



The River City Cover

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

July, 2014

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events – NEXT MEETING: August 20th, 2014

UPCOMING TRIPS

Withlacoochee (northern) Paddle Trip – July 26, 2014

This is a GO! (well, really, it's already done).

There are two groups fleshing out. One will be putting in at [Madison Blue Springs](#) and paddling downstream to the [Suwannee River State Park](#). The other will paddle upstream from SRSP to some caves for some practice mapping, and then some tree climbing. Plans are to meet at SRSP at 10am, then work out shuttle. Bring your own boat, food, and proper gear. Details were emailed and Facebooked to the Grotto in advance.

Bat Cave – August 9, 2014

We have a request into The Cave Steward at SFCC, but no fixed plans yet. We will keep you posted. This is a great Beginner Cave Trip.

Things on the Horizon

- Climax Cave trip is in order, late August, perhaps?
- Jerry's Farm cleanup day: September when it is cooler, perhaps camping too.
- Briar Cave: Need to put a call in for an opening.

GROTTO FINANCIALS

Not much to report this month, as not much has changed, other than some more membership dues coming in. If you have not paid you 2014 dues, [Pony on up!!](#)

IRS 501(c)3 status: We received acknowledgement, and tentative approval pending notification that we update the Grotto Bylaws to meet spec. They do not need to review the updated bylaws, we just need to send an affidavit that we have updated them.

GROTTO MEMBERSHIP

The board received applications from and approved two new members of the Grotto. Welcome aboard Jes and Chris! Jes also noted that she found us via the UNF poster, but that all the "tear tabs" are gone: we need to update that. Grotto Membership is approximately 35.

2015 CAVE CAVORT

Cavort Site – We asked Jerry Johnson about using his Williston site, and we are in! (THANKS JERRY!!). February 27 through March 1 was selected for the Cavort, pending verification with Jerry. Next task, we need to book The Band. We also need to put in a "Sweat Equity" work day or two for Jerry's property soon, with an eye on the fall when it is cooler.

Project Management

We have a draft timeline, task list, and duties, and it is time to lay out Committee Leaders and details. So remember: we need you!!!

Promotion

This needs lots, for sure. NSS News, NSS website, all Florida and Georgia grotto sites, various university science and outdoor recreation sites, etc. Please check out the website and advise, but remember it's in Beta with some bogus data:

<http://www.rivercitygrotto.com/cavort2015/index.html>

TRIP REPORTS

Jennings Cave Cleanup – June 29th, 2014

The FSS headed up a trip to Jennings for the periodic cleanup. Then it was off to Rainbow Springs to clean themselves up. The cleanup went well, and some logs were also removed. No report at [FSS](#) as of yet.

NSS Convention – July 12-19, 2014

Grotto members David and Katie attended Wednesday through Sunday, and report "There is so much stuff" at the convention. They did CaveSim (<http://cavesim-store.myshopify.com/>) and Katie won. The River City Grotto emblem was front and center, thanking us for our donation. The CaveSim experience was cool.

As for caving, yes they did!

- Mose's Tomb: Bounced the pit, and found Foxfire on a log at the bottom
- Did Tumbling Rock also



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• Neversink: Turns out the “Glow worm experience” there is really Foxfire. A slow ascent in the dark there is not to be missed for bioluminescence.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foxfire>

If you missed out, here is the scoop on the 2014 NSS Convention: <http://nss2014.caves.org/>

TAG Fourth of July

David S. and family+ went to TAG, and did five caves in two days, starting in the Pigeon Mountain area, and David showed pictures at the Grotto meeting.

- Dragfold Cave: a 110 foot pit
- Richard’s Cave: five drops, each needing a rope
- Miss ING: a small cave on top of Pigeon Mountain.
- Flowing Stone: 226’ entrance drop
- South Pittsburg Pit: 160 foot drop

SKILLS

Vertical NSS Training Manual, 2012

[This manual](#) has good skills and checklists. The July grotto meeting will let us work on some of these and get people “checked off” on specific skills. We all need to be well versed and know what each other’s skill levels are.

Climbing Practice – July 1, 2014

This went well, with Matt, David O., Katie, Tony, and David S. checking off the “climb 50 feet on knots/emergency ascenders”. This practice also allowed many improvised and shared climbing systems to be reviewed.

Knots’ Session

Since knots were not gotten to last meeting, a Cookout/In Laws/Knots Do was called for August 10th at the Obi residence. Afternoonish, BYOsomething.

Cave Site Safety Plan

We have discussed having a Plan Per Cave, to be reviewed before each trip. It should include nearest hospital, cell coverage notes, and contacts. Perhaps someone can find a generic draft and run with this? Anyone? Anyone?

CAVING IN THE NEWS

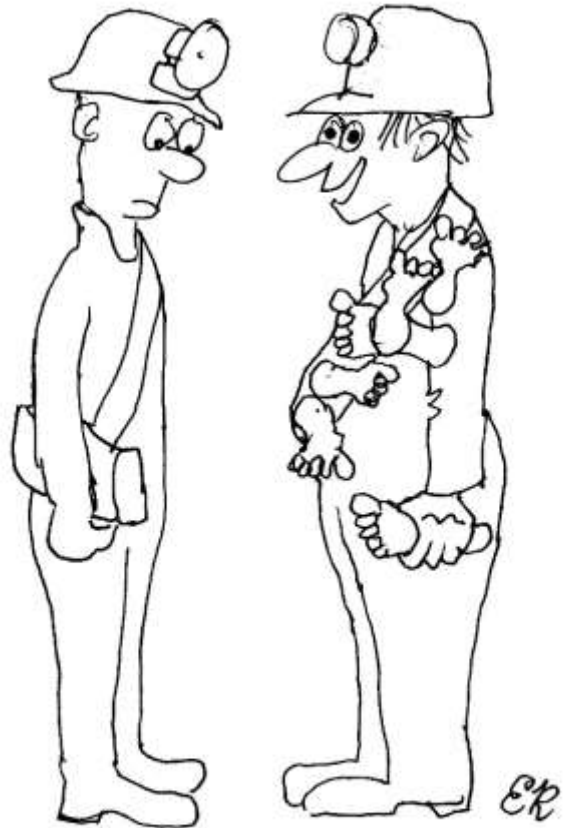
Natural Trap Cave [Reveals Its Secrets](#)

Another successful [Cooling at the Cave](#)

Hough’s Cave (NY) [explored for first time](#) in half-century

Teen [rescued](#) from Alabama cave

Have anything to submit? [Send it on!!](#)



“I brought them to leave in the cave.”