



The River City Cover

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

SEPTEMBER, 2015

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –
NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** October 21st, 2015, at our Richard Street Branch.

UPCOMING TRIPS

TAG Fall Cave-In: October 8th-11th, 2015, <http://www.tagfallcavein.org/> We have a big group, 15+. There is a cleanup weekend September 18-20, but so far no RCG response (it is 16 hours R/T). We will bring some tools to “spruce things up” when we get there Thursday. We will need a car parking plan, since we’re bringing lots of vehicles, and low car space at our site.

Food: David is planning a big meal for Saturday dinner (Chicken & Veg Fajitas), all pitch in \$10 each to eat, and all proceeds go to the Grotto. The Diskata will be available for other meals, and plenty of burners and tables will be on hand.

Caves: A list was banded about.

- Bible Springs & Cedar Ridge Crystal Springs
- Rusty’s: Mild vertical.
- Horse Skull: 30’ drop.
- Ship Cave
- Anderson Springs
- SOMETHING vertical!

Matt needs to sell off a spot, T-Shirt, and Sunday breakfast ticket, as Teresa cannot go (wah!). Contact him at mfischer0@gmail.com if you need one.

Bat Cave, November 5th, a Thursday: An underwater mining conference will be having a trip there, FSS is heading it up.

November Down South with FCC: Brandon Johnson Facebooked a desire for a trip then, and is taking suggestions.

Climax Cave: David S. is up for a trip in December.

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.

TRIP REPORTS

Bat Cave: Saturday, August 22, was amaaaaaaazing! We had about 15 cavers, and the water was way down. Matt got to places he has never been in 30 years of caving there. David and crew got to the Freakout Fracture, and his crew was mildly impressed. Matt’s crew did everything else. We got up to the Awful Earful, but it was sumped beyond that. We did almost all of Fossil Hall, and even the Chevalier Room: Carrie got into the Raft Room. We stuffed a bunch into the Hardcore Room, and the room

beyond. We then hit the Reggae Shack for afters and dined well and told many lies. See the [pix online](#).

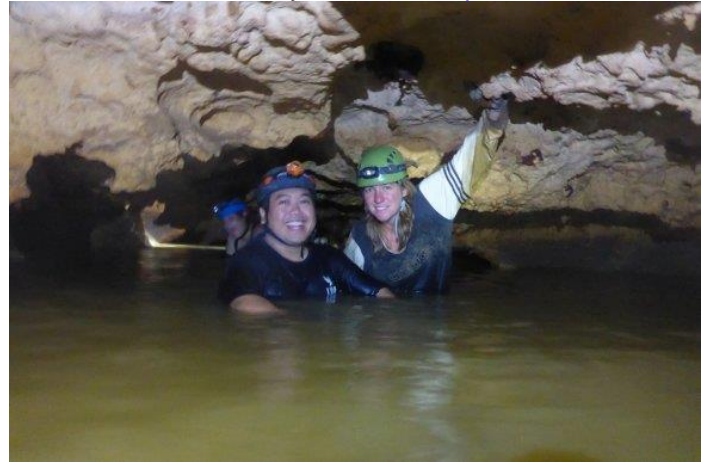


Figure 1 - Kristopher and Gabbie in The Fossil Hall



Figure 2 - Two crab fossils in The Fossil Hall

Catacombs Cave: TBAG had a trip August 22nd, but no report to us.

Climax Cave: David S. led a hardcore dig-trip August 29th, but not much digging was required, so they did much fun caving on that trip. Video was shown later in the meeting: it [was awesome](#).

Climbing Practice: September 12th, Obiville, went very well, in spite of the weather and sideways rain. Got many [newbies on rope](#), and they ate it up!! Then we ate well, and formed the RCG TAG band, “Belly Crawl”.



The River City Caver

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

SEPTEMBER, 2015

www.rivercitygrotto.com/



Figure 3 - New Climber getting Vertical

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

We have two new Youth Members, and some old friends re-upped. We now have 23 Paid 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...

SCCI NEWS AND UPDATES

On September 6, 2015, a non-caving visitor to [Stephens Gap Cave Preserve](#) fell from a ledge inside the cave and suffered fatal injuries. This is the first incident of its kind at an SCCi managed preserve. The Board of Directors, staff

and members of SCCi would like to extend their condolences to the family of this individual and thank the Jackson County first responders and others at the scene that assisted. 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. Cave safe, be safe.

IN-CAVE VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

During the last meeting, we discussed basic verbal communications, especially related to being on-rope. Shout words, loudly and clearly. Separate your words carefully and use as few words as possible.

- "On Rope/Off Rope" - When approaching a rope/After leaving a drop zone
- "On Belay/Off Belay" - Add/Remove it
- "Tension" - Take up slack
- "Rock!" - Something is falling
- "OK" - Confirms a given command

NSS CORNER

NSS Vertical Section

The Vertical Section is an Internal Organization (I/O) of the National Speleological Society. Most vertical caves require rope work, and the Vertical Section convenes cavers with an interest in vertical caving. The purpose of the Section is to educate and train cavers in safe, efficient vertical caving techniques. Specific Vertical Section goals are to:

- Educate NSS members about vertical caving theory and practice.
- Promote interest in the study of vertical caving techniques.
- Encourage development of safe vertical caving techniques and their application in cave exploration.

The NSS Vertical Section 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.

Training is high on their priorities, and they have many online resources available.

- The [Basic Vertical Class Manual](#) (PDF - 1.07Mb) - **2012 Revised**
- The [Basic Vertical Class Manual](#) (PDF - 1.07Mb) - **2012 Revised**

Want more? Check [out their webpage](#).