



BREAKDOWN

Volume 20, Number 2, August 2005

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.

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FALL 2005 MAR FIELD MEET

Hosted by *Pennsylvania Inner Earth Grotto*
September 16-18, 2005

Lincoln Caverns, Huntingdon, PA
Look for registration information
on the MAR website www.caves.org/region/mar

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

Drying out
after the
rain at the
Spring
MAR



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Spring 2005 MAR Field Meet

by Keith Wheeland

The MAR field meet was held at the Rupert Cave Campground the weekend of May 14, 2005. The property is owned by cavers, George and Karen Bange. In concert with the MAR, Carrie Shafer and Steve Shawver were wed on Saturday afternoon. The weekend was a rousing success with 147 MAR registrants and approximately 115 wedding guests.

Background: We began planning the MAR more than a year ago when Nittany Grotto and Seven Valleys agreed to co-host the event. We had our first meeting at the Shawver/Shafer home on March 28, 2004. Present were Karen & George Bange, Andrew Churlik, Cherie & Joe Schock, Carrie Shafer, Steve Shawver, John Snoddy, Keith D. Wheeland, Gretchen (Red) Williams, and Frank (Roo) Yoder. A number of other meetings were held after that time. In addition many emails were sent.

The Wedding: Carrie Shafer and Steve Shawver re-met at an MAR field meet after knowing each other in their teens. The idea for a wedding in conjunction with an MAR field meet came from that re-meeting.

Small photos of the guests were taken and placed into the guest register next to the wishes and signature penned by each guest. The ceremony was held in a high, sunny meadow above the quarry beneath a blooming dogwood tree. The altar was a section of a large tree. The guests gathered around the altar in a circle. Outside the circle of guests were the six Candle Attendants and the flutist. The Candle Attendants recited their parts, invoked the blessing of the gods, and made their way around the circle. The bride was accompanied to the altar by her father. There were three candles on the altar symbolizing the bride, the groom, and the married couple as one. The mothers of the bride and groom lit the individual candles, and then later the bride and groom lit the marriage candle from those two. The individual candles were not extinguished symbolizing that the bride and groom were still individuals even as they became one as husband and wife.

The marriage took place as a friend of the bride wrapped the entwined hands of the bride and groom in a scarf and tied it in a knot in the handfasting ritual. (The origination of the term "to tie the knot".) The "scarf" was Carrie's family tartan from her mother's

mother's side. They are Scotch - Irish and originally from the Roxbury District.

At the end of the ceremony, the bride and groom jumped the sword and broom to symbolize the cutting and sweeping away of reliance on their parents. The couple then circled the guests as the guests threw flower seeds rather than rice. The couple then mounted horses for their ride down to the quarry for the reception. The guests followed on foot. The procession was led by the flutist playing music.



**Carrie Shafer
and
Steve Shawver
saying their
VOWS**

The couple obtained a Quaker marriage license, which allows couples to be married in Pennsylvania without the services of a pastor or Justice of the Peace. Carrie will retain Shafer as her married name.

Registration: Cherie Schock, Andrew Churlik, and I staffed the registration desk. There were 58, who pre-registered, with two of those as no-shows. In all there were 147 registrants. Andrew and I attended to the actual registration; while Cherie had her hands full attending to sales of guidebooks, raffle tickets, and meal tickets for the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) Sunday morning pancake breakfast.

Dale Ibberson brought the past guidebooks for sale and Dean Snyder brought a selection of miscellaneous publications for sale. Chris Sanders provided a grab box of free lamps and lamp parts to the delight of the do-it-yourselfers. Andy Fluke donated a slightly used pair of coveralls, which were bought by a very pleased caver.

John Snoddy and Gretchen Williams prepared the publicity brochures, the cave trip sheets, and the pre-registration forms. John headed up the cave trip signups and coordination.

Movies: On Friday evening, Dean Snyder entertained participants with movies. Shown were the following: *Martians of the World: Carlsbad Caves* (1926?)

Assignment *Underwater* (1960), *Groundwater* (1982), *Atea - Search for the World's Deepest Cave* (1982), *Sky King* (1956), *The World of Darkness* (1973), and *Lehman Cave National Monument* (1980?)

Morning Coffee: Arrangements for coffee were made by Karen Bange and Bob (Ziggy) Seager. Apples were provided by Joe and Cherie Schock. High calorie doughnuts and rolls were not provided because of budget restraints, however in hindsight, it was probably possible.

