



BREAKDOWN

Volume 25, Number 1, April 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 \$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 \$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.

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Jay Herbein receives Life NSS membership from the MAR in gratitude for his 45 years of hosting the Annual MAR Business Meeting at the Herbein home. Also pictured is NSS President Gordon Birkhimer



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February 27, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Bob Gulden at 1:35 p.m. February 27th 2010 at the home of Jay Herbein, Harrisburg, PA.

A moment of silence was observed at the beginning of the meeting to remember the passing of Dale Ibberson, York Grotto, Bob Keintz, York Grotto, Jack Stellmack, Nittany Grotto. The three long time cavers passed away since the last Business Meeting.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made to accept the 2009 Business Meeting minutes as published in the April 2009 Breakdown. The motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was read by treasurer Bette White. Printed copies were distributed. Bette noted there was a loss of \$1,786 for the year due in part to the fact there was no spring MAR field meet, the fall MAR field meet did not make a profit and the cost of reprinting MAR Bulletins 5 and 6.

MAR Breakdown: Send any Breakdown articles for publication to Karen Bange. Material can be in hardcopy or sent electronically to riverbat@eawireless.com.

George Bange maintains the mailing list database for the Breakdown. All changes to mailing addresses and all MAR field meet registrations should be sent to George at riverbat@eawireless.net. George requested people write neatly when registering for MAR field meets. The mailing list is maintained from the registration forms.

George reported there 25 organizations and 118 individuals (resulting in 1212 credits) currently receiving a Breakdown. George is in the process of converting the current database into an Excel spreadsheet.

2009 Spring Field Meet: There was no field meet.

2009 Fall Field Meet: Joel Jacobs reported the event was successful although no profit was made. Due to WNS, it was the first caveless MAR. Joel has compiled a list of suggestions to help with planning future field meets. This list will be given to Christopher Catherman for posting on the MAR website.

MAR Web Site: Christopher Catherman continues to keep the website up and running. Christopher reminded grottos to send MAR field meet information to him in a timely manner for posting on the MAR website. Christopher reported after many man-hours the history of the MAR is now on the website. The historical information came from Dale Ibberson's files. Please send any corrections or additions to Christopher Catherman.

MAR Bulletins: Will White reported the completion of the map of Tytoona Cave. With the map completed, completion of the Juniata Valley bulletin is eminent. Progress continues on bulletins for Huntingdon County and Middle Susquehanna Valley.

Pennsylvania Cave Database: Keith Wheeland reported contact with Bill Herr, current PA Database Steward, has been lost. Keith has approached Tony Canike about being the Database Steward. The matter of changing Database Steward will be discussed at the next PCC meeting.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy: Meeting to follow the MAR Business Meeting.

Game Commission: No report

MAKC: Kim Metzgar gave an update on MAKC's acquisition of their education center/library in Blairsville. MAKC now houses the extensive collections of Dale Ibberson, Jack Speece, and Jack Stellmack. MAKC is having a grand opening of the Bob and Bev Danielson Library and Cave and Karst Education Center May 15th.

Kim also reported WNS was found in Hall's Cave. MAKC is going to have their caves open on April 15th.

Anyone interested in helping out Lisa Hall with monitoring cave entrances this winter for WNS and early spring can contact Lisa at caverlisa@hotmail.com

MAR Incorporation: Keith Wheeland reported the MAR is now incorporated. The MAR has paid for an ad to run in the Harrisburg Patriot stating the incorporation. The MAR is a non profit organization but will not pursue 501(c3) status.

2010 Spring Field Meet: Will be a joint VAR/MAR event the weekend of May 22nd at the Lewisburg, WV state fairgrounds. This is also the 2012 NSS Convention site. There will be numerous activities planned. Check out the VAR website for details.

2010 Fall Field Meet. No takers. Karen Bange will post an email to grottos asking for volunteers.

2011 Spring Field Meet: Franklin County Grotto will be hosting the event a site near Shade Gap, PA.

2011 Fall Field Meet: No takers.

New Business:

WNS: Alan Horn is interested in finding funding to study a possible link between WNS and the spraying of pesticides to combat West Nile virus.

