



# BREAKDOWN

Volume 36, Number 1, April 2021

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-

Event notices and MAR Breakdown newsletters are distributed electronically. When you attend a field meet, the email address provided on your registration form is added to the distribution list. You may also add yourself to distribution by going to <http://eepurl.com/P2f5j> and completing a short registration form.

#### 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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## 2021 Spring MAR/VAR has been

# \*\*\*CANCELLED\*\*\*

## The hosting grottos plan to reschedule the event for Spring of 2022



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# ***Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society***

## **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**February 27, 2021**

**[Held via Zoom video conference due to the global COVID-19 pandemic]**

### **Officers Present:**

Paul Winter, Chairman  
JD Lewis, Vice-Chairman  
Bette White, Treasurer  
Hope Brooks, Secretary

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by MAR Chair, Paul Winter, at 1:46 PM, February 27, 2021 on Zoom (online).

**Introductory Remarks:** Paul Winter thanked all meeting attendees for attending the MAR's first online meeting via Zoom.

**Vice Chairman Report:** Nothing to report.

**Reading of the Minutes:** The minutes from the previous business meeting, held on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, were shared via Zoom screen by Chairman Paul Winter. The minutes were accepted as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was read by MAR treasurer, Elizabeth "Bette" White. Total income of the year was \$434.63, with \$290.76 in expenses. Net gain for the year was \$143.87.

**MAR Breakdown:** Gretchen "Red" Schock reported that no August MAR Breakdown went out, as there were no field meets in 2020. If you are not receiving MAR Breakdown via email, please contact one of the MAR officers.

### **Internet:**

**MAR Listserv (Google Groups):** Christopher Catherman reported that has created a new MAR Group Listersev in Google Groups, with the help of Chairman Paul Winter, for general announcements by members of the MAR. Go to the MAR Website for instructions on how to register for the Google Groups listserv.

**MAR Listserv (Mail Chimp):** Christopher Catherman reported that Mail Chimp is working well for MAR Breakdown distributions and announcements by MAR board members. In 2020, on average, messages went out to 370-380 recipients. Approximately 41% of those recipients opened the sent messages. Of the recipients that opened the sent messages, 15% clicked on the

links to open-up a MAR Breakdown or to vote during the officers' election. In 2021, 32% of the recipients are opening the sent messages, and 12% of recipients are clicking on links. Overall, this means that less than half of our MAR Listserv Mail Chimp recipients open emails they receive.

**MAR Website:** Christopher Catherman reported that the NSS has continued implemented hosting of IO and grotto websites on their new server at no cost. The MAR website was uploaded onto the new NSS server at the end of December 2020 in anticipation of the transition. As a result of the transitioning, the new URL is [mar.caves.org](http://mar.caves.org). Until the old URL becomes non-functioning, there is an automatic redirect in place that will redirect viewers from the old URL to the new URL. In the future, search for the MAR using [mar.caves.org](http://mar.caves.org).

**MAR Past Field Meets:** All field meets in 2020 were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**MAR Bulletins:** Will White reported that MAR Bulletin purchases were down in 2020. Bert Ashbrook reported that he is looking to publish the map of Sarah Furnace and asked if this would fit under the purview of a MAR Bulletin. In addition, Don Arrowood asked whether Will White has talked to Jack Speece about current updates to the Franklin County Bulletin. Bette White offered to begin compiling information from Bert Ashbrook and Jack Speece on Sarah Furnace and Franklin County, respectively.

**Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC):** The Pennsylvania Game Commission has not done any bat counts in 2020 due to COVID-19.

### **Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC):**

**MAKC Fundraising for Penn Aqua:** Kim Metzger reported that MAKC has received \$22,500 in donations for Penn Aqua. Penn Aqua costs \$30,000, has \$5,000 of expenses, and needs a driveway. The cave's total cost is \$38,000. MAKC has nearly completed

paying off its loan and should be able to reach its fundraising goal of \$38,000.

