



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 5 Number 3 January 1991

## Pennsylvania Cave Protection Law Passed

During the week of November 19, 1990, Governor Robert Casey signed S.B. 867. The law will take effect in 60 days from the date of signing. This makes Pennsylvania the 23rd state to have a cave protection law.

Each grotto in Pennsylvania was sent a copy of marked-up Senate Bill 867 as amended by the House of Representatives.

Here are the provisions of the new law as written.

It is unlawful for anyone, without the expressed written permission of the land owner, to:

- (1) Willfully or knowingly break, break off, crack, carve upon, write, burn, mark upon, remove or in any manner destroy, disturb, mar or harm surfaces of any cave or any natural material which may be found therein, whether attached or broken, including speleothems, speleogens and sedimentary deposits.
- (2) Break, force, tamper with or otherwise disturb a lock, gate, door or other obstruction designed to control or prevent access to any cave, even though entrance thereto may not be gained.
- (3) Remove, deface or tamper with a sign stating that a cave is posted or citing provisions of this act.
- (4) Store, dump, litter, dispose of or otherwise place any refuse, garbage, dead animal, sewage or toxic substance harmful to cave life or humans in any cave or sinkhole.

MAR Business Meeting  
To Be Hosted By Jay  
Herbein

Feb. 23, 1991, 1:30 PM

Details inside.

- (5) Burn within any cave or sinkhole any material which produces any smoke or gas which is harmful to any organism in the cave. This paragraph shall specifically exempt acetylene gas emissions created by carbide lamps used as a source of light by persons using the cave.
- (6) Kill, injure, disturb or otherwise interfere with any cave life, including any cave roosting bat, or interfere with or obstruct the free movement of any cave life into or out of any cave, or enter any cave with the intention of killing, injuring, disturbing or interfering with life forms therein, except where public health may be threatened.
- (7) Remove, deface, tamper with or otherwise disturb any natural or cultural resources or material found within any cave.
- (8) Disturb or alter in any way the natural condition of any cave.

The law will be enforced by any individual authorized by law to make arrests for violations of the criminal laws of Pa. ■

### Judi Stack Now MAR Regional Coordinator For The NSS Cave Vandalism Deterrence Reward Commission

In December 1990, Judi sent a request to each grotto in the MAR. She asked each grotto to designate a representative who would serve as the local contact for the Commission. Each grotto has been asked to respond by February 23, 1991.

Along with the request she sent an information packet which describes the goals and functions of the Reward Commission. This Commission offers a reward (\$250-\$1,000) for information which leads to the conviction of a cave vandal.

This topic will be discussed at the upcoming MAR business meeting.



If you want more information, contact Judi Stack at 445 Hale Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17104. Her home phone is (717) 238-2198. ■

## How It Was At The 1990 MAR Business Meeting

Minutes of the business meeting of the Mid-Appalachian Region, NSS held Saturday, February 24, 1990 at Herbein's, 625 Carbon Ave., Harrisburg, PA

The meeting was called to order at 1:43 pm. An attendance sheet was passed around, but it never made it the whole way.

The current officers were present and introduced. They are:

Jeanne Wetterling, Chairman  
Keith Wheeland, Vice-Chairman  
Bert Ashbrook, Secretary  
Bette White, Treasurer

Jeanne Wetterling thanked last year's officers for their work:

Hope Uhl, Chairman  
Bob Keinst, Vice-Chairman  
Barb Ritz, Secretary  
Bette White, Treasurer

**Minutes** -- Bert Ashbrook read the minutes from last year's business meeting, which were read and accepted as correct-ed.

**Treasurer's Report** -- Bette White presented the report, which is included on a separate page. The region had a net loss of \$215.19 in 1989. This is because there was not enough money collected for MAR at either the spring or fall field meet.

There should be \$1 collected for the MAR and \$1 collected for a 3-issue MAR Breakdown subscription (total of \$2) from each person at each meet. It was determined that there had been some confusion on that point by the organizers of both field meets.

