



BREAKDOWN

Volume 36, Number 2, August 2021

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
pawwinter@gmail.com

Vice Chair: J.D. Lewis
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(570) 220-4045
lewjam15@hotmail.com

Secretary: Hope Brooks
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
(443) 510-0312
caverhope@gmail.com

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

2021 Fall MAR/VAR has been

CANCELLED

The hosting grottos plan to reschedule the event for May 20-22, 2022



Inside

Page

Pennsylvania Has a New, Longest Cave Survey	2
2021 Fall MAR-VAR Postponed	3
2022 Spring MAR-VAR	3
2022 Fall MAR Host Needed	3
Upcoming Events	4
MAR Bulletins for Sale	5

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

Pennsylvania Has a New, Longest Cave Survey (and Two Five-Mile Long Caves!)

by Bert Ashbrook

The Vanport Limestone in northwestern Pennsylvania is only 10 feet thick (give or take 10 feet), but it produces prodigious maze caves. Brady's Bend, Hindman, Portersville, and Rose Point (now quarried away) are some of the better known Vanport caves listed in Will White, ed., *Caves of Western Pennsylvania*, General Geology Report 67, Harrisburg: Pa. Geological Survey, 4th series (1976).



Bert Ashbrook holds a bouquet of flowers sent to Team Sarah from Pennsylvania's first five-mile cave survey, Harlansburg Cave

One of these Vanport caves, Harlansburg Cave in Lawrence County, has been the longest cave survey in the Commonwealth for nearly forty years. Starting in the 1970s, the Westminster Student Grotto made over 120 survey trips into the cave and mapped 4.1 miles of cave, all south of the road cut that uncovered the cave entrance. See J. Philip Fawley and Kenneth M. Long, "Harlansburg Cave: The Longest [sic] Cave in Pennsylvania," *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* 59:3 (Dec. 1997) pp. 106-

11, 107. Now leased by the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy, the cave is being remapped in an effort led by MAKC chairperson Kim Metzgar. As part of that effort, Eric Pelkey and Team Harlansburg surveyed 0.8 miles north of the road cut, connecting it to the southern half and bringing Harlansburg to a total of 4.9 miles of passage.

But in May 2021, the survey of another Vanport maze, Sarah Furnace Cave in Clarion County, reached 4.97 miles of passage and toppled Harlansburg from its perch atop the list of longest cave surveys in Pennsylvania. But Team Sarah's ensuing celebration was a little premature, as Team Harlansburg would remind us. In early June, a late-night, commando survey trip drawing on surveyors from as far away as Connecticut took back the lead. In doing so, the commandos made Harlansburg into Pennsylvania's first five-mile cave survey. And in a classy gesture, Team Harlansburg announced their accomplishment with a big bouquet of flowers sent to Team Sarah, along with a card hoping that Sarah Furnace Cave might soon become the second member of Pennsylvania's five-mile-long cave club (see photo).

"May the longest cave win!" responded Team Sarah. And later in June, it did. At a weekend event to celebrate MAKC's purchase of Sarah Furnace Cave (and to dedicate it in memory of Barbara Schomer), Team Sarah reached five miles of survey and passed Harlansburg for good. As of mid-August, the Sarah Furnace Cave survey is 5.4 miles long—once again the longest in the Commonwealth, the second longest in the northeastern US (watch out, Team McFail's!), and #169 in the nation. Pennsylvania now has two caves with more than five miles of survey, each!

Team Sarah is far from finished. The current working map of Sarah Furnace Cave has over 100 going leads in what we think is the densest maze cave in the world. How far the cave extends, nobody knows! We are scheduling two or three survey trips per month, up to a year in advance. If you want to set a new record for the longest cave in Pennsylvania, or if you want to learn to survey, email sarahfurnace@karst.org!

2021 Fall MAR-VAR Postponed

After discussions among members of the Seven Valleys and Charlottesville hosting grottos, we regret to announce that the planning committee members have decided to postpone the 2021 Fall MAR/VAR until Spring of 2022 due to the continued instability surrounding the COVID-19 virus and related restrictions. We look forward to seeing all our caving friends once COVID conditions improve. Until then, take care of yourselves and stay healthy!

2022 Spring MAR-VAR

Save the Date! The Seven Valleys and Charlottesville Grottoes invite you to the 2022 Spring MAR-VAR to be held May 20-22, 2022 at Grand Caverns in Grottoes, VA. More details will be posted on the web site as they become available:

<https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm>

or

<http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var>

Host Needed for the 2022 Fall MAR

As of August 2022 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2022 Fall MAR Field Meet. If you are interested in hosting this event, a helpful guide to hosting a MAR field meet can be found on the MAR website (<https://mar.caves.org/hosting.htm>). 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 this event, please contact a MAR officer.

