



BREAKDOWN

Volume 7, Number 1, April 1992

Spring MAR / NRO Meet Scheduled May 8-10

The Spring MAR/NRO field Meet is scheduled for May 8-10, 1992 at the Woodward Cave Campground near Woodward, PA. It is being organized by Ed and Kim Kehs.

See page 3 and 4 for details and map.

Landowner Liability Act Passed

On Wednesday, March 18, 1992, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed Senate Bill 1051 and sent it to Governor Robert Casey for his signature.

This act amends an existing Pennsylvania law which encourages landowners to make land and water areas available to the public for recreational purposes by limiting liability in connection therewith.

The amended act now includes "cave exploration" as a recreational purpose covered under the act.

Section 2. (3) of the act of February 2, 1966 (P.L. 1860, No. 586) was amended on March 18, 1992. The law now reads in part as follows:

"Recreational purpose" includes but is not limited to, any of the following, or any combination thereof:

hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, camping, picnicing, hiking, pleasure driving, nature study, water skiing, water sports, cave exploration, and viewing or enjoying historical, archaeological, scenic, or scientific sites.

Judi Stack, the legislative liaison, has promised to send copies of the law to each of the Pennsylvania Grottos.

Judi also stated, "Working on this legislation has been an education for me, and a lot of work. In a way I am sorry to have this come to an end. Everyone I worked with has been wonderful, and I will miss them. I hope to keep in touch and maybe someday we will work together again. I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Pennsylvania Cave Act and the Pennsylvania Landowner Liability Act a reality. This wouldn't have happened without your help."

MAR Officers

Chairman - Jeanne Wetterling
Vice Chairman - Keith Wheeland
Secretary - Bill Wolford
Treasurer - Bette White

Cave Conservation Signs Now Available From MAR

Cave conservation signs are now available for placing in Pennsylvania caves. The signs are 18 x 12 inches heavy, white-painted aluminum with black letters.

The signs are being made available to Grottos and other caving organizations at \$10 each. A log is being maintained by MAR to include the cave where the signs will be posted, and the sponsoring organization.

If you, as an individual, are interested in obtaining a sign for placing in a cave, check with your grotto. Grottos were sent information in March.

If your organization would like to learn more about the sign program, please contact one of the following individuals.

Bert Ashbrook
1257 Lehigh Parkway South
Allentown, PA 18103
(215) 797-3981

Keith D. Wheeland
2191 Mt. View Ave.
State College, PA 16801
(814) 238-2057

Hostermans Pit Closed

The property which contains the entrance to Hostermans Pit has been sold to a mining company, ConStone. The new owner is not giving permission to visit the cave. He says he intends to apply for a permit to mine the underlying Valentine Limestone. This will destroy the northern portions of the cave and probably make the remainder of the cave unstable.

The Nittany Grotto has been in contact with the new owner and intends to continue working to save the cave.

Westmoreland Co. MAR Bulletin Project

The Pittsburgh and Loyalhanna Grottos have formed a committee to work on preparing an MAR Bulletin of Westmoreland County caves.

In an article in *The Netherworld News*, Vol., XL, No.4, Walt Hamm described the project. The article included a list by Kim Opatka of 118 sites to be checked. The sites include caves, cavelets, shelters, and mines.

If you are interested in helping with the project, please contact either the Pittsburgh or Loyalhanna Grotto.

BCCS EXPEDITIONS 1992

Concurrent with the announcement of the dates for the BCCS weekends at Butler cave, the BCCS also announced their expedition policy. The policy follows the schedule.

May 23-25
June 27-28
July 25-26
August - None scheduled
September 19-20

The BCCS expedition policy.

1. Only experienced and fully qualified cavers will be accepted for caving trips on expedition weekends.
2. There will be no tourist trips during expedition weekends. All trips will be wotk trips.
3. There will be trips of various lengths and degrees of difficulty.
4. Trips will be made into Butler Cave as well as other nearby caves. In other words, there is no guarantee that you will be assigned to a trip into Butler.
5. Tourist trips may be arranged through one of the BCCS members at their convenience, but only on non-expedition weekends.
6. The Expedition Leader is Al Grimm. Call or write to him with your suggestions or questions.

521 Whiteoak Circle
Lynchburg, VA 22952-9716
(703) 943-3766

Why Did You Receive This Newsletter?

Each grotto in the MAR is sent a copy of the *MAR Breakdown*. And a copy is sent to the NSS.

If you attend one of the MAR Field Meets held each spring and fall, you will get credit for three copies of the newsletter. Why three? Because we publish three issues per year.

