



BREAKDOWN

Volume 12, Number 3, January 1998

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 —

A complimentary copy is sent to each grotto in the MAR. For individuals it works this way. When you attend a field meet, \$4 of your registration fee goes directly to the MAR to pay for three issues of this newsletter and other MAR projects. You may also subscribe by sending \$4 to the treasurer. The number of issues you have remaining immediately follows your name on the mailing label.

Meetings and Meets —

The annual business meeting is held the last Sat. in February. Each spring and fall there is a field meet. Watch for dates.

Officers —

Chair: Kim Kehs
1426 Ash Lane
Quakertown, Pa 18951
(215)536-8153

Vice Chair & Editor:
Keith D. Wheeland
2191 Mt. View Ave.
State College, Pa 16801
(814)238-2057
kwheeland@compuserve.com

Secy: Karen Bange
RR1 Box 360
Mt. Pleasant, PA 17853
rupert@prolog.net

Treas: Bette White
RR1 Box 527
Petersburg, PA 16669
(814)667-2709

MAR Business Meeting set for February 28, 1998

The MAR Business Meeting will be held at the home of Jay Herbein on February 28, 1998. You will find the map on page 2.

Fall Meet a Rousing Success

The MAR Fall Meet hosted by the Philly Grotto was a success. The Philly group did a lot of planning and it showed. The meet was well organized and attendance was excellent. They celebrated their 50th anniversary with a look back to their beginnings. Slide and video presentations were made after the great meal. The bonfire provided a chance to mingle and discuss the hot topics of the day.

If you look to the left, you will see the list of officers. Elections were held at the Fall MAR Field Meet.

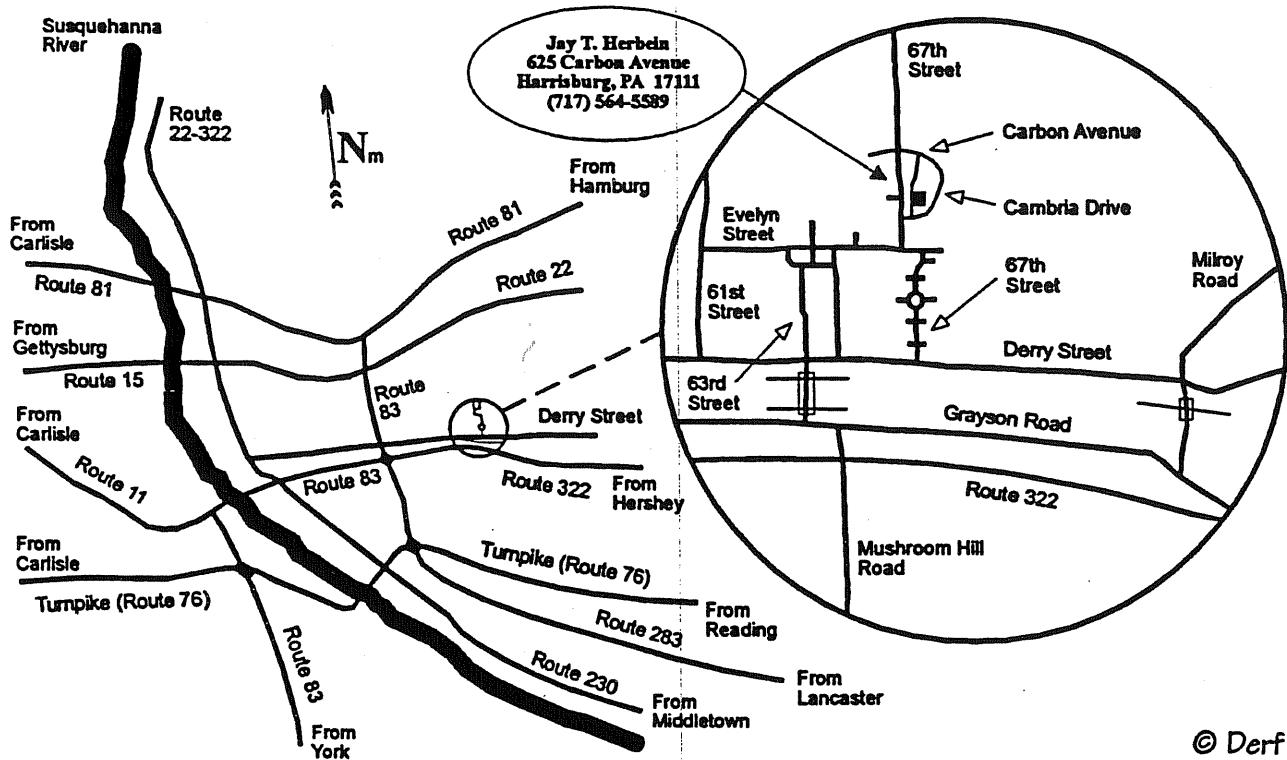
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Plan View Map of Business Meeting Site.

