



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 16, Number 3, January 2002

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 Saturday in February. Each spring and fall there is a field meet. Watch for dates.

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## MAR Business Meeting set for February 23, 2002 PCC Meeting to follow

The Mid Appalachian Region Business Meeting will be held at the home of Jay Herbein on February 23, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. A meeting of the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy will follow the MAR Business Meeting. You will find a map to the meeting on page 2.

Fall MAR Field Meet was held at the Delaware Water Gap. Story on page 3.

Newly elected MAR officers are listed to the left on this page. Elections were held at the Fall MAR meet.

### Inside

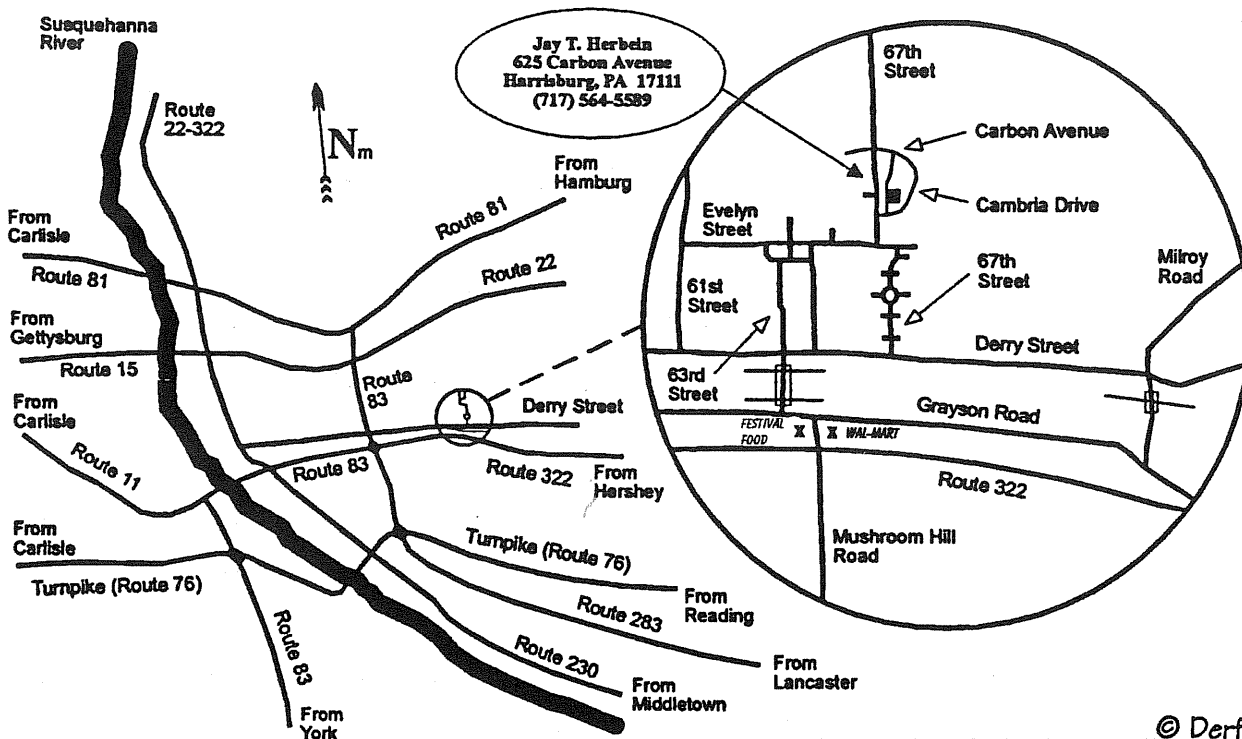
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# Map of Business Meeting Site

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 Wal-Mart and Weis Markets 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 Weis Markets).

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. 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.

## MAR 2001 FAI Field Meet

(Or: All I ever needed to know I learned by running an MAR)

by John Tudek

On September 10th of this year, as I sat in the lower level of Yankee Stadium waiting and hoping that the rain would go away and my girlfriend Sherrye Dobrin and I would get to see Roger Clemens try for his 20th win of the season against one loss, I decided to gripe. And complain. And bitch.

