



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 29, Number 1, April 2014

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-

Event notices and MAR Breakdown newsletters are distributed electronically. When you attend a field meet, the email address provided on your registration form is added to the distribution list. You may also add yourself to distribution by going to <http://eepurl.com/P2f5j> and completing a short registration form.

### Meetings and Meets-

The annual business meeting is held the last Saturday in February. Each spring and fall there is a field meet. Watch for dates.

**Chair:** Paul Winter  
State College, PA 16803  
(412) 849-6824  
paw5051@psu.edu

**Vice Chair:** Gary Dunmire  
657 Valley View Road  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
(814) 357-1134  
mudtube@yahoo.com

**Secretary:** Hope Brooks  
University Park, PA 16802  
(443) 510-0312  
hzb5048@psu.edu

**Treasurer:** Bette White  
4538 Miller Road  
Petersburg, PA 16669  
(814) 667-2709  
wbw2@psu.edu

**Editor:** Gretchen "Red" Schock  
81 Appalachian Drive  
Carlisle, PA 17015-8515  
(717) 697-3264  
redcaver@verizon.net

## Spring MAR 2014

### May 16-18

## Dailey, West Virginia

*Hosted by:*

**The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC)**

### \*\*\*\*\*ATTENTION MAR MEMBERS\*\*\*\*\*

This is the last printed Breakdown that the MAR will mail out. In the future event notices and Breakdowns will be sent out electronically. In late March everyone who is on the MAR membership list should have received via email the spring MAR field meet flyer. If you did not receive this email and you would like to continue receiving event notices and newsletters please enter your information to the MAR's Membership Mailing List, handled by Mail Chimp, at <http://eepurl.com/P2f5j> and complete the short registration form.

\*\*\*\*\*



### Inside

### Page

MAR Business Meeting 2013 Minutes	2
PCC Minutes	5
Spring 2013 MAR Field Meet	8
Spring 2013 Registration Form	9
MAR Bulletins for Sale	BACK

Non-copyrighted material may be used by other speleo publications provided credit is given to the *MAR Breakdown*.

# *Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society*

## **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

February 22, 2014

The meeting was called to order by MAR Chair, Paul Winter at approximately 1:46 PM, February 22, 2014, at the Mount Laurel Community Park, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Report was read by MAR secretary, Hope Brooks. The minutes were approved without change.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was read by MAR treasurer, Bette White. Printed copies were distributed. Total income of the year was \$3,282.33, with \$1,976.98 in expenditures. Net Income gain for the year was \$1,305.35.

**Vice Chairman's Report:** No Report.

**MAR Breakdown:** The MAR Breakdown report was given by Gretchen "Red" Schock. The MAR breakdown was printed and distributed on schedule.

**MAR Breakdown Address List and Digitization:** The digitization of the MAR Breakdown was discussed.

Randy Hurst made a motion to continue collecting emails for disseminating the digital version of the MAR Breakdown, to print and mail hard copies of the MAR Breakdown for people who do not have email addresses, to begin sending the MAR Breakdown in digital form to the emails collected, and to reduce the MAR registration field meet fee from \$4 to \$1. Keith Wheeland seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Christopher Catherman made a motion to publish one more physical issue of the MAR Breakdown, with Volume 29, No. 1, April 2014 being the last printed issue, whereby containing a notice explaining that future newsletters will be available digitally via the MAR website and/or disseminated via an email distribution program (ex. Listserv). A limited number of hard copies of the newsletter would continue to be printed and sent to those who have outstanding credits. Keith Wheeland seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**2013 Spring Field Meet:** The 2013 Spring Field Meet was hosted by Philadelphia Grotto and was

held at Woodward Cave in Centre County, Pennsylvania. A report of the Spring Field meet was given by Bill Schultz. 112 registrants participated.

