



The River City Cover

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

March, 2015

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events – NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY April 14th, 2015

UPCOMING TRIPS

Bill Oldacre Day: March 29, at Warren's Cave Preserve.

Jennings Cave Trip: Florida Caving Club is testing the new helmets April 25. See their Facebook Page for details.

SERA Cave Carnival: May 8-10, 2015

Kentucky Speleofest: May 22-25, 2015

Karst-O-Rama: June 25-28, 2015

2015 NSS Convention: July 13-17, 2015 in Missouri!

Byers Trip, GA: Jack has talked it up, we're game!

2015 CAVE CAVORT

It was... LEGEN... (wait for it)... **DARY!!!**

After final preparations at Jerry's Farm the weekend before (tents up, electrical finalized, showers near 100%, bonfire built, potty spots marked), we kicked it! The Band, The Dinner, The Caves, The Raffles, The Movies, The BONFIRE, and all the other stuff made it a Cavort to remember. All (well, almost all) reports were positive and the 120 or so registrants had a great time. We had a few minor complaints, but if those we had were it, we done good! Check out the [online gallery](#). So far we only have a few cave trip pix available (Tuck's, Lundy's, and Hitchhiker), so if you have any other caves' worth, [let us know](#).

Anyway, some of us got there Thursday evening, checked on the setup, then hung out with the early crowd (both of them!) Friday morning *The Crew* set about tightening things up, and by 11am we were golden!!



We spent Friday registering and visiting, answering questions, and seeing old friends, and making new friends. Sign-up sheets were posted, and the Friday Night Fire and Bad Movie Night commenced. Saturday morning

rolled around, and we were off to cave! Those who chose to stick around got hear some Science talks.

After a great day of caving, science, or just plain old chillin', Saturday Night Cavorting commenced. [David's BBQ](#) served up some excellent victuals, and then the band, [Firewater Tent Revival](#), kicked off a raucous evening of music, dancing, and picking.



Then came the Bonfire! After a precision build, we torched it off, and even the band stopped to check it out!





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It burned well, folded in nicely on itself, and kept us warm while The Band played until 0-dark:30. Reports are The Band really enjoyed themselves, and liked the cave trip to Jerry's cave. And the Emus!

The Beer sale went well, raising \$230 for the SCCI. And the raffles went well, raising some RCG funds, and helping out the bats (thanks, "Spider"!). All the T-Shirts are gone, all the Guidebooks are gone, we ate all the food, and best of all, after serving breakfast Sunday morning (and raising enough funds for the Florida Caving Club to buy six new helmets and lights), we broke it all down, packed it all up, and were off-site by 1PM on Sunday.

Many thanks are to be spread around to those that made it happen. Special thanks to Jerry Johnson and Family for use of Jerry's Farm. And thanks to our speakers for trekking all the way down. And to the RCG, FSS, TBAG, and FRG, et al., volunteers that sweated and bled for this thing: Thanks!! It was quite a cavort.

That being all said, there is another Cavort coming up in about a year. Flint River Grotto will be hosting the **2016 Florida Cave Cavort** in Havana, so keep your calendar open for March-ish next year. The River City Grotto has volunteered to do the Sunday Morning breakfast (a tradition we are trying start, last year's Grotto does breakfast), as well as Bad Caving Movie Night on Friday.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid, and after the Cavort, it appears we profited somewhat. We had many more registrations beyond the breakeven point, and the raffles were very well funded. With our new found wealth, the board discussed more helmets and lights, and possible other gear. The Board did authorize the purchase of 32 rechargeable batteries and a 16-bay charger for the current lights. This will save wastage and the environment. Some other ideas to spend this new found grotto wealth on include:

Cave Cleanups	Cave Gatings
Educational ventures and/or materials	
Cave digs	Expeditions Gear!

In other financial news, our Treasurer has had to tender his resignation, as new ventures in life and work are tying him up (thanks for your past service!) So, with the pending Secretary and President elections (see below), we will need to elect a new Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have added one new Member, so welcome Michael, and by default, Connie! Now paid Membership is at 36.

Also, renewal and elections are just around the corner, so be ready!

RCG SHIRTS

We are almost out, so we're fixing to print up some more. If there are any ideas out there for design, colors, etc., let the board now. Also, does anyone want any more Cavort shirts? We are out, but "our guy" still has the silks: we could do another run.

AMAZON SMILE

If you Amazon shop via "Amazon Smile", 0.5% of the sales will go to your listed charity, which can be the River City Grotto. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/> and search for and select "River City Grotto". Easy-peasy!

GROTTO ELECTIONS

The President and Secretary are due this cycle, and the Treasurer is now up also. This is the Grotto's Official "Request for Candidates", so if you are itching for a fight the job, please [submit your name to the board](#). That being said, current holders are happy where they are at, and good candidate has stepped up for consideration as Treasurer. Karl Rove would be proud...

TRIP REPORTS

Christmas in TAG: After the Grotto meeting, David S. showed a video compilation of his Christmas 2014 TAG trip, which included Moses' Tomb, Signal Light, South Pittsburg, Tumbling Rock, and some others. All shot with a helmet-mounted GoPro, and edited nicely and set to music. Jack was so moved he took the DVD.

SCCI NEWS AND UPDATES

The SCCI has announced their "2015 Photo Competition Winners", and have posted some excellent work. There were 126 photographs submitted in five "professionally reviewed" categories, as well as a "People's Choice" award. Check out some [great shots!](#)

CAVING IN THE NEWS

Han Son Doong Cave [via drone](#)
Ya' Honor, [they needed killin'!](#)
Science and [ancient humans](#) and stuff
Fantastic Pit [makes the funny papers](#)
More [ancient humans](#) in caves!
ACCA Looking to [expand Hidden River Cave](#)

NSS CORNER

The NSS has a great section on caving "Safety & Techniques" - <http://caves.org/safety/safety.shtml>.