



BREAKDOWN

Volume 39, Number 3, January 2025

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.

MAR Mailing Address-

Mid-Appalachian Region
P. O. Box 685
State College, PA 16804-0685

Chair: Rick Smith
Lewistown, PA 17044
rickbannerville@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Kendra Warlow
Arlington, VA
kendra.warlow@gmail.com

Secretary: Olivia McAllister
PA Furnace, PA 16865
olivia.mcallister.98@gmail.com

Treasurer: Paul Winter
PA Furnace, PA 16865
pawwinter@gmail.com

Editor: Gretchen "Red" Schock
81 Appalachian Drive
Carlisle, PA 17015-8515
redcaver@verizon.net

MAR BUSINESS MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 22, 2025 PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at Mt. Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, PA on Feb 22, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

You will find additional information and directions on pages 2-3

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) will follow the MAR Business Meeting



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MAR BUSINESS MEETING
February 22, 2025 at 1:30 pm
Mount Laurel Church of God
1295 Piketown Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112

The next MAR annual business meeting will be held at the Mt. Laurel Church of God. The church is located at 1295 Piketown Road, at the intersection with Sleeping Hollow Road and Appalachian Trail, in W. Hanover Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania (just East of Harrisburg). This MAR business meeting will be "in-person", with the option of online call-in. A link for the call in option can be accessed at <https://mar.caves.org/busnmtg.htm>



The meetings will be held in the Large Meeting Room located down stairs from the main church. The entrance to the room is at the small handicap parking lot on the lower level of the church. Ample parking with snow removal is at the top of the hill across from the cemetery and the church. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE FIRE HOUSE PARKING LOT!**

A path up the steps and to the right side of the church leads down to the handicap parking lot and the hall entrance. Use the side entrance door, it will be marked "MAR".

The MAR meeting attendees will have use of the large meeting room with kitchen and clean modern bathrooms next to the meeting room. The rest of the hall will be off limits.

We do not have use of the small meeting room (previous location pre-COVID), stage, or any equipment we do not own. Tables and chairs will be provided but we must set them up and take them down. Also, no open flames please! Judi Stack will provide the tablecloths for the tables as well as signs for the recycling, trash, and entry door. Recycling containers for plastic bottles and aluminum cans will be placed near the kitchen. PLEASE use them to reduce the amount of trash that must be disposed of. These containers will be marked RECYCLING or TRASH. Everyone's cooperation will be greatly appreciated!

Please don't forget to bring a covered dish for the after-MAR meeting (before PCC meeting) meal. A sign-up sheet is available to help MAR cavers plan for the event. The sign-up sheet can be found on the MAR website (https://mar.caves.org/busnmtg_foodsignup.htm). Please consider a dish that you wish to bring to the meeting to share with other hungry cavers. Also be sure to bring your non-alcoholic beverage of choice. The MAR will, once again, be providing warm beverages (coffee/tea/hot cider) for the meeting attendees. Please Note: alcoholic beverages are **NOT** permitted on the church grounds.

Directions:

From the East on Interstate 81 Southbound and/or Interstate 78:

Exit Interstate 81 at Exit 77 (Route 39). Bear right onto Route 39 West (Linglestown Road).

From the West on Interstate 81 Northbound:

Exit Interstate 81 at Exit 77 (Route 39). Bear left onto Route 39 West (Linglestown Road).

Once on Route 39 (Linglestown road), proceed 0.6 mile to N. Fairville Ave. (Pass McDonalds, Perkins, and various truck stops). Make an immediate right onto N. Fairville Avenue at the Hotel/Motel and proceed approximately 2.8 miles from Route 39. Bear left several times to stay on N. Fairville Avenue (there are several jogs in the road). Turn Right onto Piketown Road and proceed up over mountain approximately 0.7 miles to the intersection with Sleepy Hollow Road and Appalachian Trail. The Mt. Laurel Church of God is located on your right side (east of Piketown Road) and the West Hanover Fire Company is located across the street on the left side (west of Piketown Road). Additional church parking is available at the lot diagonally across the intersection from the church. A cemetery is located across the street from the additional Church parking lot area.

From the North on S.R. 322:

Exit S.R. 322 at the North Front Street exit (Fort Hunter). Proceed several hundred feet and turn left onto Fishing Creek Valley Road (S.R. 443 East). Proceed approximately 7.3 miles and turn right onto Sleep Hollow Road. Proceed on Sleepy Hollow Road for approximately 1.8 miles to intersection with Piketown Road. The church is located directly in front of you at the intersection.

PCC Officer Elections

There will be a PCC meeting February 22, 2025 following the MAR Business Meeting. It is at this meeting that PCC officers are elected. Anyone wishing to run for office can put their name on the ballot by contacting any PCC officer.

Cave conservation and protection can only happen if we all work together towards the same goals.

Get involved with PCC!

Hosts Needed for the 2025 Spring and Fall MARs!

As of January 2025 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2025 Spring or Fall MAR Field Meets. 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 (<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 an event, please contact a MAR officer.

