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.

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(570) 220-4045  
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**MAR BUSINESS MEETING**  
**SET FOR**  
**FEBRUARY 25, 2017**  
**PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW**

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at Mt. Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, PA on Feb 25, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

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

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The next MAR annual business meeting will be held at the Mt. Laurel Church of God (the same location as last year). 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 Small Meeting Room located down stairs from the main church (same room as last year). The entrance to the room 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 the small meeting room with kitchen and clean modern bathrooms next to the meeting room. The facilities are heated and quiet, 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 large meeting hall, stage, or any equipment we do not own. Tables and chairs will be provided but we must set them up and take them down. Also, no open flames please! 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 near the kitchen. 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. The MAR will, once again, be providing warm beverages (coffee/tea/hot cider) for the meeting attendees. 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.

*** ADVANCE NOTICE OF POSSIBLE CHANGE IN MAR BYLAWS ***

The MAR, at present has over $24,000 in its savings account. The MAR could earn substantially more interest if a portion these funds were invested in a Certificate of Deposit [CD] which is available at a local bank in State College. A motion would be needed to approve this investment.

New banking regulations require a modification of the MAR Bylaws in order to invest in a CD. An item for discussion at the Business Meeting will be to add the following modification to Article 3.7 of the Bylaws. This would be followed by a motion to approve the Bylaw change.

Addendum to Article 3.7
The Regional Council gives the treasurer the authority to enter into any document, to sign contracts, or to bind the Mid-Appalachian Region with any bank. This may be done only with the written (electronic email) approval of the other three officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary). Accounts opened and held at the bank require one signature of the treasurer.

The above wording is what the banking officers said would satisfy the new banking regulation. At present there is a rising rate 36-month CD available with an average return for the 3 years of 1.55%.

Elizabeth L. White, Treasurer, MAR
Remove printing MAR 22 from Feb 2016 Financial Statement... put into Feb 2017 statement

| Totals.......................................................... | 683.06 | -2,005.84 | -1,322.78 |
| Corrected totals for 2016 | 683.06 | -954.62 | -271.56 |

**MAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT: February 27, 2017**

Gross Assets: February 20, 2016
- Checking: 480.31
- Savings: $23,750.87 – 3,541.52 = 20,209.35
- [in savings: Bkdn $2,851.13 + Cave Signs 690.39]

Total: ..............................................24,231.18

Gross Assets: February 25, 2017
- Checking: 658.88
- Savings: $24,216.58 – 3,494.35 = 20,722.23
- [in savings: Bkdn $2,803.96 + Cave Signs 690.39]

Total: ..............................................24,875.46

Net Income (Gain/Loss) for 2015

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**MAR FIELD MEETS**

**Spring 2016 Franklin Co. Grotto**
- MAR Income: 90 persons @ $1.00 = $90.00
- Reg -Exp= 3,020.00-3,037.56=(-17.56)

**Spring MAR Profit...90.00 + 0.00 profit= ..........90.00**

**Fall 2016 Bald Eagle Grotto**
- MAR Income: 96 @ $1.00= $96.00
- Reg-Exp=$2,960.00 – 2,149.12 = $810.88

**Fall MAR Profit $96.00 + 25% ($810.88 profit) = ................298.72**

- Web Fee: Dec 19, 2016 fee 12.00
- Annual Meeting Site Rental 34.00
- Annual Meeting coffee/tea/cider 47.17
- Stamps 6.98
- Donation at meeting 20.00

**Field Meets/Web: Net ..........................................................308.57**

**MAR Bulletin sales**
- MAR 20: $5,250.14-(sold 1 @ 29.50) =
  $5,220.64 short of recovering cost

- Bulletin sales $1,363.50 + with P&H= 1,386.00
- Postage -0- 28.00.................................
- MAR #22 [$1046.22 + $5.00 fee for money order] 75 copies 1,051.22

**MAR Bulletin Sales: Net ..........................................................346.78**

**MAR BREAKDOWN**

**[New Breakdown balance: $2,851.13 - 47.17 = $2,803.96**

- CAVE LAW SIGNS (previous balance $690.39)
  - [New Cave sign balance = $690.39

| Totals.......................................................... | 1,823.65 | -1,179.37 | 644.28 |

Elizabeth L. White, Treasurer
Of Further Interest

Mar Bulletin Sales Feb 2016 – Feb 2017

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Fall 2016 MAR Field Meet
Woodward, PA
September 23-25 2016 by: Sara Bidlespacher

Once again the time had rolled around that it was Bald Eagle Grotto’s Anniversary. The big 3-0. So we hosted the Fall MAR 2016 in celebration. Woodward Cave Campground has always been so accommodating to us so we decided to return to the location once again. Having a commercial cave right on the premises is always a bonus. Woodward works well for a central location to many caves in the area as well as having access to restrooms, showers and a big pavilion. The central field makes excellent camping since it is maintained and level. The fire pit is secluded from the rest of the campground so that we don’t disturb the seasonal campers.