Maps to Dale Ibberson's will be available at the business meeting.



From the East on Route 322:

Turn right on Mushroom Hill Road (look for the WalMart and Sam's Club) at the second traffic light after Hummelstown.

From the West on Route 322:

Intercept Route 322 toward Hershey. Turn left on Mushroom Hill Road (look for the Walmart and Sam's Club).

Once on Mushroom Hill Road, proceed one block to Grayson Road (T-intersection) and turn left. Travel one more block and turn right onto a bridge which crosses the railroad tracks. Turn right on Derry Street. Follow Derry Street to 67th Street which will be a left hand turn up the hill. (The street sign has been missing for several years so watch street numbers.) Follow the inset map above to reach Jay's house.

Note: If you are driving from the West on I-83 N., there is no exit at Derry Street. Use the Route 322 exit.

Nittany Grotto to Celebrate its 50th

After fifty years we're still in the dark.



Nittany Grotto will celebrate its 50th anniversary during the weekend of October 5, 1998. The celebration will be in conjunction with the MAR Fall Field meet which Nittany is hosting.

The event will be held at Mountain Acres, a private lodge in the Seven Mountains near Potters Mills, PA just off US Route 322.

The site is near caves of eastern Centre County and caves of Mifflin County.

The event has been scheduled so that it will not conflict with a home game of the Penn State Football team.

Registration includes tent or car camping at the site (no RV's). (The Seven Mountains Campground, just a few miles away, offers RV sites with electric, water, and TV hookup at each site. Current rates are \$14 per night.)

Registration fees are as follows

Adults	\$20 thru OTR, \$25 after
6-12	\$10 thru OTR, \$12.50 after
< 6	Free

Nittany Grotto encourages all cavers and particularly current and former members of Nittany Grotto to attend.

Nearby points of interest

A A

Wineries

Penn State University

Bryce Jordan Centre - Largest indoor arena between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh

Happy Valley Friendly Farm - A country petting zoo.

Two show caves, Woodward and Penn's

Boal Mansion & Columbus Chapel

Bellefonte Historical Railroad

Boalsburg Military Museum

Mid-State Trail

Antique shops

Colyer Lake

V

1998 SPRING MAR

May 15, 16, 17

Old Dutch Mill Campgrounds (Across from Schofer Cave)
Kutztown, PA

Saturday Dinner
Guidebook with Up-dated Information
Door Prizes
Guided and Unguided Cave Trips
Vertical Practice
Coin-operated Showers
Camping in the PA Dutch Country
Spelean History Field Trip
Survey Class & Contest
Hiking on Appalachian Trail
Outlet Shopping in Reading & More!



\$18 Pre Registrants (postmarked by April 15)
\$ 22 at the Door
\$10 Children 4-10

