



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 13, Number 3, January 1999

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, \$5 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 \$5 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.

**Chair:** Kim Kehs  
1426 Ash Lane  
Quakertown, Pa 18951  
(215)536-8153  
edandkim@erols.com

**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  
wbw2@psu.edu

## MAR Business Meeting set for February 27, 1999. PCC Meeting to follow

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at the home of Jay Herbein on February 27, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. A meeting of the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy will follow the MAR business Meeting. You will find the map on page 2.



The Lodge at the Fall 1998 MAR Meet.

Photo by Judy Marks

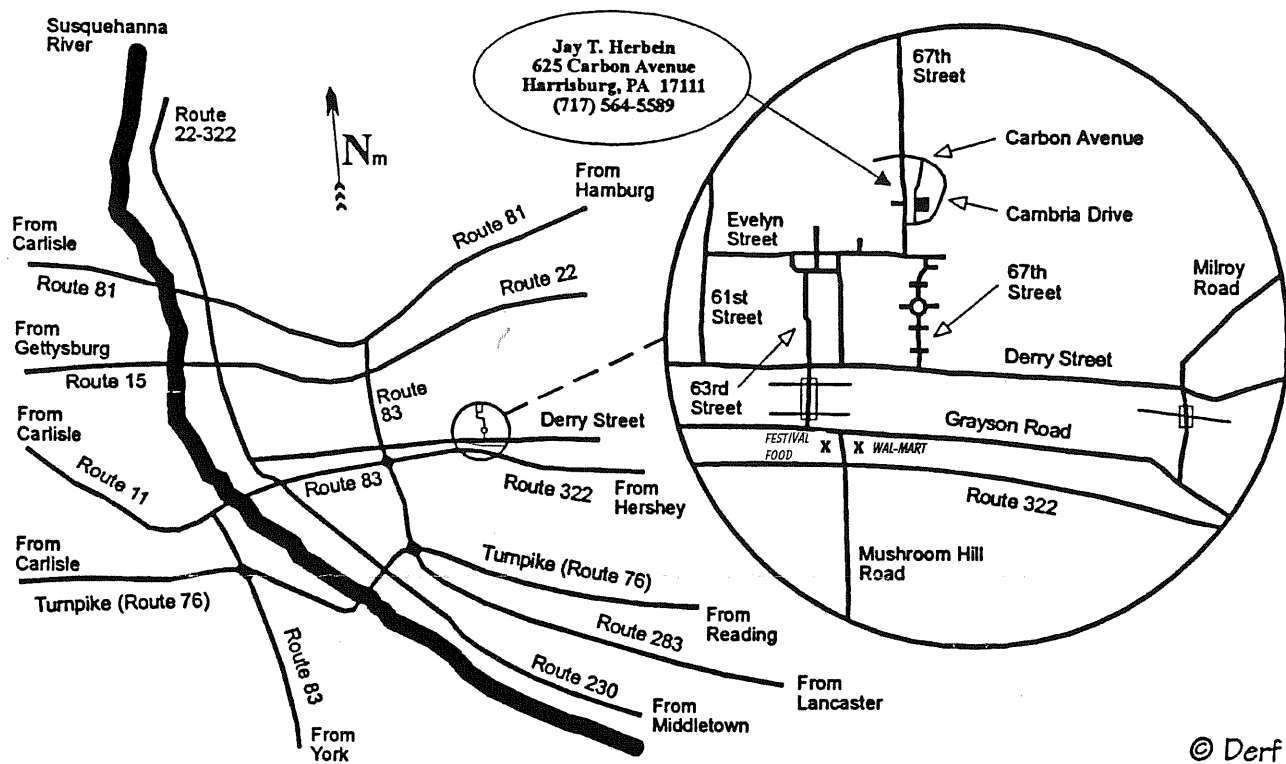
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# MAP SHOWING SITE OF BUSINESS MEETING- 1:30 P.M. FEB. 27.

(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 Wal-Mart and Festival Food Store) 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 Wal-Mart and Festival Food Store).

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.

