



BREAKDOWN

Volume 29, Number 3, January 2015

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-

Event notices and MAR Breakdown newsletters are distributed electronically. When you attend a field meet, the email address provided on your registration form is added to the distribution list. You may also add yourself to distribution by going to <http://eepurl.com/P2f5j> and completing a short registration form.

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:** Paul Winter
State College, PA 16803
(412) 849-6824
pawwinter@gmail.com
- Vice Chair:** J.D. Lewis
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(570) 220-4045
Lewjam15@hotmail.com
- Secretary:** Hope Brooks
University Park, PA 16802
(443) 510-0312
hzb5048@psu.edu
- Treasurer:** Bette White
4538 Miller Road
Petersburg, PA 16669
(814) 667-2709
wbw2@psu.edu
- Editor:** Gretchen "Red" Schock
81 Appalachian Drive
Carlisle, PA 17015-8515
(717) 697-3264
redcaver@verizon.net

MAR BUSINESS MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2015 PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at Mt. Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, PA on Feb 28, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

***** This is a New Meeting Location! *****

You will find additional information and directions on pages 2-3

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



Inside Page

Details on the 2015 Business Meeting Site	2
Fall MAR 2014 Write Up	4
PCC Minutes	6
Call for Youth Group Liaisons	9
MAR Bulletins for Sale	9

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MAR BUSINESS MEETING
February 28, 2015 at 1:30 pm
Mount Laurel Church of God
1295 Piketown Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112

The next MAR annual business meeting will be held at a **NEW** location at the Mt. Laurel Church of God. The church is located at 1295 Piketown Road, at the intersection with Sleeping Hollow Road and Appalachian Trail, in W. Hanover Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania (just East of Harrisburg).



The meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall located down stairs from the main church. The entrance to the hall is at the small handicap parking lot on the lower level of the church. Ample parking with snow removal is at the top of the hill across from the cemetery and the church. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE FIRE HOUSE PARKING LOT!**

A path up the steps and to the right side of the church leads down to the handicap parking lot and the hall entrance. Use the side entrance door, it will be marked “MAR”.

The MAR meeting attendees will have use of a large meeting room and clean modern bathrooms next to the meeting room. The facilities are heated and quiet, hopefully eliminating the problems some had hearing meeting discussions at the previous location. The rest of the hall will be off limits.

We do not have use of the kitchen, stairs, stage, or any equipment we do not own. Tables and chairs will be provided but we must set them up and take them down. Judi Stack will provide the tablecloths for the tables as well as signs for the recycling, trash, and entry door. Recycling containers for plastic bottles and aluminum cans will be placed by the exit. **PLEASE** use them to reduce the amount of trash that must be disposed of. These containers will be marked **RECYCLING** or **TRASH**. Everyone’s cooperation will be greatly appreciated!

Please don't forget to bring a covered dish for the after-meeting meal. A sign-up sheet is available to help MAR cavers plan for the event. The sign-up sheet can be found on the MAR website (http://caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg_foodsignup.htm). Please consider a dish that you wish to bring to the meeting to share with other hungry cavers. Also be sure to bring your non-alcoholic beverage of choice. Please Note: alcoholic beverages are **NOT** permitted on the church grounds.

Directions:

From the East on Interstate 81 Southbound and/or Interstate 78:

Exit Interstate 81 at Exit 77 (Route 39). Bear right onto Route 39 West (Linglestown Road).

From the West on Interstate 81 Northbound:

Exit Interstate 81 at Exit 77 (Route 39). Bear left onto Route 39 West (Linglestown Road).