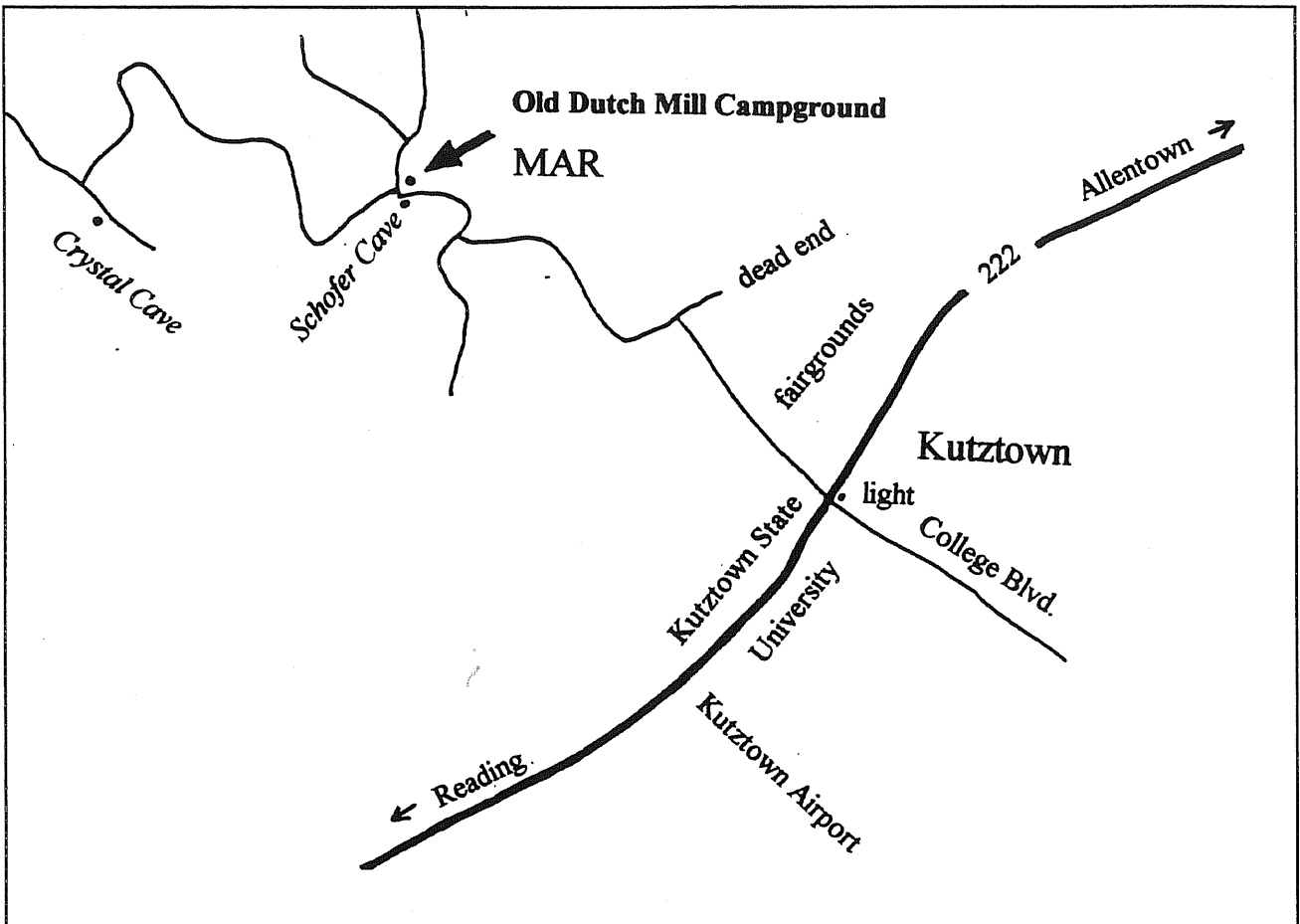
Name _____
Address _____

of registrants ____ @\$18= ____
of T-shirts ____ @\$6 = ____
(large or x-large)

Total enclosed \$ _____

Mail to: Kim Kehs
1426 Ash Lane
Quakertown, PA 18951-5638
Make checks payable to: Kim Kehs

Grotto Affiliation _____



Bat Boy: The Musical

The following was excerpted by Keith Wheeland from Edge Magazine. October 29, 1997, page 62.

This past Halloween, The Hollywood Actors' Gang theatre company presented the world premier of Keythe Farley and Brian Flemming's *Bat Boy: The Musical*. The ambitious new work is a horror-comic rendition of the life of Bat Boy, a half-bat/half-human little boy made legendary by Weekly World News, a shameless supermarket tabloid.

Bat Boy takes place in Hope Falls, West Virginia, where a freakish creature, who has attacked three victims, is captured by locals and brought to the town's veterinarian, Dr. Parker, with the intention that he will discreetly dispose of the monster.

Instead, Dr. Parker and his wife secretly nourish Bat Boy and attempt to civilize him. They even allow their young daughter to play with the hideously deformed creature.

