



BREAKDOWN

Volume 19, Number 2, August 2004

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-

A complimentary copy is sent to each grotto in the MAR. For individuals it works this way: When you attend a field meet \$5 of your registration fee goes directly to the MAR to pay for three issues of this newsletter and other MAR projects. You may also subscribe by sending \$5 to the treasurer. The number of issues you have remaining immediately follows your name on the mailing label.

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.

Chair: **Bob Gulden**
1333 Chapelview Drive
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1536 S. River Road
McVeytown, PA 17051
(717) 899-6576
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wbw2@psu.edu

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1536 S. River Road
McVeytown, PA 17051
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Fall 2004 MAR Field Meet at Woodward Campground Centre County



Hosted by Buffalo Valley Grotto
October 1 -3, 2004

Registration Information Inside
MAR Officer Election at the Fall Meet

Anyone wanting to run for
office should contact a current
officer to have their name put on the ballot

Spring 2004 MAR Field Meet Hosted by York Grotto At Raystown Lake Write Up Inside



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Spring 2004 MAR Field Meet

by Alan Horn

Spring 2004 M.A.R. statistics: 135 people were in attendance. Three were people from as far north as Toronto, Canada and as far south as Virginia Beach. We had the good fortune to have a program presented by Keith Christenson who presented a program titled "*Bats, Bugs, Bones and Bootie: Caving in the Caribbean.*" This included a slide show and was very entertaining and well presented. A big thank you to Keith; every one I spoke to enjoyed the presentation, including myself.

There were many cave trips throughout the weekend. Some self led, some guided. The numbers I was able to record are as follows: Blacklog saw 28 visitors Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. A big thank you to Todd Hancock, his wife Linda, and Tim Long for their efforts to permit as many people to see the cave as humanly possible. They complimented every one on their cave manners, and added that the trails are a little more defined now. George and Karen Bange led 6 people through Rupert Cave. Garrett Czmor lead 15 people into Seawra Cave. Hipple Cave saw 21 visitors. My thanks to everyone's understanding and cooperation in allowing me to correct my oversight regarding some of the access rules that apply to Hipple that I failed to communicate on the sign up sheet. Had I not corrected these oversights it may well have damaged landowner relations which have at times been strained. I had stopped and talked to them regarding the increased traffic this particular weekend. Bluehole Cave saw 10 people and was led by Derek Flaig. Dave Bookhammer led 10 people through Kookan Cave. Jeff Morisay led 8 people through Ruth Cave. Joe Schock led 6 people through Milroy Cave.

The weather cooperated; overall the thunder storm that happened late Saturday afternoon had most people with any sense running out from under the tent which was on top of the hill and had several fifteen foot long aluminum poles pointing to the sky. Can everybody say lighting rods? I am thankful that no one was struck. Thanks go out to my good friend Amos Mincin who relieved me so I could eat at registration. Upon returning from my meal I inspected the registration log and saw an entry identified only as Jack I asked Amos who was Jack and where was the rest of his information. He then informed me, with that "famous Amos smile," that he "didn't know Jack." I asked him "you really don't want to do this do you?" He informed me that he didn't work well under stress and I resumed my duties. I first met Amos, by the way, at Philly Grotto's 50th MAR event held at Woodward Cave in 1996 or 97 and have caved with him much after that event.

Bette White, Harry Sowers and Rich Rosevear all helped to either prepare or serve the meal Saturday night. Thanks to Crystal Higgs who help me with the door prize drawing. Someone made a comment upon exiting the MAR on Sunday "great job- long live the York Grotto." I replied "long live all grottos and the NSS." This event was the cumulated efforts of a lot of people from a lot of different grottos and would not have gone that well without their help. Amazingly, there were still two or three gallons of beer remaining Sunday morning.

There was no profit made and no loss for the event. I hope you had as much fun as I did seeing you all enjoy yourselves.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

The meeting was called to order by President, Rich Rosevear, at the Meadow Group Campsite of Raystown Lake in Huntingdon County on Sunday May 16, 2004

The following officers were present.

Pres. R. Rosevear **V. Pres.** A. Horn **Secretary** K. Bange **Treasurer** G. Bange

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	----	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	----
Baltimore Grotto	Craig Hindman	Nittany Grotto	Gary Dunmire
Bucks County Grotto	Rich Rosevear	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Buffalo Valley Grotto	----	Pennsylvania Inner-Earth Grotto	----
Central New Jersey Grotto	----	Pittsburgh Grotto	----
Commander Cody Caving Club	Harris Martin	Seven Valleys Grotto	Steve Shawver
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick	York Grotto	---
Greater Allentown Grotto	Dean Snyder		

There were other individuals present

Secretary Report: The minutes from the February 2004 meeting were accepted as published in the Breakdown.

