



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 9, Number 2, September 1994

## MAR Fall Field Meet set for October 7 & 8, 1994

The MAR Fall Field meet will be held Oct. 7 & 8, 1994 in Shippensburg, PA. It will be hosted by York Grotto.

See page 2 for details and directions.

### Hosterman's Pit Status Report

by Keith Wheeland

The effort to save Hosterman's Pit from being destroyed from mining is still moving ahead. On August 16, the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board approved the proposed rulemaking which would declare the land overlying Hosterman's Pit as Unsuitable for Mining (UFM). The Proposed Rulemaking must now go once again to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) for their action. We expect the IRRC public meeting will be held either Sept. 28 or October 5 at which time they are expected to announce their decision. If they vote in favor of UFM, we expect the mining company to file a lawsuit.

In a related matter, late in 1992 the Penns Valley Conservation Association (PVCA) filed a petition to have portions of Elk and Pine Creeks upgraded to Exceptional Value (EV). DER recommended an upgrade to High Quality (not as high as EV). Extensive studies were then undertaken by the PVCA and forwarded to DER. DER is now recommending that upper portions of each creek be upgraded to Exceptional Value. If this happens, the

water quality would not be allowed to be degraded. This would probably require the mining company to drastically change their mining plans.

If you have been putting off writing to IRRC, you still have time. The IRRC is impressed by the amount of mail it receives, because that helps them judge the importance of an issue to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Of course, if you live outside Pennsylvania and have visited Hosterman's Pit, your letter certainly counts. So if you haven't yet written, here is the address.

Mr. Thomas P. Comerford, Jr.  
Chair, Independent Regulatory Review  
Commission  
333 Market St. 14th floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Thank the IRRC for its efforts so far; tell them that this significant cave should be preserved in its natural state; and indicate that you are hopeful that they will continue their efforts to protect Hosterman's Pit.

### Hosterman's Pit T-Shirts

The Nittany Grotto once again has Hosterman's Pit T-Shirts in sizes large and extra large. They are \$15. The profits go toward efforts to save Hosterman's Pit.

### MAR Spring Meet a Success

This report was excerpted by Keith Wheeland from the *Nittany Grotto News*, Vol. 41, No. 2, May 1994.

The MAR Spring meet was hosted by the Huntingdon County Cave Hunters (HCCH) and held at the Williamsburg Community Center. There were 121 registrants, 109 adults and 12 children. Seventeen grottos in seven states were represented.

There were trips to nearby caves, including a gratis trip to nearby show cave, Lincoln Caverns in which 26 cavers participated.

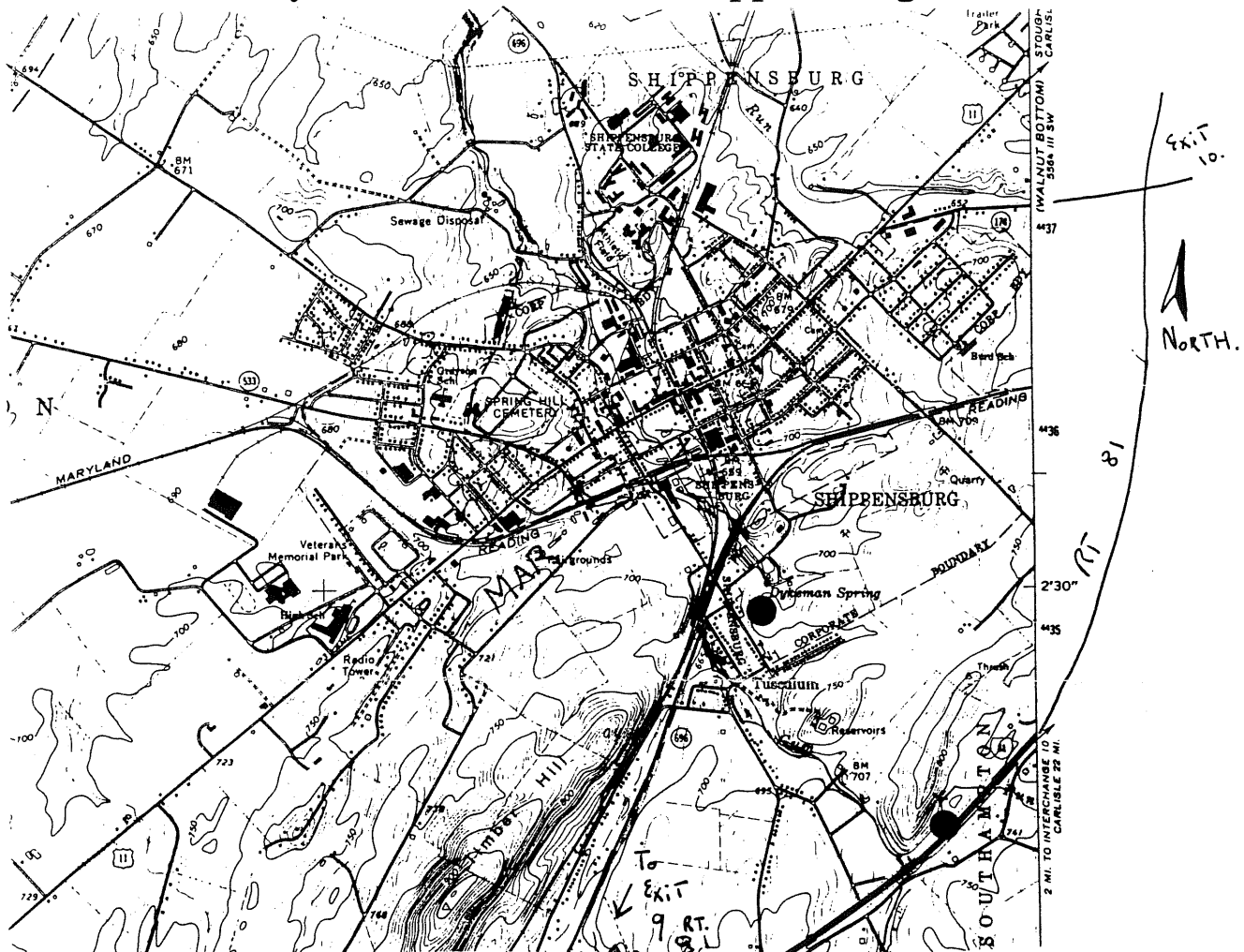
The Saturday evening meal was served buffet style in the hall on the campground. Salads, rolls, spaghetti, and sauces were available. A separate table loaded with homemade desserts was provided by the HCCH grotto members. Another table held soft drinks. There was plenty of food.

