



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 8, Numbers 2-3, January 1994

## MAR Business Meeting set for Sat. Feb. 26, 1994

The MAR business meeting will be held Saturday February 26 at the home of Jay Herbein in Harrisburg at 1:30 p.m. Make sure your grotto has a representative at the meeting.

See page 3 for details and directions.

### Hosterman's Pit Status Report

by Keith D. Wheeland

[Ed. Con-Stone, Inc. has filed an application for a permit to surface mine limestone. The mine would destroy most of Hosterman's Pit.]

Things are looking a little brighter. On November 15, 1993, the Environmental Quality Board approved our petition to designate the property which overlies Hosterman's Pit and Stover Caves as Unsuitable for Mining. On December 25, 1993 the proposal was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. There is a 30-day public comment period. After the comment period, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) will vote on the petition. Then it must be finally approved by the Environmental Quality Board.

The vote by the IRRC is a real hurdle to overcome. That's because the commission is more political than the other groups which have had to approve it up to this time.

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The Nittany Grotto does not plan to initiate another letter writing campaign. They will, however, be asking specific individuals to respond during the public comments period and to write to the IRRC members.

I have begun talks with a real estate lawyer to understand the legal ramifications of offering Con-Stone, Inc. a specific sum of money for the property with a right-of-way and cavern rights. Where this will all lead is anyone's guess.

Meanwhile, Con-Stone, Inc. continues to provide additional information to DER to address the shortcomings in their original application for a mining permit. The Unsuitable for Mining (UFM) process does not constitute a blocking action on the permit process, therefore it is conceivable that Con-Stone, Inc. could get a mining permit before the area could be designated UFM. That's how it works!

The good news is that it will take years to reach Hosterman's Pit if Con-Stone follows their original mining plan.

The Nittany Grotto thanks all of you who have written or called the EQB to support the notion that Hosterman's Pit deserves to be saved. And also thanks the individuals and organizations who have bought Hosterman's T-Shirts and donated time and funds to the effort.

The grotto is still accepting donations. All funds remaining after the Hosterman's project will be used for other cave conservation efforts.

### Hosterman's Pit T-Shirts

The Nittany Grotto has a few (size large only) T-shirts for sale. The shirts are grey with the front design in blue, yellow and black. The front of the shirt displays a map of Hosterman's Pit along with a replica of the old Nittany Grotto keystone patch. The back of the shirt has the words; Hosterman's Pit "I did my part to save the cave..."

The shirts cost \$15 and will be available at the MAR business meeting.

The net proceeds from the sale of the shirt will be placed in the Grotto's Cave Conservation Fund. These funds are used to defray expenses for the project to save Hosterman's Pit.

# Chairman's Report

by Jim "Crash" Kennedy

By now all of you have had a chance to sit back and reminisce over the 1993 MAR Field Meet. Finding that hard to do? Of course! There was no Fall Meet! Many people worked long and hard to put a meet together, but for the first time in recent history we have canceled one of our semi annual get-togethers. I would personally like to thank the Huntingdon County Cave Hunters for their effort.

So what about the (missing) Fall Meet? If you remember way back when (the February business meeting), I was practically pleading with the attending grottos to host the Fall Meet. No takers. I finally convinced the Cave Hunters, but when we assumed everything would go through with our original plans, and they didn't, it was too late to make alternate arrangements.

Now, on the Spring Meet. As of this writing, no one has approached me with an offer to host the Spring Meet. When (or if) someone does, I hope that they have the major arrangements made before we start publishing things. At the very least, we should have the dates, site, and price confirmed. Details like the program, guidebook, trips, T-shirts, vendors, etc. can all be worked out later.

And where should the Spring meet be held? To answer this, I consulted the back issues of the MAR Breakdown to find out

where the past meets have been and who hosted them. See accompanying box.

Several important things are immediately obvious. First, the OTR site in Dailey, the Old Mill Campground in Kutztown, and Woodward Cave seem to be getting more than their share of field meets. Why can't we have some meets in parts of the state that haven't had a meet in a while, like Mifflin, Blair, Huntingdon, Bedford, York, Dauphin, or Lancaster counties (to name a few)?

Secondly, it seems as if a few grottos are doing more than their fair share of the work involved in planning and running an

MAR. Why are only a few hosting the meets?

The bottom line is that everybody wants an MAR meet, especially if it is in an interesting area and if it has a lot of activities planned (or available). Few people, however, seem willing to do the work necessary to make it all possible. Let's hope that the absence of a Fall Meet this year is not the start of a trend. One other bad thing; since our elections are held during the Fall Meet (and we didn't have one), all current officers get to keep their positions for another year! So you're stuck with me until next Fall! Hahaha!

