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  
Odenton, MD 21113  
(410) 674-4474  
caverbob@aol.com

**Vice Chair:** Gary Dunmire  
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mudtube@yahoo.com

**Secretary:** Karen Bange  
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**Treasurer:** Bette White  
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118 Ridge Road  
Centre Hall, PA 16828  
(814) 364-1601  
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**FALL 2006 MAR FIELD MEET**

Hosted by *Bald Eagle Grotto*  
in honor of their 20th anniversary  
October 6-8, 2006  
Bellefonte, PA  
Details inside on page 5 or 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

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Franklin County Grotto (FCG) hosted the Mid-Appalachian Region’s Spring event on May 5, 6, and 7, 2006 at the Greencastle (PA) American Legion picnic grounds. This is the same site that FCG also used for Spring MAR events in May 1997 and May 2001. The MAR in 1997, as some may remember, was unseasonably cold and featured multi-layered cavers huddling around fires and burn barrels, to fight the chill.

This year, however, the weather was quite nice, and attendance was good. Total registration was about 118 and the majority of attendees arrived Friday night and stayed until Sunday morning. Many participated in the guided cave trips and some impromptu, spur-of-the-moment, trips, as well. Guided trips went to Baker Caverns, Peiper’s, Corker Hill, Frustration Pit, Carnegie and Whiting’s Neck (WV). Cavers were also pointed in the general direction of Buchanan, Woodchuck, Williamson’s “P” caves, and Hershey-Coy. Cleversburg Sink, as might be expected, was (and, as of June 10, 2006), full of water, well above the ladder.

FCG agreed to sponsor this MAR at the February 2005 MAR Winter Business Meeting. However, the Greencastle Legion would not allow scheduling of the site until January 2006. As soon as the site became available, the site was reserved and the flyer was ready by the 2006 MAR Winter Business Meeting. Information was also sent to the NSS News and was listed in the April and May 2006 issues (six week lead time required).

After we nailed down the site, planning began in earnest. We elected to have the Legion provide supper and Charlie, from the Legion, delivered the food, right on time. For planning and budget purposes, we guessed that attendance might be around 100, but at the last minute, with good weather in the forecast, we decided to order approximately 110 meals.

Early site inspections in March and April revealed that the dumpster was full and the Porta-Pots had not been pumped, but the poop pumper truck arrived on Friday afternoon and the dumpster got tipped at 5:45 AM Saturday whilst most of the attendees were attempting to snooze.

Small details aside, everything went SUPER. To the best of my knowledge, there were no cave accidents, no car accidents, no injuries and no incarcerations.

I also want thank the following folks and note their contributions:

Anne Shepard: Site Reservation and program booklet printing
Diane White: Registration and coffee and grotto breakfast
Jim Hart: Presentation on “The Turks and Caicos” and program booklet preparation
Howard White: Facilities, firewood, and video tech, screen assembly and flyer prep
Ken Tayman: Door prizes and NSS News liaison
Gordon Ley : “Name That Cave!” photos and contest
Connie Cooever-Hart: Caver Tee Shirt Quilt
Jon Peterson: Baker Caverns and “P” cave trip coordination
Ken Jones: FCG Chairman, and supplies! supplies! supplies!
Eric and Chris Heberlig: Grotto grub and site work
Don Arrowood: Planning committee and site work
Dave and Sheila Scamardella: Site work, trip leader and tech procurement
Ted Valcis: Planning committee and Baker trip
The Cave Owners: Ed and Kim Kehs (Peiper’s)
The Meyers’(Baker Caverns)
Charlie, Greencastle American Legion: The site and the supper
The vendors who attended:
Barry Duncan of “Cavers Connection”
Mike Warner of “Speleobooks”
The PCC Breakfast Crew: Chris and Christine Catherman, Joe Schock, Gretchen Williams, Nate Hirmeisen.
The vendors who contributed door prizes:
Bruce Smith　On RopE1
Diane and Howard White
Where the Sun Don't Shine
Franklin County Grotto　PA Caves Book
Other items contributed:　Petzel Zoom
Other donors included:
Dicks
Gander Mountain
LL Bean
Coleman
Cavers Connection
Bob and Bob
Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by President Pat Minnick at the American Legion Campground in Franklin County.

