



Volume 40, Number 1, April 2025

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.

#### MAR Mailing Address-

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# Host needed for 2025 Spring MAR Field Meet!



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# Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2025
[Held at the Mt. Laurel Church of God in Harrisburg and via Zoom]

#### **Officers Present:**

Rick Smith, Chairman Kendra Warlow, Vice-Chair Olivia McAllister, Secretary Paul Winter, Treasurer

#### Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:33pm. A quorum of grotto representatives was established.



Chairman Rick Smith speaks at MAR Business Meeting (Photo by Amos Mincin)

#### **Opening Remarks**

Big thanks to Mark for getting all the tech set up for online meeting!!

Online: Dwight Kempf from GAG, and Kim Metzgar of MAKC.

Rick reviewed the basics of how the motion process works.

Welcome new 2025 officers: Olivia McAllister as secretary, Kendra Warlow as Vice-Chair, and Rick Smith as Chairperson. Thanks Dennis Melko and Ryan Mason for your service to the MAR previously!

Officer reports: nothing new to report, just excited!

Treasurer report: Paul winter reports a net increase of \$1,981.14 from last meeting with total assets of \$21,757.98 (specific amounts for checking, savings, etc. available in the MAR breakdown/Treasurer's Report)



Olivia and Kendra enjoying the meeting (Photo by Amos Mincin)

#### **Committee Updates**

#### **MAR Breakdown**

Red Schock reports that MAR breakdown has been going out on schedule. Let her know if you have any content that you would like included in the newsletter!

#### Website and Mailchimp

Christopher Catherman reported on website and email through Mailchimp. The website is there, no problems, up and running. He reported that there is a high volume of traffic at the end of the

month, but is not sure where it is coming from. If you notice any issues with trying to download, please let him know. There are about 600 subscribers to Mailchimp with about 570 recipients. Only about 40-50% are actually opening emails about MAR Breakdowns and meeting reminders.

#### **MAKC**

Tom Metzgar gave a report for the MAKC:

Sarah furnace is now over 10 miles long! The coal mine surface reclamation project is going well: some equipment is being lined up and the project is supposed to be finished by August. The property should end up with a gravel entry to make the road a little better, plus a gate. MAKC will be getting a clean and green preferential tax assessment for the parcel. Thanks to everyone who has contributed!

#### MAR Bulletin update

Olivia McAllister reported on the MAR Bulletins:

98 bulletins sold over the past year.

Planning to reprint Bulletin 18.

#### **NSS Tytoona Cave Preserve**

Ann Dunlavy reporting:



Ryan and Joe chat while Grace eavesdrops (Photo by Amos Mincin)

There is lots of work that needs to be done. Talk with her if you would like to volunteer. For example: boundary markers need to be installed.

Ann reported Nittany Grotto has been actively using the new NSS permit system. New signs were put up one month ago.

Hope Brooks & Ryan Maurer reported on the resurvey of Tytoona. There have been issues with signs getting ripped off and destroyed. Over the summer, a woman was living in Tytoona for a few days, but she was contacted and asked to move along. There was also a small amount of footage filmed with permission in Tytoona for the troll movie Hall of the Mountain King.

#### **Unfinished business**

#### 2024 Spring MAR

Rick gave a report from the 2024 Spring MAR at the McClure Bean Soup grounds: it was the first time hosting there, but it is located near many caves, including the MAKC McClure Cave Preserve. There was good food and Bert Ashbrook gave a nice presentation on Sarah Furnace. The profit was \$387.



George, Chris, Pat, and Ed catching up (Photo by Amos Mincin)

#### **2024 MAR Conservation Project**

There was a successful clean up at Mt. Rock cave. Just under a ton of garbage was removed! Glass, tvs, mattresses, etc. Free pizza was donated by Joe's OIP, MAKC paid for some drinks, and it was a nice and productive time!

#### **New Business**

Nittany Grotto is hosting Fall MAR 2025 in September.

There is currently no host for a Spring 2025 MAR.

