



Volume 22, Number 2, August 2007

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.

Chair:	-						
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Welcome to the October 12th -14th Fall 2007MAR-VAR Field Meet

Triangle Troglodytes Grotto is co-hosting the event along with the Philadelphia Grotto which is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

It will be held at the Robertson Association Grounds (OTR Site) in Daily, West Virginia. Plenty of camping sites and hot showers available. However, the sauna and hot tub equipment that is traditionally part of OTR will not be available.

More information can be found at the event web site www.philly60th.org

There will be numerous guided and non-guided cave trips. Participants are encouraged to sign up at the event on Friday evening for the guided cave trips they plan to participate in. A guidebook will be provided.

Friday Evening a DJ will provide music entertainment.. Live music for the Saturday Night Philadelphia Grotto 60th celebration will be provided by the music group "Rush Hour". "Rush Hour" is a West Virginia based, 5 piece Bluegrass band, formed by experienced musicians who have been on the Bluegrass circuit. The band has a vast selection of original material, strong instrumentation and spectacular vocals that will be sure to turn heads in the world of Bluegrass. They were winners of the 2006 Rising Star Band Competition held at the Springtime in Kentucky Bluegrass Festival, Greenup, KY and other competitions.

A catered meal will be provided Saturday evening. There will also be a vegetarian meal option.

Special presentations and activities are planned. International guests will be present. Caving vendors will be there.

Pre-registration is encouraged. All cavers are cordially invited to attend.



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Spring 2007 MAR Field Meet Hosted by Buffalo Valley Grotto

by Matt Neyhart

The 2007 Spring MAR Field meet went off even better than the last one we hosted. Friday was marked by set-up, some lager and a small number of folks showing up before I would've dreamed possible; one group showed up about eight that morning. The rest of us got there somewhere around lunch, with things ready to go in short order. Registration went great, it looked like we might even profit. We tried for in-cave movie night, however due to video complications, it didn't quite happen. A big thank you goes out to Amos for saving the day with slides. Trip sign ups were laid out as well, with quite a buzz of signing at the pavilion. There was a tad bit of railroading at this point too.

Saturday morning started with coffee and the clamber of folks getting ready to head out on trips. The guided trips went well, and the folks who took off for other caves or digs had a good time of it, too. Then dinner came, and man, quite the dinner. Clems cooked up some ribs and chicken, and yet again the stuff was amazing. Carol cooked up some great veggie chili for those of the non-carnivorous nature and I don't think anyone went away hungry.

Following dinner Joe Kearns gave a great presentation and door prizes were distributed while the fire was prepared. Special thanks go out to all the kids who helped draw numbers and the organizations that donated the prizes as well. We lit the bonfire, and it was an evening of relaxation and fellowship for all. The big French fry vat went off somewhere around eleven providing at least part of the very important BVG tradition of second dinner for all those who stopped by the pavilion.

The event went incredibly well, but it couldn't have without the help of many folks. I want to take a second to recognize a few people within the grotto who spearheaded most of this, big kudos to Colleen and Sara for more than hard work. Special thanks goes out to all those lead trips (especially those railroaded at the last minute), to members of Bald Eagle Grotto for helping with set-up, to Woodward Cave Campground for their donation of wood for the bonfire and everything else unseen, to all those that showed up and took part in the event, and to anyone else I might have forgot. It was a great MAR, and on the financial side of things, the BVG actually made a small profit. Thanks again, we'll see you next time.

Host Needed For The 2008 Spring MAR

As of August 2007 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2008 Spring MAR. If you are interested in hosting the event a helpful guide to hosting an MAR field meet can be found on page 6 of this Breakdown issue and on the MAR website. A listing of the past MAR hosts can be found in the August 2006 Breakdown. Think about it- can you or your grotto host the event? If there are no volunteers there will be no spring field meet. If you're interested in hosting the event, please contact an MAR officer.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am May 18th by President Pat Minnick at Woodward Campground in Woodward, PA.

The following officers were present.

