



BREAKDOWN

Volume 14, Number 2, June 1999

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

Chair: Kim Kehs
1426 Ash Lane
Quakertown, Pa 18951
(215)536-8153
edandkim@erols.com

Vice Chair & Editor:
Keith D. Wheeland
2191 Mt. View Ave.
State College, Pa 16801
(814)238-2057
kwheeland@compuserve.com

Secy: Karen Bange
RR1 Box 360
Mt. Pleasant, PA 17853
rupert@prolog.net

Treas: Bette White
RR1 Box 527
Petersburg, PA 16669
(814)667-2709
wbw2@psu.edu

MAR Fall Field Meet set for October 8-10, 1999. PCC Meeting to follow

The Mid Appalachian Region Fall Field Meet will be held at the site of Rupert Cave on October 8-10, 1999. A meeting of the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy will follow. Details inside.



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Fall MAR October 8-10, 1999



Lets Celebrate!

York Grotto formed 40 years ago August 1959. Many things have changed over the past 40 years, yet one thing still remains the same: **cavers love a good party!** Come help York Grotto celebrate its 40th anniversary. The celebration will be held in conjunction with the 1999 Fall MAR. The date is October 8 – 10, 1999 and the location is McVeytown, Mifflin County.

Registration begins Friday afternoon and the party will start Friday evening. Saturday will be a day of caving, hiking, canoeing, non caving activities or just hanging around and visiting with old friends. Saturday evening will be the banquet, MAR officer elections, guest speakers and the debut of the new, updated slide show **Caves of Pennsylvania**. Coffee and doughnuts will be available both mornings. The PCC meeting will be Sunday morning followed by pack up, clean up and head for home.

Nitty Gritty Details:

- No frills camping **ABSOLUTELY NO OPEN FIRES ALLOWED**
(Bring your own drinking water)
- Registration fee includes guidebook, dinner, beverages and continental breakfast
- Chance to win door prizes
- Refunds are available, if requested by September 24, 1999
- Register before OTR and get a discount
- Make checks payable to The York Grotto and mail to:
York Grotto
807 Lee Court
Enola, PA 17025-1559
- Questions? Call Dale Ibberson (717) 238-2198 OR Karen Bange (717) 539-2107

Editor's Note: Registration form included as loose insert in this newsletter.

1999 FALL MAR

FROM LEWISTOWN

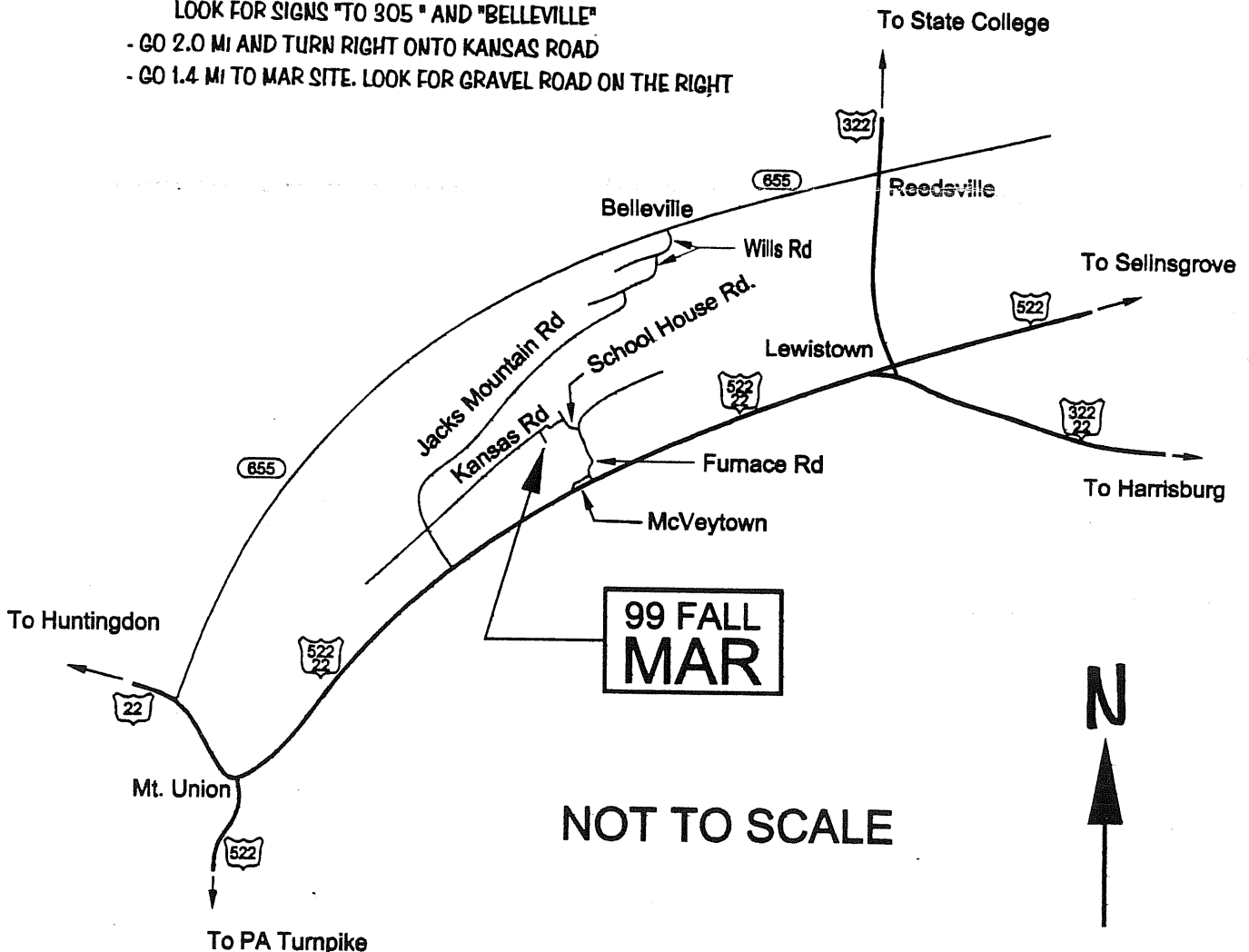
- TAKE 22W/522S APPROX. 11 MI TO McVEYTOWN
- 100 YDS PAST GRAVEYARD WITH LARGE STONE WALL TURN RIGHT ONTO FURNACE ROAD
- GO 1.7 MI TO THE SECOND STOP SIGN AND TURN LEFT ONTO SCHOOL HOUSE ROAD
- GO 0.5 MI TO A NO OUTLET SIGN AND TURN LEFT ONTO KANSAS ROAD
- GO 0.7 MI TO MAR SITE. LOOK FOR GRAVEL ROAD ON LEFT.