Bald Eagle Grotto is planning to host a MAR Field meet in 2026.

#### **2025 Conservation Projects**

Rick motioned for a MAR spring clean-up at Alexander Caverns with a \$500 budget.

Motion seconded

Red mentioned that PCC could offer assistance as well.

Motion passed unanimously.



Paul reviews the MAR Treasurer's report (Photo by Amos Mincin)

[Note, if there are any other conservation projects, MAR has an annual budget of \$1000 to support conservation projects in the Region. Contact the MAR officers with your conservation projects]

#### **Congress of Grottos**

Bert Ashbrook reported on a proposal to print the NSS Members Manual which did not pass as people were concerned about privacy. The NSS will be letting people opt-in to being part of Members Manual.

Another proposal was to distribute printed copies of the Journal of Cave and Karst studies to life members who ask for it, which passed, but Bert was not sure if the board has acted to consider that proposal yet. Carol Tiderman reported that this will be discussed at the next NSS Board meeting.

The last motion concerned enhanced punishment for those who violate the NSS code of conduct concerning harassment, which passed, but he is again not aware of action being taken yet by the NSS board.



Eli and Rick share caving stories (Photo by Amos Mincin)

#### MAR Bulletin 23

Bert Ashbrook moved that the MAR publish MAR Bulletin 23, Sarah Furnace Cave, in printed hardcopy only, 8-1/2"11", color, perfect bound, with folded map sheets (two 24"x36" and one 18"x24"), and that the copyright on printed copies be jointly held by the MAR and me, and that the copyright on other formats (including electronic) be held by me alone, and that I be in charge of arranging for printing up to 500 copies with an initial budget of up to \$6000. Will White seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Metzgar motioned that MAR investigate the price rates for different quantities of proposed

MAR Bulletin 23, and then determine how many to print and at what price to be sold. Motion seconded

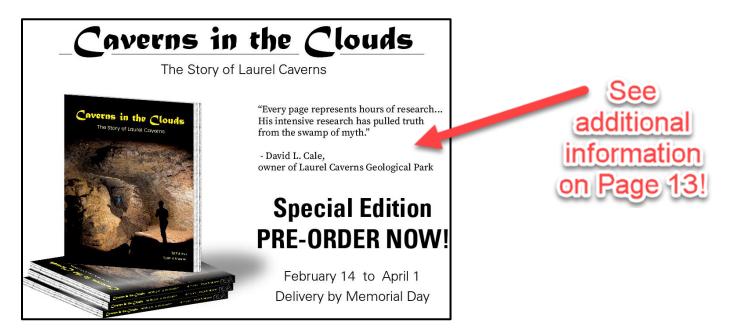
Carol Tiderman motioned to amend and insert that the final determination on quantity and pricing be made by the executive committee. Red Schock seconds. Amendment passed unanimously. Amended Motion passed unanimously.

Randy Hurst motions that MAR sell bulletins to MAKC at cost of printing. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kendra Warlow motioned to create a \$2000 annual budget for grants for regional projects. A committee will be formed that can authorize grants for projects from grottos and cavers of the region. Anyone awarded a project grant must write an article for the MAR Breakdown concerning the project. Carol Tiderman seconds. The motion passes.

#### **Update on Laurel Caverns**

Ryan Maurer shared that Laurel Caverns is currently proposed to be PA's 125th state park. He is publishing a book showcasing the cave: Cavern in the Clouds. Everything heard so far indicates that the cave will remain open.



#### **Update on Woodward Cave**

Ann Dunlavy shared that Chris Sanders[caver and environmental scientist] has purchased Woodward Cave, which has the largest reported colony of bats in PA! The property is planned to continue to be a campground and show cave.

#### **Annual Budget for MAR Bulletin Expenses**

Amos Mincin motioned to budget \$2000 annually for printing and shipping MAR bulletins. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Carol Tiderman motions to adjourn the meeting. Amos Mincin seconds. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07pm.

