



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 30, Number 1, April 2015

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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## Pending No Host for the 2015 Spring MAR Field Meet

### The next PCC Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 14, 2015 at 9:30 am Rupert Cave Preserve, McVeytown, PA



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# ***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.



*MAR Officers (photo by Jose Martinez)*

**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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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, PA.

**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.



*Business meeting attendees (photo by Jose Martinez)*

**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](http://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 2015 MAR Field Meet** – TBD

**Spring 2015 NRO Field Meet** – Privacy Campground in Williamstown, MA – May 15-17, 2015

**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 2015 MAR Field Meet** – TBD

**Fall 2015 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

**Spring 2016 MAR Field Meet** – Harper Park in Shade Gap, PA – May 13-15, 2016

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



*What a great smile! (photo by Jose Martinez)*

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## MAR Bulletin Sales Feb 2014 – Feb 2015

Bulletin #	Number Sold	Price/Bulletin	Bulletin Income	Bulletins + postage
<b>1-4</b>	4	\$ 7.00	28.00	
<b>5</b>	3	\$ 8.00	24.00	
<b>6</b>	4	\$17.00	68.00	
<b>7</b>	2	\$ 5.00	10.00	
<b>8</b>	2	\$ 7.00	14.00	
<b>9</b>	2	\$10.00	20.00	
<b>10</b>	3	\$ 5.00	15.00	
<b>11</b>	5	\$10.00	50.00	
<b>12</b>	4	\$10.00	40.00	
<b>13</b>	4	\$ 5.00	20.00	
<b>14</b>	1	\$ 5.00	5.00	
<b>15</b>	1	\$ 6.00	6.00	
<b>16</b>	1	\$ 6.00	6.00	
<b>17</b>	2	\$ 5.00	10.00	
<b>18</b>	1	\$10.00	10.00	
<b>19</b>	1	\$ 7.00	7.00	
<b>20</b>	4	\$29.50	118.00	
<b>21</b>	1	\$27.50	27.50	
<b>postage paid</b>				<b>73.30</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>45</b>		<b>\$478.50</b>	<b>551.80</b>

### ***Hosts Needed For The 2015 Spring and Fall MAR!***

As of April 2015 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2015 Spring or Fall MAR. If you are interested in hosting one of these events, 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 the event, please contact a MAR officer.



# Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

## Minutes of Regular Meeting - February 28, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 3:38 pm by President Pat Minnick at the Mt. Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, PA on Saturday, February 28, 2015.

The following officers were present:

<b>President</b>	P. Minnick	<b>Vice President</b>	C. Catherman
<b>Secretary</b>	G. Schock	<b>Treasurer</b>	G. Dunmire

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	J.D. Lewis	Greater Allentown Grotto	---
Baltimore Grotto	Craig Hindman	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	---
Bucks County Grotto	---	Nittany Grotto	Paul Winter
Cave Hill Grotto	John Boswell	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Central New Jersey Grotto	Amos Mincin	Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
Commander Cody Caving Club	Mike Mostardi	York Grotto	Randy Hurst
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick		

**Secretary Report:** The minutes from the October 12, 2014 meeting were read and accepted as published in the January 2015 MAR Breakdown.

**Treasurer Report:** Gary Dunmire announced that the latest treasurer's report will be provided to the PCC Secretary to be included in the meeting minutes (see below). Gary reported that a deposit from the 2014 Fall MAR field meet's PCC breakfast and the account interest have been the only income activity since the last report.

## Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

### Financial Summary 10-11-14 Thru 02-28-15

#### Interest Checking Account

Account Balance	Nittany Bank	10/11/2014	\$6,561.28
Deposit	PCC Breakfast, 50/50	10/14/2014	\$707.00
Interest Payment		10/31/2014	\$0.87
Interest Payment		11/30/2014	\$0.91
Check # 118	Dean Snyder		
	Mail Boy		(\$60.00)
Interest Payment		12/31/2014	\$0.90
Interest Payment		1/31/2015	\$0.90
<b>Ending Balance :</b>			<u>\$7,211.86</u>

#### SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

	Maturity Date	
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2016	\$1,102.28
Certificate of Deposit	5/29/2016	\$1,102.28

Tee Shirt Petty Cash

\$60.00

**COMBINED TOTAL :**

\$10,578.70

**Web Page:** Dave Fricke stated that the web site (<http://www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc/>) has been up and running with no issues or problems. The contacts for the grottos on the Member Grotto web page have been updated with links to the NSS Internal Organization web page for each grotto. All grottos should periodically check their NSS IO page to ensure that the contact information is correct. As always, comments and suggestions on improving the Web Site are welcome.

**PCC Breakfast:** The PCC breakfast equipment is currently being stored in Steve Shawver's barn after the successful event at the 2014 Fall MAR field meet. Gary Dunmire complimented Joe Schock on all his work to perform upgrades to the griddle over the years. Joe Schock stated that he still has some additional modifications that he would like to make.

Todd Hancock of Cave Hill Grotto had sent the PCC officers an email asking if there would be interest in hosting a PCC Pancake Breakfast during the upcoming 2015 MUDfest event to raise funds for the PCC. Pat Minnick agreed to coordinate the breakfast and welcomes anyone willing to donate their time to help. The breakfast will be held on Sunday, August 2, 2015 at the 2015 MUDfest location. The PCC would like to thank Cave Hill Grotto for this fund raising opportunity.

**PCC Brochure:** Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact George Bange.

**Mail:** Gary Dunmire stated that Dean Snyder was paid by PCC for the PO Box fee. Gary will confirm with Dean that the fee was for the year 2015.