FROM REEDSVILLE

- GO SOUTH ON 655 APPROX. 9.5 MI AND TURN LEFT ONTO WILLS ROAD
WILLS RD IS 200 YDS PAST THE NEW HOLLAND DEALER ON THE SW SIDE OF BELLEVILLE
- GO 0.4 MI AND TURN LEFT, STILL WILLS ROAD. FOLLOW THE "TO 22 / 522" SIGNS
- GO 1.6 MI AND TURN LEFT ONTO JACKS MOUNTAIN ROAD. LOOK FOR "TO 22 / 522" SIGN
- GO 6.7 MI, CROSSING JACKS MOUNTAIN, AND TURN LEFT ONTO KANSAS ROAD
- GO 1.4 MI TO MAR SITE. LOOK FOR GRAVEL ROAD ON RIGHT.

FROM MOUNT UNION

- TAKE 22E/ 522N APPROX. 8.7 MI AND TURN LEFT ON JACK MOUNTAIN ROAD
LOOK FOR SIGNS "TO 305 " AND "BELLEVILLE"
- GO 2.0 MI AND TURN RIGHT ONTO KANSAS ROAD
- GO 1.4 MI TO MAR SITE. LOOK FOR GRAVEL ROAD ON THE RIGHT



MAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT: February 11, 1999

Gross Assets February 28, 1998:

Checking:	128.07	
Savings:	5,314.72	
Total		5,442.79

Gross Assets February 1999

Checking:	1,128.48	
Savings:	6,543.43	
Total		7,671.91

Net Income (Loss) for 1998 **2,229.12**

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|             |               |                 |            |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| <b>ITEM</b> | <b>INCOME</b> | <b>EXPENSES</b> | <b>NET</b> |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|

|                                                    |        |  |        |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------|--|--------|
| <b>INTEREST</b> Savings 39.00+42.31+97.40 = 178.71 | 178.71 |  | 178.71 |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------|--|--------|

**MAR FIELD MEETS**

|                                                   |        |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|--|--|
| Spring '98 (Kim Kehs) Allentown Grotto            |        |  |  |
| MAR Income: 153 regis @ \$1.00 =                  | 153.00 |  |  |
| MAR Brkdn: (113 @\$3. = \$339.00 see below)       |        |  |  |
| GAG Profit                                        | 160.00 |  |  |
| Fall '98 (Mtn. Acres, K. Wheeland) Nittany Grotto |        |  |  |
| MAR Income: 205 @ \$1.00 each                     | 205.00 |  |  |
| MAR Brkdn (205 @ \$3.= \$615.00 see below)        |        |  |  |
| Nittany Profit                                    | 241.41 |  |  |

|           |  |  |        |
|-----------|--|--|--------|
| Net ..... |  |  | 759.41 |
|-----------|--|--|--------|

