



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 23, Number 2, August 2008

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 \$3 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 \$3 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:** **Bob Gulden**  
1333 Chapelview Drive  
Odenton, MD 21113-2129  
(410) 674-4474  
caverbob@aol.com

**Vice Chair:** **Gary Dunmire**  
657 Valley View Rd.  
Bellefonte, Pa. 16823  
(814) 357-1134  
mudtube@yahoo.com

**Secretary:** **Karen Bange**  
118 Ridge Road  
Centre Hall, PA 16828  
(814) 364-1601  
riverbat@statecollege.com

**Treasurer:** **Bette White**  
4538 Miller Road  
Petersburg, PA 16669  
(814) 667-2709  
wbw2@psu.edu

**Editor:** **Karen Bange**  
118 Ridge Road  
Centre Hall, PA 16828  
(814) 364-1601  
riverbat@statecollege.com

## Fall MAR 2008

October 10-12<sup>th</sup>

Woodward, PA

Hosted by:

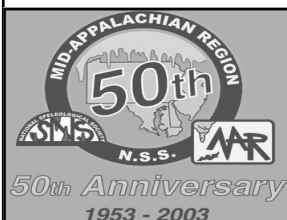
The Nittany Grotto

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

For more information see page 8

## MAR OFFICER ELECTION AT THE FALL MEET

Anyone wanting to run for office should contact a current officer to have their name put on the ballot.



After 10 years of being an officer in the MAR, Karen Bange has decided not to run in the upcoming election. This leaves open the offices of Secretary and Breakdown editor.

## Inside

## Page

SPRING MAR WRITE UP	2
FALL VAR MEET INFORMATION	3
PCC CONSERVANCY CORNER	4
CORRECTION TO 2007 MAR FINANCIAL REPORT	7
PA CAVE DATABASE COUNTY STEWARDS	7
FALL MAR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION	8

Non-copyrighted materials may be used by other speleo publications provided credit is given to the *MAR Breakdown*

## Spring MAR Hosted By CCCC by Bill Schultz

The Spring MAR field meet was held the weekend of May 17-18 at Pinehill Campground in Hazelton, WV. The event was hosted by the Commander Cody Caving Club (CCCC). The weather throughout most of the weekend was cold and rainy. There was a long enough respite in the weather to get a bunch of cavers underground.

Friday night the movie *The Descent* was shown at the pavilion. In the movie a group of female friends, led by Juno, encounter bloodthirsty creatures when they get trapped deep in a cave due to rock fall. Very gory! They all die.

On Saturday morning the rain let up long enough to get a few caving and hiking trips out. A special thanks to the folks from Monongahela Grotto who helped us out with the led cave trips. Cave trips included a trip to Beaverhole Upper Cave led by Brian Masney from Monongahela Grotto. Beaverhole Upper Cave is one of the larger caves in the area. Bill Schultz from CCCC led a trip to Beaverhole Lower Cave in the Cheat Canyon within Coopers Rock State Forest. The hike to the cave involved a very steep descent along a power line. In the cave we saw some historical graffiti, a few bats and two beautiful salamanders. Dave Rigg led a trip to Windy Slope Cave far down in the Cheat Canyon. Local cavers have just finished the survey of the cave. The trip during this MAR was the first recreational trip into the cave ever. Eric Snyder from Buffalo Valley Grotto led a trip to Otter Maze Cave in Tucker County. These guys didn't return until late. A long drive, a hike and a little trouble finding the cave caused the delay. Otter Creek Wilderness was beautiful as always. Phil Gowaty from MAKC led a trip to Casparis Cave just over the border in Pennsylvania. Casparis is located near the scenic Youghiogheny River. There were plenty of opportunities for cavers to get wet on this one. Other cavers ventured further into Pennsylvania to visit Laurel Caverns and take in both the commercial tour and the wild tour. A kids/beginner's trip to Coopers

Rock Cave was led by Landon Woodward (CCCC). Coopers Rock Cave is located, you guessed it, in Coopers Rock State Forest. It is unique in the fact that it is over 200 feet long in sandstone.

A hiking trip led by Kathy Schultz from CCCC went to Swallow Falls State Park in Maryland. Although it was not a cave trip, everyone really enjoyed staying topside on a nice sunny day after so much rain. These folks got to see high water and beautiful waterfalls including Muddy Falls, the highest waterfall in Maryland. Maryland's high point on Backbone Mountain was also visited. After the high point, some also visited the smallest church in the lower 48 states.