# SPRING MAR 1999

Lazy "A" Campground, Martinsburg, WV

May 14 thru 16, 1999

**Hosted by the Commander Cody Caving Club**

- **Panhandle Caving at its Best (wild & commercial)!**
- **Hiking, Biking on the C&O Towpath Canal!**
- **Canoeing on the Potomac!** (bring your boat)
- **Civil War Battlefields, Historical Sites, Flea Markets & More!**  
(all to be included in the MAR Guidebook)
- **Vendor(s)!** (one now - hopefully more later).
- **Dinner Saturday Nite!**
- **Continental Breakfast Sunday Morning!**
- **The Brush Mountain Boys Bluegrass Band Saturday Nite!**

## **Directions:**

- Figure out the best way to get to the junction of I-70 & I-81 at Hagerstown, MD
- Head SOUTH on I-81 to EXIT 5 (Martinsburg, West Virginia).
- Head WEST on Route 51 to Route 45 (follow campground signs)
- Turn LEFT onto Route 45 to State Route 7.
- Turn RIGHT onto Route 7.
- Entrance road to site is a few miles up Route 7 on the right next to a firehall.
- Camp Phone # 304-229-8185.

**COST: \$23 before April 15, 1999, \$28 at the Gate.**

**Youths (5 - 12 years of age): \$10 in advance, \$13 at the gate**

Make check payable to "Judy Obetz" and send to : 802 Wharton Court, Newton Square PA 19073

Be sure to include all pertinent info (address, phone, number of people, their ages, etc).

*Latest information? Stop by our website at <http://www.erols.com/frickedh/CCCC>*

# THE NITTANY GROTTO FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND THE FALL MAR FIELD MEET

by Keith D. Wheeland

This article was reprinted from the *Nittany Grotto News*.

On October 2-4, 1998, the Nittany Grotto hosted the Fall MAR Field Meet at Mountain Acres Lodge near Potters Mills, Pa. The Grotto used the event to celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary. The total number of registrants (including children and no-shows) was 217. This set a record for MAR meets. The large turnout was due in part to the efforts of the Nittany Grotto in contacting its current and former members.

The weather was beautiful on Friday when attendees began arriving (the long range forecast predicted good weather for the weekend). Early on the scene were the vendors, Speleobooks, and Bob & Bob, both of which made generous donations for door prizes. Other donors were Karst Sports (West Va.), Appalachian Ski and Outdoors, Laurel Hallmark, Ben & Jerry's, The Student Bookstore (all of State College), Penn's Cave, and the Nittany Grotto.

On Saturday, the weather turned cool and rainy, dampening everything but the spirits of the attendees. Fortunately, the lodge was spacious enough (some say, "barely") to protect the attendees from the dampness. The planners had expected about 150, so they instructed the caterer (Dave & Sherri Dunlap of Centre Hall) to prepare for 170. By 1 p.m., it was evident that the attendance would exceed that number. Last minute adjustments, professionalism from the caterer, and some good luck, insured that 205 persons were fed satisfactorily. Some critics observed that the food line moved too slowly. All items on the menu except the meat were vegetarian approved. Vegetarian Garden Burgers were provided for a meat substitute. The menu consisted of roast pork (plain and barbeque), rolls, baked beans, macaroni salad, cole slaw, and white and chocolate cake (decorated with 50's).

During the day, attendees amused themselves by shopping, reminiscing, watching the Gwonk Show on video, caving, and viewing the extensive display of Nittany Grotto memorabilia including arm patches, T-shirts, photo albums, scrapbooks, and the special issue of the Nittany Grotto News which chronicled the first fifty years.

On Saturday morning, the Grotto provided coffee and cinnamon rolls to lodge guests and vendors. And on Sunday morning, provided about 150 cups of coffee and 144 blueberry muffins to early-bird risers.

Frank and Judy Marks converted the Gwonk slide show to video and donated copies to the Nittany Grotto to sell as a fund raiser. The videos are being sold at \$10 each.