Upcoming Events

- 2021 Old Timers Reunion (OTR)** ****CANCELLED****
OTR Site/Campgrounds
Dailey, WV (Randolph County)
URL: www.otr.org
- 2021 TAG Fall Cave-In** October 7-10, 2021
Menlo, GA
URL: <https://dogwoodcitygrotto.org/TAG-Fall-Cave-In>
- 2021 Spring MAR/VAR Field Meet** ****CANCELLED****
Grand Caverns
Grottoes, VA
Hosted By: Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto
URL: <https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm> -or-
<http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var>
- 2021 Bridge Day** October 16, 2021
New River Gorge Bridge
Fayetteville, WV
URL: www.bridgeday.info/
- National Cave and Karst Management Symposium (NCKMS 2021)** November 1-5, 2021
San Marcos, TX
URL: symposium2021.nckms.org
- 2022 MAR Annual Business Meeting** February 26, 2022
Mt. Laurel Church of God
1295 Piketown Road, Linglestown, PA
URL: <https://mar.caves.org/busnmtg.htm>
- VAR Spring Restoration** April 2022
Grand Caverns
Grottoes, VA
URL: <http://var.caves.org/index.php/events>
- 2022 Spring MAR/VAR Field Meet** May 20-22, 2022
Grand Caverns
Grottoes, VA
Hosted By: Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto
URL: <https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm> -or-
<http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var>
- 2022 NSS Convention** June 13-17, 2022
Rapid City, South Dakota
URL: <http://nss2022.caves.org/>
- 2022 Old Timers Reunion (OTR)** Sept. 1-5, 2022
OTR Site/Campgrounds
Dailey, WV (Randolph County)
URL: www.otr.org
- 2022 Fall MAR Field Meet** Fall 2022
Location: TBD
Hosted TBD
URL: <https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm>
- 2022 Fall VAR Field Meet** Fall 2022
Location: TBD
Hosted TBD
URL: <http://var.caves.org/index.php/events>

NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

Effective October 2018

MID-APPALACHIAN REGION BULLETINS (including reprinted Bulletins)

1-4	Bulletins Caves of Shippensburg Area #1-4 REPRINT		7.00 + postage A
5	Caves of Western PA: REPRINT	29 caves, 19 maps	8.00 + postage A
6	Caves of S. Cumberland Valley REPRINT	93 caves 69 maps+6 large maps	17.00 + postage B
7	Caves of Fulton Co, PA <u>Revised/Corrected</u>	4 caves, 4 maps	5.00 + postage A
8	Caves of Blair Co., PA REPRINT	89 caves, 40 maps	7.00 + postage A
9	Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA REPRINT	94 caves, 36 maps	10.00 + postage B
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA	20 caves, 14 maps	6.00 + postage A
11	Caves of Centre Co., PA	71 caves, 56 maps+1 large map	10.00 + postage B
12	Caves of Mifflin Co., PA	47 caves, 31 maps+5 large maps	10.00 + postage B
13	Caves of Perry Co., PA	13 caves, 6 maps	10.00 + postage A
14	Caves of Bucks Co., PA REPRINT	24 caves, 6 maps	5.00 + postage A
15	Caves of Lehigh Co., PA REPRINT	25 caves, 13 maps	6.00 + postage A
16	Caves of Northampton Co., PA	24 caves, 13 maps+1 large map	6.00 + postage A
17	Caves of Northumberland Co., PA	20 caves, 10 maps	5.00 + postage A
18	Caves of Berks Co., PA	64 caves, 32 maps	10.00 + postage B
19	Caves of Bedford Co., PA	54 caves, 33 maps	7.00 + postage A
20	Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA	337 caves, 187 maps/10 large maps	29.50 + postage C
21	Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookon Cave Huntingdon and Blair Counties	103 pages with color photos , 4 fold-out maps, 2 large maps	27.50 + postage B
22	Caves of Middle Susquehanna Valley	140 pages with color photos	16.00 + postage D

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.

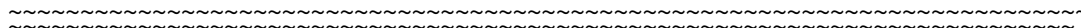
C \$3.00 postage for each bulletin #20.

D \$3.50 postage for each bulletin #22

MAR Bulletin Orders: Please make checks payable to MAR



NOTE: All checks must be payable in U.S. dollars on U.S. bank or U.S. money order



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