



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 38, Number 2, August 2023

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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## Host needed for 2023 Fall MAR Field Meet!



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# 2023 Spring MAR Field Meet Shade Gap, PA

by Pat Minnick



It had been seven years since the Franklin County Grotto had hosted an MAR Meet in the spring (May 2016), and I wondered what challenges we might face if the FCG wanted to host the event again. However, at the January 16, 2023 grotto meeting, we decided to move forward and immediately a team formed and started making progress. Returning to Shade Gap, Huntingdon County, and Harpers Memorial Park (Shade Gap VFD) was our first choice because the site offers good camping, adequate parking, numerous pavilions, a stage, bathrooms and showers, and nearby caves.



*Beautiful weather for camping (photo by Karen Bange)*

Much of the planning was accomplished at bi-weekly on-line meetings in January, February and March, but the team also had site visits at Harpers Park to iron out the details for camping and meals. Registration was up and running by mid-February, and event notifications were sent to the NSS News, MAR and other grottoes.

A small stumbling block was encountered, when we found that we could not host the Gauntlet rope course at Harpers Park. That

obstacle was overcome, when we found an off-site location.

Nothing, however, could prepare us for the next occurrence which was the untimely death of Gordy Ley on April 15, 2023. His obituary for the NSS News is attached (*see page 3*).



*Enjoying Corey's Presentation (photo by Karen Bange)*

When the MAR Meet was held on May 5-7, 2023, we were fortunate to have good weather and an excellent turnout. With 214 people in attendance, this was the largest MAR-only event to date. Many folks registered early; (136 Adults, 2 children (6-12 years) and 5 (5 & under), but we also had 70 Adults and 1 child who registered on site. The previous largest MAR was held by Nittany Grotto in 1998 and was their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.



*Great times around the bon fire (photo by Karen Bange)*

So the 2023 MAR Meet was a success. We believe those who attended had a wonderful time

and we heard no negative comments from the attendees.

Listed below are the folks who made it happen:

2023 Spring MAR Chair - Johanna Neller  
Site Coordination & Meals - Tom Griffin, Red Schock, Don Arrowood  
Registration - Tom Griffin, Red Schock, John Boswell, Dave Briggs  
FCG Website - Todd Feasley  
Cave Trip Coordination - Mike Shank  
Cave Trip Leaders - Numerous

Guidebook - John Boswell, Johanna Neller, Don Arrowood  
Tytoona Conservation Project - Dave Briggs  
"The Gauntlet" - Kevin Mulligan; (site arrangements - Dave Briggs)  
Door Prizes - Chris Hacker, Don Arrowood  
Speaker - Corey Hackley  
DJ & Entertainment - Tommy Carpenter  
Grounds & Recycling - Chris Hacker, Traci Hacker, Dave Scamardella  
Cave Gear Clean-up - Pat Minnick  
Bonfire - Dave Scamardella, George Bange  
MAKC coffee - Dave Field  
PCC Breakfast - the usual crew

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## In Memory of Gordon L. Ley

*Submitted by Patrick Minnick NSS#20099*



Gordon L. "Gordy" Ley of Fairfield, PA, NSS # 39089, perished near the entrance to Fleming's Trough Spring Cave (PA) on April 15, 2023. He was in a low air-space crawlway and leading a group of four others on their way out of the cave, when the incident occurred. All others exited safely; CPR was administered to Gordy, but was unsuccessful.

Gordy had been actively caving with the Franklin County Grotto (FCG) since the 1990's and had served for many years as FCG's chairman, vice-chairman and member-at-large. He was also active with Out-of-Bounds-Grotto and MAKC (Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy).

Gordy was **Enthusiastic**. He was always on the go with trips; regional events, local dig trips, beginner trips, photo trips, trips to West Virginia, Virginia, and TAG (Tennessee, Alabama & Georgia), cave gating projects, landowner contact trips. Because Gordy was enthusiastic, he generally had a "plan" and brought people along with him. The list of those who caved with Gordy is long.

Gordy was **Generous** with his time and talents. A remembrance, printed in the York Grotto Poop Sheet, from a fellow caver who was trained early on by Gordy, said that Gordy "gave a lot and asked nothing in return." Many others can say the same thing. He helped many people, offered advice and expertise, loaned gear and equipment and smoothed the way for others.

At the time of his passing, Gordy was less than two months short of his Seventieth birthday. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Diane, two daughters and five grandchildren.



# Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

## Minutes of Regular Meeting – May 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am by President Dave Briggs at Harper’s Memorial Park, Shade Gap, PA on Sunday, May 7, 2023. Dave thanked everyone for coming and Franklin County Grotto for hosting an amazing event.