At the meets, \$4.00 of your registration fee goes back to MAR. This money is used for MAR projects. It helps pay for printing the MAR bulletins and pays for the printing and mailing of this newsletter.

If you examine your address label on the newsletter you will see a number after your name. This number (less 1) tells you

how many issues of the newsletter you are entitled to receive.

When you register for a field meet, you are asked to provide your address. This address is used to prepare the mailing labels for the next newsletter.

Send your address changes to the editor of this newsletter, or to the keeper of the labels, Carol Tideman, 7600 Pindell School Road, Fulton, MD 20759

History Repeats Itself?...

MAR News

Bert Ashbrook sent this announcement from the Baltimore Grotto News, dated May 1967.

The Spring Cave rally at State College, Pa., was one of the biggest ever. Over 120 people. Some even went caving... A committee chaired by Mark Blumenstein is compiling a slide show on Penna. caves for the NSS Visual Aids Library. If you have some first-rate Pennsy slides, let Mark know... The present system of mass mailing announcements will be discontinued. If you want to receive future notices, send a postcard with your name, address, and NSS number to Dave Brison, Secretary, MAR, Bainbridge, PA.

Notes from the editor...

The Minutes of the MAR Business Meeting held in February will be included in the next issue of this newsletter. ©

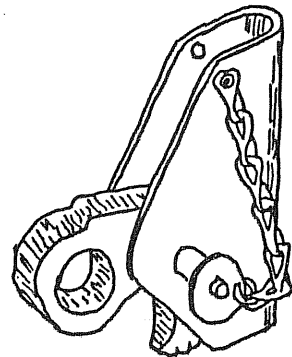
Where are the articles about newsy events in other states besides Pennsylvania?

If you have something to share, please send it to me for inclusion in the next issue to be published in late summer.

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MAR & NRO Spring Meet

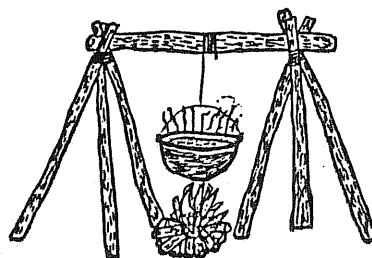
Woodward Cave
Centre County Pennsylvania
May (8), 9 & 10, 1992



Fees: Adults \$10.00 Children 6-12 \$5.00
Camping \$4.00 per night, under 17 free

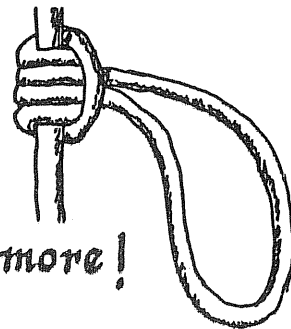
Saturday Evening Menu:

Homemade Beef Stew
Fresh Garden Salad
Beer & Soda



Activities:

Geology field trip with Dr. William White
Bring vertical gear
Rebelay Course
Ropes
Cable Ladder
Organized cave trips and much more!