The following officers were present.  

President  P. Minnick  
Vice President  C. Catherman  
Secretary  K. Bange  
Treasurer  G. Bange

Representation was as follows:
Bald Eagle Grotto  JD Lewis  
Baltimore Grotto  ---  
Bucks County Grotto  Pat Richard  
Buffalo Valley Grotto  Matt Neyhart  
Central New Jersey Grotto  ---  
Commander Cody Caving Club  ---  
Franklin County Grotto  Pat Minnick  
Greater Allentown Grotto  Dean Snyder

Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters  ----  
Nittany Grotto  Chris Catherman  
Philadelphia Grotto  Amos Mincin  
Pennsylvania Inner-Earth Grotto  ----  
Pittsburgh Grotto  ----  
Seven Valleys Grotto  Gretchen Williams  
York Grotto  Dale Ibberson

Secretary Report:  The minutes from the February 2006 meeting were accepted as published in the Breakdown with one correction made.  Under New Business the first sentence should read “Dale Ibberson gave a brief history of Stony Valley, a 44,373 acre roadless wilderness area in Central Pennsylvania.”

Treasurer Report:  George Bange reported on the PCC financial status.  PCC has a total of $6,103.46

Web Page: Dave Fricke gave an update on the PCC web site.  The site still continues to receive inquires and increase in visibility in the caving community with more listings on caving-related link web sites.  The latest feature to the PCC web site is an addition of a page showing submitted T-shirt designs for the 25th PCC anniversary.  Submission deadline is February 2008 with T-shirts to be printed in the spring of 2009.  T-shirt designs can be submitted to Dave for posting on the PCC web site.  Additional items for the PCC web site are welcome.

PCC Breakfast:  The Cathermans once again coordinated the PCC breakfast.  The breakfast brought in $220.  The Fall MAR field meet is being held at a KOA campground complete with an eatery.  After some discussion it was voted to have no PCC breakfast at the fall MAR field meet.

PCC Brochure:  George Bange reported on the PCC brochure inventory.  There are 5 packs of brochures left with the correct contact information.  George gave approximately 2,000 brochures, with incomplete contact information, to Mike Spencer who volunteered to put labels on these brochures with the correct contact information.  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. 
J-4: Centre County, PA-status quo 
Red Church Cave:  Schuylkill County, PA- No change in status 
Merkle Cave:  Berks County, PA.- No change in status 
Cleversburg Cave:  Franklin County, PA.- Pat Minnick reported that on June 10th there will be a work day at the cave to work on improving the steps into the cave and adding plexiglass to the kiosk.  The cave currently is full of water.  FCG will be monitoring the water level monthly and posting the level on the FCG website.  There is no change in the key status. 
Corker Hill:  Franklin County, PA- Amos Mincin reported there is no update to the survey.  Amos did have an updated map of the cave at the meeting.  There has been no contact with the landowners.  
Schofer Cave:  Berks County, PA- no report
Durham Cave: Berks County, PA- Nate Hirneisen inquired about the status of this old pulp mill and the possibility of the township making the area into a park. Frank Eckert is the contact person for the cave.  

Penn Aqua: Mifflin County, PA- George Bange gave an update on the property which remains for sale. George spoke to the owner this past week. The asking price for the house, 8 acres of land and the cave entrance is $165,000. It seems the neighbor is considering purchasing the land. PCC will continue to monitor the situation.

Karen Bange will be doing a presentation May 13th for Women Of The Outdoors. The presentation will be on caving and cave conservation. She has put together a power point present which will be added to the PCC library.

