



Volume 35, Number 1, April 2020

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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2020 Spring MAR/VAR has been ***CANCELLED***

The hosting grottos plan to reschedule the event for Spring of 2021

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Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

February 29, 2020

Officers Present:

Paul Winter, Chairman JD Lewis, Vice-Chairman Bette White, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order by MAR Chair, Paul Winter, at 1:46 PM, February 29, 2020, 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 and for those attending.

Reading of the Minutes: The minutes from the previous business meeting, held on February 23rd, 2019, were read by Vice President JD Lewis. The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was read by MAR treasurer, Elizabeth "Bette" White. Total income of the year was \$2,628.04, with 10,381.14 in expenses. Net loss for the year was \$7,753.10.

MAR Breakdown: Report by Gretchen "Red" Schock: The MAR Breakdown was published and distributed electronically. If you are not receiving notice of MAR Breakdown publications or have material to include, please let Red know.

MAR Yahoo Listserv: Report by Christopher Catherman: There has been extremely little utilization of the Yahoo Group listserv. It will probably go away in the future.

Mail Chimp Listserv: Report by Christopher Catherman: Mail Chimp is working well for distributions and now has increased security.

MAR Website: Report by Christopher Catherman: No change to the MAR site with all systems performing normally. When information from the NSS comes regarding changing the website, it can be changed to adapt.

It was noted that the NSS Calendar did not list all of the MAR events and is a resource that can be utilized in the future to spread awareness about MAR events. **NSS Regions List Update:** The NSS website does not clearly list the Region information anymore. The NSS IO Committee will be informed.

2019 Spring Field Meet: Hosted by Bald Eagle Grotto with 87 registrants.

2019 Fall Field Meet: Hosted by York Grotto with 104 registrants.

MAR Bulletins: Report by Will White: There is no current work being done to update MAR Bulletins. The process of updating a bulletin is a simple workflow: Compile new information on known caves such as extensions or additional scientific research, new caves discovered, caves lost, photos, maps, etc., then convert the old MAR bulletin to new digital format by retyping. The final step is to compile a new bulletin with all this information. Contact Will if you'd like to undertake a MAR bulletin update.

Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC): There was discussion concerning if there is a way to approach the PGC Commissioners or Legislature for sensible access to gated caves.

Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC): MAKC was able to raise the funds to create the Barbara Schomer Preserve. The MAR contributed \$10,000 at the 2019 business meeting.



Kim Metzgar provides MAKC update during the meeting (photo by J.D. Lewis)

Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation: It was moved to amend the MAR articles of incorporation, section 3, to strike the words "District of Columbia." Motion passed unanimously. An update should be filed with the commonwealth.

Amendment to the Bylaws: It was moved to amend the bylaws to insert "Article 7. Anti-

Harassment Policy The NSS Anti-Harassment policy shall be binding." Motion passed.



WNS and Bat Health:

Citation: White-nose syndrome occurrence map - by year (2019). Data Last Updated: 8/30/2019. Available at: https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/static-page/wns-spread-maps.

New Business

2020 Spring Field Meet: The Spring MAR is scheduled to be held at Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA in conjunction with the Spring VAR. Preregistration is due April 15th.

2020 Fall Field Meet: No fall meet is currently planned. MAKC is having a members event at Lincoln Caverns on August 14-16. MAR components, such as a catered meal etc. would need to be developed.

Spring 2021 Field Meet: There was preliminary interest by Franklin County Grotto to host a spring field meet at the Shade Gap site.

Bakers Caverns: Former commercial cave, Bakers Cavern, will be for sale in the spring.

Fantasy Cave: It was reported that Todd Hancock now owns Fantasy Cave in Huntingdon County, PA. Those interested in the cave, including the survey effort, should contact Todd about access. Fantasy is known to be a tough cave, but with remarkable features and length, especially for PA.

Penn Aqua Cave: Penn Aqua cave is for sale on a parcel containing a house. There is some consideration to form an LLC to purchase the property and transfer the cave to a conservancy.

Outstanding Landowner Awards: The NSS Landowner Relations Network Committee needs nominations for landowners to receive a LRNC certificate of merit. If you know a landowner who supports education, exploration, conservation, or

access to caves, please consider nominating them. Contact LRNC@caves.org for more information.