**Sarah Furnace Celebration:** In the future, as survey continues, Sarah Furnace will become the longest cave in Pennsylvania. There is discussion on whether to have a day-long celebration in honor of Sarah Furnace becoming the longest cave in Pennsylvania.

**White Nose Syndrome:** Paul Winter reported that White Nose Syndrome is currently expanding into western caving regions.

### New Business

#### **2022 Field Meets:**

**2022 Spring Field Meet:** A MAR/VAR will be hosted by Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto at Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA. Dates are to be determined until arrangements are made with Grand Caverns.

**2022 Fall Field Meet:** No report.

#### **Penn Aqua Cave Preserve:**

**Update on Status of Fundraising:** See the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC) report above. The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) has received \$2,265 worth of donations on Go Fund Me website. The PCC will match donations on Go Fund Me up to \$3,000, and the Go Fund Me will remain open after the \$3,000 matching has expired. The MAR has donated \$10,000 to Sarah Furnace.

**MAR Donation to Penn Aqua Cave Preserve:** Eric Pelkey moved that the MAR directly donate \$750 towards the purchase of Penn Aqua Cave. Eric Pelkey's motion to directly donate \$750 towards the purchase of Penn Aqua Cave passes. In the discussion, Bette White raised her concerns about donating additional money to Penn Aqua Cave until after COVID-19 has subsided. She also noted that publishing MAR Bulletins costs approximately \$2,000. We will have a \$10,000 CD maturing in three years, and our

fixed annual expenses are currently about \$250/year.

**Bakers Caverns:** Don Arrowood noted that Bakers Cavern has been sold. The sale date was September 15, 2020. On July 12, 2020, Don met the sister of the Bakers Cavern owner, but he has made no further contact. After its purchase, other cavers—presumably not associated with organized caving groups—have accessed the cave. There will be an open house at Bakers Cavern, and the cavern will be open to visit. There is no further information on when the open house will occur.

**Fantasy Cave:** Fantasy Cave is owned by Todd Hancock. Those interested in the cave, including the survey effort, should contact Todd about access. Fantasy is a known to be a tough cave, but with remarkable features and length, especially for PA.

**Smelter's Cave:** Smelter's Cave is owned by Todd Hancock, and he has renamed it Fern Cave. There are three promising leads in Fern Cave.

**Ken Jones' Caves:** Ken Jones' Caves are being relocated by Franklin County Grotto members. There are two caves which have not been relocated, and a third cave is located on a hunting camp with limited access to the cave.

**Next Meeting:** The 2022 MAR Business Meeting will be on February 26, 2022.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The MAR Business meeting was adjourned at 2:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hope Brooks, *MAR Secretary*

#### **Representatives at the MAR meeting:**

- Baltimore Grotto
- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Huntingdon County Cave Hunters
- Loyalhanna Grotto
- MAKC
- Nittany Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- York Grotto

# MAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT: February 12, 2021

## Form 990-N was submitted to IRS

Gross Assets: February 12, 2021

Checking:	470.19
Savings: 6,636.36 - 690.39 =	5,945.97
[in savings: Cave Signs 690.39]	690.39
[\$10,000.00 CD at Reliance Bank]	10,000.00

**Total** **17,106.55**

Gross Assets: February 29, 2020

Checking:	727.45
Savings: 6,235.23 - 690.39 =	5,544.84
[in savings: Cave Signs 690.39]	690.39
[\$10,000.00 CD at Reliance Bank]	10,000.00

**Total** **16,962.68**

**Net Income (Gain/Loss) for 2020** ..... **143.87**

.....

ITEM	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET
<b>INTEREST</b> Savings	1.13	.....	1.13

.....

## MAR FIELD MEETS ALL CANCELLED

### Spring ` 2020 xxxxxxxxxx Grotto

MAR Income: xx persons @ \$1.00 = xx.00

25% [Reg-Exp = \$0.00

Spring MAR income: \$0.00

### Fall 2020 xxxxxxxxxx Grotto

MAR Income: xx persons @ \$1.00 = 0.00

[Regis-Expen = \$0.00.

