



The River City Caver

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

April, 2017

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –
NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** May, 17th 2016.

UPCOMING TRIPS

There are no current trips planned, but we may a trip to Bryers or Catacombs in the near future.

TRIP REPORTS

Vertical Practice: There was a vertical practice at David and Katie's house. Mike, Chris, Connie, Tina, John Willis, Carrie and Bill attended and practiced climbing and change overs. David and Mike practiced doing change overs while blindfolded.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid financially.

GROTTO T-SHIRT

The RCG T-Shirts are 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.

SCCCi CORNER

SCCi Acquires 31st Cave Preserve: On Friday, April 21 2017, SCCi announced the purchase of the Daleo Entrance to the Roppel section of Mammoth Cave, the longest cave system in the world. [\(article\)](#)

CAVING IN THE NEWS

Fell Rescue Volunteers Save Trapped Caver: Fell rescue volunteers save trapped caver. [\(article\)](#)

In Caverns Measureless to Man: Caving is gaining popularity as an adventure sport in India. We go underground in Meghalaya, which has some of India's most complex and longest cave systems. [\(article\)](#)

NSS CORNER

NSS Luminary Talks: Murder Hole Cave -- Preserving Cave History for Future Generations-By Marian McConnell and Dave Socky: Videographer David Socky and author Marian McConnell talk about the Murder Hole Cave movie and book as an example of preserving cave history for future generations. This infamous cave in Catawba, Virginia is now the subject of the book and a movie documentary, both of which educate (and entertain) the public about cave safety, conservation, and lessons learned from the past. Stories, artwork, photographs, and music, as well as more modern tools such as drones, helmet-mounted cameras, and video were used to preserve the history of this significant cave. Marian, landowner of Murder Hole Cave, is an Author, artist, musician, and caver. She has written songs about caving (including "Legends of Murder Hole" on the video), painted and drawn pictures of it, written the "Murder Hole" book, and now, with David Socky, created the movie, "Murder Hole Cave." David has been actively caving since 1974. He has caved throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico, Mexico, Belize, and China. In the late 1980's he got into doing cave videography and since then has produced a good number of programs – mainly about caving and mountain climbing. [\(article\)](#)

NSS Luminary Talks: Comparing Two Rope Rescue Systems (Twin Tension): Presented by: Tom Evans
Recently, the rope rescue community has been debating the merits of using two kinds of two rope systems. Main and belay systems that have a main line that holds all the load, and a second belay line that is un-tensioned, versus two tension systems, where both ropes hold about half the total load at all times. Here we will explore the strengths and weaknesses of both systems based on testing data, and compare their usefulness and functionality for cave rescue.
Tom has been a vertical caver for a decade, and has been trained in both above and below ground rope rescue. He is a [National Cave Rescue Commission](#) instructor, and has a rescue rigging research program whose results are published at the [International Technical Rescue Symposium](#). Recently he co-founded a nonprofit ([SAR3](#)) dedicated to providing research and teaching in support of rescue and sport rigging. Through his work, Tom is constantly immersed in the science and practice of rigging. [\(article\)](#)