

BREAKDOWN

Volume 18, Number 1, April 2003

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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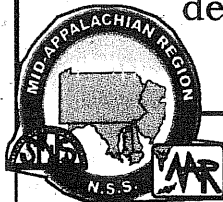
MAR Spring Field Meet
May 9-11, 2003
Old Timers Campground
Dailey, West Virginia
PCC Meeting May 11th, 9 am

Cavers Buying Caves!

Ed and Kim Kehs announced the purchase of Onyx Cave in Berks County at the PCC Meeting February 22, 2003.

The Mid Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC) announced a two year lease on Hesston Cave, Huntingdon County at the MAR Business Meeting February 22, 2003.

MAKC is also in the process of obtaining a lease on a second cave in Pennsylvania. Details to be announced after the management plan is developed.



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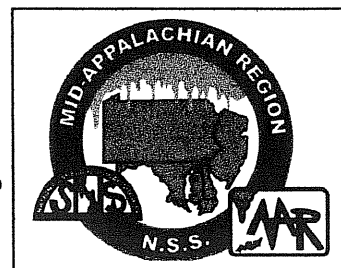
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MAR Meeting Minutes

22nd of February, 2003



Meeting called to order by Bob Gulden at 1:40 p.m. Feb 22nd 2003 at the home of Jay Herbein, Harrisburg, PA.

Secretary's Report: Keith Wheeland made a correction to the minutes: under the *Hosting an MAR* section, he and Bette White updated the guidelines. Carol Tideman and Hope McAdams originally wrote the guidelines. With the correction the Meeting Minutes of the 2002 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: Send any articles for publication to Karen Bange.

2002 Spring Field Meet: Seven Valleys hosted the event in McVeytown May 3-5th. 183 adults attended, there were 2 vendors, the meal was catered, the PCC breakfast made \$360. An \$880 profit was made with 50% going to the MAR and 25% each going to MAKC and PCC.

George Bange made a final comment for future consideration: the MAR should discuss the best approach to cave trip sign ups at an MAR event.

2002 Fall Field Meet: Philly Grotto and Commander Cody hosted the Fall MAR meet in Glengary, WV in September. 134 people attended. Mike Mostardi prepared the spaghetti feast for the banquet. A new gate on Silars Cave was installed over the weekend. The event broke even.

MAR Web Site: The MAR webmaster, Christopher Catherman, has moved to Maine. He will continue to maintain the site. Web address is www.caves.org/region/mar.

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MAR 50th Anniversary (2003): The 50th anniversary will be in conjunction with the Fall MAR field meet. The event will be at Peipers Cave. Ed and Kim Kehs are hosting the event with Greater Allentown Grotto's support. There will be primitive camping. Help cleaning up the site would be appreciated. Anyone interested in helping should contact Ed Kehs.

MAR Bulletins: Will White reported nothing new on the CCLUM (Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Union and Montour) Bulletin. The Huntingdon County Bulletin is status quo. Will reported on a publication of Kookan and Tytoona in the works. This publication will focus on the geological aspects of the area.

The MAR thanked Gordon Birkhimer and John Pearson for the reprints of the MAR Bulletins.

Pennsylvania Cave Database: Keith Wheeland reported there are 1,580 entries in the database.

Cave Conservancy Reports: Pat Minick reported that the access is the same for Cleversburg Sink; the land is owned by the South Hampton Township. As of December 2002 the water level in the cave was up to the ladder.

There was discussion on cave diving in Tytoona. There are specific regulations involved with any dives in Tytoona. See article on page 4 titled **Tytoona Cave Diving Guidelines**

Keith Wheeland reported a new gate has been installed on McAlisterville Cave. There was a write up in the local papers about the gate and cave conservation.

Keith also reported that Sharer Cave is gated. The access policy was published in the January 2003 Breakdown.

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Ed Kehs reported that Carpenter Cave in Northampton County is being regated by Greater Allentown Grotto.

Dale Ibberson continues to be the liaison between the MAR and the Game Commission.

MAKC: Kim Metzgar reported MAKC has a lease on Hesston Cave in Huntingdon County. The first year of the lease MAKC will focus on project work.