Respectfully submitted by, Olivia McAllister MAR Secretary 2025

#### Representatives at the MAR meeting:

- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Baltimore Grotto
- Bucks County Grotto
- Central New Jersey Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Huntingdon County Cave Hunters
- Loyalhanna Grotto

- MAKC (Conservancy)
- Nittany Grotto
- Philadelphia Grotto
- Pittsburgh Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- Sligo Grotto
- York Grotto

MAR Financial Statement

2025-02-21

Statement of Financial Position, 2025-02-21				
Gross Assets:				
Checking:	\$	1,044.48	Northwest Savings Bank	
Savings:	\$	8,074.27	Northwest Savings Bank	
Certificate of Deposit	\$	12,075.71	Northwest Savings Bank	
Petty Cash	\$	73.00		
Pending Payments	\$	490.52		
Total	\$	21,757.98		

#### Previous Statement of Finanical Position, 2024-02-23

#### Gross Assets:

Checking:	\$ 127.47	Northwest Savings Bank
Savings:	\$ 8,118.44	Northwest Savings Bank
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 11,520.93	Northwest Savings Bank
Petty Cash	\$ 10.00	
Total	\$ 19,776.84	

Net Change \$ 1,981.14

Notes

Cave Law Signs Balance \$ 690.39

# MAR Fiscal Year Report 2024 (1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024)

Income					
Banking					
Savings Account Interest	\$	0.83			
Certificate of Deposit	\$	552.14			
MAR Field Meets					
Spring 2024, Bald Eagle Grotto					
MAR Income (126 persons @ \$1.00)	\$	126.00	Note: Payment made in 2025 fiscal year		
25% of Field Meet Profit	\$	91.80	Note: Payment made in 2025 fiscal year		
MAR Bulletin Sales					
Bulletin Income	\$	1,728.00			
Donation Income	\$	-			
Gross Income	\$	2,280.97	Does not inleude Spring MAR income		

Expenses			
Banking Fees & Administrative expenses	\$	(100.00)	
rees & Administrative expenses	•	(100.00)	
Administrative			
Annual Meeting Site Rental	\$	(50.00)	
MAR Bulletin Sales			
Supplies/Postage	\$	(202.99)	
Conservation Activities			
Mt.Rock Cave Cleanup	\$	(227.28)	
Donations Made	\$	_	
Gross Expenses	\$	(580.27)	
Net Income	\$ 1	,700.70	

#### **Of Further Interest**

#### Bulletin Sales Jan 2024 – Feb 2025

Bulletin #	Number Sold	Price/Bulletin	<b>Bulletin Income</b>
1-4	6	\$ 7.00	\$42.00
5	4	\$ 8.00	\$32.00
6	8	\$17.00	\$136.00
7	5	\$ 5.00	\$25.00
8	5	\$ 7.00	\$35.00
9	6	\$10.00	\$60.00
10	5	\$ 6.00	\$30.00
11	7	\$10.00	\$70.00
12	10	\$10.00	\$100.00
13	3	\$10.00	\$30.00
14	3	\$ 5.00	\$15.00
15	4	\$ 6.00	\$24.00
16	5	\$ 6.00	\$30.00
17	6	\$ 5.00	\$30.00
18	3	\$10.00	\$30.00
19	6	\$ 7.00	\$42.00
20	4	\$29.50	\$118.00
21	6	\$27.50	\$165.00
22	4	\$16.00	\$64.00
Totals	100		\$1,078.00 + S&H

# Tell the NSS about your Cave Conservation Efforts!

Tom Griffin is serving as the MAR point of contact to collect cave conservation reports for the NSS Cave Conservation Committee Chair. Tom encourages all grottos and cavers in the MAR region to report cave conservation efforts to him (<a href="mailto:caver182@gmail.com">caver182@gmail.com</a>) for inclusion in the annual MAR conservation report to the NSS. Tom is collecting data on any conservation activity that any individual or group takes part in throughout the year. Some examples include trash/graffiti cleanup in or around caves, cave gate installation/repair, constructing fence for landowner, providing karst education at events, leading scouts or school groups on field trips, etc. Don't be shy! Tell the NSS about your good cave deeds!



### Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

#### Minutes of Regular Meeting – February 22, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm by Vice-President Amos Mincin at the Mt Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, PA on Saturday, February 22, 2025.

The following officers were present: Vice President Amos Mincin Treasurer Tom Griffin

**Secretary** Gretchen Schock

Representation was as follows:

Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters Dean Snyder (proxy) Bald Eagle Grotto JD Lewis Nittany Grotto Baltimore Grotto Carol Tiderman Paul Winter Bucks County Grotto Steven Warnek Out of Bounds Grotto Philadelphia Grotto Central New Jersey Grotto Amos Mincin Amos Mincin Commander Cody Caving Club Seven Valleys Grotto Joe Schock Franklin County Grotto Pat Minnick York Grotto Randy Hurst Greater Allentown Grotto MAKC (Associate) Dean Snyder Tom Metzgar

**Secretary Report:** Amos Mincin reviewed the minutes from the May 19, 2024 meeting. Carol Tiderman moved and Paul Winter seconded to approve the meeting minutes as published in the August 2024 MAR Breakdown. The motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Tom Griffin reviewed the PCC account activity since the last meeting (provided below).

### **Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy**

Financial Summary 5-08-24 through 2-22-25

Interest Checking Account		<u>Date</u>	
Checking Balance 5/8/24	F&M Trust Bank checking	5/8/2024	\$6,253.38
Withdrawal	Cash for Spring PCC	5/17/2024	(\$100.00)
Deposit	PCC Breakfast cash sales	5/20/2024	\$75.00
Deposit	PCC T-shirt sales (14)	5/20/2024	\$70.00
Deposit	Interest	5/31/2024	\$0.11
Deposit	Spring PCC Breakfast 2024 - BEG	6/3/2024	\$375.00
Withdrawal	Transfer to Money Mrkt	6/3/2024	(\$5,000.00)
Deposit	Interest	6/28/2024	\$0.03
Withdrawal	CHECK #102 (PCC Breakfst Coffee) - MAKC	7/24/2024	(\$90.00)
Deposit	Interest	7/31/2024	\$0.03
Deposit	Interest	8/30/2024	\$0.02
Deposit	Interest	9/30/2024	\$0.03
Deposit	Interest	10/31/2024	\$0.03
Deposit	Interest	11/30/2024	\$0.02
Deposit	Interest	12/31/2024	\$0.03

Deposit	PCC T-shirt sales (2)	1/2/2025	\$10.00
Deposit	Interest	1/31/2025	\$0.03
Ending Balance :			\$1,593.71
Money Market Account:		<u>Date</u>	
Beginning Balance 4/30/24		4/30/2024	\$3,492.66
Deposit	Interest	5/31/2024	\$11.66
Deposit	Transfer from Checking	6/3/2024	\$5,000.00
Deposit	Interest	6/28/2024	\$26.39
Deposit	Interest	7/31/2024	\$28.47
Deposit	Interest	8/31/2024	\$28.57
Deposit	Interest	9/30/2024	\$27.13
Deposit	Interest	10/31/2024	\$26.05
Deposit	Interest	11/30/2024	\$24.46
Deposit	Interest	12/31/2024	\$24.86
Deposit	Interest	1/31/2025	\$24.50
Ending Balance :			\$8,714.75

<u>COMBINED TOTAL :</u> \$10,308.46

**Web Page:** Last year, Dave Fricke had provided information indicating the PCC website, which was under the old NSS hosted web service, is no longer available. Action must be taken by someone to establish a new PCC website.

**PCC Breakfast:** The PCC is available to provide a fund raising pancake breakfast during Sunday morning of the MAR field meets. Dave Briggs is currently storing all the equipment/supplies for the PCC Breakfasts.

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

**Mail:** Dean Snyder reported that the PCC received a donation from Central New Jersey Grotto. Dean will provide the check to the PCC Treasurer, Tom Griffin. Thank you to Central New Jersey Grotto for your generosity!