President P. Minnick

Secretary K. Bange

Treasurer

G. Bange

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto

JD Lewis

Baltimore Grotto

Bucks County Grotto

Vince Kappler- proxy

Buffalo Valley Grotto Central New Jersey Grotto Matt Neyhart Frank Strahan

Commander Cody Caving Club

Franklin County Grotto Greater Allentown Grotto Pat Minnick

Dean Snyder

Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters Dean Snyder-proxy Nittany Grotto Gary Dunmire Philadelphia Grotto Amos Mincin

Pennsylvania Inner-Earth Grotto Pittsburgh Grotto

Seven Valleys Grotto

Joe Schock-proxy

York Grotto

Secretary Report: Pat Minnick reviewed the minutes from the February 2007 meeting as published in the Breakdown. A correction was noted to the minutes: Gretchen Williams was the actual PCC rep for Seven Valleys Grotto at the meeting, not Joe Schock as written. Motion made and passed to accept the minutes as corrected.

Treasurer Report: George Bange reported on the PCC financial status. See published report.

Web Page: Dave Fricke reported the addition of GUIDELINES FOR HOSTING A PCC BREAKFAST to the PCC website

PCC Breakfast: There will be no PCC breakfast at the 2007 Fall MAR/VAR.

PCC Brochure: Contact George Bange for PCC brochures

Mail: Dean Snyder reported there has been no mail since the last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project List:

Baker Caverns: Franklin, County, PA- Pat Minnick reported there are tenants living in the house. The property has been taken off the market until further notice.

Dragon Cave: Berks County, PA- No report. J-4: Centre County, PA-No change in status Red Church Cave: Schuylkill County, PA- No change in status

Merkle Cave: Berks County, PA.- No change in status

Cleversburg Cave: Franklin County, PA.- Pat Minnick reported Franklin County Grotto (FCG), in conjunction with Southampton Township, has drafted a management plan for the cave. At this time there is no access into the cave. The current key system will be changing and groups wanting to go into the cave will most likely have to contact an individual to obtain permission and the key. Pat reported the water level is still up in the cave. Corker Hill: Franklin County, PA- Amos Mincin reported on the April 20th bat count trip into the cave with Greg Turner of the PA Game Commission. Four bats were counted in Frustration Pit and 24 were counted in Corker Hill. Most of the bats were Pipistrelles. Based on the count, the Game Commission does not consider either cave of significance for a bat hibernacula. There have been no further negotiations with WASHCO Homes, the current landowner. They remain concerned about liability and the caves are closed at present. No development has occurred on the cave property.

Schofer Cave: Berks County, PA- no report Durham Cave: Berks County, PA- No report Penn Aqua: Mifflin County, PA- JD Lewis reports the new landowner is friendly but does not live on the property. JD agreed to provide the landowner with the PA Landowner Liability Act.

PA Cave Database: Keith Wheeland has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. Steve Shawver has agreed to contact Keith to discuss management of the PA Cave Database.

NEW BUSINESS:

York Grotto is surveying the caves on the Valley Quarry property. They are using GPS coordinates to locate the caves in the area. Anyone wanting access to go onto the Valley Quarry property must first complete release forms. Contact Pat Minnick for forms.

Topo Maps: Jon Pearson contacted the PCC about donating a full set of 7.5 minute topo maps for the entire Commonwealth. A motion was made, and passed, for JD Lewis to contact Jon about accepting the set of maps.

Sharer Cave: A trip went into Sharer Cave from the spring MAR and reported finding several dozen dead or dying bats at the bottom of level 7 in the cave. Karen Bange will contact the PA Game Commission to report the finding. Vince Kappler reported on an extensive bat kill discovered in Gage Caverns, New York this spring.

George Bange announced after 10 years as PCC treasurer he is resigning his post at the February meeting. Anyone interested in taking over the position can contact a current PCC officer or put their name on the ballot for PCC officers. Elections are held at the February meeting.