Face of Floyd Collins (photo by Glen Sarvis)Presentation on Sarah Furnace Cave MapProject: Bert Ashbrook gave an overview of the

Sarah Furnace mapping effort and explained some of its features and exciting potential.

Next Meeting: The 2021 MAR Business Meeting will be on February 27, 2021.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Winter MAR Chairman

Representatives at the MAR meeting:

- Baltimore Grotto
- Central New Jersey Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Loyalhanna Grotto
- MAKC
- Nittany Grotto
- Philadelphia Grotto
- Pittsburgh Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- Western Maryland Grotto
- York Grotto

2020 Spring MAR-VAR - **CANCELLED**

Due to the CDC recommendations for the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Spring MAR-VAR has been cancelled. The Seven Valleys and Charlottesville Grottoes plan to reschedule this event for the 2021 Spring MAR-VAR to be held April 30 - May 2, 2021 at Grand Caverns in Grottoes, VA. More details will be posted on the web site as they become available: http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm

or

http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var

Host Needed for the 2020 Fall MAR

As of April 2020 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2020 Fall 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 (<u>http://caves.org/region/mar/hosting.htm</u>). 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.

MAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT: February 29, 2020

Form 990-N was submitted to IRS, accepted January		uui y 1 >, 1 0 1 0	
Gross Assets: February 29, 2020		727.45	
Checking:		727.45	
Savings: $6,235.23 - 690.39 =$		5,544.84	
[in savings: Cave Signs 690.39]		690.39	
[\$10,000.00 CD at Reliance Bank]		10,000.00	
Total Cross Assets: Eskraure 20, 2020		16,962.68	
Gross Assets: February 29, 2020 Checking:		483.81	
e		10,737.62	
Savings: $14,231.97 - 3,494.35 =$			
[in savings: Bkdn \$2,803.96 + Cave Signs 690.39]		3,494.35	
[in 3-year CD \$10,000.00 at Reliance Bank]		10,000.00	
Total Net Income (Gain/Loss) for 2020		24,715.78	7,753.10
ITEM	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET
	3.26		
INTEREST Savings	3.20	••••••••••	
MAR FIELD MEETS			
Spring 2018 Loyalhanna Grotto			
MAR Income: 85 persons @ \$1.00 = 85.00			
25% [Reg–Exp = \$2975.– 1,767.88=1207.12]=301.78			
Spring MAR income:\$85.+301.78 =	386.78		
Donation	2.00		
Spring `2019 Bald Eagle Grotto May 3-5, 2019			
MAR Income: 87 persons @ $1.00 = 87.00$			
Regis. – Expen $$1,976.00 - 2,013.33 = negative$			
Spring MAR income	87.00		
Fall 2019 York Grotto			
MAR Income: $104 @ \$1.00 = 104.00$			
[Regis-Expen = \$692.			
	796.00		
IRS 990-N Fee:		39.95	
Annual Meeting Site Rental		50.00	
Annual Meeting coffee/tea/cider		57.77	
Staples mailing labels		14.83	
Rental P.O. Box* ($$46$.) + 2 keys ($$12$.)		58.00	
Donation MAKC Sarah Furnace Cave purchase		10,000.00	
Field Meets/Web: Net			0 0 6 9 7 7
		••••••••••	8,968.77
MAR Bulletin sales			
MAR 20:: \$5,161.64 - (sold 12 @ 29.50)			
\$4,807.14 short of recovering cost			
	1,353.00		
REPRINT MAR #1-4 (25 copies)		160.59	
MAR Bulletin Sales: Net		••••••••••	1,192.41
MAR BREAKDOWN NOTE: This year Breakdown Bala			
$\underline{[Breakdown \ balance]} = \$2,803.96 now 0.00 \ balance$	ce in MAR Bre	akdown account	
CAVE LAW SIGNS (previous balance 690.39)			
[Cave sign balance = 690.39]			
Totals	2,628.04	-10,381.14	7,753.10
Elizabeth L. Whit	te, Treasurer		
* Post office annual fee shared half with Nittany Grotto			