MAR was going to be a disaster, I said. An utter disaster. The guidebook wasn't finished, the campground was having numerous problems with access and keys, no one wanted to lead trips, people were backing out of things they had pledged to do months before. It was too expensive already and the costs were still going up. That week I had fielded no less than three emails complaining of suspected 'gouging' of prices and though they relented after I had patiently explained exactly where their money was going and that Central Jersey Grotto was operating this event at a loss already, the barb still stung. It had been a long two years since my half-inebriated self stood up at a MAR business meeting and volunteered to host this darn thing. All because I wanted to write another guidebook. I told my girlfriend that I was through, that I was sick of all this and that I was going to give up caving, or at least grottos and organized events. I was determined to sit back on my butt and be one of the non-doers who offered a million suggestions and never lifted a finger to help.

That was about when they called the ball game. In the steady drizzle we walked through downtown Manhattan, paid the exorbitant parking fee in Hoboken, nearly got driven off the road by drunk teenagers and managed to make it back to her place

outside of Newark around 2am.

The next morning at around 8am I stared sheepishly through the passenger window at the twin towers as I was dropped off at the train station to work in the city. Through the haze of half sleep I began to truly appreciate for the first time the architectural marvel that the towers were and what they were. Downtown Manhattan has always taken on cave-like properties for me; albeit a man-made cave. I look constantly for the tell-tale drip of stunted soda straws in the subways and the high narrow canyons of the Wall Street area always reminded me of walking stream passage, especially after the rains when the run off could be heard gurgling into the sewers. As I pruned my mind away from sleep and back to the realities of the morning commute, a single image of these two towers bathed in a sky of blue with the green Meadowlands in the foreground stuck in my mind.

It's going to stay there until the day I die. That was the last time I saw them whole. The next time I saw them was over an hour later and by then they were staggering giants gasping their last. I was part of a moving sea of humanity escaping the city. With my walkman from the previous night still in my bag I listened to the news as I became part of the news; one of the millions of people calmly trying to just get home. It was a refugee scene out of a war movie, minus the chaos. I cannot describe the orderliness of it all. The calm. Perhaps it would have been the same in any other city; but in the Big Apple, where rudeness is common and outright insult is even

more common, on this day there was only peace and grim determination. I made it home, a trip normally an hour and fifteen minutes, in just under ten hours.

You should know that there were other cavers in there. There were caver-firefighters at ground zero in what could only be later described as the 'biggest, most unstable pile of breakdown ever conceived by God'. They were still there several days later when MAR officially started and many others were on constant standby in case they were needed.

I know this is supposed to be about MAR, but that weekend MAR was about something else. It was about us not giving in and staying away. It was about us not hiding in a metaphorical hole and instead seeking out the company of our friends in physical holes, even if those holes were only Jersey-sized. I want to personally thank everyone who did attend under the most difficult of circumstances this nation has seen in over half a century. I also want to thank those in my grotto that helped set up and put this together and especially Kammy Johnson, Dotti Hansen and Bill Boehle who are solely responsible for everyone's full belly that Saturday night, no matter how many trips back to the kitchen people wanted to make. We made 'all you can eat' mean it. They also put together the great patriotic display (though I think it was Amos Mincin who actually provided pole and flag) that greeted us that day. Everyone also did their civic duty and brought enough firewood to build cabins for us to sleep in. Sherrye Dobrin also put together a most excellent candlelight ceremony wherein we sang 'The Star Spangled Banner' (though the word 'sing' should be used advisedly. I believe our singing caused the salmon to head off early to Oregon to spawn and half the wildlife to start hibernating immediately. If noise torture ever becomes an effective

means to draw out information from the enemy, our government has no further to look than to us.) Dean Snyder put together an impressive tour of small Pennsy caves (To prove, i suppose, that rat-holes were not indigenous solely to New Jersey) which I regretted not being able to attend. And I hope we surprised a few people with Surprise Cave's size. At 1.58 miles, it's the best we've got going for a long ways. Other trips poked around some of the smaller Jersey caves and one even braved the mental rigors of Crooked Swamp cave (where you ask yourself "why am I bothering with this cave?" over and over again until you go insane.) People also took advantage of the river and the vertical workshop nearby (and the beer across the street- if you got there early enough).

