



The River City Caver

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

September, 2016
www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –
NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** October, 19th 2016.

UPCOMING TRIPS

TAG Fall Cave-In: The TAG Fall Cave-In will take place October 6th-9th. If you are an NSS member, you can sign up yourself. If you are not an NSS member, talk to one of the NSS members in River City Grotto and they can sign you up as their guest. You can register at <http://tagfallcavein.org/registration.asp>

Lubee Bat Festival: This event will take place on October 22nd from 10am-4pm. It is held by the Lubee Bat Conservatory and is an opportunity to view giant fruit bats, tour the conservancy grounds and learn more about fruit bats. Children 4 and under: FREE, Ages 5-12: \$5 & Adults: \$8.

Whitecliff Cave: RCG will be leading a group of Boy Scouts through Whitecliff Cave on October 22nd.

Targeting NCRC Orientation To Cave Rescue Class: The cave rescue class will take place November 11th-November 13th at Bat Cave in Newberry, FL. The class size will be eight people. The cost will be \$35 for RCG members and \$50 for non-RCG members.

Over the Edge: This event will take place at the Omni Hotel in downtown Jacksonville on November 19th. It will be 190' repel for charity. We need RCG members to volunteer to help with vertical support. Here is the link for volunteer sign up: <http://overtheedgeusa.com/Ropes-Volunteers/Volunteer-Signup>

TRIP REPORTS

Bat Cave: On 9/10/16, Philip Walker took 20 Boy Scouts and 5 adult leaders to Newberry Bat Cave. Evidence of the passing storms was littered in the form of leaves, branches, and debris across the property. Entering the cave via the

staircase, past several Cave Crickets, we noticed water was about 4-6 inches from the top of the water gauge. Several scouts went through the Airplane Passage as others explored the Lake Room. We then carefully traveled through the water to the Root Cellar. Many scouts (and adults) climbed through the little hole in the wall attempting to keep dry.

Once the Root Cellar was reached there was much exploring to be done. Fossils were found and discussed as well as a visible section of the Hawthorne Foundation (layer). A small group went part way down the Awe-full Ear-full passage and had a blast getting completely soaked after the chill of water entry wore off.

The group got back together and went to the Sand Crawls for exploration and to find the Secret -Room. There was no keeping dry after this. The final stop was wading through the Lake to head to the Hardcore (Volkswagen) Room. It proved to be difficult to pick up visions in the Seance Room, but we did manage to see stars once everyone was able to turn their light out in the room and out of the room.

Everyone had a fantastic time exploring Bat Cave. Thanks to Santa Fe college for taking such good care of an amazing Geological Research Station.



Bat Cave: The morning of September 17th was sunny and bright. Phil Walker led a scout group of 3 scouts and two adults but there were 20 additional cavers, making one large, or several small parties.

The five scouts geared up and were ready to in the cave in minutes. A quick plan was formulated due to all the people. Phil would take the scout group. Joe Caddy would join Brandon Johnson's group since he was solo. Erik Amsberry, Mike and Connie Thomas, Carrie Brown and Joe Fretwell would all lead their own groups. This would give everyone had the opportunity to explore on their own and lean Newberry Bat Cave a little better. Water was slightly below the top of the water gauge, so everyone go wet. Brandon's group attempted to get to "Freak-out Fracture" but was deterred by the high water. Erik's group pushed the "Awe-Full Ear-Full" but was also deterred by High Water. Joe, Carrie, Mike, and Connie lead a daring few to "Fossil Hall" but did not push the back, yes, due to high water. Phil attempted to push the "Well of Souls" but none of the scouts wanted anything to do with a passage called the "Well of Souls" so they were deterred by high water (wink wink). This was not surprising since two of the scouts apparently had to keep their feet completely dry.

Two tricolored bats were seen in the lake room. One Alachua Light Fleeing Crayfish was seen in the lake. Approximately 5 cave crickets were seen in the entrance sink, along with 1 large scary spider.



Part of a crab fossil in the Sand Crawls.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid financially.

GROTTO T-SHIRT

The RCG T-Shirts are now 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.

NSS CORNER

Bats: Bats are among the most beneficial yet misunderstood mammals. They control insect populations, pollinate cacti and tropical fruit trees, and are important to medical and scientific advances. Sadly, bat colonies throughout the world are declining drastically. Learn more about bats through this brochure published by NSS. ([article](#))

CAVING IN THE NEWS

Cavers discover Perilous Pot beneath Yorkshire

Dales: A veteran caver has described the breakthrough moment when a new cave was discovered beneath the slopes of the Yorkshire Dales. ([article](#))

Chinese Couple Have Been Living in a Cave for the

Past 54 Years: Unable to afford a proper home after getting married, a Chinese couple moved into a mountain cave near the city Nanchong, and have been living there for the past 54 years. ([article](#))