, No. 1, April 2014 being the last printed issue, whereby containing a notice explaining that future newsletters will be available digitally via the MAR website and/or disseminated via an email distribution program (ex. Listserv). A limited number of hard copies of the newsletter would continue to be printed and sent to those who have outstanding credits. Keith Wheeland seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2013 Spring Field Meet:

The 2013 Spring Field Meet was hosted by Philadelphia Grotto and was held at Woodward Cave in Centre County, Pennsylvania. A report of the Spring Field meet was given by Bill Schultz. 112 registrants participated.

2013 Fall Field Meet:

The 2013 Fall Field Meet was hosted by the Nittany Grotto and was held at Lincoln Caverns and Whisper Rocks in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. A report of the Fall Field Meet was given by Joe Turchick. 117 registrants participated.

MAR Web Site and Listserv:

The MAR webmaster, Christopher Catherman, reported there have been no major changes to the MAR website and it continues to be functional. Please send any corrections or additions to Christopher at mar_nss@yahoo.com.

MAR Bulletins:

Will White reported that MAR Bulletin #21: Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookan Cave, Huntingdon and Blair Counties is complete and is available 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 is targeted for completion by June of 2014. Juniata County will also be added to the proposed bulletin.

Hope Brooks reported on behalf of Todd "Mud" Hancock that work on the updated Mifflin County Bulletin continues. Mifflin County is listed as having 95 caves and Todd welcomes assistance in updating the bulletin.

There have been no updates to the Huntingdon County Bulletin.

It was announced that, in general, some older bulletins do not contain up-to-date information on cave openings, closures, and access.

Pennsylvania Cave Database:

Paul Winter reported on behalf of Tony Canike that he has resolved the question of which caves to put on the "closed" cave list by simply publishing the "Long and Deep" cave lists, with access statuses for all the caves on the list. He thanked those who offered suggestions and to the committee that was appointed at the February 2013 meeting, as they resolved the question with a couple emails.

Tony also provided a list of caves to Will White for the Mid-Susquehanna Valley MAR Bulletin (see above under MAR Bulletins).

Lastly, update functions in the access database are still not completely working, but all the data is secure, safe, and backed up.

Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC):

Mike Spencer reported that Dean Snyder has not made any further contact with the PGC. A January 2014 edition of the Morning Call pertaining to the PGC and White Nose Syndrome (WNS) was discussed.

Kim Metzgar reported that the PGC is soliciting bids to gate Casparis Cave located in Fayette County. Upon gating, Copperhead Cave and Bear Cave, both located in Westmoreland County, will be the ONLY large caves in western Pennsylvania which remain un-gated.

MAKC:

Kim Metzgar urged cavers to continue to try to buy and manage caves and suggested that cavers support cave conservancies.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC):

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

WNS:

Randy Hurst and Craig Hindman discussed how the federal listing of the Tri-Colored bats and other bats as being endangered will affect caving in Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Bill Schultz noted that the western region of the U.S. Forest Service has relaxed their caving restrictions as compared to those here in the eastern region.

Greg Turner reported that there were two (2) little brown bats and two (2) tri-colored bats in Sharer Cave. Piper cave is reported to have a few little brown bats. Mike Spencer reported that he has not seen any bats in Carpenter Cave. It was reported that Driebelbis Cave had less than five (5) bats.

New Business

2014 Spring Field Meet:

The 2014 Spring Field Meet will be hosted by the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) and will be held on May 16-18, 2014 at the OTR site in Dailey, WV. Further information on the event will be discussed and presented at the PCC meeting proceeding the MAR Business Meeting by Amos Mincin. A registration form and information are available on the MAR website.

2014 Fall Field Meet:

The 2014 Fall Field Meet will be hosted by the Seven Valleys Grotto and will be held on Oct. 10-12, 2014 at the Rupert Cave Preserve in McVeytown, PA.

2013 NSS Convention – Shippensburg, PA:

It was reported that 702 people attended the 2013 NSS Convention held at Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA last August. Donations received at the convention were divided among five organizations consisting of the Mid-Appalachian Region (MAR), the Virginia Region (VAR), the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC), the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC), and the Butler Cave Conservation Society (BCCS). Treasurers of the receiving organizations are advised to cash the checks by March 15, 2014.

MAR Field Meet Directional Signs:

It was determined that members of Nittany Grotto have the signs used at last Fall's MAR field meet, and will make arrangements to give the signs to the PCC for the upcoming MAR Spring Field Meet in WV.

MAR Field Meet Guidebooks:

Karen Bange questioned whether it was necessary to print guidebooks for the upcoming Fall Field Meet at Rupert Cave. There was a consensus that there is no requirement to produce guidebooks at the field meet, since many former field events took place at this same location.

Donations:

Judy Stack announced that numerous books from Dale Ibberson's personal library were available at the meeting and that any donations received would be donated directly to the MAR.

Glen Sarvis brought Nevada tourist agency maps and brochures to the meeting in preparation for the upcoming 2016 NSS Convention in Ely, Nevada.

After Meeting Meeting (AMM):

Mark Wolfe announced that he will be hosting an AMM after the proceeding PCC meeting at his residence.

Upcoming Events

BCCS – Pancake Weekend – Burnsville Cove, VA – March 15, 2014

Spring VAR Field Meet – RASS Field House, Millboro, VA – April 11-13, 2014

Spring MAR Field Meet – OTR Site, Dailey, WV – May 16-18, 2014

Spring NRO Field Meet – Hide-A-Way Camp, Central Bridge, NY – May 16-18, 2014

Kentucky Speleofest – Lone Star Preserve, Bonnieville, KY – May 23-26, 2014

SERA Summer Cave Carnival – NSS Headquarters, Huntsville, AL – May 30-June 1, 2014

"Mudfest" – Lincoln Caverns, Huntingdon, PA – June 20-22, 2014

NSS Convention – NSS Headquarters, Huntsville, AL – July 14-18, 2014

Old Timers Reunion (OTR) – OTR Site, Dailey, WV – August 28-September 1, 2014

Fall MAR Field Meet – Rupert Cave Preserve, McVeytown, PA – 10-12, October 2014

Fall VAR Field Meet – Rich Mountain Battlefield, Elkins, WV – October 2014

TAG Fall Cave-In – Lookout Mountain, Near Trenton, GA – October 9-12, 2014

Bridge Day – New River Gorge Bridge, Fayetteville, WV – October 18, 2014

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Brooks
MAR Recording Secretary

Representatives at the MAR meeting:

- i Bald Eagle Grotto
- i Baltimore Grotto
- i Cave Hill Grotto
- i Central New Jersey Grotto
- i Commander Cody Caving Club
- i Franklin County Grotto
- i Greater Allentown Grotto
- i MAKC
- i Nittany Grotto
- i Philadelphia Grotto
- i Seven Valleys Grotto
- i York Grotto