The following officers were present: **President** Dave Briggs      **Vice President** Amos Mincin  
**Secretary** Gretchen Schock      **Treasurer** John Boswell

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	--	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	--
Baltimore Grotto	Kim Fleischmann	Nittany Grotto	Paul Winter
Bucks County Grotto	Steven Warnek	Out of Bounds Grotto	John Boswell
Central New Jersey Grotto	Amos Mincin	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Commander Cody Caving Club	--	Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick	York Grotto	Randy Hurst
Greater Allentown Grotto	Dwight Kempf		

**Secretary Report:** Randy Hurst moved and Paul Winter seconded to accept the meeting minutes from the February 25, 2023 meeting as published in the April 2023 MAR Breakdown. The motioned passed.

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

### Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Financial Summary 2-26-23 through 5-7-23

<u>Interest Checking Account</u>		<u>Date</u>	
Checking Balance 2/26/23	F&M Trust Bank checking	2/26/2023	\$5,563.48
Deposit	Amazon Smile	2/10/2023	\$9.40
Deposit	Central New Jersey Grotto Donation	2/10/2023	\$50.00
Deposit	Interest Credit	2/28/2023	\$0.09
Deposit	Interest Credit	3/31/2023	\$0.09
Deposit	Interest Credit	4/30/2023	\$0.09
<b>Ending Balance :</b>			<b>\$5,623.15</b>

<u>SAVINGS ACCOUNT (CDs):</u>		<u>Maturity Date</u>	
Certificate of Deposit *75	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,154.31
Certificate of Deposit *29	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,154.31
Certificate of Deposit *65	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,154.31

\* \$1.17 Interest credit applied to each 12/31/22.

**COMBINED TOTAL :** **\$9,086.08**

**Web Page:** no report.

**PCC Breakfast:** The PCC hosted a very successful pancake breakfast Sunday, May 7, 2023 during the 2023 Spring MAR. It was possibly a record breaker, with 152 PCC breakfast tickets sold. Thanks to all those volunteers who donated man power and supplies to make the event a success! Also, thanks to MAKC for providing the coffee service for the breakfast! Dave Briggs volunteered to transport and store the PCC breakfast equipment until the next event.

**PCC Brochure:** Dave Briggs has the supply of PCC brochures. Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact Dave Briggs. Dave mentioned that the PCC may consider developing a digital brochure option in the future, perhaps utilizing a QR code.

**Mail:** no report.

**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 not currently listed as available for purchase on the PCC web site. In the interest of moving some of the t-shirt inventory, John Boswell moved and Randy Hurst seconded to reduce the price of the shirts from \$15 to \$5. The motion passed. Please contact Gary Dunmire if you are interested in purchasing a shirt.

**PA Cave Database:** Paul Winter reported that he has been contacted about determining if known caves were present in areas of possible future construction sites. It was suggested that creating a type of "heat map" utility may be helpful for these type of inquiries. This approach would not reveal specific cave locations. Paul will continue to work on that effort.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Project and Caves of Interest List:**

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

**Penn Aqua Project Work:** Dave Briggs reported that about 12 volunteers reported to help with the Penn Aqua cleanup on April 22, 2023. George Bange coordinated the tasks and lots of productive work was accomplished. Volunteers cleared brush/fallen trees, completed stump removal, accomplished stone placement along the bank trail; and a retaining wall was constructed around the kiosk. It was a very successful day and volunteers were rewarded with a warm pot of chili at George and Karen's house afterward. Dave commented that there is the potential for more work at Penn Aqua cave in the future.

**Tytoona Cave Preserve:** Two work days have been completed at the Tytoona Preserve since the request at the February business meeting. Pittsburgh Grotto participated in an Earth Day project at the site. Additionally, a few people visited the site to do some trash cleanup during the 2023 Spring MAR. More work is to be done including repainting the parking area barrels, kiosk work to include paint and repair from buck shot damage, graffiti removal, possible trail cam installation, invasive plant species cleanup, etc. During a previous meeting, adding a QR code to the kiosk was suggested. It was pointed out that this would not be a good solution since there is currently no cell service at the cave.

**Thousand Steps of Lebanon County:** Steve Warnek reported that no one expressed interest to date for a cleanup at the Thousand Steps of Lebanon County site. Steve plans to set up a work date in the future and see if there is any interest at that time. Anyone interested in lending a hand should contact Steve for more details/information.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Fall MAR 2023:** There is not currently a host for the 2023 fall field meet.

**2023 NSS Convention:** From June 26-30, 2023, the NSS will host the society's annual convention in Elkins, West Virginia. This week-long event includes extensive presentations across all disciplines related to cave science. Camping for the event will be available at the OTR site. Additional information can be found on the convention website <https://www.nss2023.caves.org/>. Kim Fleischmann mentioned that the

PCC may want to consider having a table for the PCC at future NSS conventions to increase publicity. There is no charge to conservancies for a table at NSS Conventions, as long as no merchandise is sold.

**Next meeting:** Next PCC meeting - To be determined.

Paul Winter moved and Dwight Kempf seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

## *Host Needed for the 2023 Fall MAR*

As of August 2023 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2023 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 (<https://mar.caves.org/hosting.htm>). 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.