All in all, a great time was had by everyone who attended. Mostly people were just glad to get away for the weekend and be amongst their fellow cavers. Caving has always provided that necessary layer of insulation from the world and is especially necessary in the world that came about following the tragic events of September the eleventh.

**God bless the United States.**

**Ed Note:** CNJG did an outstanding job hosting the Fall MAR, especially under the circumstances. The whole event was well organized; there were 60 plus attendees, picture perfect fall weather, an awesome spread of food with an abundance of baked desserts which were also available Sunday at breakfast along with plenty of coffee, great decorations and the candle light service around the fire Saturday night was very moving. The singing of the Star Spangled Banner was actually quite nice, certainly sung with a lot of emotion. As John said, it was good to get together with fellow cavers and share the camaraderie.

# Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy Corner

Unofficial Minutes of Regular Meeting  
September 16, 2001

Lacking a quorum, an unofficial meeting was called to order by President, Pat Minnick, at the Delaware River Family Campground at Delaware, NJ at 10:00 am, Sunday, September 16, 2001.

The following officers were present:

<b>President</b>	Pat Minnick
<b>V. Pres.</b>	Karen Bange
<b>Secretary</b>	Keith D. Wheeland
<b>Treasurer</b>	George Bange

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	
Baltimore Grotto	
Bucks County Grotto	
Central New Jersey Grotto	John Tudek
Commander Cody Caving Club	
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick
Greater Allentown Grotto	
Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	
Nittany Grotto	Keith Wheeland
Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin Ellen Hoffler
Pittsburgh Grotto	
Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
South Jersey Grotto	Ed Fiore
York Grotto	

There were other individuals present.

## Treasurer Report:

The treasurer, George Bange, reported a balance of \$206.84 in the checking account, \$2722.06 in the savings account for a total of \$2,928.90.

## Old Business:

## Project List:

**Baker Caverns**, Franklin County, PA No report

**Dragon Cave**, Berks County PA No report

**Duffield Cave**, Franklin County, PA The owner doesn't want anyone entering the cave. Remove from the list.

**Penn Auqua Cave**, Mifflin County, PA The Nittany and Seven Valleys Grottos removed the temporary obstruction on June 16, 2001. Remove from the list.

**J-4**, Keith Wheeland reported that there has been no change in the status of J-4. The owner has asked that cavers not visit the cave.

**Liability Insurance:** The Secretary reported on insurance.

**PCC Brochure:** Two thousand brochures were printed and brought to the meeting. It was decided (unofficially) to distribute the brochures to show caves. This is to be done by various grottos and organizations.

Coral Caverns	Nittany
Laurel Caverns	MAKC
Crystal Caverns	GAG
Lincoln Caverns	HCCH
Crystal Grottos	FCG
Lost River	South Jersey
Historic Indian	Nittany
Penns Cave	Seven Valleys
Indian Echo	York
Woodward	Nittany

The PCC will send Gordon Ley a thank you letter for his help in getting the brochures printed.

**PCC Cave Calendar:** George Bange noted that there were not enough pre-orders to make the project worthwhile. Discussion followed two lines. How to save the project especially since a lot of effort went into it. And what to do in the future. It was decided (unofficially) to scrap the project for this year and return all funds collected for the pre-orders. It was also decided (unofficially) to try again next year with a slightly different approach.

**Web Page:** Dave Fricke, the web master, provided a report by email.

**Fund Raising T-Shirts:** Dean Snyder has PCC T-shirts for sale at \$8 each.

## **New Business:**

**Spring 2002 MAR:** The Spring 2002 MAR field meet will be hosted by Seven Valleys Grotto at the Rupert Cave Campground the weekend of May 4, 2002.

**Pancake Breakfast:** A pancake breakfast will be served on Sunday morning at the Spring MAR with proceeds to benefit the PCC.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the PCC will be on Saturday February 23, 2002 after the MAR Business meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am, September 16, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith D. Wheeland, Secy.

