



BREAKDOWN

Volume 24, Number 3, January 2010

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 \$4 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 \$4 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
4537 Old Stage Rd
McClure, PA 17841
(814) 364-1601
riverbat@eawireless.net

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

Editor: Derek Flaig
1360 58th Street
Altoona, PA 16601
(814) 946-4262
derekcaver2000@yahoo.com

MAR BUSINESS MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2010 PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW

**This will be the 45th Anniversary of the Herbein's
hosting the MAR Business Meeting!**

**The Mid Appalachian Region Business
Meeting will be held at the home of Jay
Herbein on February 27, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.**

**You will find a map to the
meeting on page 2.**

**A meeting of the Pennsylvania Cave
Conservancy (PCC) will follow the MAR
Business Meeting.**



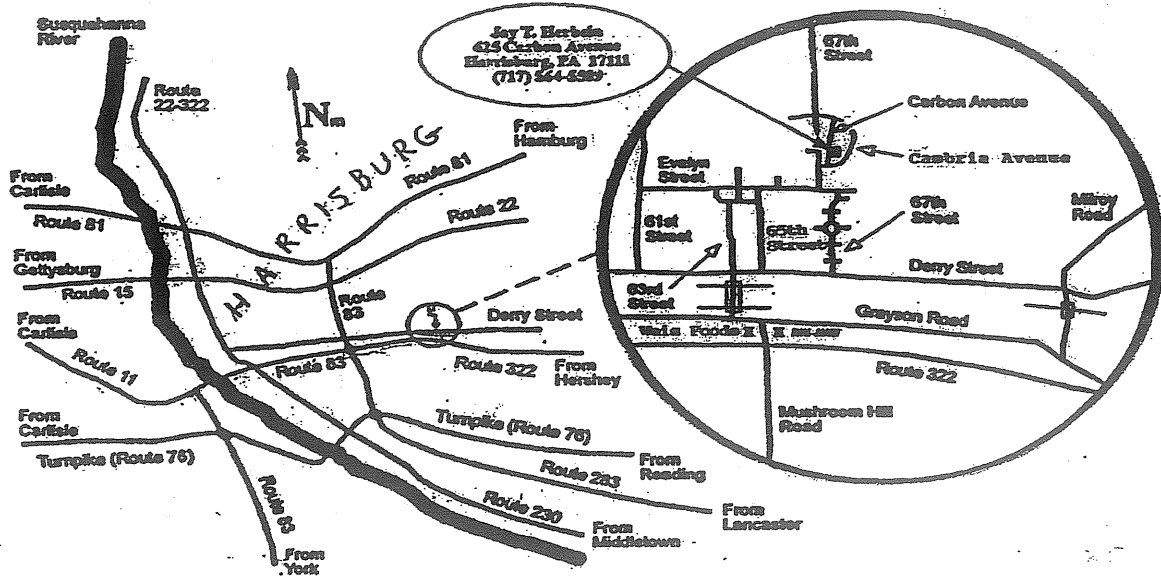
Inside Page

MAP TO 2010 BUSINESS MEETING SITE	2
FALL 2009 MAR MEET WRAPUP	3 AND 4
PCC MINUTES	5 AND 6
PCC BUDGET REPORT	7
MAR BULLETINS FOR SALE	BACK

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

Map of Business Meeting Site

Maps to Dale Ibberson's will be available at the business meeting



From the East on Route 322:

Turn right on Mushroom Hill Road (look for the Wal-Mart and Weis Markets Store) at the second traffic light after Hummelstown.

From the West on Route 322:

Intercept Route 322 toward Hershey. Turn left on Mushroom Hill Road (look for the Wal-Mart and Weis Markets).

Once on Mushroom Hill Road, proceed one block to Grayson Road (T-intersection) and turn left. Travel one more block and turn right onto a bridge which crosses the railroad tracks. Turn right on Derry Street. Follow Derry Street to 67th Street which will be a left hand turn up the hill. Follow the inset map above to reach Jay's house.

Note: If you are driving from the West on I-83 N., there is no exit at Derry Street. Use the Route 322 exit.

**A report on the 2009 MAR Fall Field
Meet hosted by the York Grotto**
Joel Jacobs

We held a memorable MAR the weekend of October 2nd to 4th, 2009 bothered only slightly by evening showers on Friday, though the bonfire never knew it, and later illuminated by the full moon on both nights. The mild early fall temperatures kept everyone comfortable. Pastel tinged leaves floating in the air and swirling at our feet lent a colorful aura to the event.