When we hosted the MAR back in 2011 we had the theme of Stalagtoberfest and that was quite a hit. Since many people enjoyed it we decided to make it a themed party once again. This year we had a Glow in the Dark party. There were black lights and glow sticks galore! I think that, once again, a themed MAR was a slam dunk.

Friday night, Brian (Rex) Ulrich busted out the deep fryer making fries and funnel cakes. Many people flocked to the smell and partied it up under the black lights in the pavilion as they waited for trip sign ups. Bald Eagle Grotto had new T-shirts out for sale that actually glowed in the dark! They were a huge hit as well.

A HUGE thank you goes out to all the trip leaders that hosted trips to many of the caves in the area.

Without them, there would be no point to the event. Bald Eagle Grotto sends our thanks out to:
- Rupert Cave- George and Karen Bange
- Penn Aqua- Jose Martinez
- McAlisterville- Joe and Talia Sepiol
- Deerbone- Matt “Sketch” Minihan and Nick Baker
- Big Ridge- Pat Minnick
- Kookan- Terrance Lovell
- Ruth- Andy McKinnon
- Miller- Ben Schantz
- Alexander Caverns- Mike Vaughn

Saturday night we had a catered meal by S & M Catering. The food was fan-freakin-tastic! The meal was followed up by an excellent presentation by Paul Winter on his adventures in Mexico. Thanks Paul! You’re a super swell guy!

Another thank you goes to MAKC for providing the Coffee and The PCC for hosting the Sunday Morning Breakfast.

Overall, in my opinion, it was another successful MAR in the books. The weather was great. The bonfire was eventful with the singing (thanks Pat for your lovely voice). We had a bicyclist, named Koby, from Israel just happen to stumble into our event and got to go on his first, ever, caving trip. Without the wonderful comradery of the caving world the MAR just wouldn’t have happened, so for that, we thank everyone that attended. We had a grand total of 97 registrants that attended.
Big Ridge Trip Report - Fall 2016 MAR Field Meet  
Respectfully submitted by: Benjamin Brown, Chairman, Niagara Frontier Grotto

The damp weather in Rochester on Friday afternoon was not an indication of what was going on in central PA. I arrived at Woodward Caverns around 6:30pm to 75 degrees and sunny skies. I had time to setup before dark and was soon joined by Alaric, Julie and Gwen. Rob, Anne and Ivan arrived a little after dark. I didn’t hear a final attendance number, but suspect it was just under one hundred. It was nice to see NFG well represented.

The event had a glow in the dark theme and all attendees were provided with glow bracelets at registration. The nighttime campground was possessed by glowing apparitions wandering about. The mood and behavior was much more subdued and mature than at NRO. There were great conversations around the campfire late into the evening. Some super genius had the fantastic idea of bringing a propane fired deep fryer to the event. Servers of french fries and funnel cake magically appeared around the fire to fuel the attendees. Truly brilliant (and much appreciated).

The selection of led trips for Saturday was great. There were more openings than attendees. I went with a large group to Big Ridge Cave. We left about 9am for the hour drive to meet the rest of the group at the entrance to the property. The cave entrance is at the top of a very steep dirt road that only 3 of our 4 vehicles were able to ascend. The top of the hill has a hunting stand, a picnic table and a small cave entrance with some big sinks nearby (see pictures).

From the entrance to the bottom of the cave is around 400 feet vertically. The limestone bedrock is tipped up at 65 degrees near the top and approaches 80 degrees toward the bottom of the cave. The unusual bedding plane makes for some very interesting climbing.

The main anchor for the first of three drops is about 25 feet inside the entrance and the end of the rope was attached to a tree on the surface for backup and as a traverse line approaching the drop. The drop of 120 feet isn’t a free drop, but a slide down a narrow slot. The rappel down isn’t too bad, but the climb up is very awkward and slow. Two additional mostly free hanging drops of about 80 feet each got us to the bottom of a large dome room. From there we worked horizontally through narrow but tall passage for a couple hundred feet to an even larger room.

