



BREAKDOWN

Volume 12, Number 2, September 1997

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, \$4 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 \$4 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 Sat. in February. Each spring and fall there is a field meet. Watch for dates.

Officers —

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Fall MAR Field Meet set for Oct. 10, 11, 12, 1997

The Fall MAR field meet will be held October 10-12, 1997 at the Woodward Cave Campground near Woodward, PA. It is being hosted by the Philadelphia Grotto of the NSS. See inside for details.



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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE MID-APPALACHIAN REGION

Ed. The Constitution and By-Laws haven't been published recently, therefore, I've included them here for your reading enjoyment.

Constitution

Article I - Name

The name of this region shall be the Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society.

Article II - Subordination

The Constitution and By-Laws of the National Speleological Society shall be binding on this region.

Article III - Purpose

The purpose of this region shall be to promote fellowship among its members and to advance the science of Speleology.

Article IV - Members and Grottos

This region shall comprise National Speleological Society Grottos and members located or residing within the bounds of the Region.

Article V - Regional Council

The governing body of the Region shall be a Regional Council. The Regional Council shall consist of the officers of the Region, representatives from each member Grotto, and regional members not affiliated with any grotto. No council member may exercise more than one vote at council meetings.

Article VI - Organization

A. Executive Committee

The Current Officers shall act as a nominating

committee to select a slate of candidates for Regional Officers, consisting of three regular members of the National Speleological Society chosen from the Mid-Appalachian Region to serve for a term running from one January 1st to the next.

The slate, with secret ballot, shall be given to all members present at the Fall M.A.R. Meet and counted on the same day.

If an election is not held at the Fall M.A.R. Meet, the slate of candidates shall be distributed to the Regional Council by mail-in election.

B. Officers

The newly elected officers shall determine among themselves who shall fill the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary.

Article VII - Amendment

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the Regional Council. A proposed amendment shall become effective upon its ratification by the majority of the Grottos of the Region provided this ratification occurs within one year of the proposal.

By-Laws

I - Regional Council Meeting

1. Time and place of Regional Council Meetings may be designated by either the chairman or the council. Notice of every Council meeting must be mailed to all Regional Officers and Grottos at least two weeks before the meeting.

2. Twenty percent of the Regional Council shall constitute a quorum.

3. Roberts Rules of Order, revised edition, shall be the parliamentary authority for all Regional Council meetings.

II - Officers

1. The Chairman shall direct the affairs of the Region but shall be subordinate to the Council. The Chairman shall preside at Council meetings.

2. The Vice-Chairman shall perform the duties as assigned by the Chairman and the Regional Council. The Vice-Chairman shall assume the authority and duties of the Chairman in case of the Chairman's resignation or inability to serve. The Vice-Chairman shall assume that portion of the Chairman's visitation and representation duties that the Chairman deems necessary.

3. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Council meetings, be the custodian of the records, and conduct correspondence as directed by the Chairman.

III- Standing Committees

The Regional Chairman shall make all appointments to the standing committees.

1. The Region Cave File Committee shall collect and make available to Region members and to

the National Headquarters data on caves located within the Region.

2. The Program Committee shall plan and conduct the Spring and Fall Meets subject to the approval of the Regional Chairman.

3. The Publication Committee shall publish the Mid-Appalachian Bulletin.

IV - Regional Territory

The Regional Territory shall include southern New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland.

V- Meetings

1. There shall be an annual Regional Business Meeting at a time and place designated by the Regional Officers.

2. There shall be a Spring and Fall Regional Field Meet at a time and place designated by the Regional Officers.

VI - Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Regional Council.

Spring Field Meet a Success

by Keith D. Wheeland

Approximately 70 cavers attended the Spring MAR Field Meet hosted by Franklin Co. Grotto near Williamson, PA on May 9-11, 1997.

Despite a conflict with the Nittany Grotto Picnic (due to the Penn State calendar), the turnout was excellent.

Some cavers actually went caving, while others attended yard sales and visited antique shops. There was even talk of reviving the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

Bob Liebman, who had his store set up, took a well deserved break from sales duty to visit a few caves.

The Greencastle American Legion furnished a very well received barbecue chicken dinner prepared at the picnic grounds.

The cold winds picked up at meal time and whistled through the pavillion. The diners just nestled a little closer to keep warm, or was it some exotic beverages which helped warm the blood?

A huge bonfire in the evening helped to toast things on the side of the body turned toward the flames.

Kudos to the Franklin County Grotto for a job well done.

Philadelphia Grotto to Celebrate 50th Anniversary at MAR Fall Meet

Get Ready for 3 days of non-stop caving fun when the Philadelphia Grotto of the National Speleological Society celebrates its 50th Anniversary on Columbus Day weekend, 1997. Make your plans and your reservations now for October 10, 11, and 12, to join them at Woodward Cave Campground.

To help celebrate this special event, the Grotto commissioned famed caving artist, Linda Heslop to create a custom logo. You can see a part of the art on the front of this newsletter. The remainder is on the back of the T-shirts which the grotto is offering for sale.

