



BREAKDOWN

Volume 17, Number 1, April 2002

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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Vice Chair: **John Tudek**
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(570) 539-2107
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Treasurer: **Bette White**
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Petersburg, PA 16669
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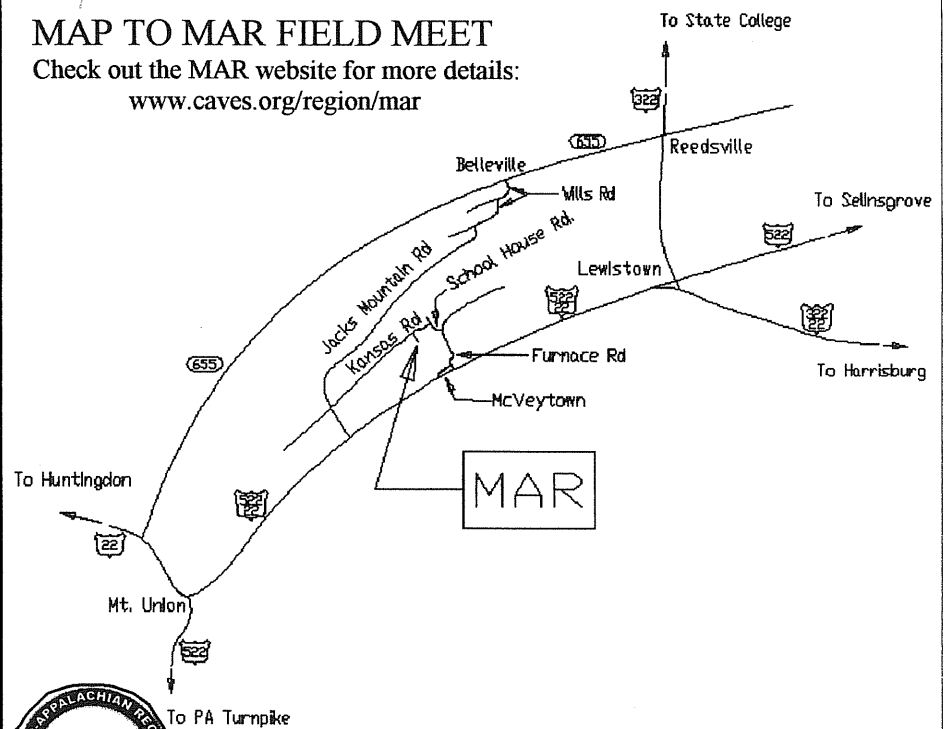
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(570) 539-2107
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MAR Spring Field Meet May 3-5, 2002 McVeytown, PA Seven Valleys Grotto hosting PCC Meeting May 5th, 10 am

MAP TO MAR FIELD MEET

Check out the MAR website for more details:

www.caves.org/region/mar



Inside

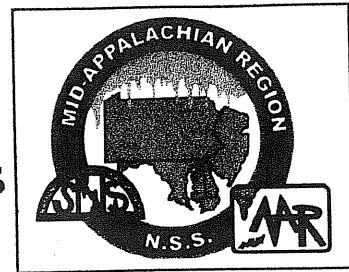
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MAR Meeting Minutes

23rd of February, 2002



Meeting called to order by Bob Gulden at 1:30 p.m. Feb 23rd 2002 at the home of Jay Herbein, Harrisburg, PA.

Secretary's Report: The Meeting Minutes of the 2001 meeting were approved as published in the last MAR newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was read by treasurer Bette White. Printed copies were distributed.

MAR Breakdown: Karen Bange apologized for the postage due on the January 2002 Breakdowns. The \$.23 donation to the MAR was appreciated. Currently the Breakdown is printed on 11X17 paper then folded. Thus the Breakdown pages have to be done in multiples of 4. Karen will start doing the Breakdown on 8 1/2 X11 paper and use staples down the sides. This will allow for any number of pages.

2001 Spring Field Meet: Franklin County Grotto reported the meet was well attended, the weather cooperated and there were good cave trips. One of the MAR road signs was lost at the event.

2001 Fall Field Meet: No one from Central Jersey was present to give a report. Those who did attend the event reported it was nicely done with good food, terrific weather and was quite emotional because of the recent events of 9/11.

MAR Web Site: The MAR webmaster, Christopher Catherman, reported the website is up and running. Lots of new items were added to the site. There is a list server with the site for individual emails and announcements. Web address is www.caves.org/region/mar/

MAR 50th Anniversary (2003): A discussion was initiated by Christopher Catherman in regards to the MARs 50th anniversary next year. Dale Ibberson and Keith Wheeland will work together to help fill in the gaps on past field meets and officers. Hosts for the 2003 MAR field meets should plan on doing something in honor of the MARs 50th anniversary.

