



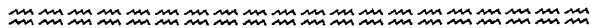
BREAKDOWN

January 1996

ONE METHOD OF APPROACHING LANDOWNERS

By: Keith Christenson

Mail ballot results!
 Bert Ashbrook, Chris "Foom" Sanders and Keith Christenson, were elected to MAR officer positions. Bert will be our new chair, Keith is our secretary, and I shall be serving you as vice-chair and editor of the Breakdown. - = *Foom*



MAR Agenda

These hot topics and much more will be the center of the agenda for the 96' MAR business meet. Be there!

Westmoreland County Bulletin: This will be the biggest thing ever published by MAR. How will we pay for it?

Fayette County Bulletin: This is almost ready to go, but editor Jim Kennedy has moved to Texas. What is happening?

PA Game Commission: What is going on between MAR and PGC regarding access to gated caves?

Field Meets: Where they will be, and who will have the honor of hosting them?

Elections: How will we handle elections when they are not held at the fall field meet?

Quarries: The latest info on the Hosterman's Pit and Hillside quarry proposals

Incorporation: Should the MAR become a non-profit corporation?

Karst Maps: Should a information exchange between the MAR and the DEP Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey be initiated?

In February of 1995, the Nittany Grotto decided to begin the project of documenting and mapping the caves of the upper Susquehanna River drainage. It is a big region, covering five counties, but only 48 caves were known in the area. Our initial inquiries to cavers in the area told us of two main drawbacks. First, the caves tend to be very low and wet, and secondly, across this region landowners had not been very favorable to caving. The first problem was solved by buying massive amounts of polypro and wetsuits, but the second needed more thought.

At first, I went back over all the reasons why caves were closed by landowners and attempted to set up a few simple guidelines for the project cavers to follow. This I hoped would avoid re-making past mistakes. The cave closures I knew of were usually for one of two reasons: Either the landowner was afraid of liability or was fed up with inconsiderate trespassers. Other reasons included vandalism to property and/or the cave, blocking farm lanes or leaving gates open, mistrust of outsiders, cave acts as a local water supply, cave is known to be dangerous, and superstitions about the cave.

Based on these criteria, we set about listing a few ways to prevent these problems. First, Keith Wheeland compiled a packet containing the PA landowner liability act, along with the cave vandalism act. It included both laws word for word in full legalese (in case their lawyer wanted to read it) as well as a straightforward paraphrasing of the law making it easier to understand. This packet is presented to any landowner who expresses liability or vandalism concerns.

Next, we tried to get a handle on the trespassing issue. Our fieldwork included knocking on the doors of farmers' houses, telling them what we were doing and why we felt their property was important to us. For the initial approach, we planned to have at least a full hour available to talk. Obviously, most farmers are busy and would only chat for a few minutes, but often the landowner wants to get a feel for the people asking to crawl around on his property. Typically, by spending some time talking, we would not only receive permission to look around, but they would fill us in on the history of the area, often showing us where sinkholes opened up in the past.

This straightforward approach worked so well, I asked the cavers on the project to follow these guidelines.

1. Never cross someone's property until you have spoken to the landowner, or a neighbor indicates the owner has no problem with people walking there.
2. Be relatively neat looking.
3. Do not arrive smelling like beer or smoking a cigarette.
4. Always ask where to park and if you need to know anything to stay away from.
5. Ask if you should stop back in before you leave.

These common courtesies have allowed us to walk hundreds of acres of land, most of which is posted. Another good idea is to ask permission before digging on the property. With permission to walk and dig on someone's land, you can find out if there are any caves around.

The next step is to receive permission to go caving. This can easily be done at the same time as asking for permission to walk around or to dig. Most landowners will agree to caving when asked, but you need to find out what the conditions are. We try to find out things like if there are any kids around who might sneak in, or if they put cattle in that field that might break a leg. Mostly, we let the landowner tell us what his concerns are, and then try to mitigate them. Most often it comes down to one of three things: cover the entrance back up when you leave, stop back and tell me what you find, or no conditions at all. Of course, once the conditions for caving are known, follow them. These conditions may change later if the cave becomes more popular, but during these early stages they are usually pretty simple to follow.

