



BREAKDOWN

Volume 14, Number 3, January 2000

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-

A complimentary copy is sent to each grotto in the MAR. For individuals it works this way: When you attend a field meet \$5 of your registration fee goes directly to the MAR to pay for three issues of this newsletter and other MAR projects. You may also subscribe by sending \$5 to the treasurer. The number of issues you have remaining immediately follows your name on the mailing label.

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 26, 2000 PCC Meeting to follow

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at the home of Jay Herbein on February 26, 2000 at 1:30 p.m. A meeting of the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy will follow the MAR business meeting. You will find the map to the meeting on page 2.

Fall MAR Meet Big Success

169 cavers gathered in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania for the annual fall MAR field meet and to celebrate York Grotto's 40th anniversary. Story and details inside.

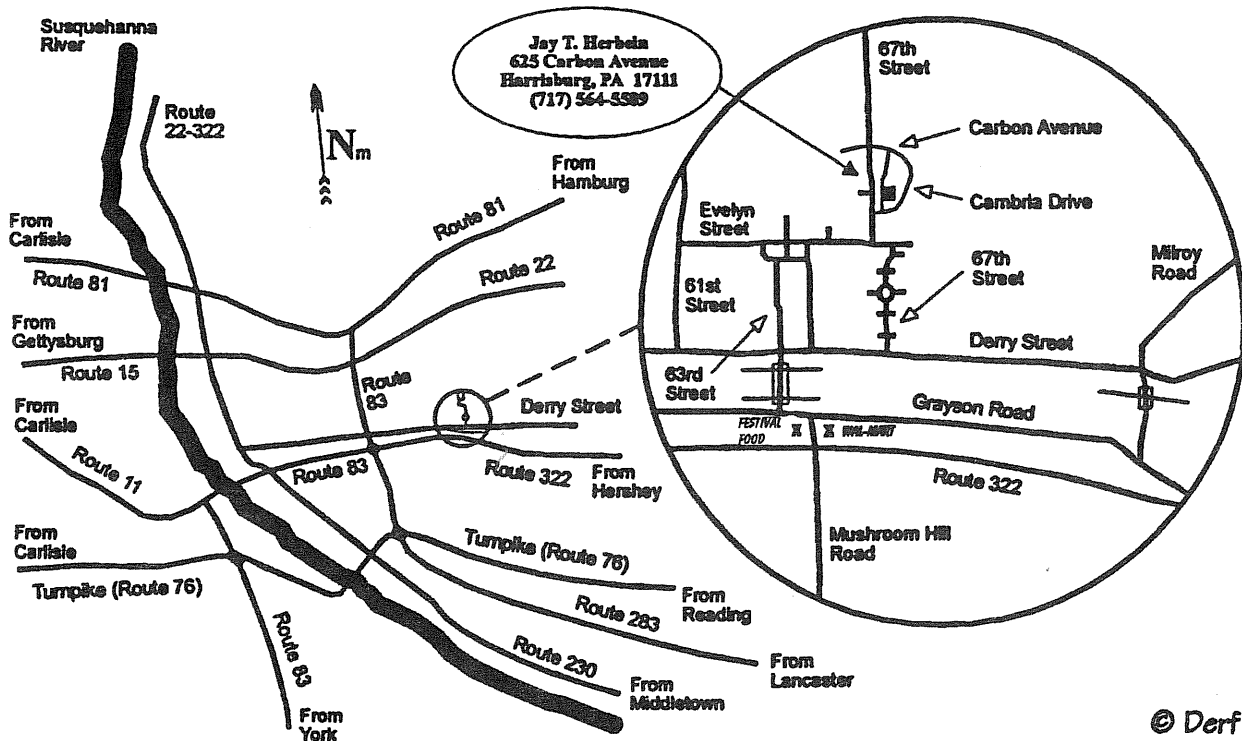
Inside

| | Page |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Business Meeting Map | Jay Longenderfer 2 |
| Fall MAR Meet | Karen Bange 3 |
| Change in MAR Editor | Karen Bange 5 |
| PCC Corner | Keith Wheeland 6 |
| PCC 501 (c) (3) Status | George Bange 7 |

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Map of Business Meeting Site

Maps to Dale Ibberson's will be available at the business meeting



From the East on Route 322:

Turn right on Mushroom Hill Road (look for the Wal-Mart and Festival Food Store) at the second traffic light after Hummelstown.

From the West on Route 322:

Intercept Route 322 toward Hershey. Turn left on Mushroom Hill Road (look for the Wal-Mart and Festival Food Store).