Meet	Place	Host
Spring 1986	Dailey, WV	Chuck Hemple
Fall 1986	Shippensburg, PA	York Grotto
Spring 1987	Kutztown, PA	Greater Allentown Grotto
Fall 1987	Lincoln Caverns	HCCCH/Nittany
Spring 1988	Chambersburg, PA	Franklin Co. Grotto
Fall 1988(MAR/VAR)	Glengary, WV	?
Spring 1989	New Alexandria, PA	Loyalhanna Grotto
Fall 1989	Kutztown, PA	Greater Allentown Grotto
Spring 1990 (MAR/VAR)	Dailey, WV	Loyalhanna/GROSS
Fall 1990	Woodward Cave, PA	Jay Longenderfer
Spring 1991	Shippensburg, PA	Baltimore Grotto
Fall 1991 (MAR/VAR)	Seneca Rocks, WV	Triangle Troglodytes
Spring 1992 (MAR/NRO)	Woodward Cave, PA	Ed & Kim Kehs
Fall 1992	Valencia, PA	Loyalhanna Grotto
Spring 1993	Chambersburg, PA	Franklin Co. Grotto
Fall 1993		Canceled

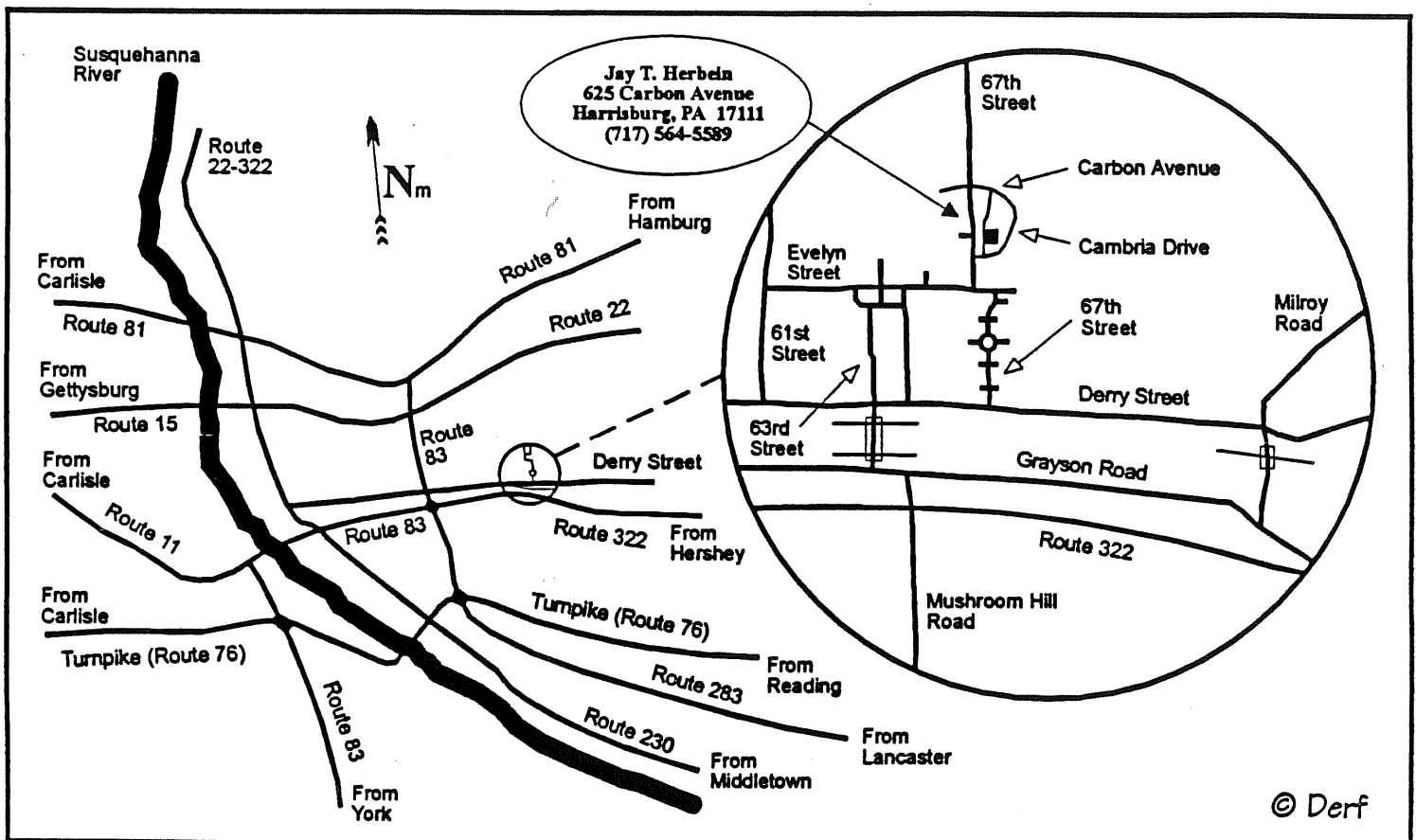
Sites and Hosts of Recent MAR Field Meets

