



BREAKDOWN

Volume 15, Number 2, August 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-

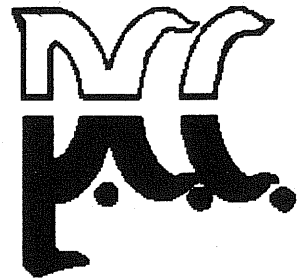
The annual business meeting is held the last Saturday in February. Each spring and fall there is a field meet. Watch for dates.

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MAR Fall Field Meet set for September 15-17, 2000 PCC Meeting to follow

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy T-Shirts

White Fruit of the Loom 'Lofteez' Shirts
Hand silk screened with the conservancy logo
Available in medium, large and X-large
\$8 plus \$1 shipping for each shirt ordered



Order form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Shirt size: _____ Quantity: _____

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Amount enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to: PA Cave Conservancy
PO Box 373
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MAR Spring 2000
at Little Meadows Lake and Campground
May 19-21, 2000
Hosted by the Pittsburgh Grotto

I was the second to arrive on Friday. John Long had been at the pavilion for a while. The lake was pristine and the waterfowl were enjoying it. Soon others began arriving. I busied myself by placing the directional signs at strategic intersections.

When I returned, Paula Bradley, our Program Chairperson, and Patty Taylor, our Treasurer, had set up registration in the pavilion with T-shirts and tickets for the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Sunday breakfast for sale. Jim Graham, our Vice Chairperson, and his wife Katherine had arrived and were busy helping with various registration and sign making duties with Mark Henneberg, our Editor. We decided to place the door prizes out for viewing and to exclude ourselves, the Grotto Board members, from receiving any of these door prizes because, well, you know, it just wouldn't be right for one of us to win. The door prizes were several books 3 of which were donated by Fred Donofrio, a book and flashlight from Inner Mountain Outfitters, a gallon jug of carbide and walking stick from me.

Patty Taylor and I made a quick trip to the nearby Foodland to check on availability of supplies and make a cursory search for a lumber mill. We didn't find the mill. As folks arrived and set up tents, the trip posting board was brought out and plans were begun. Jim and I made another

trip locating the lumber mill but no one was around. A name and phone number on the side of a truck led us to the mill operator. Back at camp I mentioned this to Chuck Hilpert and, "GO FIGGER", Chuck knew the guy. Thanks to Chuck, we were able to get 2 pickup truck loads for next to nothing.

Debbie Meyers from Western Maryland Grotto arrived and announced trips to Crabtree Cave which is Maryland's largest and nearby our camp. Tom Kennedy would lead this trip. Another Western Maryland Grotto trip would be to Ridgeville Cave in Mineral County W.Va. and led by Rick Aronhalt. The maps and descriptions provided by Western Maryland Grotto were great. John Long announced a trip to Casparis Cave in Fayette County Pa. The band, "Three Generations on Strings" arrived as did the night with congregating, planning tomorrow's activities and eventually retirement to tents for a good night's sleep.

BAM a huge thunder clap awakened everyone. And the rain came.

Saturday morning folks prepared and left for trips. An additional trip to Barton's Cave was announced to be led by George and Karen Bange. An unled trip to Upper Beaver Hole was posted. With trips underway, the Pittsburgh Grotto Board got busy preparing dinner. The menu was burritos with ground meat, chicken or venison (YUM), refried beans, salad and dessert of brownies. The venison was

donated by Chuck Hempel via Patty Taylor. Patty precooked all of the hot dishes at home. The venison needed shredded and the salad needed made. And Mark, Jim and his wife Katherine, Paula, Patty and I took on this task enthusiastically. The beer was delivered by the local distributor who was greeted enthusiastically by "YOU DA MAN".

All trips returned safely and Joe Schock said Patches the Caving Dog had a great time in Casparis. We all ate heartily. I believe those burritos had to weigh 3 lbs each. We had prepared for 2 burritos per person. And the rain came and went. Door prizes were given by drawing ticket numbers. As night descended, the bon fire was lit as was the fire in the pavilion fireplace. Tyne Snyder and her band "Three Generations on Strings" gave us wonderful entertainment without which the evening would have been lacking. They were wonderful and I thank them very much for adding another dimension to the evening. Mark Henneberg, Jim Graham, Chuck Hilpert and various others tended the fires and we all had time to relax and talk over the day's events.

Sunday morning we were treated to an excellent breakfast of pancakes, sausage, fruit and coffee. It was well done and deserves congratulations. (Ed. Note: The breakfast was the PCC fundraiser breakfast) Then it was the usual cleanup and departure. There was an unofficial PCC meeting and then home.

