



The River City Caver

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

AUGUST, 2015

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –

NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** September 16th, 2015, at our Richard Street Branch.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Bat Cave: Saturday, August 22, is a go. Meet at the site by 10am. [Here be directions to the cave](#), give yourself about two hours to get there. It is \$5 for the college, and \$5 for helmet rental (if needed). We have about a dozen known cavers, with Reggae Shack for afters. Wear grungy cave clothes, and bring a change of clothes, a trash bag for the cave clothes, and some snackage.

Catacombs Cave: TBAG has a trip planned August 22nd

Byers Cave, TAG: Jack has offered to host a Byers trip, and post trip soiree at his cabin Labor Day Weekend. It is a “Caver’s Cave”, pretty hardcore, some smaller cavers can bypass the vertical work, and it is a hike, beyond Rusty’s. No new updates, no grotto commitments yet.

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

Climax Cave: David S. is leading a hardcore dig-trip August 29th. Not much caving will likely occur that trip, but they are planning a fun trip to take advantage of the digging two weeks later.

Climbing Practice: September 12th, Obiville, RCG members only, time to practice for TAG.

TAG Fall Cave-In: October 8th-11th, 2015. Time to commence a-plannin’!!

Florida Cave Cavort 2016: Flint River Grotto has set the date for March 18-20, 2016. Venue is Tim’s Hide-a-way in Havana, same as the 2012 Cavort.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid, and will be setting aside “seed money” for the 2019 Florida Cave Cavort in some High-Interest vehicle.

Remember to PayPal your membership fees if you have sent in your application.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

One new member is in (welcome aboard, Emile). We have 17 Paid/Renewed members, so if you have not re-upped, do it now! <http://www.rivercitygrotto.com/membership.html> Renewal is still ON! If you have re-applied, but not paid, remember to PAY UP! If you have not re-applied or paid, GET ON IT!! Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts...

TRIP REPORTS

Dames Area Caves & Peace: New Member Alex found the 2015 Cavort Guidebook via The Google, and used it to explore these Withlacoochee SF caves. He and crew had a blast, and that gave them “the bug”. So now they are here! Welcome aboard!

Cave Diving Presentation: Tony gave a library talk three weeks ago, showing The PowerPoint, to about a dozen interested parties at a library. They did an “interactive cave dive” in the room, which the participants ate up. Good outreach and education work!

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

Access Information for **Horse Skull/Jack’s Hole Preserve**. The property manager Andy Zellner coordinated cutting and flagging a new trail that leads from the paved road, through the beaver swamp, across the power line cut, and through the woods.





The River City Grozzo Cover

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Horse Skull Cave is in Jackson County, AL. These caves are now permanently protected. You can help support this cave acquisition by purchasing a Piece of the Caves! Details, you ask? [Check them out!](#)

For details on the parking area, please contact Andy Zellner at horseskull@scci.org before you visit the cave to make sure you have the most up to date information. Cavers should not use the neighbor's driveway at this time.

CAVING IN THE NEWS



A strange Wyoming cave eight stories deep continued to give up secrets as paleontologists for a second summer in a row dug and sifted through a subterranean boneyard of animals that fell in around the peak of the last ice age some 20,000 years ago. [Read up!](#)

The 15,000-year-old [Damlataş Cave in Alanya](#) has become a popular tourist destination in recent years. Apart from its stunning beauty, it is also an important spot for health tourism as it contributes to the treatment of pulmonary diseases such as asthma.



Jewel Cave National Monument in western South Dakota is [hosting a Junior Ranger Day](#) this weekend as part of a series of events in celebration of the 99th anniversary of the National Park Service.

Need a Cayman Getaway? Landowner Christian Sorensen aims to begin running [guided nature tours of the cave system](#) and surrounding area starting in November.



Scientists Study White Nose Syndrome Survivors In Vermont Bat Colony, part of the Fish and Wildlife team that has spent the last decade studying a colony of little brown bats that take up summer residence in a covered bridge over Otter Creek.

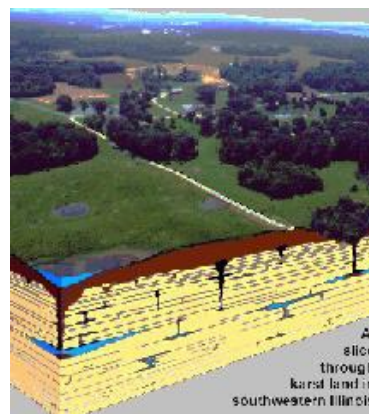
The Pima County Board of Supervisors has approved a contract with New Mexico-based Ortega National Parks to [operate Colossal Cave Mountain Park](#).



NSS CORNER

Project Underground, Inc.

[Project Underground](#) is a source of interdisciplinary instructional activities, and its staff conducts workshops and in-service training programs. These materials and workshops are designed for classroom teachers, cavern, park, museum, and nature center staff, or any youth-oriented group leaders.



The purpose of [Project Underground](#) is to create and build awareness of and responsible attitudes toward karst, groundwater and cave resources and their management needs. The project is an environmental education program designed to promote better understanding of karst lands, groundwater in

karst and caves. It is a supplemental program for use by educators of kindergarten through high school age students. Participants in Project Underground activities will gain an understanding of how the underground environment is an important part of the total environment.

Want more info? Check [out the contacts](#).