Additionally, try to give something back to the landowners. This is usually as simple as showing them pictures from inside their cave, or giving them a copy of the map. Also, let them know that if they need a hand with something while you are around that you would be glad to help. You can also do things on a larger scale. Host a caver picnic in a locality with many cave owners and invite them all over. Holding a mini photo salon at the picnic will get everyone's attention.

Another idea is to host a sinkhole cleanup. Chris 'Foom' Sanders of the Nittany Grotto recently orchestrated a massive cleanup at a cave known as Spider Sink. He contacted the local Soil Conservation District who found funding of nearly \$2000 for the project. The cleanup took two days, with food, drinks, porta-john, camping, etc. provided. In the end, over 70 volunteers from grottoes, boy scouts, and college fraternities showed up and removed over ten tons of garbage from the forty foot deep sinkhole. During the cleanup, many local landowners stopped by, and all agreed that what we were doing was badly needed. Things like this really pay off later, not just for the environment, when you find out about other caves in the area from the landowners themselves.

Overall, this article states many obvious points, but I have never seen them all put into one place. Also, before the letters to the editor roll in by the crateload, remember that these are concepts which work well in our area of central Pennsylvania, but will not work for all situations, nor am I suggesting that they will. Lastly, I have not even brought up the problems non-organized cavers produce after caves become more well known. I am leaving that area for someone with more answers than I.



Editor's Note: As basic as these tactics seem they work and have fantastically gratifying results. Landowners want to know about their land and are often proud of their cave and the interest that cavers have in it. I have been invited to dinner numerous times by landowners while working on the Caves of the Upper Susquahana Drainage MAR Bulletin. A few have even asked me to stop by during the holidays and talk about their cave with their children and grandchildren. It is a very gratifying thing to be adopted by a group of landowners as part of their community. Common courtesy and a hand extended offering knowledge and friendship can never be overrated. - = *Foom*

A Winter Project by Keith D. Wheeland

Have you ever wanted to be able to look for a particular article that you know was published in your grotto newsletter? Have you ever wanted to find that trip report or description to a particular cave? Are you sitting around this winter because the snow has you confined? Need a "cave fix"?

You can find the answers to these questions by constructing an index to your grotto newsletter. Before you just say "no way!", let me explain how easy it is. (It may be time consuming, but it is easy!) All you have to do is order a copy of my handy, dandy shareware PC computer program. I don't expect any money unless it works for you!

Here's a little background, in case you're still not convinced. Back in 1988, Ira Sasowsky asked me if I would be interested in writing a program to help with the production of the index to the *SpeleoDigest*. The resulting program was used by at least twelve persons across the United States to enter data for the index. After the index was complete, Ira continued to use the software to produce the index for the *NSS Bulletins*. In 1994, Bert Ashbrook asked about the software because he wanted to produce an index to the *Pack Rat Scat*, the newsletter of the Greater Allentown Grotto. Bert had some ideas he wanted incorporated into the software, so I sent him an improved version. Over the span of about a year, Bert used the software to enter data for the index. He suggested ideas for improvements and (more times than I care to admit) informed me of bugs in the program. But, we got through it. He published the index to the *Pack Rat Scat* in Issue 61, August 1995 of that newsletter. Ira, meantime has used the latest version to produce the index to the upcoming *NSS Bulletin*.

Here are a few items about the software. It operates under DOS as a single user program (don't push, but I'm thinking of a version for Windows.) It can be used by multiple persons to divide the work for a large project. The output can be exported to a file in Rich Text Format, which almost every word processor can import. You decide how you want the citation structured. You can produce two different indices. One by keyword, and one by author.

If you're interested in trying it, just contact me and ask for a copy of KWISOFT. Try it. If it works for you, send me \$10. You can also thank Ira and Bert for their suggestions for improving the software.

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Without further ado, I present to you with the Constitution and Bylaws of the MAR. Electoral ambiguities have prompted work on a amendment. This amendment will provide for cases where the normal election proceedings fail to provide the council with a set of candidates to vote on.

CONSTITUTION OF THE MID-APPALACHIAN REGION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this region shall be the Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society.

ARTICLE II - SUBORDINATION

The Constitution and By-Laws of The National Speleological Society shall be binding on this region.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Region shall be to promote fellowship among its members and to advance the science of Speleology.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERS AND GROTTOS

This region shall comprise National Speleological Society Grottos and members located or residing within the bounds of the Region.

