



# Skullduggery

April 2010

The Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Mysteries Alliance

Mystery Books  
UFOs & Aliens  
Cryptozoology  
Preserving History  
Psychic Abilities  
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Lost Treasures  
Time Travel  
Necromancy  
Folklore  
Zombies  
Anomalous Zones  
And More ...

## Get a Clue

This month's meeting subject.

### Local Lost Treasures

#### There's gold in 'dem dar hills!

The Pennsylvania forests are a quiet respite from our hectic day-to-day lives. We take solace in the thick trees--leaving our jobs, housework and problems behind. It's a chance to getaway from it all, immerse yourself in nature and let your worries slip away.

Many south central Pennsylvania forests have interesting histories and a few have *mysterious*, interesting histories.

Highwaymen, murderers, thieves and Confederate soldiers have buried caches of treasure in our local forests. But, the Pennsylvania landscape isn't too keen on giving up her secrets ...

Learn about these fascinating legends, historical figures and their treasures at the April meeting of the Susquehanna Mysteries Alliance.

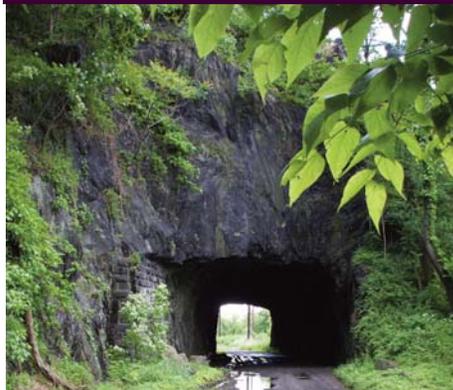
**Guest Speaker:** SMA member & adventurer Jessica Hertzler will give a presentation and demonstration of a fun and interesting hobby for those who love the outdoors and a good mystery--Geocaching.



# Chickies Rock Haunted Hike



Chickies Rock



The Haunted Railroad Tunnel



Our Guide, Rick Fisher, enjoys the view from the top of Chickies Rock

Join the Susquehanna Mysteries Alliance for a haunted hiking adventure. Chickies Rock Park is the most bizarre and haunted area in south central Pennsylvania. Enjoy a day of friends, food, exercise, spectacular views, spooky tales and strange stories about this beautiful, natural park beside the Susquehanna River between Marietta and Columbia in Lancaster County.

**Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> ♦ 12:00 Noon**

Join the Susquehanna Mysteries Alliance for a hiking tour of the area guided by the president of the Paranormal Society of Pennsylvania, Rick Fisher. Rick has recorded many ghostly voices at the base of Chickies Rock where probably hundreds of people have met their deaths due to suicide, accidents or foul play.

**Bring your own bagged lunch** as we meet at the Pavilion where the storytelling will begin.

#### Learn about the:

- ♦ many ghosts of Chickies
- ♦ old curse placed on the area
- ♦ shade of a robber who continues to protect his treasure
- ♦ strange creatures that once called Chickies home
- ♦ mysterious tales of strange sightings
- ♦ haunted railroad tunnel
- ♦ Native American spirits that roam the forest
- ♦ and much more!

You will be mesmerized by the abundance of bizarre stories while enjoying the natural beauty of the park. The view from the top of Chickies Rock is breath-taking!

**Payment can be made the day of the event; however, you must pre-register by calling The Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop at (717) 795-7470.**

*All adults welcome, but each person is responsible for his or her own welfare and safety.*

**Please Note:** This leisure hike requires moderate walking activity--although most of the terrain is flat (an old trolley path) Total walking distance will be around 3 miles. Wear sturdy shoes.

**Directions from Harrisburg area:** Take 83 South (About 20 miles). Merge onto US-30 EAST via Exit 21 (12.9 miles). Take exit toward PA441-Columbia/Marietta. Make an immediate SLIGHT RIGHT onto Linden Street (.1 mile). Then a RIGHT onto North Third Street/PA-441. Continue to follow PA-441 (About 2 miles). Turn RIGHT onto Long Lane. Go about 1/4 mile and you will see an old, stone farm house on your RIGHT--turn RIGHT just after it and follow the dirt road to the picnic pavilion/Chickies Day Use Area.

**\$3 per person**

For Pavilion Rental & Donation to  
The National Museum  
of Mysteries and Research Center

#### Don't Forget to Bring:

- ♦ Bagged Lunch
- ♦ Sturdy Shoes
- ♦ Insect Repellent
- ♦ Sun Protection (SPF)
- ♦ Plenty of Bottled Water
- ♦ Sun Glasses
- ♦ Camera
- ♦ A Sense of Adventure

**Rick Fisher** will be our guest speaker at the September 22 meeting of the Susquehanna Mysteries Alliance. The topic will be:  
**"Strange Creatures of Pennsylvania"**





Frequently after a pirate's buccaneers finished digging a large, deep hole in which to bury the treasure chest full of booty, the henchmen would be murdered and added to the 'grave' so that their ghosts could keep vigil over and protect the treasure. Talk about insult to injury!

Yo! Ho! Ho! And a Bottle of Rum

### Did you know ...

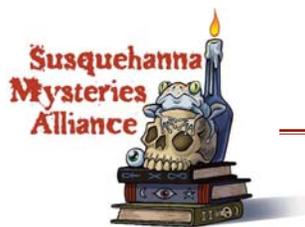


Some say the Jolly Roger pirate flag got its name from a solid red flag used by early pirates to show that no mercy (or "quarter" in

period language) would be offered to the captured crew or passengers. This pirate flag was called "Jolie Rouge" in French, meaning "pretty or beautiful red," certainly a tongue-in-cheek reference of buccaneers and the like.