**2013 Fall Field Meet:** The 2013 Fall Field Meet was hosted by the Nittany Grotto and was held at Lincoln Caverns and Whisper Rocks in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. A report of the Fall Field Meet was given by Joe Turchick. 117 registrants participated.

**MAR Web Site and Listserv:** The MAR webmaster, Christopher Catherman, reported there have been no major changes to the MAR website and it continues to be functional. Please send any corrections or additions to Christopher at mar\_nss@yahoo.com.

**MAR Bulletins:** Will White reported that MAR Bulletin #21: Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookon Cave, Huntingdon and Blair Counties is complete and is available for sale for \$27.50.

It is projected that the MAR Bulletin #22: Caves of Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Union, & Montour Counties (CCLUM) or Mid-Susquehanna Valley is targeted for completion by June of 2014. Juniata County will also be added to the proposed bulletin.

Hope Brooks reported on behalf of Todd "Mud" Hancock that work on the updated Mifflin County Bulletin continues. Mifflin County is listed as having 95 caves and Todd welcomes assistance in updating the bulletin.

There have been no updates to the Huntingdon County Bulletin.

It was announced that, in general, some older bulletins do not contain up-to-date information on cave openings, closures, and access.

**Pennsylvania Cave Database:** Paul Winter reported on behalf of Tony Canike that he has resolved the question of which caves to put on the "closed" cave list by simply publishing the "Long and Deep" cave lists, with access statuses for all the caves on the list. He thanked those who offered suggestions and to the committee that was

appointed at the February 2013 meeting, as they resolved the question with a couple emails.

Tony also provided a list of caves to Will White for the Mid-Susquehanna Valley MAR Bulletin (see above under MAR Bulletins).

Lastly, update functions in the access database are still not completely working, but all the data is secure, safe, and backed up.

**Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC):** Mike Spencer reported that Dean Snyder has not made any further contact with the PGC. A January 2014 edition of the Morning Call pertaining to the PGC and White Nose Syndrome (WNS) was discussed.

Kim Metzgar reported that the PGC is soliciting bids to gate Casparis Cave located in Fayette County. Upon gating, Copperhead Cave and Bear Cave, both located in Westmoreland County, will be the ONLY large caves in western Pennsylvania which remain un-gated.

**MAKC:** Kim Metzgar urged cavers to continue to try to buy and manage caves and suggested that cavers support cave conservancies.

**Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC):** Christopher Catherman reported that there will be a PCC meeting, following the MAR Annual Business Meeting.

**WNS:** Randy Hurst and Craig Hindman discussed how the federal listing of the Tri-Colored bats and other bats as being endangered will affect caving in Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Bill Schultz noted that the western region of the U.S. Forest Service has relaxed their caving restrictions as compared to those here in the eastern region.

Greg Turner reported that there were two (2) little brown bats and two (2) tri-colored bats in Sharer Cave. Piper cave is reported to have a few little brown bats. Mike Spencer reported that he has not seen any bats in Carpenter Cave. It was reported that Driebelbis Cave had less than five (5) bats.

### **New Business**

**2014 Spring Field Meet:** The 2014 Spring Field Meet will be hosted by the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) and will be held on May 16-  
*MAR Breakdown Volume 29 Number 1 April 2014*

18, 2014 at the OTR site in Dailey, WV. Further information on the event will be discussed and presented at the PCC meeting proceeding the MAR Business Meeting by Amos Mincin. A registration form and information are available on the MAR website.

**2014 Fall Field Meet:** The 2014 Fall Field Meet will be hosted by the Seven Valleys Grotto and will be held on Oct. 10–12, 2014 at the Rupert Cave Preserve in McVeytown, PA.

**2013 NSS Convention –Shippensburg, PA:** It was reported that 702 people attended the 2013 NSS Convention held at Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA last August. Donations received at the convention were divided among five organizations consisting of the Mid-Appalachian Region (MAR), the Virginia Region (VAR), the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC), the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC), and the Butler Cave Conservation Society (BCCS). Treasurers of the receiving organizations are advised to cash the checks by March 15, 2014.