Fall MAR income: \$0.00

IRS 990-N Fee: ..... 49.99

Annual Meeting Site Rental ..... 50.00

Annual Meeting coffee/tea/cider ..... 57.77

Rental P.O. Box\* (\$53.) ..... 53.00

**Field Meets/Web: Net** ..... **-210.76**

.....

## MAR Bulletin sales

MAR 20:: \$5,161.64 - (sold 1 @ 29.50)

\$4,777.64 short of recovering cost

Bulletin sales: ..... 433.50

Stamps ..... 80.00

**MAR Bulletin Sales: Net** ..... **313.50**

.....

MAR BREAKDOWN NOTE: Breakdown account closed]

[Breakdown balance: = as of Feb 2020: balance in MAR Breakdown account: 0.00

.....

CAVE LAW SIGNS (previous balance 690.39)

[Cave sign balance = \$690.39]

.....

**Totals..... 434.63 -290.76 ..... 143.87**

Elizabeth L. White, Treasurer

\* Post office annual fee shared half with Nittany Grotto

## Of Further Interest

### Bulletin Sales Feb 2020 – Feb 2021

<b>Bulletin #</b>	<b>Number Sold</b>	<b>Price/Bulletin</b>	<b>Bulletin Income</b>	<b>Bulletins + postage</b>
<b>1-4</b>	1	\$ 7.00	7.00	
<b>5</b>	2	\$ 8.00	16.00	
<b>6</b>	4	\$17.00	68.00	
<b>7</b>	2	\$ 5.00	10.00	
<b>8</b>	2	\$ 7.00	14.00	
<b>9</b>	5	\$10.00	50.00	
<b>10</b>	1	\$ 6.00	6.00	
<b>11</b>	2	\$10.00	20.00	
<b>12</b>	2	\$10.00	20.00	
<b>13</b>	2	\$ 10.00	20.00	
<b>14</b>	1	\$ 5.00	5.00	
<b>15</b>	1	\$ 6.00	6.00	
<b>16</b>	1	\$ 6.00	6.00	
<b>17</b>	1	\$ 5.00	5.00	
<b>18</b>	1	\$10.00	10.00	
<b>19</b>	2	\$ 7.00	14.00	
<b>20</b>	1	\$29.50	29.50	
<b>21</b>	2	\$27.50	55.00	
<b>22</b>	2	16.00	32.00	
<b>Totals</b>	35		<b>393.50</b>	<b>433.50</b>



# Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

## Minutes of Regular Meeting – February 27, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 pm by President Dave Briggs via the Virtual Zoom Meeting environment on Saturday, February 27, 2021.

The following officers were present: **President** Dave Briggs **Vice President** Amos Mincin  
**Secretary** Gretchen Schock **Treasurer** John Boswell

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	J.D. Lewis	Greater Allentown Grotto	Dean Snyder
Baltimore Grotto	Craig Hindman	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	Derek Flaig
Bucks County Grotto	--	Nittany Grotto	Paul Winter
Central New Jersey Grotto	Amos Mincin	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Commander Cody Caving Club	Dave Fricke	Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick	York Grotto	Randy Hurst

**Secretary Report:** Dave Fricke moved and J.D. Lewis seconded to accept the minutes from the February 29, 2020 meeting as published in the April 2021 MAR Breakdown. The motion passed.

**Treasurer Report:** John Boswell reviewed the PCC account activity since the last meeting (provided below). Dave Fricke moved and Pat Minnick seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted as provided. The motion passed.

## Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

### Financial Summary

2-29-20 through 2-27-21

#### Interest Checking Account

Checking Balance 2/29/20	F&M Trust Bank checking	2/29/2020	\$6,859.48
Deposit	Central NJ Grotto Donation	3/4/2020	\$50.00
Deposit	Amazon Smile	5/21/2020	\$5.94
Deposit	Amazon Smile	8/13/2020	\$5.63
Deposit	Amazon Smile	11/12/2020	\$14.55
Deposit	Lost River Caverns Donation	2/4/2021	\$100.00
Deposit	Amazon Smile	2/22/2021	\$20.07
Deposit	Interest Credit	2/29/2020	\$0.28
Deposit	Interest Credit	3/31/2020	\$0.20
Deposit	Interest Credit	4/30/2020	\$0.12
Deposit	Interest Credit	5/31/2020	\$0.12
Deposit	Interest Credit	6/30/2020	\$0.11
Deposit	Interest Credit	7/31/2020	\$0.12
Deposit	Interest Credit	8/31/2020	\$0.11
Deposit	Interest Credit	9/30/2020	\$0.12

Deposit	Interest Credit	10/31/2020	\$0.12
Deposit	Interest Credit	11/30/2020	\$0.11
Deposit	Interest Credit	12/31/2020	\$0.12
Deposit	Interest Credit	1/31/2021	\$0.12
<b>Ending Balance :</b>			<b>\$7,057.32</b>

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT (CDs):**

		<b><u>Maturity Date</u></b>	
Certificate of Deposit *75	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,145.73
Certificate of Deposit *29	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,145.73
Certificate of Deposit *65	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,145.73

\* \$5.09 July 2020 and \$5.18 January 2021 Interest credit applied to each.

**COMBINED TOTAL :**

**\$10,494.51**

GoFundMe fundraiser for PennAqua Cave total as of 2/22/2021 = \$2,265.00

**Web Page:** Dave Fricke reported that the existing PCC website is up and running and everything is status quo.

**PCC Breakfast:** Nothing to report. Due to COVID restrictions, there have been no MAR fields meets therefore there have been no PCC Breakfast fund raising events.

**PCC Brochure:** Dave Briggs has the supply of PCC brochures. Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact Dave Briggs.

**Mail:** Dean Snyder reported the PCC received a donation from Lost River Caverns. Thank you Lost River Caverns! Dean also stated that the \$76 PO Box fee has been paid for another year.

**Christmas Cards:** Kim Kehs assumed the task of sending the PCC Christmas Cards beginning in 2018. Please contact Kim if you know of a landowner you would like added to the PCC Christmas card list.

**T-shirts:** The PCC t-shirts are available for purchase on the PCC web site for \$15, which includes shipping and handling.

**PA Cave Database:** Paul Winter reported that Tony Canike continues to transition the PA Cave Database responsibilities to Paul. Paul is interested in converting the database to a more robust forum that would include an online form to request information. Dave Briggs offered his assistance in these online efforts.

Paul stated that he was contacted by a state organization requesting locations of caves in Pennsylvania to supplement emergency/911 efforts. Due to concern that the cave location information may not be secured properly it was suggested that, as an alternative, Paul provide information and/or points of contact for the NCRC regional coordinators to assist with cave related incidents. Paul indicated that he would respond to the request stating that he is unable to provide cave locations but can provide cave rescue contact information to assist with applicable situations.

John Karge expressed interest in serving as the Northumberland County cave steward. Paul Winter moved and Dave Fricke seconded to nominate John Karge to serve as cave steward for Northumberland County. The motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Project and Caves of Interest List:**

**Cold Air Cave** (Northampton County) – no report.

**Decker Sink Cleanup** – no report.

**Future of the PCC:** Discussions regarding the efficacy/viability of the PCC and whether or not the PCC was simply duplicating efforts of other conversancy groups in the area were initiated during the February 2020 PCC meeting. During those discussions, grotto representatives were encouraged to return and continue this discussion with their grotto members. After a year, the following additional points were offered:

- Paul Winter stated that the PCC offered valuable services and cited examples such as the McAlisterville and Kiehls cave cleanup events.
- Dave Briggs pointed out that the PCC has established some positive landowner relations, particularly for activities like cave cleanups. The landowners were very impressed and appreciative of the turnout of so many cavers and the work that was accomplished.
- Dave Fricke commented that the PCC offers a vehicle to communicate with landowners utilizing a state-wide established organization.
- Randy Hurst indicated the PCC would be a helpful entity when contacting organizations such as home owners associations, citing a current effort being pursued by York Grotto.
- Dave Briggs stated that the PCC board will strive to improve communications with the membership grottos and will also focus on being more active with cave conservation activities going forward.
- Cherie Schock suggested that a project committee may be helpful to assist in coordinating future activities and events within the PCC.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Northumberland County Grotto:** Northumberland County Grotto expressed interest in becoming a member grotto of the PCC. John Boswell referred to the PCC By Laws and indicated that all membership grottos must first be recognized by the National Speleological Society (NSS) before being eligible for PCC membership. At this time Northumberland County Grotto is not a NSS recognized organization. The PCC encouraged Northumberland County Grotto to re-submit their request for membership once they have been established within the NSS.

**Penn Aqua Fund Raiser:** To date, \$2,265 has been raised for the PCC established GoFundMe campaign, to which PCC will match up to \$3,000. The intention of this fund raiser is to assist MAKC in raising funds to cover the purchase of Penn Aqua Cave. Thanks to MAKC for all your hard work/efforts for this cave!

Craig Hindman voiced his concerns surrounding the manner in which the fund raiser has been handled. It was noted that the PCC By Laws were not followed, which require a motion, second, and related discussion prior to voting on a proposal to spend PCC funds. The grotto representatives were only presented with an email request to vote on the GoFundMe campaign. Craig also pointed out that the results of that vote were never shared with the grotto representatives as promised. Dave Briggs indicated that he thought the PCC officers were given the authority to allocate PCC funds. In an effort to correct the concern, Pat Minnick moved and Randy Hurst seconded that the PCC set up a GoFundMe campaign to match donations up to \$3,000 toward MAKC's Penn Aqua Cave fund raising efforts. The motion passed but with strenuous objection by Baltimore Grotto.

**Spring MAR/VAR 2021:** Due to ongoing COVID concerns, Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto have decided to postpone the Spring 2021 MAR/VAR Field Meet at Grand Caverns in Grottoes, VA



until Spring of 2022. The dates of the event will be provided at a later time. More details will be posted on the MAR and VAR web sites as they become available.

**Elections:** Dave Fricke moved and Pat Minnick seconded to re-elect the current PCC officers to serve another year. The motion passed.

**Next meeting:** Next PCC meeting - To be determined.

Dave Fricke moved and Paul Winter seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

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### ***2021 Spring MAR-VAR Postponed***

After discussions among members of the Seven Valleys and Charlottesville hosting grottos, we regret to announce that the planning committee members have decided to postpone the 2021 Spring MAR/VAR until Spring of 2022 due to the continued instability surrounding the COVID-19 virus and related restrictions. While the introduction of a vaccine provides some hope of improvement in the future, it seems doubtful that conditions will be improved enough to host a field meet this Spring. We look forward to seeing all our caving friends once conditions finally improve. Until then, take care of yourselves and stay healthy! More details will be posted on the web site as they become available:

<https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm>

or

<http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var>

### ***Host Needed for the 2021 Fall MAR***

As of April 2021 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2021 Fall MAR Field Meet. If you are interested in hosting this event, a helpful guide to hosting a MAR field meet can be found on the MAR website (<https://mar.caves.org/hosting.htm>). Think about it - can you or your grotto host the event? If there are no volunteers there will be no field meet.

If you're interested in hosting one of the events, please contact a MAR officer.