Next meeting: A motion was made, and passed, to have the next meeting of the PCC on Saturday, September 1, 2007 at the OTR pavilion. Be sure and mark your calendar accordingly as this is a change from holding the meeting at the fall MAR field meet. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25

Respectfully submitted, Karen Bange, Recording Secretary



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Financial Summary

2/20/2007 to 5/16/2007

CHECKING ACCOUNT: Beginning Balance:		\$241.84
Deposits :		\$0.00
	Expenses	
Total Expenses :		\$0.00
Ending Balance :		\$241.84
SAVINGS ACCOUNT: Beginning Balance ;		\$6,230.05
Total Donations :	Donations Lost River Caverns \$100.00	\$100.00
	Other Income	
Total Income:		\$0.00
Interest:		\$25.85
Withdrawals:		\$0.00
Ending Balance :		\$6,355.90
COMBINED TOTAL:		\$6,597.74

ADDENDUM/CORRECTIONS TO THE 2007 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES Jay and Kathy Herbein

The April 2007 Breakdown contained minutes of the February 24th MAR Business Meeting at our home.

In those minutes it was mentioned that Kathy and I have hosted this meeting for 42 years and that the MAR "should start to think about a new location for holding the meeting." I wish to clarify what some might misconstrue pertaining to that statement.

Before that meeting started I had mentioned to Chairman Bob Gulden that it might be prudent to sound out the attendees for someone willing to host the Business Meetings in future years. This was not to imply that we no longer cared to host them. Nothing could be further from the truth. We hope to be able to do so indefinitely.

But let's face it. No one is immortal. I'm possibly the oldest geezer at the meetings! I presently have no physical infirmities to prevent the considerable efforts needed to prepare the house for the meetings. Dale Ibberson, who hosts the annual party after the meetings, goes through the same clean-up-and-straighten-out efforts in preparation. My intent in mentioning the matter to Bob was to plan for the future when Kathy and I might be unable, for whatever reason, to be your genial hosts. As I said, MAR/PCC meetings at our house are welcome for the indefinite future.

Does this clear up any doubts in anyone's mind?

Silers Cave, Hedgesville, West Virginia Is Closed

According to Jim McConkey, the Silers Cave contact and key holder, the cave is now closed. The land around it has been sold and the new owners have shut down visitations.

For the latest news and information on upcoming events check out the MAR web site and the PCC web site

The MAR web page is at: www.caves.org/region/mar

The PCC web page is at: www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc

MAR OFFICER ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT THE FALL MAR FIELD MEET

Anyone interested in having their name put on the ballot should contact a current MAR Officer

Get involved!!

HOSTING A MAR FIELD MEET

Pre-plan:

Make an estimate of the number of cavers you expect to attend. This estimate is the "key" to the success of the event. Use past events as a guide. Consider whether it's Spring or Fall (attendance varies).

Consider whether it's a special event besides the MAR meet (Anniversaries usually attract more attendees). Consider how much publicity you will be providing - early and sustained publicity increases attendance. Field meets can be publicized through means of the MAR Breakdown, MAR website, MAR listserv, the NSS News, and others. Send pertinent Field meet information to the MAR Breakdown editor and MAR website administrator for posting.

After you decide on the number you expect, then have a contingency plan if you find you are going to exceed that number as time for the event draws closer (Pre-registration helps to determine final attendance).

Budget:

Prepare an event budget by using your initial estimate of the number of attendees. Some budget items to consider are:

- Saturday evening meal. To include food, and utensils
- Saturday evening beverages. (If you are providing good beer, then the non-alcoholic beverages (sodas) should be brand name also)
- Optional coffee, tea, donuts, and/or bagels for Sunday morning
- Any site fees
- · Port-a-potties if needed
- Publicity costs, printing, mailing, etc. (note that the publicity in the MAR Breakdown, website, and listserv is free)
- Registration costs (paper, pencils, name badges, etc.)
- Costs associated with direction signs
- Guidebook expenses
- · Any other anticipated expense

Using the figures, determine a cost per attendee. Set your initial fee at this amount plus a little extra for a safeguard.

Plan on a discount for children: For example, under 6 - free; 6 to 12 - half price.

You must also collect \$5.00 from each adult to be submitted to the MAR. (\$4.00 for the MAR)

Breakdown and \$1.00 for MAR general fund.) This amount MUST be added to your initial calculated fee to arrive at the final registration fee. Please note that the MAR considers an "Adult" an individual 17 or older. Registrants younger than 17 that wish to receive the MAR Breakdown can do so by paying the \$5.00 subscription rate.