Once on Route 39 (Linglestown road), proceed 0.6 miles to N. Fairville Ave. (pass McDonalds, Perkins, and various truck stops). Make an immediate right onto N. Fairville Avenue at the Comfort Inn and proceed approximately 2.8 miles from Route 39. Bear left several times to stay on N. Fairville Avenue (there are several jogs in the road). Turn right onto Piketown Road and proceed up over the mountain approximately 0.7 miles to the intersection with Sleepy Hollow Road and Appalachian Trail. The Mt. Laurel Church of God is located on your right side (east of Piketown Road) and the West Hanover Fire Company is located across the street on the left side (west of Piketown Road). Additional church parking is available at the lot diagonally across the intersection from the church. A cemetery is located across the street from the parking lot area.

From the North on S.R. 322:

Exit S.R. 322 at the North Front Street exit (Fort Hunter). Proceed several hundred feet and turn left onto Fishing Creek Valley Road (S.R. 443 East). Proceed approximately 7.3 miles and turn right onto Sleepy Hollow Road. Proceed on Sleepy Hollow Road for approximately 1.8 miles to intersection with Piketown Road. The church is located directly in front of you at the intersection.

PCC Officer Elections

There will be a PCC meeting February 28, 2015 following the MAR Business Meeting. It is at this meeting that PCC officers are elected. Anyone wishing to run for office can put their name on the ballot by contacting any PCC officer.

Cave conservation and protection can only happen if we all work together towards the same goals.
Get involved with PCC!

Fall 2014 MAR Field Meet

Rupert Cave Preserve, McVeytown, Pennsylvania

October 10-12, 2014 By Karen Bange NSS 37636

Thanks to everyone for helping to make the 2014 Fall MAR such a great event. After all the planning and preparing, the only thing left to check off the to-do list was good weather for the event. The weather forecast the week of the event did not bode well. Fortunately Rupert magic kicked in and the weather trended up throughout the weekend!

On Thursday there were a few early arrivals. Barry Duncan arrived early to set up his store. Terrance Lovell was on site Thursday to set up the zip line. Ziggy Seager stopped by after work to set up the registration tent. Steven Millet and Thomas from Connecticut drove down early to get in some extra caving. Danny and Tina Lanciault, Jess Wilson and Dave Schropp from Commander Cody Caving Club arrived Thursday evening to set up for the CCCC Fall Sprawl. It was a gorgeous Thursday night complete with a full moon.



Setting up the zip line

Activity started early Friday morning with the arrival of 6 port a pots. Registration got organized, fall decorations were set out, and people started caving. Registration went smoothly thanks to the Schock gang. By early evening the breakeven point for the event was reached- whew! The weather held out as people

set up camp. Dana Schropp organized a fantastic Commander Cody group meal for their Fall Sprawl. Thanks to all the cooks, in particular Mike and Linda Mostardi, for the excellent spaghetti sauce and Leslie Woodward for the pasta cooked to perfection. Jose Martinez led a carbide trip into the front part of Rupert Cave Friday evening. Cave trip sign-up sheets went out at 10 pm. As one attendee commented, "all the premier caves in Central PA are open for the event." It seems everyone who wanted to cave got in on at least one trip. Thanks to all the trip leaders and landowners for making this possible.

There were two quarter kegs of beer Friday night; Lord Chesterfield and Yuengling Lager. It was a nice night to hang out by the bonfire and get into MAR mode. As predicted, the rain set in late Friday night. It was a good excuse to crawl into bed.



Friday Evening at the pavilion

By Saturday morning, the rain had stopped. Those staying on the surface enjoyed a pretty fall day. Besides caving, people enjoyed hiking, fall festivals, corn mazes, wineries, and state parks.



Auction Saturday afternoon

Everyone was back on site by late afternoon. Franklin County Grotto had an auction before the banquet. They auctioned off Ken Tayman's caving equipment. All proceeds went to Ken's widow. The banquet was catered by SalLee's Dream and was both delicious and plentiful. There were two half kegs of beer Saturday night; Lager and Black and Tan. Many excellent door prizes were given out after the meal; thanks to Gretchen Schock for all the door prizes. As expected, the 200 foot of cave rope donated by Highline Ropes went first. Chris Nicola was the guest speaker. He gave an outstanding presentation on the ongoing saga of a Jewish family's survival during World War II by living in a cave in Ukraine. It's truly an amazing story.