Carol Tiderman and Hope Uhl agreed to prepare a one page guideline for anyone hosting a field meet, to be edited and distributed by the chairman.

The current balance is \$1083.82, which is enough up-front money to publish one or possibly two small MAR Bulletins. This is a potential cash flow problem, since

### THANKS TO YOU

The Pennsylvania Cave Law Legislation Task Force was established by cavers to get a cave protection law on the books. Now that the law has passed, they say THANK YOU for your part. Those of you who wrote letters, made phone calls, put together the official slide program, gave slide shows and other events and encouraged others to do the same.

According to the Sunday, Nov. 25, 1990 issue of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 4,856 bills were introduced in the past two years. Of those, only 435 bills became law. And 103 of those were appropriation bills.

We should be proud of what we have done to protect the caves of Pennsylvania.

Now, of course, we must make the law work. And we must try to get the amendment made to the Land Owner Liability act, to include cave exploration as a protected activity. ■

most MAR bulletins are expensive to print (about \$750), although they ultimately make a large profit (after 5 or 6 years).

A general discussion followed concerning finances.

It was the consensus of the meeting that MAR field meets have been quite inexpensive (especially compared to VAR field meets) and that a higher price to ensure adequate funding for MAR would not be a problem. The idea of charging grottoes dues to belong to the MAR was also discussed.

At 2:03, Randy Hurst was declared out of order.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Cave Legislation Report** -- Judy Stack reported that a senate bill has been passed, but is not being acted upon in the house because of partisan politics. Calls and letters to legislators are still very important and should support both senate and house bills, which are identical. If the legislation is not passed by Thanksgiving, it will die and we will have to start over.

**County Surveys and Bulletins** -- Will White reported that John Ganter has completed the maps for the Bedford County Survey, but that there is a lot of accompanying text which needs to be written. Will hopes to complete the project by the NSS Convention.

Bert Ashbrook reported that the Northumberland County survey is complete except for a geologic description of the county. It will be completed this year. If more than one bulletin is to be published this year, there will be a cash flow problem. Photographs add to the cost of publication and should be kept to a minimum.

No one from Philly Grotto was present to report on the status of the Berks County survey. Volunteers are being sought to do the Upper Susquehanna Valley (Union, Montour, Clinton, and Lycoming Counties).

During the past year, MAR Bulletin 16 (Northampton County) was published. Dean Snyder edited the material.

Bette White has beautiful new shelves in her garage for storing inventories of bulletins; stop by to browse at any time.

**NCRC Report** -- Jeff Uhl reported that there will be 1 or 2 orientation weekends each month for the next year, with detailed information to follow. A new study guide/workbook has been developed

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## Minutes (Continued)

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## Fall MAR Meet Successful

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and will be used. Also, 9 advanced modules will be taught in the next two years. Butler Cave will receive a rescue cache from the Eastern Region.

**PA Cave Database** -- Keith Wheeland reported that an informational article has been published in many grotto newsletters. 1026 caves are currently listed, and a wide variety of information is available for use in conjunction with research. An impressive mapping package is available. Bat survey data from the PA Game Commission is also included in the database.

**Slide Show** -- Dale Ibberson stated that the cave law slide show would need reworking to make a general interest show, after the law is passed.

**Spring '89 Field Meet** -- Jeanne Wetterling reported that 46 people attended despite rainy weather. Loyalhanna Grotto hosted.

**Fall '89 Field Meet** -- Jeff Uhl reported that 77 people attended, a new record. Prizes in the speleo orienteering/cycling event totaled nearly \$450. Jeff and GAG hosted. Caves are not necessary for a successful meet, good organization is.

### NEW BUSINESS

The issue of MAR finances and of charging grottos dues was again discussed, but there was little support for the idea.

Carol Tiderman moved that if the MAR continues to lose money after the guideline for hosts of MAR field meets is made available, that the \$1 collected for a subscription to the MAR bulletin cover only 2 issues instead of 3. After a lot of discussion, the motion was voted upon and passed.

