



BREAKDOWN

Volume 33, Number 3, January 2019

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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MAR BUSINESS MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2019 PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at Mt. Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, PA on Feb 23, 2019 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



Inside Page

Details on the 2019 Business Meeting Site	2
Host Needed for 2019 Spring MAR	3
2019 Fall MAR Announcement	3
Changes To Recreational Use Of Land and Waters Act May Affect Cavers	4
2018 Spring MAR Write Up	5
2018 Fall MAR Write Up	6
PCC Minutes	7
PCC Officer Elections	9
2019 Upcoming Events	10
MAR Bulletins for Sale	11

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MAR BUSINESS MEETING

February 23, 2019 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 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 Holiday Inn Express 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.

Host Needed for the 2019 Spring MAR

As of January 2019 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2019 Spring MAR Field Meet. 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 one of the events, please contact a MAR officer.

2019 Fall MAR

York Grotto plans to host the Fall 2019 Field Meet. More details will be posted on the MAR web site as they become available (<http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm>).

Changes To The Recreational Use Of Land And Waters Act May Affect Cavers.

By Randy Hurst

Most cavers are aware that Pennsylvania state law¹ excuses landowners from liability for injuries to recreational users that may occur on their property. Thus, if someone is hurt on the property while hiking, boating, hunting, camping or caving² (to name only a few listed activities) they cannot sue the landowner for their injuries. There are two exceptions to this: (1) if the landowner willfully or maliciously fails to warn against a dangerous condition,³ and (2) if the landowner charges a fee for entry. We have often provided a copy of the act to landowners to help them understand that allowing caving on their property will not expose them to liability as long as they don't charge a fee.

In November, 2018, the General Assembly enacted amendments to the law. Of most interest to cavers is a change in the section regarding charging fees. The term "charge" was redefined to exclude any voluntary contributions (including "in-kind" contributions, which can include improvements such as a cave gate or improvement of an access path) that are "not retained by the owner . . . and are used . . . exclusively for . . . (i) conserving or maintaining the land, (ii) paying taxes on the property, or (iii) paying for liability insurance on the property."

This change opens the door for landowners to charge a fee (*i.e.*, request a "donation") while still retaining the exemption from liability as long as the money is used for one of the enumerated uses. Since all landowners pay taxes and carry insurance, there is no impediment to asking for "voluntary" donations.

I don't believe that this rather obscure statutory change will be well publicized, so most cave owners will probably not hear about it. And, I assume, many who do will not decide to charge a fee anyway.⁴ However, our argument to landowners who are thinking about charging for access to their caves—that this would expose them to liability if anyone is hurt—has evaporated. While we can still encourage cave owners to make their caves accessible to us because there is no risk of getting sued, it would be a good idea to avoid talking about fees at all, lest we put that idea in their heads.

¹ 68 P.S. § 477-1 *et seq.* This law only applies in Pennsylvania.

² "Cave exploration" was added to the list of activities in 1992 thanks to the diligent lobbying efforts of our own Judi Stack.

³ This is a limited exception. In general, a landowner has no duty to warn of dangers.

⁴ Since that would require them to interact with cavers.

Spring 2018 MAR Field Meet – Hillside, PA

May 22-24, 2018 by Eric Pelkey (representative for Loyalhanna Grotto)

Photos by Daniel Meldrim

On May 22-24, 2018, the Spring MAR was held at Hillside, Pennsylvania and was hosted by the Loyalhanna Grotto. There were 84 attendees willing to drive to the Western part of the Pennsylvania.

The Spring MAR site was a somewhat unorthodox location for a field meet, offering attendees a beautiful mountainside location within walking distance of numerous large, deep, classic Pennsylvania caves.



Saturday cave trips were led to Bear Cave by Eric Pelkey, Lemon Hole by Andy McKinnon, Trout Run Woods Preserve by Carl Pierce, and Coon Cave by Dennis Melko, with Tom Metzgar serving as a shuttle up the rough access road to two of the caves. The other two trips were able to hike the whole way to the entrances, with the Lemon Hole trip calling in a “bail out” lift.