Keith Wheeland compiled, edited, and produced a fifty-year history of the Nittany Grotto. It was published as a special issue of the *Nittany Grotto News* and sent to all current members. The special issue is being sold at \$5 each.

Ramona Josefczyk and Mike Glass created a specially-designed T-shirt. These are being sold at \$10 (\$11 XXL).

The Mid Atlantic Karst Conservancy set up an information booth in the lodge and collected donations for its cave conservation efforts.

Caving trips were made to Alexander Caverns, led by Dave Hollick of Bald Eagle Grotto; McAlisterville (two trips) led by Tanya Hofler of Nittany, the other by Bill Vis of CCCC and Philly; and a J-4 cleanup trip led by Glenn Clouser. Other caves were also visited.

An accident in J-4 (unrelated to the cleanup trip) caused John Vose to injure his back and ankle. He

was able to self-exit the cave and was taken to the hospital by the Pleasant Gap Fire Company volunteers. He was back at the lodge by early evening, but was still suffering pain. (He stayed the night in the motor home of Frank and Judy Marks.)

Many photographs of the event were made by Judy and Frank Marks and were donated to the Grotto. They will be included in a Grotto album.

After the Saturday evening meal, a short program was conducted for the attendees. Ramona Josefczyk (president of Nittany Grotto) made a few remarks to welcome the cavers. Ramona then presented Bette White with a certificate awarding her with an Honorary Life Membership in the Nittany Grotto (for her many and outstanding contributions to the Grotto). Another presentation was made to Keith Wheeland for his many ongoing contributions to the Grotto. This time it was an inscribed brass carbide lamp which noted "Nittany Grotto award of appreciation, Keith Wheeland, 3 October 1998".

Ramona introduced Keith, who in turn introduced Judy Marks who led the singing of Happy Birthday to Fred L. Wefer, Kim Metzgar, and Doug Moore. Will White (the Grotto's Faculty Advisor and long-time Grotto member) was introduced, made a few remarks, and introduced Jack Stellmack (long-time Grotto member, and past President of the NSS). Jack made a few remarks and introduced Fred Wefer (long-time Grotto member and current president of the NSS). After Fred's remarks, the door prizes were awarded and the results of the MAR election were announced. The three K's were elected to another one-year term;

Chair	Kim Kehs
Vice-Chair	Keith Wheeland
Secretary	Karen Bange

Keith Christenson served as the auctioneer to the delight of the attendees. All proceeds went to the Nittany Grotto Cave Conservation Fund. Glenn Clouser interrupted the auction to announce, some-

what thickly, that he had bested Steve Yochum in the keg-throwing contest!

And although it was late and damp, the bonfire did happen.

On Sunday morning at 10 a.m., the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy conducted a business meeting in the comfort of the lodge.

At 2 p.m. there was a ribbon cutting ceremony at Tytoona Cave in celebration of the cave being bought by the NSS. Although this was not an official MAR event, the Huntingdon County Cave Hunters coordinated the scheduling with the Nittany Grotto, so MAR attendees would also be able to attend.

By about 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, the lodge was clean, the grounds were litter-free, and mostly deserted.

I sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the success of this team effort. It was a major Grotto event and a record-setting, memorable MAR Field Meet. Some of you will be around to witness the 100-year anniversary of the Nittany Grotto. May it be as grandly memorable.



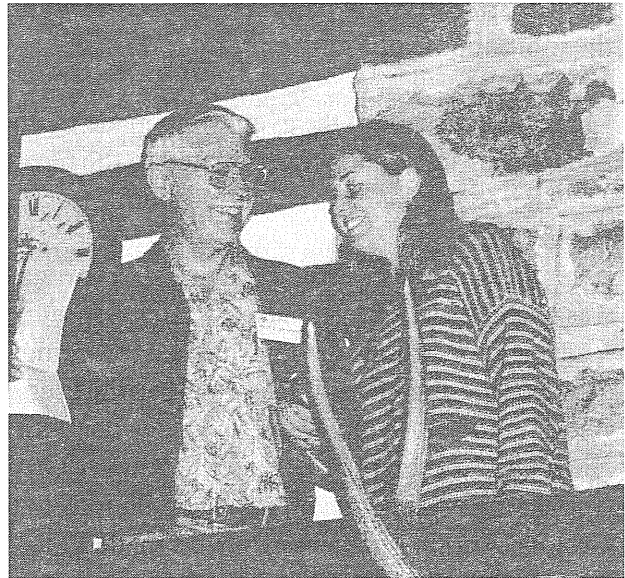
Photo by Frank Marks.

