



BREAKDOWN

Volume 26, Number 2, August 2011

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.

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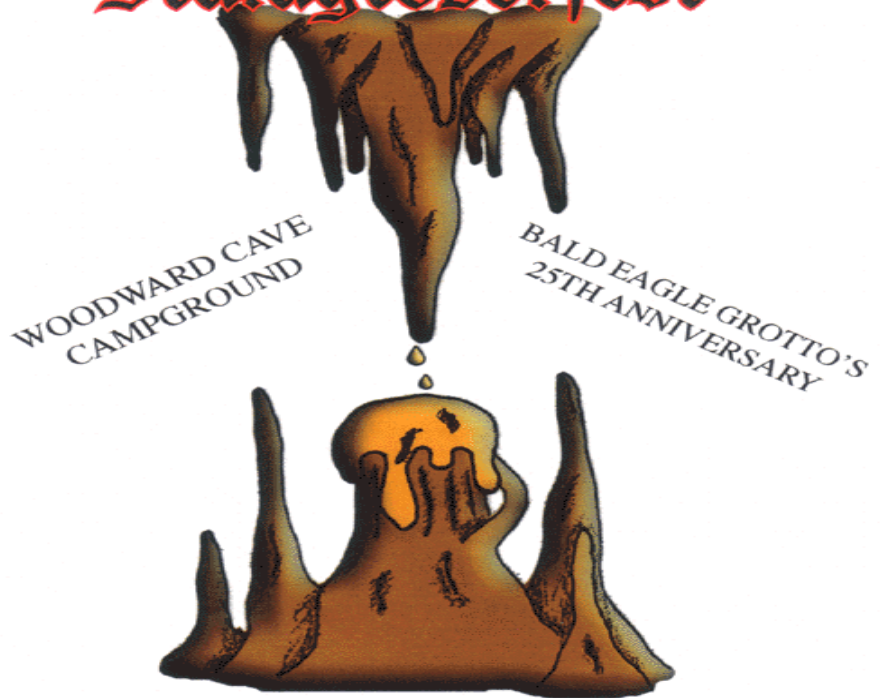
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BALD EAGLE GROTTO PRESENTS: *Stalagtoberfest*



FALL MAR FIELD MEET
SEPT. 16-18 2011

MAR OFFICER ELECTION AT THE FALL MEET

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



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MAR @ Shade Gap, PA

May 13-15, 2011 by Ken Tayman

It was FCG's turn to host the MAR spring meet. We do it every five years. We thought we'd move into a different area that would give access to different caves from those in the Chambersburg area where we had it on the last three or four meets we'd hosted. In March, we got an early start (unusual for our grotto) and made arrangements with the Shade Gap Fire Department to use their campground.

Nine months later, in typical FCG fashion, we still had no MAR committee chair, no t-shirt person, no guidebook person, no registration person, and only had two trips approved (Kookan and Hesston). At the January meeting I offered a suggestion that perhaps we should cancel the MAR due to lack of interest. This did wake up one or two people. Had a comment that York Grotto's last MAR didn't have any cave trips and that cave trips were not essential to hosting a MAR. I disagreed.

When I suggested we just forget about t-shirts, someone said "You gotta have t-shirts!!" I wouldn't move to the next subject until we decided either to not have a t-shirt or got a t-shirt person. We ended up with two T-shirt people. Registration was the same, if no registration person- then no MAR. I refused to move on until we had registration volunteers.

We continued to have meetings, with no chair, no guidebook person, T-shirt prices agreed on at meetings then remembered incorrectly, familiarization trips for new trip leaders didn't happen, verbal cost arrangements with campground became more vague and confusing all the way to the very last minute while writing the check. This was not the way to run a MAR.

In spite of ourselves, and with a lot of behind the scene prodding, things started to come together in April. Dane's pre-registration went well, pre-registering nearly 75% of eventual attendees. Gordy's T-shirts ended up making about \$200 which helped offset other expenses. Anne held down the registration booth the entire weekend. Howard's campfire was great. Dane's band, "FLOWSTONE" was really great. Professor Feeney's talk on the Fluctuating water levels in Cleversburg Sink was lively, educating and interesting. Door prizes were fun. Barry's cave goods store served the attendees well. Gordy's Cave entrance photo board always had a few people hanging around.



Gordy and Steve at the vertical practice. Photo by Howard W.