I want to thank all those involved in this MAR. Our Pittsburgh Grotto Board did an outstanding job. We got a lot of help from George and Karen Bange, Tom Snyder, Doug Moore, Tom Kennedy, Paul Hinnebusch, Ethan Franz, Courtney Mayle, Pat Minnick, Carol Tideman, Keith Wheeland, John Chenger, Rita-thanks for helping with the venison, all those great folks mentioned above and many others who donated their time, effort, and expertise to make this a successful MAR. Cave Softly and CTYP (Cave Til Ya Puke stolen from CCCC).

Respectfully submitted,

Robert R. McLaughlin

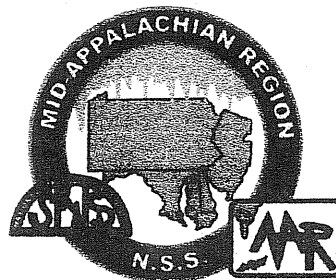
NSS 40235

Pittsburgh

Grotto

Chairperson

Announcing the MAR Web Page



Thanks to the efforts of Christopher Catherman,
the MAR now has a web page!

You can find the web page at: www.caves.org/region/mar/

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Meeting
Minutes for May 21, 2000

This is a summary of the minutes of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President, Pat Minnick at the Little Meadows Campground, Grantsville, MD, at 10:07 a.m., Sunday, May 21, 2000.

The following officers were present:

President	Pat Minnick
V. Pres.	Karen Bange
Secretary	Keith D. Wheeland
Treasurer	George Bange

Representation was as follows: Baltimore Grotto, Franklin Co. Grotto, Nittany Grotto, Pittsburgh Grotto and Seven Valleys Grotto. All other grottos had no representative.

Other individuals present were Bill Vis (South Jersey), Edward Fiore (South Jersey), Ron Crowell Jr. (South Jersey), Carol Tideman, Jim Hart, and Anne Shepard.

Because there was not a quorum present, no official business could be conducted. A discussion was held concerning this issue. The Secretary suggested sending out a proxy form to representatives. It was suggested that the form be mailed shortly before the time of the meeting. This will be done before the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pittsburgh Grotto has reactivated its status as a member of the PCC. "Welcome back, Pittsburgh."

PROJECT LIST: (Only caves with updates have been included.)

Deerbone Cave, Centre County, Pa. - Keith Wheeland will meet again with the owner to discuss options.

Peiper Cave, Cumberland County, Pa. - Fellow cavers, Ed & Kim Kehs, have purchased the cave and property.

Section 501(c)(3): Anne Shepard reported that the PC has been approved as a tax exempt organization.

Fund Raising T-Shirts: Dean Snyder has PCC T-Shirts for sale at \$8 each.

Fund Raising: An unofficial report showed that one of our fund raising efforts raised about \$138. The Breakfast brought in another \$115. These are preliminary figures, final results will be available at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

South Jersey Grotto: The grotto has been re-established. Bill Vis, the Chairman has petitioned the PCC to accept the grotto as a member. This issue will be considered at the next PCC meeting.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be Sunday at 10 a.m. at the site of the MAR Fall Meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m., May 21, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith D. Wheeland, Secy.

Fall MAR 2000 - Registration Form - Sept. 15-17

Hosted by Nittany Grotto

The fee is \$24 per adult, \$21 per teen (12-20), and \$4 for children under 12. Register by Sept. 11 and get a discount of \$3 per registrant (except children under 12).

			Amount
Name _____	Adult Teen Child _____		
Address (including Zip Code) _____	Circle one	Grotto	
Name 2 _____	Adult Teen Child _____		
Address (including Zip Code) _____	Circle one	Grotto	
Name 3 _____	Adult Teen Child _____		
Address (including Zip Code) _____	Circle one	Grotto	

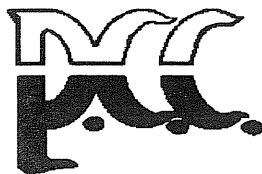
Please make checks payable to **Nittany Grotto** and send form and check to

Keith D. Wheeland
 2191 Mt. View Ave.
 State College, PA 16801-7214
 (814) 238-2057 - kwheeland@home.com

Sub-total	_____
Discount	_____
Total	_____

The site is at the Seven Mountains Campground, 2.4 miles south of Potters Mills, Pa. directly adjacent to and west of U.S. Route 322.

Introducing PCC's web site!



Check it out at: <http://www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc>
Many thanks to Dave Fricke for developing and maintaining
the site

New! New! New!

The Hidden Green Diamond
A History of the Caves In Berks County, Pennsylvania

by Dean H. Snyder

74 pages!

72 illustrations!

150 references!

This book narrates the history of discovery and exploration of the caves in Berks County, Pennsylvania, from the time of its earliest inhabitants, the Lenni Lenapes, to the beginning of the 21st century. Some of the caves described include Crystal, Shofer, Dragon, Dreibelbis, and Onyx, and also the lesser-known Merkle, Shearer, and Morgan. ***The Hidden Green Diamond*** is the result of fieldwork and over five years of research at libraries, museums, and historical societies.