After caving all day Saturday, pit master Scott “Dangle” Bobbincheck prepared an excellent BBQ pork dinner. Following the meal, a set of door prizes donated by the Loyalhanna Grotto and several very generous attendees were auctioned off. After this, Eric Pelkey, Hope Brooks, and Ryan Maurer presented on a West Virginia University-led trip to Cuba. After that, many gathered around the campfire and were treated to Andy McKinnon and others singing and playing guitar.



We would like to thank Kim and Tom Metzgar for helping to arrange and prepare the site. We also thank them for laying out the event guidebook. Thanks, additionally, to the Loyalhanna and Nittany Grotto members who helped prepare the MAR site and man the access gate throughout the event. Eric Pelkey was the Spring MAR Coordinator for the meet.

Fall 2018 MAR Field Meet – McVeytown, PA

September 28-30, 2018 by Paul Winter (representative for Nittany Grotto)

Thanks to everyone for helping with the 2018 Fall MAR! A special thanks to Karen and George Bange for hosting the event, preparing all of the firewood, organizing the porta-pots, arranging the caterer, creating the budget, providing signage, and in general insuring things went smoothly.



Registration – by Danny Brumbaugh

Keith Wheeland was the main overseer of registration, meeting everyone who came in through MAR. Jeff Morrissey set up an incredible fall themed registration and aided in registering attendees as well as a second canopy at the upper campground. Thanks for the many trip leaders and Dave Seasholtz for managing that effort! We had some high water, but cavers made the most of it.



Allensville in High Water – by Dave Seasholtz

Terrance Lovell built and operated an awesome zip line in the quarry. Hope and Eric Pelkey updated a digital guidebook for the event. MAKC provided coffee and merchandise for sale. PCC offered a wonderful breakfast on Sunday morning.

Bryan “Crow” Crowell brought the beer and kept it cold.



Saturday Dinner – by Deven Kersch

Paul Winter provided the vegetarian option for Saturday dinner, printed flyers, aided with registration, disposed of garbage and recycling, and gave a talk on caving in Cambodia.

Danny Brumbaugh entertained with his Psychic Beat One Man Band, provided the PA system, and even had a disco ball! For those who I missed, thanks for your efforts, and thanks to the cleanup crew for taking down everything, eating leftovers, and restacking firewood including Rick Smith, who came Sunday morning just to help clean up.



Dancing to Danny Brumbaugh's Psychic Beat One Man Band – by Deven Kersch

The event went smoothly, with pretty good weather and a great time had by all. The dinner was catered by Doan's Bones Barbecue and they brought plenty! The final count was 155 attendees!



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

Minutes of Regular Meeting – September 30, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by Treasurer John Boswell at the Rupert Cave Preserve, McVeytown, PA on Sunday, September 30, 2018.

The following officers were present: **Secretary** Gretchen Schock **Treasurer** John Boswell

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	J.D. Lewis	Greater Allentown Grotto	Mike Spencer
Baltimore Grotto	Kim Fleischmann (proxy)	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	David Field (proxy)
Bucks County Grotto	---	Nittany Grotto	---
Central New Jersey Grotto	Amos Mincin	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Commander Cody Caving Club	David Fricke	Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick	York Grotto	Mike Shank

Secretary Report: Pat Minnick moved and Kim Fleischmann seconded to accept the minutes from the February 24, 2018 meeting as published in the April 2018 MAR Breakdown. The motion passed.