Saturday dinner around the bon fire

Sunday morning was clear and bright. The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy pancake breakfast was a big success. For the first time in the event's history, there were over 100 tickets sold for the breakfast. The PCC meeting followed breakfast. By midafternoon, everyone was packed and heading off site. People continued to enjoy the beauty of Central PA on the way home by hiking and caving.

The final registration count: 195. It was a great fall MAR!

Hosts Needed For The 2015 Spring and Fall MAR!

As of January 2015 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2015 Spring or Fall MAR. If you are interested in hosting one of these events, a helpful guide to hosting a 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 field meet. If you're interested in hosting the event, please contact a MAR officer.

Deposit from Spring MAR	Registration + PCC Breakfast	5/23/2014	\$2,595.00
Interest: Payment		5/31/2014	\$0.79
Robertson Ass.	Check # 116	6/23/2014	(\$450.00)
MAR Payment	Profit from MAR + \$2 Per Person - Check # 117	6/4/2014	(\$321.12)
Interest: Payment		6/30/2014	\$0.86
Interest: Payment		7/31/2014	\$0.81
Interest: Payment		8/31/2014	\$0.81
Rebate from Sunrise	Deposit	9/4/2014	\$57.14
Interest Payment		9/30/2014	\$0.82
Ending Balance :			\$6,561.28

SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

	Maturity Date	
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2016	\$1,102.28
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2016	\$1,102.28
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2016	\$1,102.28

Tee Shirt Petty Cash \$60.00

COMBINED TOTAL :

\$9,928.12

Web Page: Dave Fricke stated the PCC web page is up and functioning with no issues or problems to report. Dave requested that all grotto representatives check their contact information and provide him with any required updates/corrections.

PCC Breakfast: 109 people attended the PCC pancake breakfast during the 2014 Fall MAR field meet. Christopher Catherman thanked all the volunteers that made the breakfast possible as well as all those who purchased breakfast tickets! This breakfast generated \$545.00 for the PCC, the best profit since Christopher has been organizing this pancake breakfast fund raiser. Christopher noted that Joe Schock's work on the grill has been invaluable. Steve Shawver has offered to store the PCC breakfast equipment until needed at the next field meet.

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

Mail: Nothing received. Dean Snyder will check to determine who is responsible for paying the PO Box fee this year.

Christmas Cards: Karen Bange continues to manage the yearly distribution of Christmas cards to cave landowners. PCC will reimburse Karen for the postage of the cards sent. Contact Karen if you have a landowner you would like added to the Christmas card list. It was requested that the two landowners associated with Nelson's Pit be added to the distribution list.

T-shirts: Gary continues to have PCC 25th anniversary T-shirts available at \$15 each (approximately \$17.65 with shipping). Dean Snyder also has older PCC shirts available for sale at \$4 each.

PA Cave Database: Keith Wheeland reported that he had been in contact with Tony Canike and the database continues to be up and running.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project List:

Corker Hill and Frustration Pit (Franklin County, PA) – Nothing new to report.

Dragon Cave (Berks County, PA) – Nothing reported.

Dreibilbis Cave (Berks County) – Mike Mostardi maintains positive relations with the cave owner.

J4 Cave (Centre County) – Gary Dunmire stated that no additional contact has been received from Graymont since the last PCC meeting.

Kepler Cave (Centre County) – Gary Dunmire stated that the relations with the land owner remain good. Paul Winter is acting as contact for Kepler Cave.

McFadden Cave (Huntingdon County) – Pat Minnick reported that the land owner, John McFadden, has passed away. Franklin County Grotto will pursue contact with the new land owner.

Red Church Cave (Schuylkill County, PA) – Dean Snyder reported that one trip was taken by members of New Jersey Grotto.