The weekend got off to a surprisingly good start when our new members, Steve, Drew and Andy guided three Friday evening trips to McFadden Cave. It was the

closest cave to the MAR site, but is a small, tight, crawly cave described as "everyone should try it once, but most won't do it a second time". We had anticipated perhaps there might be a request for a Friday trip and perhaps one Saturday trip. All together there were five led trips to McFadden, the most visited cave of the weekend.

Another surprise was the last minute owner approval of trips into Nelson's Pit. It was so short notice we didn't have any leaders set up for this nice, classic 70 foot free-fall dome pit. We checked around among the MAR attendees and came up with a couple trip leaders who were familiar with the cave and ended up with two Nelson's trips.

Karen and George Bange had originally authorized a single, six person trip into their "Rupert Cave". When a seven caver contingent from Central Connecticut grotto showed up and asked if they could arrange a trip they could all participate in, Karen and George agreed to make it happen. In the end they ended up combining three groups (eighteen cavers) and everyone got in. Thanks Karen and George!

Gordy set up a vertical practice session with ropes, gear and cable ladder. He was busy all weekend. We

even used it to clear a few new (to us) cavers for the vertical trip to Kooken. Saturday night it was still busy at midnight. Good job Gordy!

The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) sponsored a Pancake and Sausage breakfast on Sunday morning. The fire dept allowed the use of their kitchen facility for serving the breakfast and things went smoothly. Served a lot of people.

Most of the comments we received were that it was a great MAR. John Pearson, from Greenbrier County, WV, (and co-chair for NSS 2012 convention) said it was the best MAR site he'd been to.

STATISTICS

108 attendees including primary, family and kids
13 grottos (and cavers) representing 8 states & Ireland
15 led trips to seven different caves
First FCG sponsored MAR with band
First FCG sponsored MAR with Squeeze Box
First FCG sponsored MAR to use pre-registration
Trips to Kooken, 2 Flemings Caves, McFadden, Rupert, Hesston, Long Quarry, & Nelson's Pit



Dane Wagle offered to have his musical group, "Flowstone", perform a short program after dinner. Their acoustic sounds transitioned us from door prizes to a comfortable campfire evening. Great Job!! Thanks!!!!

<i>Fulton County</i>	Ken Jones, Pat Minnick, & Don Arrowood
<i>Huntingdon County</i>	Garrett Czmor
<i>Lebanon County</i>	Brett Johnson
<i>Lehigh County</i>	Mike Spencer
<i>Lycoming County</i>	JD Lewis
<i>Mifflin County</i>	Todd Hancock
<i>Northampton County</i>	Mike Spencer
<i>York County</i>	Brett Johnson

Christopher Catherman mentioned that other counties within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania should be added to the database list as many of these other counties are equally important due to increasing developmental impacts on natural karst resources. At this time, credible requests from the general public (such as agencies, organizations, developers, etc.) for information may not be considered by those counties not currently listed or being handled by a database steward. As a result of the discussion, *Lebanon County* was added to the list and was accepted to be handled by Brett Johnson.

Christopher also mentioned that since the PCC took over the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Cave Database in 2007 from Keith Wheeland, former creator and maintainer of the database, the database is still being “refined” as new individuals are needed to cover existing counties on the database list, such as Centre County, and counties not currently listed on the database list that do contain karst geology (limestone, dolomite, etc.) and karst features (sinkholes, caves, springs, etc.). Anyone interested in being a *County Steward* should contact Tony Canike, the *Database Steward*.

OLD BUSINESS:

Karen Bange reported that the lawsuit between the Juniata Valley Audubon Society and the Pennsylvania DEP is in process. The lawsuit is in response to the PA DEP issuing a mining permit within the Heller Cave Biological Diversity Area in Catharine Township, Blair County. A hearing is scheduled to take place in June 2011.

Election of Secretary: All the current officers were re-elected at the February Meeting except for the secretary position, which remained unfilled. Gretchen “Red” Schock was nominated as secretary. Gretchen’s nomination was unanimously approved by all attending the meeting and accepted. Gretchen will begin to serve as PCC’s acting Secretary starting with the next meeting, Fall 2011.

Project List:

Dragon Cave (Berks County, PA) – No update was given.

Red Church Cave (Schuylkill County, PA) – No update was given.

Merkle Cave (Berks County, PA) – Mike Mostardi indicated that activity with the trustees of the Merkle estate was moving slowly.