Will White, Faculty Advisor to the Nittany Grotto, addressing the attendees (in the Lodge behind the elk horns).

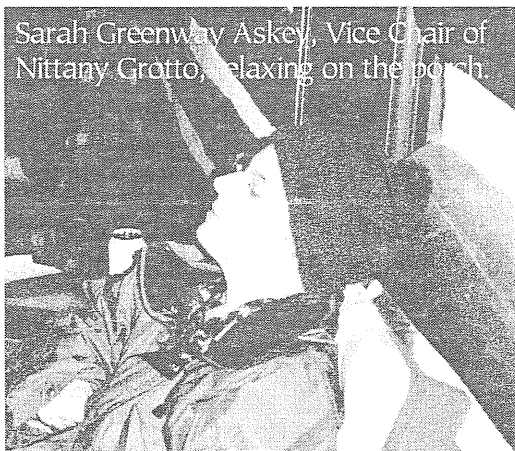
# NG 50TH ALBUM



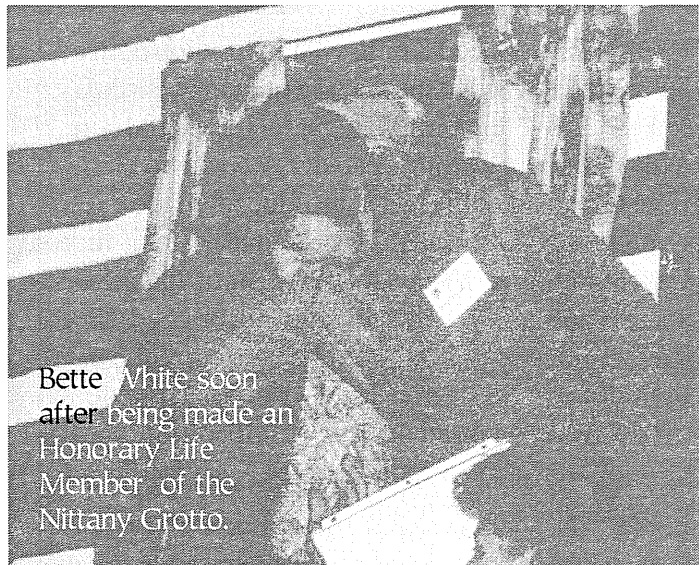
Fred L. Wefer, President of the NSS, with a Gwonk descendent on his knee. Peg Fowler at left.



Keith Wheeland accepting Nittany Grotto Award of Appreciation from Ramona Josefczyk, Chair of Nittany Grotto.



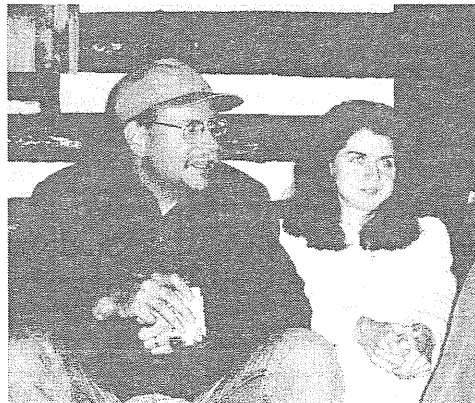
Sarah Greenway Askey, Vice Chair of Nittany Grotto, relaxing on the porch.



Bette White soon after being made an Honorary Life Member of the Nittany Grotto.



Jack A. Stellmack, past president of the NSS, relaxing in the Lodge.



Keith Christenson preparing for his job as Grotto auctioneer. His wife Jen is at his side.