MAR field meet. The Mid-Appalachian Region of the NSS serves Pennsylvania and parts of Maryland, West Virginia, New Jersey, and Ohio. Just off the top of my head I can think of at least 11 active grottos in the area that are affiliated with



# Mid-Appalachian Region (M.A.R.) Business Meeting February 26, 1994 - 1:30 p.m.

We hope to see representatives from all MAR grottos. A party will be held at Dale Ibberson's place after the business meeting. Food and beverages will be furnished at both locations (donations are appreciated). For more information, Call Jay Herbein at (717) 564-5589, or Dale at (717) 238-2198.



From the east on Route 322: Turn right on Mushroom Hill Road at the second traffic light after Hummelstown. Proceed one block to Grayson Road and turn left. Travel one more block and turn right onto the bridge which crosses the railroad yards. Turn right

on Derry Street. Turn left on 67th Street. Follow the inset map to Jay's house.

From the west on Route 322. Intercept Route 322 East toward Hershey. Turn left on Mushroom Hill Road at the first traffic light (about 2

miles after the interchange). Follow the previous text.

Note: If you are coming from the west on I-83 N., you cannot get off at the Derry Street exit. Use the Route 322 exit.

# MAR Business Meeting Minutes

## Saturday Feb. 27, 1993

[Editors note: These minutes were prepared from hand written notes supplied by the secretary, Bill Wolford. They are not meant to be the official record of the meeting. They are presented here for whatever use you can make of them.]

The meeting was held at the Jay Herbein residence 625 Carbon Ave. Harrisburg, PA

It was called to order by Chair, Jim Kennedy at [probably 1:30 p.m.]

All four officers were present

Chair - Jim Kennedy  
V-Chair - Keith D. Wheeland  
Secy - Bill Wolford  
Treas - Bette White

Previous minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurers report - Feb. '92 \$2,502.70 -  
Feb. '93 \$3,369.22

Editor of MAR Breakdown will tape the newsletter shut before mailing.

MAR Bulletins - Will White reported that Bedford Co. is done,

Jim Kennedy reported that 2/3 of the fieldwork is finished for approximately 60 caves in Fayette County.

Pa Cave Database - Keith Wheeland reported that there are 1,205 caves. He periodically gets requests from engineering firms who are doing projects which need cave location data.

Cave Conservation Signs - Bert Ashbrook reported that there are 31 signs distributed. That means there are 19 signs still available. Someone reported a problem with letters rubbing off. Bert will check. It was decided to print more signs when the supply drops sufficiently. The price will remain \$10.

Cave Registers - Judi Stack reported there are 42 registers in the MAR.

NCRC - Jeff Uhl has relinquished his duties so Trish Geiger reported on upcoming dates. Chuck Hemple reported that Nittany Grotto had requested funds for a Furno Washington litter. The retail cost is about \$400 and street price about \$325. Hemple made a motion, seconded by Judi Stack that the MAR fund \$150 of the purchase with the stipulation that the litter would remain the property of MAR, would be stored in the Nittany Grotto cache, and would be available for cave rescues within the region. Passed.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy - Larry Clauser reported that there may be some movement afoot to allow access to Dreibelbis Cave again. Larry is in favor of the voluntary moratorium on winter caving in Sharer Cave because of the extensive bat population.

Will White reported that Aitkin Cave is now owned by The Nature Conservancy and that it is not easy to get trips into the cave, although it is possible.

Old Business - Bill Wolford reported that the Loyalhanna Grotto lost about \$200 hosting the MAR Fall meet in '92.

Ken Jones reported on the upcoming MAR Spring '93 meet to be hosted by the Franklin County Grotto.

Keith Wheeland reported on the status of the project to save Hosterman's Pit. No action was taken on discussion for MAR to make a donation to the project. Sales of Hosterman's Pit T-Shirts were brisk.

Chuck Hemple reported on the status of the project to protect the caves in the hillside area of Chestnut Ridge.

New Business

MAR Fall Meet '93 - No volunteers to host the meet.

MAR Spring Meet '94 - No volunteers to host the meet.