Cave Trips: John Snoddy was responsible for arranging cave trips. A list of cave trips with times and limits was available at the registration desk. Signups were held after the movies were shown.

The trip to Kooken was shortened considerably (bagged) when the launching platform was deemed unsafe to continue although the trip was not without merit. Measurements were taken so that a more permanent platform can be installed in the future. The cavers were not disappointed since they were treated to a trip to Heller Caves.

The Meal: Sal-Lees of Belleville catered the meal. The menu was barbecued roast pork on a roll, with parsleyed potatoes, corn, and broccoli and cauliflower with cheese sauce. A vegetarian barbecue was prepared by Karen Bange. Wedding cake was provided by the newly married couple.

Just as the meal line was opened, it began to rain. In a few moments it abated. About twenty minutes later we had an MAR downpour. Cavers and wedding guests (who were under a tent) tried to keep dry. The cavers crowded under the pavilion. Gracious cavers, who were originally seated, folded their chairs and stood to make room for everyone. Most of the cavers ate standing up. The rain stopped in about 10 minutes.

The DJ, who was hired for the wedding, had only played some dinner music before the downpour. His equipment got wet and he could not use it without ruining it completely and causing danger to himself. So he packed up his equipment and took it home to dry. Arrangements had been made for him to announce the door prizes and raffle winners over his PA system. We improvised.

Door Prizes: Carrie Shafer was responsible for gathering door prizes. We had a lot! Because the DJ

had to leave, we did the next best thing by recruiting Ken Jones to do the honors (Ken has a PA voice). Pat Minick and Anne Shepard helped with the door prize process.

Pro Lite II Raffle: This \$200 lamp was donated to Seven Valleys by Sandy and Brian Preaux. The raffle raised \$253, which will be donated to MAR, and the PCC in equal shares.

50-50 Raffle: The raffle raised \$38 for the PCC.

PCC Breakfast: Some 80+ hungry cavers ate Sunday morning breakfast organized this year by Christopher and Christine Catherman aided by other volunteers. They donated the food, so that all ticket sales were profit for the PCC.



**The PCC
Breakfast
Gang**

Vendors and Conservation: The Mid Atlantic Karst Conservancy set up an information and sales booth near registration. Barry Duncan set up a tent to sell his wares near the pavilion. Callie and Shawn Kitzmiller set up a booth to showcase their energy drinks and meal replacement bars.

Comedic Relief: Two men drove in their pickup and came to register. Andrew gave them forms, which they dutifully filled out. When Andrew informed them the fee was \$25, they said "For a sale?". We didn't understand and answered "Sale?" One of them said, "Isn't this the auction?" We said, "No, this is a cave meet." They tore up their registration forms, and left without saying another word. We later found out that further down the road, there was indeed an estate auction being held.

Thanks: The MAR especially thanks George and Karen Bange, and Steve Shawver and Carrie Shafer. In addition to those already mentioned in the report above, and those who helped on the cold, wet, work weekend of April 23, the MAR thanks you. Thanks also go to all of you who pitched in to make the weekend the great success that it was.

Thank You from Steve and Carrie

We would like to express our thanks to all those who helped in the preparation & completion of our wedding day and our happiness in sharing our special day with our caring friends and "family".

Carrie & Steve



MAR Incorporation, What You Need To Consider....

For the past few years the MAR has been discussing incorporation. Whether you are for or against MAR incorporation, there is something you need to know:

If the MAR incorporates, decisions will no longer be made by the general attendees at the annual business meeting. Each grotto, in the region, will be assigned a vote, maybe 2 - aka a delegate to represent the group. This group of delegates will be known as the Board of Directors. Only the Board of Directors will make and vote on motions. They will also be the ones voting for the officers of the organization. It will probably be necessary to move the annual election of officers to the business meeting, instead of at the fall meet. If there are not enough delegates at a meeting - a quorum - no official business can be conducted at that meeting. As a rule, you can only be a delegate for one grotto.

These points are presented as food for thought. Currently there are 17 grottos in the MAR who would be eligible to have a delegate represent them on the Board of Directors. In order to incorporate the MAR there will need to be changes to the bylaws. At the 2005 MAR Business Meeting the proposed changes were read. These changes were published in the 2005 Spring Breakdown. At the 2006 MAR Business Meeting there will be a vote on accepting the proposed changes to the bylaws in anticipation of incorporating the MAR. Come to the 2006 MAR Business Meeting prepared to discuss the next step(s) of MAR incorporation.