Treasurer Report: There have been no changes to the Treasurers Report from the February 2004 meeting.

Web Page: David Fricke, the web master, reported there continues to be problems with the NSS server. The PCC account is disorganized at the present time and accessing the site is hit or miss, at best. Dave is working on straighten out the mess. PCC appreciates Dave putting work into the PCC website.

PCC Breakfast: Nate Hirneisen was applauded for his efforts in putting on the PCC breakfast. The PCC received \$466 from the breakfast.

Fund Raising T-Shirts. Dean Snyder has PCC bumper stickers for sale at \$2 a piece and PCC T-Shirts for sale at \$8 each.

PCC Brochure: Brochures are available. Anyone interested in brochures should contact George Bange.

OLD BUSINESS:

PROJECT LIST:

Baker Caverns: Franklin, County, PA- No change in status or access; the property remains for sale.

Dragon Cave: Berks County, PA –Karen Bange reported for Mike Mostardi. There are new landowners and they are building a house on the cave property. Mike has spoken with the landowner who requests there be no caving. Mike will continue to monitor the situation but for the present time he asks that no cavers approach the landowner and the cave be taken off the project list.

J-4: Centre County, PA-status quo- CLOSED

Merkle Cave: Berks County, PA.- No change

Cleversburg Cave: Franklin County, PA.- Pat Minnick reported access remains the same while Franklin County Grotto works with the township. Once the new lock is put in place FCG will mail out keys to other grottos.

Additions to the Project List:
Corker Hill and Frustration Pit: Franklin County, PA- Amos Mincin reported that the landowner for these two caves changed in 2002 and the current landowner is a partnership that seems interested in developing the area. Amos proposed adopting this cave as a PCC project to 1) establish an access plan 2) survey and map the cave 3) and look into acquisition options such as a conservation easement, leasing the land or purchasing it. Since Franklin County Grotto is the closest grotto to the cave, FCG will discuss the idea at their upcoming grotto meeting and report back to the PCC.

Red Church Cave: Berks County, PA- Dean Snyder reported the current landowner, who does not like cavers, is getting up there in years. Apparently she has no heirs and is leaving her property to a conservancy or a college. Greater Allentown Grotto will monitor the situation.

Christmas Cards: Anyone wishing to add a landowner to the Christmas card list should contact Karen Bange.

Mail: Dean Snyder reported he received notice from the IRS that PCC is clear with their 501 (c) 3

NEW BUSINESS:

Juniata College Grotto: The NSS just officially acknowledged the newest grotto in

Pennsylvania- Juniata College Grotto in Huntingdon. This past spring Karen Bange invited the grotto to the spring MAR; several members did attend. Karen will invite the grotto to the fall MAR and to attend a PCC meeting.

Conservancy Forum: Amos Mincin attended The Northeast Cave Conservancy and West Virginia Cave Conservancy in Lewisburg, West Virginia April 15, 2004. The forum discussed standardized criteria, fundraising, management plans, stewardship with a focus on federal land management. 25 cave conservancies from all over the country were represented. Amos reported the guest speakers were all experts in their respective fields. There was lots of cooperation between the conservancies. Profits from the forum were distributed among the cave conservancies represented; PCC will be getting a portion of the profit.

NSS Convention: Dean Snyder will represent the PCC at the upcoming NSS Convention this summer.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be on Sunday October 3, 2004 at the fall MAR field meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Bange, Recording Secretary

**Don't forget to check out both the
MAR web site and the PCC web site
for the latest information and upcoming events!**

The MAR web page is at:

www.caves.org/region/mar/

The PCC web page is at:

www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc

The MAR web page also has a listserver which can be found at

www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/MAR-NSS/

Update on Hosting an MAR Field Meet

Grottos hosting an MAR field meet can access complete guidelines for hosting an event on the MAR website (www.caves.org/region/mar)

There have been changes to some individuals' addresses.
Please note the changes:

Bette White
4538 Miller Road
Petersburg, PA 16669-2711

Karen Bange
1536 S. River Road
McVeytown, PA 17051

George Bange is now the keeper of the MAR Addresses.
His address is listed above.

NSS Preserves Name Change

As our commitment to future generations, the NSS owns or manages 13 properties to protect the caves that lie beneath them and their environments. We also strive to protect the complete habitat within its properties. For nearly 40 years, these lands have been designated "Cave Preserves." However, attitudes, perceptions, and business environments evolve, and the NSS evolves as well.