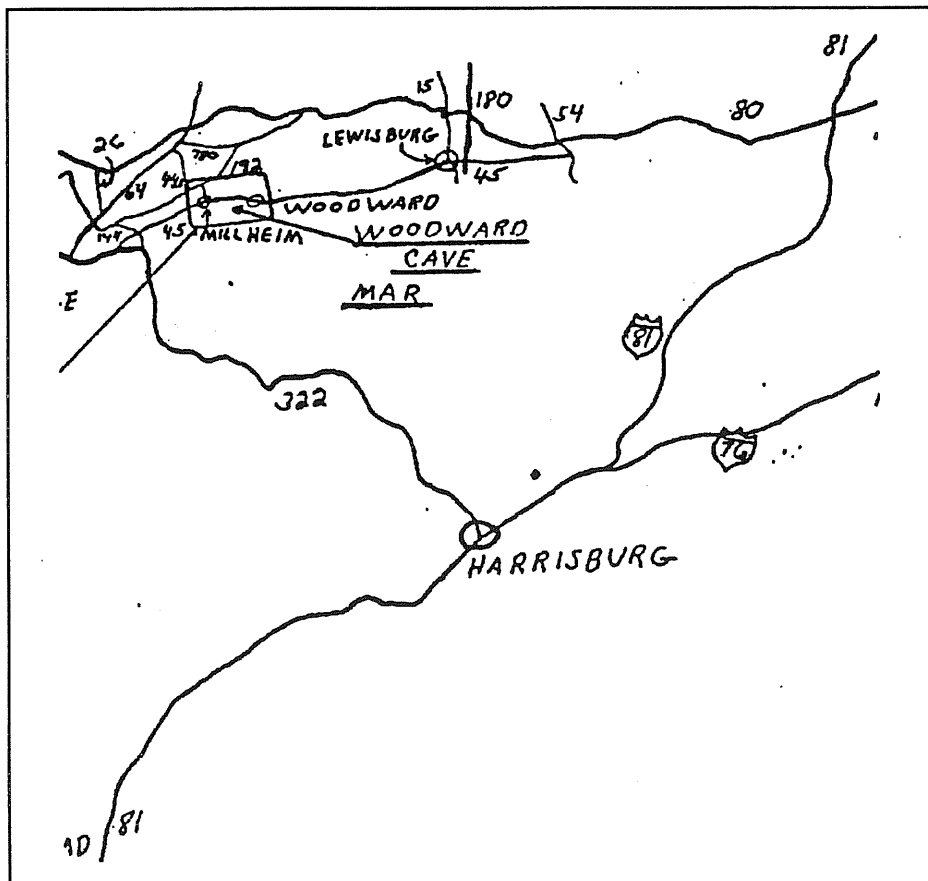
On Saturday evening, there will be "a feast fit to feed the most aggressive caver". During the

weekend there will be slide shows, auctions, door prizes, seminars, cave trips, vendors, and music and dancing after dinner on Saturday night.

Whether you are an old friend or a new acquaintance of the Grotto, you are invited to attend. If you are a past member of the Philly Grotto, you are especially welcome.

If you know someone who was a past member of Philly Grotto, pass along a copy of this notice.

Woodward Cave Campground
814-349-9800



The MAR Review
Highlights of the Mid Appalachian Region
Bert Ashbrook

Note: If your newsletter is not reviewed in this column, send a copy to Bert Ashbrook, 1257 Lehigh Parkway South, Allentown PA 18103-3875.

The **Baltimore Grotto News** of March 1997 continues the story of Joe Kaffl's upstream sump exploration in **Alexander Caverns** (Mifflin County). Kaffl details a dive into the "Land of the Straws," which continues to another sump which he did not push. A second and third dive up a tributary stream were also made. Here, good visibility allowed Kaffl to see that this dive also continues past his penetration. In both the May and June issues, Kaffl describes two dives past a constriction in the tributary sump, which also continues past his furthest penetration.

Bob Gulden's map of parts of the **Arbogast-Cave Hollow System** (Tucker County, West Virginia) is included in the March 1997 issue of the **Baltimore Grotto News**. The resurvey was done in 1982-1983, but the cave was closed for bats before it could be completed. The cave remains closed.

Baltimore Grotto is adopting Fulton County, Penna. as a project, according to the June 1997 **Baltimore Grotto News**. The same issues absolutely, positively commits BG to host the Fall, 1998 MAR field meet. *Ed. note: The Fall 1998 meet will be hosted by Nittany Grotto to celebrate its 50th anniversary.*

The **York Grotto News** of October 1996 features Jay Herbein's summary of the **Bootlegger Sink** (York County) paleontological project, which was begun in 1964 and concluded last year. Eighteen species dated from late Pleistocene to lately were recovered in the 30+ years that York Grotto has worked at the cave.

The history of the bat sticker is the subject of an article by Amy Shelton in the March 1997 issue of the **York Grotto News**. Dean Snyder also offers a history of **Crystal Cave** (Berks County) in the Roaring Twenties, regarded as the heyday of commercial caves in Pennsylvania. Finally, there is word that Dale Ibberson is now older than most of the limestone he caves in.