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## **PCC Officer Elections**

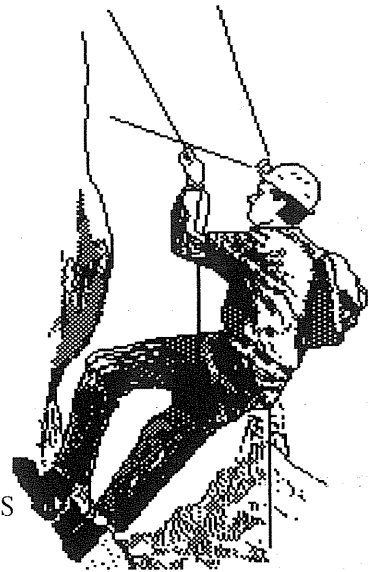
*The PCC will be electing new officers at the February meeting. If you are interested in having your name added to the slate, please contact a current officer.*

*Even if you are not interested in being an officer, plan to attend the February meeting and see what the PCC is all about.*

**Get involved in cave conservation!**

**Spring MAR 2002**  
**May 3-5th**  
**McVeytown, PA**

**Hosted by**  
**Seven Valleys Grotto**



### Registration Fee Includes

- Bonfire in the quarry both nights  
ABSOLUTELY NO OPEN FIRES EXCEPT AT ESTABLISHED SITES
- Dinner Saturday night (bring your chair to dinner)
- Beverages to include beer in the evenings, coffee in the mornings,  
and non alcoholic beverages throughout the MAR
- 1999 Fall MAR Guidebooks will be sold by York Grotto at registration (\$8 per guidebook)  
Guidebook includes large foldout maps of Alexander, Rupert and Big Ridge Caves
- There is no camping fee

### PCC Sponsored Pancake Breakfast on Sunday

#### Registration Information

- Register before April 3<sup>rd</sup> and get a discount
- Refunds are available, if requested by April 19, 2002
- Make checks payable to Karen Bange and mail to:  
2002 Spring MAR c/o Karen Bange  
RR 2 Box 360, Mt Pleasant Mills, PA 17853

Questions? Call George or Karen Bange (570) 539-2107 or [rupert@prolog.net](mailto:rupert@prolog.net)

#### Directions

##### From Lewistown

Take 22W/522S approx. 11 miles to McVeytown  
100 yds past graveyard with large stonewall turn right  
onto Furnace Road. Go 1.7 mile to the 2<sup>nd</sup> stop sign  
Turn left onto Schoolhouse Road  
Go 0.5 mile and turn left onto Kansas Road  
Go 0.7 mile to MAR site on the left

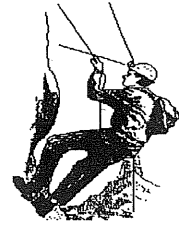
##### From Reedsville

Go south on 655 approx. 9.5 miles  
Turn left onto Wills Road  
Follow the "To 22" signs  
Go 6.7 mile, crossing over Jacks Mountain  
At the bottom turn left onto Kansas Road  
Go 1.4 mile to MAR site on the right

##### From Mt Union

Take 22E/522N approx. 8.7 mile  
Turn left onto Jacks Mountain Road  
Look for signs "To 305" and "Belleville"  
Go 2.0 mile and turn right onto Kansas Road  
Go 1.4 mile to MAR site on the right

**2002 Spring MAR  
May 3-5, 2002  
McVeytown, PA**



**Principal Registrant's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Daytime Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Evening Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Grotto Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone of Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Registrants**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to Principal Registrant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to Principal Registrant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to Principal Registrant:** \_\_\_\_\_

	Unit Cost	Quantity	Cost
<b>Adult Registration (Before April 3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>	<b>\$17.50</b>		
<b>Adult Registration (After April 3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>	<b>\$20</b>		
<b>Children (Ages 6-12)</b>	<b>\$10</b>		
<b>Children Under 6</b>	<b>Free</b>		
<b>Totals:</b>			
<b>Vegetarian Meals (Must pre register)</b>	<b>No extra charge</b>		

Seven Valley Grotto, its members, the MAR and private landowners take no responsibility for any injuries or losses that might be sustained during the 2002 MAR meet and any associated activities. Participation by the undersigned is at their own risk, and they accept responsibility for the safety of all other participants (children and adults) who are listed on this registration.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Return with registration fee to:

2002 Spring MAR c/o Karen Bange, RR 2 Box 360 Mt Pleasant Mills, PA 17853

Call George or Karen Bange (570) 539-2107 if you have questions

Email: [rupert@prolog.net](mailto:rupert@prolog.net)



# Competition Among Conservancies and Cavers for Caves ??? Not!

By Kim Metzgar

I was somewhat surprised to see some speculation in The Region Record, the very informative publication of the Virginia Area Region about cave conservancies and competition:

"Looking ahead with something to think about," the person wrote, "There are more and more Conservancies competing to purchase caves, and asking for funding and at the same time there are caver friendly people competing with these conservancies to purchase the same caves, and there are cavers competing with the above to purchase the same property. Anyone of which would protect the resource, while maintaining access. This may be one time when competition may not be good for all concerned. I understand the need to play the cards close to one's vest while negotiating with the seller. But is this good, in the long run, for all of the above, when it's time to fund these purchases?"

It's an interesting bit of speculation, written by someone who may be familiar with a few conservancies, and I write this response not to criticize the commentator (because if he feels that way then other cavers may also), but to educate and inform cavers about my experiences with a cave conservancy.

In 1997 we formed the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy, and we did this with much help and advice from our friends at the Southeast Cave Conservancy. I could name names, but I'm afraid I'll miss someone, as we talked with many members of the board and all were helpful.

In fact, our bylaws were based on the SCCi's bylaws, and one kind soul even e-mailed them to us so we wouldn't have to retype anything. They really helped us get off the ground. Taking that initial example and support, we've tried to be as helpful as we can to other cavers as well as to other cave conservancies, and have noted many, many instances of conservancies helping conservancies. After all, we all have the same goal: to save and protect caves while allowing caver access. So, I compiled a short list, based only on the MAKC's experiences and on my limited observations, of how conservancies and cavers interact:

## **MAKC and SCCi**

\*As noted above, the MAKC bylaws were based on the SCCi's.

\*The MAKC owns a spot at the SCCi's Kennamer Cave Preserve.

\*Several MAKC board members and former board members, as well as MAKC members, also belong to SCCi.

\*Several SCCi members and board members belong to MAKC and have spots at our Billy Clay Cave Preserve.

\*SCCi helped the MAKC spread the word about our van raffle a few years ago.

## **MAKC and the Indiana Karst Conservancy (IKC)**

\*The organizations exchange newsletters.

\*IKC helped the MAKC spread the word about our van raffle a few years ago.

\*IKC board member provided some advice about a potential MAKC project and was kind enough to mail us copies of some pertinent information.

### MAKC and WVCC

\*Many members and board members from both organizations belong to both groups. I am a charter WVCC member.

\*MAKC members have on several occasions talked about West Virginia caves for sale with WVCC board members.

\*MAKC members have supported WVCC duck races and bat flights and other endeavors.

\* WVCC members have supported MAKC via raffle ticket purchases and sponsorship of spots in our Billy Clay Cave Preserve.

\*Tom Metzgar, a specialist in courthouse research, who is a board member of MAKC, provided research on a Randolph County, WV cave to several WVCC members for a cave the WVCC had considered taking action on.

### WVCC and SCCi

\* WVCC conducted an extensive cleanup of the Lobelia Saltpeter Cave property, which is owned by the SCCi. WVCC also assists in management of the preserve.

### MAKC and Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC)

\* PCC has sponsored a spot in MAKC's Hall Cave Preserve.

\* PCC board members George and Karen Bange invited the MAKC to hold our June 2001 open house on their Rupert Cave property.

\* MAKC held a raffle of a backset of Nittany Grotto News at the MAR meet hosted by Nittany Grotto a few years ago, and split the proceeds with the PCC.

\*MAKC has, on request of some PCC members, sold PCC t-shirts at our booth at OTR and convention.

\*MAKC has and will continue to help promote the PCC calendar fundraiser.

\*MAKC has offered to assist a PCC board member with a project he might undertake with the PCC, if he thinks our help is

needed. MAKC will not interfere with a PCC project, but will only help if requested.