**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-shirt price was reduced to \$5 during the May 2023 PCC meeting. Please contact Tom Griffin or Red Schock if you are interested in purchasing a shirt. Tom and Red plan to make the t-shirts available for sale at upcoming caving events. 11 PCC t-shirts were sold during the day of the MAR Business meeting/PCC meeting on February 22, 2025. Sizes available are Small, Medium, Large, and Extra Large.

PA Cave Database: no report.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

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

**Alexander Caverns Conservation Project:** PCC has offered to assist with the upcoming MAR conservation project at a sinkhole near Alexander Caverns. A possible work date was estimated for late April 2025. More details will be shared as they become available.

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

**Tytoona Cave Preserve:** Amos re-iterated the Tytoona Cave Preserve status report that was provided during the MAR Business meeting that preceded the PCC Meeting. Opportunities for volunteer work are ongoing at the preserve site. Contact the Preserve Manager for additional details.

**Thousand Steps of Lebanon County:** An informal clean-up event comprised of both cavers and non-cavers collected several bags of trash on site. It was a good opportunity to emphasize the importance of cave conservation to those outside the caving community. This item can be removed from the list of projects. It was suggested that Wind Cave could be a potential future project site.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Cave Conservation Reporting: Tom Griffin announced that he is serving as the MAR point of contact to collect conservation reports for Val Hildreth, NSS Cave Conservation Committee Chair. Tom encouraged all grottos and cavers in the MAR region to report cave conservation efforts to him (<a href="mailto:caver182@gmail.com">caver182@gmail.com</a>) for inclusion in the annual MAR conservation report to the NSS. Tom is collecting data on any conservation activity that any individual or group took part in throughout the year. Some examples include trash/graffiti cleanup in or around caves, cave gate installation/repair, constructing fence for landowner, providing karst education at events, leading scouts or school groups on field trips, etc.

**2025 NSS Convention:** From June 21-28, 2025, the NSS will host the society's 82<sup>nd</sup> annual convention in beautiful Schoharie County in upstate New York. This week-long event includes extensive presentations across all disciplines related to cave science. Additional information can be found on the convention website <a href="https://caves.org/convention/2025-nss-convention/">https://caves.org/convention/2025-nss-convention/</a>.

2025 Spring MAR: There is not currently a host for the 2025 spring field meet.

**Elections:** Joe Schock moved and Don Arrowood seconded that the PCC officers be Ryan Cale as President, Eli Yearick as Vice President, Red Schock as Secretary, and Tom Griffin as Treasurer. The motion passed. The PCC community would like to thank David Briggs for his many years of dedicated service as the PCC President and to Amos Mincin for his many years of dedicated service as the PCC Vice President!

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the PCC to be determined.

Carol Tiderman moved and Paul Winter seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

# Host Needed for the 2025 Spring MAR

As of April 2025 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2025 Spring MAR Field Meets. If you are interested in hosting an event, a helpful guide to hosting a MAR field meet can be found on the MAR website (<a href="https://mar.caves.org/hosting.htm">https://mar.caves.org/hosting.htm</a>). Think about it - can you or your grotto host an event? If there are no volunteers there will be no field meet. If you're interested in hosting an event, please contact a MAR officer.

#### Excellent Publications by your Fellow MAR Cavers:

#### "Keith: Uncommon Adventures of a Common Man"

To cavers and non-cavers alike.

In late 2023 I was telling my caver friends some of my unusual non-caving adventures and they suggested that I write them down so that others could enjoy them too. I took their advice and in early 2024 hired a local book publisher, Adelina Hristova, to show me what I should be doing. That led me to decide to write my memoirs and fold in some of my uncommon adventures. Just recently the book was edited and proofread enough to offer it for sale on Amazon. I took one copy along to the MAR business meeting on Feb, 22 2025 to show around and immediately after the meeting was adjourned, I mentioned it to the attendees. Red told me she would include a blurb in the MAR Breakdown.