Many of our members helped us pull off a successful gathering of cavers for a cavingless field meet. Alternative activities in a season meant for being outdoors were plenty and fun.

In writing a report like this I run the risk of missing someone who I did not see perform a task for which they should be acknowledged or just in forgetting that they did. I apologize ahead of time for any innocent errors of omission.

Preparations for this MAR began two years ago when at a York Grotto meeting we voted to sponsor a field meet to commemorate our 50th anniversary as a grotto. I attended an MAR business meeting at Jay Herbein's house and reserved our date on the MAR calendar. This was well before the White Nose Syndrome issue became relevant to our planning.

Karen & George Bange had allowed the grotto to use the Rupert Cave grounds for the 40th anniversary celebration and were kind enough to offer them for the 50th. They are first on the list of people who must be thanked. They allowed us full run of the Rupert Cave grounds, except of course for the cave, which is closed to honor the moratorium and did a lot of general housekeeping to make the place tidy. George provided the firewood, mowed, blew leaves and performed many other functions. Karen decorated and did site housekeeping. They both made us feel welcomed in their multi-environment playroom.

After choosing a date and a site I suggested that someone should design a special logo for our silver anniversary. I mentioned something to my daughter Cassie about utilizing a white rose to represent the city of York in the design and she constructed an image on her computer of a bat with a white rose clenched in its teeth. I showed

this to the membership at a meeting and everyone approved. Later, after the death of Dale Ibberson, at our soon to be annual meeting at Indian Echo Caverns, I asked for suggestions on how to honor him on the golden anniversary T-shirts we would be buying. Chris Depkin came up with the idea of putting Dale's top hat on the bat. Cassie agreed and so our logo was complete.

Breana Yancy and Dan Marten of Lighthouse studios did a great job producing the T-shirts, which we offered in five colors and a variety of sizes. The left sleeve had a York Grotto bat and on the back was our catch phrase, "*Celebrating a half century of exploring the State of Darkness from the City of the White Rose.*"

Judi Stack found a box of guidebooks from the 1999 York Grotto sponsored MAR which she gave to Christopher Catherman. He emailed me and offered them to us. We took them and used them as our 2009 souvenir guidebook with a supplement to bring it up to date for our event. The three cave maps that went with the guidebook, Rupert Cave, Big Ridge Cave and Alexander Caverns, were distributed with it to each paid attendee.

We scheduled one work weekend to prep the Rupert site in late September. George and Karen, Steve Shawver, Lee Hartwick, Randy Hurst and I mowed grass and brush for tents sites, moved firewood, erected the squeeze box, hung new lights, readied the pavilion and did the odd job here and there to make the place comfortable for the MAR attendees.

Jim Kramer bought the grotto hootch for us, which we used at OTR and which I carted up to set up next to the pavilion at Rupert. This gave us a lot more protected space and served as a perfect location for the beer and soda tubs and the vendors.

Chris Edenbo, George Bange and I drove to Lewistown on Friday to pick up three tables, a half keg of Yuengling Lager, 144 soda cans, beer cups and other stuff that we couldn't do without. When we returned, Randy Hurst had pitched his own hootch which became Registration. Randy also handled all the finances and printed registration forms.

Cathy Hartwick took over and soon the table was laid out with clipboards, forms, cigar boxes for

money, the special Summer Dale Ibberson Memorial Issue of the York Grotto News, rolls of tickets, T-shirts and the other info needed for registrants. Randy's computer, used for record keeping, suffered a nearly disastrous breakdown after being leaked on from the rain, but it survived to project the Dale Ibberson DVD to which Debbi Jacobs added the pictures from the memorial service.

Others who helped with registration, which can be frantic or boring depending on the moment, were Deb & Cassie Jacobs and Sarah Bransom. Moral support was provided by Lee Hartwick, Elana Davis and others. Karen added some bright color by decorating the Rupert site with pumpkins.

Friday night's entertainment was Dean Snyder's movies. He played films with caves in them including Davy Crocket and the River Pirates. Chris hung our six foot screen and Matt Saltzer supplied professional speakers with a remote microphone.

Steve Shawver built a grand bonfire and even though it rained the flames were never squelched. When the downpour quit, people gathered there for the usual beer and baloney, which lasted late into the night.

On Saturday morning, Patti & Craig Anderson served coffee and the fixin's and supplied doughnuts in the pavilion. Kevin Dunleavy, Carrie Shafer and George & Karen planned and/or led hikes to various locations and Gary Dunmire held a high flying vertical practice session.

During the day Cathy Hartwick painted faces. Carrie Shafer and Frank Herceg offered various and sundry interesting products for sale.

