

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

February 23, 2019

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.



*MAR Officers
(Photo by Karen Bange)*

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:

The Vice Chairman, JD Lewis, reports that he is glad that 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 published 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 be taking over and now managing our Mail Chimp listserv.



*Catching up with fellow cavers
(Photo by Karen Bange)*

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 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.

New Business

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 Meeting September 20-22, 2019 at Newville Fairgrounds near Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

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.



Part of Bernard Smeltzer Collection
(Photo by Karen Bange)



Photo of Bernard Smeltzer
(Photo by Christopher Catherman)

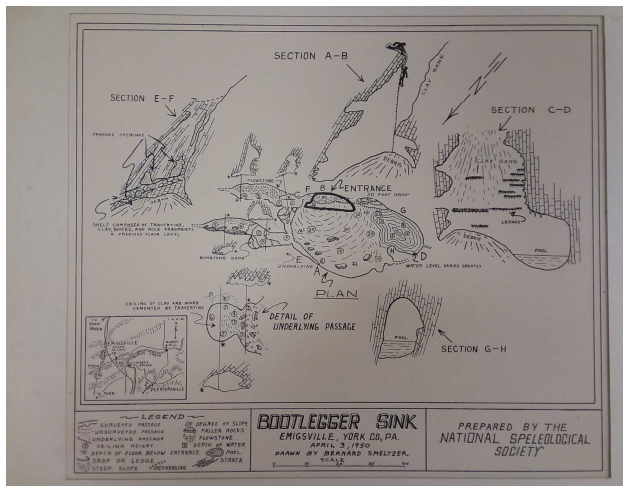


Photo of Bernard Smeltzer's Bootlegger Sink, Cave Map, York County
April 3, 1950
(Photo by Christopher Catherman)

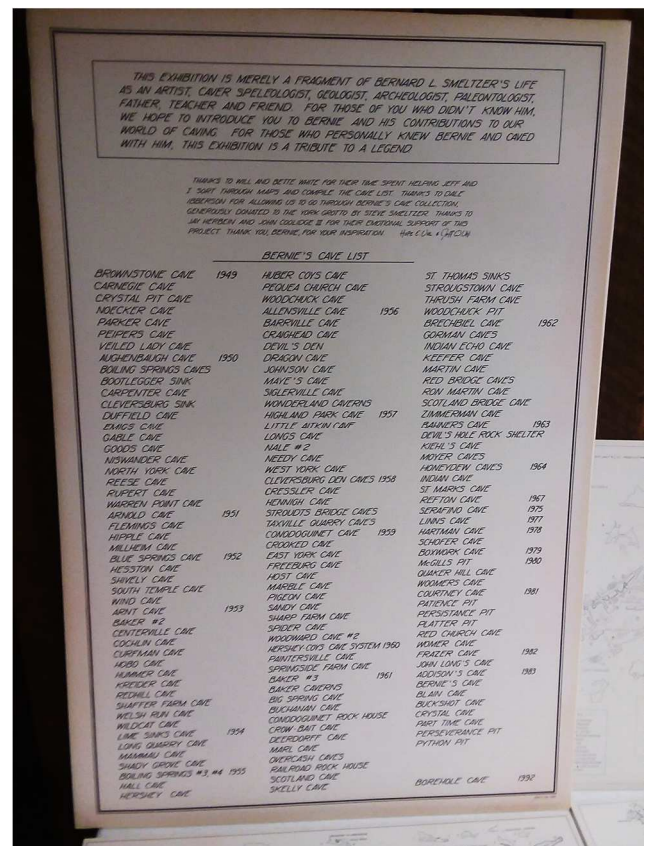


Photo of Bernard Smeltzer's
"Bernie's Cave List"
(Photo by Christopher Catherman)

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, 2019.

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, *MAR Secretary*

Representatives at the MAR meeting:

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