**MAR Field Meet Directional Signs:** It was determined that members of Nittany Grotto have the signs used at last Fall's MAR field meet, and will make arrangements to give the signs to the PCC for the upcoming MAR Spring Field Meet in WV.

**MAR Field Meet Guidebooks:** Karen Bange questioned whether it was necessary to print guidebooks for the upcoming Fall Field Meet at Rupert Cave. There was a consensus that there is no requirement to produce guidebooks at the field meet, since many former field events took place at this same location.

**Donations:** Judy Stack announced that numerous books from Dale Ibberson's personal library were available at the meeting and that any donations received would be donated directly to the MAR.

Glen Sarvis brought Nevada tourist agency maps and brochures to the meeting in preparation for the upcoming 2016 NSS Convention in Ely, Nevada.

**After Meeting Meeting (AMM):** Mark Wolfe announced that he will be hosting an AMM after the proceeding PCC meeting at his residence.

### Upcoming Events

**BCCS – Pancake Weekend** – Burnsville Cove, VA – March 15, 2014

**Spring VAR Field Meet** – RASS Field House, Millboro, VA – April 11-13, 2014

**Spring MAR Field Meet** – OTR Site, Dailey, WV – May 16-18, 2014

**Spring NRO Field Meet** – Hide-A-Way Camp, Central Bridge, NY – May 16-18, 2014

**Kentucky Speleofest** – Lone Star Preserve, Bonnieville, KY – May 23-26, 2014

**SERA Summer Cave Carnival** – NSS Headquarters, Huntsville, AL – May 30-June 1, 2014

**"Mudfest"** – Lincoln Caverns, Huntingdon, PA – June 20-22, 2014

**NSS Convention** – NSS Headquarters, Huntsville, AL – July 14-18, 2014

**Old Timers Reunion (OTR)** – OTR Site, Dailey, WV – August 28-September 1, 2014

**Fall MAR Field Meet** – Rupert Cave Preserve, McVeytown, PA – 10-12, October 2014

**Fall VAR Field Meet** – Rich Mountain Battlefield, Elkins, WV – October 2014

**TAG Fall Cave-In** – Lookout Mountain, Near Trenton, GA – October 9-12, 2014

**Bridge Day** – New River Gorge Bridge, Fayetteville, WV – October 18, 2014

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hope Brooks  
*MAR Recording Secretary*

### **Representatives at the MAR meeting:**

- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Baltimore Grotto
- Cave Hill Grotto
- Central New Jersey Grotto
- Commander Cody Caving Club
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- MAKC
- Nittany Grotto
- Philadelphia Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- York Grotto

### ***Upcoming 2014 MAR Field Meets***

**2014 Spring MAR** - The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) will be hosting the 2014 Spring MAR. The event will be held on the weekend of May 16-18, 2014 at the TRA-OTR Campground in Dailey, WV. Additional information can be found on pages 7-9.

**2014 Fall MAR** - The Seven Valleys Grotto will be hosting the 2014 Fall MAR. The event will be held on the weekend of October 10-12, 2014 at the Rupert Cave Preserve located near McVeytown, PA (Mifflin County). Additional information will be posted on the MAR website as it becomes available.

### ***Hosts Needed For The 2015 Spring and Fall MAR***

As of February 2014 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2015 Spring or Fall MAR. If you are interested in hosting one of these events, a helpful guide to hosting a MAR field meet can be found on the MAR website. Think about it - can you or your grotto host the event? If there are no volunteers there will be no field meet. If you're interested in hosting the event, please contact a MAR officer.



**PCC Breakfast:** The PCC plans to host a pancake breakfast for the upcoming 2014 Spring and Fall MAR field meets. Joe Schock will make some modifications to the griddle prior to the Spring MAR and will ensure it is transported to the field meet site in West Virginia. Transportation arrangements have also been made for the remaining breakfast equipment to be delivered to the field meet site in West Virginia. Karen and George Bange have offered to store the equipment at the Rupert property between the Spring and Fall field meets. Transportation provisions to get the equipment to the Rupert property may have to be organized.

