



BREAKDOWN

Volume 36, Number 3, January 2022

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 26, 2022 PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW

**Due to COVID-19 concerns, The Mid Appalachian
Region Business Meeting will be held virtually on
Feb 26, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.**

**You will find additional information and
instructions on page 2**

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



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MAR BUSINESS MEETING

February 26, 2022 at 1:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all in-person MAR meetings are being suspended. We will return to live MARs as soon as it is safe to do so!

In the meantime, the MAR business meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom (see information below). All MAR members are welcome to attend!

2022 MAR/PCC Meeting Link

<https://psu.zoom.us/j/92629638539>

Meeting ID: 926-2963-8539

Dial in: 301-715-8592

2022 Spring MAR-VAR

Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto plan to host the Spring 2022 MAR/VAR Field Meet May 20-22, 2022 at Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA. More details will be posted on the MAR and VAR web sites as they become available:

<https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm>

or

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

PCC Officer Elections

There will be a virtual PCC meeting February 26, 2022 following the virtual 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!

An Explosive Day with Sarah!

26 December 2021

by Bert Ashbrook

The day after Christmas was designated as Team Sarah's C4 survey (3d year, 30th trip), so we were expecting explosive results, and we got them!

- 1: dig opened!
- 2: new surveyors welcomed into Team Sarah!
- 6.43: miles of cave survey!
- 14: cavers who should be proud, tired, and happy!
- 75: minutes of video footage!
- 135: rank among longest US caves!
- 379: feet of new cave passage!
- 542: rank among longest caves in the world!

Frank Vlcek and CoeDee Mowers (C4D) went to dig between BVC14 and C3B13, which dig (if successful) would significantly shorten the amount of crawling and time to get to the southeast extension of the cave. After making contact with the C4B team through a too-low crawlway on the other side, they spend nearly 5 hours digging through the clay and got through!

Gabby Zawacki, Chris Hill, and Jacob Clark (C4B) took the long crawl around to the south and back north again to get to the northern end of the southeast extension. After extending it further north, they took the new dug-through crawlway out!



*Happy Digger CoeDee Mowers at Sarah Furance Cave
(photo by Dwight Kempf)*

Trevor Cicchinelli and Corina Tamas (C4C) changed plans and joined Bert Ashbrook, Matt Link, and Noah Synowiec (C4D) in filling holes, completing some new survey, and resketching other parts of the southeast extension.

Ed Frank, Dwight Kempf, Ed Epp, and Dave Field (C4E) got video footage for Ed F.'s documentary film project about Sarah. Among their video subjects were five railroad sleeper ties in the Railway Passage, nineteenth century signatures, and minerals that fluoresce under blacklight.

Here are more statistics: The temperature in the Lake Room was 50° F. (46° on the thermometer, plus 4° for calibration correction). The water level was +2.5 inches on both gauges in the Lake Room. We surveyed 385 feet and added 379 feet to the survey.

Host Needed for the 2022 Fall MAR

As of January 2022 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2022 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. 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.

<https://mar.caves.org/hosting.htm>

Survey Sarah Furnace Cave - Survey Trip Report “CDE” Team

26 December 2021

by Dwight Kempf

Attendees: CDE Team

Ed Epp

Edward Frank

Dave Field

Dwight Kempf

Focus of Team: Video and still picture recording of a series of sites in Sarah Furnace Cave supporting Edward Frank's documentary video project.

Happy Boxing Day. The four team members greeted friends and participated in the on-surface safety talk/logistics discussion on the spoils pile, then headed into the cave around 11:30. There were 14 participants in today's survey trip. This is the 30th and final trip of 2021 (the third year of the survey project), hence the CDx designations for the teams.

The first task that Ed Frank had us work on was located in the root room just past the entrance to the cave. We set up two high intensity portable lights, posed Dave Field in the frame near the edge of the room, and videoed several minutes of the room, moving the lights around to capture the best effect. Given the person posing, this was a challenging assignment.

After getting the A-Okay from Ed, (perhaps he intended to remove Dave from the video in Post Production?), we headed to the Haulway T, signed in, and set up the second video task, a view of two real cavers coming around the corner of the “T”, and heading into the sunset (er, toward the escape route/yellow route. For some reason, Ed chose Ed Epp and Dwight as the “real” cavers, and so we rounded the corner, and headed into the abyss, highlighted by the high intensity lights. This task highlighted the mine passage and cribbing making up the wall on one side of the passage.

Dave identified a nice, large borehole in the wall, which Ed F. videoed with Dave's gloved hand providing size context. Dave decided at that point, given the two tasks he participated in so far, he by far preferred to be a hand model, which the

three of us emphatically encouraged him to pursue.

We then proceeded along the pink escape route, stopping briefly at the Sphinx formation. Ed F. noted that he was not planning to include the formation in the documentary -- it would be a cavers' secret.

The group decided to follow Dwight to the Lake Room, and, following his usual protocol, he promptly missed the pink to yellow turn until someone with a real sense of direction turned us around. Why the group would have him lead given his track record of taking wrong turns in 40 of his ~45 trips into the cave, is a mystery.