**Spring '90 Field Meet** -- It was reported that Bill Wolford from Loyalhanna Grotto was helping GROSS Grotto host a joint

MAR-VAR at the OTR site, May 5-6.

The major event will be an Easter related mystery event. The attendance of Head Bunny, Dale Ibberson, will guarantee success.

**Fall '90 Field Meet** -- Jeff Uhl is exploring the possibility of a joint MAR-NRO meet in the Surprise Cave area of New York. No dates have been set.

**Winter '91 Business Meeting** -- Jay Herbein has graciously consented to the allow the use of his house again. It was scheduled for February 23, 1991 at 1:30 pm.

**Spring '91 Field Meet** -- Mark Fanto and Baltimore Grotto will host the event in Southern Pennsylvania, May 18-19, 1991.

**Congress of Grottos** -- Carol Tiderman is soliciting issues for the COG to consider.

**MAR Breakdown** -- Editor Keith Wheeland needs articles to publish, especially schedules of events. The next issue will appear about in two weeks. The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 pm. Refreshments were provided by Jay Herbein, and dinner followed at Dale and Judy's.

Respectfully submitted,

Bert Ashbrook, Secretary

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*Because of a shortage of finances in the MAR, the printing costs for the MAR Breakdown, Vol. 5, No. 1 were donated by the Nittany Grotto.*

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The Fall MAR meet was deemed a success as 74 cavers registered for the event held at the Woodward Cave Campground on September 29 and 30, 1990.

The event was organized by Jay (Dorf) Longenderfer with lots of help from many others.

The weather was great (mostly) and the food was delicious and plentiful.

The guide book published for the event arrived from the printer too late to be distributed. There was one draft copy, however, which was referred to by many cavers.

Door Prizes donated by member grottos were awarded to the lucky recipients. Most prizes were a one-year membership to the sponsoring grotto. In some cases this was accompanied by a grotto patch.

A discounted tour of Woodward Cave was enjoyed by many on Sunday.

Financial report of the event follows:

Income: 890.50

### Expenses:

Beer/Ice 95.50

Salad/Rolls 39.50

Chili 100.00

Soda/Ice 44.00

Campground 336.00

Total exp. 615.00

Profit to MAR 275.50

The following officers, except for treasurer, were elected by secret ballot.

Jeanne Wetterling, Chairman

Keith Wheeland, V. Chairman

Bert Ashbrook, Secretary

Bette White, Treasurer

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**MAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**February 24, 1990**

Gross Assets February 1989:  
 Checking: 238.19  
 Savings: 1160.82  
 Total: 1399.01

Gross Assets February 1990:  
 Checking: 161.55  
 Savings: 1027.27  
 Total: 1188.82

Net Income (Loss) for 1989: (-210.19)

ITEM	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET
INTEREST	21.73		21.73
<b>MAR FIELD MEETS</b>			
<u>Spr '89 (Loyalhanna/Pgh Grotto)</u>			
46 participants			
MAR income(\$46.00 - 37.50 postage)	8.50		8.50
MAR Brkdn income	-0-		
<u>Fall '89 (Allentown: GAG)</u>			
77 participants			
MAR income	-0-		
MAR Brkdn income (2 issues paid for)			
<b>MAR BULLETINS</b>			
MAR 16 printing		723.13	
Postage		81.71	
Sales (NSS Convention)	106.20		
Sales	484.22		
Net			(-214.42)
<b>MAR BREAKDOWN (prev bal: \$39.37)</b>			
Subscriptions (Spring Field Meet)			
Subscriptions (Fall Field Meet)			
Income at Business meeting '89	1.00		
Income at Business meeting '90	5.00		
Postage Vol 3(2)		32.00	
Net(Present bal: \$44.37-\$31.00 = \$13.37)			(-25.00)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>626.65</b>	<b>836.84</b>	<b>(-210.19)</b>

