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  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221  
(443) 510-0312  
caverhope@gmail.com

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

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Officers Present:
Paul Winter, Chairman
JD Lewis, Vice-Chairman
Hope Brooks, Secretary
Bette White, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order by MAR Chair, Paul Winter, at 1:47 PM, February 23, 2019, at the Mount Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Introductory Remarks: Paul Winter thanked the organizers for facilitating use of the meeting space at the Mount Laurel Church of God.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary’s Report was read by MAR secretary, Hope Brooks. The minutes were accepted with minor changes.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer’s Report was read by MAR treasurer, Elizabeth “Bette” White. Total income of the year was $1,092.28, with $1,831.54 in expenditures. Net loss for the year was $739.26.

Vice Chairman’s Report: J.D. Lewis reports that he is glad the secretary, Hope Brooks, is present.

Chairman’s Report: Articles of incorporation need to be updated for next year.

MAR Breakdown: The MAR Breakdown report was given by Gretchen “Red” Schock. The MAR breakdown was printed and distributed on schedule electronically. If you are not receiving notice of MAR Breakdown publications or have material to include, please let Red know.

Mail Chimp Listserv: George Bange reported that the Mail Chimp listserv is working well. There are 389 people on the mailing list. Christopher Catherman will now be managing our Mail Chimp listserv.

2018 Spring Field Meet: Eric Pelkey reported that the Loyalhanna Grotto hosted the Spring MAR Field Meet, with 84 attendees at the MAKC Hillside Preserve. The field meet was successful.

2018 Fall Field Meet: Paul Winter reported the Nittany Grotto hosted the Fall MAR Field Meet, with 155 attendees at Rupert Cave Preserve. The field meet was successful.

MAR Web Site and Listserv: The MAR webmaster, Christopher Catherman, reported that the MAR website and listserv remain functional. The NSS notified the MAR that they are dropping the hosting services for IOs, but it is unclear when the servers will go down. Kim Metzgar reported that the MAKC would be willing to host the MAR and PCC websites when the NSS servers go down. She requested some monetary and technical assistance.

Craig Hindman moved to give Christopher Catherman the authority to transfer our website as the need arises. Eric Pelkey seconded the motion. The motion passed. During discussion, we addressed the future need to develop a MAR Event Site for Fall and Spring MAR registration. Paul Winter described his experiences using Event Brite for Fall MAR registration. Dave Briggs suggested
that the MAR standardize online registration by using one service like Event Brite. These services allow for registration without payment, as well.

**MAR Bulletins:** Will White reported that he is not working on any MAR Bulletins. MAR Bulletin #22 was the last bulletin published, and it sold out.

**Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC):** Paul Winter reported that the state has listed several species of bats as state listed endangered. Kim Metzgar reports that ten bats were found in Indian Caverns, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission also gated Dunbar Sandstone Mine this year.

**Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC):** George Bange reported that he and Karen are retiring, potentially impacting access into Rupert Cave. The Banges are partnering with MAKC to manage property and cave access. If you want to go on a trip into the cave, contact Karen and George Bange, as well as the MAKC, for access using the email address: rupertcave@karst.org.

Kim Metzgar reported that MAKC will be leasing Silers Cave, and it will be open in the spring. In March, there will be a work day to remove a wooden platform above the cave and to replace the cave ladder. There will be two weekends a month where you can access the cave, and you can register a trip online.

Tom Metzgar reported that the MAKC is purchasing Sarah Furnace Cave. On May 31st, 2019 the MAKC will be closing on the cave. The parcel purchased will be approximately 20 acres. There is also an extension of the Allegheny River Rail trail going through the property, and a riverfront access. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is also cleaning up nearby waterways.

Kim Metzgar requested that the MAR donate money to help acquire the property. The property will cost approximately $100,000, and the MAKC has raised nearly $60,000. Steve Warnick moved that the MAR donate $10,000, and the motion was seconded. The motion passed!!