Once on Mushroom Hill Road, proceed one block to Grayson Road (T-intersection) and turn left. Travel one more block and turn right onto a bridge which crosses the railroad tracks. Turn right on Derry Street. Follow Derry Street to 67th Street which will be a left hand turn up the hill. (The street sign has been missing for several years so watch street numbers.) Follow the inset map above to reach Jay's house.

Note: If you are driving from the West on I-83 N., there is no exit at Derry Street. Use the Route 322 exit.

The Fall MAR Meet and The York Grotto Fortieth Anniversary

by Karen Bange

The Fall 1999 MAR was held October 8-10th at Rupert Cave in McVeytown, Pennsylvania. The field meet was in conjunction with the York Grotto's 40th anniversary. Early arrivals to the event included first arrival Bill Vis, arriving Thursday evening, and various grotto members, arriving Friday morning, eager and ready to tend to last minute details.

By Friday afternoon, there was a steady stream of cavers arriving. Registration was well organized, thanks to Dale Ibberson and Judi Stack. The guidebook contained all updated information and three large, previously unpublished maps of caves in Mifflin County. It was interesting to watch peoples' expression when asked if they wanted their maps rolled or folded.

Dale Ibberson had a nice display of York Grotto history items at registration. He also provided non-stop videos of cave trips he'd taped. Chet and Kathryn Robinson, York Grotto members, donated three bushels of apples. These were put out at registration so people could munch on apples while watching videos. Since the camping area was spread across 28 acres, George Bange had a large map of the property on the wall at registration. This way people could mark the map with their campsite so others could find them. The map also helped orient new arrivals to the lay of the land.

One notable event was the arrival of a wooden truck. It looked and sounded like a tank coming down the road. Rob

DeBeque of Nigeria Frontier Grotto built the truck. He and his wife, Anne, had driven the truck down from Rochester, NY. Rob affectionately calls it the RKDexpress. The truck used to be a 1971 Ford F-100 4x4. After building the truck and driving it around the woods for seven years people talked Rob into putting it on the road so others could see it. After months of paper work with the Department of Motor Vehicles the truck was licensed. So now it's a 1993 Custom with its own vin number issued by the state. The wood is pressure treated for the cab and one hundred year old cedar planking from an old water tower for the bed. Every couple of years Rob sands it all down and coats it with Cupinol Sealer. The truck weighs 5000 pounds and Rob has had no problems with termites.

Another notable occurrence at the event was the presence of a newly formed NSS grotto, Seven Valleys Grotto. This grotto has members from the Lewistown and Milroy, Pennsylvania area. Although small in membership size, the grotto has been busy with cave projects. This summer the grotto gated the entrance to Milroy Cave and now controls access into Milroy #2 entrance.

Even though a slight drizzle had set in Friday night, there was a large bonfire to welcome people to the MAR. Throughout the night, cavers wandered to the bonfire for beer and conversation. Alan Horn, bonfire master, kept the fire blazing. There was a smaller fire in the fire ring near the cave where others gathered.

People were up early on Saturday as the cave trip sign up sheets were posted at 8:30. Cave trips included Alexander, Rupert, Big Ridge, Kookan, Chime, Carlsbad, McAlisterville, a Sunday Womer trip and other non guided cave trips. Dale Ibberson lead a cemetery tour of historical significance Saturday afternoon.

By Saturday evening the drizzle had turned to steady showers, luckily the temperature remained warm. 169 hungry cavers were fed a banquet of roast pork on a bun, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw and a dessert of whoopie pies or moon pies. The banquet was furnished by Sal-Lees Dream of Belleville. The food was excellent and plenty to go around.

Door prizes were awarded after the banquet. Door prizes were donated by the following: Sarah Gutter of York Grotto, Robert Zimmerman of Bald Eagle Grotto, Kim Kehs of Greater Allentown Grotto, York Grotto, Commander Cody Caving Club, St Lukes, Inner Mountain Outfitters, Karst Sports, Speleobooks, Lincoln Caverns, and Brookmere Winery. PCC had a raffle drawing after the MAR door prizes. The PCC raffle included a copy of **PENNSYLVANIA CAVES** by Ralph Stone (1932), a cave ready autolite carbide lamp, both items donated by Dale Ibberson; a PCC T-shirt donated by Dean Snyder and an autographed copy of Robert Zimmerman's book **Genesis the Story of Apollo 8**. The MAR officer election results were announced after the drawings. Paul Hinnebusch was elected Chair, Pat Minnick was elected Vice Chair and Rich Rosevear was elected as Recording Secretary. The evening's program was rounded out by Judi Stack's the slide show debut **Caves of Pennsylvania**.