**MAR BULLETINS**

**Total expenses** Bulletin #20 = \$7,877.34

|                                                |          |        |        |
|------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| Bulletin sales                                 | 1,654.40 |        |        |
| cash @ Business meeting [K.M.]                 |          | 5.10   |        |
| Postage                                        |          | 48.18  |        |
| MAR 12: Aitkin & Milroy maps (150 copies each) |          | 767.98 |        |
| Net .....                                      |          |        | 833.14 |

**MAR BREAKDOWN** (prev. bal. = 381.58)

|                                                    |        |        |  |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--|
| Subscriptions (Spring Field Meet)                  | 339.00 |        |  |
| Subscriptions (Fall Field Meet)                    | 615.00 |        |  |
| 12(1) balance due                                  |        | 18.30  |  |
| Postage+printing Vol 13(1), 170 printed 152 mailed |        | 148.24 |  |
| Postage+printing Vol 13(2), 250 printed 227 mailed |        | 199.30 |  |
| Postage+printing Vol 13(3), 280 printed 233 mailed |        | 170.30 |  |

[Breakdown balance: \$381.58 + \$417.86 = 799.44]

|           |  |  |        |
|-----------|--|--|--------|
| Net ..... |  |  | 417.86 |
|-----------|--|--|--------|

**CAVE LAW SIGNS:** [prev. balance = 390.39]

|                                          |       |  |       |
|------------------------------------------|-------|--|-------|
| cave sign sales                          | 40.00 |  |       |
| [Cave law sign balance = <u>430.39</u> ] |       |  |       |
| Net .....                                |       |  | 40.00 |

|                     |                 |                 |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Totals</b> ..... | <b>3,586.53</b> | <b>1,357.40</b> | <b>2,229.12</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|

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Elizabeth L. White, Treasurer

PENNSYLVANIA CAVE CONSERVANCY CORNER

This is a summary of the minutes of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President, Pat Minnick at the Lazy-A Campground near Glengary, WV, at 10:04 a.m., Sunday May 16, 1999.

The following officers were present unless otherwise noted.

President	Pat Minnick
V. Pres.	Karen Bange
Secretary	Keith D. Wheeland
Treasurer	Dale Ibberson - absent

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	--
Baltimore Grotto	Craig Hindman
Bucks County Grotto	Rich Rosevear
Central New Jersey Grotto	--
Commander Cody Caving Club	Harris Martin
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick
Greater Allentown Grotto	Dean Snyder
Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	--
Loyalhanna Grotto	Kim Metzgar
Nittany Grotto	Keith Wheeland
Philadelphia Grotto	Mike Mostardi
Pittsburgh Grotto	--
York Grotto	Karen Bange

Kim Metzgar also represented the Mid Atlantic Karst Conservancy.

Old Business:

The Secretary reported that there was no response from Pittsburgh Grotto concerning membership in the PCC. The Secretary will try again to get a response.

Project List:

Long Quarry Cave, Fulton County, Pa.

Minnick reported that the property is now subdivided and the lot containing the cave has been sold. The cave is not accessible at the present.

McClure Cave, Snyder County, Pa.

Karen Bange has spoken with the owner in the past about the cave. In April she sent the owner a packet containing information about the Pa. Cave Law and Landowner Liability Act. She has had no response from the owner.

Deerbone Cave, Centre County, Pa.

Wheeland met with the owner and spoke with him on the phone. He is willing to sell a portion of his property containing the cave. See more under **New Business**.

Devil's Den, Sussex County, N.J.

The cave is now owned by an NSS member. John Tudek (Central NJ Grotto) submitted a report indicating that the owner is interested in making an arrangement with the PCC concerning cave access and/or management.

Merkle Cave, Berks County, Pa.

Mostardi reported that he spoke with Rich Kranzel about the cave. The opinion of the committee is that a go-slow approach is best at this time, although more investigation is planned.

Web Page: The Web Committee has some ideas for implementation. They have decided to use the NSS as a host server.

NSS Conservancy: After the last meeting, Wheeland sent a request to the NSS to apply for conservancy status for the PCC. The request was considered by the NSS and approved.

Land-Owner Relations: Karen Bange indicated that the intent of getting land owner names and addresses was so that the PCC could send a greeting card during the Christmas holiday. Grottos are asked to submit the names and addresses to Karen Bange.