**PCC Brochure:** Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact George Bange.

**Mail:** Nothing reported.

**Christmas Cards:** Karen Bange continues to manage the yearly distribution of Christmas cards to cave landowners. PCC will reimburse Karen for the postage of the cards sent. Contact Karen if you have a landowner you would like added to the Christmas card list.

**T-shirts:** Gary Dunmire continues to have PCC 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary T-shirts available at \$15 each (approximately \$17.65 with shipping). Dean Synder also has older PCC shirts available for sale at \$5 each. Gary stated the shirts would be available for sale during the 2014 Spring MAR event.

**PA Cave Database:** Paul Winter reported the following status on behalf of Tony Canike:

1. We resolved the question of which caves to put on the “closed” list by simply publishing the Long and Deep lists, with access status for all the caves on the list. Thanks to all who offered suggestions and to the committee that was appointed at the Feb 2013 meeting; as we resolved the question with a couple emails we never really needed to meet.
2. Provided a list of caves to Will White for the Middle Susquehanna Valley MAR bulletin that Will is working on.
3. Update functions in the access database still not completely working; been caving too much to sit at the computer a lot. Still on the to-do list. Data is secure, safe, and backed up.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Project List:**

**Dragon Cave** (Berks County, PA) – Nothing reported.

**Red Church Cave** (Schuylkill County, PA) – Nothing reported.

**Merkle Cave** (Berks County, PA) – Recent contact with the land owner revealed that the cave will not be opened for access. Ed Kehs, Sr. moved and Mike Spencer seconded to remove Merkle Cave from the project list. The motion passed.

**Cleversburg Cave** (Cumberland County, PA) – Nothing reported. Amos Mincin moved and Craig Hindman seconded to remove Cleversburg Cave from the project list. The motion passed.

**Schofer Cave** (Berks County, PA) – No action was reported and access is not expected to be granted in the foreseeable future. Mike Spencer moved and Amos Mincin seconded to remove Schofer Cave from the project list. The motion passed.

**Corker Hill and Frustration Pit** (Franklin County, PA) – Nothing reported.

**Peiper Cave** (Cumberland County) – No new issues to report. Ed Kehs, Sr. moved and Paul Winter seconded to remove Peiper cave from the project list. The motion passed.

**Dreibilbis Cave** (Berks County) – Bill Schultz reported that a bat count trip was conducted and land owner relations continue to remain positive.

**J4 Cave** (Centre County) – Gary Dunmire stated that the status of negotiations with Graymont remains favorable and are continuing to move forward. Part of the negotiations with Graymont included requesting the management agreement terms be modified to remove the requirement to contact the local fire company for planned cave trips. The local fire company does not desire to be contacted to monitor J-4 cave trips.

**PCC Tax Exempt Status:** Gary Dunmire has not received any additional communications since the last PCC meeting. Gary will follow up on the current status of the tax exempt request.

**PCC Grotto membership:** John Boswell stated that representatives from caving organization(s) that are not currently members of the PCC were present for the meeting. It was reiterated that any grotto is encouraged and

welcome to apply to join the PCC. The PCC would like to stress the importance of a grotto representative being present at all meetings in order for the PCC to obtain a quorum and continue to conduct business. Representative forms can be obtained from the PCC secretary.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PCC Project List:** After some dialogue regarding caves on the project list, Amos Mincin suggested that the PCC review the status of adding or removing caves to the project list during each PCC meeting discussion. This approach will assist in determining if each cave should remain on the list. There was also a suggestion to maintain two lists, one “Project List” as well as another for “Cave of Interest”. Additional discussion would be required to determine the need, as well as criteria, if a second list is to be incorporated and maintained.