A caver with a sense of direction then led the group to the Lake Room, where Ed Epp took readings, which were recorded by Dave for submission to “The Big Cheese” upon exit from the cave. Ed F. set up the high intensity lights, and Ed E. duplicated the reading of the thermometer and two water gauges, with Dave reading back the values, for the camera. Ed Epp then proceeded to model for the still camera on one of the limestone pillows, surrounded by water. Unfortunately, Ed was even less compelling than Dave as a human model, and, with disappointment in the air, we packed up the equipment and headed toward the Railway passage.

Dave quickly found a series of sleepers (railroad ties) in a section of the Railway passage, and with the lights set up, Dave provided the introduction to the location of the sleepers, along with some information on how the sleepers were probably used to transport limestone and burrstone ores to the portal nearby. The sleepers he found were about 3' apart, an interesting observation. Dave did an excellent job on this task, and the team attitude soared to new highs as we proceeded to the next task.

Meanwhile, Daddy Long Leggers and a cave cricket were spotted on the wall plotting mayhem

on the Team. In retribution, Dwight and Ed E. photographed the heck out of the three of them, using two different still cameras, and, in Ed's case, about 15 different camera settings. We left them dazed and pondering what happened.



*Dave Field and series of railroad sleeper ties in Railway passage, Sarah Furance Cave
(photo by Dwight Kempf)*

Ed F. then set up a camera and lights on a grotto to the left side of the passage, and we attempted to be quiet as the video recorder (an Apple iPhone recording in 4k) recorded the periodic drip of water into the pool. It was a neat segment. The intermittent sound of the water dripping from the ceiling and hitting the pool was hypnotic and soothing, and we had to wake Dave up from a snooze.

A U.V. light was then used to attempt to get the calcite on the wall of the passage to fluoresce. This REALLY excited more than just the calcite, as Ed E. promptly grabbed the U.V. light from Ed F. and started to wand it across everything in sight. A glowing Dave and Dwight promptly started running away until Ed promised to put the U.V. light down, at least temporarily.

The next task was to record the (former) portal to the outside at the end of the Railway. The lights were set up and a segment recorded of the portal. The recording went well, and we returned to the Lake Room, with everyone other than Dwight leading the group. (We went directly to our target; no wrong turns.)

At this point, Ed F. and Dave decided to head out to the Haulway T, relinquishing the recording equipment and lights to Dwight and Ed E. We spent a few minutes discussing the targets to be recorded and the logistics of how long each video segment was to be, the need to pan across the signatures after recording them with a tripod, etc. Then, Ed E. nearly tore the U.V. light out of Ed F.'s hand, as he ran down the passage before Ed could change his mind.

Ed E. and Dwight (with Ed leading, obviously) headed to the orange flagged passage to find the requisite signatures that Ed F. wanted. Ed found one William Sofer with no date, and the Moore/Moon signature, and Dwight found the William Sofer with a date and some nomenclature that we believe is original markings associated with the mid-1800's mining effort. Ed did a great job of recording the video, after he spent 10 minutes trying to reactivate the iPhone each time it went to sleep. It was VERY entertaining watching him trying every possible finger motion to bring the phone to life. Ed is truly an Android guy... (Well, maybe that came out wrong...)

There were several instances of an unknown cave creature wearing an orange helmet and a cheesy grin appearing mysteriously at the end of each video segment. We still aren't sure of the nature of the creature, although it was recorded with just a glimpse at the end of each pan.

While exploring the area around the orange flags for signatures, Dwight found some really nice formations in a side passage off the orange trail. Stalactites and helictites were growing in various orientations, so Ed and Dwight set up the high intensity lights and took video and still pictures from many different angles.

Meanwhile, each time Ed E. spotted a nice wall of calcite, he laughed manically and pulled out the