\$15 plus \$2 shipping (\$1 shipping for each additional copy)

____ Copies

Amount enclosed: _____

Name: _____

Send to; Dean H. Snyder

Address: _____

3213 Fairland Drive

Schnecksville, PA 18078

MAR Fall Meet - 2000

September 15, 16, and 17th

Seven Mountains Campground, Near Potters Mills, Pa.

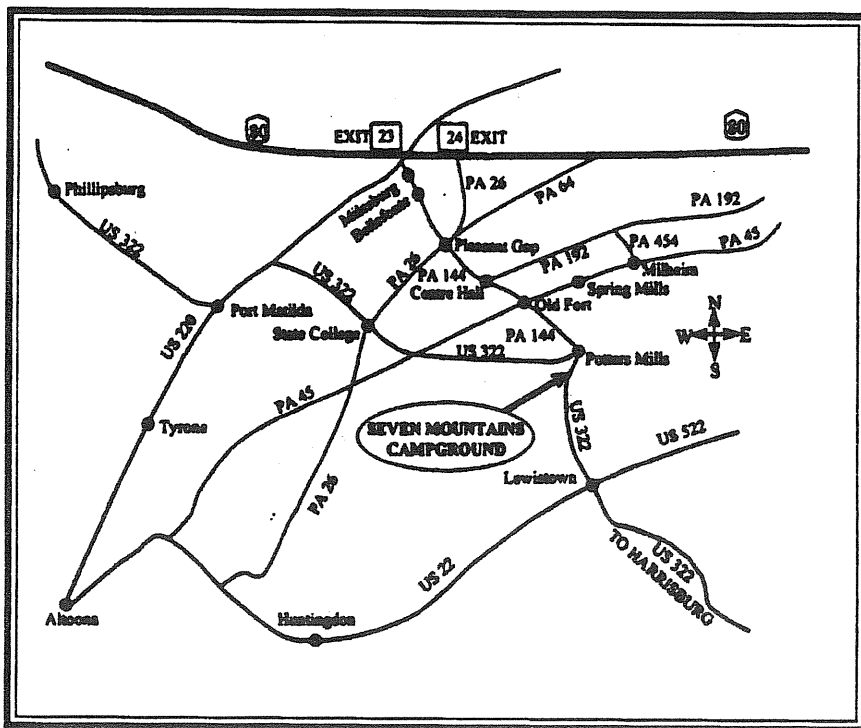
Registration begins at 4 pm Friday, Sept. 15. Your registration fee includes a tenting campsite, restroom and shower facilities, door prizes, slide show, beverages and a Sat. evening meal (vegetarian available). There will be a small fire ring to build a small fire for gathering around on Sat. evening. Many guided and self-guided caves to visit. We will try our best to have these caves open: Ruth, McAlisterville, Kookan, Milroy 2, Big Ridge, Penn Aqua, Alexander, Deerbone, Coonscat, Stitzer.

A PCC meeting will be held at 9:30 am. on Sunday morning. (All cavers invited.)

Since this is a public campground, there are certain rules which must be observed. Here are three: **Pets** must be on leash and cleaned up after. **No** washing pots, pans, etc. in the bathhouse. **Quiet** time is 11 pm. to 7 am. (A complete set of rules will be available at registration.)

The cost is \$24 per adult, \$21 per teen (12-20), and \$4 for children under 12. Register by Sept. 11 and get a discount of \$3 per registrant (except children under 12).

The site is 2.4 miles south of Potters Mills, Pa. directly adjacent to and west of U.S Route 322.



Questions?

Keith D. Wheeland
2191 Mt. View Ave.
State College, PA 16801-7214

(814) 238-2057

kwheeland@home.com

Hosted by
Nittany Grotto



For information about the campground, see www.pamall.net/patra/7mntscampground.html

We are trying to get the MAR web site on the NSS server. It will be at www.caves.org/region/mar

Fall MAR 2000 - Registration Form - Sept. 15-17

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				Amount
Name _____	Adult	Teen	Child	_____
Address (including Zip Code) _____	Circle one			Grotto

Name 2 _____	Adult	Teen	Child	_____
Address (including Zip Code) _____	Circle one			Grotto

Name 3 _____	Adult	Teen	Child	_____
Address (including Zip Code) _____	Circle one			Grotto

Please make checks payable to **Nittany Grotto** and send form and check to

Keith D. Wheeland
 2191 Mt. View Ave.
 State College, PA 16801-7214
 (814) 238-2057 - kwheeland@home.com

Sub-total	_____
Discount	_____
Total	_____

The site is at the Seven Mountains Campground, 2.4 miles south of Potters Mills, Pa. directly adjacent to and west of U.S. Route 322.

MAR Breakdown
 RR 2 Box 360
 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

♣\$1.75 postage each bulletin

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

♦\$3.00 postage each bulletin

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