Dr. Eric Bowman, Director, Wilderness Medicine Section, Department of Emergency Medicine at the York Hospital gave a presentation which included tips and tricks on wilderness survival.

Elana Davis took pictures and video. Anyone else who took pictures may send them to us to be included in the photographic record.

Later in the afternoon Jim Hart moderated a panel he had organized on White Nose

Syndrome which included Dr. DeeAnn Reeder a biologist from Bucknell, Greg Lambert, a Wildlife Biologist with the Wildlife Diversity Section of the Pa. Game Commission and Peter Youngbaer the National Speleological Society's WNS liaison.

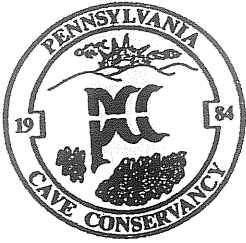
Clem's, famous for their Wood Fired BBQ, catered the banquet. The menu included Pulled Pork and Chicken with sides of Creamy Cole Slaw, Hearty Baked Beans, Garlic Smashed Potatoes and rolls and butter. Portabella Mushroom Caps over vegetables were available for our vegetarian attendees. We gave away lots of door prizes, many procured by Dean Snyder, and a bunch more donated to us by Judi Stack from the unique and diverse Dale Ibberson Collection

After dinner we were treated to a sometimes breathtaking and totally astonishing slide presentation on expanding the total mileage of the caves in Germany Valley, WV by Mark Minton & Yvonne Droms. We were shown dome pits measuring over 290 feet that had to be measured from the ground up.

On Sunday morning along with the coffee and doughnuts the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy provided a super breakfast. Other than a PCC meeting at which the York Grotto was represented by Brett Johnson, nothing was planned that morning and folks left on their own time schedule. We had passed out plastic trash bags at registration and the attendees carted away their own refuse. The place was really clean when they left. Cavers really do know what it means to leave nothing but footprints.

There were 87 paid registrations, 31 of whom pre-registered and were rewarded with \$5.00 off their fee and a free four inch patch with our 50th logo on a yellow background.

As the chairman of this event I really need to thank all the members & volunteers who had a hand in this successful endeavor, vice chairman Chris Edenbo for his dependable assistance and my friends for their encouragement and support and for lifting my spirits when I needed it.



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

Minutes of Regular Meeting- October 4, 2009

The meeting was called to order 9:30 am by President Pat Minnick at Rupert Cave Campground, McVeytown,, PA Sunday October 4, 2009.

The following officers were present. **President P. Minnick** **Vice President**
Secretary K. Bange **Treasurer G. Dunmire**

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	JD Lewis	Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick
Baltimore Grotto	---	Greater Allentown Grotto	Dean Snyder
Bucks County Grotto	---	Huntingdon Co.Cave Hunters	---
Buffalo Valley Grotto	---	Nittany Grotto	Gary Dunmire
Central New Jersey Grotto	---	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Commander Cody Caving Club	Mike Mostardi	Seven Valleys Grotto	Gretchen Williams (proxy)
		York Grotto	Joel Jacobs

Secretary Report: The minutes from the June 2009 unofficial meeting were accepted as published in the August 2009 Breakdown.

Treasurer Report: Gary Dunmire distributed a copy of the PCC financial summary.

Web Page: Dave Fricke continues to maintain the PCC web page.

PCC Breakfast: Pat Minnick and Anne Shepard did a great job coordinating and preparing food for the PCC breakfast. Thank you to Joe Schock for reconstructing the PCC grill for easier transport. It worked well at the breakfast. The breakfast made \$430.

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

Mail: None

T-shirts: Gary Dunmire reported that Spotted Lizard can produce PCC Tshirts using the design submitted by Frank Strahan. The cost is \$13.45 per Tshirt, cost includes top quality Tshirts. A motion was made, and passed, for Gary to proceed with getting a firm bid from Spotted Lizard. Gary agreed to store the Tshirts.

PA Cave Database: Karen Bange attempted to contact Bill Herr with no success. A motion was made, and passed, for PCC to contact Keith Wheeland for his version of the most current information in the database and start over with a new steward of the database.

Cave Hill Grotto asked at the last PCC meeting to be part of PCC. Since that meeting did not have a quorum, PCC tabled the decision until the next PCC meeting. A vote was taken at this meeting not to have Cave Hill Grotto part of the PCC. Cave Hill Grotto can request to be part of PCC in the future if they are still interested.