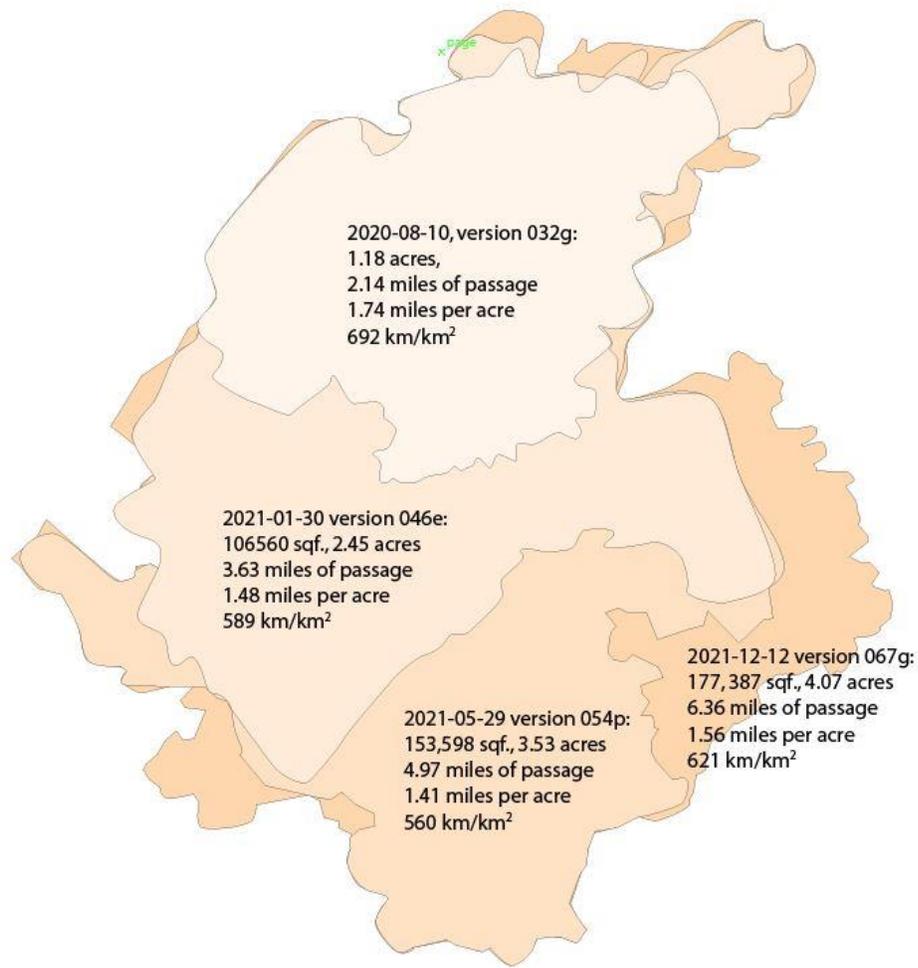
U.V. light and his fancy camera. He would change the F-stop setting, the length of time the shutter stayed open, the color of the camera case... It is amazing how many different combinations are possible with a manual camera. After he determined the best shutter settings, he would paint the formation with the light, while the camera (mounted on a tripod) captured the florescence of the calcite and the tiny formations that are formed of other minerals... After his camera processed the data, an incredible picture popped out. It is truly amazing what is hiding with the calcite on the walls. He recorded some gold and copper colors, as well as the blue of the calcite.

Ed also used the iphone to record the florescence, although without knowing how to manipulate iphone camera shutter times, the outcome wasn't as satisfying. After talking with Ed F. at the "T",

he found out which app to use with Apple products to manipulate the camera settings.

After subjecting large swashes of cave walls to U.V. exposure, we packed up the equipment and headed back to the Haulway T to link up with Dave and Ed F. We reviewed the progress the two of us made with the assigned tasks, and Ed E. reluctantly returned the U.V. light and other camera equipment, stating that he would be ordering short and long wave U.V. lights before his next Sarah Furnace Cave survey trip.

The two Eds and Dave signed out and headed down the Haulway to the cave entrance at 3:40 pm, while Dwight stayed at the "T" until 4:10 (it was warmer in the cave...), signed out and headed to the car. A very satisfying Sarah Furnace Cave trip.



*Sarah Extent and Passage Density – 12-12-2021
(image by Bert Ashbrook)*

Upcoming Events

- 2022 MAR Annual Business Meeting** February 26, 2022
Virtual Meeting via Zoom at 1:30 pm EST
URL: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/92629638539>
Meeting ID: 926-2963-8539
Dial in: 301-715-8592
- 2022 VAR Spring Restoration** April 22-24, 2022
Grand Caverns
Grottoes, VA
Hosted By: VAR
URL: <http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/grand-caverns-spring-cleaning>
- 2022 Spring VAR/MAR Field Meet** May 20-22, 2022
Grand Caverns
Grottoes, VA
Hosted By: Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto
URL: <https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm> -or-
<http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var>
- 2022 NSS Convention** June 13-17, 2022
Rapid City, SD
URL: <http://nss2022.caves.org/>
- NCRC National Weeklong** July 16-23, 2022
Convington, VA
URL: <https://ncrc.regfox.com/ncrc-2022-national-seminar>
- Old Timers Reunion (OTR)** Sept. 1-5, 2022
OTR Site/Campgrounds
Dailey, WV (Randolph County)
URL: www.otr.org
- 2022 Fall MAR Field Meet** Fall 2022
Location: TBD
Hosted TBD
URL: <https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm>
- 2022 Fall VAR Field Meet** Fall 2022
Location: TBD
Hosted TBD
URL: <http://var.caves.org/index.php/events>
- 2022 Bridge Day** TBD 2022
New River Gorge Bridge
Fayetteville, WV
URL: www.bridgeday.info/
- 2023 MAR Annual Business Meeting** February 25, 2023
Mt. Laurel Church of God
1295 Piketown Road, Linglestown, PA
URL: <https://mar.caves.org/busnmtg.htm>

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	Revised/Corrected	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 Kookon 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

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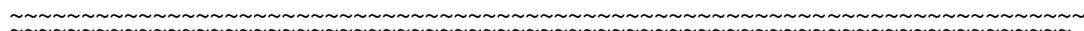
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