Another plausible explanation is that the term was the nickname given to the devil by pirates in the 1700's of "Old Roger."

From its early references, the term "Jolly Roger" grew to be associated with all of the various pirate flags of the Golden Age of piracy.



It's a Mystery to Me

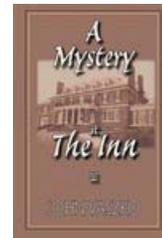


## Book of the Month

### A Mystery at the Inn

John Vaszko

*This time Andrew was going to find a way to hold onto his treasure. . . .*



The construction business had been very good in the town of Somerset, Pennsylvania, and they were going to Cancun, Mexico, for a few weeks of sun and fun. Last year's vacation fiasco had the three of them almost thrown off the island of Aruba—but that was behind them, now. (How were they to know the man being chased on the beach yelling for help was the thief and the man they tackled was the policeman?) This year they would be more careful.

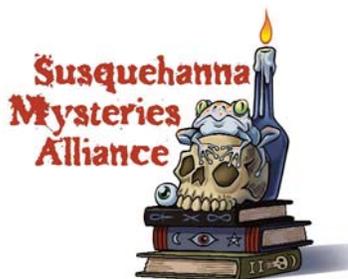
Meanwhile, Andrew, an Archeologist studying the Mayan ruins just North of Cancun, had a serious problem. As fast as he discovered priceless artifacts during his digs, they were systematically ripped off by the local police. All his significant Mayan treasures had been confiscated by corrupt officials and sold to the leader of the Mexican underworld in Mexico City.

Andrew was tired of his work being stolen from him. One day, after a major hurricane, Andrew came across a Mayan burial chamber. There, he discovered a rare gold medallion encrusted with precious gems.

This time Andrew was going to find a way to hold onto his treasure. Later, while pondering his dilemma in a local Cancun bar, he met up with old acquaintances from his home town of Somerset, PA. Being old friends and full of Mexican beer, The Three Studs agree to help Andrew transport his medallion out of the country.

Mexican mobsters, however, follow The Three Studs back to their hometown where they will stop at nothing, including murder, to steal this rare, gem-studded treasure.

What takes place when they get back to the Inn will keep readers turning the pages



# 2010 Meetings

- May 26 Fairies, Gnomes, Pixies & Sprites
- June 23 **Get a Clue: Sherlock Holmes**
- July 28 Superstitions, Curses & Hexes
- August 25 **You Don't Know Jack! Crimes of Jack the Ripper**
- September 22 UFOs & Aliens w/ Guest Speakers Tracey Roy & John Weaver
- October 27 **Area Haunted Locations History of Halloween**
- November 24 Strange Creatures in Pennsylvania Guest Speaker: Rick Fisher
- December 22 **Holiday Gathering Showing of "A Christmas Carol"**

## SMA Bus Trip Weekend Getaway

Join the Susquehanna Mysteries Alliance for a spooky weekend in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania on September 3rd through September 5th, 2010!

For more information or to sign up, visit our website at: [susquehannamysteriesalliance.com](http://susquehannamysteriesalliance.com) and click on the button for "Upcoming Events!"

A very special thank you to our hosts at:

### The Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop

6 Clouser Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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E-mail: [mysterybooks@comcast.net](mailto:mysterybooks@comcast.net)  
Web: [mysterybooksonline.com](http://mysterybooksonline.com)



## Pirate Treasure Cupcakes



Recipe & Photo from: [BettyCrocker.com](http://BettyCrocker.com)

- 1 Box Chocolate Fudge Cake Mix
- 1 Cup Water
- 1/2 Cup Vegetable Oil
- 3 Eggs
- 24 Miniature Peanut Butter Cups
- 1 Container Vanilla Frosting
- 2 Rolls Fruit by the Foot® (Red color)
- 24 Pieces Cheerios® Cereal
- 3 Tablespoons Miniature M&Ms
- 1 Tablespoon Chocolate Chips
- Black String Licorice

1. Heat oven to 350°F for shiny metal pans (or 325°F for dark or nonstick pans). Place paper baking cup in each of 24 regular-size muffin cups.
2. In large bowl, make cake mix as directed on box—except use 1 cup water, the oil and eggs. Divide batter evenly among muffin cups. Place 1 peanut butter cup in top of batter for each cupcake.

- It will sink as cupcakes bake.
3. Bake 17 to 22 minutes or until toothpick inserted in cake comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes; remove from pan to cooling rack. Cool completely, about 30 minutes.
  4. Frost cupcakes with frosting. Cut 12-inch piece from 1 fruit snack roll; set aside. From remaining fruit snack, cut 24 (2-inch) pieces; cut crescent-shaped piece from each. Peel off paper backing; add 1 piece to each cupcake for top of kerchief.
  5. Cut reserved fruit snack into 12 (1-inch) pieces; peel off paper backing. Cut each piece in half lengthwise. Twist each piece in middle; add to 1 end of crescent-shaped fruit snack on each cupcake, forming tie of kerchief. Add 1 piece of cereal under each tie for earring. Use baking bits, chocolate chips and licorice to make facial features and eye patches.