New Business:

Section 501(c)(3). Ann Shepard has been appointed to submit the application for Section 501(c)(3).

Deerbone Cave. Keith Wheeland was given the authorization to proceed with the acquisition of the cave for the PCC.

J-4 Cave. The cave was added to the project list. Nittany Grotto will chair the committee.

Dragon Cave. The cave was added to the Project List. Philly Grotto will chair the committee.

Living on Karst., published by the Cave Conservancy of the Virginias will be made a part of the packet that is submitted to land owners by the PCC.

Fund Raising T-Shirts. The PCC gave Dean Snyder authorization to make T-Shirts to sell as a fund raising effort.

PCC Finances. The PCC established a Fiscal Committee, with George Bange as the Chair.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be Sunday Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. at the site of the MAR Fall 1999 Meet at the Rupert Cave Campground in McVeytown, Pa.

Keith D. Wheeland, Secretary

CAVE ACQUISITION FUND

At the MAR Business Meeting in February 1999 there was some question about whether any proceeds from the sale of *MAR Bulletin 20, Caves of Westmoreland County* had been set aside for cave acquisition. At that meeting a motion was passed that designated that half of the existing balance in the fund should be disbursed to the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy and the other half to the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy.

According to the minutes of the 1996 MAR Business Meeting, a Cave Acquisition Fund was established. In addition, \$2 from the sale of each Bulletin 20 was earmarked for this fund. The minutes read as follows: Kim

Metzgar moved that the MAR establish a separate fund to protect or acquire caves at the discretion of the officers. The motion was seconded and approved. Kim then moved that two dollars of the proceeds from each sale of the Caves of Westmoreland County Bulletin go to this fund, with future funding of the fund at the discretion of the MAR officers, grottos or future publishers. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The minutes were subsequently approved at the 1997 MAR Business Meeting. *MAR Breakdown, Issue 2, p. 3, September, 1996.*

THE MAR REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MID APPALACHIAN REGION BY BERT ASHBROOK

York Grotto News

Karen Bange reports that another new passage was discovered in Mummau Cave (Lancaster County) in the Winter, 1999 issue.

Nittany Grotto News

Deerbone Cave (Centre County) is the subject of a nice article by Keith Christenson in the November, 1998 issue. In addition to a thorough history, Christenson describes the caves geology and biology. Bob Prowell's fine new map accompanies the article, and documents the cave's 907-foot length, a large increase from the 350 feet reported in *MAR Bulletin 11*.

Nuevo León, Mexico is the subject of several articles in the same issue. Bryan Crowell and Keith Christenson each describe their Christmas 1997 trip, complete with maps of seven caves. The longest is almost 400 feet and is about 175 feet deep. Christenson also describes a summer 1998 trip with Jim Kennedy, including five more small-cave maps.

The February 1999 issue is a potpourri of interesting material. Bill Stone and Barbara am Ende discuss the 3-D Sonar mapper recently used in Wakulla Spring, Florida (reprinted with permission). Jon Guizar discusses the pros and cons of alkaline and nickel-metal hydride batteries. Finally, Bryan Crowell's map accompanies the description of tiny Drowned Cave/Mine in Blair County.

Bucks County Diviner

The March 1999 issue contains some historical sketches of Conodoguinet Cave (Cumberland County) compiled by Rich

Kranzel. Unfortunately, the earliest (dated 1788) is without any citation.

Loyalhanna Troglodyte

The Fall 1998 issue features another excellent Walt Hamm map. Dravonsburg Cave is the longest in Allegheny County, with nearly 800 feet of tectonic passage. In an accompanying article, special correspondent Tom Metzgar notes that the Pittsburgh-area county has yielded more cavers than caves, but nevertheless he describes the known caves.

Kim Metzgar offers several nice maps and descriptions in the Fall 1998 issue. These include Brooks Spring Cave (Fayette County), with over 450 feet of passage; tiny Beam Rocks Cave (Somerset County); and Captain Brady's Mine (Clarion County). The last is an 850-foot long mine in limestone.

The Winter 1998-99 issue is chock full of historical stuff. Tom Metzgar's story about his search for Hunters Cave (Greene County) leads off a section on the caves of this cave-poor county. Also included are notes on the caves and geology of several western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio counties written by Andrew J. Waychoff in the beginning of this century. In the Spring 1999 issue, Tom Metzgar challenges us to discover the cavernous hideouts of Lewis the Robber (in Cumberland and Perry Counties) and the Dunbar Desperados (Fayette County).

