



The River City Cover

Newsletter of the *River City*
Grotto – Jacksonville, FL
An [NSS](#) Affiliated Grotto

June, 2014

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events – NEXT MEETING: July 16th, 2014

UPCOMING TRIPS

Jennings Cave Cleanup – June 29th, 2014

The [FSS](#) is heading up a trip to Jennings for its periodic cleanup. Afterwards, they are off to Rainbow Springs to clean themselves.

[NSS Convention](#) – July 12-19, 2014

Some River City Grotto members have plans to attend, though all expressed the inability to attend the whole week. We would like to arrange some representation at the Congress of Grottos. Car pool, anyone? Anyone?

Withlacoochee (northern) Paddle Trip – July 26, 2014

This is a GO! We will be putting in at [Madison Blue Springs](#) and paddling downstream to the [Suwannee River State Park](#). There are some small caves to investigate along the way.

[Bat Cave](#) –August, 2014

This possibility is being bandied about, especially since some parents will be in town. This would a good trip for them. David and Katie will look into the details.

GROTTO FINANCIALS

Not much to report this month, as not much had changed, other than some more membership dues coming in. If you have not paid you 2014 dues, [Pony on up!!](#)

IRS 501(c)3 status: They are now reviewing October, 2013, submissions, so we're getting closer! (in late, breaking news, we have a response: Need minor tweaks, and Bob's our uncle!)

The [CaveSim](#) donation has been acknowledged. We will have the River City Grotto logo front and center on their website, and at the NSS Convention.

GROTTO MEMBERSHIP

The 2014 "re-up" process is winding up, with some attrition evident. The Secretary and The Treasurer will get together to compare notes and databases to ensure consistency, and then send email reminders to those not up to date.

Paypal: we will add Paypal to the website to ease dues, donations, and other payments in the future. We may be able to setup recurring payments for the members via Paypal.

2015 CAVE CAVORT

Cavort Site – We asked Jerry Johnson about using his Williston site, and we are in! (THANKS JERRY!!). Some dates in March, 2015 were discussed, and that soon will be locked down, so then we can book The Band. We need to book a "Sweat Equity" work day or two for Jerry's property soon, with an eye on the fall when it is cooler.

Project Management

David will draft a timeline, task list, and duties for this. We will soon lay out Committee Leaders and details. So remember: we need you!!!

Food

Jerry offered to share cooking ideas and to help cook, but we'll try to not burden the Johnson's with a lot. We would like to continue the sort-of tradition of last year's host grotto doing Sunday Breakfast for tips (that would be TBAG). Saturday dinner: we may cook, we may cater, options abound.

Trips

We need to line up potential trip leaders, select caves, and the Sign Up process. This year we need to work with land owners to ensure the Cavort groups are the only ones "in-cave" that weekend.

Guidebook

Some ideas are nucleating, including

- 1) "Cheat Sheet" of the selected caves requirements, including vertical vs. horizontal, hard/easy, wet/dry, etc.
- 2) Teresa has offered to be Guidebook editor!
- 3) We need to solicit articles for caves, area, history, etc.
- 4) Helene will be the graphic designer for shirts, etc.

Donations

We need to hit the usual suspects (OnRope1, Inner Mountain, etc.) as well as some locals, and also for food,



The River City Caver

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snacks, and “Cavort Store” items. Door prize is needed also. If you have any ideas, contacts, or stuff, [let us know!](#)

Promotion

We will advertise on the [NSS website](#) and [Facebook page](#), various grotto websites and Facebook pages, and in the NSS News. We need to hit the various Florida and Southeastern caving groups, blogs, bulletin boards, etc. Also, we can advertise at the various college geology, environmental, and outdoor departments and clubs (UF, UCF, UNF, UCF, etc.). If anyone has any appropriate contacts, [let us know!](#)

The Cavort 2015 website is drafted, but with bogus data for now, so once we're firming things up, we will finalize it!

TRIP REPORTS

Devil's Hopper Recon

On April 12, 2014, Matt joined Tevis, Donna, John and Amy from the Flint River Grotto on a recon trip to Devil's Hopper. This cave has not been officially visited since 1977, when the Florida State Cave Club surveyed it. Tevis got with the new owners and secured entry. There are many stories (some 19th century!) of underground rivers, deeper pits and passages, and beautiful formations, but alas we were only able to confirm the existing map. [Check out the pictures!](#)

There seems to be potential at the bottom, where the water disappears into breakdown, since there at least three ropes heading down there!! Need to go back when the flow is down (FRG did recently: it sumped after 25 feet). But it made for a good waterfall caving trip!

Warren's Cave Bill Oldacre Memorial Dedication

Saturday, May 10th, 2014, a celebration of Bill Oldacre was held at Warren's Cave, a cave he was integral in preserving. About 25 people showed up to this NSS-owned cave to dedicate the plaque, eat some barbecue, and remember Bill.

The area looks good, with an improved gravel drive, picnic table, and generally tidied up. “It looks like a park” was one comment. After the dedication and ‘Q, about 10 cavers went caving, back to The Dig and the Sandroom. A [great report](#) is available on the FSS website.

Climax Cave – June 7th, 2014

David and David met with the [Flint River Grotto](#) on this trip, after it was delayed a week. It required “just a little” digging, and was a day-long adventure. Details of the amazing wonders beyond the dig were amazing, and it is definitely a trip to do.

The entrance sinkhole alone is impressive, and there are lots of bats and guano in the Barrel Room (yes, histo can be an issue). The main choke point was a heckuva dig, in what was once reportedly walking passage. GDOT channels roadway runoff into the feeder stream for the sinkhole, so all that sand comes in.

Once past the dig, formations galore! Helectites, puddles full of crystals, truly walking passage, massive rooms, etc. A camera was carried in, but was somehow forgotten about and never used. They jumped in the lake, and in the back reaches found bacon, domes, flowstones, etc. There are bats still in the nether regions, so there must be other ways in.

After the adventure, they we were beaten and battered. Report is that a group size of 5-6 is optimal. Keep your eyes peeled for any FRG trips, and go if you can!

SKILLS

Vertical NSS Training Manual, 2012

[This manual](#) has good skills and checklists. The July grotto meeting will let us work on some of these and get people “checked off” on specific skills. We all need to be well versed and know what each other's skill levels are.

Climbing Practice – July 1, 2014

At Obi residence, 5PM, to check off “climb 50 feet on knots/emergency ascenders”. This practice will be limited to experienced SRT climbers.

CAVING IN THE NEWS

You too can [live in a cave](#) (well, really an old mine).

One of the [biggest cave rescues](#) ever is a success!

A [new beetle has been found](#) in world's deepest cave. [WNS found](#) in South Carolina Midlands

Have anything to submit? [Send it on!!](#)