Tom Metzgar reported that the MAKC also has a lease on Bedford Springs Cave. The property the MAKC is leasing has many sinkholes.

**WNS and Bat Health:** WNS continues to march westward and is here to stay.

**2019 Spring Field Meet:** The Bald Eagle Grotto will be hosting the Spring Field Meet May 3-5, 2019 at Woodward Cave. The Bald Eagle Grotto is looking for a speaker for the event. Pre-registration will likely be done on the Bald Eagle Grotto’s website.

**2019 Fall Field Meet:** York Grotto’s 60th anniversary is this year. In honor of their anniversary, the York Grotto will be hosting the Fall Field Meet September 20-22, 2019 at Newville Fairgrounds near Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

**New Business**

**Bylaws Update:** We will need to update our bylaws to change the NSS’s location to Huntsville, Alabama. We also may need to add the NSS’s anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies to our bylaws because we must be in compliance with the NSS’s policy. This will be dealt with in 2020 because we are unable to vote this meeting.

**Board of Governors Meeting:** The NSS Board of Governors Meeting will be on March 23rd in State College, Pennsylvania.

**Listing of Bats:** The Pennsylvania Game Commission is moving to list Little Brown and Grey Bats as state-listed threatened.

**Bernard Smeltzer Map Display:** Hope McAdam brought a display of copies of Bernard Smeltzer’s maps and original photos of him. She is looking for someone to care for the display, as well as original maps. There was discussion about donating the maps to the MAKC.

**Pennsylvania Cave Protection Signs:** The MAR still has many cave protection signs that are out of date. There was discussion on what to do with the leftover signs. Ideas discussed included selling the signs as a fundraiser or updating the signs and installing them in caves. There was a motion made...
to give the signs away to those who will put them in the cave. The motion passed.

**Wind Cave Map:** Brian Louden from Philadelphia Grotto is mapping Wind Cave.

**Upcoming Orientation to Cave Rescue:** Pat Minnick reported that the Eastern Region of the NCRC is hosting an Orientation to Cave Rescue in Burnsville, Virginia June 28-30.

**2020 MAR Business Meeting:** The 2020 MAR Business Meeting will be on February 29, 2020.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope Brooks

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**MAR Recording Secretary**

**Representatives at the MAR meeting:**

- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Bucks County Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Loyalhanna Grotto
- Nittany Grotto
- MAKC
- Philadelphia Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- Baltimore Grotto
- Commander Cody Caving Club
- Central New Jersey Grotto

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**2019 Fall MAR**

York Grotto plans to host the Fall 2019 Field Meet September 20-22, 2019 at the Newville Fairgrounds, Newville, PA. More details will be posted on the MAR web site as they become available ([http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm](http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm)).
When: May 3-5, 2019

Where: Woodward Cave Campground
Woodward, PA

Price: The event registration fee includes both the camping fee and a dinner Saturday night. Electronic payment can be done either via PayPal or Venmo.

PayPal: paypal.me/BEGrotto
Venmo: @BaldEagle-Grotto

Adults 21+:
Pre-registration - $25, At event: $30

Children and adults ages 4 - 21:
Pre-registration - $15, At event: $20

Children 4 and under are free.

To pay via mail, please mail a check to:
Bald Eagle Grotto
PO Box 71
Cogan Station PA 17728

Please ensure your name is included in a note with the registration fee.

Online Registration: baldeaglegrotto.weebly.com/registration.html

Directions:

From the State College, PA area, follow Route 45 East through Spring Mills, then Millheim, to Woodward PA. Look for signs to turn right on Quarry Road, go about 2 miles and follow the signs. Or (if you miss the turn at Quarry Rd.), continue east on Route 45 to Woodward and turn right at the Woodward Inn. Woodward Cave is then 2 miles.

From the Lewisburg, PA area, follow Route 45 West through Mifflinburg, then over the mountain to Woodward. Turn left at the Woodward Inn. Woodward Cave is then 2 miles.