The Spring 1997 issue of the **Central Jersey Caver** has some Garden State cave tidbits. John Tudek describes Carl Heitmeyer's finding of 40 feet of new passage and a new entrance to **Hemlock Cave/Mine** (Sussex County). However, it is evidently mined passage which has been nearly filled in with tailings. Tudek also reports on **Terry's Pit**, a new Sussex-County sinkhole with a mud plug at the bottom. Finally, the Northern New Jersey Grotto dig at **Tough Rock Cave** (county unmentioned) is 15 feet deep and 30 feet long and is proving true the old Jersey axiom—you can't find a cave, dig one!

The Summer 1997 issue of the **Central Jersey Caver** is chocked full of cave fiction.

The Greater Allentown Grotto's Spring, 1997 **Pack Rat Scat** gives some details of a potential new species of troglobitic amphipod from a cave in **Sugar Valley**, Clinton County. The discovery is by Nittany Grotto members and is being eagerly investigated by John Holsinger of Old Dominion University. If the tiny shrimp-like creature proves a new species, it will not only be the only cave-adapted species known on the continent, but will also have been found nearly as far north as the

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glaciers extended south. This is an extremely important event in cave biology, according to the report. In the same issue, Dean Snyder sheds light on the the "Fallen Giant Stalactite" in **Onyx Cave** (Berks County). The large formation described in Ralph Stone's 1930 *Caves of Pennsylvania* is actually a stalagmite which has broken off the wall.

The Summer 1997 issue of the *Pack Rat Scat* contains Bert Ashbrook's description and map of 2300-foot-long **Ben's Cave** (Greenbrier County, West Virginia), as well as Mike

Kistler's description and map of Lehigh County's **Creekside Cave** (120 feet long).

The *Loyalhanna Troglodyte* (Summer 1997) is, as usual, full of goodies. Chief among them is a fine description and fold-out map of **Shafer Run Cave** (Somerset County) by Tom and Kim Metzgar. The cave is 1410 feet long and has been known for 100 years. Also included in this issue is a preliminary list of 20 Somerset County caves. The list appears to be the precursor of a new MAR Bulletin- -which we would love to see the Metzgars complete!

Archiving Proposal Update

reported by Bert Ashbrook

MAR's proposal to the Congress of Grottos last year in Colorado was that the NSS library permanently archive its old newsletters, with the method decided by the NSS. Tom Rea reported to the COG that photocopying all the

NSS library's newsletters over 20 years old would require about \$100,000, and that this was not under consideration by the Board of Governors.

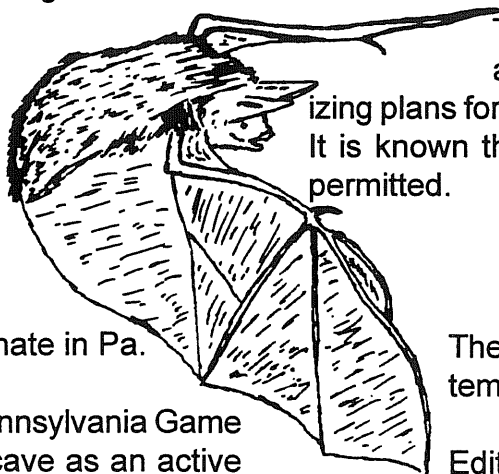
Seawra Cave Gated

A bat friendly gate has been installed on Seawra cave in Mifflin County, Pa. Funding for the gate was provided by a grant from the Wild Resource Conservation Fund of Pennsylvania.

Until the gating, the cave had the largest unprotected hibernating bat population in the Commonwealth consisting of all 6 species of bats which hibernate in Pa.

In the Winter of 1997, the Pennsylvania Game Commission identified the cave as an active

hibernaculum of the endangered Indiana Bat, *Myotis Sodalis*.

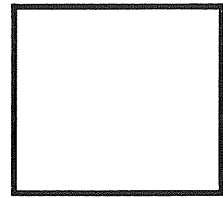


The Huntingdon Cave Hunters and the cave owner are finalizing plans for the management of the cave. It is known that no night visitation will be permitted.

The cave will be closed from September 1 until May 1 each year.

Editor.

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Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins

NSS Members Price List No.	County	Caves	Maps	Large Maps	Cost	Postage Code
8	Caves of Blair Co., PA	89	40		6.50	A
9	Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA					OUT OF PRINT
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA	20	14		2.00	A
11	Caves of Centre Co., PA	71	56	1	9.00	B
12	Caves of Mifflin Co., PA	47	31	5	7.00	B
13	Caves of Perry Co., PA	13	6		5.00	A
14	Caves of Bucks, Co., PA					OUT OF PRINT
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
20	Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA	Over 300 features.			29.50	C

Postage codes

- A US Postage: \$1.25 for first copy; \$0.50 for each additional copy to the same address.
- B US Postage: \$1.75 for the first copy; \$0.50 for each additional copy to the same address.
- C US Postage: \$3.00 each bulletin.

Non-US Postage: \$2.00 each first copy, \$1.50 each additional copy.

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