MAKC is also in the process of obtaining a lease on a second cave. The management plan needs to be worked out before the lease can be announced.

MAR Incorporation: Copies of the MAR Article of Incorporation were attached to the agenda. The Article of Incorporation still needs to be reviewed by a lawyer. Anyone with input or changes to the Article of Incorporation should contact Bob Gulden.

2003 Spring Field Meet: The Spring MAR Field meet will be May 9-11 at the TRA site in Dailey, WV. The pre-registration cost is \$17 per person not \$16 as published in the last Breakdown. No dogs will be allowed.

2003 Fall Field Meet: See the 50th anniversary report.

Bat Moratorium: Nittany Grotto made a proposal for uniform cave closure dates in Pennsylvania. The proposal was published in the January 2003 Breakdown. Nittany Grotto made a motion to accept the proposal, this was seconded by Seven Valleys Grotto. Discussion followed on several issues related to changing the current dates of cave closures; how disturbance of the bats during swarming could effect their selection of hibernaculum, that the proposal is voluntary and open to landowner discretion, there has been a noted increase in bat populations with the current cave closure dates in place, if the MAR even has the power to impose the motion, how the proposed date change could effect grottos and MAR field

meets, what constitutes "disturbance" of the bats, how is other cave life effected by traffic in caves, and the MAR taking a proactive stance prior to the possibility of the Game Commission intervening.

Baltimore Grotto made a motion to postpone Nittany Grotto's motion indefinitely. Huntingdon County Cave Hunters seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion to postpone the motion passed.

Chris Sanders encouraged individual grotto discussion and list serve discussion on the topic.

PCC Report: Meeting to follow the MAR Business Meeting.

New Business: Dale Ibberson introduced Sarah Good a new York Grotto member.

Keith Wheeland is looking to hand off the job of maintaining the MAR address list. Anyone interested in taking on the duty contact Keith.

Kim Kehs announced she is not going to chair a 2006 Pennsylvania Convention. Anyone interested in pursuing this endeavor should contact Carol Tideman.

Mike Mostardi reported on an individual who contacted, and joined, Commander Cody Caving Club and is also involved in cave for pay group adventures. The individual is Russ Teeney from the Ligonier Camp and Conference Center. Grottos are encouraged to be aware of this kind of activity and to not share cave information with cave for pay groups.

Keith Wheeland reported on a new grotto in Indiana, PA. The grotto has applied for a charter with the NSS. The grotto is Pennsylvania Inter-earth Grotto (PIG).

2004 Spring Field Meet: York Grotto tentatively agreed to host this field meet.

2004 Fall Field Meet: Buffalo Valley Grotto has tentatively agreed to host this field meet.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.
The next meeting is February 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Bange, MAR Recording Secretary

Representatives at the MAR meeting:

Baltimore Grotto, York Grotto, Nittany Grotto,
Greater Allentown Grotto, Franklin County Grotto,
Philly Grotto, Commander Cody Caving Club,
Huntingdon County Cave Hunters, Mid Atlantic
Karst Conservancy, Seven Valleys Grotto, Buffalo
Valley Grotto, Bald Eagle Grotto

Tytoona Cave Diving Guidelines:

A/ A letter of intent specifying reason, planned dive date, group size, experience and participant credentials must be received by the Tytoona Cave Preserve Director (Manager) no later than 30 days prior to the planned dive.

B/ All planned dives into Tytoona will be reviewed by the Tytoona Cave Preserve Management Committee. The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject all diving requests unless told otherwise by the NSS Board of Governors.

C/ The National Speleological Society, Tytoona Cave Preserve Management Committee and members of the Huntingdon County Cave Hunters, Inc. (NSS chapter); will **not** be liable for any damages, injuries, or death, on the surface or subsurface of the property.

D/ The following requirements must also be met by each member of the dive team:

1) Each diver must be certified "NSS/CDS Full Cave" or equivalent and have attained the NSS/CDS Abe Davis Award, equivalent national organization award, or documented means of proof to show at least 100 dives of variety types (i.e. copy of dive logs, etc.)