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

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

Financial Summary 2-24-18 through 9-30-18

Interest Checking Account

Checking Balance 2/24/18	F&M Trust Bank checking	2/24/2018	\$7,690.97
Deposit	Baltimore Grotto Donation	9/30/2017	\$50.00
Deposit	Central NJ Grotto Donation	10/31/2017	\$50.00
Check #1006	Red Church Gating Reimb Ed Kehs	11/30/2017	(\$500.00)
Check #1007	Tire Disposal (2,401 lbs)	12/31/2017	(\$108.00)
Check #1008	Gordy Ley Trailer Wheel	1/31/2018	(\$116.59)
Check #1009	Gordy Ley Weikert Cave Gating Reimg		(\$155.00)
Deposit	Amazon.com		\$6.24
Deposit	Interest Credit	2/28/2018	\$0.30
Deposit	Interest Credit	3/31/2018	\$0.56
Deposit	Interest Credit	4/30/2018	\$0.59
Deposit	Amazon.com	5/18/2018	\$5.00
Deposit	Interest Credit	5/31/2018	\$0.60
Deposit	Interest Credit	6/30/2018	\$0.59
Deposit	Interest Credit	7/31/2018	\$0.59
Deposit	Interest Credit	8/31/2018	\$0.58

Ending Balance : **\$6,926.43**

SAVINGS ACCOUNT**(CDs):****Maturity Date**

Certificate of Deposit *75	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,124.70
Certificate of Deposit *29	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,124.70
Certificate of Deposit *65	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,124.70

* \$2.78 Interest credit applied to each 7/26/2018

COMBINED TOTAL :**\$10,300.53**

Web Page: Dave Fricke reported that the existing PCC website is up to date and operational.

PCC Breakfast: Pat Minnick reported that the PCC pancake breakfast during the 2018 Fall MAR was a success with approximately 77 people served. \$330 (including a \$20 donation) was earned for the PCC and MAKC earned \$75. Thank you to all the volunteers of the breakfast crew as well as all those who purchased a breakfast ticket to support the PCC and MAKC!

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: Kim Kehs volunteered to assume the task of sending the PCC Christmas Cards. Please contact Kim if you know of a landowner you would like added to the PCC Christmas card list.

T-shirts: The PCC t-shirts are available for purchase on the PCC web site for \$15, which includes shipping and handling.

PA Cave Database: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:**Project and Caves of Interest List:**

Cold Air Cave (Monroe County) – No report.

Kiehls/Schwalms Caves (Northumberland County) – The Kiehls Cave land owners were very happy with the results of the PCC cleanup event on Saturday, April 14, 2018. Thank you to everyone who came out to make a large task go well with so many hard working cavers/volunteers! This cave can be removed from the project list.

McClure Cave (Snyder County) – Rick Smith reported that the cave gate has been painted which concludes the planned work for the cave. This cave can be removed from the project list.

Red Church Cave (Schuylkill County, PA) – Mike Spencer and Dwight Kempf stated that the retaining wall work is complete and that the gate latch has been modified to open easier. The roof to protect the cave entrance area from falling debris is still under construction and there are trees that must be cleared.

PCC Meeting Improvements: PCC members are encouraged to share ideas and suggestions on ways to improve our PCC meetings. Please send suggestions to PCC President Dave Briggs.

Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC): Mike Spencer reported that the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) has recently posted a press release considering the re-classification of tri-colored and little brown bats as endangered. A link to the article can be accessed from the PGC web site (<https://www.pgc.pa.gov/>). Cavers should be aware of and consider the potential impact on access to caves in Pennsylvania based on this possible status change. Dave Field suggested researching how other conservancy groups utilize lobbying to represent their conservancy interests.

NEW BUSINESS:

Silers Cave for Sale: Mike Shank stated Silers Cave property has recently been put on the market for sale at a listed price of \$99,000, which includes any structures that are on the property. Amos Mincin

reported that the Philadelphia Grotto was interesting in assisting to keep Silers Cave open and available for cave trips. Amos also stated that Philadelphia Grotto may be willing to contribute funds toward the purchase of the cave property. While nothing official can be reported at this time, some cave conservancies are seriously considering pursuing the purchase of the cave property.

Virtual PCC Meetings: In order to allow for more convenient attendance of future PCC meetings, it was suggested that virtual meetings be considered as a possibility. Mike Shank moved and Amos Mincin seconded to allow virtual meetings for future PCC meetings. The motion passed. More details will be provided if/when the process is established.