Yet despite his apparent charity, the doctor harbors a horrifying secret and a deadly grudge against the Bat Boy.

Why does Dr. Parker hate Bat Boy? Why does Bat Boy blossom in the presence of the doctor's daughter? They can dress Bat Boy up, but can they take him out?

Editor's Note: In order to find out the answers to these questions, you will probably have to see the production when it appears in a theatre near you!

The MAR Review

Highlights of the Mid Appalachian Region

Bert Ashbrook

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

Philly Grotto News

The September 1997 issue contains an interesting article on canals and caves by Mike Fernandez. Many of the 19th-century canal towpaths in the region have been converted to biking or hiking trails, and these just happen to pass by a number of caves. Trip possibilities abound. . .

Netherworld News

Pittsburgh Grotto's August 1997 newsletter contains a wrap-up of their "Spring Fling" work weekend repairing fences, etc. on the Friar's Hole Cave Preserve in Pocohontas and Greenbrier Counties, West Virginia. What a wonderful way to improve landowner relations! They also did a bit of caving. In the same issue, Bru Randall has compiled some history of the use of cable ladders by 1960's Pittsburgh cavers.

Baltimore Grotto News

In the July, August, September, and November issues, Joseph Kaffl continues the saga of the Northeast Sump Exploration Team (NEST) in Alexander Caverns (Mifflin County). Kaffl reports that visibility past a restriction in Sump 1A reached 50+ feet on 1 March 1997. "Sump Diving Heaven" is how he describes it. 200 feet of new line was laid, and a "white three-inch long fish" was observed.

On 22 March, Kaffl passed this sump (300 feet) and surfaced. After walking passage, a crawl of a couple hundred feet, and more walking passage, another sump (2A) was reached. Underwater video camera problems prevented a complete record of the explora-

tion of some virgin cave. On 19 April, Kaffl returned to Sump 2A in low water conditions. He confirmed that the sump goes and rigged a dive line, but did not push the sump. On 10 May, Kaffl visited Sump 2A a third time and layed half the line from his reel. The sump continues in a canyon.

On 19 April, Eric Tesnau prepared for his first Pennsylvania sump dive. He followed Kaffl through Sump 1, and together they surveyed nearly 1000 feet of dry passage to the Land of the Straws, where 5-foot long soda straws are just one of the pretty attractions. On 10 May, this survey was tied in to the rest of the cave. Then Kaffl and Dave Nicholas passed sump 1 (Dave's first sump dive) and checked for leads in the 1000 feet of dry passage.

Finally, Joseph Kaffl reports that NEST is now an Official Project of the NSS.

Nittany Grotto News

The May 1997 issue is the Keith Christianson map issue. Foremost is Keith's excellent new map of commercial Woodward Cave (Centre County). "The Big One" has 2,915 feet of passage. Another fine map is of Spider Sink (Clinton County), in which some "instant cave" was used to explore 578 feet of passage. Perhaps more significant is Spider Sink's vertical nature and its depth of 124 feet, 18th deepest in the Commonwealth. The next Christenson map is of Stamm Cave (Montour County). Stamm has a 40-foot entrance drop and 84 feet of surveyed passage. Finally, Keith presents a working map of sorts of Hineman Cave (Armstrong County). Hineman is a Vanport maze cave with just one tenth of

an estimated 4 miles of passage mapped so far.

As if the four Christenson maps were not enough, the May 1997 issue also includes Bryan Crowell's map of 181-foot long Price Cemetery Cave (Clinton County).

The Cave Hunter

The Huntindon County Cave Hunters' combined newsletter for April and August 1997 features Garrett Czmor's summary of cave register data from Tytoona Cave (Blair County). Visitation was down by about 50% to 275 people, due to flooding in the register area. Most visits were for education, exploration, and recreation. Only 3% of the visitors found about about Tytoona cave from publications; 65% found out about the cave from friends.

Two other items of interest are Garrett Czmor's trip report about a Bat Conservation International bat workshop trip into Canoe Creek Cave/Mine in Blair County, and Tom Metzgar's long editorial on the proposed Pennsylvania Cave Database cave definition. Tom disagrees with the definition, but he makes one point we can all agree on: "Instead of fretting over silly details of no consequence, let's get back to the fun: searching for and cataloging more caves!"