Do not follow any GPS instructions that follow unpaved mountain roads. The mountains around Woodward are covered with dirt roads that sometimes show up on GPS mapping but you want to stay on paved highways.

For google maps or apple: enter Woodward Cave, Woodward, PA. Map Quest just doesn't know where we are. Ignore anything that says 2107 State Route 45.

Additional directions can be found at: http://www.woodwardcave.com/mapanddirections.html
The meeting was called to order at 3:55 pm by President Dave Briggs at the Mt. Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, PA on Saturday, February 23, 2019. Dave began the meeting by extending his sincere gratitude to his fellow PCC officers as well as all the PCC members for their impressive efforts in the PCC clean-up events over the past few years.

The following officers were present: **President** Dave Briggs  **Treasurer** John Boswell

**Secretary** Gretchen Schock

Representation was as follows:

- **Bald Eagle Grotto** J.D. Lewis
- **Baltimore Grotto** Craig Hindman
- **Bucks County Grotto** Steven Warnek
- **Central New Jersey Grotto** Amos Mincin
- **Commander Cody Caving Club** Mike Mostardi
- **Franklin County Grotto** Pat Minnick

- **Greater Allentown Grotto** Dean Snyder
- **Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters** Dean Snyder (proxy)
- **Nittany Grotto** Paul Winter
- **Philadelphia Grotto** Amos Mincin
- **Seven Valleys Grotto** Joe Schock
- **York Grotto** Randy Hurst

**Secretary Report:** The minutes from the September 30, 2018 meeting were accepted as published in the January 2019 MAR Breakdown.

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

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**Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy**

**Financial Summary**

10-01-18 through 2-23-19

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**Ending Balance:** $7,331.49

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

**COMBINED TOTAL:** $10,705.59
**Amazon Smile Reminder:** Dave Briggs reminded everyone that the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy is a participating charity in the Amazon Smile program. Amazon shoppers are encouraged to use the Amazon Smile feature with the PCC as a means for raising funds. There is no additional cost for the shopper but the selected charity receives a percentage of every purchase.

**Web Page:** Dave Fricke reported that the existing PCC website is up to date and operational. Dave Briggs stated that the PCC has available web space in the event the NSS provided space becomes unavailable.

**PCC Breakfast:** The PCC officers indicated that a pancake breakfast could be provided at the upcoming 2019 Spring and/or Fall MAR field meets, if the hosting grottos were interested. York Grotto expressed the desire for a PCC pancake breakfast at the Fall MAR field meet.

**PCC Brochure:** George Bange will be providing his supply of brochures to Dave Briggs. Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact Dave Briggs.

**Mail:** Dean Snyder reported that the PCC annual mailbox fee of $76 was paid by the Greater Allentown Grotto (GAG). The PCC also received two mail items which Dean provided to John Boswell.

**Christmas Cards:** Kim Kehs assumed the task of sending the PCC Christmas Cards beginning in 2018. The cards that were sent for Christmas 2018 were handmade by Kim. Dave Briggs suggested including a PCC brochure in the upcoming year’s cards. Dave also requested that Ed Kiehls be added to the card list and will provide the mailing address to Kim. 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. Dave Briggs and John Boswell indicated that they would like to obtain the shirts from Gary Dunmire and possibly donate some to future MAR field meets as door prizes.

**PA Cave Database:** Paul Winter reported that Tony Canike continues to serve as the primary contact for updates and requests concerning the PA Cave Database. Paul is acting as a back-up for Tony when needed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Project and Caves of Interest List:**

**Cold Air Cave** (Monroe County) – Dean Snyder has drafted a letter that should be printed on PCC letterhead prior to being sent. Dave Briggs will follow up with the letter Dean provided.