Elizabeth L. White, Treasurer

# M.A.R. BUSINESS MEETING 1991

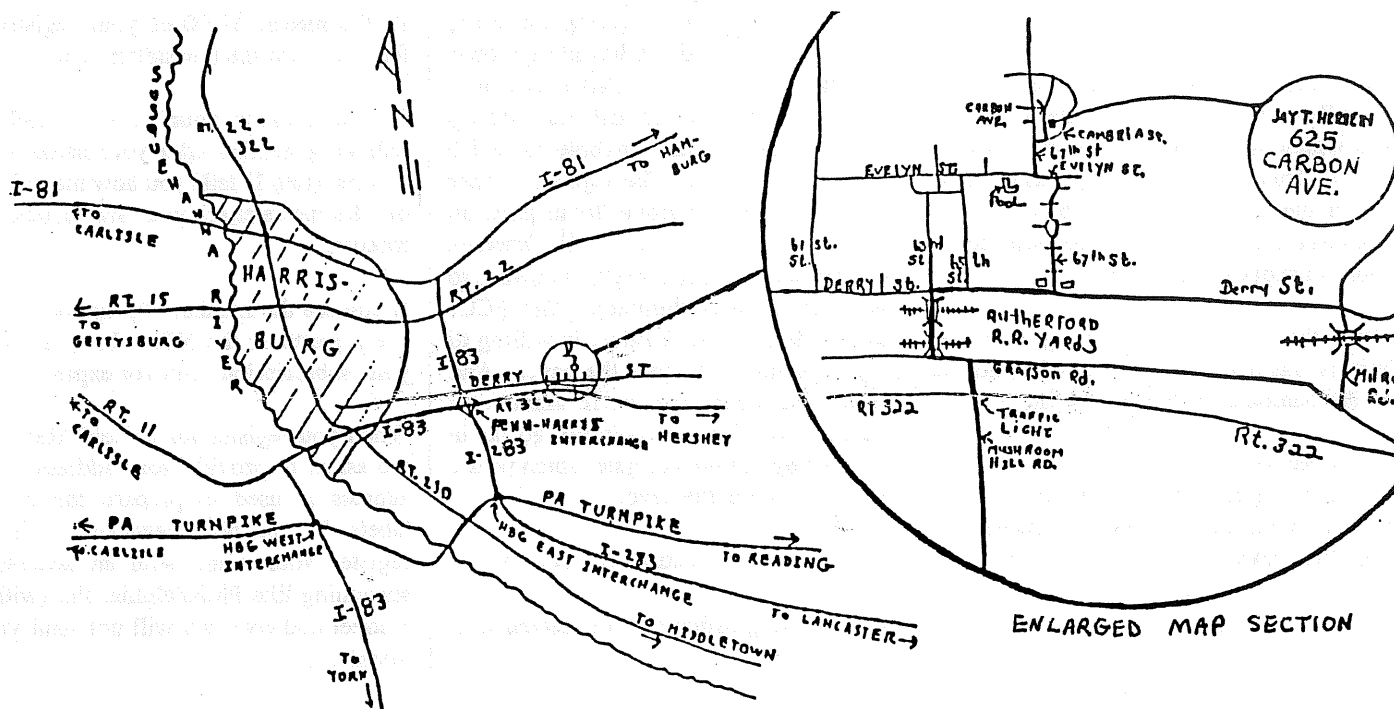
DATE: February 23, 1991

TIME: 1:30 PM

PLACE: Jay Herbein's home. (See Map)

We hope to see a representative from each of the grottos in the MAR.

A party at Dale & Judi's will follow the business meeting. There will be food, beer, and soda at both locations. (Donations are appreciated.) Jay's phone number is (717) 564-5589 and Dale and Judi's is (717) 238-2198.



If coming from the East on Rte. 322 heading toward Harrisburg, turn right onto Mushroom Hill Road at the second traffic light after passing Hummelstown, Pa. Go one block to Grayson Road, turn left, go one block, turn right onto the NEW bridge crossing Rutherford Railroad Yards. At the other end of the bridge is Derry Street. Turn right onto Derry Street, go to 67th Street, turn left, then follow the enlarged map to the house.