My chronological memoir/**Keith: Uncommon Adventures of a Common Man**/ has been published and is currently available on Amazon in its paperback format: here is a shortcut: <a href="https://a.co/d/fVOm4dx">https://a.co/d/fVOm4dx</a>

You can find more about my publisher Adelina and the ABV publishing team on their website: <a href="https://www.abvpublishing.com">https://www.abvpublishing.com</a>

You can purchase my book from there, too: <a href="https://www.abvpublishing.com/adult-teens-books">https://www.abvpublishing.com/adult-teens-books</a>

I'm asking from my future readers, please think of rating my book and leaving me an honest review on Amazon, if you order it from there, or on GoodReads if you receive a signed copy from me. I will greatly appreciate your time and will be grateful for your effort.

Here is the link to my memoir on GoodReads: <a href="https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/228079970-keith">https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/228079970-keith</a>

At the 2024 NSS Convention I received my 70-year pin from the NSS.

#### Sincerely Keith Wheeland



Keith Wheeland shows Tom Griffin a copy of his new book during the 2025 MAR Business Meeting (Photo by Amos Mincin)

# Caverns in the Clouds

The Story of Laurel Caverns

Caverus in the Clouds

**Book Launch** 

Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25

at

Laurel Caverns Geological Park

- Book signings
- Photo Gallery Displays
- Guided tours at 10am and 3pm.
- FREE "About the Book" Presentation at 12pm.

RSVP for the tours at sales@underarockphoto.com Max: 30 people per tour. Standard rates apply (\$17/person).

Pre-order Special Edition for \$65.00

Order after April 1 for \$75.00

QR Code for pre-orders:



# Upcoming Events

Sinkhole Cleanup near Alexander Caverns	April 26, 2025
Meeting Spot: Rutter's in Milroy, PA Time: Meet at 8:30 AM, depart by 8:45 AM to caravan to sinkhole site Hosted by Bald Eagle Grotto (BEG)	
2025 Spring MAR Field Meet  Location: TBD  Hosted by TBD  URL: https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm	Spring 2025
2025 Spring VAR Field Meet	May 9-11, 2025
Spruce Knob Mountain Center 18 Woodlands Way, Circleville, WV 26804 Hosted by Out of Bounds Grotto (OBG) URL: <a href="https://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var">https://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var</a>	
Speleofest	May 23-26, 2025
Lone Star Preserve Bonnieville, KY Hosted by Louisville Grotto URL: www.louisvillegrotto.org/speleofest-registration/	
CaveJam	May 24-25, 2025
The Caverns Pelham, TN (Grundy County) Hosted By: Sewanee Mountain Grotto URL: <a href="https://www.cavejamtn.com/">https://www.cavejamtn.com/</a>	
2025 NSS Convention	June 21-28, 2025
SUNY Cobleskill Campus and Cobleskill Fairgrounds Cobleskill, NY (Schoharie County)	
URL: <a href="https://caves.org/convention/2025-nss-convention/">https://caves.org/convention/2025-nss-convention/</a>	
URL: <a href="https://caves.org/convention/2025-nss-convention/">https://caves.org/convention/2025-nss-convention/</a> 2025 Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar	July 11-19, 2025
	July 11-19, 2025
2025 Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar  Mountain Gateway Community College Clifton Forge, VA Hosted by NCRC URL: <a href="https://caves.org/ncrc/courses/ncrc-course-descriptions/">https://caves.org/ncrc/courses/ncrc-course-descriptions/</a> - or - <a href="https://caves.org/ncrc">https://caves.org/ncrc</a>	
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2025 Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar  Mountain Gateway Community College Clifton Forge, VA Hosted by NCRC URL: https://caves.org/ncrc/courses/ncrc-course-descriptions/ - or - https://caves.org/ncrc  Old Timers Reunion (OTR)  OTR Site/Campgrounds Dailey, WV (Randolph County) URL: www.otr.org  2025 Fall MAR Field Meet  Location: TBD Hosted by Nittany Grotto URL: https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm	Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, 2025 Fall 2025
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#### NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

#### **Effective October 2018**

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