Meet the 2025 MAR Officers

The results of the MAR Election are in! Get to know your 2025 MAR Officers:



MAR Chair: Rick Smith (NSS 67507)

I have always been fascinated by the underground world. Inspired by mainstream media like *The Goonies* and *Labyrinth*, and the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, my passion for caving grew steadily over the years. At just 8 years old, by pure serendipity, I followed my brother and friends into a cave in McClure, PA. That experience solidified my lifelong love for caves. My interest deepened as I visited commercial caverns like Penn's Cave, Lincoln Caverns, and Woodward Cave with my parents. During high school, I and like-minded friends explored local wild caves, including Maitland, Mount Rock, and Lime Sinks.

It wasn't until many years later that I discovered the caving community and learned the critical importance of cave conservation and preservation. Since then, I have explored caves across

Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, and Tennessee.

I have been an active member of both the Nittany Grotto (NGI) and Bald Eagle Grotto (BEG), joining the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC) in 2019. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, my dedication to conservation deepened. I became the preserve manager for McClure Cave and Penn Aqua, both owned by MAKC, and a keyholder for Alexander Caverns through Bald Eagle Grotto.

In Fall 2022, I was elected to the board of the MAKC. The following year, in 2023, I was nominated as an officer to represent the Mid-Appalachian Region (MAR).

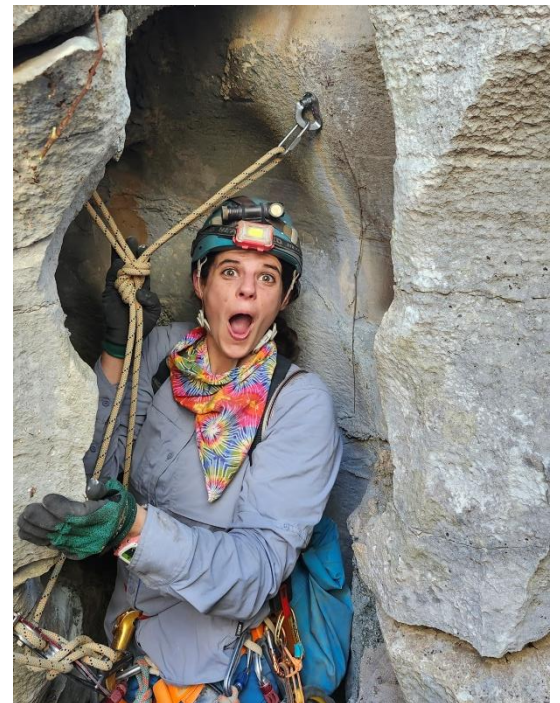
I am excited to continue working with fellow officers, MAR grottos and all cavers to advance the mission of preserving and conserving caves while educating others about the significance of caves and karst.

MAR Vice Chair: Kendra Warlow (NSS 72238)

Hello MAR community!! I'm honored and excited to serve as your Vice Chair, thank you for the opportunity to give back to our community. I started caving only a few short years ago and have been heartened by our region's openness, warmth, and willingness to teach newbies. We have a strong leadership team in Olivia and Rick, I'm excited to buckle down and get to work building out new ways to support of our Grottos.

A little about me, I grew up in Palmyra, PA, with only three TV channels, one of which was PBS. Access to science and nature shows galvanized my love of the outdoors and stoked the fire of curiosity burning inside me. I'm currently in a career transition into community development through outdoor recreation. I've been lucky to have a wonderful hobby in scuba, both as a diver and instructor and now an intro cave diving certified diver. I adore our NCRC community, and am a huge proponent of safety in all things!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, ideas, and thoughts as we spend 2025 together!





MAR Secretary: Olivia McAllister (NSS 69461)

Hey cavers! I'm really excited to be part of the MAR board. One thing I'm really passionate about is outreach and getting new people caving, and I can't wait to figure out some new ways for the MAR to support other grottos in doing so :)

I started caving in 2017 with the Nittany Grotto after working as a tour guide at Lost River Caverns and finding myself wishing I could go off trail! I've been hooked ever since by the fun, adventure, and incredible caving community.

In my non-caving life, I love to paint, I play trumpet in a local community band, and I'm about to graduate with my master's in speech language pathology. I love to cook too so you can often find me preparing group dinner at the Nittany Grotto campsite. Looking forward to a great year full of new ideas!

This year the NSS Convention will be in Cobleskill, NY! So, the 2025 NSS Video Salon is open for submissions. The deadline is April 30, 2025, so hurry and get your favorite video or film entered before it's too late. All entries will be shown at the NSS Convention in Cobleskill, NY from June 21 to 28, with the Video Salon being shown during the NSS Salon Awards program Thursday night. The entry form and rules can be found at <https://caves.org/salons/video-salon-submissions/>. For any questions, contact Dave Socky at videosalon@caves.org.



Please keep in mind that a program which has a story, or includes a narration of some kind, or has an interesting theme is more likely to be accepted into the NSS Video Salon. So, please, no videos of grotto trips shot with a helmet cam with just music.