If coming from the West, get onto Rte. 322 heading towards Hershey. Turn left onto Mushroom Hill Road at the first traffic light, about 2 miles after Rte. 322 begins at the big Penn-Harris interchange.

If coming from the West on I-83 N., you can NOT get off at Derry Street. Take Rte. 322 and follow the map.

## Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Meeting Held

The meeting was called to order on Sunday, September 30, 1990 at 10:30 a.m. at the Woodward Cave Campground by the chairman, Keith Wheeland.

Representatives were present from Nittany Grotto, Greater Allentown Grotto, York Grotto, and the Baltimore Grotto.

The Treasurer, Dale Ibberson, reported a balance of between \$200 and \$300.

### Old Business: Cave Legislation

Judy Stack reported on the progress of the Cave Protection and Cave Owner Liability acts which are pending in the state legislature. There are very few working days left in the current session, so it is very important that persons write to their legislators to support the bills.

Plans for a follow-up mailing to cave owners was discussed. This is dependent on the outcome of the legislation.

It was decided that all Grottos in the state should be urged to supply names, addresses, and phone numbers of cave owners in their local areas.

This information, when collected, would be used to contact the owners. It would then be turned over to Keith Wheeland to update the Pennsylvania Cave Database.

### Old Business: Carpenters Cave

The access to Carpenter's Cave was discussed. At a previous meeting, Ed Sira had proposed that the PCC try to work with the owners to re-open the cave. Ed volunteered to work with two representatives of PCC from the Greater Allentown Grotto (GAG). Subsequent conversations with Ed indicated that he had not taken any action. It was decided at this meeting that since access to the cave was of a greater interest to GAG, that they should be the ones to initiate contact with the owners. It would be left up to them

as to when and how they would act. It was noted that the pending cave protection and owner liability acts, if passed, would have a bearing on any discussions with the owners.

### New Business: Cleversburg Sink

It was reported that the owner of Cleversburg Sink was again indicating that he would like to re-gate the cave. A number of years ago he had indicated that he was interested in re-gating the cave, but, when contacted, he has always been too busy to pursue it. This situation is complicated by the fact that the property line goes through the sinkhole in which the cave is located. The adjacent owner has constructed a mobile home park on the site near the cave. Dale Ibberson volunteered to again contact the owner to find out his latest thinking. The PCC, through its member Grottos, is willing to supply personnel to gate the cave. And money, however, the small amount of funds in the treasury would not go far in constructing the type of gate which would be necessary for the cave.

### New Business: Election of Officers

The following officers were elected to a one year term.

#### Chairman:

Larry Clauser - Grtr Allntwn Grotto

#### Vice Chairman:

Pat Minnick - Franklin Cnty Grotto

#### Treasurer:

Dale Ibberson - York Grotto

#### Secretary:

Keith Wheeland - Nittany Grotto

### New Business: Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held during the 1991 Fall MAR meet.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith D. Wheeland, Secretary

## Why Did You Receive This Newsletter?

Each grotto in the MAR receives a copy of this newsletter. And a copy is sent to the NSS.

If you attend one of the MAR Field Meets held each Spring and Fall, you receive credit for three copies of the newsletter. Why three? Because we publish three issues per year. One to announce each of the Meets and one to announce the business meeting.

At the meets, \$1.00 of your registration fee goes into the newsletter fund.

If you examine your address label you will see a number after your name. That number (less 1) tells you how many issues of the newsletter you are entitled to receive.

If you see the number 99, that means you are a grotto or the NSS. In other words your subscription does not expire.

When you register for a Field Meet, you are asked to provide your address. This address is used to prepare the mailing labels for the next newsletter. If you register your name with an address of something like Philadelphia, Pa. (without a street address), we will not send you a newsletter.