### MAKC and Cavers

\* MAKC is the first conservancy that I know of to keep a database of cavers who want to buy caves, and the counties they wish to purchase a cave in. With our real estate contacts, and financial constraints, it is not always possible to buy every cave we research, or that cavers suggest we buy. Aside from that, if a caver or cave-friendly person buys the cave that means MAKC does not have to raise the money, develop a management plan and manage the property. It's a win-win situation. (To get put on the list e-mail [kimmakc@aol.com](mailto:kimmakc@aol.com)).

\* MAKC researched the owners who were selling Peiper Cave (Pa.), found it was way out of our price range, and were delighted that cavers Ed and Kim Kehs purchased the cave. They weren't on our list, and we didn't have anything to do with their purchase, but we were thrilled about it. Ed and Kim let us try out our graffiti-scrubbing pressure washer on their cave at the spring MAR meet.

\*Many cavers belong to more than one conservancy and financially support more than one conservancy project. We at the MAKC have never told any caver on which project to spend his or her money -- we think they're all pretty significant. We're just grateful for those who choose to help us.

\*During our Billy Clay Pit Preserve negotiations, which took over a year, any caver could have stepped in at any time to bid on our property. It was an understood part of our talks that the owner could sell it at any time. Again, like the Peiper Cave purchase, we would have been delighted to have had a caver purchase the cave -- and we'd be out of debt!

### MAKC, Grottos and Regions

\* MAKC has a hands-off policy as far as messing with caves managed by local cavers or grottos. If we are interested in a cave in a particular area, we make contact with the local cavers. If we're told our help isn't needed or wanted, and it's being managed well as it is, that's all it takes -- we move on to another project.

\* MAKC is currently working with the Ohio Valley Region (OVR) and the Ohio Cavers and Climbers Club on a cave cleanup in Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

\* MAKC has received support from many, many grottos, including nearly every one in Pennsylvania, grottos in New York, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey and Delaware, as well as the NSS and The

Robertson Association. These grottos and organizations also support other cave conservancies, as they should.

\* The only negative experience in my four years of cave conservancy work, was when the Mid-Appalachian Region (MAR) took away a promise on publication of my book (Caves of Westmoreland County, MAR 20), that they would give \$2 per book sold to cave conservation (and that wasn't necessarily to my group, as my group wasn't formed when the promise was made). But hey, you'll have a few negative experiences -- that's life. As you can see, it's been a 99 percent positive experience for us. And hopefully this sets to rest some caver concerns about competition among conservancies.

Don't forget to check out both the MAR web site  
and the PCC web site for the  
latest information and upcoming events!

The MAR web page is at: [www.caves.org/region/mar/](http://www.caves.org/region/mar/)

The PCC web page is at: [www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc](http://www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc)

MAR Breakdown  
RR 2 Box 360  
Mt Pleasant Mills, PA 17853

**Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins**  
NSS Member Price List

1-4	REPRINT VOLUME: Constitution and Caves of Shippensburg	7.00+ postage A
8	REPRINT Caves of Blair Co., PA	OUT OF PRINT
9	Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA	OUT OF PRINT
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA 20 caves, 14 maps	5.00 + postage A
11	Caves of Centre Co., PA 71 caves, 56 maps/1 large map	10.00+ postage B
12	Caves of Mifflin Co., PA 47 caves, 31 maps/5 large maps	10.00+ postage B
13	Caves of Perry Co., PA 13 caves, 6 maps	5.00+ postage A
14	Caves of Bucks, Co., PA	OUT OF PRINT
15	Caves of Lehigh Co., PA 25 caves, 13 maps	5.00+ postage A
16	Caves of Northampton Co., PA 24 caves, 13 maps/1 large map	6.00+ postage A
17	Caves of Northumberland Co., PA 20 caves, 10 maps	5.00+ postage A
18	Caves of Berks Co., PA 64 caves, 32 maps	10.00+ postage B
19	Caves of Bedford Co., PA 54 caves, 33 maps	7.00+ postage A
20	Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA 337 caves, 187 maps/10 large maps	29.50+3.00 each postage ♦

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- B \$2.00 postage each bulletin; \$0.50 each additional to same address
- ♦\$3.00 postage each bulletin #20

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**Order from: Bette White, RR 1 Box 527, Petersburg, PA 16669-9211**