I look forward to seeing some excellent submissions this year and to seeing everyone in person in New York. Thank you!

David Socky
Chair of NSS Video Salon



2025 Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar by the National Cave Rescue Commission

The seminar will be held July 11th - 19th at Mountain Gateway Community College in Clifton Forge, VA.

The seminar consists of extensive classroom instruction and fieldwork in all phases of cave rescue including the underground environment, search problems, extrication techniques, patient evaluation and care, patient packaging, horizontal and vertical patient movement, rigging, hauling and lowering systems, communication systems, and the organization and management of cave rescue operations. Students typically include cavers, emergency services personnel, and emergency managers. The training will total nearly 100 hours of classroom and fieldwork.

Courses Include:

- Level 1 - Task Force Member
- Level 2 - Task Force Leader
- Level 3 - Vertical Specialist
- IQ - Instructor Qualification (Invite only)
- *Additional classes may be added (details TBD).

For more information, including prerequisites, visit:

<https://caves.org/ncrc/courses/ncrc-course-descriptions/>

Registration Information:

- **Opens:** February 2nd, 2025, at 12:00 pm Eastern
- **To Register:** Visit <https://caves.org/ncrc> and scroll to "Upcoming Training".
- **Spaces fill quickly!** Be sure to register early. A waitlist will be available.
- **Additional details** will be posted on the registration page soon (including the cancellation policy).

Cost - \$1,168 (includes all meals starting with breakfast on July 12th through breakfast on the 19th)

Lodging:

- Space for tent camping and small campers included (no hookups).
- Showers & Restrooms provided.
- A limited number of air-conditioned bunkhouse-style tents, complete with cots and bed rolls, will be available at no extra cost. Additional details available during registration.

Scholarships:

Scholarships will be available. Details on how to apply will be provided on the registration page.

Questions?

Contact: eastern@ncrc.caves.org

Upcoming Events

<p>2025 MAR Annual Business Meeting</p> <p>Mt. Laurel Church of God 1295 Piketown Road, Linglestown, PA URL: https://mar.caves.org/busnmtg.htm</p>	<p>February 22, 2025</p>
<p>2025 Spring MAR Field Meet</p> <p>Location: TBD Hosted by TBD URL: https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm</p>	<p>Spring 2025</p>
<p>2025 Spring VAR Field Meet</p> <p>Spruce Knob Mountain Center 18 Woodlands Way, Circleville, WV 26804 Hosted by Out of Bounds Grotto (OBG) URL: https://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var</p>	<p>May 9-11, 2025</p>
<p>Speleofest</p> <p>Lone Star Preserve Bonnieville, KY Hosted by Louisville Grotto URL: www.louisvillegrotto.org/speleofest-registration/</p>	<p>May 23-26, 2025</p>
<p>CaveJam</p> <p>The Caverns Pelham, TN (Grundy County) Hosted By: Sewanee Mountain Grotto URL: https://www.cavejamtn.com/</p>	<p>May 24-25, 2025</p>
<p>2025 NSS Convention</p> <p>SUNY Cobleskill Campus and Cobleskill Fairgrounds Cobleskill, NY (Schoharie County) URL: https://caves.org/convention/2025-nss-convention/</p>	<p>June 21-28, 2025</p>
<p>2025 Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar</p> <p>Mountain Gateway Community College Clifton Forge, VA Hosted by NCRC URL: https://caves.org/ncrc/courses/ncrc-course-descriptions/ - or - https://caves.org/ncrc</p>	<p>July 11-19, 2025</p>
<p>Old Timers Reunion (OTR)</p> <p>OTR Site/Campgrounds Dailey, WV (Randolph County) URL: www.otr.org</p>	<p>Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, 2025</p>
<p>2025 Fall MAR Field Meet</p> <p>Location: TBD Hosted by TBD URL: https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm</p>	<p>Fall 2025</p>
<p>2025 Fall VAR Field Meet</p> <p>Location: TBD Hosted by TBD URL: https://var.caves.org/index.php/events/fall-var</p>	<p>Fall 2025</p>
<p>2025 Bridge Day</p> <p>New River Gorge Bridge Fayetteville, WV URL: www.officialbridgeday.com -or- https://www.nps.gov/neri/</p>	<p>October 18, 2025</p>
<p>2026 MAR Annual Business Meeting</p> <p>Mt. Laurel Church of God 1295 Piketown Road, Linglestown, PA URL: https://mar.caves.org/busnmtg.htm</p>	<p>February 28, 2026</p>

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.

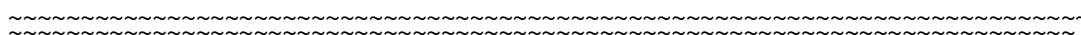
C \$3.00 postage for each bulletin #20.

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



*** New MAR Bulletin Order Coordinator - **Olivia McAllister**, NSS 69461 ***

Info on ordering is available at <https://mar.caves.org/bulletins.htm>

Send bulletin orders to: MAR Bulletins
 % Olivia McAllister
 1208 W Pine Grove Road
 Penn. Furnace, PA 16865