



# The River City Caver

Newsletter of ~~the~~  
**River  
City Grotto** –  
Jacksonville, FL  
An NSS Affiliated Grotto

January, 2017

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

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –  
NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** February, 15<sup>th</sup> 2016.

## UPCOMING TRIPS

**Catacombs Cave:** This trip is scheduled for February 18th.

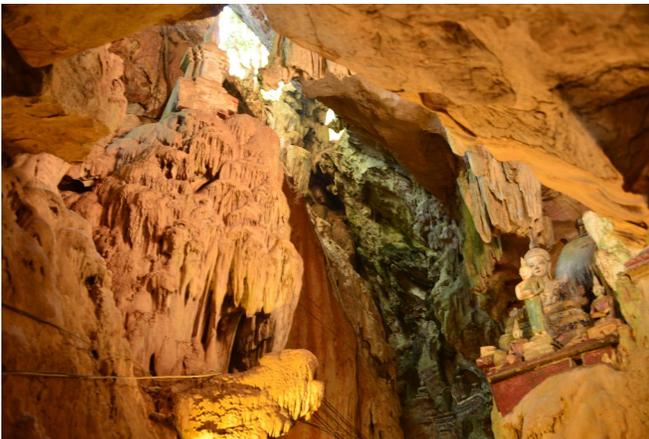
**Florida Cavort Workday:** If you're interested in helping FSS prepare for the Florida Cave Cavort, you can help out on February 12th and February 26th.

**Florida Cave Cavort:** FSS is hosting this year's cavort. It will take place from March 3rd-March 5th at Jerry's Farm. To register, got to this website:  
<http://www.floridacaving.com/2017-cave-cavort-registration/>

**Boy Scout Trip:** RCG will lead a troop of boy scouts through a cave on April 22nd. The cave we visit will be determined at a later date.

## TRIP REPORTS

**Wat Tham Chiang Dao:** Tony and Li visited Thailand in December and went to Wat Tham Chiang Dao Cave. Tony reported that in Thailand, underground places are considered holy and there were multiple Buddha statues in the cave.



**Over the Edge:** Both David and Joe volunteered to help participants do a 190' reppel. David reported that day one of the rappel was media day in which local celebrities rappelled down the Omni Hotel. The following day 50-60 people donated money to Boy Scouts of America in order to participate in the rappel.



**Tuck's and Lundy's:** Phil, Mike and Connie visited Tuck's and Lundy's in December. They reported that they found a new passage.



**Three Cave Trip:** During the second week of the new year of 2017, Phil received a call from Joe who wanted to do a little caving. They originally wanted to visit Warrens but it was a bit last minute to make plans. So They decided to visit a few small caves in the Ocala area off the beaten path. On January 17, they hit Toad Hall, Deathtrap, and Diggers Delight.



**Cavort Workday:** Phil participated in an FSS cavort workday on December 3rd.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid financially.

## GROTTO T-SHIRT

The RCG T-Shirts are for sale; both short sleeve and long sleeve are available. You can purchase one here: <http://rivercitygrotto.com/product/t-shirt2016/>

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have no new members.

## SCCCi CORNER

### 2017 Member Appreciation Day at Frick's Cave

**Preserve:** Each year SCCi opens Frick's Cave for one day only for members and their guests to enjoy. After exploring the cave, please join SCCi for hot food and a presentation by Dr. Robert Handford on local geology and cave formations! This event will take place on February 4th from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

## NSS CORNER

### NSS Webinar Series-A Review of Knot Testing

**Strength:** The strength of rigging knots is a much debated and argued subject, and yet data and evidence are rarely used to discuss life safety knot strengths. A literature review and meta-analysis of knot strength research (114 studies) was performed and the results show just how strong knots are both in relationship to each other and their absolute strengths in various materials.

Tom Evans will be discussing facts and debunking myths during this webinar. Tom has been a vertical caver for a decade, and has been trained in both above and below ground rope rescue. He is an [NCRC](#) instructor and cofounded the nonprofit [SAR3](#), dedicated to providing research and teaching in support of rescue and sport rigging. Its results are published by the [International Technical Rescue Symposium](#). Through his work, Tom is constantly immersed in the science and practice of rigging. [\(article\)](#)

## CAVING IN THE NEWS

**Caves in central China show history of natural flood patterns:** Researchers at the University of Minnesota have found that major flooding and large amounts of precipitation occur on 500-year cycles in central China. [\(article\)](#)

**Astronauts Explore Underground in Otherworldly 'CAVES' Video:** When we think of astronauts exploring other worlds, we often forget about the weird places they also visit on Earth. An immersive new video from the European Space Agency follows a crew exploring a cave network in Sardinia, Italy. [\(article\)](#)

### Cavers make breakthrough discovery deep within

**Takaka Hill:** A team of explorers has discovered the missing piece of a caving puzzle that has eluded them for years, forging an underground path from the bottom to the top of Takaka Hill. [\(article\)](#)