**Spring MAR 2014:** Amos Mincin provided the group with a detailed overview of the proposed budget and planning activity for the upcoming 2014 MAR field meet that will be hosted by the PCC at the OTR site in Dailey, WV May 16-18, 2014. Additionally, Amos screened the conservation video that will be presented to attendees during the upcoming field meet. Amos Mincin moved and Paul Winter seconded to pay the registration fees for the sauna crew to open and maintain one of the site’s saunas during the event. The cost would be \$216 to cover registration for seven adults and one child. The motion was passed. Additional information and details concerning the event can be found on the MAR website. Anyone interested in assisting with the various tasks during the event should contact Amos Mincin.

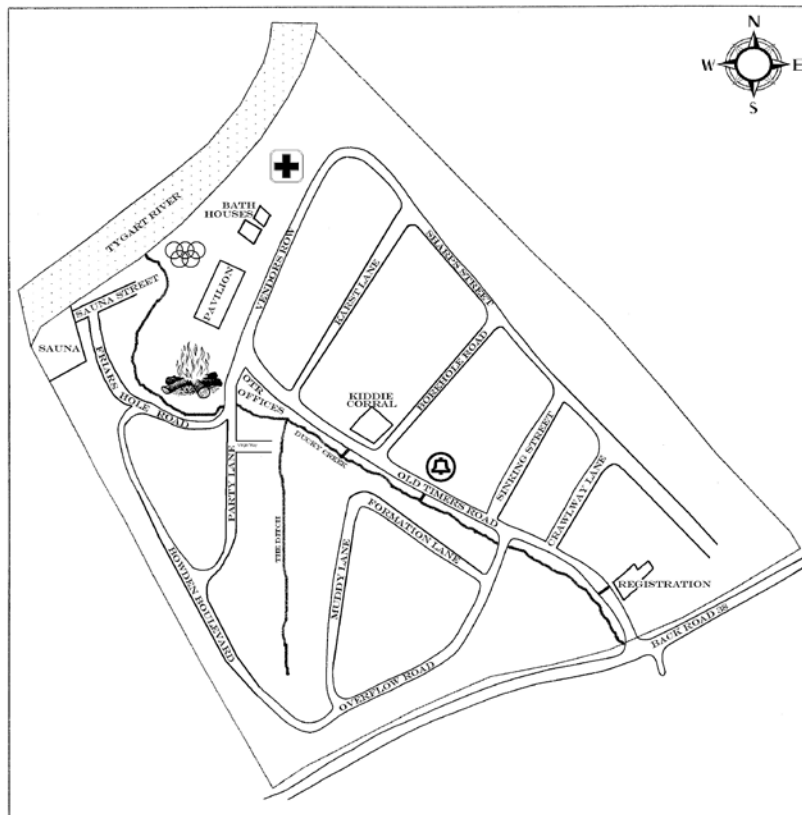
**Elections:** Amos Mincin moved and Randy Hurst seconded that the existing officers remain for another year. The motion passed and all current officers were re-elected.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the PCC will be held at the Spring MAR field meet on Sunday, May 18, 2014 at the OTR site/campground in Dailey, WV. Meeting time 9:30 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

**2014 Spring MAR site map**



**Spring MAR 2014**  
**May 16-18**  
**Dailey, West Virginia**

*Hosted by:*

**The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC)**

Come join us for some Caving, Camaraderie and Cave Conservancy Awareness. The TRA – OTR Campground will be the location for this year's Spring Mid-Appalachian Region Field Meet.