A concerted effort should be made to keep the fees in line with past events. Even if that means making a few extra dollars.

Registration:

Open the meet on Friday night and stay open until the wee hours. Many attendees arrive late due to various reasons. Open again early Saturday morning.

Collect the registration fee plus the name and full mailing address (must include zip code) for each attendee. For one registration, each adult attendee receives three issues of the <u>MAR Breakdown</u>. (Normally a year's subscription)

Field Meet Site:

Publish a clear, easy to follow map showing how to get to the field meet site. Post clearly marked LARGE signs along the route to the site. (Make sure they will be visible at night. Neon colors work well. Take into consideration of possible inclement weather.) Flagging tape helps to draw attention to the signs. Note: Large signs were made for the Fall 98 Field Meet. These are available from the host of the previous Field Meet.

- Secure adequate camping to service the size of the group you expect.
- Running water or some form of potable water, such as a water tank, is necessary and a must.
- Showers are always nice. (Hot water is wonderful!)
- A first aid station should be considered at the registration site.
- Accessibility to a public phone is always helpful.

Food and Beverage:

A good meal should be planned for Saturday evening. Please consider vegetarians in your planning as an alternative meal. This is where pre-registration is very helpful.

Have plenty of beverages available, including quality non-alcoholic ones (diet and regular). These should be available Saturday evening. Friday night beverages are optional. Coffee and tea on Sunday morning is a plus and should be considered.

Structured Activities:

Here are some ideas for activities at the field meet. You may have others depending on the time of year and the specific location of the site chosen.

- Have guided cave trips. These can be personally guided or have good cave maps and directions to the caves. A Guide Book is a major plus!
- Cave cleanup, survey project, or a dig
- Surveying orienteering Speleobiking or Surface orienteering
- A geology field trip of the local area
- A slide program
- Invite an equipment vendor(s)
- A guest speaker on cave related topics
- · Door prizes are always a nice touch
- Auction of speleo items for conservancy fundraising
- Squeezebox activities or contests

Have information available for laid-back or noncavers. Consider one or more of the following activities:

- Biking
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Rock Climbing
- Canal Walking
- Canoeing or Kayaking
- Antique Shopping
- Regular Shopping
- Commercial Caving
- Historical Interests
- Visiting other local interests and attractions, etc.

Vendors:

Vendors are usually willing to pay the registration fee for the field meet. However, they should not be required to pay a set-up fee.

Many vendors are happy to provide a door-prize if they are treated well.

If you have a commitment from a vendor, make it known in your publicity. It may draw more attendees, and not only is it fair to the vendor, but shows good relations.

Consider a vendor site in a highly visible area and let them know about the availability of amenities such as electricity.

MAR Elections:

If you're hosting the Fall Meet, make provisions for MAR elections. It is nice to have pre-printed ballots, however, at minimum, have small pieces of paper and pencils available for writing.

The sponsor of the field meet does not have to provide the names of nominees for the election, the MAR Nominating Committee will take care of that.

Profit and Loss:

Careful planning is the "key" for a successful event. Carefully planned events have never lost money. If you lose money, the sponsor MUST absorb the loss. If you make money, fifty percent of the profits are to be remitted to the MAR. (This is in addition to the \$5 fee you collected for the MAR, which is automatically handed over.) (see above message under "Budget")

After the Event:

- Please have someone write a brief report about the event to include total number of attendees, menu, events/activities held, unusual happenings, weather conditions, etc. Publish this report in your local grotto newsletter. Whether it is published locally or not, please send a copy of the report to the editor of the "MAR Breakdown" for publication.
- 2) Send two things to the Treasurer of the MAR.
 - A) MAR fee collections plus 50% of the profits.
 - B) An accounting summary of the funds.
 (Use form of page
- 3) To the keeper of the MAR addresses, send a list of the names and full addresses (including zip code) of the attendees for which you collected the \$5 MAR fee. You may send the actual registration forms as long as it is clear which attendees are adults. The forms will be returned.