ARTICLE V - REGIONAL COUNCIL

The governing body of the Region shall be a Regional Council. The Regional Council shall consist of the officers of the Region, representatives from each member Grotto, and regional members not affiliated with any grotto.

No council member may exercise more than one vote at council meetings.

ARTICLE VI - ORGANIZATION

A. Executive Committee

The Current Officers shall act as a nominating committee to select a slate of candidates for Regional Officers, consisting of three regular members of the National Speleological Society chosen from the Mid-Appalachian Region to serve for a term running from one January 1st to the next. The slate, with secret ballot, shall be given to all members present at the Fall M.A.R. Meet and counted on the same day.

B. Officers

The newly elected officers shall determine among themselves who shall fill the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENT

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the Regional Council. A proposed amendment shall become effective upon its ratification by the majority of the Grottos of the Region provided this ratification occurs within one year of the proposal.

BY-LAWS FOR THE MID-APPALACHIAN REGION OF THE N.S.S.

BY-LAW I - REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Section 1: Time and place of Regional Council meetings may be designated by either the chairman or the council. Notice of every Council meeting must be mailed to all Regional Officers and Grottos at least two weeks before the meeting.

Section 2: Twenty percent of the Regional Council shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3: Roberts Rules of Order, revised edition shall be the parliamentary authority for all Regional Council meetings.

BY-LAW II - OFFICERS

Section 1: The Chairman shall direct the affairs of the Region but shall be subordinate to the Council. The Chairman shall preside at Council meetings.

Section 2: The Vice-Chairman shall perform duties as assigned by the Chairman and the Regional Council. The Vice-Chairman shall assume the authority and duties of the Chairman in case of the Chairman's resignation or inability to serve. The Vice-Chairman shall assume that portion of the Chairman's visitation and representation duties that the Chairman deems necessary.

Section 3: The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Council meetings, be custodian of the records and conduct correspondence as directed by the Chairman.

BY-LAW III - STANDING COMMITTEES

The Regional Chairman shall make all appointments to the standing committees. They are:

Section 1: The REGION CAVE FILE Committee shall collect and make available to Region members and to National Headquarters data on caves located within the Region.

Section 2: The PROGRAM Committee shall plan and conduct the Spring and Fall Meets subject to the approval of the Regional Chairman.

Section 3: The PUBLICATION Committee shall publish the Mid-Appalachian Bulletin.

BY-LAW IV - REGIONAL TERRITORY

The Regional Territory shall include Southern New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

BY LAW V - MEETINGS

Section 1: There shall be an annual Regional Business meeting at a time and place designated by the Regional Officers.

Section 2: There shall be a Spring and Fall Regional Field Trip at a time and place designated by the Regional Officers.