Registration Fee Includes:

- Friday night "Movie Night" featuring West Virginia, Virginia and Pennsylvania Caving Trips and Cave Conservation
- Guided caving trips on Saturday to some of West Virginia's finest caves!
- Saturday night dinner with vegetarian option available
- Saturday night guest speaker (A well respected "Project Caver" to be announced)
- Bonfire Saturday night
- Saturday Night Music for dancing the night away
- Saturday night refreshments include soda and water

Vendor (s) on Site – To be determined and announced when available

Registration Information:

- Register before 5/1/2014 and get a discount
- Make checks payable to The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy and mail to:

Spring MAR 2014 Registration  
c/o Amos Mincin  
13 Levis Avenue  
Media, PA 19063-4826

For more information, please visit the MAR website at:

<http://www.caves.org/region/mar/main.htm>

**Directions and campground information:**

Visit "The Robertson Association" (TRA) "Old Timer's Reunion" (OTR) Web Site:

[www.otr.org](http://www.otr.org)

In addition to Directions and Campground Information, this site will highlight the Labor Day extended weekend "OTR" events past. Consider this as an introduction of our unofficial sponsor.





# 2014 Spring Field Meet Registration Form

May 16-18, 2014  
Dailey, WV



## Principal Registrant's (for MAR database)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Grotto Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Registrants ( \* Only for Registrants with Same Mailing Address as Above )

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Principal Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Principal Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Principal Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration	Unit Cost	Quantity	Cost
Adult ( Before May 1, 2014 )	\$28.00		
Adult ( After April 30, 2014 )	\$30.00		
Child ( Ages 6-12 )	\$20.00		
Child ( Under 6 )	Free		
Vegetarian Meals	No Extra Charge		
Total:			

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC), its members, the MAR, TRA and private landowners take no responsibility for any injuries or losses that might be sustained during the 2014 MAR Spring Field Meet and any associated activities. Participation by the undersigned is at their own risk, and they accept responsibility for the safety of all other participants (children and adults) who are listed on this registration form under "Additional Registrants".

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC)** and send with this form to:  
2014 Spring MAR c/o Amos Mincin [13 Levis Avenue; Media, PA 19063-4826]

MAR Breakdown  
81 Appalachian Drive  
Carlisle, PA 17015-8515



## Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins [including reprinted Bulletins]

NSS Member Price List

Effective March 2012

1-4	Bulletins Caves of Shippensburg Area #1-4 <b>REPRINT</b>		<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
5	Caves of Western PA <b>REPRINT</b>	29 caves, 19 maps	<b>8.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
6	Caves of S. Cumberland Valley <b>REPRINT</b>	93 caves 69 maps+6 large maps	<b>17.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
7	Caves of Fulton Co, PA <b>REPRINT</b>	4 caves, 4 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
8	Caves of Blair Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	89 caves, 40 maps	<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
9	Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	94 caves, 36 maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA	20 caves, 14 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
11	Caves of Centre Co., PA	71 caves, 56 maps+1 large map	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
12	Caves of Mifflin Co., PA	47 caves, 31 maps+5 large maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
13	Caves of Perry Co., PA	13 caves, 6 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
14	Caves of Bucks Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	24 caves, 6 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
15	Caves of Lehigh Co., PA <b>REPRINT</b>	25 caves, 13 maps	<b>6.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
16	Caves of Northampton Co., PA	24 caves, 13 maps+1 large map	<b>6.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
17	Caves of Northumberland Co., PA	20 caves, 10 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
18	Caves of Berks Co., PA	64 caves, 32 maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
19	Caves of Bedford Co., PA	54 caves, 33 maps	<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
20	Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA	337 caves, 187 map/10 large maps	<b>29.50</b> + postage <b>C</b>
21	Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookon Cave Huntingdon and Blair Counties	103 pages with color photos, 4 fold-outs, 2 large maps	<b>27.50</b> + postage <b>B</b>

U.S. Postage:   **A**   \$2.00 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address  
                  **B**   \$2.50 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address  
                  **C**   \$3.00 postage for each bulletin #20

**MAR Bulletin Orders:** Please make checks payable to **MAR**. All checks must be payable in US dollars on US bank or US money order

**Order from:** Bette White, 4538 Miller Road, Petersburg, PA 16669-2711   U.S.A.