**Kiehls/Schwalms Caves** (Northumberland County) – Dave Briggs took another opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts. He has received various text messages from the Kiehls/Schwalms Cave landowners expressing their gratitude, so landowner relations are very good. Dave mentioned that, due to high water levels, there were some tires that could not be removed from the cave on the day of the cleanup. Unfortunately, those areas of the cave remain inaccessible as a result of the excessive rain over the past year. This cave can be removed from the project list.

**Red Church Cave** (Schuylkill County, PA) – Dean Snyder reported that Ed Kehs did a masterful job with the retaining wall at the cave entrance. Improvements were also made to the cave gate to make opening it easier. The protective roof at the cave entrance area is still under construction.

**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.
Silers Cave for Sale: During the MAR Business meeting, it was announced that a caving family has purchased Silers Cave. MAKC is leasing the property and assisting the owners with management. MAKC will gladly accept donations towards this new effort.

Eagle Scout Project at Wind Cave: The Eagle Scout project to construct an informational kiosk at Wind Cave has been completed. Photos of the project are available for viewing on York Grotto’s website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Next PCC Project: Dave Briggs stated that the PCC is looking for conservation/cleanup projects for the upcoming year. Cold Air cave is being considered as a possibility.

PCC Event Insurance: Dave Briggs plans to discuss insurance coverage with a representative from the NSS for additional clarification on coverage that is available to cave conservancies. During the Kiehls/Schwalms cleanup last spring, the PCC used coverage through Franklin County Grotto’s policy. Dave is investigating options for event coverage and is open to suggestions.

Spring MAR 2019: Bald Eagle Grotto plans to host the 2019 Spring MAR at Woodward Cave Campground on May 3-5, 2019. The theme will be a combination of “May the Fourth Be With You” and “Cinco De Mayo”. Additional information will be posted on the MAR website as it becomes available.

Fall MAR 2019: York Grotto plans to host the 2019 Fall MAR in Newville, PA on September 20-22, 2019. More information will be provided on the MAR website as it becomes available.

Sarah Furnace Cave Donation: Paul Winter proposed assisting MAKC with their fund raising efforts for Sarah Furnace Cave. Craig Hindman moved and Randy Hurst seconded for the PCC to donate $1000 to MAKC for the cave purchase. The motion passed.

Elections: Randy Hurst moved and Mike Mostardi seconded that the existing PCC officers remain for another year. The motion passed and all current officers were re-elected.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be held during the 2019 Spring MAR at Woodward Cave Campground on May 5, 2019 at 9:30am.

Paul Winter moved and Mike Mostardi seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary
Orientation to Cave Rescue
June 28-30, 2019

Burnsville Community Center
9215 Tower Hill Rd
Williamsville, VA 24487

COURSE OVERVIEW

This Orientation to Cave Rescue Course is being presented by the Eastern Region of The National Cave Rescue Commission and the Butler Cave Conservation Society. The class will take place at the Community Center. The Orientation course material is presented for students who typically include cavers, emergency service personnel and rescue management personnel.

The OCR is an introductory level program which consists of instruction of both classroom and field work in all phases of cave rescue. Some of the items covered in this class are the underground environment, extrication techniques, communication systems, medical management, operations, equipment, documentation, and response systems. The course is conducted over a three day period (typically Friday Night, Saturday and Sunday). The first evening consists of classroom studies. The second day consists of classroom studies and hands on exercises. The third day consists of a carefully staged mock exercise that allows the students the opportunity to actually participate in many of the functions that a cave rescue mission would utilize.

This course is physically demanding. Participants must be in good physical health and must sign a liability waiver. Persons under 18 years of age must contact the Regional Coordinator prior to registering for the class.

The Friday and Saturday portion of this class is being held at the Burnsville Community Center. Students are expected to arrive at 1830HRS on 28June2019 to check in and show that gear is cleaned. Classes will start as soon as all the student’s gear is checked. The Saturday and Sunday portion of the class will start at 0800HRS. The Sunday portion of the class will be at a specific cave that will not be announced until Sunday morning.