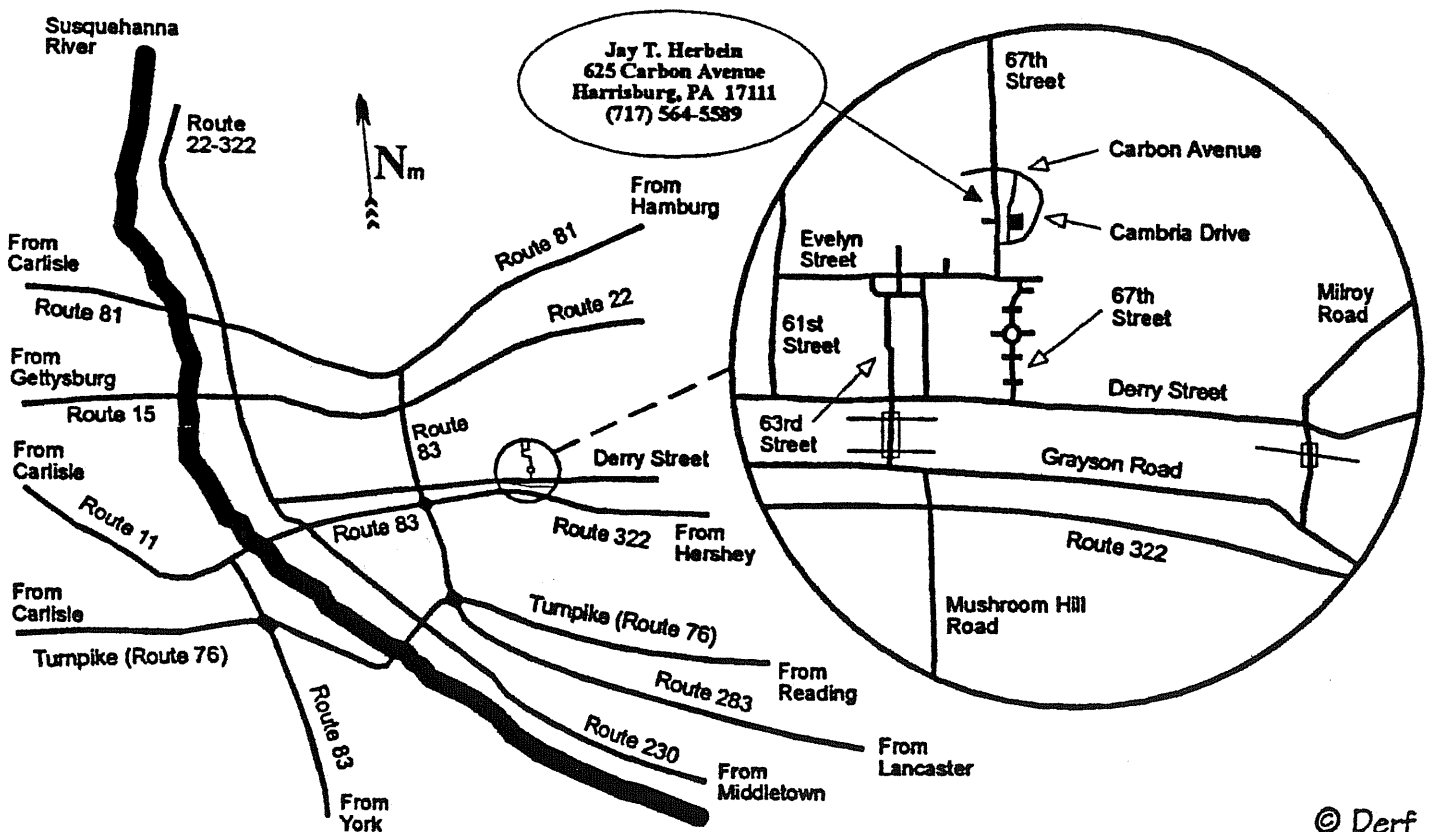
BY-LAW VI - AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Regional Council.

The M.A.R. Business Meet!

Will be held at Jay Herbein's house in Harrisburg, on February 24th 1996, at 1:30 pm. After the meeting there will be a party at Dale Ibberson's house; also in Harrisburg.

Directions to Dale's house will be available at the MAR business meeting. Crash space will be available. (Remember your pillow) Both the meeting and the party will have food and refreshments, donations to defer the cost from our hosts will be welcome.



THE M.A.R. REVIEW

Highlights of Grotto Newsletters in the Mid-Appalachian Region by Bert Ashbrook.

Note: If your newsletter is not reviewed in this column, make sure you send a copy to: Bert Ashbrook, 1257 Lehigh Parkway South, Allentown, PA 18103-3875.

The Fall 1995 issue of Loyalhanna Grotto's The Loyalhanna Troglodyte (volume 9:1) includes a discussion of the Tasman Resources Chestnut Ridge Quarry (Westmoreland County) by Kim Metzgar. Permits were approved after changes which will protect Copperhead Cave and smaller caves.

The Loyalhanna folks had so much to publish that they put out a special issue at the same time. The issue contains Paul Damon's historical notes on southwestern Pennsylvania caves, which were known and written about as early as any in the state. Lemon Hole Cave (Westmoreland County) is the subject of Kim Metzgar's history article, which identifies it as the subject of newspaper reports dating back to 1883. Kim also publishes her excellent fold-out map of the half-mile long cave. Lee Blazek offers a geology of the cave. Tom Metzgar provides descriptions of numerous smaller Westmoreland County caves, along with maps by Tom and Kim.

The Greater Allentown Grotto's Fall, 1995 Pack Rat Scat (issue #61) and the special issue of the Troglodyte both feature a section on Coon Cave. This Westmoreland County classic and its geology are described by Bert Ashbrook along with his two-page fold-out map. The cave is over a mile long. Kim Metzgar provides a history of the cave as well as discussions of

the disputed ownership of the land and access to it. That Pack Rat Scat also includes a 30-page long keyword index to the first 15 years of the newsletter.