# Penn Aqua Cave Journey

by Karen Bange

We have all heard that good things are well worth the wait. After 15 years of dreaming of Penn Aqua Cave being under cavers' management, the dream has become a reality. MAKC purchased this outstanding cave in Mifflin County December 14, 2020.

The dream started in 2005 when George Bange and Dale Ibberson approached the then landowner, Jim Kingston, after hearing that the property was for sale. The intent was to inquire about subdividing the property to allow PCC to buy the parcel with the cave entrance. Although it was a pleasant day touring Kingston's property, Jim took George and Dale around his place on a golf cart and showed them various caves on the place, Jim didn't agree to the subdivision idea. The entire property was sold to his neighbor, Ryan Ford.



*Parking area is roughed out and graded at Penn Aqua  
(photo by Karen Bange)*

Fast forward 15 years to December 2019. A small, store bought FOR SALE sign appeared at the end of the lane to Ryan's place. George approached Ryan, inquiring again about subdividing a parcel of land off of the 7.75 acre farmette, that would allow a conservancy to purchase the cave entrance. An offer was made to manage and pay the cost of the sub-division. Once again, the answer was no thanks. Ryan felt it would just take too long to get the sub-division approved. In early July of 2020, after 6 months without a sale, an official realtor FOR SALE sign was put at the end of the driveway. The asking price was \$225,000 for the 7.75 acres with a house and barn.

The chatter in the caving community was very active all spring and early summer; lots of brainstorming (or dreaming) was done to figure

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out a way to get Penn Aqua Cave under cavers' control. The situation was discussed on a Nittany Grotto zoom meeting. It turned out Rick Smith, a local Nittany Grotto member, personally knew the listing agent for the property. Rick proposed the subdivision idea to the realtor and asked the idea to be run by Ryan Ford. Since the house wasn't selling, subdividing off 2 acres would reduce the asking price of the remaining 5.75 acres to a more reasonable price. Ryan agreed to the subdivision proposal which set wheels in motion.

Earlier in the year George had contacted MAKC (Kim Metzgar) asking if they would consider undertaking the purchase and management of Penn Aqua Cave. MAKC was quite interested in adding another cave to their impressive list of leased or owned caves but was not able to accommodate the purchase of the entire farmette. After learning that a sub-division was now a possibility, Kim contacted the realtor and successfully negotiated a sales agreement. MAKC would purchase a 2-acre lot that included the cave entrance and a small amount of road frontage, contingent on the approval of the sub-division and the sale of the remaining 5.75 acres. By mid-August, the remaining farmette was under contract. Now all that was needed was to obtain the sub-division approval from Decatur Township.



*Gravel down and roller action at Penn Aqua  
(photo by Karen Bange)*

Fortunately George, recently retired and living 2 miles from the cave, was able to invest time and effort in the subdivision process. A local surveyor was able to portion off a 2 acre parcel of land with the cave entrance on it. The surveyor did an excellent job plotting the 2.00 acre parcel.

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PennDOT requires a driveway permit with any subdivision. The line of sight for the mandated driveway has to meet PennDOT requirements for approval, based on the speed limit and grade of the public road. Fortunately, an access point onto the property was established that met the requirements and the permit was issued in early November. And finally, the township required a backup septic system for the house on the remaining 5.75 acre property. The local septic official conducted a soil study and perk test. A back hoe was brought in to dig several holes and a location for a backup septic system was identified and approved.



*Installing the posts and cable across the driveway  
(photo by Karen Bange)*

The next step for the subdivision process was to get township approval at their monthly meeting. After the preliminary county and township reviews were complete the final subdivision approval was scheduled for the November 23<sup>rd</sup> Decatur Township meeting. Unfortunately, because of the high number of COVID cases in Mifflin County, the meeting had to be delayed and done virtually. Verbal approval for the subdivision was given yet all the township officials needed to sign off on the proposal. The written document was left in a barn for a week and, as able, township officials individually went in the barn and signed the document. Once signed, the subdivision was recorded in the county courthouse.

