



The
**River City
Caver**

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

January, 2019

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –
NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** February 20th 2019, at R.E.I. in the St. John's Town Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

2019 Florida Cavort: Mark your calendars! RCG is hosting the 2019 Florida Cave Cavort. The Firewater Tent Revival is the Saturday night band and we will have barbeque for the Saturday night meal. It will be at Jerry's Farm from February 22nd-24th, 2019. The last day to register online is 2/15/19. You can register [here](#).

EVENT REPORTS

SRT Class: River City Grotto members participated in a SRT class lead by Tim White, Brian Williams, Matt Vinzant, and Steph Petri. Those who participated learned information on tying knots, rigging, and changeovers. The class was very informative and enjoyable. Thanks to all the instructors and thanks to Jerry and Sheryl for hosting and providing meals to everyone.



RCG Annual Karstmas Party: Everyone had a great time at this year's Karstmas Party. There was great food and great company. Thanks to David and Katie for hosting the party.



The
**River City
Caver**

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

January, 2019

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –
NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** February 20th 2019, at R.E.I. in the St. John's Town Center

FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid financially.

SCCi CORNER

SCCi Opens New Office: SCCi recently moved into its new office space at 2213 Fairmount Pike, Signal Mountain, TN. The new office will allow SCCi to grow its staff and volunteer base. ([article](#))

SCCi Announces 2nd Annual Science: The Southeastern Cave Conservancy, recently announced the award of two grants through its annual Science Award Program. The winners are Drs. Cathy Borer and Angela Poole; their researchers will develop and test molecular techniques needed to identify plant species of roots that are exposed in cave walls and ceilings. The other winners are Joe Lamb and Dr. Yong Wang for "Abiotic factors influencing cave use by salamanders in northern Alabama." ([article](#))

CAVING IN THE NEWS

Chinese Cave Holds Carbon Dating 'Holy Grail': Scientist say that stalagmites in a cave in China can help them reconstruct the historical record of atmospheric radiocarbon back to the carbon dating limit of around 54,000 years ago. ([article](#))

Newly Discovered Cave Could Be Among Canada's Largest: A new cave was discovered last spring during a caribou survey in British Columbia's Wells Gray Provincial Park and it could be Canada's largest cave. The exact size of the cave is yet to be determined, but it is believed that the water flowing into the cave exits in an underground river about 1.3 miles away from the pit at a depth of 1,600 feet. ([article](#))

World-Famous Tham Luang Cave Clean Up Begins: Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation deputy chief Jongklai Worapongsathorn led a survey team into Tham Luang Nang Non caves to search rescue equipment from the soccer team cave rescue. ([article](#))

NSS CORNER

NSS Luminary Talks: Cave Safely, Cave Softly BSA Caving Policy and Training-The BSA now requires that all leaders and participants who will be part of a BSA caving trip must read and understand the new policy and training information. If you are involved with Scouts and caving, then you need to watch this webinar, for the protection of the Scouts and your own liability. The presentation includes details of what qualifies a trip leader, what age groups are allowed to enter a wild cave, how many qualified trip leaders are required for each group, the requirements for horizontal vs. vertical caves, and much more. Watch the presentation [here](#).

NSS Luminary Talks: Managing a Major Int'l Caving Project: Proyecto Espeleologico Sistema Huautla-Bill Steele, will explain what it's like managing such a huge project as the exploration of Sistema Huautla (Proyecto Espeleologico Sistema Huautla, or PESH). Bill is now busy organizing the 2019 expedition of PESH, which is an official NSS project. During these expeditions his team will be exploring, mapping, conducting speleological studies, and publishing information about one of the world's greatest caves, Sistema Huautla. The cave is located in southern Mexico and is the deepest cave in the Western Hemisphere. PESH 2019 will be the 23rd expedition Bill has made to Huautla in 42 years. These expeditions have been his lifelong passion. What's it like managing such a big project? Watch the presentation [here](#).