NSS questionnaire asking for the opinion of MAR on changing the rule requiring 100% of members be NSS members. Will White mad a motion, seconded by Judi Stack to have the MAR secretary write a letter to NSS informing them that the issue was not applicable to the MAR. Passed.

Bette White will send the MAR's Employer's Identification number (E.I.#) to the NSS as now required for an Internal Organization (I.O.). Keith Wheeland noted that the copy of the 1992 MAR I.O. report was available for review.

Durham Cave - Bert Ashbrook reported on the status of offering this cave to the NSS. Greater Allentown Grotto would act as caretaker.

Laurel Cavern Cleanup - John Chenger reported on this upcoming event.

Bulk Rate for mailing was discussed. Referred to committee to study.

McAlisterville Gate - Keith Wheeland reported that the gate was missing.

P2G2 flier was distributed by Mike Mostardi.

BCCS Mapping Seminar - Jeff Uhl reported that the seminar was very successful and thanked all who helped make it a success.

Dale Ibberson reported that he had copies of a report written by Bernie Smeltzer for the Chatham Central School.

Bernie Smeltzer Map Display - Hope Uhl reported on the display that was presented at the NSS '92 Convention. It is being maintained by Greater Allentown Grotto and is available for grottos to borrow.

Hope reported on her efforts to establish a Bernie Smeltzer Award for cave cartography.

NSS Convention '95 - Carol Tiederman reported that the convention will be at VPI and will be hosted by grottos in the VAR. The dates are July 16-22, 1995.

Minutes continued

Lebanon County MAR Bulletin - Mike Mostardi & Dean Snyder reported that the geology work is almost done. Some FRO's in Montour County will be included.

PA Cave Fauna - Rich Rosevear is compiling a bibliography. Send information to him.

Caves of Jackson Co., Florida - Jim Kennedy has compiled a guidebook on the caves. It is available for \$3 plus shipping.

NSS Museum - Craig Hindman reported that he now has the museum in Baltimore.

Meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

# 1994 BCCS Expedition Schedule

May 28-30

July 23-24

Sept. 17-18

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, cavers may be assigned to a cave other than Butler.

5. The Expedition Leader is Al Grimm. Call or write if you plan to attend.

521 Whiteoak Circle  
Lyndhurst, VA 22952-9716

(703) 943-3766

## 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 work trips.

## NSS Member Price List

### Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins

	Caves	Maps Maps	Large	Cost Code	Postage
8 Caves of Blair Co., PA (Reprint)	89	40		6.50	A
9 Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA (Reprint)	94	36		7.50	A
10 Caves of Snyder Co., PA	20	14		2.00	A
11 Caves of Centre Co., PA	71	56	1	5.00	B
12 Caves of Mifflin Co., PA	47	31	5	7.00	B
13 Caves of Perry Co., PA	13	6		1.50	A
14 Caves of Bucks, Co., PA	24	6		3.00	A
15 Caves of Lehigh Co., PA	25	13		3.25	A
16 Caves of Northampton Co., PA	24	13	1	5.50	A
17 Caves of Northumberland Co., PA	20	10		5.00	A
18 Caves of Berks Co., PA	64	32		7.00	B
19 Caves of Bedford Co., PA	54	33		5.50	A

Postage codes

- A US Postage: \$0.75 for first copy: \$0.25 for each additional copy to the same address.  
Non-US Postage: \$1.50 for first copy: \$1.10 for each additional copy to the same address.
- B US Postage: \$1.00 for the first copy: \$0.25 for each additional copy to the same address.  
Non-US Postage: \$1.50 for first copy: \$1.10 for each additional copy to the same address.

Please make checks payable in US funds to MAR. Send to Bette White, 542 Glenn Road, State College, PA 16803