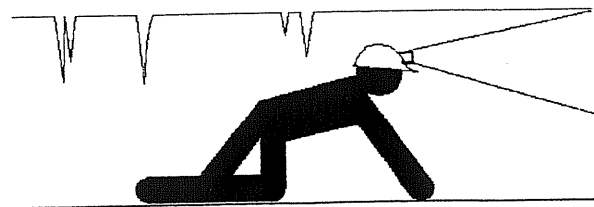
The Central Jersey Caver (Fall 1995) includes John Tudek's description and map of Mud Pond Cave (Warren County, New Jersey). The 154-foot long cave is primarily formed in talus, but it contains some solutional features. It is owned by the Nature Conservancy.

The Franklin County Grotto's October 1995 Cumberland County Caver (6:1) dispels many myths about West Virginia's deep pits. Terry McClanathan reports that many of the reported depths are incorrect, and he reports the results of many of his own measurements.

Lauren's and Maywood School Caves are done, Lone Oak Cave ends in a sump, Keffer Cave is being surveyed, and ridgewalking continues.

The November, 1995 issue of the Philadelphia Grotto News (30:11) describes progress on Philly Grotto's Sinking Creek Project in Craig County, Virginia. Mike Fernandez reports Lauren's and Maywood School Caves are done, Lone Oak Cave ends in a sump, Keffer Cave is being surveyed, and ridgewalking continues. Tom Cunningham discusses the tandem Prussik belay, which he considers "the safest, simplest, and most efficient" cavers' belay method.

Mike Fernandez is also pictured in the October South Jersey Grotto News. A reprint of a feature about caving which appeared in the Courier-Post newspaper shows a photo of Mike.



LONG CAVE LIST

DEEP CAVE LIST

FROM THE CAVE DATA BASE OF PENNSYLVANIA
1/14/96

NAME	METERS	FEET	COUNTY	NAME	METERS	FEET	COUNTY
1 Harlansburg	6,647.1	21,808	Lawrence	1 Laurel Caverns	141.4	464	Fayette
2 Laurel Caverns	3,682.0	12,080	Fayette	2 Big Ridge	125	410	Mifflin
3 Quarry Hill	2,393.0	7,851	Cumberland	3 Copperhead	103	338	Westmoreland
4 Bear	2,286.0	7,500	Westmoreland	4 Sawmill	78.9	259	Westmoreland
5 Hostermans Pit	2,020.8	6,630	Centre	5 Askon Hollow	65.2	214	Fayette
6 Bradys Bend	2,000.7	6,564	Armstrong	6 Hostermans Pit	58.8	193	Centre
7 Alexander Caverns	1,872.4	6,143	Mifflin	7 Ruth	56.7	186	Huntingdon
8 Coon	1,716.0	5,630	Westmoreland	8 Appliance Pit	51.8	170	Lehigh
9 Kooken	1,676.4	5,500	Huntingdon	9 McAlisterville	50	164	Juniata
10 Rupert	1,660.2	5,447	Mifflin	10 Kooken	48.8	160	Huntingdon
11 Ruth	1,625.2	5,332	Huntingdon	11 Barton	46	151	Fayette
12 Hindman	1,524.0	5,000	Armstrong	12 Alters	45.7	150	Centre
13 Penn Aqua	1,341.1	4,400	Mifflin	New Year's	45.7	150	Bedford
14 J-4	1,325.9	4,350	Centre	14 Zook's Pit	43.9	144	Mifflin
15 Womers	1,223.8	4,015	Perry	15 Crystal Cave	42.4	139	Berks
16 Milroy	1,219.2	4,000	Mifflin	16 Reichard	40.8	134	Franklin
17 Copperhead	1,196.6	3,926	Westmoreland	17 Curfman #1	39.6	130	Huntingdon
18 Hershey-Coy	1,176.5	3,860	Cumberland	18 Boyer #2	38.1	125	Snyder
19 Tytoona	1,140.0	3,740	Blair	19 Spider Sink	37.8	124	Clinton
20 McFadden	1,111.60	3,647	Huntingdon	20 Lemon Hole	37.2	122	Westmoreland
21 Aitkin	1,066.80	3,500	Mifflin	Quarry Hill	37.2	122	Cumberland
22 Baker Caverns	914.4	3,000	Franklin	22 J-4	33.5	110	Centre
Cleversburg Sink	914.4	3,000	Cumberland	Lanes Lead Pit	33.5	110	Bedford
Peiper	914.4	3,000	Cumberland	24 Koz Pit	33.2	109	Lehigh
25 Allensville	883.9	2,900	Mifflin	25 Fantasy	32.9	108	Huntingdon
26 Sarah Furnace	838.2	2,750	Clarion	26 Red Church	32.6	107	Schuylkill
27 Lemon Hole	796.7	2,614	Westmoreland	27 Arch Spring	32	105	Blair
28 McClure	777.2	2,550	Snyder	28 Flood Farm	30.5	100	Huntingdon
29 Loyalhanna Creek	762	2,500	Westmoreland	Sharer	30.5	100	Centre
30 McAlisterville	710.8	2,332	Juniata	Tytoona	30.5	100	Blair
31 Fantasy	709	2,326	Huntingdon	31 McFadden	29.3	96	Huntingdon
32 Sawmill	708.7	2,325	Westmoreland				
33 Barton	693.1	2,274	Fayette				
34 Red Church	678.2	2,225	Schuylkill				
35 Arch Spring	643.1	2,110	Blair				
36 Woodward	611.7	2,007	Centre				
37 Salisbury Mine	609.6	2,000	Somerset				
Sharer	609.6	2,000	Centre				
39 Lost River Caverns	600.2	1,969	Northampton				
40 Portersville	591.9	1,942	Butler				
41 Big Ridge	548.6	1,800	Mifflin				
42 Crystal Cave	544.1	1,785	Berks				
43 West York	519.7	1,705	York				
44 Penns	518.2	1,700	Centre				
45 Carnegie	515.1	1,690	Cumberland				
46 Askon Hollow	507.2	1,664	Fayette				