Dale Ibberson gave an update on Stony Creek. Dale has met with Governor Rendell and other top administration officials regarding the land. It seems all of the coalition’s demands are being met except Fort Indiantown Gap will use 1,400 acres of the land 90 days a year for military maneuvers. This area will not be fenced or have signage but the Gap will close road access into the area during these days. Everyone is encouraged to access the Stony Creek website and send emails to the governor in opposition to Fort Indiantown Gap using the land for military maneuvers.

Karen Bange distributed forms for grottos to use to update and/or change grotto representative information.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be on Sunday October 8, 2006 at the Fall MAR Field Meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 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

MAR OFFICER ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT THE FALL MAR FIELD MEET

Anyone interested in having their name put on the ballot should contact a current MAR Officer

Get involved!!
Come help BEG celebrate 20 years of caving, exploring, and conserving karst areas

Fall MAR 2006 Pre-Registration Form
Please print this form out and mail it with your check (payable to Bald Eagle Grotto with 'Fall MAR' on the memo line) to:
Fall MAR 2006 Registration
c/o Bald Eagle Grotto
P.O. Box 71
Cogan Station, PA 17728

Use pre-registration prices only if your form is postmarked on or before Sept. 13, 2006. Thanks, BEG

Name: ____________________________________________

Others you are paying for: ____________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: ________ Zip: __________

Phone Number: __________________________

Do you want a Vegetarian Meal? YES / NO (Please circle one) If yes how many_____

Fall MAR 2006 Fees:
Through Sept. 13, 2006 (We'll use the postmark)

Adults (15+ years): $25.00 x _________ = $___________

Children (4 - 14 years): $20.00 x _______ = $___________

Babies (under 3) free

Pets: $5.00 x ________ = $______________ (Please, no aggressive pets)

Total amount enclosed: $_____________________

Cost after Sept. 13, 2006: Add $5.00 per person (An incentive to pre-register!)
Fall MAR 2006
Oct. 6 – 8, 2006
Bellefonte KOA Campground (814) 355-7912
Bellefonte, PA

Hosted by Bald Eagle Grotto, Williamsport, PA

The campground is approx. 14.5 miles NE of State Collage as the bat flies.

Directions to the KOA Campground:

From points East:  Take I-80 west to Exit 161
Make a right at end of exit ramp onto SR-26 (Jacksonville Rd.)
Go 1.9 miles to the KOA (on the left)(It’s the 2nd campground.)

From points West:  Take I-80 east to Exit 161
Make a left at end of exit ramp onto SR-26 (Jacksonville Rd.)
Go 2.5 miles to the KOA (on the left)(It’s the 2nd campground.)

From points North: Take US-15 south to US-220 west to I-80 west
(Then follow directions for ‘from points east’)

From points South: Take I-81 north to US-15 north (or just take US-15 north)
to US-322 west to the first US-220 east /north (bear right)
Go 14 miles; the KOA will be on the left (2nd campground)
(USS-220 will become SR-26 as you pass under I-80)
(The KOA is 2.1 miles after passing under I-80)

Or

From the S. West:  Take US-219 north or US-220 north to I-99 north (also US-220)
I-99 will eventually end and become just US-220 north
Go approx. 27 miles to I-80 east (left entrance ramp)(Exit 159)
Go east on I-80 for 2.5 miles to Exit 161
(Then follow directions for ‘from points west’)

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Spring MAR Field Meet Host Needed

Do you realize no grotto, or individual, has volunteered to host the Spring 2007 Field Meet?

Below is a listing of the field meets, and their hosts, for the past 10 years. Where does your grotto fall in the schedule? If you are interested in hosting the event, a helpful guide to hosting an 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 spring field meet. If you’re interested in hosting the event, please speak up!

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# Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins

[including reprinted Bulletins]

**NSS Member Price List**

Effective  May 2002

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