The NSS has recently released a press release stating their response to WNS. The NSS also sent a comprehensive letter to Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Defense, and Secretary of Agriculture stating their views on WNS. Gordon Birkhimer encouraged cavers to send letters to these same individuals in response to the Center for Biodiversity's proposal to close all caves and mines.

The NSS will release their policy on caving May 15th. The NSS is emphatic on cavers practicing decontamination of all gear in between caves even if going back into the same cave.

MAR Meeting Site: Karen Bange made a motion to change the site of MAR Business Meeting. Anyone with information or ideas on a new venue should contact Karen. All submitted information would be reviewed by the officers. The deadline for submitting information is May 1st. Gretchen William seconded the motion, a vote was taken and the motion passed. The change in venue is effectively immediately.

Please Note: the 2011 MAR Business Meeting will not be at the Herbein resident.

MAR Recognition: The MAR recognized the Herbeins for 45 years of hosting the annual MAR Business Meeting. A donation to the local Humane Society was made in honor Kathy Herbein. Kathy Herbein was also presented with a flower arrangement. Gordon Birkhimer, current NSS President, presented Jay Herbein with a lifetime NSS membership.

Cave Rescue Class: EMU, Harrisburg, VA, March 26-28, 2010

WVASS Spring Meeting: May 1, 2010 Unus, WV

Baltimore Grotto 25th Swine and Dine; May 27- 31, Frairs Hole, WV

NSS Convention: August 2-6, 2010, Essex Junction, Vermont

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next meeting is February 26, 2011

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, Seven Valleys Grotto, Bucks County, MAKC

THANK YOU, MAR & NSS

BY Jay Herbein

As most members know, the annual MAR & PCC Business Meetings were held February 27 at our house in Harrisburg. MAR Meetings have been held here since Dr. Ralph Stone, at whose house these meetings were previously held, passed away May 1964.

In addition to the MAR officers (Bob Gulden, Gary Dunmire, Karen Bange) none other than NSS President Gordon Birkhimer walked through the door for this meeting. Bob Gulden commented that he and Gordon lived fairly close, on opposite sides of Washington, DC, and he had mentioned to Gordon that he might beinterested in attending the MAR meeting. That's what Bob said. Uh, huh!

It developed that Gordon had once also collected beer cans as I currently do. He noted a Sunshine quart cone in my collection which he once had.

During these meetings I, as co-host, seldom get to sit and listen to the business in progress. I'm continually checking on food preparations, beer, coffee, everything in general. I was only mildly surprised when Bob called to me, asking whether I'd object to the possibility of the MAR obtaining another location for future meetings. Since I've been painfully aware that our rather small house seats just 32 people in the room, if they're friendly and have recently bathed, I replied "Not at all". I had mentioned this to Bob several years ago.

Toward the meeting's end, Bob said to me "Don't go away", and later asked me to stand in front of the officers' table. My wife Kathy was summoned from the kitchen to join me. Then Pres. Gordon Birkhimer appeared, and it became evident that he hadn't casually come to this meeting. He presented me with a Life Membership Certificate in the NSS, courtesy of the MAR, for having hosted these meetings for 45 years. Kathy was also presented with a large bouquet of tulips, a very attractive basket of flowers, and a donation in her honor to the local Humane Society, for her part in preparing the food over those years.

I was quite surprised and pleased with receiving this honor. I thank both the MAR and the NSS. As far as future MAR Business Meetings are concerned, I have no problem with continuing to host them, but I'm well aware of the space limitations of our house. The MAR is always welcome. And, thanks again to the MAR officers for the life membership.

And from my wife Kathy:

Thank you very much for both the flowers and the donation to the Humane Society.

The donation will come in very handy, since they are planning to build an addition onto their building on Grayson Road.

This is a no-kill shelter and they have a huge number of cats and dogs, etc. They desperately need more room

Thank you again.