Photos provided by Frank and Judy Marks

# PENNSYLVANIA CAVE CONSERVANCY CORNER

*This is a summary of the minutes of the meeting.* The October 4, 1998 meeting was called to order by President, Pat Minnick at Mountain Acres Lodge near Potter's Mills, Pa. at 10:09 a.m. Sunday morning. All officers were present.

Representatives present were Bald Eagle Grotto, Baltimore Grotto, Bucks County Grotto, Central New Jersey Grotto, Commander Cody Caving Club, Franklin County Grotto, Greater Allentown Grotto, Loyalhanna Grotto, Nittany Grotto, Philadelphia Grotto, Pittsburgh Grotto, and York Grotto, and the Mid Atlantic Karst Conservancy.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1010.94.

**The By-Laws** were amended as follows:

1. Show that the area covered by the PCC now includes the Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society.
2. Change the types of members to Voting Grottos and Associate Members. Associate Members could include natural persons and organizations.
3. Change the paragraph which indicates that Voting Grottos would be dropped if they didn't appoint a Director to fill a vacancy within 90 days. This would be softened to allow Grottos a second chance to respond and would require an act of the Board to drop a Voting member.
4. Allow for notification of meetings to include other electronic means besides the telephone.
5. Drop the restriction that the Board of Directors could not charge a fee for membership.
6. Change the title of the two presiding officers to President and Vice President.

7. Add a clause to state that the assets of the PCC could not inure to private individuals.
8. Allow the Board to conduct business by recognizing a simple majority of the Voting Members present.

**New Members:** Commander Cody Caving Club, Baltimore Grotto, and Central New Jersey Grotto were accepted as members of the PCC.

**A Mission Statement** was approved as follows: To protect cave and karst resources within the Mid-Atlantic Region of the National Speleological Society, Inc. (Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and Delaware) to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy and study these natural resources.

**An Objectives Statement** was approved as follows: The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) believes caves and karst are a significant, non-renewable resource in need of protection and that entering caves and karst is a privilege, not a right. Because of this belief, the PCC is prepared to use all legal means to protect caves, karst, and their environments. The PCC believes that, in many cases, recreation can be balanced with protection.

**Application for 501(c)(3):** Will be submitted.

**The Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy** joined the PCC and the PCC joined the MAKC and donated \$100 toward the purchase of Hall Cave in Huntingdon Co.

**Projects and direction:** The PCC actively solicits its potential projects and proposals from its member Grottos. Send proposals to the secretary.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the PCC will be February 27, 1999 following the MAR Business Meeting at the home of Jay Herbein.

Keith D. Wheeland, Secretary

# THE MAR REVIEW

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MID APPALACHIAN REGION

### BY BERT ASHBROOK

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

#### **Nittany Grotto News**

The May 1998 issue has lots of cave maps. Foremost is Jim Kennedy's excellent map of 572-foot long Dead Cat Cave (Centre County). The others are little caves by Keith Christenson including Park Cave #2 (Huntingdon County, 25 feet), Deathfall Cave (Centre County, 76 feet), Mediocre Cave #3 (Blair County, 10 feet long), and Mapleton Quarry Cave #3 (Huntingdon County, 50 feet).

The August 1998 issue features Linda Andrews' fine map of Coonscat Cave (Centre County, 376 feet long). The issue also has more Keith Christenson maps, this time from Lycoming County. Elimsport Cave (100 feet long), Shadle Cave (200 feet), Pine Creek Cave (38 feet), and Dunlap Cave (120 feet). In the same issue, Will White wonders--who's calling Floyd Collins' ghost? Finally, Keith Christenson offers a discussion of bat conservation problems and solutions.

The September 1998 mega-issue is a 50-year retrospective of the Nittany Grotto.

#### **Potomac Caver**

The June/July 1998 issue highlights Devin Kouts' well-done map and description of Pendleton County, West Virginia's High Meadows Cave, which is 1800 feet long. In the August issue, Devin is back at it again, this time with a map and description of Northernmost Cave (also Pendleton County, 385 feet long).