MAR Bulletins: Will White reported three Bulletins are moving forward. Keith Christenson recently emailed Will that the CCLUM (Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Union and Montour) Bulletin is almost finished. Kim Metzgar and Jim Kennedy are working together on finishing Fayette Bulletin while Huntingdon Bulletin is moving along with the assistance of PSU students.

There was a discussion about reprinting out-of-print Bulletins. It was agreed that photocopies for personal use are okay. A motion was made, and accepted; to have Bette White, treasurer, look into the cost of reprinting on demand Bulletins and report back to the MAR.

Pennsylvania Cave Database: There are 1,557 entries in the database, including commercial caves, gated caves, mines and 11 fictional caves.

Cave Conservancy Reports: Franklin County Grotto reported Cleversburg Sink was sold this past year to South Hampton Township. The management/access is status quo.

Jon Pearson reported the Tytoona Cave Fund is paid off in full although the Preserve still needs funds for its annual operating budget.

Dale Ibberson continues as the liaison between the MAR and Game Commission. Bert

Ashbrook reported a bat count was done last week in Shofer Cave. Results are not known yet.

Nittany Grotto reported that McAlisterville Cave was broken into last month. The gate is scheduled to be replaced March 11th.

Harris Martin encouraged anyone working in a karst/watershed area to look into Growing Greener Program for the possibility of grant monies.

Seven Valleys Grotto reported Milroy 2 has been regated after the first gate was vandalized.

MAKC: No new reports.

MAR Incorporation: The MAR discussed the pros and cons of applying for tax-exempt status. There appears to be no advantage to being tax-exempt, as the MAR does not pay taxes.

A discussion followed on incorporation. The driving force behind incorporation is to protect the MAR and its officers in the event of a caving accident, especially at a field meet. Bert Ashbrook reported there would need to be some changes to the MAR government prior to incorporation. Bert will work with the MAR Chair to get the ball rolling on incorporation.

Hosting an MAR: Keith Wheeland and Bette White have prepared comprehensive guidelines for hosting an MAR field meet. (See page 6) A motion was made, and passed, to have the MAR secretary supply hosting grottos with a copy of the guidelines. The guidelines will also be posted on the MAR website. A motion was made, and passed, that the MAR considers anyone over the age of 17 to be an adult and pay full price to include the MAR fee.

2002 Spring Field Meet: Hosted by Seven Valleys Grotto at Rupert Cave, McVeytown. May 3-5th. All is going well; there will be great food and beverages, lots of cave trips, door prizes, squeeze box and music. Bring the good weather!! Flyers were passed around.

2002 Fall Field Meet: Commander Cody Caving Club reported the event is September 20-22 at the Lazy A Campground in West Virginia. They will serve an Italian dinner Saturday and hope to have a bluegrass band.

Spring 2003 and Fall 2003 Field Meets: Need hosts for these two events!! The 2003 Fall MAR meet will be the official MAR 50th anniversary celebration. There was some discussion of having this an MAR sponsored event instead of an individual grotto hosting the meet.

PCC Report: Meeting to follow the MAR Business Meeting.

Old Business: Bert Ashbrook has MAR Cave signs available.

New Business: Keith Wheeland reminded everyone there is a general NSS membership available for \$12. This type membership entitles the member to the NSS Membership Manual and Cave Accident Report only.

John Rosenfeld reported on the caving fatality that occurred in July. He reported the Mt Joy Fire Department has been paid in full for expenses incurred in the rescue. York Grotto is looking into a cave rescue fund in memory of Sharn Cleland.

Keith Wheeland reported there is no dialogue with the owners of J4 and the cave remains closed.

Bob Gulden reported there is a Bowden Cave cleanup scheduled for April 13th.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Bange, MAR Recording Secretary

Representatives at the meeting:
Bald Eagle Grotto, Baltimore Grotto, York Grotto, Nittany Grotto, Greater Allentown Grotto, Franklin County Grotto, Philly Grotto, Commander Cody Caving Club, South Jersey Grotto, Huntingdon County Cave Hunters, Mid Atlantic Karst Conservancy, Seven Valleys Grotto

MAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT: February 6, 2002

Gross Assets: February 5, 2001		
Checking:	302.39	
Savings:	10,425.78	
Total		10,728.17
Gross Assets:		
Checking:	483.18	
Savings:	11,741.68	
Total		12,224.86
Net Income (Loss) for 2001		1,496.69

ITEM	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET
INTEREST Savings = 77.40+78.56+82.85+77.03	315.84	-----	315.84