Send your address changes to Carol Tiderman, 7600 Pindell School Road, Fulton, MD 20759 ■

## Volunteer Needed To Coordinate The NSS Project Of Cave Registers In The MAR

The NSS is seeking a volunteer for coordinating the cave register program in the MAR.

If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact one of the officers of the MAR.

The official name of this project is now called The Contemporary Cave Use Study (CCUS for short).

As the regional coordinator, you would be expected to encourage other NSS groups and grottos in the MAR to participate in the project. You would also distribute cave registers to interested people, and might also receive completed registers from participating groups.

The newly improved cave register is designed for use throughout the U.S. as part of the ongoing 25 year effort of the CCUS.

Participation helps advance speleology because the questions on the register provide data needed to properly measure caving activity for conservation and management. It also measures impact on the cave.

It helps the NSS by providing the leadership information which is not now available through other means.

By using the standardized form, a grotto can make valid comparisons between caves within the region or with caves in other areas of the U.S.

It is also another means by which organized cavers can reach the unaffiliated cavers in the area.

Cave registers, and containers are provided by the CCUS. Computer software is being developed and tested that will allow participants to enter and store their register data. ■

MAR Breakdown

## How Many Caves In Your County?

These figures were taken from the Pennsylvania Cave Database which is maintained by Keith Wheeland. Note that the following data includes only PA caves.

If your county is not on the list, we know of no caves in that county.

Adams	2
Allegheny	8
Armstrong	13
Bedford	52
Berks	68
Blair	97
Bucks	24
Butler	1
Centre	107
Chester	2
Clarion	11
Clearfield	1
Clinton	19
Cumberland	38
Dauphin	9
Delaware	1
Fayette	37
Franklin	83
Fulton	4
Huntingdon	123
Indiana	3
Jefferson	4
Juniata	5
Lancaster	63
Lawrence	2
Lebanon	10
Lehigh	18
Luzerne	1
Lycoming	15
Mercer	1
Mifflin	62
Monroe	1
Montgomery	6
Montour	3
Northampton	22
Northumberland	17
Perry	13
Philadelphia	4
Potter	1
Schuylkill	2
Snyder	20
Somerset	4
Union	7
Venango	6
Washington	1
Westmoreland	39
Wyoming	1
York	26

TOTAL 1,057

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## Improving Land Owner Relations

What means does your grotto use to promote good land owner relations?

We would like to hear from you. What have you tried? Did it work? Didn't it work? If it didn't, why didn't it?

What else are you planning to do?

Please send the answers to the above questions to the editor of this newsletter. Use the return address printed on this newsletter.

As an example, the Nittany Grotto sends Christmas Cards to selected cave owners. It lets them know we're thinking of them.

We also send a complimentary issue of each grotto newsletter to selected cave owners.



Your Grotto experiences will be printed in the next issue. Let's share ideas. ■

This newsletter was prepared using WordPerfect 5.1, DFI Scan (to scan the logo), and an HP LaserJet III. (These names are copyrighted by their respective companies.)

Volume 5 Number 3 January 1991

## MAR BULLETINS AVAILABLE

No.	County in Pennsylvania		Cost	Postage
10	Snyder	20 caves, 14 maps	1.25	*
11	Centre	71 caves, 56 maps/ 1 large map	4.75	*
12	Mifflin	47 caves, 31 maps/5 large maps	5.50	**
13	Perry	13 caves, 6 maps	1.50	*
14	Bucks	24 caves, 6 maps	3.00	*
15	Lehigh	25 caves, 13 maps	3.25	*
16	Northampton	24 caves, 13 maps/1 large map	5.50	*

\*U.S. Postage: \$0.75 each copy: \$0.25 each additional to same adr.

\*\*U.S. Postage: \$1.00 each copy: \$0.50 each additional to same adr.

Make check payable to MAR Order from Bette White  
542 Glenn Road  
State College, PA 16803

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Keith D. Wheeland  
Editor, MAR Breakdown  
2191 Mt. View Ave.  
State College, PA 16801  
(814) 238-2057