2) Each diver must have sump diving experience or be partnered with and accompanied by an experienced sump diver who recognizes and accepts the additional safety burden of operating within a dive team that may contain inexperienced sump divers.

E/ Each diver who qualifies under these guidelines must sign appropriate liability forms.

F/ As part of the submitted dive plan, an appropriately trained and willing rescue dive team contact must be provided to the Committee. Availability will be confirmed by the Committee.

G/ Approval or denial will be given to the request submitter at least seven (7) days prior to the proposed dive date. Management Committee members will be on-site at the time of the dive and reserve the right to call or abort the dive due to the condition of the cave, equipment or personnel.

H/ Copies of photos, dive trip reports, accident reports, scientific study or survey data and any other documentation resultant from the dive, must be provided to the Tytoona Cave Preserve Director (Manager). Publication of sensitive areas of the cave is prohibited unless approved by the Tytoona Cave Preserve Committee. Non-compliance on this point will result in denial of all future diving privileges at Tytoona.

I/ Potential divers must fill out and return the "Tytoona Diver Application" for review by the Tytoona Dive Rescue Team and Tytoona Cave Preserve Committee.

MAR SPRING MEET

In conjunction with the VAR Spring Meeting
At the Old Timers Campground, Dailey, West Virginia

May 9-11, 2003

You are invited to the Spring 2003 meeting of the Mid-Appalachian Region of the NSS. The event will be held at the site of the annual Old Timers Reunion near Dailey, WV, on May 9-11, 2003. There will be caving, dinner, a program, a party, and generally, a good time in relaxed atmosphere.

Why Attend? If you are new to caving, or you have never attended a MAR meeting, this is a great way to meet other cavers, see some new caves, check out the vendors, and see what is happening in the Regions (MAR & VAR).

Camping & Facilities: The Old Timers Reunion site hosts 2,100 cavers for OTR each year so there is plenty of room for camping. There are hot showers, city water, and portable toilets. Unfortunately, it will be too early in the season to have the sauna & hot tubs operational. There are no electric or sewer hookups.

Special Cleanup Trip: The conservation-project at this MAR will be to help VAR clean-up of Sharps Cave, a multi-mile cave located about an hour's drive south of the campground. Participants will also have the opportunity to tour the cave while helping to clean it. Lunch will be served to workers outside the cave.

Cave Trips: There will be several led trips to caves relatively close to the campground. Most of these trips are suitable for novices and all will return in time for dinner. There will be signup sheets at registration. There will also be a guidebook describing the area's caves and driving directions to them for those who wish to go caving on their own. MAR is looking for trips and trip leaders to help VAR.

Saturday Dinner: Dinner on Saturday will be catered by Koonie's Road Kill Grill. The menu for carnivores will be slow-cooked beef BBQ, but there will also be a vegetarian option.

Sunday Breakfast: VAR's Front Royal Grotto will be hosting a Fund Raising Pancake Breakfast on Sunday Morning.

Saturday Evening Program: After dinner on Saturday there will be a presentation by Craig Stihler on bats in West Virginia. Craig works for the WV Dept. of Natural Resources and is an expert on the bats in the state.

Vendors: We expect to have several speleo-vendors and this will be a good opportunity to purchase caver related items.

Directions: The campground is located off US 219 about 10 miles south of Elkins, WV. If you are coming from the north, go south on US 219 for about 8.5 miles after the stoplight at US 33 on the south side of Elkins. Turn left after the huge Bruce Hardwood factory onto Back Road 38. The campground is on the right in about a mile. From the south go about eight miles north of Mill Creek and turn, right on Back Road 38 after you pass through the hamlet of Dailey.

More Info: Check the latest 2003 Spring Meet information at www.psc-cavers.org/springvar2003.html. If you have any questions please contact Bob Gulden at (410) 674-4474 or caverbob@aol.com.