*Credit is given to Carol Tiderman et. al., for originally providing the above information which was originally published in the *MAR Breakdown*, Vol. 6, No. 1, March 1991, and than re-printed in Vol. 13, No. 3, January 1999 and Vol. 17, No. 2 August 2002 with a few additions by the editor.

Keith Wheeland and Bette White have added additional information. In addition, a few ideas and comments have been added by the MAR Webmaster for the online version.

You can also find this information on the MAR website:

www.caves.org/region/mar

Please submit this report to the Treasurer of the MAR	
Date of MAR Field Meet:	Treasurer of MAR
No. of adults attending: @ \$5.00 = (A) \$ INCOME: Registration fees collected (B) \$ (over and above the \$5.00 MAR Fee.)	Bette White 4538 Miller Road Petersburg, PA 16669-9211 (814) 667-2709 wbw2@psu.edu
Other Income (C) \$	
Total Income (D) \$	Editor MAR Breakdown
EXPENSES: (Itemize)	Karen Bange 118 Ridge Road PO Box 426 Centre Hall, PA 16828 (814) 364-1601 riverbat@statecollege.com
	Keeper of MAR Addresses
Profit or Loss: (Line D minus Line E) (F) \$ If Line F is positive, than divide by 2 and enter the amount on Line G; if negative, than enter ZERO (G) \$ Total: (Line A plus Line G) (H) \$	George Bange 118 Ridge Road PO Box 426 Centre Hall, PA 16828 (814) 364-1601 riverbat@statecollege.com
Remit the amount on Line H to the MAR Treasurer.	
Today's Date: Sponsor of Event: Submitter's name, address, phone, and e-mail:	
	Rev. 6/07

Fall MAR-VAR Pre-Registration Form

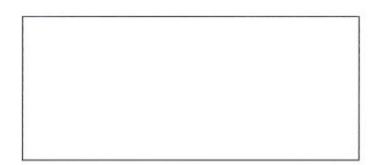
Fall MAR-VAR Field Meet and Philadelphia Grottos 60th Anniversary Event October 12-13-14, 2007 The Robertson Association Grounds, Dailey, WV

Current Info and Detailed Directions: www.philly60th.org Last Day to Pre-register September 4, 2007. Pre-registration also available at OTR, See Philly Grotto.

- Combined MAR and VAR hosted by Philadelphia Grotto and the Triangle Troglodytes
- · Led Trips to many of the local caves
- Live Band and DJ
- The TRA facilities with plenty of camping and hot showers
- Philly Grotto's 60th anniversary party
- Weeklong pre-event caving
- Guidebook
- Speleo-Vendors
- · Many other things to do in Wild and Wonderful West Virginia

Adult Names:			
Child Names:			
Street:			
City:			
Email:	Phone #:		
Primary Grotto:	Vegetarian	Meal (circle	e Yes/No) YES NO
Emergency Contact Name:		Pho	one # :
Pre Registration Costs	Cost	\$	
Children Under Age 4	Free		
Age 4 to 18	Charles and Charle		*Note: Participants
Adult			must choose MAR
MAR Fee*	\$5		or VAR or Both.
VAR Fee*	\$3		
	Total		7
(after September 4, Add S Please send the completed and signe Philadelphia Grotto, drawn on a U	d form along		
Fall MAR-VAR 2007			
c/o Amos Mincin		In	ternational Note:
13 Levis Avenue Cavers from outside of the United States c			
Media, PA 19063 USA	reg	ister with this	s form and pay in cash at the event
I understand that caving and event participation involve fatal injury. I release all claims against Philadelphia G Robertson Association, for any injury, damage, or dea	rotto, the Triangle T	roglodyte Grotto	, the event organizers, staff, and The
Signature: Date:			

MAR Breakdown 118 Ridge Road PO Box 426 Centre Hall, PA 16828



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, West	moreland 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 Co	ounties
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

U.S. Postage:

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

MAR Bulletin Orders: Please make checks payable to MAR. All checks must be payable in US dollars on US bank or US money order

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