#### **Baltimore Grotto News**

Joseph Kaffl's reports in the July and August 1998 issues on the continued exploration of Alexander Caverns (Mifflin County) by the Northeast Sump Exploration Team (NEST). This continuing story is, in this reviewer's opinion, the most exciting cave exploration to occur in Pennsylvania in decades.

In January, Kaffl and Eric Tesanu surveyed 400 feet of dry passage between Sumps J1 and J2, on a day when water levels were very high and dive visibility was very low. The constriction blocking Sump J3 beyond remained untouched that day. In June, Kaffl and Dave Nicholas passed Sump E1 and slogged through 1000 feet of dry passage to the incredible Land of the Straws (hundreds of 1- to 2-foot long soda straws). Here, Kaffl surveyed through Sumps E2 and E3, adding 180 feet of survey to the cave.

The total now stands at 11,000 feet, making Alexander Caverns the third longest cave in the Commonwealth.

Also in June, Kaffl dove in Locust Creek Cave (Pocohontas County, West Virginia) where he found that a 80-foot by 70-foot by 3-foot section of the cave's ceiling had collapsed since last year. Wow!

In the October issue, Kaffl describes a trip into "Project X," another cave in the Bald Eagle area. In short order, Kaffl passed Sump 1 (which can be passed conventionally at low water) and penetrated a new sump. From the far side of Sump 2, a third sump was entered but not passed.

In the September issue, Bob Gulden reports on the resurvey of Bowden Cave. The resurvey total is currently nearing 3 miles.



### **The Cave Hunter**

In the Huntingdon County Cave Hunters' April and August 1998 issue details the excavation and gating of the long-lost second entrance to Kookon Cave (Huntingdon County).

### **Pack Rat Scat**

The Fall 1998 issue contains Bert Ashbrook's map and descriptions of two tiny Adams County caves, Mount Misery Caves #1 and #2.

### **Netherworld News**

In the unique technique department, Heather Houlahan describes an attempt to use air-scenting search dogs in a cave in the August 1998 issue. Is

this the future for the NCRC for lost caver rescues?

### **Loyalhanna Troglodyte**

The Summer 1998 issue is devoted to Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Kim and Tom Metzgar present a list of 90 caves in the county, and the number continues to grow. Kim describes and presents very nice maps of lots of tiny caves in Wymp's Gap and elsewhere, including Fayette County's Roadside Pit, Leo's Lair, Mark's Miserable Little Cave, Metzgar's Miserable Little Cave, Road's End Cave, Stinky Bone Cave, and the longest cave in the bunch, The Springhill Cavern (265 feet). Tom writes about a number of historic caves in the county. Also described in this issue is yet another rescue at J-4 Cave (Centre County).

# **EXTRA CASH?**

If you have reached 1999 with a little surplus cash and are looking for good causes, consider one or more of the following.

### **The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy**

**Address:**  
Dale Ibberson  
445 Hale Ave.  
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2130

### **The Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy**

**Address:**  
Kim Metzgar  
RR2, Box 153A  
Export, PA 15632-9408

### **The Northeastern Cave Conservancy**

**Address:**  
PO Box 254  
Schoharie, NY 12157

### **The Butler Cave Conservation Society**

Butler Cave now has a walk-in entrance

**Address:**  
Nevin C. Davis  
General Delivery  
Williamsville, VA 24487

### **The Southeastern Cave Conservancy**

This organization is not as local, but very active.

**Address:**  
356 O'Brian Drive  
Stone Mountain, GA 30088

### **The Mid Appalachian Region**

**Address:** Treasurer of MAR (See front page.)

# HINTS FOR ORGANIZING AN MAR MEET

This information, provided by Carol Tideman et. al., was first published in the *MAR Breakdown*, Vol. 6, No. 1, March 1991. The editor has added a few tips which were not in the original.

## Pre-plan:

Make an estimate of the number of cavers you expect to attend. This estimate is key to the success of the event. Use past events as a guide. Consider whether it's Spring or Fall (attendance varies). Consider whether it's a special event besides the MAR meet. (Anniversaries usually attract more attendees.) Consider how much publicity you will be providing - early and sustained publicity increases attendance.