Spring 2003 MAR Meeting Preregistration Form

Name: _____ For Name Tag: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____ Grotto _____

Vegetarian meal? _____ Number of people @\$17.00 per person: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Preregistration cost is \$17 per person (\$5 for Subscription to the MAR Newsletter), on-site registration is \$22. Send this form and a check payable to "DC Grotto," to Spring MAR, c/o Bob Gulden, 1333 Chapelview Dr., Odenton, MD 21113. Payment must be received by May 3, 2003. If you want to register multiple people, please include their names on the back of the form. If you would like to subscribe to both the MAR & VAR Newsletters make check out for \$21 (\$5 MAR, \$4 VAR)

MAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT: January 10, 2003

Gross Assets: February 6, 2002

Checking:	483.18	
Savings:	11,741.68	
Total		12,224.86

Gross Assets: January 9, 2003

Checking:	326.16	
Savings:	14,979.30	
Total		15,305.46

Net Income (Loss) for 2002 **3,080.60**

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ITEM	INCOME	EXPENSES
INTEREST Savings =	317.68	317.68

MAR FIELD MEETS

Spring '02 [Seven Valleys Grotto: 183 adults]	
MAR Income: 183 @ \$1.00	183.00
MAR Bkdn: (183 @ \$4.00 = \$732.00 see below)	
MAR Profit: (½ Grotto/ ½ MAR)	440.23
Fall '02 [Phil. & Commander Cody: 123 adults]	
MAR Income: 123 @ \$1.00	123.00
MAR Bkdn: (123 @ \$4.00 = \$492.00 see below)	

Web Fee

Checks	29.50
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Field Meet: Net Income **716.73**

MAR Bulletins

MAR 20:: \$7,699.64-(16@29.50)=\$7,227.64.14 still owed

Bulletin sales:	2,058.67
Postage, envelopes	189.89
Expenses for Reprints 5,6,7,8,9,14,15	312.79

MAR Bulletin Sales: Net Income **1,555.99**

MAR BREAKDOWN (previous balance 1,375.48)

Subscription paid directly to Treasurer	15.00
Subscription (Spring '02 Field Meet)	732.00
Subscription (Fall '02 Field Meet)	492.00
Bkdn 17(1) 175 copies printed and mailed	
Printing: 130.00; postage: 59.38	189.38
Bkdn 17(2) 300 copies printed; 280 mailed	
Printing: 161.65; postage: 103.60	265.25
Bkdn 17(3) 270 copies printed and ? mailed	
Printing: 192.92; postage: 101.25	294.17

[New Breakdown balance: 1,244.16 + 72.79 = \$1,316.95]

MAR Breakdown Subscription: Net Income **490.20**

CAVE LAW SIGNS (previous balance 550.39)

[New Cave law sign balance = \$550.39]

Net **-0-**

Totals----- **4,361.58** ----- **1,280.98** **3,080.60**

Elizabeth L. White, Treasurer

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

The meeting was called to order by President, Kim Kehs, at the home of Jay Herbein in Harrisburg, Pa., at 4:30 pm, Saturday, February 23, 2002.

The following officers were present.

President K. Kehs	V. Pres. R. Rosevear
Secretary K. Bange	Treasurer G. Bange

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	--
Baltimore Grotto	Craig Hindman
Bucks County Grotto	Rich Rosevear
Buffalo Valley Grotto	Matt Neyhart
Central New Jersey Grotto	--
Commander Cody Caving Club	Harris Martin
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick
Greater Allentown Grotto	Dean Snyder
Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	--
Nittany Grotto	Keith Wheeland
Philadelphia Grotto	Mike Mostardi
Pittsburgh Grotto	Tom Metzgar-Proxy
Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
South Jersey Grotto	--
York Grotto	Dale Ibberson

There were other individuals present

Secretary Report: The minutes were accepted as published in the Breakdown.

Treasurer Report: George Bange, reported a balance of \$228.844 in the checking account, and \$3,547.18 in the savings account for a total of \$3,776.02.

Web Page: David Fricke, the web master, has added a counter to the site. There are approximately 15 hits daily.

PCC Bumper Sticker: Keith Wheeland is donating the bumper stickers to the PCC. Dean Snyder will keep the bumper stickers with the PCC T shirts.

PCC Breakfast: There will be no PCC breakfast at the Spring MAR meet. Alan Horn agreed to do the breakfast at the fall meet. Alan is looking for help and donations for the event.

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

PCC Brochure: George Bange has brochures available.