The Registration Fee for this course is $60.00 which will include all course materials. Students will be provided with lunch on Saturday. Please bring anything else that is adequate for your needs.

Saturday lunch will be cold cuts and a snack.

Limited tent camping is available at Butler Cave. Please make your selection during registration. There are hotels/motels nearby around Williamsville for those wishing for that type of convenience. There are links to them on the registration page.

If you have any questions about this course please contact:
Glen Hugus
Cell: 540-968-6381
Email: ford428cj@yahoo.com
REQUIRED EQUIPMENT
Revision02182019

- A sturdy helmet with a non-elastic chinstrap equipped with a quick release buckle. Helmet should be UIAA rated. Fire type helmets are made for fires and other types of rescues, and are not acceptable for cave rescues.
- Three independent sources of light each capable of allowing safe exit from a cave. The primary light must be helmet mounted.
- Sturdy boots with lug soles.
- Leather palmed gloves.
- Appropriate rugged clothing for damp, muddy, 50° cave temperature. Layering with polypropylene is advisable.
- A small rugged cave pack suitable for carrying personal supplies underground.
- Small personal first aid kit.
- Three garbage bags.
- Personal food and water for eight hours, to be used during the Mock exercise on Sunday. Food will not be provided in cave on Sunday.
- VERTICAL EQUIPMENT IS NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE
- ALL GEAR MUST BE CLEANED PRIOR TO CLASS ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE PROCEDURES (SEE TRAINING LINK) http://www.er-ncrc.org

Please register by June 14th. Registration after this date will require a $10.00 late fee.

$60 acceptable payments are Check/Money order

Registration will be available starting April 1st. You MUST be registered by June 14th and have received an email from the registrar.

For Registration issues contact the Registrar:
Janet Smith
100 Stephen Circle
Bridgewater, VA 22812
Cell: 540-810-8045
Email: rocksar02@comcast.net

Information about the course:
Glen Hugus
Cell: 540-968-6381
Email: ford428cj@yahoo.com

For information on the Eastern Region of the National Cave Rescue Commission or cave rescue in general please contact the ER-NCRC Regional Coordinator:
Tony Smith
Cell: 540-828-4091
Email: eastern@ncrc.info
# Cave Rescue Class Registration Information

**Form:** ER-NCRC-001  
**Cost:** $60  
**Date:** June 28 - 30  
**Class Type:** OCR

## General Information

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<td>Saturday lunch will be provided. List any food allergies or if you have dietary needs:</td>
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## Payment Methods

- Check or money order
- Make check payable to ERNCRC
- Send check and/or money order with registration form to:

  Janet Smith – Registrar  
  100 Stephen Circle  
  Bridgewater, VA 22812

Check and complete Registration form must be received at above address by June 14th at which time you will receive an email from the registrar stating that you are registered. No refunds after above date.
Upcoming Events

'19 Spring VAR Field Meet ........................................................................................................ April 25-28, 2019
Camp Powhattan Boy Scout Camp
Wytheville, VA (Wythe County)
Hosted By: James River Grotto
Online registration: jamesrivergrotto.com
URL: var.caves.org/

'19 Spring MAR Field Meet ........................................................................................................ May 3-5, 2019
Woodward Cave Campground
Woodward PA
Hosted By: Bald Eagle Grotto
URL: baldeaglegrotto.weebly.com

2019 NSS Convention ................................................................................................................. June 17-21, 2019
Cookeville, TN
78th Anniversary

OCRC Orientation to Cave Rescue ............................................................................................. June 28-30, 2019
Williamsville, VA
URL: http://www.er-ncrc.org

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 .............................................................................................................. September 20-22, 2019
York Grotto 60th Anniversary
Newville, PA
Hosted By: York Grotto
URL: http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm#fall

'19 Fall VAR Field Meet .............................................................................................................. September 28-30, 2019
Friars Hole Cave Preserve
Renick 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 29, 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)

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