Loyalhanna Troglodyte

Loyalhanna Grotto's Fall 1997 issue is once again packed with information, so much so that this issue was made into a two-parter. Kim Metzgar reports that the proposed Chestnut Ridge Quarry was dealt a blow when its planned access road was disallowed by a judge. Kim's article also gives an overview of the quarry project, which received a state permit in 1995 which prohibited the quarry from intersecting known cave passage. Other tidbits include Keith Christenson's key to the hibernating bats of Pennsylvania, and Tom Metzgar's article on John White Geary's description of Nickajack Cave (Tennessee) during the Civil War.

The same issue contains lots of cave descriptions. An article by Kim Metzgar and Walt Hamm describing the caves of Harbridge Run Hollow (Westmoreland County) is reprinted from MAR Bulletin 20. Featured is Walt Hamm's excellent new map showing 15 small caves. Much of the issue is devoted to a preliminary report on the caves of Indiana County by Bob Eppley and Tom Metzgar. Included are over 30 caves and other features, the most significant of which is Strangford Cave. Quite a bit of history of this cave is included.

Pack Rat Scat

The Greater Allentown Grotto newsletter for Fall 1997 contains, as usual, an excellent Dean Snyder article on cave history. This time, it's on Paul Meissner's drawings of Crystal Cave (Berks County) done c. 1878. Over 100 years and 1,000,000 visitors later, it is still possible to see exactly where Meissner stood to make most of his drawings.

Central Jersey Caver

How many cave vendors are there in the US and Canada? Would you believe 51 !?! They are all listed, with specialties and phone numbers, in the Fall 1997 issue. Also included is more fiction by Paul Steward and John Tudek.

Cave Conservancies

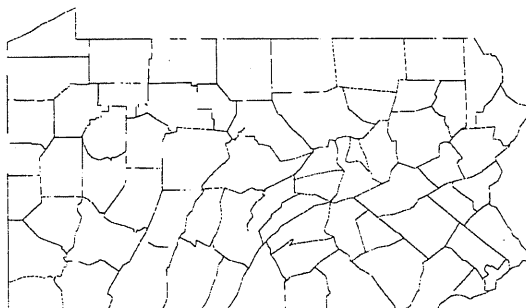
Butler Cave Conservation Society, Inc.
Nevin W. Davis
Indiana Karst Conservancy
Bruce Bowman
Michigan Karst Conservancy
Albury Golden
Missouri Cave and Karst Conservancy
Jo Schaper
NSS
Doug Medville
Northern Cave Conservancy, Inc.
Bob Addis
Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.
Dale Ibberson
Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.
Buddy Lane

The Official List of Pennsylvania Caves

Keith D. Wheeland

At the last business meeting of the Mid Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society, I reported on a list of criteria which I hope to use when I prepare the official list of caves of Pennsylvania. At that time the list of criteria was erroneously described as a cave definition. I regret that mistake on my part. In this article I will explain why I need the criteria and the reasoning behind the specifics.

To begin, let me explain something about the Pennsylvania Cave Database. When we designed the database, we knew that we wanted to include karstic entities (voids) in addition to caves. We have a coding scheme which allows us to do just that. In the database, there are mines, shelters, fictitious caves, open caves, closed caves, very short caves, long caves, and caves which no longer exist. (Unlike some states, we don't have a minimum length for inclusion in the database.) If they are important enough to be documented by someone, they have been included. There are two reasons we include all these entities. First, if someone asks me what I know about a certain cave, I can print a data sheet for that entity. The second reason is probably more important. Anyone doing scientific investigation can expect to find all the data which I know about. As an example, suppose someone wanted to do a study of the distribution of caves in a specific geologic formation. It's important that all caves (including those which no longer exist) be included. So it is important that we include all karstic voids.



In the past, whenever I printed a list of caves or prepared counts by county for publication, everything was included. Should this type of list include mines, fictitious caves, caves that are longer there? Probably not. The logical thing to do was to prepare a list of criteria to apply when I wanted to print an official list of caves. To do this, a few of us sat down one evening around Will White's table and prepared a list of criteria.

First we decided that we would not include caves which no longer existed, that is, their walls had been removed. We would not include mines. And would not include fictitious caves. We would, however consider physically closed caves. They exist as caves, it's just that we can't enter them.