After the meal, MAR Chairman, Jim Kennedy thanked the HCCH for a fine meet. Vice-Chairman, Keith Wheeland provided a status report on the efforts to save Hosterman's Pit. Door prizes were awarded.

Mike Cullinan, co-compiler and editor of the MAR bulletins for Blair County and Huntingdon County, presented a short history of caving in Huntingdon and surrounding counties. John Taylor illustrated the talk with slides of early caving (late 1950's - early 1970's) in the area.

Recognized in the audience was co-compiler and editor of the aforementioned MAR Bulletins, Jack Speece. Also recognized was the owner of Lincoln Caverns, Myron (Mike) Dunleavy and his wife Marion.

FALL M.A.R.  
SHIPPENSBURG, PA - OCTOBER 7 & 8, 1994  
hosted by YORK GROTTO Shippensburg Fairgrounds



Full Registration - \$15.00 per person  
Featuring Speleocycling, lots of caving, camping,  
Dinner on Saturday!

Contact: Bob Keintz  
113 Hillside Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

home: (717) 697-2283  
work 1-800-437-1266, extension 209

# The 1995 NSS Convention

## Blacksburg, Virginia

July 17 - 21

Blacksburg is nestled between the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Nearby can be found the Jefferson national Forest, the Appalachian Trail, and other natural wonders, including caves.

The Blacksburg area is easily accessed by car: The town is located on U.S. Route 460, off U.S. Interstate 81 (Exit 118). It is approximately 40 miles west of Roanoke and approximately 50 miles east of the south exit of the West Virginia Turnpike.

By air, flights are available from Woodrun Regional Airport in Roanoke. Limousine service is provided between Roanoke and Blacksburg. Rental cars are also available. Other recommended airports are Dulles International in Chantilly, Va., Washington International in DC, and Charlottesville, Va.

By bus, service is available to Christiansburg, Va., approximately 10 miles east of Blacksburg.

The weather during July is characterized by temperatures in the 80's. The average rainfall is 10-11 inches per month. We hope it will not be like 1971 when all the rain fell during Convention week. But, it is convention.

There are hundreds of caves in the Blacksburg vicinity and, unfortunately, like many other caving areas, some are closed and others are sensitive. We are already planning many pre and post convention field camps within a two hour drive of Blacksburg. This will provide a diversity of caving experiences. During the week there will be guided tours to some of the local caves and open access to others. There will be information at the registration area about local caves and access status.

The Geology Field Trip shouldn't be missed and the accompanying guide book will be well worth having, even if you can't make the field trip. We are also working on having other scientific pre and post field trips.

The college provides excellent facilities. There are large class rooms and lecture halls located in adjoining buildings. A theatre seating 3,000 will easily handle the Photo Salon. The gymnasium will host the vertical sessions. Also you will find large open areas inside and out for socializing, planning your day, or just relaxing.

IT'S NOT TOO  
EARLY TO  
PLAN ON  
ATTENDING  
THE 1995 NSS  
CONVENTION  
RIGHT HERE IN  
OUR BACK  
YARD.

Camping will be on campus. While vehicles will not be allowed in camp, they can be parked just across the street. An area for vehicle campers will be available. Bring your bike for campus commuting.

On campus there are many dorms. They are not air-conditioned, but they have good air circulation. Bringing along a

fan might be a good idea. We encourage dorm living where you will be in sight of the sessions buildings.

There are 120 on-campus rooms available in the Donaldson Brown Center. They include color TV, cable, air-conditioning, phone, and private bath. The town of Blacksburg can accommodate over 1,000 convention attendees and all rooms are within a 10 minute drive of campus. A listing of these sites will be available upon request.

The college offers a meal plan. There are also eateries on campus. It's but a short walk to town where there are additional restaurants and shops. Banks, gas stations, groceries, and liquid refreshments are nearby.

Be sure to bring along your slides, your bike, and items for the auction. Come join us in the lovely surroundings where mountains and trees are plentiful and closeby. Plan to socialize with old friends, attend informative sessions, cave, and most of all, to have fun in Beautiful Blacksburg.

Keep watching the *NSS News* for details.

Questions? Suggestions! Contact

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## NSS Member Price List Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins

	Caves	Maps	Large Maps	Cost	Postage Code
8 Caves of Blair Co., PA (Reprint)	89	40		6.50	A
9 Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA (Reprint)	94	36		7.50	A
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		1.50	A
14 Caves of Bucks, Co., PA	24	6		3.00	A
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

Postage codes

- A US Postage: \$0.75 for first copy: \$0.25 for each additional copy to the same address.  
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- B US Postage: \$1.00 for the first copy: \$0.25 for each additional copy to the same address.  
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Please make checks payable in US funds to MAR. Send to Bette White, 542 Glenn Road, State College, PA 16803