



The River City Grotto Cover

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

August, 2014

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events – NEXT MEETING: September 17th, 2014

UPCOMING TRIPS

Climax: The often discussed August trip to Climax Cave has been postponed: we're just too busy! We will confer with the Flint River Grotto and plan one for the fall.

Jerry's Farm Sweat Equity Cleanup: In preparation for the 2015 Cave Cavort, we are looking at a November weekend to go tidy up beforehand. We will get the other Grottos involved, and check into camping.

Briar Cave: There is much interest in a Briar trip, and we will contact the Florida Speleological Society. This will be a limited access trip, mainly to keep the group size workable, and also because it is not a beginner cave.

Hollow Ridge: There is interest, especially with the pending gating. Also, they are seeking donations through the SCCI (<https://www.scci.org/>) for the gating. The River City Grotto has decided to not donate as a Grotto to save capital for the Cavort. Members can donate "in the name of the Grotto", and substantial sums have been donated thus far.

37th Annual TAG Fall Cave-In: Is October 9-12, 2014 atop Lookout Mountain (Georgia), and registration is open (<http://www.tagfallcavein.org/>). There are reduced rates until September 1, 2014, and so far RCG members going include David & Katie, Matt, Tony & Li. There is talk of a Wednesday PM (October 8th) departure, as check-in starts Noon on Thursday. Also, Monday, October 13th, is a Company Holiday for some, so there is that to consider.

Caving at TAG will be "friends caving together", and not an official RCG event. That being said, early arrivers will create an RCG area to camp. Caves suggested include Bluff River, Tumbling Rock, and a Vertipahlooza at Cagle's Chasm. If you have not been to a TAG Fall Cave-In, GO! It is a goodtime. Check out [last year's RCG trip](#).

GROTTO FINANCIALS

To report this month, we sold some shirts, brought some more membership dues, and we are financially solvent.

IRS 501(c)3 status: We updated the Bylaws to appease the IRS, and await final ruling... soon.

GROTTO MEMBERSHIP

We reconciled the databases, and Paid Grotto Membership is now 28. We sent an email reminder to those not paid, and apologize if you received one in error. If you have not paid you 2014 dues, [Pony on up!!](#)

2015 CAVE CAVORT

Cavort Site – We are in at Jerry's Farm, and still waiting confirmation on the February 27 through March 1 date we selected. Now 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!!!

We will be holding at least monthly meetings to discuss the Cavort, and also decided to perhaps move the Grotto Committee meeting out of the General Meeting to streamline them. Just a thought...

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>

Graphics

Helene submitted a first draft, and the Committee liked it!

- Some ideas to add include:
- Move the stream to the bottom of the passage
 - Have this overlay the state of Florida, with the stream emanating from an oversized Duval County
 - Use the RCG logo as the oversized Duval County

Let us know if you have any ideas!





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TRIP REPORTS

Withlacoochee (northern) Paddle Trip – July 26, 2014

This went very well! Good groups, good weather, good times. There were two groups: one put in at [Madison Blue Springs](#) and paddled downstream to the [Suwannee River State Park](#). Matt's "Precious" took a slight beating on the rocks: Time to sniff some fiberglass resin. The other group paddled upstream from SRSP to some caves and practiced mapping, and then did some tree climbing and napping. The Survey crew mapped 55 feet of very wet cave, saw lots of wildlife, including the "biggest spider known to man". After that the survey crew went to Madison Blue to swim, and the other crew dined at the Dixie Grill in Live Oak. Pictures will be available on the [gallery page](#) soon.

Bat Cave – August 9, 2014

This went very well, too, with lots of new cavers getting their feet wet, literally. Water was very high, over the top of the level gauge in the Lake Room. The Frog Crawl was about half filled, keeping the Awful Earfull and the Freakout Fracture out of reach. The new cavers took to it, and dove right in... literally. [Pictures are up!](#) A fine Post-Caving meal was had at Da' Reggae Shack, mon!

SKILLS

Vertical NSS Training Manual, 2012

[This manual](#) has good skills and checklists. Peruse it and learn some skills!

Knots' Session

The August meeting focused on knots, David running a clinic on Eight Types of Figure Eights: Basic, Double Loop, On a Bight, Bend, Directional, Follow Through, Figure 9, and some other one. All did well, and we even played with some Alpine Butterflies.

A great site to learn knots is Grog's: <http://www.animatedknots.com/>. Hunt and peck around the site, it shows great animations of tying knots.

Another good site with some nice rope and knot background is at <http://www.cave.org.vt.edu/knots.shtml>

And David's new rope is very shiny...



Cave Site Safety Plan

We have discussed having a Plan Per Cave, to be reviewed before each trip. No generic draft could be found on The Google, so we are working on our own.

CAVING IN THE NEWS

It pays to [know your caving buddies](#)...
Beer? Caves? [Beer Caves](#)? Why YES!
Indiana's Binkley Cave [passes 40 mile mark](#).
Natural Trap Cave [project continues](#) to analysis phase.
Cuba, USA [Converge over Cave Research](#).
Have anything to submit? [Send it on!!](#)



"Oh, wow, you got High Definition!"