* Post office annual fee shared half with Nittany Grotto

Of Further Interest

MAR Bulletin Sales Feb 2019 – Feb 2020

Bulletin #	Number Sold	Price/Bulletin	Bulletin Income	Bulletins + postage
1-4	8	\$ 7.00	56.00	
5	10	\$ 8.00	80.00	
6	7	\$17.00	119.00	
7	11	\$ 5.00	55.00	
8	7	\$ 7.00	49.00	
9	6	\$10.00	60.00	
10	4	\$ 6.00	24.00	
11	6	\$10.00	60.00	
12	8	\$10.00	80.00	
13	4	\$ 10.00	40.00	
14	5	\$ 5.00	25.00	
15	3	\$ 6.00	18.00	
16	4	\$ 6.00	24.00	
17	4	\$ 5.00	20.00	
18	4	\$10.00	40.00	
19	7	\$ 7.00	49.00	
20	12	\$29.50	354.00	
21	4	\$27.50	110.00	
22	5	16.00	80.00	
Totals	119			1,343.00



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

Minutes of Regular Meeting – February 29, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 4:17 pm by Treasurer John Boswell at the Mt. Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, PA on Saturday, February 29, 2020.

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

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	J.D. Lewis
Baltimore Grotto	Craig Hine
Bucks County Grotto	
Central New Jersey Grotto	Amos Min
Commander Cody Caving Club	Dave Fric
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minni

D. Lewis raig Hindman mos Mincin ave Fricke at Minnick Greater Allentown Grotto Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters Nittany Grotto Philadelphia Grotto Seven Valleys Grotto York Grotto Dwight Kempf (proxy) Dean Snyder (proxy) Paul Winter Amos Mincin Joe Schock Randy Hurst

Secretary Report: Craig Hindman moved and Amos Mincin seconded to accept the minutes from the September 22, 2019 meeting as published in the January 2020 MAR Breakdown. The motion passed.

Treasurer Report: John Boswell reviewed the PCC account activity since the last meeting (provided below).

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

Financial Summary 9-23-19 through 2-29-20

Interest Checking Account

Checking Balance 9/22/19	F&M Trust Bank checking	9/22/2019	\$6,632.28
Deposit	Fall MAR (43 Tix, \$30 donations)	9/24/2019	\$245.00
1011	Propane fill, extra tank	9/24/2019	\$(69.98)
Deposit	Baltimore Grotto donation	12/17/2019	\$50.00
Deposit	Interest Credit	9/30/2029	\$0.52
Deposit	Interest Credit	10/31/2019	\$0.57
Deposit	Interest Credit	11/30/2019	\$0.51
Deposit	Interest Credit	12/31/2019	\$0.29
Deposit	Interest Credit	1/31/2020	\$0.29
Ending Balance :			\$6,859.48
SAVINGS ACCOUNT (CDs):		Maturity Date	

Certificate of Deposit *75	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,135.46
Certificate of Deposit *29	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,135.46
Certificate of Deposit *65	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,135.46
* \$5.13 Interest credit applied to each 1/26/2020			

COMBINED TOTAL :

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Web Page: Dave Fricke reported that the existing PCC website is up and running and everything is status quo.

PCC Breakfast: The PCC plans to hold their normal pancake breakfast fund raiser on Sunday morning of the upcoming 2020 Spring MAR/VAR being held at Grand Caverns, VA. Red Schock is storing the PCC breakfast supplies/gear until the next PCC breakfast.

PCC Brochure: Dave Briggs has the supply of PCC brochures. Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact Dave Briggs.

Mail: Dean Snyder provided the mail which consisted of tax notices and a donation from Central New Jersey Grotto. Thank you CNJG!

Christmas Cards: Kim Kehs assumed the task of sending the PCC Christmas Cards beginning in 2018. 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: Paul Winter reported that Tony Canike continues to maintain the PA Cave Database but indicated that Tony is becoming busier now that he is retired. If anyone has an interest in taking over the database and doing more with it, Tony would be more than willing to work with that individual(s) to transition things over.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project and Caves of Interest List:

Cold Air Cave (Northampton County) – no report. **Decker Sink Cleanup** – no report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Future of the PCC: John Boswell opened the discussions regarding the efficacy/viability of the PCC and whether or not the PCC is simply duplicating efforts of other conservancy groups in the area. John noted that the topic has been discussed among cavers from time to time over the years so the PCC representatives were now being given an opportunity to have a conversation in a more formal environment. Some of the points of discussion were:

- PCC is the only NSS-affiliated conservancy in PA
- The PCC offers the Grottos a voting block/platform for issues in the region
- What would happen to the PA Cave Database that is currently maintained by the PCC?
- Past meeting minutes could be used for a planning/analysis decision matrix to determine PCC activity over the years
- Other conservancies are member-supported, which results in more income but, if the PCC does not own/manage caves, will people pay to be PCC members?
- More frequent messaging with Grottos
- Solicit potential projects from Grottos
- Encourage Grottos to reach out to the PCC for help/coordination of projects

- PCC is a vehicle that is already in existence, so it could be changed or improved rather than having others start from scratch
- Turnout for events sponsored by PCC is greater than turnout for projects by individual Grottos
- Focus on small projects (cleanups, gating) and allow organizations like MAKC to handle acquiring caves until PCC is financially able to buy property.
- MAKC is willing to answer questions about fundraising or anything else
- Create an email listserv to keep in contact with Grottos more often than three meetings per year
- Organize more events

Grotto representatives were encouraged to return and continue this discussion with their grotto members.

Spring MAR/VAR 2020: Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto are planning to co-host the Spring 2020 MAR/VAR Field Meet. The event will be held on May 1-3, 2020 at Grand Caverns in Grottoes, VA. More details will be posted on the MAR web site as they become available. (***Note: Since the time of the meeting, this event has been postponed until Spring of 2021 due to CDC guidance for COVID-19).

Elections: The existing President, Treasurer, and Secretary were re-elected to serve another year. Amos Mincin was elected to serve as the new PCC Vice President. The PCC would like to thank Andy Filer for his service the past 3 years as Vice President.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be held during the 2020 Spring MAR/VAR at Grand Caverns in Grottoes, VA on May 3, 2020 at 10:00am. (***Note: Since the time of the meeting, this event has been postponed. Next PCC meeting: To be determined.)

Dave Fricke moved and J.D. Lewis seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

Editor's Correction

In the previous issue of the MAR Breakdown (Volume 34 Number 3 January 2020), the Fall 2019 MAR Field Meet article included the following statement: "The guidebook featured an article by Grotto Founder Jay Herbein detailing the 1963 discovery, exploration, and eventual destruction of Crystal Paradise Cave."

Jay informed us that, although he was a York Grotto Charter Member (Member #4), he was not one of the Grotto Founders. That distinction is held by Charlie Miller (York Grotto Member #1) and Joel Gray (York Grotto Member #2). Thanks for keeping us accurate Jay!

Whiting's Neck Cave Rescue. February 9th, 2020

By Earl Suitor

Several months ago Bru Randall and I had a meeting with Martinsburg, WV Fire Department Special Operations Unit [MFDSOU] to share information and discuss how we could assist them if they had a cave incident in their area as well as joint training possibilities. This unit is normally dispatched on technical rescues such as swiftwater, confined space, collapse, and high angle rescues in Berkeley County, WV and the surrounding areas upon special mutual aid agreement. We had met with them about a year ago and several of them have become cavers, and cave with us. Prior to the meeting Bru & I went on a tour of some of the WV Panhandle caves that had a high probability of an incident occurring. At Whiting's Neck we discussed the fact that this cave is wide open to any and all caving groups including scouts, church groups, cave-for-pay groups and the public in general. It has several areas where a fall of over 20 feet onto rock is



Figure 1: The area around the back entrance to the cave, near the patient

possible, as well as a vertical drop in the back of the cave (over 25 feet) that requires vertical work. It had been a good while since any rescue had been reported there, and we agreed Whiting's Neck was "overdue". It looks like we were right!.....

On Sunday February 9th Cheryl and I were just sitting down at the kitchen table for lunch. I had just prepared a big bowl of split pea soup and was getting ready to eat it, when a text came in. I keep my smart phone close at all times and look at messages immediately.

The text was from a member of MFDSOU, who is also a caver that we cave with, and with whom we collaborate for just such instances. The text read: "Just got dispatched for a cave rescue at Whiting's Neck". I immediately texted him back: "We'll head that way. Please advise A.S.A.P. the details & resources needed from us (ER-NCRC), if any.

I'm bringing my phones, cave gear & vertical gear". I knew what was in their trailer and knew what we did not need to bring. Their hardwire communications gear only works for 250 feet. Ours works for many thousands of feet.