Kathy Herbein

Spring MAR/VAR 2010

West Virginia State Fairgrounds, Fairlea, WV (Near Lewisburg in Greenbrier County)

May 21-23, 2010

The Bubble Cave LLC invites you to the Spring 2010 joint meeting of the Virginia Region and the Mid-Appalachian Region of the NSS. The event will be held at the West Virginia State Fairgrounds in Fairlea, W. Va. on May 21-23, 2010. 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 VAR 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 Region.

Camping & Facilities: The Fairgrounds is huge and can accommodate a large crowd (it will be the campground for the 2012 NSS convention). There are flush toilets and hot showers. RVs are welcome, but there are no electric or sewer hookups. Pets are allowed on the site, but must be cared for properly. That means cleaning up afterwards, too.

Special Cleanup Trip: There will be a cleanup trip to a trash-filled double sinkhole in Monroe County that has the potential for a cave at the bottom.

Cave Trips: Greenbrier and Monroe counties have some of the east coast's best and largest caves. A number of them will be open for led and self-guided trips. To help prevent the spread of White-Nose Syndrome, all cavers must follow established decontamination procedures. A decon facility will be set up in the campground.

Saturday Dinner: Dinner will be catered by Bob's Big Beef. Bar-B-Que'd beef, pork, fried chicken and all the trimmings, as well as vegetarian entrees will be featured Saturday night. Both Friday and Saturday nights will have the usual caver brew.

Saturday Evening Program: Details of the Saturday evening program are still being finalized.

Vendors: We expect to have several speleo-vendors, including Inner-Mountain Outfitters, Caver's Connection, and Speleobooks. This will be a good opportunity to purchase cave related items.

Sunday Breakfast: The Front Royal Grotto will be providing their outstanding breakfast on Sunday morning. The cost is not included in your registration and can be paid on Sunday morning.

Directions: Take I-64 to Exit 169 in West Virginia, the Lewisburg exit. Go south on Route 219 4.0 miles to the WV State Fairgrounds and take a right into the camping area just after the pedestrian catwalk over Route 219. Please follow the paved roadways to registration.

VAR Business Meeting: The VAR business meeting will be at 9 AM on Sunday. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Registration Deadline and Guidebook: The Guidebook will contain previously unreleased maps to several significant caves and will be a valuable addition to any caver's library. However, the Guidebooks will only be printed for those who register early. The deadline for preregistration is May 1. Download the Registration Form and send it in now to save money.

Stay tuned for more details or contact John Pearson (jpearson@rcc.com).

**Spring 2010
VAR/MAR
Registration Form**

Spring 2010 VAR/MAR will be held May 21-23, 2010 at the West Virginia State Fairgrounds located in Fairlea, WV. The Campground is next to Rt 219 in Fairlea WV, just south of Lewisburg.

Guidebooks will only be printed for those who register early.

Early registration by May 1st 2010 - Full = \$30.00 _____
(includes VAR or MAR dues and guidebook) – Please circle VAR or MAR

Early registration by May 1st 2010 - under 15 years old = \$23.00 _____
(does NOT include dues or Guidebook)

Early registration by May 1st 2010 – Full = \$33.00 _____
(includes both MAR and VAR dues plus guidebook)

On – site registration - Full = \$35.00 _____
(No guidebook)

“ -under 15 = \$28.00 _____

Make check payable to : Bubble Cave, LLC
Please fill out a form for each person

Name: _____

Address: _____

Grotto: _____

Phone number: _____

MAIL FORM to Judy Fisher
PO Box 276
Berkeley Springs, WV
25411

In each case where the data is provided, the Database Steward is required to:

1. Obtain a Data Confidentiality Agreement from the person or firm making the request.
2. Notify the PCC Board of the request for data and the response to it.

The Data Confidentiality Agreement states:

I agree that information included in the Pennsylvania Cave Database is of a highly sensitive nature to private ownership concerns, rare/endangered species concerns and environmental concerns. Therefore, I will not distribute the information provided to me by the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy to outside persons or agencies without an explicit authorization from the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy. After I have finished with the information that I am provided, I will ensure that it can no longer be used by others outside the scope of the project for which it is intended. In publication of any findings, I will respect the wishes of cave owners in regard to the publication of cave locations.