The steady rain on Saturday night did not seem to deter the party. The bonfire and keg of Squire Brown microbrewed beer, donated by Jacks Mountain Restaurant and Brewery in Lewistown and kept flowing by Roy Garland, along with the donation of peanuts seemed to help keep the rain away; or least one's awareness of the rain. There were at least two squeezeboxes to challenge the claustrophics in the group. Nittany Grotto's squeezebox was extraordinarily long and varied in height settings as you went through it. The challenge for the squeezebox supplied by Niagara Frontier Grotto was just trying to unlock the blasted thing so you could then try the squeezebox. There were smaller parties throughout the camping area with people gathered around fires both in the cave building and on top of the cave.

Coffee (200 cups each morning and donated by Rich Coast Coffee of Lewistown) and muffins (20 dozen total and purchased at Dunkin Donuts) got everyone going both Saturday and Sunday mornings (the creamers, sugar and stirrers were donated by Sheetz of Mifflintown). The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) had an unofficial meeting Sunday morning. The Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC) had an informational booth set up at the meet and ran a fundraiser. MAKC is using the fundraiser money to help pay for their property insurance on Hall Cave and their land trust alliance dues. St Lukes was the only vendor present and seemed to do a brisk business.

There was a variety of wildlife present at the MAR, both domestic and wild. The domesticated variety present were Dan Copenhagen's cockatoo, the Daggs ferrets and several dogs including Patches the Caving Dog (she did Womer Cave on Sunday). Creatures spotted out in nature included a

gorgeous red tailed hawk, numerous stick bugs and an infant wood turtle. The turtle was newly hatched as evidenced by its egg sac still attached to its belly and its minute size and curious personality.

By late Sunday afternoon, the property was once again quite as the last of the cavers headed for home. The land, although a little torn up from the rain and

traffic combination, was litter free and none the worse the wear for three days of an MAR.

Thank you to individuals who worked on making the MAR a success. Thank you to all the trip leaders for making the trips a safe reality. Of course in MAR fashion, the final clean up on Monday was under a bright, sunny autumn sky!

Change in MAR Breakdown Editor

In the 1980s the MAR became inactive. At that time, Carol Tiderman took things into her own hands and jumped started the MAR. She was elected chairperson during this time. The first issue of the MAR Breakdown was published in early 1986 as a replacement to the MAR flier that was being put out. Hope McAdam designed the MAR Breakdown logo.

Keith Wheeland took over as editor of the Breakdown in 1990, publishing Volume 5, Number 1, March 1990. Carol Tiderman kept the record of attendees and printed the address labels. The three issues for 1995 were edited by Jim Kennedy. Keith did the circulation duties. The three issues for 1996 were edited by Chris "Foom" Sanders. Again, Keith did the circulation

duties. Since that time Keith has edited the MAR Breakdown.

After the Spring 1993 issue Keith volunteered to maintain the attendee records and has been doing so since. After each Field Meet, the records are updated since each attendee gets three issues for each field meet he or she attends.

This past spring, Keith decided he wanted to turn the editor reins over to someone else. Karen Bange volunteered for the position and is now the new MAR Breakdown editor. Any submissions can be sent to her at RR 2 Box 360, Mt Pleasant Mills, PA 17853 or email her at rupert@prolog.net.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

This is a summary of the minutes of the meeting.

The unofficial meeting was called to order by President, Pat Minnick at the Rupert Cave property near McVeytown, PA. at 10:15 a.m., Sunday October 10, 1999. (There was not a quorum, so no official business was conducted.)

The following officers were present:

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| President | Pat Minnick |
| V. Pres. | Karen Bange |
| Secretary | Keith Wheeland |
| Treasurer | Dale Ibberson |

Representatives were present from Bald Eagle Grotto, Baltimore Grotto, Commander Cody Caving Club, Franklin County Grotto, Nittany Grotto, Philadelphia Grotto, and York Grotto. Other individuals present were George Bange, Karen Bange, David Fricke, James (J.D.) Lewis, Bob Zimmerman, Carol Tideman, Mike Kistler, Dwight Livingston, and Anne Shepard.

The Treasurer's report was provided by George Bange. It showed a balance of \$1,339.30. Current receipts made the total approximately \$1,735.81

Old Business:

The Secretary reported that there was no response from Pittsburgh Grotto concerning membership in the PCC.

Project List:

Deerbone Cave, Centre County, Pa. Keith Wheeland reported that he had spoken with the owner, John Ellenberger within the past week. The owner is still trying to get an appointment with his surveyor.