After all the trips were back, cavers were treated to a delicious spaghetti and meatball dinner prepared by CCCC. Thanks to all who helped with the food prep and cleanup. After dinner, Jack Wallace from the Elkins office of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources provided a very informative presentation about the current state of the White Nose Syndrome. After such a nice afternoon, it was a shame that the clouds opened up again right during Jack's presentation. It was raining so hard on the pavilion's tin roof that Jack had to speak very loudly at some points in order to be heard. Despite the renewed bad weather everyone was very interested in what Jack had to say and there were plenty of intelligent questions. Thanks to the WVDNR for providing the presentation at the event.

Afterwards door prizes were given away. Thanks to Barry Duncan and CCCC members for the door prize donations. A "Guess the Cave Entrance" contest was organized by Ken Leipert (CCCC). Some of the caves were tough to guess but it was not a problem for Bob Kaltenbach who won without a tie breaker. A 50/50 drawing was also held. Finally when all of the evening's activities were over, CCCC member Jess Wilson (JDub)

provided tunes and lighting for a party atmosphere late into the evening.

Sunday morning we awoke to more rain. The rain did not ruin the PCC breakfast. Sausage, pancakes, coffee, orange juice and plenty of caver companionship offset the latest round of storms. According to the campground owner, at least 3" of rain showed in her rain gauge.

In all we had 86 folks at the event, 10 of them under the age of 18. Sixteen different grottos from

7 states were represented. CCCC, was the largest grotto represented with over 30% of the total attendees. State-wise, the largest representation, with over 55%, was Pennsylvania. Delaware came in second place with 15%.

Despite the rain, there was a lot of participation in all of the activities. More than one campfire was enjoyed and there was much camaraderie. Everyone claimed to have had a great time and are all looking forward to a great fall MAR hosted by Nittany Grotto at Woodward Cave.

## ***Host Needed For The 2009 Spring MAR***

As of August 2008 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2009 Spring MAR. If you are interested in hosting the event a helpful guide to hosting an MAR field meet can be found on the MAR website. 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.

## **2008 Fall VAR Co-hosted by the Blue Ridge and James River Grottos September 19-21 Covington Moose Lodge in Covington, VA**

- ❖ From beginner horizontal to advanced vertical, we have strived to offer cave trips to match just about every experience level and interest.
- ❖ Friday night entertainment will be provided by DJ John Fox. Charles Kahn will also have his "Guillotine Trough" squeeze box on hand. For those too large for the squeeze box (or too smart), a caving slide show &/or caving videos are in the works. Finally, we will have a bonfire...weather and fire conditions permitting.
- ❖ Saturday, we'll have an excellent meal provided by the folks from the Moose Lodge (make sure you include the meal in your registration!). Unfortunately, NO vegetarian meal is available.
- ❖ Saturday night's program is "The Benefits and Results of Digging (for caves)"...presented by Phil Lucas. There will also be door prizes and a bon fire, weather permitting
- ❖ Beverages, including beer and wine, will be provided.
- ❖ On Sunday morning, the fine folks from Front Royal Grotto will be offering their traditional pancake breakfast.

Check out the website for further information that's updated frequently. <http://varfall2008.com>  
A pre-registration form can also be found there...be sure to include you cave trip picks!

# Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

The meeting was called to order 9:30 am by President Pat Minnick at Pine Hill Campground, Hazelton, WV Sunday May 18, 2008.

The following officers were present.

**President** P. Minnick  
**Secretary** K. Bange

**Vice President** C. Catherman  
**Treasurer** G. Dunmire

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	---	Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick
Baltimore Grotto	---	Greater Allentown Grotto	Dean Snyder
Bucks County Grotto	Vince Kappler, proxy	Huntingdon Co.Cave Hunters	Dean Snyder-proxy
Buffalo Valley Grotto	Matt Neyhart	Nittany Grotto	Gary Dunmire
Central New Jersey Grotto	---	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Commander Cody Caving Club	Mike Mostardi	Seven Valleys Grotto	Gretchen Williams
		York Grotto	---

**Secretary Report:** The minutes from the February 2008 meeting were accepted as published in the April 2008 Breakdown.

**Treasurer Report:** Gary Dunmire distributed a copy of the PCC financial summary. As the new treasurer, Gary changed banks. The PCC bank accounts are now with Nittany Bank.