Usually the call to ER-NCRC would have been placed by the 9-1-1 center at the request of the incident commander, but any expeditious means from a responsible agency or anyone else for that matter is okay. Whatever gets the wheels turning quickly.

I immediately contacted Bru Randal [Resource Coordination Section Chief ER-NCRC] via landline and asked him to get the call-out lists



Figure 2: Entrance control

ready, we would get to the scene and evaluate and advise [We did have cell coverage at the cave entrance/command post]. Bru immediately got out the call-out lists of cavers that have volunteered to help in a cave rescue, as well as their capabilities, and special skills. These are generally arranged by NSS Grotto, cave club, or geographic region.

En-route I was advised by text that: "Okay I hear no injuries just people stuck", indicating that a full blown call out of personnel most likely would not be needed unless a "carry-out" became needed.

Cheryl & I arrived approximately 20 minutes behind the on-scene time of the Martinsburg Fire Department Special Ops Unit, and less than 1 hour after getting the first text. Bedington Fire Department [Company 40] had command [1st due]. There were other fire / rescue departments on location also. It appeared that 20 or more rescue personnel where on scene at that point.

Cave rescues are run under the concept of the National Incident Command System (NICS). This standardizes operations and understandings between all agencies involved.

We checked in with the incident commander [IC], who was waiting for us. I was advised there were "people under the patient pushing his feet up" and other rescuers above the patient, and that he was stuck in "the keyhole", and there was only one patient. Their radio's worked on analog V TAC 11 between the patient and the command post! I was surprised and we didn't need the field phones, so we did not deploy them.

Cheryl waited at the command post while I checked in with entrance control and entered the back entrance to the cave to meet MFDSOU team member Mills above the patient. I was advised that MFDSOU team leader Captain Hoover was under the patient and Mills was above. The patient was about 150-200 feet in, down a crawlway. The patient had on cave gear and a caving helmet with headlamp. He was approximately 255 lbs, and in his mid 20's, and part of a group of 7 from a local college outing club. He was pinned head up, arms free from ribs to pelvis in a tight vertical slot. Mills had put a section of webbing under the patient's arms and made a loop. He had rigged 5 feet above the patient using a natural rig point. He had placed a pulley to hang from this and attached a 13 mm lifeline (rope) to the webbing around the patient and run through the pulley and down the crawlway.

I suggested he put a progress capture devise on this line so the patient would not slip back down as we made progress extracting him. I got a prussic and Mills set it. I called Cheryl into the cave [radio]. Together



Figure 3: The crawlway before you get to the area of entrapment

all 3 of us hauled on the line as the people under him pushed as best they could on his feet. We had voice contact with the crew under him. The haul elicited a request to stop from the patient as he was in pain. We stopped.

We discussed the situation. I said a rescue airbag or other stemple might be placed in the crack ~ 10 feet above the patient in a different spot and rigged to so we could pull him up at a better angle. I asked Mills if I could leave and get under the patient. He said yes. Cheryl gave the patient water and encouragement. I exited. I went to the command post and called Bru and gave him a rundown on what was happening. I said I would like an experienced Level III on scene, I also said we might need a caver with bolting capability, and that a full blown call out was not needed, at that point. Bru said Tony Smith [Eastern Region NCRC Coordinator] was perhaps near and he would call him & Carl Amundson [NCRC level III and national instructor] who lives nearby, and look for bolting capable people nearby.

I got a small paramedic to go to the victim above him where Cheryl & Josh were with medical equipment and heat packs. This was done. Oxygen was moved to the patient but not used.

I went down to the other entrance [The main historic entrance], entered, and proceeded to below the patient. There were two MFDSOU crew holding the patient's feet and taking stress off of him. I discussed the situation with Captain Hoover [MFDSOU] who was the Underground Branch Director [UBD]. I suggested that we get liquid soap on the way, a pneumatic air chisel powered by a Scott/MSA air bottle, and place a ladder next to the victim. Captain Hoover agreed, and these items were called for. I then suggested that we get webbing straps on the patient's feet and secured from above so as to help him help us by pushing on the loops. This was done. We could have gotten the ladder right next to the patient and had people heel it and gotten up closer to him perhaps he would even be able to push on a rung with his foot.

The air chisel they had there was not capable of being attached to a Scott bottle, it ran off a line from the truck and the pneumatic line was not long enough, so they put in a special call for a truck with a pneumatic air chisel that could be run on a Scott bottle.