Long Cave List  
From the Pennsylvania Cave Database

	NAME	METERS	FEET	COUNTY
1	Harlansburg	6,647.1	21,808	Lawrence
2	Laurel Caverns	3,682.0	12,080	Fayette
3	Quarry Hill	2,393.0	7,851	Cumberland
4	Hostermans Pit	2,020.8	6,630	Centre
5	Bradys Bend	2,000.7	6,564	Armstrong
6	Alexander Caverns	1,872.4	6,143	Mifflin
7	Kooken	1,676.4	5,500	Huntingdon
8	Rupert	1,660.2	5,447	Mifflin
9	Ruth	1,625.2	5,332	Huntingdon
10	Bear	1,612.4	5,290	Westmoreland
11	Hindman	1,524.0	5,000	Armstrong
12	Penn Aqua	1,341.1	4,400	Mifflin
13	J-4	1,325.9	4,350	Centre
14	Womers	1,223.8	4,015	Perry
15	Milroy	1,219.2	4,000	Mifflin
16	Copperhead	1,196.6	3,926	Westmoreland
17	Hershey-Coy	1,176.5	3,860	Cumberland
18	Tytoona	1,140.0	3,740	Blair
19	McFadden	1,111.6	3,647	Huntingdon
20	Aitkin	1,066.8	3,500	Mifflin
21	Baker Caverns	914.4	3,000	Franklin
	Cleversburg Sink	914.4	3,000	Cumberland
	Peiper	914.4	3,000	Cumberland
22	Allensville	883.9	2,900	Mifflin
23	Sarah Furnace	838.2	2,750	Clarion
24	McClure	777.2	2,550	Snyder
25	Loyalhanna Creek	762.0	2,500	Westmoreland
26	McAlisterville	710.8	2,332	Juniata
27	Fantasy	709.0	2,326	Huntingdon
28	Sawmill	708.7	2,325	Westmoreland
29	Apollo Fire Clay Mine	701.0	2,300	Armstrong
30	Barton	693.1	2,274	Fayette
31	Red Church	678.2	2,225	Schuylkill
32	Arch Spring	643.1	2,110	Blair
33	Woodward	611.7	2,007	Centre
34	Salisbury Mine	609.6	2,000	Somerset
	Sharer	609.6	2,000	Centre
35	Lost River Caverns	600.2	1,969	Northampton
36	Portersville	591.9	1,942	Butler
37	Big Ridge	548.6	1,800	Mifflin
	Coon	548.6	1,800	Westmoreland
38	Crystal Cave	544.1	1,785	Berks
39	West York	519.7	1,705	York
40	Penns	518.2	1,700	Centre
41	Carnegie	515.1	1,690	Cumberland
42	Askon Hollow	507.2	1,664	Fayette

Number of Caves 46

Deep Cave List  
From the Pennsylvania Cave Database

	NAME	METERS	FEET	COUNTY
1	Laurel Caverns	141.4	464	Fayette
2	Big Ridge	125.0	410	Mifflin
3	Copperhead	103.0	338	Westmoreland
4	Peeping Pigeon Pit	91.4	300	Centre
5	Sawmill	78.9	259	Westmoreland
6	J-4	67.1	220	Centre
7	Askon Hollow	65.2	214	Fayette
8	Hostermans Pit	58.8	193	Centre
9	Ruth	56.7	186	Huntingdon
10	Appliance Pit	51.8	170	Lehigh
11	McAlisterville	50.0	164	Juniata
12	Kooken	48.8	160	Huntingdon
13	Barton	46.0	151	Fayette
14	Alters	45.7	150	Centre
	Blessing Mountain Well #3	45.7	150	Lycoming
	New Year's	45.7	150	Bedford
15	Zook's Pit	43.9	144	Mifflin
16	Crystal Cave	42.4	139	Berks
17	Reichard	40.8	134	Franklin
18	Curfman #1	39.6	130	Huntingdon
19	Boyer #2	38.1	125	Snyder
20	Quarry Hill	37.2	122	Cumberland
21	Lemon Hole	36.0	118	Westmoreland
22	Lanes Lead Pit	33.5	110	Bedford
23	Koz Pit	33.2	109	Lehigh
24	Fantasy	32.9	108	Huntingdon
25	Red Church	32.6	107	Schuylkill
26	Arch Spring	32.0	105	Blair
27	Blessing Mountain Well #2	30.5	100	Lycoming
	Flood Farm	30.5	100	Huntingdon
	Sharer	30.5	100	Centre
	Tytoona	30.5	100	Blair
28	McFadden	29.3	96	Huntingdon
29	Springs Mountain Sink	29.0	95	Bedford
	Slaughterhouse #1	29.0	95	Blair
30	Bottomless Ladder Pitch	27.4	90	Mifflin
	Dragon	27.4	90	Berks
	Nelsons Pit	27.4	90	Huntingdon
	Raccoon	27.4	90	Snyder
	Ritcheys Pump Pit	27.4	90	Bedford
31	New Paris Sink #1	25.6	84	Bedford
32	Halls	24.4	80	Huntingdon
	Heller #5	24.4	80	Blair
	Kiehls	24.4	80	Northumberland
	Lime Sinks	24.4	80	Mifflin
	Narehood #2	24.4	80	Montour
	Womers	24.4	80	Perry
33	Rattlesnake Sink	23.2	76	Westmoreland
34	Blessing Mountain Well #1	22.9	75	Lycoming
	Pechts	22.9	75	Mifflin
	Thomas Quarry #2	22.9	75	Blair

Save Hosterman's Pit



MAR Breakdown  
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