There are some excellent decorations in the big room. Irena took pictures from near the bottom of the room that she hasn’t yet sent that I have been waiting for to post this report. The obvious floor
of the room is still at least 20 feet above the stream at the bottom of the cave. A group of us climbed down into the stream passage where it goes upstream a modest distance to a pinch and downstream to a very tight passage. While that passage has been explored to a bunch more cave, we decided not to push the 1 foot wide, 2 foot high passage in the stream (I’m honestly not sure I would fit). That will have to be a trip for another day with more rope for the climbing beyond.

The climb back out was slow with 11 people. Even with the pretty vertically experienced group that we had, it was over 3 hours from the first person to the last person out. A smaller group would be better for the return trip. There is also a climb up to a higher, more decorated level accessible from between the first and second drops. A really good push of the extent of the cave could easily take 6 to 8 hours underground. I don’t think there are more than a handful of people that have seen the entire cave.

We got back a little late for dinner, but there was plenty of barbeque for all (leftovers were still available at breakfast). Dinner was followed by door prizes (I actually won something) and a great presentation on a caving expedition to Mexico this past summer. The fire for the evening was at the far corner of the property so that we didn’t disturb the rest of the campground. There was live music by at least two different caver groups that went very late into the night. While the evening got quite cool, the combination of fire, beer, wine, moonshine and fun people made for a warm experience.

Sunday morning was the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) pancake breakfast followed by the PCC meeting. The spring 2017 joint MAR – NRO event was confirmed for the first weekend after Memorial Day in Schoharie. One trip went out to McAlisterville Cave which is well south of Woodward Cave. Since that was the wrong direction for me, I spent the balance of the morning socializing and waiting for the very heavy dew on my tent to dry in the bright sun. The drive home was very uneventful except for the giant traffic jam in tiny Naples, NY for the grape festival. I should have simply parked and had some wine. I probably would have gotten home about the same time.

2017 Spring MAR/NRO
Philadelphia Grotto and Central Connecticut Grotto will be hosting the 2017 Spring MAR/NRO field meet the weekend of June 2-4, 2017 at Indian Lookout Country Club in Pattersonville, NY. More details will be posted on the MAR web site as they become available (http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm).

Host Needed For the 2017 Fall MAR
As of January 2017 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2017 Fall MAR. If you are interested in hosting this event, 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.
The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am by President David Briggs at Woodward Campground, Woodward, PA on Sunday, September 25, 2016.

The following officers were present: President D. Briggs Vice President C. Catherman Secretary G. Schock Treasurer J. Boswell

Representation was as follows:

- Bald Eagle Grotto: J.D. Lewis
- Greater Allentown Grotto: Mike Spencer
- Baltimore Grotto: John Boswell
- Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters: ---
- Bucks County Grotto: ---
- Nittany Grotto: Paul Winter
- Cave Hill Grotto: John Boswell
- Philadelphia Grotto: Amos Mincin
- Central New Jersey Grotto: Amos Mincin
- Seven Valleys Grotto: Joe Schock
- Commander Cody Caving Club: ---
- York Grotto: Randy Hurst
- Franklin County Grotto: Pat Minnick

Secretary Report: The minutes from the May 15, 2016 meeting were accepted as published in the August 2016 MAR Breakdown.

Treasurer Report: John Boswell provided the PCC account activity since the last meeting.

**Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy**

**Financial Summary**

**Interest Checking Account**

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<td>Andy Filer Donation</td>
<td>6/8/2016</td>
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**SAVINGS ACCOUNT (CDs):**

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* $1.39 Interest credit applied to each 7/26/16

**COMBINED TOTAL:** $11,148.99
Web Page: The existing web page is up and running. The proposed new url, pacaveconservancy.org, has been established.

PCC Breakfast: Proceeds and donations from this morning’s pancake breakfast earned $223 for the PCC and $53 for MAKC. A big thank you goes out to MAKC for providing coffee on both Saturday and Sunday mornings of the field meet. The PCC does not plan to host a pancake breakfast at the upcoming 2017 Spring MAR/NRO field meet. The breakfast equipment will be transported to Dave Briggs’s basement for storage.

PCC Brochure: George Bange and Dave Briggs have a supply of brochures available. Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact George or Dave.

Mail: No report.

Christmas Cards: Karen continues to manage the yearly distribution of Christmas cards to cave landowners. Please contact Karen if you have a landowner you would like added to the Christmas card list.

T-shirts: Gary Dunmire reported that one PCC t-shirt was sold during the 2016 Fall MAR field meet. The shirts are being sold for $10 each.