So that leaves us with the remaining caves ranging in length from five feet to 21,808 feet. Should five-foot long caves appear on the official list? Probably not. It seemed logical to set some minimum length for inclusion on the list. Using length as a criteria, raises other concerns.

Mines which intersect cave passages needed some attention. We agreed that only the cave passage segments should be used to determine length (and internal relief).

Roofless caves (pits) also deserved attention. We agreed that the vertical extent should be considered as length. (One definition of length is the distance a caver would have to travel to visit all of the cave).

When we began to consider setting a minimum length, that raised another question. Should we apply the same minimum to all caves regardless of the rock formation in which they occur? We decided that we would apply different minimum lengths to different rock formations. For simplicity, we divided the formations into limestone and non-limestone. (If there were lava tubes in Pa. we would have made lava tubes another category with its own minimum length.)

In general, the formation of a limestone cave in Pennsylvania is a complex, time consuming process which usually requires the action of flowing or dripping water. Contrast this to non-limestone caves. Will White explains this well.

“Most non-limestone caves in Pennsylvania are tectonic caves, formed when massive rock units are pulled apart by slumping or when there is erosion and weathering along rock joints. Some of these, such as Blessing Mountain Wells in Lycoming County and Wind Cave in Lancaster County are significant caves. However, tectonic caves tend to be very small, and there are lots of them. Placing length restrictions simply means that the official list will contain only the most significant caves.”

Having settled the categories, it was time to set a minimum length. For limestone caves, we selected 20 feet. Could it have been set higher? Probably. Should it have been set lower, probably not. For the non-limestone caves, we just doubled the minimum for limestone caves.

We next considered shelter caves. These are formed in any rock formation by action of wind, rain, or slumping. Should they be included on the official list? Yes, in some cases. We agreed that they should be deeper (from front to back) than they are wide.

If we used the above criteria alone, we would probably eliminate some caves which should appear on the official list. To address this issue, we decided that if an interested party came to me with a proposal that a particular cave should be included, I could make that judgement. These are the guidelines I would consider. 1) Biological. The cave is an important habitat of a threatened or endangered species. 2) Archeological. 3) Paleontological. 4) Historical. Or some other important reason I may have missed.

Please note that everything is still in the database, and if you want a list of caves which have been quarried away or a list of caves less than eight feet long, you can still get it. If you asked me for a list of all the caves in Centre County because you were going to update the Centre County Bulletin, you would get everything that is in the database for Centre County. This has not changed.

As you can see, the above criteria were developed in order to make the official list of caves a meaningful list while still making sure that all the karstic voids would be included in the database.

For comparison, I have included some criteria used by other states. In most cases these are the minima to be used **in order to be included in the database**. You can view a version of this information on April H. Olberding's web site which I have included at the end of this article.

Alabama

Total surveyed length of 50 feet. Troglitic species automatically qualify.

Arizona

No state database.

Colorado

No state database.

Florida

Horizontal distance of 50 feet or total vertical distance of 20 feet. Or pit depth of 15 feet.

Georgia

Horizontal distance or vertical distance or pit depth of 30 feet.

Hawaii

Has no minimum.

Idaho

Must be into darkness. Mostly lava tubes.

Illinois

Total surveyed length of 20 feet.

Indiana

Total surveyed length of 25 feet.

Mississippi

No state database.

Missouri

Total surveyed length of 30 feet.

North Carolina

Has no minimum.

Pennsylvania

All documented karstic features are stored in the database. These criteria are for printing the official list. Total surveyed length of 20 feet for limestone, and 40 feet for non-limestone. Or pit depth of 20 feet.

South Carolina

Has no minimum.

Tennessee

Horizontal distance of 50 feet, or vertical distance of 40 feet, or pit depth of 30 feet.

Texas

Total surveyed length of 5 meters. Excludes features whose entrance exceeds the length or depth in any dimension. This rule was designed to exclude shelters and sinkholes.

Virginia

Has no minimum, but is not interested in including sandstone shelters. Has a Significant Cave List which includes about 10% of Virginia caves.

West Virginia

Has no minimum.

Thanks to all keepers of state databases who responded to my inquiries and to April Olberding who graciously allowed me to use information from her web site which is at

<http://www.tntech.edu/www/life/orgs/grotto/facts.html>

Where is the PCC?