Over the course of the summer and fall, George was in contact with a local lawyer to make arrangements for the settlement. Settlement took place December 14<sup>th</sup> at the lawyer's office in Lewistown. Johnny Motto, MAKC treasurer, was the only attendee at settlement because of the COVID pandemic. It didn't take long after settlement for the word to spread through the

caving community, cavers owned Penn Aqua Cave!

In March of 2021, a local contractor put in a gravel drive and parking area that meets PennDot requirements. In April Nittany Grotto members Paul Winter, Harrison, Cassidy, Julian Gonzalez, Rick Smith, George and Karen Bange installed a cable gate across the driveway and established a trail to the cave. The group also cleaned up the cave entrance as a tree had fallen directly over the cave entrance sometime in the past. The cave is now open for visitors.



*Got the entrance cleaned up!  
(photo by Karen Bange)*

This special cave is truly unique as it is one of the few water caves in Central Pennsylvania. The entrance to the cave is a small crack in a beautiful rock face. Once through the small entranceway, explorers are immediately in water over their heads. The first 300 feet of cave passage is navigated by bobbing along in the water and holding onto the wall for purchase and propulsion. A wet suit is a must in the cave as the majority of the trip is in cold, spring water. Exploring the entire cave is quite the workout as when you aren't in the water you are caving; climbing, bending, crawling- all in a wetsuit which acts as a rubber band. There are several very nicely decorated areas in the cave since the water keeps vandals out of the cave. It is a great experience to see this wonderful cave and thankfully it is now managed by cavers!

MAKC has established a management plan, including access guidelines, for the cave. Once we can all gather again and go caving there will be some kind of open house to celebrate this dream come true. Stay tuned for more information on the management plan and open house by checking the MAKC web site ([www.Karst.org](http://www.Karst.org)).

## *Upcoming Events*

**2021 NSS Convention \*\* VIRTUAL \*\*** ..... July 24–30, 2021

This year's NSS Convention, originally scheduled for Weed, CA, will officially be moved on-line again this year July 24-30. The NSS plans to return to Weed in person in 2024.

80th Anniversary

URL: <http://nss2021.caves.org/>

**Karst-O-Rama** ..... August 13-15, 2021

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve

Mt. Vernon, Kentucky

URL: [karstorama.com](http://karstorama.com)

**Old Timers Reunion (OTR)** ..... Sept. 2-6, 2021

OTR Site/Campgrounds

Dailey, WV (Randolph County)

URL: [www.otr.org](http://www.otr.org)

**'21 Fall MAR Field Meet** ..... Fall 2021

Location: TBD

Hosted TBD

URL: <https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm>

**'21 Fall VAR Field Meet** ..... Fall 2021

Location: TBD

Hosted TBD

URL: <http://var.caves.org/index.php/events>

**'21 Bridge Day** ..... TBD 2021

New River Gorge Bridge

Fayetteville, WV

URL: [www.bridgeday.info/](http://www.bridgeday.info/)

**National Cave and Karst Management Symposium (NCKMS 2021)** ..... November 1-5, 2021

San Marcos, TX

URL: [symposium2021.nckms.org](http://symposium2021.nckms.org)

**2022 MAR Annual Business Meeting** ..... February 26, 2022

Mt. Laurel Church of God

1295 Piketown Road, Linglestown, PA

URL: <https://mar.caves.org/busnmtg.htm>

**'22 Spring VAR/MAR Field Meet** ..... Spring 2022

Grand Caverns

Grottoes, VA

Hosted By: Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto

URL: <https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm> -or-

<http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var>

# NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

Effective October 2018

## MID-APPALACHIAN REGION BULLETINS (including reprinted Bulletins)

1-4	Bulletins Caves of Shippensburg Area #1-4 <b>REPRINT</b>		<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
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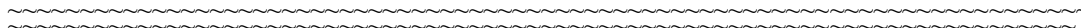
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