

***Mid-Appalachian Region of
the National Speleological Society***

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2015

The meeting was called to order by MAR Chair, Paul Winter, at 1:47 PM, February 28, 2015, at the Mount Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Introductory Remarks:

A special thanks to Judi Stack for organizing our meeting space at the Mount Laurel Church of God. This year's meeting fee was refunded by the church due to lack of heat in our previously reserved room. A new meeting room was set up. As thanks to the church, Judi requested a donation of \$50.

Carol Tiderman moved that the MAR donates \$50 to the church. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth "Bette" White and approved.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary's Report was read by MAR secretary, Hope Brooks. The minutes were accepted without change.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was read by MAR treasurer, Elizabeth "Bette" White. Printed copies were distributed. Total income of the year was \$2,451.13, with \$352.38 in expenditures. Net Income gain for the year was \$2,098.75.

Judi Stack serves as Bette White's backup for MAR financial information.

Vice Chairman's Report:

No report.

MAR Breakdown:

The MAR Breakdown report was given by Gretchen "Red" Schock. The MAR breakdown was printed and distributed on schedule. Electronic distribution worked well, and all issues were distributed on schedule. If you are not receiving notice of MAR Breakdown publication, directions can be found on the MAR website.

2014 Spring Field Meet:

The 2014 Spring Field Meet was hosted by the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy and was held at the Old Timers Reunion (OTR) Site in Dailey, West Virginia. A report of the Spring Field meet was given by Amos Mincin. 76 registrants participated.

2014 Fall Field Meet:

The 2014 Fall Field Meet hosted by Seven Valleys Grotto and was held at the Rupert Cave Preserve in McVeytown, Pennsylvania. A report of the Fall Field Meet was given by Gretchen "Red" Schock. 195 registrants participated.

MAR Web Site and Listserv:

The MAR webmaster, Christopher Catherman, reported that the MAR website and listserv remain functional.

For planning purposes, Christopher has been working on compiling statistical data on number of pre-registrants, total registrants, and PCC breakfast attendees, along with pre-registration and registration costs for the past ten years. The data is presented under the "Past Field Meets and Events" page on the MAR website. A request was made for submissions of any known historical attendance data to help "fill-in" years beyond 10 years ago.

MAR Bulletins:

Will White reported that *MAR Bulletin #10: Caves of Snyder County* will be reprinted, as it has sold out.

MAR Bulletin #21: Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookan Cave, Huntingdon and Blair Counties is for sale for \$27.50.

It is projected that the *MAR Bulletin #22: Caves of Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Union, & Montour Counties (CCLUM)* or *Mid-Susquehanna Valley* will be completed soon.

There are no updates on the updated Mifflin County Bulletin and the Huntingdon County Bulletin.

Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC):

The PGC had a meeting at the end of January, but their minutes have not been posted. The PGC requests that cavers, if they see bats while caving, take photos or identify the bats and count them. They request that cavers submit that information to the PGC. If interested in assisting this effort, contact Paul Winter.

Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC):

No updates.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC):

Pat Minnick reported that there will be a PCC meeting following the MAR Annual Business Meeting.

WNS and Bat Health:

Ed Kehs reports that he has seen healthy bat colonies in attics and chimneys. Amos Mincin reports that Little Browns are appearing to come back, a possible source of optimism. Jose Martinez reports that twenty bats were observed in the Schoharie, New York area. USFS has extended their policy closing U.S. Forest Service managed lands to caving.

New Business

2015 Field Meets:

No Spring Field Meet has been scheduled for 2015. No Fall Field Meet has been scheduled for 2015. It is requested that the October 3rd, 2015 weekend be avoided for scheduling.

Chairman, Paul Winter, requests that all grotto representatives return to their grottos and gauge interest in hosting a MAR.

2016 Field Meets:

Jose Martinez, of Met Grotto and Northern New Jersey Grotto, reports Met Grotto's interest in hosting a MAR Field Meet in 2016, possibly a NRO and MAR joint endeavor. Dates and details are forthcoming.

Pat Minnick, of the Franklin County Grotto, has requested they host a MAR Field Meet in spring 2016. Dates and details are forthcoming.

J.D. Lewis, of the Bald Eagle Grotto, has tentatively volunteered to host a MAR Field Meet in fall 2016. Dates and details are forthcoming.

MAR Direction Signs:

Steve Shawver has the signs in storage at his residence in McVeytown.

After Meeting Meeting (AMM):

Mark Wolfe announced that he will host an AMM after the PCC meeting.

MAR Mailing List:

George Bange reports that it is important to have a secondary keeper of the MAR mailing list. For the purpose of the MAR mailing list, it is requested that the MAR registration forms be reformatted to allow for more legible name and email fields. Christopher Catherman has offered to serve as a secondary keeper of the MAR mailing list and to reformat the MAR Field Meet registration form template.

Keith Wheeland has suggested that the MAR Field Meet registration form be reformatted to simplify the form, so long as liability is not increased by reformatting. This may include removing the pre-registration field. John Boswell suggested that pre-registration would be more successful through the use of an online registration option via the MAR website. Additional work on reformatting the MAR Field Meet registration form template is slated to occur out of the MAR Business Meeting forum.

Meetup:

Jose Martinez uses Meetup to advertise caving events. *Meetup* is an online social networking portal that facilitates offline group meetings in various localities around the world. Groups are charged a fee, but groups which are large are often sponsored. It is suggested that grottoes could form pages to advertise their meetings and trips.

Amos Mincin reports that Philly Grotto had a Meetup page and reports that, if used correctly, a Meetup page can bring in new members and increase interest in events. If interested, Meetup can be found at the URL of: www.meetup.com

Methods to Increase Event Hosting:

Carol Tiderman suggests that grottoes can do BYOB for events, instead of providing beverages.

New River Cave:

Carol Tiderman reports that the NSS has opened the New River Cave Preserve to recreational caving. Donations to the NSS, explicitly for the New River Cave Preserve, are appreciated. If you have donated, contact William (Wil) Orndorff to ensure that your funds are correctly credited. Wil is also interested in collecting photos of the cave from those who have them.

Upcoming Events

BCCS – Pancake Weekend – Burnsville Cove, VA – March 20-22, 2015
Spring VAR Field Meet – The Caverns at Natural Bridge, VA – April 24-26, 2015
Spring MVOR – Hanson Hills Campground, Kingdom City, MO – April 24-26, 2015
Annual Spring Creek Watershed Clean-up, Spring Creek, PA – April 25, 2015
Spring MAR Field Meet – TBD
Kentucky Speleofest – Lone Star Preserve, Bonnieville, KY – May 22-25, 2015
NSS Convention – Waynesville, Missouri – July 13-17, 2015
Mudfest 2015 – Lincoln Caverns, Huntingdon, PA – July 31-August 2, 2015
Old Timers Reunion (OTR) – OTR Site, Dailey, WV – September 3-7, 2015
Fall MAR Field Meet – TBD
Fall VAR Field Meet – TBD
Fall NRO Field Meet – TBD
BCCS – Annual Membership Meeting – Burnsville Cove, VA – October 3, 2015
TAG Fall Cave-In – Lookout Mountain, Near Trenton, GA – October 8-11, 2015
Bridge Day – New River Gorge Bridge, Fayetteville, WV – October 17, 2015

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Brooks
MAR Recording Secretary

Representatives at the MAR meeting:

- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Cave Hill Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Huntingdon County Cave Hunters
- Loyalhanna Grotto
- Nittany Grotto
- Philadelphia Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- York Grotto
- Baltimore Grotto
- Commander Cody Caving Club
- Central New Jersey Grotto
- Northern New Jersey Grotto