Cleversburg Cave (Cumberland County, PA) – Professor Thomas Feeney, of Shippensburg University, provided a talk and slideshow presentation after the traditional Saturday evening MAR dinner. The presentation topic was of the on-going research being performed by himself on monitoring the water levels within Cleversburg Sink and its relationship with the water level of nearby Burd Run. The water level within Cleversburg Sink is known to fluctuate over 30 feet in a relatively short period of time and only drains to a “caveable” level every four to five years on average.

Schofer Cave (Berks County, PA) – No update was given.

Durham Cave (Bucks County, PA) – Mike Mostardi and Amos Mincin indicated that the property was currently for sale.

Corker Hill and Frustration Pit (Franklin County, PA) – Franklin County Grotto approached WASHCO Homes with the recently drafted Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to move ahead and have proposed meetings between the grotto and WASHCO Homes.

Tippery Cave (Huntingdon County) – No update was given.

Peiper Cave (Cumberland County) – A clean-up trip is being proposed sometime in the near future. If interested, please contact Ed Kehs, owner of the cave.

Dreibilbis Cave (Berks County) – Mike Mostardi indicated that a possible “dig” may occur.

J4 Cave (Centre County) – The cave was added to the list (*see New Business*).

Keith Wheeland indicated that contacts listed for the various caves on the Project List should be contacted and reminded to either attend the PCC meeting or to send an updated report to an officer regarding any changes as many caves listed on the Project List continue to have “No Update was given”.

NEW BUSINESS:

J4 Cave: Recent developments of J4 Cave were discussed. Various grotto members from Nittany Grotto, including Bryan Crowell, Gary Dunmire, Terrance Lovell, and Paul Winters, briefly discussed the recent contact from Graymont. Apparently it is the landowner’s intention to close the cave, by means of sealing it shut with concrete.

In order to be better prepared with further discussions with Graymont concerning the future of J4 Cave, a motion was made by Bryan Crowell asking the PCC to approve the cooperation of the PCC in assisting the Nittany Grotto Inc. and The Central Region Emergency Strike Team (*C.R.E.S.T*) in their efforts in forming a working-relationship. This cooperative effort would help facilitate discussions and/or negotiations with Graymont in working towards a cave access or management agreement plan due to the cave’s beneficial resources used by many. Any potentially binding agreements with Graymont would then be presented back to the PCC board for consideration and approval.

The motion was voted on and was unanimously passed.

Grotto Removal: There was a brief discussion to remove Buffalo Valley Grotto from the PCC Representative list as the grotto officially went defunct recently and is no longer listed on the NSS’s active grotto list. The grotto was removed from the PCC Rep list.

Fall MAR 2011: Sara Ulrich announced that the Bald Eagle Grotto is hosting the 2011 Fall MAR on September 16-18 at the Woodward Cave Campground, located in Woodward (Centre County), PA. Information can be found on the MAR website at www.caves.org/region/mar.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be on Sunday, September 18, 2011 at the Fall MAR field meet, located at the Woodward Cave Campground in Woodward, PA.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am. Motion made by Paul Winter and seconded by Gretchen Schock.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Catherman, Recording Secretary –Interim

2011 MAR FALL FIELD MEET

BALD EAGLE GROTTO PRESENTS:

Stalagtoberfest



September 16-18, 2011
Woodward Cave & Campground
Woodward, PA

Hosted by
Bald Eagle Grotto
25th Anniversary

Registration



Adult Registration: \$25.00 (Postmarked on or before August 19, 2011)



Adult Registration: \$30.00 (Postmarked after August 19, 2011)



Children (4-12) Registration: \$12.00 (Postmarked on or before August 19, 2011)



Children (4-12) Registration: \$15.00 (Postmarked after August 19, 2011)



Children (3 and Under): Free

Registration Fee Includes



Bonfire Saturday night



Dinner Saturday night provided by Clem's BBQ (A vegetarian meal is available)



2-Nights of Tent Camping (Camper lots and hook-ups are available at extra costs)

The Pennsylvania Cave Conservation (PCC) will be sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday morning as a fundraiser, followed by the PCC Meeting. Please help support the PCC by purchasing a delicious hot breakfast!

Registration Information



Registration must be postmarked on or before August 19, 2011 to qualify for pre-registration prices



Make checks payable to **Bald Eagle Grotto** and mail to:

Bald Eagle Grotto
c/o 2011 Fall MAR
PO Box 71
Cogan Station, PA 17728

Directions

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: Travel East on Route 45 through the towns of Millheim and Aaronsburg. Several miles past Aaronsburg, turn right onto Quarry Road. Proceed approximately 1.5 miles to the intersection of Quarry Road and Pine Creek Road. Turn left onto Pine Creek Road and proceed approximately .25 of a mile to Woodward Cave Drive. Turn left onto Woodward Cave Drive and proceed into event site. (If you miss Quarry Road, continue East on Route 45 to the town of Woodward and turn right onto Pine Creek Road at the Woodward Inn -see below.)