Keith D. Wheeland

Ever since the chairman of the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy resigned, the PCC has been inactive. It is time to reactivate the PCC. I propose that we have a short meeting after the MAR Business Meeting to elect new officers, and offer membership to those grottos who have formed since the PCC be-

came inactive. The present officers are

Vice Chair Pat Minnick
Secretary Keith D. Wheeland
Treasurer Dale Ibberson

We could then decide upon a time and place for a future meeting. Go PCC!

Cave Bucks

J.C. Fisher

Want to go caving? Where? The "Closed Cave List" continues to grow. Although more and more work continues to be done on improving landowner relations, the only way to ensure cave access is with ownership. Fortunately, groups have been purchasing or otherwise securing caves and new groups are being formed to do the same. Funding cave purchases is always a problem.

Tri-State Grotto has implemented a method to ensure a long term source of funding. We are calling the program "Cave Bucks". It is simply a volunteer donation of one dollar per caver for each day of caving. Every participating caving organization would collect donations at each meeting, then forward those donations to a purchasing group of their choice. [See page 7 for a list of conservancies.] In other words, the caving organization decides which purchasing group should receive the funds.

Frederick Grotto and the Virginia Region have already accepted the program. It is our hope that other caving organizations nationwide will also implement this program.

This must be done at a local level, because not every caver is a member of the NSS and not every caving organization is a Grotto of the NSS.

A person who caves once each weekend would end up donating about \$4 a month. Multiply this by the number of cavers, and it soon becomes big bucks.

Q: Why fool around with such small donations?

A: "Cave Bucks" is designed to include everyone. Large donations are always needed and appreciated, but every

dollar counts. The NSS has over 11,000 members, however, many grottos have members who are not NSS members. There are probably 20,000 potential donors. If only 10% of cavers donated one dollar a month, the total raised would be in excess of \$24,000 each year.

Q: What about those cavers who seldom or ever go caving?

A: They can still donate. They just have to be made aware of the program.

Q: How do we get started?

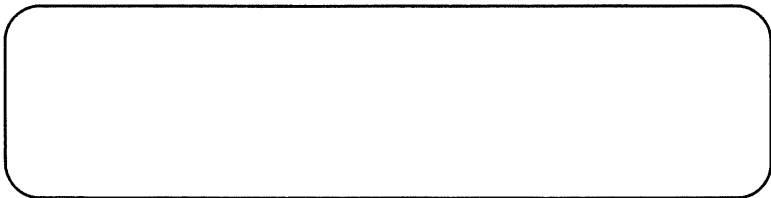
A: Each organization decides whether to participate. A short article is printed in the newsletter, or the topic is brought up at a meeting and voted upon. Then printed in the newsletter. Big Bucks is included on the agenda for each meeting, and a proper receptacle is provided for donations. At the end of the donation period, the funds are counted, the purchasing group is decided upon, and the treasurer sends the funds to the purchasing group designated as "Cave Bucks". Keep it simple, but do it each meeting.

A successful program doesn't require a major complicated, high-tech plan, just a buck.

Editor's note: The Nittany Grotto has initiated this project. We have voted to send all donations to the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) to be used strictly for cave purchases. The treasurer of the PCC is Dale Ibberson. His address is 445 Hale Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17104-2130.

MAR Breakdown
 Nittany Grotto
 PO Box 676
 State College, PA 16804-0676

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Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins

NSS Members Price List No. County	Caves	Maps	Large Maps	Cost	Postage Code
1-4 Constitution and Caves of Shippensburg	11			7.00	A
8 Caves of Blair Co., PA	89	40		6.50	A
9 Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA					OUT OF PRINT
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		5.00	A
14 Caves of Bucks, Co., PA					OUT OF PRINT
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
20 Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA	Over 300 features.			29.50	C

Postage codes

- A US Postage: \$1.25 for first copy: \$0.50 for each additional copy to the same address.
- B US Postage: \$1.75 for the first copy
- C US Postage: \$3.00 each bulletin.

Non-US Postage: \$2.00 each first copy, \$1.50 each additional copy.

Please make checks payable in US funds to MAR.

Send to Bette White, RR#1, Box 527, Miller Road, Petersburg, PA 16669-9211