MAR FIELD MEETS

Spring '01 [Franklin Co] 105 adults		
MAR Income: 105 @ \$1.00	105.00	
MAR Bkdn: (105 @ \$4.00 = \$420.00 see below)		
MAR Profit: (½ Grotto/ ½ MAR)	36.00	
Fall '01 [Central New Jersey]: 58 adults		
MAR Income: 58 @ \$1.00	58.00	
MAR Bkdn: (58 @ \$4.00 = \$232.00 see below)		
MAR Profit: ((½ Grotto/ ½ MAR)	- 0 -	

Web Fee [12/01/01 – 11/30/02]		12.00
Field Meet/Web Fee: Net Income	-----	187.00

MAR Bulletins

MAR 20 Expenses not yet paid		
\$7,906.14 - (7 @ 29.50) = \$7,699.64 AMOUNT DUE		
Bulletin sales:	1,000.67	
Postage: 32.98 + 36.55 + 5.82		75.35
MAR Bulletin Sales: Net Income	-----	925.32

MAR BREAKDOWN (previous balance: 1,316.95)

Subscription paid directly to Treasurer	28.00	
Subscription (Spring '01 Field Meet: 105 adults)	420.00	
Subscription (Fall '01 Field Meet: 58 adults)	232.00	
Bkdn 16(1) 170 copies printed and mailed		
Printing: 123.91; postage: 61.20		185.11
Bkdn 16(2) 200 copies printed; 170 mailed		
Printing: 141.36; postage: 68.00		209.36
Bkdn 16(3) 200 copies printed and mailed		
Printing: 159.00; postage: 68.00		227.00

[New Breakdown balance: 1,316.95 + 58.53 = \$1,375.48]		
MAR Breakdown Subscription: Net Income	-----	58.53

CAVE LAW SIGNS (previous balance 540.39)

Cave sign sales	10.00	
[New Cave law sign balance = \$550.39]		
Net	-----	10.00

Totals	2,205.51	708.82	1,496.69
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Elizabeth L. White, Treasurer

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

The meeting was called to order by President, Pat Minnick, at the home of Jay Herbein in Harrisburg, Pa., at 4:15pm, Saturday, February 23, 2002.

The following officers were present.
President Pat Minnick, **V. Pres.** Karen Bange,
Secretary Keith D. Wheeland, **Treasurer** George Bange

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto - -	
Baltimore Grotto	Craig Hindman
Bucks County Grotto	Rich Rosevear
Central New Jersey Grotto	John Tudek
Commander Cody Caving Club	Harris Martin
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick
Greater Allentown Grotto	Dean Snyder
Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	Proxy
Nittany Grotto	Keith Wheeland
Philadelphia Grotto	Mike Mostardi
Pittsburgh Grotto - -	
Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
South Jersey Grotto	Bill Vis
York Grotto	Ted Sargent

There were other individuals present, including past president of the NSS, Jack Stellmack.

The treasurer, George Bange, reported a balance of \$273.34 in the checking account, and \$2,174.47 in the savings account for a total of \$2,447.81.

OLD BUSINESS:

PROJECT LIST:

Devil's Den, Sussex County, N.J. - No report.

Baker Caverns, Franklin Co., Pa. Pat Minnick reported that he thought the price for the property had dropped.

Dragon Cave, Berks County, Pa. - Mike Mostardi, et. al., reported that the original gate had been breached, and that a new attempt was being made to gate the cave. It is a Frank Eckert project.

J-4: Keith Wheeland reported that there has been no change in the status of J-4. The owner has asked that cavers not visit the cave.

PCC Brochure: The distribution of brochures was discussed. The Tytoona Cave Preserve and the Western

Pa. Conservancy were specifically mentioned. Persons who have ideas for distribution should contact Karen Bange.

According to PCC representatives, the initial distribution to show caves (as detailed in the minutes of Sep. 16, 2001) has been completed.

The PCC Secretary sent Gordon Ley a thank-you letter for his help in getting the brochures printed. **Web Page:** David Fricke, the web master, provided a written report.

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

PCC Cave Calendar: After much discussion, a motion was made by Commander Cody, seconded by Baltimore to drop the calendar project. Passed. The benefit to the PCC is small compared with the effort and expense.

Web Page: David Fricke, the web master, provided an oral and written report (included).

Growing Greener Grant Money: Harris Martin reported again that there is money available for water related projects. He urged members to consider karst/hydrology projects and apply for grants.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections: Pat Minnick and Keith Wheeland decided not to seek re-election. Candidates were Karen Bange, Chris Catherman, Kim Kehs, Rich Rosevear, Ted Sargent, and Joe Schock. The following officers were elected.

President: Kim Kehs

V. President: Rich Rosevear

Secretary: Karen Bange

Treasurer: George Bange

The PCC representatives thanked the many candidates who were on the slate this year. They also thanked the outgoing officers for their work.