From the Lewisburg area: Travel West on Route 45 through the Bald Eagle Forest and into the town of Woodward. Turn left at the Woodward Inn onto Pine Creek Road and proceed approximately 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Woodward Cave Drive and proceed into event site.

2013 NSS CONVENTION

Would you like to see another NSS Convention be held in Pennsylvania? It has been 40 years since the 27th Annual NSS Convention was last held in State College, Pennsylvania in August 1970. The 2013 NSS Convention is currently being planned to be held in Shippensburg, PA on August 5-9, 2013. 2013 is also the 60th Anniversary of the MAR! Please contact Russ Kennedy (uaimh@verizon.net) if you would like to help!

BALD EAGLE GROTTO PRESENTS:

Stalagtoberfest



FALL MAR FIELD MEET 2011

SEPTEMBER 16 THROUGH 18
WOODWARD CAVE & CAMPGROUND

WOODWARD CAVE DRIVE
WOODWARD, PA 16882

Please print this form and mail it with your check or money order payable to **Bald Eagle Grotto**.

Address to: Bald Eagle Grotto
PO Box 71

Cogan Station, PA 17728

NOTE: Registration must be postmarked on or before August 19 2011 to qualify for pre-registration prices.

PRINCIPAL ADULT REGISTRANT: _____ NSS# _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____ ALTERNATE #: _____

EMAIL: _____ PRIMARY GROTTO AFFILIATION: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME AND PHONE #: _____

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

NAME:	AGE: (indicate 'adult' if 21 or over)	RELATIONSHIP TO PRINCIPAL REGISTRANT:

ADULT (13+ YEARS) WITH MEAL: \$25.00* X _____ = \$ _____

CHILDREN (4-12 YEARS) WITH MEAL: \$12.00* X _____ = \$ _____ **TOTAL:** _____

Children ages 3 and under FREE.

***-AFTER POSTMARK OF AUGUST 19 2011:**

ADULT (13+ YEARS) WITH MEAL: \$30.00
CHILDREN (4-12 YEARS) WITH MEAL: \$15.00

*****IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE YOUR AGE ABOVE YOU WILL RECEIVE A NON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE MAR NAME TAG AND WILL NOT BE SERVED ALCOHOL. WE WILL BE VERIFYING AGE AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION*****

MAR Breakdown
81 Appalachian Drive
Carlisle, PA 17015-8515



Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins [including reprinted Bulletins]

NSS Member Price List
Effective January 2010

1-4	Reprint Volume: Bulletins #1-4		7.00 + postage B
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: Caves of Southern Cumberland Valley	93 caves 69 maps 126 pp	17.00 + postage B
7	Reprint Volume: Caves of Fulton County, PA	4 caves, 4 maps 17pp	5.00 + postage A
8	Reprint Volume: Caves of Blair County, PA	89 caves, 40 maps 90 pp	7.00 + postage B
9	Reprint Volume: Caves of Huntingdon County, PA	94 caves, 36 maps	10.00 + postage B
10	Caves of Snyder County, PA	20 caves, 14 maps	5.00 + postage A
11	Caves of Centre County, PA	71 caves, 56 maps	10.00 + postage B
12	Caves of Mifflin County, PA	47 caves, 31 maps/5 large maps	10.00 + postage B
13	Caves of Perry County, PA	13 caves, 6 maps	5.00 + postage A
14	Reprint Volume: Caves of Bucks County, PA	24 caves, 6 maps 43 pp	5.00 + postage A
15	Reprint Volume: Caves of Lehigh County, PA	25 caves, 13 maps 35 pp	6.00 + postage A
16	Caves of Northampton County, PA	24 caves, 13 maps/1 large map	6.00 + postage A
17	Caves of Northumberland County, PA	20 caves, 10 maps	5.00 + postage A
18	Caves of Berks County, PA	64 caves, 32 maps	10.00 + postage B
19	Caves of Bedford County, PA	54 caves, 33 maps	7.00 + postage A
20	Caves of Westmoreland County, PA	337 caves/187 maps/10 large maps	29.50 + postage C

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 B \$2.00 first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address
 C \$3.00 each copy

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