The PA cave database is a project that many hours of work has been spent on. This project is only possible through the help of all our Grottos. Please mail information sheets on new caves, or changes in current information to,

Keith D. Wheeland
2191 Mt. View Ave.
State College, PA 16801-7214

Note: Spider Sink has broken into the deep caves list! Blessing Mountain Wells, J4, and Peeping Pigeon Pit have all had depth corrections.

M.A.R. BULLETINS

NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

No.	County in PA		Cost (without postage)
1-4	REPRINT	Bulletins #1-4	7.00*
8	Blair	89 caves, 40 maps	6.50*
9	Huntington		OUT OF PRINT
10	Snyder	20 caves, 14 maps	2.00*
11	Centre	71 caves, 56 maps, 1 large map	9.00**
12	Mifflin	47 caves, 3 1 maps 5 large maps	7.00**
13	Perry	13 caves, 6 maps	5.00*
14	Bucks		OUT OF PRINT
15	Lehigh	25 caves, 13 maps	3.25*
16	Northampton	24 caves, 13 maps/1 large map	5.50*
17	Northumberland	20 caves, 10 maps	5.00*
18	Berks	64 caves, 32 maps	7.00**
19	Bedford	54 caves, 33 maps	5.50*

*Postage: \$1.25 each copy, \$0.50 each additional to same address.

**Postage: \$1.75 postage each bulletin, \$0.50 each additional to same address.

Non-U.S. Postage: \$2.00 for each copy, \$1.50 each additional copy.

Make checks payable to MAR:

Order from: Bette White 542 Glen Road, State College PA, 16803

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

OTHER KARST PUBLICATIONS

These cold winter nights are perfect for curling up in front of the fire with a good piece of Karst research. Sounds boring you say? I beg to differ!

Learning about the geology of my favorite rock (Limestone) and the formation of karst features leads one to finding the fabled Virgin Cave.

The Whites stockpile papers, tomes, and field reports on caves and karst. Ask Bette at the MAR business meet and she will gladly give you a list of the publications they have available, many much less expensive than a movie rental.

One particularly fascinating compilation is the Guidebook to The Appalachian Valleys of Central PA. Take a day and follow the roadtrip laid out therein. With one friend or sixteen it is bound to be a blast, and probably a learning experience too. \$5 + 1.25 postage. -=Foom



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