Corker Hill and Frustration Pit: Franklin County, PA - Amos Mincin reported the survey of Corker Hill Cave is underway. Anyone interested in helping with the survey project should contact Amos. Survey trips are scheduled for the first Saturday of the month. Ken Jones has tried to contact the landowner in Minnesota without success.

Schofer Cave: Berks County, PA - Mike Spencer in the process of getting Game Commission contact information

Christmas Cards: Anyone wishing to add a landowner to the Christmas card list should contact Karen Bange. Mike Mostardi will provide Karen with the current address for the landowner of Dreibilbis Cave.

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

Dale Ibberson acknowledged several recent caver deaths.

Mike Spencer reported the survey of Northampton County quarries by Bucks County Grotto would be completed by the end of 2006.

Greater Allentown Grotto will have a display at Lost River Cavern's 75th anniversary June 18th.

Amos Mincin gave an update on the Ridley Creek State Park cave conservation presentation. The presentation is scheduled for November 6th. Anyone interested in helping put together a presentation, such as a power point slide show, should contact Amos.

Grottos are welcome to come to the event and set up displays. All displays should be geared to cave conservation.

Karen Bange gave an update on the National Public Radio interview done this spring. The interview was aired in early April and the PCC will be getting a CD of the interview. The interview also included a trip through Alexander Cavern with Bald Eagle Grotto.

Joe Schock built a self-explanatory box for the PCC 50/50 drawing. The drawing was held at the MAR and Ed Kehs, Jr. won \$38. The box will be kept by the treasurer to use at future events.

NEW BUSINESS:

Craig Hindman made a motion to change the time of the PCC meeting at field events to 9:00 am. The motion was seconded by Amos Mincin. A vote was taken with only 2 votes in favor of changing the meeting time. Mike Spencer made a motion to change the meeting time to 9:30 am at field meets. The motion was seconded by Karen Bange. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The PCC meetings at field events will now start at 9:30 am.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be on Sunday September 18, 2005 at the fall MAR field meet **starting at 9:30 am.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Bange, Recording Secretary

**For the latest news and information on upcoming events
check out the MAR web site and the PCC web site!**

The MAR web page is at:

www.caves.org/region/mar

The PCC web page is at:

www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc

The MAR listserv is at:

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

CLEVERSBURG SINK CAVE(S) MANAGEMENT POLICY

As presented by the Franklin County Grotto

January 2005

PURPOSE: Implement a Policy of Management.

- A) Set safety recommendations/responsibilities for qualified persons visiting the cave(s).
- B) Assure conservation of:
 - 1) The Cave(s).
 - 2) Flora and fauna of the Cave(s).
 - 3) Surrounding area – currently owned and managed by Shippensburg Township, Cumberland County, PA.

- 1) All persons wishing to visit the Cave(s) on the property shall prove to the satisfaction of the Management or the Key Holders* that said persons are qualified to cave safely and responsibly.

* *Key Holders* are designated grotto members served by the Mid-Appalachian Region.

- 2) All persons visiting the Cave(s) on the property shall accept the responsibility for the:
 - A) Safety of themselves and all in their group.
 - B) Protection of the Cave(s) and surrounding area.
- 3) All persons visiting or planning to visit the Cave(s) on the property shall refrain from calling the Township Office, Township Officers or Kenneth Goshorn (previous owner of the Cave(s)). Instead, all persons shall refer their requests to the Franklin County Grotto, Franklin County Grotto contact people/ key holders or other M.A.R. Grotto key holders.
- 4) Further responsibilities of the Cave(s) visitors:
 - A) If you bring it with you, take it away with you when you leave.
 - B) If you observe damage to a Cave(s) gate, notify Franklin County Grotto immediately at the end of your visit.
 - C) When exiting the Cave(s) make sure the gate lock is locked when you leave.
- 5) Vehicle parking: Park only in designated areas. If unsure of where to park, ask prior to your trip.
- 6) Most important: Leave no trace of your visit as in NO graffiti or damage of any kind in or around the cave(s). We are here as visitors welcomed by the township. Let's not wear out our welcome.

FRANKLIN COUNTY GROTTA CONTACT PEOPLE

Addendum to Management Policy

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Home Phone #</u>	<u>Cell #</u>
Kenneth C. Jones, Sr.	717-267-2669	717-816-7861
Howard C. White	717-423-6005	717-360-7960
Theodore Valcis	717-530-5950	
Patrick A. Minnick	717-765-0521	717-360-7408
Jonathan Peterson	717-788-1096	301-730-0993

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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

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- 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

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