PCC Raffle was won by Robert Seager. He returned the winnings to PCC.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project List:

Baker Caverns: Franklin, County, PA- Pat Minnick reported no changes and asks to have the cave dropped from the project list.

Dragon Cave: Berks County, PA – Ed Kehs plans to contact the land owner to find out if the cave is open or closed as there is a housing development being built around the cave.

Red Church Cave: Schuylkill County, PA—Land owner relations remains good. Joel Jacobs plans to contact the landowner regarding possibility of gating the cave.

Merkle Cave: Berks County, PA.- No changes and it was agreed to drop the cave from the project list as the cave is on land owned by the local golf course.

Cleversburg Cave: Cumberland County, PA.- Tom Feeney, a professor from Shippensburg University, has a monitoring system in the cave to monitor water levels. The data can be found on the Franklin County Grotto website. Pat Minnick reported the kiosk at the cave entrance was damaged recently.

Schofer Cave: Berks County, PA- No report.

Durham Cave: Bucks County, PA- No changes

Corker Hill and Frustration Pit: Franklin County, PA- Ken Jones has been in contact with WASHCO Homes, owners of the land. There have been no further developments with discussions to acquire the cave. The housing development has slowed down due to the economy.

Karen Bange will be sending out Christmas cards to landowners soon. Contact Karen if you have a landowner you want added to the Christmas card list.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gary Dunmire reported on a recent rescue in J4. A non-caver became stuck in the cave requiring a 7 hour rescue by the local fire company. The person was fined \$150 for trespassing.

Tippery Cave, Huntingdon County: It was agreed to add this cave to the project list. The property with the cave is up for sale.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be on Saturday February 27, 2010 following the MAR Business Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Bange, Recording Secretary



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

Financial Summary

06-30-09 Thru 09-30-09

Interest Checking Account

Account Balance	Nittany Bank	6/30/2009	\$4,505.03
Interest: Payment		6/30/2009	\$0.49
Interest: Payment		7/31/2009	\$0.37
Interest: Payment		8/31/2009	\$0.37

Total Expenses :

-

Ending Balance :

\$4,506.26

SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

	Maturity Date	
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2010	\$1,000.00
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2010	\$1,000.00
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2010	\$1,000.00

Account Balance

\$3,000.00

Other Income

COMBINED TOTAL :

\$7,506.26

MAR Breakdown
 1360 58th Street
 Altoona, PA 16601

Mid-Appala

1-4	<i>Reprint Volume Bulletins 1-4</i>			7.00 + postage B
5	<i>Reprint Volume Caves of Western PA</i> 29 caves 19 maps		76pp	8.00 + postage A
	Armstrong, Clarion, Fayette, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Westmoreland counties			
6	<i>Reprint Vol. Caves of Southern Cumberland Valley</i> 93 caves 69 maps		126pp	17.00 + postage B
	Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin counties			
7	<i>Reprint Volume Caves of Fulton County</i>	4 caves 4 maps	17pp	5.00 + postage A
8	<i>Reprint Volume Caves of Blair County</i>	89 caves 40 maps	90pp	7.00 + postage B
9	<i>Reprint Vol. Caves of Huntingdon County</i>	94 caves 36 maps		10.00 + postage B
10	<i>Caves of Snyder County</i>	20 caves 14 maps		5.00 + postage A
11	<i>Caves of Centre County</i>	71 caves 56 maps		10.00 + postage B
12	<i>Caves of Mifflin County</i>	47 caves 31 maps	5 large	10.00 + postage B
13	<i>Caves of Perry County</i>	13 caves 6 maps		5.00 + postage A
14	<i>Reprint Vol. Caves of Bucks County</i>	24 caves 6 maps	43pp	5.00 + postage A
15	<i>Reprint Vol. Caves of Lehigh County</i>	25 caves 13 maps	35pp	6.00 + postage A
16	<i>Caves of Northampton County</i>	24 caves 13 maps	1 large	6.00 + postage A
17	<i>Caves of Northumberland County</i>	20 caves 10 maps		5.00 + postage A
18	<i>Caves of Berks County</i>	64 caves 32 maps		10.00 + postage B
19	<i>Caves of Bedford County</i>	54 caves 33 maps		7.00 + postage A
20	<i>Caves of Westmoreland County</i>	337 caves 187 maps	10 large	29.50 + postage C

US postage	A	\$1.80 first copy, 50 cents each additional to the same address
	B	\$2.00 first copy, 50 cents each additional to the same address
	C	\$3.00 each copy

MAR Bulletin Orders: Please make checks payable to MAR. All checks must be payable in US dollars on US Bank of US Money Order;

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