After you decide on the number you expect, then have a contingency plan if you find you are going to exceed that number as time for the event draws closer. (Pre-registration helps to determine final attendance.)

## Budget:

Prepare a budget by using your initial estimate of the number of attendees. Some budget items to consider:

- Saturday evening meal. To include food and utensils.
- Saturday evening beverages. (If you are providing good beer, then the non-alcoholic beverages should be brand name also.)
- Optional coffee and rolls for Sunday morning.
- Any site fees.
- Port-a-potties if needed.
- Publicity costs, printing, mailing, etc. (note that the publicity in the *MAR Breakdown* is free.)

- Registration costs (paper, pencils).
- Costs associated with direction signs.
- Guidebook expenses.
- Any other anticipated expense.

Using the figures, determine a cost per attendee. Set *your* fee at this amount plus a little slack.

Plan on a discount for kids: For example, under 6 - free; 6 to 12 - 1/2 price.

You must collect \$5 from each adult to be submitted to the MAR. So add this amount to *your* fee to arrive at the final registration fee.

A concerted effort should be made to keep the fees in line with past events. Even if that means making a few extra dollars.

## Registration:

Open Friday night and stay open until the wee hours. Open again early Saturday morning.

Collect the registration fee plus name and full mailing address (must include zip code) for each attendee. For one registration, each adult attendee receives three issues of the *MAR Breakdown*.

## Site:

Publish a good map showing how to get to the site.

Post clearly marked **LARGE** signs along the route to the site. (Make sure they will be visible at night.) Flagging tape helps to draw attention to the signs.

Secure adequate camping to service the size of the group you expect.

Running water or a water tank is necessary.

Showers are always nice.

### **Food and Beverage:**

A good meal should be planned for Saturday evening. You should consider vegetarians in your planning. This is where pre-registration is helpful.

Have plenty of beverages including quality non-alcoholic ones (diet and regular). These should be available Saturday evening. Friday night beverages are optional.

Some recent events have provided coffee and tea on Sunday morning. This is a plus.

### **Structured activities:**

*Here are some ideas. You may have others depending on the time of year and the site.*

- Have guided cave trips. These can be personally guided or have good cave maps and directions to the caves. A Guide Book is a plus.
- Cave cleanup or survey project.
- Speleobiking or orienteering.
- A geology field trip.
- A slide program.
- Invite an equipment vendor.
- A good speaker.
- Door prizes are a nice touch.

Have information available for laid-back or non-cavers. Consider one or more of the following activities.

- Hiking, biking, canal walking, antique shopping, regular shopping, commercial caving, etc.

### **Vendors:**

Vendors are usually happy to pay the registration fee. However, they should not be required to pay a set-up fee.

Many vendors are happy to provide a door-prize if they are treated well.

If you have a commitment from a vendor, make it known in your publicity. It may draw more attendees, and it is fair to the vendor.

Consider a vendor site and let them know about availability of electricity.

### **MAR Elections:**

If you're hosting the **Fall Meet**, make provisions for MAR elections. It is nice to have pre-printed ballots, however, at least have small pieces of paper and pencils available for writing.

You do not have to come up with the names of nominees, the MAR nominating committee does that.

### **Additional:**

Careful planning is key. If you lose money, you must absorb the loss. If you make money, the profits are to be turned over to the MAR.

After the event, please have someone write a report of the event to include number of attendees, menu, events, unusual happenings, weather conditions, etc. Publish this report in your local newsletter. Whether it is published locally or not, send a copy to the editor of the *MAR Breakdown* for publication.

Send the MAR fee collections plus any profits to the treasurer of the MAR along with a list of the names and full addresses of the attendees, noting which ones are not adults.

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

## Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins

NSS Members Price List		Caves	Maps	Large Maps	Cost	Postage Code
No.	County					
1-4	Constitution and Caves of Shippensburg	11	7		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