There are several small cave maps in the Winter 1998-9 and Spring 1999 issues. Walt Hamm offers maps and descriptions of two tiny caves, Clay Pit #2 and #3 (Pocohontas

County, WV.) in the winter issue. Kim Metzgar has a nice map of another dwarfish cave, Laurel Furnace Lair in Fayette County. Finally, Jason Gray's first-ever cave is of 92-foot long Huling Run Cave in Armstrong County. Keep up the good work!

Netherworld News

Pittsburgh Grotto's newsletter for December 1998 contains a letter from Laurel Caverns (Fayette County) owner David Cale regarding the Stomach Dig. Cale is making preparations to keep any new cave discovered in a nearly pristine state.

The February 1999 issue contains Walt Hamm descriptions and maps of Clay Pit #2 and #3 (Pocohontas County, WV.), both of which are small vertical caves.

Potomac Caver

The Potomac Speleological Club's (PSC's) October/November 1998 newsletter features Devin Kouts fine map and description of High Meadows Cave (Pendleton County, WV.), which is 1800 feet long. The January 1999 issue has a nice map and description of Speculation Cave (Hardy County, WV.) by Peter Penczer.

Baltimore Grotto News

Joe Kaffl's series of fascinating articles on cave diving continues in the November and December 1998 issues. The NEST team is now working on "Project X," a Pennsylvania cave which offers potential for the longest cave in the Commonwealth. In July 1998, Kaffl passed two relatively easy sumps in this cave, but a third sump proved more difficult in low visibility. By August, the water levels were low enough to open up the first sump, but zero visibility did not permit its exploration. However, beyond the intermittent first sump, some 40- by 40-foot partially-air-filled passage was explored.

In the March 1999 issue, Kaffl details work in "Project Z," somewhere in Virginia. A second sump was passed in this cave, but a third beckons.

Karst Chronicle

The Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy's newsletter for Spring 1999 informs us that the proposed Hillside Quarry site in Westmoreland County is up for sale. The proposed quarry was thwarted last year by the actions of cavers and local residents. The property is over 4000 acres and contains several caves, the longest of which is Con Cave (800 feet).

MAR FIELD MEET - SPRING 1999

More than 100 turn out for Marvelous MAR Weekend

by Tina Lanciault

The Spring 1999 MAR meet was held at the Lazy A Campground in Glengary, West Virginia the weekend of May 14-16, hosted by the Commander Cody Caving Club. In attendance were 96 adults and 18 youth and children as well as 4 band members and 3 vendors, all of whom were greeted with marvelous, rain-free weather. Many activities were available to all, even those who did not want to cave including hiking, canoeing and visiting historical sites nearby that were listed in the guidebook given out at registration.

There were numerous cave trips Friday, Saturday and Sunday; caves most visited were Silers, Jones Quarry, Donaldsons, Dead Dog and George Washington, which despite Commander Cody's best efforts to verify open caves in advance, turned out to be closed. Other events scheduled were a basic cave map reading course and rope work instruction. A squeeze box was available on Saturday and got used by young and old alike, although the younger (i.e. smaller) crowd seemed to have an easier time than the older crowd. An activity that wasn't scheduled but turned out to be a huge success was the zipline erected across the creek that bordered the camping area by Commander Cody member Joe Lugg. This

was equally popular with the adults as well as the kids. An excellent meal was served Saturday evening consisting of pasta, homemade sauce (Mike Mostardi's secret recipe), meatballs, bread and an assortment of desserts. During and after the meal, the bluegrass band Brush Mountain Boys entertained well into the evening. Door prizes were given out along with a grand prize of paid admission fee to next year's NSS convention in Elkins, West Virginia, won by vendor Barry Duncan. The bonfire was lit at dusk by Commander Cody member/fire master Jess Wilson and his assistant, Louie Morales. Both did a great job in getting the huge fire blazing in a matter of minutes and keeping it going through the night. But because of such a huge blaze, we were unable to smelt aluminum cans and cast an aluminum bat, a tradition at Commander Cody spring and fall caving weekends. The size of the fire made it impossible to control the amount of charcoal and ash that made its way into the crucible.

A Sunday morning continental breakfast of fruit, bagels, coffee, tea, and juice rounded out the perfect weekend with a Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy meeting being the last scheduled event later that morning.

MAR Breakdown
 Nittany Grotto
 PO Box 676
 State College, PA 16804-0676

Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins

NSS Members Price List		Caves	Maps	Large Maps	Cost	Postage Code
No.	County					
1-4	Constitution and Caves of Shippensburg	11	7		7.00	A
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
- 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, RR#1, Box 527, Miller Road, Petersburg, PA 16669-9211