**Christmas Cards:** Karen Bange added the landowners for Nelson's Pit to the Christmas card distribution list. John Boswell suggested that the Frustration Pit/Corker Hill land owners be added to the list as well. Karen continues to manage the yearly distribution of Christmas cards to cave landowners and removes any invalid addresses as required. Contact Karen if you have a landowner you would like added to the Christmas card list.

**T-shirts:** Gary Dunmire continues to have PCC 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary T-shirts available at \$15 each (approximately \$17.95 with shipping). Gary indicated that he has not sold a shirt for several years. Dean Snyder also has older PCC shirts available for sale at \$4 each.

**PA Cave Database:** Tony Canike reported that the database is now in a secure, online repository. Mike Mostardi will provide some database updates to Tony. Tony stated that he received a request from Dr. David Culver for a list of cave entrance coordinates for Pennsylvania cave location data. Craig Hindman reported that the Virginia Region (VAR) received a similar request and provided the requested data for their region. Tony has taken no action to date and will contact the PCC board if he receives an additional request for the information in the future.



## OLD BUSINESS:

### Project List:

**Corker Hill and Frustration Pit** (Franklin County) – The caves now have a new landowner.

**Dragon Cave** (Berks County) – Mike Mostardi stated that he will check on the status of the cave.

**Dreibilbis Cave** (Berks County) – Mike Mostardi maintains positive relations with the cave owner. The cave is to be removed from the project list.

**J4 Cave** (Centre County) – Paul Winter provided an update on the latest interaction between Nittany Grotto and Graymont concerning access to the cave. Nittany Grotto should be contacted regarding any specifics about the ongoing negotiations.

**Kepler Cave** (Centre County) – Paul Winter stated that the negotiations with the land owner remain good. Paul plans to approach the landowner about the possibility of a cave conservancy purchasing the cave.

**McFadden Cave** (Huntingdon County) – Pat Minnick reported that Gordy Ley has been in contact with the new land owner and the cave is to be considered closed. McFadden Cave is to be removed from the project list.

**Red Church Cave** (Schuylkill County) – Ed Kehs reported that there are no problems with the landowner. Since the gate is complete, Red Church Cave is to be removed from the project list.

**PCC Tax Exempt Status:** Gary Dunmire reported that the PCC's tax exempt status has been resolved with the IRS and is intact.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Fund Raising Gear Auction:** Pat Minnick reported that Ken Taymen's gear auction, held by Franklin County Grotto (FCG) during the 2014 Fall MAR field meet, raised \$1157.00 for Ken's widow. FCG received a Thank You note from the widow. Thank you to everyone who made the auction such a success!

**Elections:** The existing President, Vice President and Secretary were re-elected to serve another year. John Boswell was elected to serve as the new PCC Treasurer. The PCC would like to thank Gary Dunmire for all his hard work and dedication over the past years as treasurer. Thank you for a job very well done Gary!

**Next meeting:** Paul Winter moved and Craig Hindman seconded to tentatively hold the next PCC meeting on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Rupert Cave Preserve in McVeytown, PA contingent upon finding a host for a 2015 Spring MAR field meet. The motion passed. Meeting time 9:30 am.

Craig Hindman moved and Amos Mincin seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary



*Business meeting attendees (photos by Jose Martinez)*

## ***Does Your Grotto Have A Youth Group Liaison?***

**We are asking all NSS Grottos to evaluate their role in getting local youth groups into a safe and ethical caving activity.**

Do you have, or are you a caver with a connection to a youth organization? Have you taken a youth group caving? Have you given a cave talk to a youth group? You should consider the value of having a **Grotto Youth Group Liaison** position. A person, a point of contact for youth groups to contact for information about caving in your area.

**What would your Youth Group Liaison do?** You decide. It's up to each individual Grotto or Youth Group Liaison to decide what type of and how much of a commitment you can give to helping local kids learn about caves and caving the right way.

**Are you already doing this? Do you want more information to do more?** Let me know. I'd be very happy to listen to your stories about good times and challenges. If you need help, let me know. The Youth Group Liaison Committee is here to help.

Allen Maddox

NSS – Youth Group Liaison Committee, MAR Regional Coordinator

nssyouth@caves.org

### **Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins [including reprinted Bulletins]**

NSS Member Price List

Effective March 2012

1-4	Bulletins Caves of Shippensburg Area #1-4 <b>REPRINT</b>		<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
5	Caves of Western PA <b>REPRINT</b>	29 caves, 19 maps	<b>8.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
6	Caves of S. Cumberland Valley <b>REPRINT</b>	93 caves 69 maps+6 large maps	<b>17.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
7	Caves of Fulton Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	4 caves, 4 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
8	Caves of Blair Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	89 caves, 40 maps	<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
9	Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	94 caves, 36 maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA	20 caves, 14 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
11	Caves of Centre Co., PA	71 caves, 56 maps+1 large map	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
12	Caves of Mifflin Co., PA	47 caves, 31 maps+5 large maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
13	Caves of Perry Co., PA	13 caves, 6 maps	<b>5.00</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 map/10 large maps	<b>29.50</b> + postage <b>C</b>
21	Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookan Cave Huntingdon and Blair Counties	103 pages with color photos, 4 fold-outs, 2 large maps	<b>27.50</b> + postage <b>B</b>

U.S. Postage:   **A**   \$2.00 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address  
                       **B**   \$2.50 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address  
                       **C**   \$3.00 postage for each bulletin #20

**MAR Bulletin Orders:** Please make checks payable to **MAR**. All checks must be payable in US dollars on US bank or US money order

**Order from:** Bette White, 4538 Miller Road, Petersburg, PA 16669-2711   U.S.A.