**Web Page:** Dave Fricke gave an update on the PCC web site. Dave asked that PCC reps keep him up to date with current/correct grotto and contact information. If anyone has any links they would like added to the PCC website, contact Dave. PCC T shirts have been reprinted; Dave will add this item back onto the PCC website.

**PCC Breakfast:** The Cathermans coordinated the PCC breakfast at the MAR. The breakfast made \$182. The Cathermans will be in charge of the PCC breakfast at the fall MAR.

Mike and Linda Mostardi won the 50/50 and donated the winnings to the PCC.

**PCC Brochure:** Anyone interested in brochures should contact George Bange.

**Mail:** No action.

**T-shirts:** Dean Snyder has PCC t-shirts for sale.

Submission deadline for fund raising T-shirts for PCC's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary was February 2008. Designs will be posted on the PCC website. T shirts are to be printed in spring of 2009.

**PA Cave Database:** As of March 2008, Bill Herr, the PA Cave Database Steward, has acknowledged the following individuals as County Stewards:

Mike Mostardi Berks County  
JD Lewis Clinton, Lycoming Counties  
Garret Czmor Huntingdon County  
Mike Spencer Northampton, Lehigh Counties  
Joel Jacobs York County  
Todd Hancock Blair, Mifflin Counties  
Amanda Morrow Centre County  
Ken Jones, James Hart, Don Arrowood  
Cumberland, Franklin and Fulton Counties

The life tables have now been fully implemented into database reports and detailed summary reports by cave origin and type have also been implemented. Revised database reports will be distributed to County Stewards over the next few weeks.

Work continues with Bru Randall of the Allegheny Mountain S&R group to provide a technique to locate caves for S&R purposes. Bill has figured out a way to import the location data to Maptech (the

mapping software used by AM S&R). Bru continues to seek input from the organization members as to what particular data they desire. Pursuant to conversations between Bru and Bill it is envisioned that the location data would be provided to the head coordinator who in turn would consult these data during S&R operations and provide specific cave location data in the area of concern to the field crews. This will limit access of the entire database to only a few select individuals, while providing what data may be essential during the S&R process.

**Wind Farm Site Evaluations:** After an initial third-party contact several months ago facilitated by Chris Sanders, Tracey Librandi Mumma of the PA Game Commission has requested cave location data to be utilized for site evaluation purposes for potential wind energy farms. Once we receive assurances that the data will not be provided to third parties, select data will be provided to the PA Game Commission for use in these evaluations. At present there remains some confusion as to whether or not the PA Game Commission will be doing the hibernacula evaluations or consultants to the wind farm energy company.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Project List:**

**Baker Caverns:** Franklin, County, PA- Pat Minnick reported no changes

**Dragon Cave:** Berks County, PA – Dean Snyder will inquire about the status of the cave/landowner

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

**Red Church Cave:** Schuylkill County, PA-GAG will look into the status of the landowner

**Merkle Cave:** Berks County, PA.- no change

**Cleversburg Cave:** Cumberland County, PA.- FCG is managing access into the cave. Currently the cave is flooded. Ken Jones is the contact for the cave key.

**Schofer Cave:** Berks County, PA- The MAKC open house has been changed and will not be at Shofer Cave in June as previously published.

**Durham Cave:** Bucks County, PA- no change

**Corker Hill and Frustration Pit:** Franklin County, PA- Ken Jones has a meeting with WASHCO Homes, the landowner, scheduled on May 19, 2008. Franklin County Grotto will be given an update at their grotto meeting May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Inactive Members:** Karen Bange contacted Central New Jersey Grotto, Pennsylvania Inner Earth Grotto and Pittsburgh Grotto regarding inactive grotto status for membership with the PCC. Central New Jersey Grotto replied to the notice indicating the grotto had not missed any PCC meetings in the past year and asked not to be dropped from the PCC membership. After review of the current records, Central New Jersey Grotto is in good standing with attendance at PCC meetings and will not be dropped from PCC membership. PIG and Pittsburgh did not respond to the notice and are no longer PCC members.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Gary Dunmire, PCC Treasurer,** made a motion to deposit half of the PCC account balance to the whole \$1,000 and put the monies into three 24 month CDs with an interest rate of 3%. The motion was seconded and accepted with a vote. Vince Kappler made a motion that the PCC treasurer be empowered to manage PCC funds between accounts in the best interest of the PCC and to keep the PCC board apprised of monetary action. This motion was seconded and passed with a vote.