## *Editor's Corrections*

The following corrections should be applied to the Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society Annual Business Meeting Minutes as printed in the April 2023 issue of the MAR Breakdown:

- \* Tytoona Cave Preserve is located in Blair County, not Huntingdon County
- \* Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters was represented by Mr. Dean Snyder

Congratulations to MAR's beloved members, George and Karen Bange, for being recognized by the NSS during the 2023 NSS Convention for their countless contributions to the NSS and caving community! Congratulations to all of this year's NSS Fellows!



## *Upcoming Events*

<p><b>Old Timers Reunion (OTR)</b> .....</p> <p>Location: OTR Site/Campgrounds Dailey, WV (Randolph County) URL: <a href="http://www.otr.org">www.otr.org</a></p>	<p>Aug. 31 - Sept. 4, 2023</p>
<p><b>CaveFest</b> .....</p> <p>Location: Cavers Paradise Sewanee, TN Hosted by Sewanee Mt Grotto URL: <a href="https://smg.caves.org/cavefest.html">https://smg.caves.org/cavefest.html</a></p>	<p>Sept. 1-4, 2023</p>
<p><b>2023 Fall NRO Field Meet</b> .....</p> <p>Location: Natural Stone Bridge and Caves Pottersville, NY Hosted by NRO URL: <a href="https://fallnrobackinthedaks.regfox.com/fall-nro-back-in-the-daks">https://fallnrobackinthedaks.regfox.com/fall-nro-back-in-the-daks</a></p>	<p>Sept 15-17, 2023</p>
<p><b>TAG Fall Cave-In</b> .....</p> <p>Lookout Mountain, GA Hosted By: Dogwood City Grotto URL: <a href="https://www.dogwoodcitygrotto.org/TAG-Fall-Cave-In">https://www.dogwoodcitygrotto.org/TAG-Fall-Cave-In</a></p>	<p>October 5-8, 2023</p>
<p><b>2023 Fall MAR Field Meet</b> .....</p> <p>Location: TBD Hosted by TBD URL: <a href="https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm">https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm</a></p>	<p>Fall 2023</p>
<p><b>2023 Fall VAR Field Meet</b> .....</p> <p>Location: C&amp;O Canal – Antietam Creek Campground Hosted by Tri-State Grotto (TSG) URL: <a href="https://var.caves.org/index.php/events/fall-var">https://var.caves.org/index.php/events/fall-var</a></p>	<p>October 20-22, 2023</p>
<p><b>2023 Bridge Day</b> .....</p> <p>New River Gorge Bridge Fayetteville, WV URL: <a href="http://www.officialbridgeday.com">www.officialbridgeday.com</a> -or- <a href="https://www.nps.gov/neri/">https://www.nps.gov/neri/</a></p>	<p>October 21, 2023</p>
<p><b>2023 WVCC Banquet</b> .....</p> <p>Location: TBD URL: <a href="https://wvcc.net/">https://wvcc.net/</a></p>	<p>November 11, 2023</p>
<p><b>2024 MAR Annual Business Meeting</b> .....</p> <p>Mt. Laurel Church of God 1295 Piketown Road, Linglestown, PA URL: <a href="https://mar.caves.org/busnmtg.htm">https://mar.caves.org/busnmtg.htm</a></p>	<p>February 24, 2024</p>
<p><b>2024 Spring MAR Field Meet</b> .....</p> <p>Location: TBD Hosted by Bald Eagle Grotto URL: <a href="https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm">https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm</a></p>	<p>Spring 2024</p>
<p><b>2024 Spring VAR Field Meet</b> .....</p> <p>Location: TBD Hosted by TBD URL: <a href="https://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var">https://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var</a></p>	<p>Spring 2024</p>
<p><b>2024 NSS Convention</b> .....</p> <p>St. Andrews-Sewanee School Sewanee, TN URL: <a href="https://caves.org/convention/2024-nss-convention/">https://caves.org/convention/2024-nss-convention/</a></p>	<p>July 1-5, 2024</p>

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8	Caves of Blair Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	89 caves, 40 maps	<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
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13	Caves of Perry Co., PA	13 caves, 6 maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
14	Caves of Bucks Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	24 caves, 6 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
15	Caves of Lehigh Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	25 caves, 13 maps	<b>6.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
16	Caves of Northampton Co., PA	24 caves, 13 maps+1 large map	<b>6.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
17	Caves of Northumberland Co., PA	20 caves, 10 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
18	Caves of Berks Co., PA	64 caves, 32 maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
19	Caves of Bedford Co., PA	54 caves, 33 maps	<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
20	Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA	337 caves, 187 maps/10 large maps	<b>29.50</b> + postage <b>C</b>
21	Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookon Cave Huntingdon and Blair Counties	103 pages with <b>color photos</b> , 4 fold-out maps, 2 large maps	<b>27.50</b> + postage <b>B</b>
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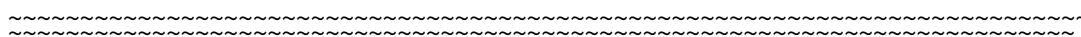
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