Eagle Scout Project at Wind Cave: Mike Shank reported that a boy scout is in the process of constructing an informational kiosk at Wind Cave as part of his Eagle Scout project. The construction of the kiosk is scheduled for the last weekend in October. Mike reported that Lancaster Land Conservancy is in the process of purchasing rights to the land in the area, including the cave entrance.

Spring MAR 2018: Eric Pekley and Dwight Kempf reported that the 2018 Spring MAR event hosted by Loyalhanna Grotto was muddy, wet, and had approximately 84 people in attendance. A great time was had by all. Thanks to Loyalhanna grotto for hosting and to MAKC for the use of the Bear Cave Natural Area.

Fall MAR 2018: Thanks to George and Karen Bange and the Nittany Grotto for hosting a wonderful Fall MAR event!

Spring MAR 2019: There is currently no grotto/group who has volunteered to host the 2019 Spring MAR. Please contact a MAR officer if your grotto is willing to host an event.

Fall MAR 2019: Mike Shank stated that York Grotto plans to host the 2019 Fall MAR. More information will be provided on the MAR website as it becomes available.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC is to be determined. Additional information will be distributed as it becomes available.

Mike Spencer moved and Kim Fleischmann seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.


Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

PCC Officer Elections

There will be a PCC meeting February 23, 2019 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!

Upcoming Events

- 2019 MAR Annual Business Meeting** February 23, 2019
 Mt. Laurel Church of God
 1295 Piketown Road, Linglestown, PA
 URL: www.caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg.htm
- Grand Caverns Easter Restoration Field Camp** April 5-7, 2019
 Grand Caverns
 Grottoes, VA (Augusta County)
 27th Annual
 Hosted By: Conservation Committee of the Virginia Region (VAR)
 URL: var.caves.org/index.php/events/easter-at-grand-caverns
 Contact: Meredith Hall Weberg 
- '19 Spring VAR Field Meet** April 25-28, 2019
 Camp Powhattan Boy Scout Camp
 Wytheville, VA (Wythe County)
 Hosted By: James River Grotto
 URL: var.caves.org/
- 2019 NSS Convention** June 17-21, 2019
 Cookeville, TN
 78th Anniversary
 URL: <http://nss2019.subworks.com/convention2019.html>
- Old Timers Reunion (OTR)** August 29-Sept. 2, 2019
 OTR Site/Campgrounds
 Dailey, WV (Randolph County)
 70th Annual
 URL: www.otr.org
- '19 Fall MAR Field Meet** Fall 2019
 Location: TBD
 Hosted By: York Grotto
 URL: <http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm#fall>
- '19 Fall VAR Field Meet** Fall 2019
 Friars Hole Cave Preserve
 Renicks Valley, WV (Greenbrier & Pocohontas Counties)
 Hosted By: DC & Baltimore Grottoes
 URL: var.caves.org
- '19 Bridge Day** October 19, 2019
 New River Gorge Bridge
 Fayetteville, WV
 39th Anniversary
 URL: www.officialbridgeday.com -or-
www.nps.gov/neri/bridgeday.htm -or-
www.bridgeday.info/
- 2020 MAR Annual Business Meeting** February 22, 2020
 Mt. Laurel Church of God
 1295 Piketown Road, Linglestown, PA
 URL: www.caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg.htm
 URL: www.caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg.htm
- 2020 NSS Convention** Summer 2020
 Elkins, WV (Randolph County)
 79th Anniversary

NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

Effective October 2018

MID-APPALACHIAN REGION BULLETINS (including reprinted Bulletins)

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	<u>Revised/Corrected</u>	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	6.00 + 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	10.00 + 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 maps/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-out maps, 2 large maps	27.50 + postage B
22	Caves of Middle Susquehanna Valley		140 pages with color photos	16.00 + postage D

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.

D \$3.50 postage for each bulletin #22

MAR Bulletin Orders: Please make checks payable to MAR

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**NOTE:** All checks must be payable in U.S. dollars on U.S. bank or U.S. money order

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Order from: **Bette White, 4538 Miller Road, Petersburg, PA 16669-2711 U. S. A.**