To emphasize the goal of the Society to protect the total environment of our Preserves, the NSS Board of Governors voted in March, 2004, to use the word "Nature" to describe its Preserves. Our

lands contain much more than caves, and our management plans include guidelines for conserving and protecting the surface resources in addition to those underground. The wealth of diverse flora and fauna and important watersheds on our lands enrich the fragile environment we protect underground. Through management plans, the Society endeavors to manage our Preserves to ensure the well being of their total environments, and the new "Nature Preserve" designation better reflects this. For example, we now have the Tytoona Cave Nature Preserve, the Wells Cave Nature Preserve, etc.

An additional factor: The NSS works with land trusts and other nature conservancy organizations, and we are beginning to apply to these organizations, foundations, and governments for grants to support our programs and projects. These groups understand, appreciate, and are used to dealing with "nature preserves." We believe that re-labeling our preserves will help emphasize to these groups that the NSS is a nature conservancy, albeit one in a special niche.

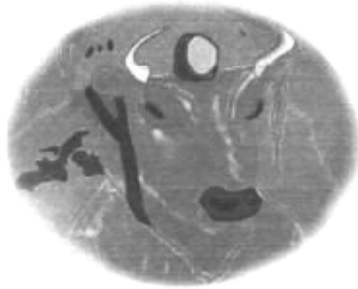
Furthermore, insurance companies better understand and are less fearful of "Nature Preserves" than a "cave preserve." The NSS had great difficulty renewing the Society's insurance policy, and last year incurred an additional \$17,000 expense to do so. This is a great financial strain. To maintain insurance coverage for the Society, for our properties, for our conventions, and for Internal Organizations (Grottos) who request a rider for their activities, we need to do what we can to be seen as the reasonable risk that we are. Perhaps being custodians of "nature" preserves will help us in this endeavor.

Scott Fee, NSS President

FALL 2004 MAR FIELD MEET

October 1-3 Woodward Cave Campground

Hosted by the Buffalo Valley Grotto



Guided Cave
Trips

Cave Trips

Digs

Camping

Vendors

Hiking

Mtn Biking

Fishing

Pre Registration: \$25.00 (prior to Sept 1st)

After Sept 1: \$27.00

Please make checks payable to Buffalo Valley Grotto

Limited RV sites with full hook-ups are available but are not included in registration fees. RV sites with no hook-ups available as well. Cabins are not included.

Questions? Contact bvg@caves.org or call (814) 349-9800

Principal Registrant's:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Daytime Telephone: (____) _____
Evening Telephone: (____) _____
Primary Grotto Affiliation: _____
Emergency contact Name: _____
Phone: (____) _____

Additional Registrants:

Name: _____
Age: _____
Relationship to Registrant: _____

Buffalo Valley Grotto, its members, the MAR, Burd Bros, Woodward Cave & Campground and private landowners take no responsibility for any injuries or losses that might be sustained during the 2004 Fall MAR meet and any associated activities either on-site or off-site. Participation by the undersigned is at their own risk, and they accept responsibility for the safety of all other participants (children and adults) who are listed on this registration form under "Additional Registrants".

Please mail with check to:

Eric Snyder
c/o BVG
518 Market St
Mifflinburg PA 17844

MAR Breakdown
1536 S. River Road
McVeytown, PA 17051



Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins including reprinted Bulletins

NSS Member Price List

Effective May 2002

1-4	REPRINT VOLUME: Bulletins #1-4		7.00 + postage
5	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Western PA	29 caves, 19 maps 76pp	8.00 + postage A
	Armstrong, Clarion, Fayette, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Westmoreland Counties		
6	REPRINT VOLUME:	93 caves 69 maps/5 large maps 126 pp	12.00 + postage B
	Caves of Southern Cumberland Valley, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin Counties		
7	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Fulton Co., PA	4 caves, 4 maps 17pp	5.00 + postage A
8	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Blair Co., PA	89 caves, 40 maps 90 pp	7.00 + postage
9	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA	94 caves, 36 maps	10.00 + postage B
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA	20 caves, 14 maps	5.00 + 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	5.00 + postage A
14	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Bucks Co., PA	24 caves, 6 maps 43 pp	5.00 + postage A
15	REPRINT VOLUME: Caves of Lehigh Co., PA	25 caves, 13 maps 35 pp	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 + 3.00 each

U.S. Postage:

A \$1.80 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address.

B \$2.00 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address.

◆ \$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