



The River City Caver

Newsletter of the **River City**

Grotto – Jacksonville, FL

An [NSS](#) Affiliated Grotto

JANUARY, 2016

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –

NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** February 17th, 2016, at our Richard Street Branch.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Briar Cave: Bill Birdsall has been contacted, and we still need to get this one going. We are looking at a small group, and perhaps getting some training as Briar trip leaders.

Bat Cave: We need to set one up, as there have been some requests.

Warren's Cave, January 30th: The FSS is hosting a group, all are welcome.

Tucks and Lundys, February 13th: TBAG is hosting a trip, so contact them if you wish to go.

Whitecliff, Late February: A trip is in the works...

Climbing Practice: Saturday, February 6th, Obiville, noonish, all levels.

Florida Cave Crawl Workday, February 20: Need all help they can get, may be able to camp onsite.

Florida Cave Crawl March 18-20, 2016: Flint River Grotto hosting, at Tim's Hide-a-way in Havana, same as the 2012 Cavort. Firewater Tent Revival is booked and stoked. RCG is doing Friday Night Bad Caving Movie(s) and Sunday Fundraiser breakfast. Registration is UP!! <http://www.flintrivergrotto.org/the-2016-florida-cave-crawl/>

TRIP REPORTS

Hitchhiker and Jennings: Phil took a group there recently, letting some new cavers taste vertical at Jennings. Phil reports that both caves look good, and his camera phone not so good, so no pictures.

New Years at Jack's Place: Obis and many others took Jack's invitation. Jack pulled out an old cave map of the mountain, and they bushwhacked their way to some old and forgotten caves. They dug one out, and it went and went somewhat, showing more promise. They may have found Keyhole Cave. Ben and friends did Tumbling Rock the following day, and Jack's Moose Chili and Stew was well received.

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.

GROTTO BOARD SHUFFLE

As Matt and Teresa Fischer (Secretary and Treasurer, respectively) have moved to Knoxville, Tennessee (that much closer to TAG!!), half of the Grotto Board is gone.

So the quorum present reshuffled the Board:

President: Phil Walker

Vice President: Mike Thomas

Treasurer: David Obi

Secretary: Carrie Brown

Web Lackey: Matt will maintain this position through April and set up a transfer package for the new lackey.

Matt delivered all Treasurer materials (Books, laptop, cash box, checks, Credit card readers, etc.) to David from Teresa. Many thanks to all that stepped up!! (*Editor: sorry we had to go... see you in TAG!*)

Also, with Matt moving to Knoxville, a **new Web Lackey is needed**. Duties include posting the Meeting Minutes and Newsletter monthly, as prepared by the Secretary, and posting pictures from events and caving trips. Annually, some pages need to be updated for the new year. So, if you are inclined, contact the current Web Lackey at webmaster@rivercitygrotto.com.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

One new member!! Welcome aboard Joe!

Get in at <http://www.rivercitygrotto.com/membership.html>
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...

GROTTO T-SHIRT

We are out, and perhaps need a new design. It was suggested to use elements of our Cavort 2015 shirt, and we could use a graphics person to head up the design. So if you are artistically inclined let us know!

HCRU RESCUE CLASSES

The Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit hosts cave rescue training, and good one is coming up August 25-28th, 2016. Details at <http://www.hcru.org/rescueclass>



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CAVE MAPS AND GROTTO LIBRARY

As a parting gift, Matt donated some old maps he found in his closet. They included multiple Warrens' Cave maps, and maps of Briar, Chert, Whitecliff, and Catacombs. They will be added to the Grotto Library. They are available for review, but bear in mind that they date from the '80s.

SCCI NEWS AND UPDATES

SCCi on TV!! ET Davis and Sara Keys recently shared information on recreational caving and conservation with Ranger Nick on the Georgia Farm Monitor show. The show aired in November, and is available online at

<http://www.scci.org/scci-on-tv/>

Big thanks to the Fricks Cave Preserve Management Team for making this happen!

For the past 24 years, SCCi has worked to ensure the preservation of caves throughout the Southeast and currently manages more than 140 caves on 30 preserves.

NSS CORNER

NSS Salons

Promoting caves and caving by conducting juried salons, and by exhibiting items of speleological interest.

The NSS Art & Music Salons promote and recognize excellent cave-related art, artists, and musicians. NSS Salons are open to everyone; those who enter need not be members of the NSS. Categories include:

- Cartographic Salon
- Cave Ballad Salon
- Cover Art Salon
- Fine Arts Salon
- Crafts and Design Salon
- MultiMedia Program Salon
- Print Salon
- Photo Salon
- Posters and Pamphlets Salon
- Symbolic Emblem Salon
- T-Shirt Salon
- Video Salon

The best of the entries for each Salon will be exhibited at the NSS Convention. The top award for each Salon is presented during the convention's Thursday evening Salon program. Portraits of award winners will be projected during the Salon Program. The top award winners will also be represented on the [NSS website](#) and, other than music, in the NSS News

Want more? Check [out the NSS Salon webpage.](#)

CAVING IN THE NEWS

Rescue at Tumbling Rock ([article](#))

Multiple rescue crews worked for more than eight hours to free a 15-year-old girl who became trapped under a boulder inside Tumbling Rock Cave in northern Alabama the evening of January 16th.

Rescue at Byers ([article](#))

It took nearly 12 hours to rescue a man trapped inside the Byer's Cave in Dade County. Reportedly he is an experienced caver, and is in critical condition.

Cave of Forgotten Dreams ([article](#))

Chauvet-Pont D'Arc cave, in southern France, is one of the world's oldest and most impressive cave-art sites. It just may hold earliest painting of a Volcanic Eruption.

Terraced House With Cave For Sale ([article](#))

A terraced cottage with a secret cave has gone on sale for just under £200,000. Dracups Cottage in Bridgnorth, Shropshire, appears from the outside to be a tiny house. But the deceiving frontage gives way to not only two bedrooms, a living room and a galley kitchen but a huge sandstone cave with vaulted ceilings and ornate pillars.



Figure 1 - Neversink, Thanksgiving 2014 TAG Trip