Gary reported he did the yearly 501c3 filing as required by the IRS. This filing is due every May and Gary received the authorization number from the IRS for this year.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the PCC will be on Sunday October 12, 2008 at the fall MAR field meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am in the pouring rain.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Bange, Recording Secretary



## Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

### Financial Summary

2/23/08 > 5/16/08

#### Interest Checking Account

New Account Opened:	Nittany Bank	3/4/2008	\$20.00
Account Closed:	Juniata Valley Bank	3/18/2008	#####
Deposits :		4/2/2008	\$6,794.13
Interest: @1%		4/30/2008	\$5.49

#### Expenses

Total Expenses : \$0.00

**Ending Balance :** \$6,819.62

#### SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

Beginning Balance :

#### Donations

Total Donations : \$0.00

#### Other Income

Total Income: \$0.00

Interest :

Withdrawals : \$0.00

**Ending Balance :** \$0.00

#### COMBINED TOTAL :

\$6,819.62

#### 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

Please note: The position of MAR Recording Secretary and  
Breakdown editor will be vacant at the next election

**Get involved!!**

## **Correction to the 2007 MAR Financial Report Bette White**

A mistake was made in reporting the income from the Spring Field Meet. There was \$174 profit made with half going to MAR [\$87.00] and half going to Buffalo Valley Grotto [\$87.00]. The error occurred while counting the number of bulletins sold (error in the count for #11 and for #17). This makes the Bulletin Sales income \$610.80 instead of \$697.80.

The bottom line:

MAR profit: Spring '07 field meet = \$87.00 not -0.00- as in report  
Bulletin Sales: = \$610.80 not \$697.80 as in report

---

### **Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy PA Cave Database Reported by Bill Herr**

<b>County Stewards as of March 8, 2008</b>	
--	--

<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Steward(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Affiliation</u></b>
Berks	Mike Mostardi	Commander Cody
Clinton, Lycoming	James Lewis	Bald Eagle Grotto
Huntingdon	Garret Czmor	Huntingdon County Cave Hunters
Northampton, Lehigh	Mike Spencer	GAG
York	Joel Jacobs	York
Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton	Ken Jones, James Hart and Don Arrowood	Franklin
Mifflin, Blair	Todd Hancock	(to be determined)
Centre	Amanda Morrow	Nittany

Anyone interested in helping with gathering of information to help support/maintain the Pennsylvania Cave Database is encouraged to contact either Bill Herr or one of the County Stewards listed above.



# *Fall MAR 2008*

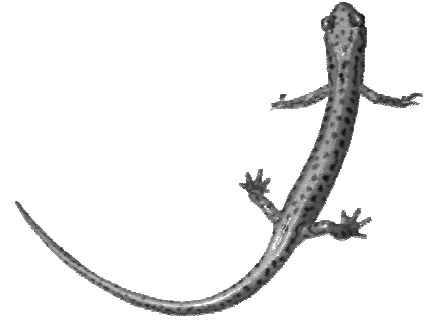
*October 10-12<sup>th</sup>*

*Woodward, PA*

*Hosted by:*

*The Nittany Grotto*

*60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



## Registration Fee Includes:

- Bonfire Saturday night
- Dinner Saturday night provided by Clem's BBQ (A vegetarian meal is available).
- Beverages to include beer Saturday evening and coffee in the morning.
- Program Saturday night by Jim Kennedy of Bat Conservation International
- Nittany Grotto 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Guidebook.
- Guided Cave Trips
- Door prizes.

## Vendor on Site – Caver's Connection

## Registration Information:

- Register before September 10<sup>th</sup> and get a discount
- Make checks payable to MAR and mail to:

2008 Fall MAR  
c/o Jeff Morrissey  
RR#3 Box 468G  
Tyrone, PA 16686

## **Directions:**

Please visit the Woodward Cave web site or see below:

<http://www.woodwardcave.com/232386.ihtml>

Woodward Cave and Campground is located along Route 45 in eastern Centre County, PA, about midway between State College and Lewisburg.