Christopher Catherman made a motion to accept the above as guidelines for the Database Steward. Mike Mostardi seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project List:

Dragon Cave: Berks County, PA – no report

Red Church Cave: Schuylkill County, PA- Dean Snyder plans to approach the landowner this spring to discuss physically opening the cave to assess gating needs. Karen Bange made a motion to allow up to \$500 be available to help with these efforts. Gretchen Williams seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Cleversburg Cave: Cumberland County, PA.- Pat Minnick reported the water monitoring system in the cave is working. Franklin County Grotto has purchased the material for fixing the kiosk at the cave entrance.

Schofer Cave: Berks County, PA- No report

Durham Cave: Bucks County, PA- Pat Richard reported no change

Corker Hill and Frustration Pit: Franklin County, PA- Ken Jones reported the housing project is on hold due to the slow housing market; the land hasn't even been subdivided. Ken has been in recent contact with the landowners. Ken plans on discussing a lease or easement policy with WASHCO Homes.

TIPPERY CAVE- Huntingdon County- this was put on the project list at the last meeting. No one was present to give an update report.

Christmas Cards: Send any contact information to Karen Bange

NEW BUSINESS:

The Nature Conservancy MOU: The MOU expires December 2010. Renewal of the MOU will be tabled unless The Nature Conservancy approaches the PCC.

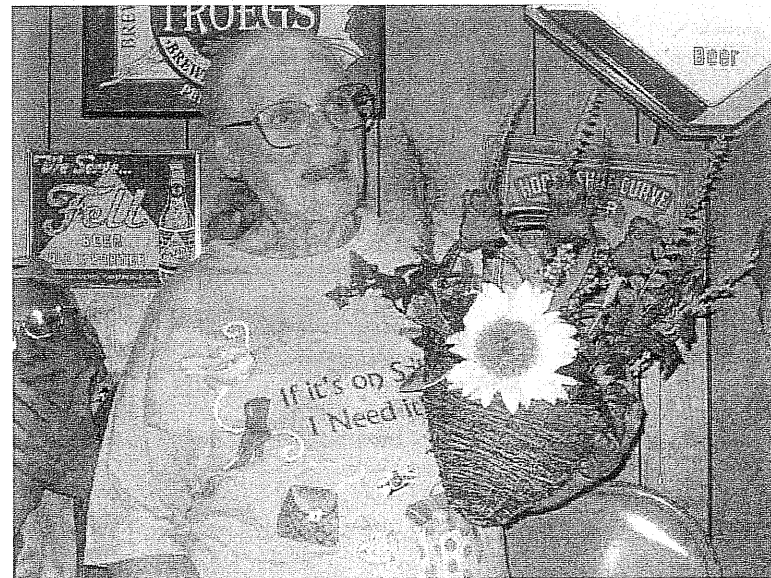
ELECTIONS: A motion was made to re-elect all the current officers. The motion was seconded and passed.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC is scheduled tentatively for May 23, 2010 at the Lewisburg WV Fairgrounds.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Bange, Recording Secretary

**Jay and Kathy Herbein recognized for forty five years of service to the
MAR, February 27, 2010**



For cavers in the Mid Atlantic States, the last Saturday of February means the annual Mid Appalachian Region (MAR) Business Meeting at the home of Jay and Kathy Herbein. For the past 45 years, the Herbeins have graciously opened their home to the invasion of cavers from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, New York and New Jersey. At this year's business meeting, Gordon Birkhimer, NSS President, presented Jay with an NSS lifetime membership. The MAR made a donation to the local Humane Society in honor of Kathy. Kathy was also presented with a flower arrangement. The MAR thanks the Herbeins for their 45 years of service to the MAR.

MAR Breakdown
 1360 58th Street
 Altoona, PA 16601

Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins (including reprinted Bulletins)

NSS Member Price List
 Effective January 2010

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

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