PCC Tax Exempt Status: Gary Dunmire contacted the IRS representative and was informed that the PCC's tax exempt status will be re-instated back to the point in time when it was lost. The PCC will maintain its tax exempt status.

Spring MAR 2014: There were 76 registered attendees and 6 TRA staff members in attendance at the 2014 Spring MAR held at the OTR site in Dailey, WV. The event reported a profit of \$338.15. Thank you to all those that pitched in to help make the event a success!

Fall MAR 2014: The Seven Valleys Grotto hosted the 2014 Fall MAR field meet. Red Schock reported that the unofficial attendance was 195 cavers. Thank you to all those who helped to make the event such an outstanding success! It would not be possible without the help of so many wonderful friends and fellow cavers. A special thanks to the Banges for the use of their property and all their hard work before, during and after the weekend!

NEW BUSINESS:

Loss of a friend: The caving community lost a good friend and active member in Ken Tayman of Franklin County Grotto, who passed away unexpectedly on June 3, 2014. An auction was held during the 2014 Fall MAR to benefit Ken's widow. Pat Minnick reported that the auction did very well and a portion of the money raised may be donated toward cave conservation.

Future MAR field meets: Jose Martinez, Vice Chair of NRO, expressed interest in coordinating a joint NRO/MAR field meet in the near future, with the possibility of including VAR as well. There are currently no hosts designated for any future MAR field meet events. Additional information and guidance about hosting a MAR field meet event can be found on the MAR Web Site (<http://caves.org/region/mar/hosting.htm>).

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2015 at the Mt. Laurel Church of God, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania following the MAR Business meeting. For directions and details, please see the MAR Web Site (<http://www.caves.org/region/mar/main.htm>). **(***NOTE – This is a new location down the road from last year's meeting site)**

Dean Snyder moved and Kim Fleischmann seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

Does Your Grotto Have A Youth Group Liaison?

We are asking all NSS Grottos to evaluate their role in getting local youth groups into a safe and ethical caving activity.

Do you have, or are you a caver with a connection to a youth organization? Have you taken a youth group caving? Have you given a cave talk to a youth group? You should consider the value of having a **Grotto Youth Group Liaison** position. A person, a point of contact for youth groups to contact for information about caving in your area.

What would your Youth Group Liaison do? You decide. It's up to each individual Grotto or Youth Group Liaison to decide what type of and how much of a commitment you can give to helping local kids learn about caves and caving the right way.

Are you already doing this? Do you want more information to do more? Let me know. I'd be very happy to listen to your stories about good times and challenges. If you need help, let me know. The Youth Group Liaison Committee is here to help.

Allen Maddox

NSS – Youth Group Liaison Committee, MAR Regional Coordinator

nssyouth@caves.org

Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins [including reprinted Bulletins]

NSS Member Price List

Effective March 2012

1-4	Bulletins Caves of Shippensburg Area #1-4 REPRINT		7.00 + postage A
5	Caves of Western PA REPRINT	29 caves, 19 maps	8.00 + postage A
6	Caves of S. Cumberland Valley REPRINT	93 caves 69 maps+6 large maps	17.00 + postage B
7	Caves of Fulton Co., PA REPRINT	4 caves, 4 maps	5.00 + postage A
8	Caves of Blair Co., PA REPRINT	89 caves, 40 maps	7.00 + postage A
9	Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA REPRINT	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	Caves of Bucks Co., PA REPRINT	24 caves, 6 maps	5.00 + postage A
15	Caves of Lehigh Co., PA REPRINT	25 caves, 13 maps	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 map/10 large maps	29.50 + postage C
21	Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookan Cave Huntingdon and Blair Counties	103 pages with color photos, 4 fold-outs, 2 large maps	27.50 + postage B

U.S. Postage: **A** \$2.00 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address

B \$2.50 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address

C \$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 U.S.A.