From the State College area, go east on Rt 45, through Millheim and Aaronsburg. Several miles past Aaronsburg, turn right at Quarry Rd. Go 1.5 miles to the end of Quarry Rd, then left at Pine Creek Rd. If you miss Quarry Rd, continue to Woodward, and turn right at the Woodward Inn onto Pine Creek Rd. The Cave is two miles down the road.

From the Lewisburg area, go west on Rt 45 through the Bald Eagle Forest and into Woodward. Turn left at the Woodward Inn at Pine Creek Road. The Cave is about two miles down the road.

The Cave and Campground entrance is on Pine Creek Road, clearly marked, and named "Woodward Cave Dr."



**2008 Fall Field Meet – Nittany Grotto 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Registration Form  
October 10-12, 2008, Woodward, PA**



**Principal Registrant's**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_( ) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Grotto Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Registrants**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Principal Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Principal Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Principal Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration	Unit Cost	Quantity	Cost
Adult ( Before September 10, 2008 )	\$28.00		
Adult ( After September 10, 2008 )	\$30.00		
Child ( Ages 6-17 )	\$20.00		
Child ( Under 6 )	Free		
Vegetarian Meals	No Extra Charge		
Total:			

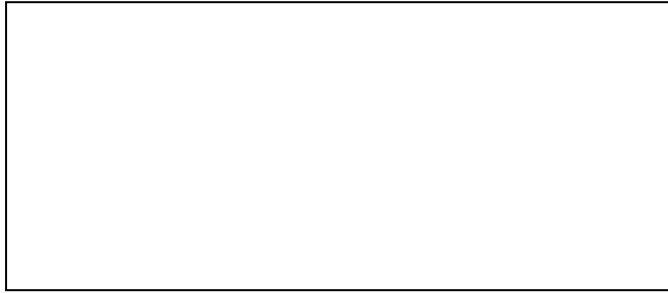
*The Nittany Grotto, its members, the MAR, Woodward Cave and Campground and private landowners take no responsibility for any injuries or losses that might be sustained during the 2008 MAR Fall Field Meet and any associated activities. Participation by the undersigned is at their own risk, and they accept responsibility for the safety of all other participants (children and adults) who are listed on this registration form under "Additional Registrants".*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **MAR** and send form with registration fee to:

2008 Fall MAR  
c/o Jeff Morrissey,  
RR#3 Box 468G  
Tyrone, PA 16686

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	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Bulletins #1-4		7.00 + postage
5	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Western PA	29 caves, 19 maps 76pp	8.00 + postage <b>A</b>
	Armstrong, Clarion, Fayette, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Westmoreland Counties		
6	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b>	93 caves 69 maps/5 large maps 126 pp	12.00 + postage <b>B</b>
	Caves of Southern Cumberland Valley, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin Counties		
7	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Fulton Co., PA	4 caves, 4 maps 17pp	5.00 + postage <b>A</b>
8	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Blair Co., PA	89 caves, 40 maps 90 pp	7.00 + postage
9	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA	94 caves, 36 maps	10.00 + postage <b>B</b>
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA	20 caves, 14 maps	5.00 + postage <b>A</b>
11	Caves of Centre Co., PA	71 caves, 56 maps/1 large map	10.00 + postage <b>B</b>
12	Caves of Mifflin Co., PA	47 caves, 31 maps/5 large maps	10.00 + postage <b>B</b>
13	Caves of Perry Co., PA	13 caves, 6 maps	5.00 + postage <b>A</b>
14	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Bucks Co., PA	24 caves, 6 maps 43 pp	5.00 + postage <b>A</b>
15	<b>REPRINT VOLUME:</b> Caves of Lehigh Co., PA	25 caves, 13 maps 35 pp	6.00 + postage <b>A</b>
16	Caves of Northampton Co., PA	24 caves, 13 maps/1 large map	6.00 + postage <b>A</b>
17	Caves of Northumberland Co., PA	20 caves, 10 maps	5.00 + postage <b>A</b>
18	Caves of Berks Co., PA	64 caves, 32 maps	10.00 + postage <b>B</b>
19	Caves of Bedford Co., PA	54 caves, 33 maps	7.00 + postage <b>A</b>
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**

**Order from: Bette White, 4538 Miller Road, Petersburg, PA 16669-2711**