Figure 4: Cheryl and the Incident Commander after the patient was freed

Bob Bennett and Adam Haines of Tri-State Grotto as well as Michael Nally, an avid and experienced caver, Deputy Chief of Operations, Loudoun County Fire / Rescue and NCRC level III trained came to the command post and checked in.

I exited and got a small 14 foot folding ladder and a bag of rope and Adam Haines helped me get the ladder & rope back in the cave.

At that point they called on V TAC 11 "We don't need the ladder". They had pulled the patient out using a combination of the foot loops and repositioning the haul system to pull from a better angle. That worked. He had been stuck about 4 or 5 hours.

The call for help was not made by the other 6 members of his caving group for over an hour. I suspect they were trying to get him unstuck themselves and couldn't get him out, so they sent

someone to call for help. I exited and called Bru and said the patient was freed and to stand down anything he had coming. The patient exited on his own power and was warmed. He refused transport to a hospital (AMA). All gear

was taken up and in post critique with the fire department it was agreed that this had gone well.

We are having an ER-NCRC Orientation to Cave Rescue (3 days) Course at the Martinsburg Fire Department October $9^{th} - 11^{th}$. You are invited to attend! This and other cave rescue training opportunities are available at: <u>https://caves.org/commission/ncrc/ncrcer/index.html</u>

Any cavers wishing to be placed on the call-out lists to help in a cave related emergency are encouraged to email me and I will be sure you get put on the right list, even if it's out of our area.

Earl Suitor <u>wvcaver216@gmail.com</u> Tel: 703-431-2661.



Figure 5: The back entrance sinkhole

About the author Earl Suitor and Bruce Randall:

Earl is the Manager of the NSS John Guilday Cave Preserve [Trout, New Trout & Hamilton Caves], as well as Sites Pit and Cave Rat Cave in Pendleton County, WV. He and his wife Cheryl have been caving many years and belong to many Grottos and caving clubs, including PSC, Front Royal Grotto, Tri-State Grotto, WVACS, Cleveland Grotto, BATS and others. Currently he is the Eastern Region-National Cave Rescue Commission [ER-NCRC] sub-region coordinator for much of NE West Virginia, NW Virginia, and Western Maryland.

Bruce [Bru] Randall is a long time caver and member of the Pittsburgh Grotto and PSC as well as being the Resource Coordination Section Chief of the ER-NCRC.

Upcoming Events

2020 Spring VAR/MAR Field Meet	**CANCELLED**
Grand Caverns	
Grottoes, VA	
Hosted By: Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto URL: <u>http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm#spring</u> -or-	
http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var	
2020 NSS Convention	**CANCELLED**
Elkins, WV (Randolph County)	
79th Anniversary	
URL: https://caves.regfox.com/nss-convention-2020	
Old Timers Reunion (OTR)	September 3-7, 2020
OTR Site/Campgrounds	
Dailey, WV (Randolph County)	
71st Annual	
URL: <u>www.otr.org</u>	
2020 Fall MAR Field Meet F	all 2020
Location: TBD	
Hosted TBD URL: http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm#fall	
	Contombor 25 27 2020
2020 Fall VAR Field Meet	September 25-27, 2020
Location: RASS Field Station, Bath County, VA	
Hosted By: BCCS URL: <u>var.caves.org</u>	
2020 Bridge Day)ctober 17, 2020
New River Gorge Bridge	
Fayetteville, WV	
39th Anniversary	
URL: <u>www.officialbridgeday.com</u> -or-	
www.nps.gov/neri/bridgeday.htm -or-	
www.bridgeday.info/	
2021 MAR Annual Business Meeting F	ebruary 27, 2021
Mt. Laurel Church of God 1295 Piketown Road, Linglestown, PA	
URL: <u>www.caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg.htm</u>	
URL: www.caves.org/region/mar/busnmtg.htm	
`21 Spring VAR/MAR Field Meet	oril 30- May 2, 2021
Grand Caverns	.p
Grottoes, VA	
Hosted By: Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto	
URL: http://caves.org/region/mar/fieldmeets.htm#spring -or-	
http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var	
2021 NSS Convention	une 28 –July 2, 2021
Weed,CA	
80th Anniversary	

URL: http://nss2021.caves.org/

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