Spring 2002 MAR Pancake Breakfast: The Spring 2000 MAR field meet will be hosted by Seven Valleys Grotto at the Rupert Cave Campground the weekend of May 4, 2002.

A pancake breakfast will be served on Sunday morning with proceeds to benefit the PCC. Alan Horn has again volunteered to chair and fund the breakfast.

The PCC, by acclamation, decided to pay Alan's registration fee for the Spring 2002 MAR.

McAlisterville Cave Gate: Keith Wheeland reported that the gate on McAlisterville Cave had been vandalized. The Nittany Grotto has a written agreement with the landowner to maintain a gate and control access in order for the cave to remain open and accessible to cavers. A new gate will be installed on Monday Mar. 11 (and the 12th, if necessary). Volunteers are invited. After the gate is installed, a reward will be posted in the local newspaper for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for vandalizing the gate. It is also possible that a cave conservation related article may be written for the local newspaper.

Merkel Cave: Mike Mostardi reported on an attempt by trespassing cavers to dig open the cave. Their attempt

was foiled. They found the obscure site by using GPS. Another attempt will be made to contact the owner about gating the cave.

Cleversburg Sink: Pat Minnick reported that access to the cave hasn't changed, although the exact ownership of nearby properties at the site is unclear.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be on Sunday May 5, 2002 at 10 a.m. at the Rupert Cave Campground.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m., February 23, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith D. Wheeland, Outgoing Secretary

Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins

NSS Member Price List

1-4	REPRINT VOLUME: Constitution and Caves of Shippensburg	7.00+ postage A
8	REPRINT Caves of Blair Co., PA	OUT OF PRINT
9	Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA	OUT OF PRINT
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA 20 caves, 14 maps	5.00 + 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	5.00+ postage A
14	Caves of Bucks, Co., PA	OUT OF PRINT
15	Caves of Lehigh Co., PA 25 caves, 13 maps	5.00+ 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+3.00 each postage ♦

U.S. Postage Handling:

A \$1.80 each copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address

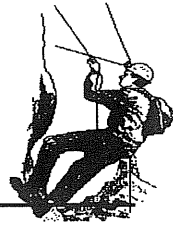
B \$2.00 postage each bulletin; \$0.50 each additional to same address

♦\$3.00 postage each bulletin #20

MAR Bulletin Orders: Please make checks payable to MAR

Order from: Bette White, RR 1 Box 527, Petersburg, PA 16669-9211

**2002 Spring MAR
May 3-5, 2002
McVeytown, PA**



Principal Registrant's Name: _____

Address: _____ **Daytime Phone:** _____

_____ **Evening Phone:** _____

Primary Grotto Affiliation: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone of Contact: _____

Additional Registrants

Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Relationship to Principal Registrant: _____

Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Relationship to Principal Registrant: _____

Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Relationship to Principal Registrant: _____

	Unit Cost	Quantity	Cost
Adult Registration (Before April 3rd)	\$17.50		
Adult Registration (After April 3rd)	\$20		
Children (Ages 6-12)	\$10		
Children Under 6	Free		
Totals:			
Vegetarian Meals (Must pre register)	No extra charge		

Seven Valley Grotto, its members, the MAR and private landowners take no responsibility for any injuries or losses that might be sustained during the 2002 MAR meet and any associated activities. Participation by the undersigned is at their own risk, and they accept responsibility for the safety of all other participants (children and adults) who are listed on this registration.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Return with registration fee to:

2002 Spring MAR c/o Karen Bange, RR 2 Box 360 Mt Pleasant Mills, PA 17853
Call George or Karen Bange (570) 539-2107 if you have questions
Email: rupert@prolog.net

MAR Breakdown
RR 2 Box 360
Mt Pleasant Mills, PA 17853

***Spring MAR 2002
May 3-5th
McVeytown, PA***

Registration Fee Includes

- Bonfire in the quarry both nights
ABSOLUTELY NO OPEN FIRES EXCEPT AT ESTABLISHED SITES
- Dinner Saturday night (bring your chair to dinner)
- Beverages to include beer in the evenings, coffee in the mornings,
and non alcoholic beverages throughout the MAR
- 1999 Fall MAR Guidebooks will be sold by York Grotto at registration (\$8 per guidebook)
Guidebook includes large foldout maps of Alexander, Rupert and Big Ridge Caves
- There is no camping fee

PCC Sponsored Pancake Breakfast on Sunday

Registration Information

- Register before April 3rd and get a discount
- Refunds are available, if requested by April 19, 2002
- Make checks payable to Karen Bange and mail to:
2002 Spring MAR c/o Karen Bange
RR 2 Box 360, Mt Pleasant Mills, PA 17853

Questions? Call George or Karen Bange (570) 539-2107 or rupert@prolog.net

Or check out the MAR website: www.caves.org/region/mar