PA Cave Database: The PA Cave database is up and running. Paul Winter stated that there was nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project and Caves of Interest List:

Hershey-Coy Cave (Cumberland County) – Mike Shank stated that work has been completed and everything looks good. This cave can now be removed from the project list.
J4 Cave (Centre County) – Paul Winter stated there have been no updates since the last PCC meeting.
Kepler Cave (Centre County) – Paul Winter indicated there was nothing to report and the cave could be removed from the project list.
McAlisterville Cave (Juniata County) – Red Schock reported the PCC is still planning to coordinate a cleanup effort of the area surrounding the cave entrance. Keith Wheeland has received positive feedback from the landowner regarding the project. Additional preparations must be coordinated to make the cleanup effort a success. Anyone interested in assisting with the arrangements should contact Red, particularly anyone familiar with the McAlisterville area. Additional information about the cleanup effort will be provided as it becomes available.
McClure Cave (Snyder Country) – Paul Winter has been in contact with the landowner and learned that she is interested in having a gate installed on the cave. Paul also reported that there is potential conservation work at the cave to clear trash and graffiti. Paul Winter moved and Gary Dunmire seconded to authorize up to $1000 of PCC funds to be allocated towards the gating efforts. The motion passed. Amos Mincin moved and Paul Winter seconded that the PCC organize a cleanup effort at McClure Cave. The motion passed.
The “P” Caves (Franklin County) – John Boswell has done some preliminary research on insurance costs to re-open the caves and make them accessible for cave trips. John has determined that any insurance policy will be expensive and plans to continue with his research.
Red Church Cave (Schuykill County, PA) – Mike Spencer indicated that he has been attempting to coordinate with Dean Snyder regarding outstanding work that still needs to be done to stabilize the entrance area. Mike is planning a trip to the cave to assess the current conditions. Amos Mincin volunteered the Philadelphia Grotto to assist with any future work.
NEW BUSINESS:

New PCC Logo: Dave Briggs plans to reach out to the area grottos for new logo design ideas. He may inquire at universities for submissions as well. Anyone interested in submitting a new PCC logo design for consideration should contact Dave.

PCC Conservation Efforts: Dave Briggs reported that members of PCC assisted MAKC with conservation work at Hall Cave and the surrounding area. PCC also assisted MAKC with a trip into Rupert Cave with other conservation groups.

Fall MAR 2016: Thank you to Bald Eagle Grotto (BEG) for hosting an excellent Fall MAR field meet! A great time was had by all!

Spring MAR 2017: Philadelphia Grotto is planning to host the upcoming Spring MAR on June 2-4, 2017 at Indian Lookout County Club in celebration of the grotto’s 70th Anniversary. Philadelphia Grotto will be teaming with Central Connecticut Grotto to host a joint MAR/NRO field meet in the Cobbleskill, NY area near Albany. Amos Mincin encourages those who have not caved in that area to attend and enjoy the opportunity to explore some new and different caves! More information will be posted on the MAR Web Site as it becomes available.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2017 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).

Paul Winter moved and Amos Mincin seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

PCC Officer Elections

There will be a PCC meeting February 25, 2017 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.

**Please Note** - After years of service to the PCC, Christopher Catherman has expressed his decision to step down from the PCC Vice-President position after the winter meeting/elections. Please keep this in mind as you consider nominations for the upcoming officer elections. Thanks to Christopher for all his time and dedication!

Cave conservation and protection can only happen if we all work together towards the same goals. Get involved with PCC!
## 2017 Upcoming Events

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 28-30</td>
<td>2017 Spring VAR at Thorn Springs Campground, in Pendleton County, WV hosted by Tommy Carpenter and the VAR volunteers (<a href="http://var.caves.org/">http://var.caves.org/</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2-4</td>
<td>2017 Spring MAR/NRO at Indian Lookout Country Club in Pattersonville, NY (Schoharie County) hosted by Philadelphia Grotto &amp; Central Connecticut Grotto (<a href="http://var.caves.org/">http://var.caves.org/</a>).</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 19-23</td>
<td>2017 NSS Convention at Rio Rancho, NM</td>
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<td>Sept 22-24</td>
<td>2017 Fall VAR at the Mountain Institute on Spruce Knob, Pendleton County, WV hosted by the Pine Mountain Grotto (<a href="http://var.caves.org/">http://var.caves.org/</a>).</td>
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## NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

(Effective February 2016)

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<td>Bulletins Caves of Shippensburg Area #1-4 REPRINT</td>
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<td>Caves of Perry Co., PA</td>
<td>13 caves, 6 maps</td>
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<td>25 caves, 13 maps</td>
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<td>24 caves, 13 maps+1 large map</td>
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<td>64 caves, 32 maps</td>
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<td>Caves of Bedford Co., PA</td>
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<td>Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA</td>
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