J-4 Cave, Centre County, Pa. - Keith Wheeland reported that he had spoken with a trusted advisor who advised that nothing be done about J-4 at the present.

Web Page: David Fricke will put up a web page which could then be critiqued by PCC members.

Section 501(c)(3): Ann Shepard has completed the forms except for the financial data. George Bange indicated that he felt that the financial data could be made available shortly because Dale Ibberson had the data with him at this meeting. As soon as the financial data is provided, Ann can submit the forms.

Living on Karst: Mike Mostardi has thirty booklets at home and will provide them at the next PCC meeting. If PCC members have a need to send one to a cave owner, contact Mike and have him send it.

Fund Raising T-shirts: Dean Snyder has PCC T-shirts for sale at \$8 each. Profits will be presented to the PCC.

NEW BUSINESS:

Seven Valleys Grotto: Keith Wheeland welcomed members of the new Pennsylvania Grotto, The Seven Valleys Grotto. He invited them to join the PCC. The grotto is based in Milroy, Pa. and has approximately 10 members. The Secretary of the PCC will send the grotto a PCC information packet.

Restricted-Access Cave List: Dave Fricke suggested that the PCC include a list of restricted access caves on the PCC web page. Discussion indicated that there would be no objection by PCC members as long as location coordinates were not included.

Quorum: Harris Martin suggested that the PCC By-Laws be amended to change the size of a quorum from the present requirement of two-thirds of the Voting Grottos to one-half of the Voting Grottos. Discussion seemed to indicate that PCC members would be in favor of this change. Notice is hereby given that this amendment will be considered at the next PCC meeting.

John V. Stoneman Guide Map: Kim Metzgar and John Long gave Keith

Wheeland a copy of a Guide Map which is being sold by John V. Stoneman to the general public for \$2.50 a copy. This foldout map has X's and a number to indicate sites of specific areas of interest including tectonic cave sites. The PCC members present, when shown the map, indicated that they were not in favor of it. The PCC will write a letter to Mr. Stoneman indicating the PCC does not approve of the practice of revealing cave locations to the general public. Grottos and individual cavers are encouraged to e-mail Mr. Stoneman at stony@penn.com to express their displeasure. We do not have a regular mailing address for Mr. Stoneman. Cavers and cave groups are encouraged to be wary of any requests for cave locations from Mr. Stoneman.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be Saturday, February 26, 2000 at the site of the MAR Business meeting. To be conducted after the MAR Business Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith D. Wheeland, Secy.

501 (c) (3) Tax Exempt Status Update

by George Bange

The PCC has applied to the IRS for 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status. The next step is to wait for acknowledgement from the IRS that they have received the application and everything is in good order. Once an acknowledgement is received, the PCC can then function as a charitable organization. That means cash and material donations to the PCC can be deducted from the donor's personal income tax. Stay tuned for news of the acknowledgement.

MAR Breakdown
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Mt Pleasant Mills, PA 17853

Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins NSS Member Price List

| | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------|
| 1-4 | REPRINT VOLUME: Constitution and Caves of Shippensburg | 7.00+ postage* |
| 8 | REPRINT Caves of Blair Co., PA 89 caves, 40 maps | 6.50+ postage* |
| 9 | Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA | OUT OF PRINT |
| 10 | Caves of Snyder Co., PA 20 caves, 14 maps | 2.00 +postage* |
| 11 | Caves of Centre Co., PA 71 caves, 56 maps/1 large map | 9.00+ 1.75 each postage♣ |
| 12 | Caves of Mifflin Co., PA 47 caves, 31 maps/5 large maps | 7.00+1.75 each postage♣ |
| 13 | Caves of Perry Co., PA 13 caves, 6 maps | 5.00+postage* |
| 14 | Caves of Bucks, Co., PA | OUT OF PRINT |
| 15 | Caves of Lehigh Co., PA 25 caves, 13 maps | 3.25+postage* |
| 16 | Caves of Northhampton Co., PA 24 caves, 13 maps/1 large map | 5.50+postage* |
| 17 | Caves of Northumberland Co., PA 20 caves, 10 maps | 5.00+postage* |
| 18 | Caves of Berks Co., PA 64 caves, 32 maps | 7.00+1.75 each postage♣ |
| 19 | Caves of Bedford Co., PA 54 caves, 33 maps | 5.50+postage* |
| 20 | Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA 337 caves, 187 maps/10 large maps | 29.50+3.00 each postage♦ |

* U.S. Postage Handling: \$1.25 each copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address

*Non-U.S. Postage Handling: \$2.00 for each copy; \$1.50 each additional copy

♣\$1.75 postage each bulletin

♦\$3.00 postage each bulletin

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