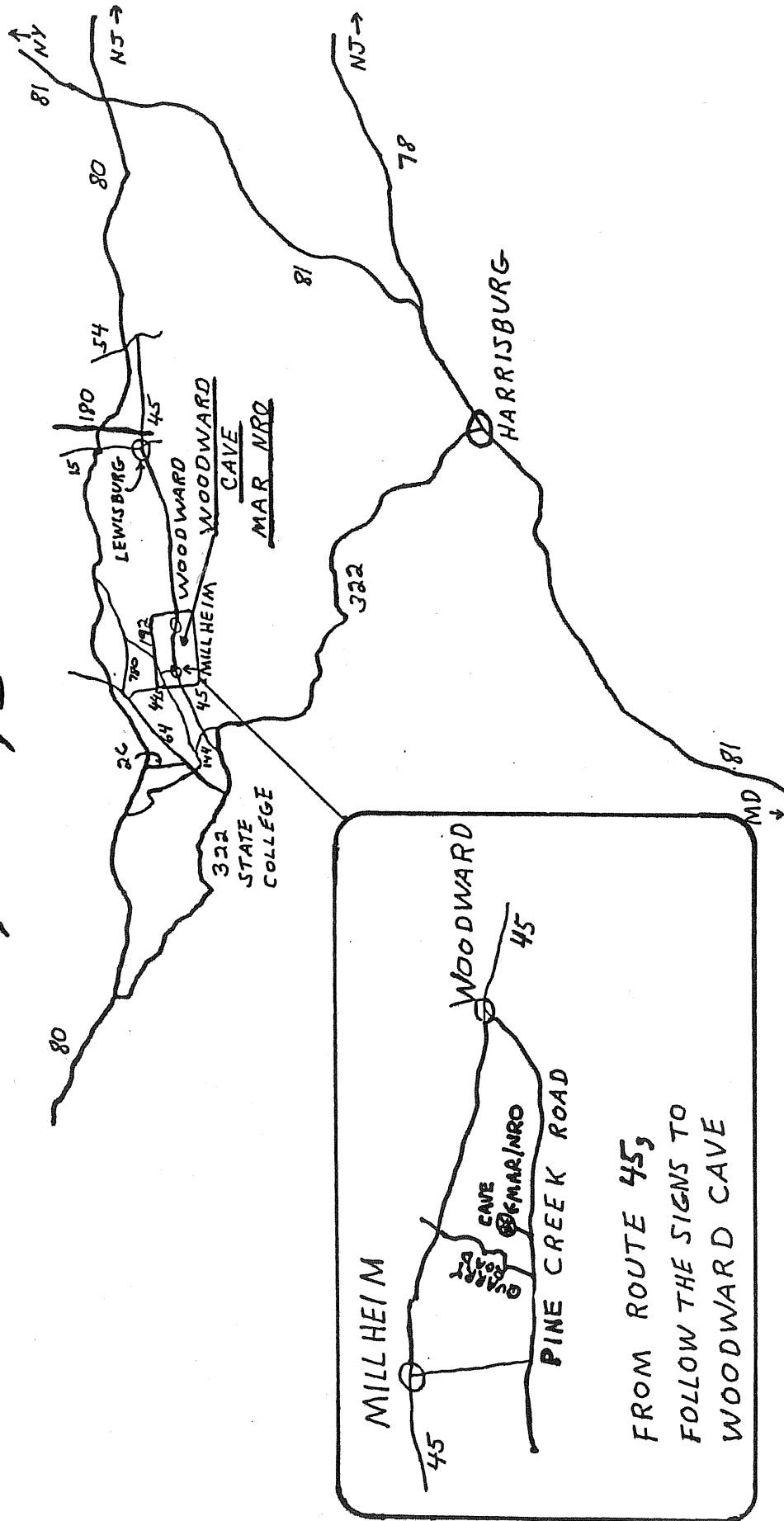


For information contact Ed or Kim Rehs
(215) 536-8153 after 5pm

Directions & Map on Reverse Side

MAR & NRO

Spring Meet



MAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT
February 29, 1992

GROSS ASSETS February 1991:		
Checking:	122.55	
Savings:	1,333.93	
Total:		1,456.48
GROSS ASSETS February 1992:		
Checking:	239.90	
Savings:	2,352.80	
Total:		2,592.70
Net Income (Loss) for 1991:		1,136.22

ITEM	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET
<u>INTEREST</u> Savings Account	98.87		98.87
<u>Cave Law Signs:</u> screened 55 signs from NSS TRA (Robertson Assoc) actual cost = \$532.65; \$32.65 not paid)	500.00	500.00	- 0 -
<u>DONATION</u> [Baltimore Grotto]	40.00		40.00
<u>MAR FIELD MEETS</u>			
Spring '91 (Baltimore Grotto)			
MAR income 103 registered @ \$1.00	103.00		103.00
MAR Brkdn (@\$2.00= \$206.00 see below)			
MEET profit (\$574.50 - 309.00 = 265.50)	265.50		265.50
Fall '91 (MAR/VAR)			
MAR income 58 registered @ \$1.00	58.00		58.00
MAR Brkdn (@\$2.00= \$116.00 see below)			
MEET profit (\$203.86 - 174.00 = 29.86)	29.86		29.86
<u>MAR BULLETINS</u>			
MAR 18 Berks County printing		703.54	
MAR 18 Berks County photographs		15.65	
Postage/copies		189.12	
Sales	1350.05		
Net			441.74
<u>MAR BREAKDOWN (prev bal: -105.12)</u>			
Subscription (Jim Kennedy)	7.00		
Subscriptions (Spring Field Meet)	206.00		
Subscriptions (Fall Field Meet)	116.00		
Postage + printing Vol 6(1) 135 copies		71.98	
112@.29 + 39.50 [@ 0.64]			
Postage + printing Vol 6(2) 170 copies		93.24	
150@.29 + 49.74 [@ 0.62]			
Postage + printing Vol 6(3) 165 copies		64.53	
145@.29 + 22.48(4 pp) [@ 0.45]			
Net			99.25
(Present balance: \$-105.12 + 99.25 = -5.87)			

TOTALS 2,774.28 1,638.06 1,136.22

Elizabeth L. White, Treasurer

