



The
**River City
Caver**

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

March, 2017

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –
NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** April, 19th 2017, at R.E.I. in the St. John's Town Center

UPCOMING TRIPS

Vertical Practice: There will be a vertical practice at David and Katie's house. The time is TBD; check your email or the RCG Facebook page for updates regarding the time.

Boy Scout Trip: There is a Boy Scout trip to Ocala Caverns scheduled for April 22nd.

TRIP REPORTS

Catacombs: Phil and Joe visited Catacombs on 2/25/17 to check the water level prior to the Florida Cave Cavort. Phil reported that the water level was down; the group was able to go through the whole cave.

Florida Cave Cavort: Everyone had a great time at this year's Florida Cave Cavort. Cave's visited by RCG members included: Bat Cave, Jennings' Cave, Peacock Springs, Devil's Den, Catacombs, Hitchhiker, Tucks and Lundy's, Ocala Caverns and White Cliff Cave.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid financially.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have three new members!



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SCCi CORNER

Amber Lehmann
SCCi Marketing Manager

This month I want to address a few concerns and rumors I have heard concerning the SCCi online permitting system, and SCCi's plans for one of our most beloved cave preserves, Tumbling Rock. Facebook has been ripe with comments and false statements about both of these topics, so I thought it would be best to focus on these for our monthly update.

First, I would like to address the rumor mill about SCCi's plans for Tumbling Rock Cave. Here are the facts:

- 1) SCCi is moving the management of Tumbling Rock Cave to an internal function within the organization. With 25 years of successfully managing cave preserves, SCCi is in a better position to manage this well-loved and frequented cave preserve.
- 2) The successful rollout of the online permit system will make it possible to limit visitation to levels which serve SCCi's constituency, while more actively protecting the cave and preserve from overuse.
- 3) As many of you already know, many Tumbling Rock visitors are first-time cave visitors. This is an important audience for SCCi in providing education and conservation messages that they will carry with them for a lifetime. Having an intermediary management organization has insulated SCCi from developing this constituency.
- 4) SCCi is not making changes to how Tumbling Rock operates other than moving it to the online permit system and adjusting maximum daily visitors.
- 5) Nathan Williams will continue as part of the Preserve Management Team at Tumbling Rock. As with all of our other preserves, Tumbling Rock will benefit from being on the online system for many reasons.

NSS CORNER

2017 NSS Director Election: It is time to elect new NSS directors; there are four open director seats on the NSS Board of Governors. If you are an NSS member, you should receive an email with voting instructions. Voting will take place from March 21st to May 7th. You can view the candidate platforms here: [\(article\)](#)

CAVING IN THE NEWS

In Photos: Patagonia's Stunning Marble Caves: Photographs from Chile's Cavernas de Mármol. [\(article\)](#)

Insider Access: Three Caves closed to the public, but get your exclusive look here: Three Caves is located on the Land Trust of North Alabama's Monte Sano Nature Preserve. Named for its three openings, it is now closed to the public due to safety concerns. [\(article\)](#)

Caver injured in fall at Harwoods Hole in Abel Tasman National Park: A woman has been winched to safety after lying injured for nine hours at the bottom of Harwoods Hole, the deepest vertical shaft in New Zealand. [\(article\)](#)