Growing Greener Grant: Harris Martin reported there is a new interim DEP Secretary and that last year's budget was cut in half so who knows what will happen this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

PROJECT LIST:

Baker Caverns: Franklin County, PA.- status quo.

Dragon Cave: Berks County, PA -The owner does not want the cave gated.

J-4: Centre County, PA-status quo.

McAlisterville Cave: Juniata County, PA.- Everything is status quo and the cave should be removed from the project list.

Merkle Cave: Berks County, PA.- no changes.

Cleversburg Cave: Franklin County, PA.- status quo with the township.

Sharer Cave: Centre County, PA.- Nittany Grotto is the contact for access into the cave.

Christmas Cards: Karen Bange sent out 16 Christmas cards to landowners. PCC brochures were included with the cards.

Legislation: Harris Martin spoke about an Environmental Liability Law. PCC members are encouraged to write to their state legislature asking them not to pass this bill.

Mail: There was no new mail. Karen Bange did respond to the correspondence from the US Geological Survey Library asking for an update of the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy newsletter. Karen directed them to the PCC website.

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2006 NSS Convention: Kim Kehs will not proceed with the chairing the event. Anyone interested in pursuing a Pennsylvania Convention should contact Carol Tideman.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections: The following officers were re-elected.

President: Kim Kehs
V. President: Rich Rosevear
Secretary: Karen Bange
Treasurer: George Bange

Woodward Cave: Matt Neyhart, Buffalo Valley Grotto, introduced himself and his wife, Shannon. They have the lease to the cave and are open to gift shop inventory. They are willing to sell PCC items and have PCC brochures at the cave.

Onyx Cave: Ed and Kim Kehs have settlement on the purchase of Onyx Cave February 27th. They plan to make the cave into a commercial venture.

Pennsylvania Inter-earth Grotto: A motion was made by Nittany Grotto to invite PIG to attend a PCC meeting after they get their NSS charter. Franklin County Grotto seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed. Keith will send Karen Bange PIG's address so she can send them an invitation.

Cave For Pay: Commander Cody Caving Club made a motion stating the PCC is opposed to cave for pay without permission from the landowner. The motion was seconded by Nittany Grotto. Dave Fricke pointed out this statement is already on the PCC website.

Nittany Grotto made an amendment to the first motion that states PCC doesn't support caving without the landowner's permission. Franklin County Grotto made a motion to substitute the wording to read PCC is collectively concerned by the apparent recent trend of cave for pay without the landowner's permission. Nittany seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the substitute motion was passed.

Follow up discussion on the matter centered on whether this was really a PCC concern, how much of the recent cave for pay activity is new and how to prevent cave for pay people from infiltrating into grottos.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be on Sunday May 10, 2003 at 9 a.m. at the Old Timers Site, Daily, West Virginia

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m., February 22, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Bange, Recording Secretary

**Don't forget to check out both the
MAR web site and the PCC web site
for the latest information and upcoming events!**

The MAR web page is at:

www.caves.org/region/mar/

The PCC web page is at:

www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc

The MAR web page also has a listserver which can be found at

www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/MAR-NSS/

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

Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins [including reprinted Bulletins]

NSS Member Price List

Effective May 2002

1-4	REPRINT VOLUME: Bulletins #1-4		7.00 + postage
5	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Western PA	29 caves, 19 maps 76pp	8.00 + postage A
		Armstrong, Clarion, Fayette, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Westmoreland Counties	
6	REPRINT VOLUME:	93 caves 69 maps/5 large maps 126 pp	12.00 + postage B
		Caves of Southern Cumberland Valley, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin Counties	
7	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Fulton Co., PA	4 caves, 4 maps 17pp	5.00 + postage A
8	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Blair Co., PA	89 caves, 40 maps 90 pp	7.00 + postage
9	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA	94 caves, 36 maps	10.00 + postage B
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	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Bucks Co., PA	24 caves, 6 maps 43 pp	5.00 + postage A
15	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Lehigh Co., PA	25 caves, 13 maps 35 pp	6.00 + 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

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

B \$2.00 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address.

◆ \$3.00 postage for each bulletin #20

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