



# The River City Cover

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

JULY, 2015

[www.rivercitygrotto.com/](http://www.rivercitygrotto.com/)

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –

NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at our Richard Street Branch.

## UPCOMING TRIPS

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

**Hollow Ridge:** July 18<sup>th</sup>, check out the [Facebook evite](#)

**Bat Cave:** August 22, details forthcoming

**Byers Cave, TAG:** Jack has offered to host a Byers trip, and post trip soiree at his cabin Labor Day Weekend

**Briar Cave:** September 20ish? Final date & details TBD

**TAG Fall Cave-In:** October 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid, and will be setting aside “seed money” for the 2019 Florida Cave Cavort in some High-Interest vehicle. The Cavort Raffle money has been sent to SCCI (\$231.50), and a \$200 grotto donation for Cave Sym at the NSS convention is in the works.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

One new member is in (welcome aboard, Alex), and a prospect visited us last meeting. We have 14 renewed members, so if you have not re-upped, do it now! <http://www.rivercitygrotto.com/membership.html>  
Renewal is still ON!

## TRIP REPORTS

As reported last time **Tucks and Lundys caves** on Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> was great fun and very productive. Pictures are online at the [website](#).

**Crumbling Rock:** June 27<sup>th</sup>, a Facebook evite trip by TBAG with FSS. About six showed up, and a good time was had by all.

**Withlacoochee Area:** Phil and Bill went to a few caves there June 27<sup>th</sup>, dropping first into Dog Drop Cave. It is a nice little cave with a 35-foot entrance drop, nice rappel, white limestone walls. They went to Blowing Hole Cave after that, then to Crumbling Rock to meet the TBAG/FSS crowd.

**Briar Cave:** Not a trip, but an update. The property has been/is being sold, the place has been de-horsed, and a shopping center is going in. The areal extent of the cave is being set off as greenspace, and future access has yet to be determined. The FSS is continuing to monitor the situation.

## TAG Fall Cave-In

Is not too far away to plan! October 8th-11th, 2015, <http://www.tagfallcavein.org/> Start thinking about it!! Some

folks may just be campers, and some caves to do were discussed.

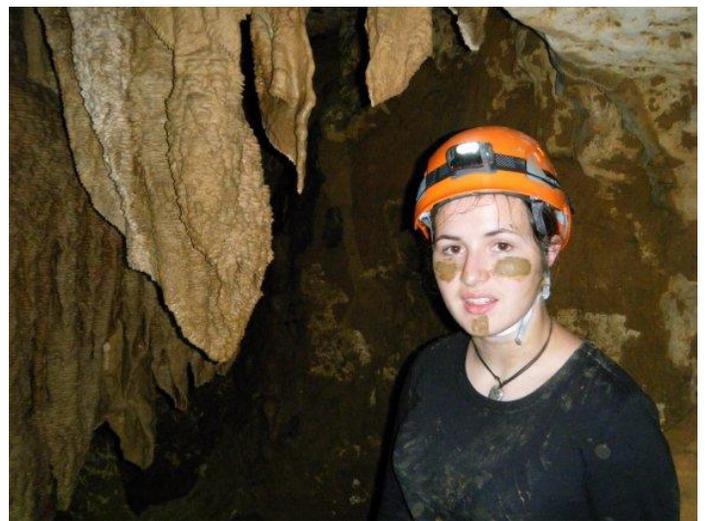
- Iron Hoop: Horizontal and Wet (a Glenn special!)
- Cedar Ridge Crystal Cave: Not extensive but pretty

We'll be Vertical, Horizontal, just chillin'... GO!!

## SCCI NEWS AND UPDATES

In honor of the July 18<sup>th</sup> **Hollow Ridge** trip, here is some detail on the cave and preserve. It is on 4.97 acres in Jackson County, Florida, and managed by Allen Mosler ([hollowridge@scci.org](mailto:hollowridge@scci.org)), access is “Open”, with a 12 person group size limit. See the [management plan](#) for details.

Hollow Ridge Cave is a few miles northeast of Marianna, Florida, in a small hill that rises about 40 feet above the Chipola River flood plain. The cave has four entrances and a surveyed length of 3,370 feet, making it one of the larger caves in the area. It is formed at the contact between the Marianna Limestone and the Bumpnose member of the underlying Crystal River Limestone. The cave's passages are a mixture of narrow fissures and muddy bedding plane crawls connecting several rooms. Many formations are found throughout the cave. The lower levels are subjected to frequent flooding.



Hollow Ridge Cave, Jackson County, Florida, was donated to the SCCi on January 27, 2006. When the property containing Hollow Ridge Cave was subdivided some years ago, Allen Mosler purchased three lots



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overlying its passages. Since that time, Mosler has acted as steward and protector of the cave, now as the SCCi Hollow Ridge Cave Preserve.



The surface areas of the preserve are wooded, with abundant growth of pine, cedar, hickory, and other trees typical to the region. A small, grassy clearing at the top of the hill serves as a parking area for visitors. Near the back of the preserve there is a small quarry, long abandoned and now overgrown with cedars, ferns, and oak-leaf hydrangeas. The Chipola river lies about 1,500 feet to the west and is fed by many springs in the area. The parking area is reached by a short dirt road and driveway.

## CAVING IN THE NEWS

We're "Caving on da' Moon, Alice!!!" **PERISCOPE**, [PERIapsis Subsurface Cave Optical Explorer](#) will be a low-orbiting spacecraft would peer down at the moon, firing laser pulses into the entrances of subsurface caves to create 3D maps of their inner reaches.

Mammoth Cave secrets still being [uncovered](#): The cave that keeps on giving!



Ancient [village hidden in Italian cave](#), this old village in Sicily is nestled largely inside a cave, a few hundred yards from the sea.

Explorers find [new cave in Arizona](#), at Grand Canyon Caverns are right off Route 66.

## NSS CORNER

- Want to learn about bats?



- The Mysteries of Easter Island Caves?
- Introduction to Cave Surveying?
- Read an Overview of Alpine Karst in Utah?
- Worried about Crack and

Crevice Entrapment?



**Then the NSS Webinar Series is for you!**

<http://caves.org/webinars/index.shtml>

Dozens, scores, hundreds(?) of online learning opportunities await. Biology, geology, cave rescues, rope work, etc., etc.