



The  
**River City  
Caver**

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

November, 2019

[www.rivercitygrotto.com/](http://www.rivercitygrotto.com/)

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –  
NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** January 15<sup>th</sup> 2020, at R.E.I. in the St. John's Town Center

### UPCOMING EVENTS

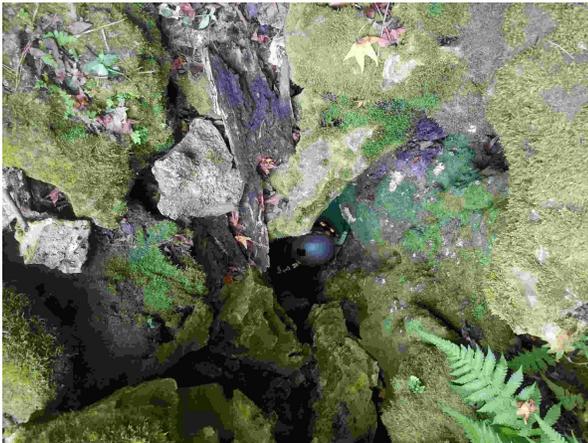
**Boy Scout Cave Trip:** On 12/7/19, we are leading a group of Boy Scouts through Hitchhiker Cave. Details on this trip will be sent out via email as it gets closer to the date.

**RCG Kartmas Party:** This year's Karstmas Party will be hosted by Carrie on 12/14/19 at 6:30 p.m. This will be a potluck; contact Carrie for directions/address. If you are able to come, please RSVP on the event page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/446959792597360/>

### TRIP/EVENT REPORTS

**Cavers and Craft Brews:** Last month, RCG members came out to Intuition Ale Works for good company and good beer.

**Three Cave Trip:** A few RCG members visited the Ocala area to visit three caves: Death Trap, Digger's Delight, and Ocala Caverns. We had a great time exploring Deathtrap; this was the first visit for some of the cavers. Andrew was able to venture into the sump of the cave and found water with an odd green color to it. Next, we attempted to explore Digger's Delight, but we had difficulty accessing the cave and we weren't able to make it. We discussed a plan to access it for another trip. Our final cave was Ocala Caverns, which was great fun. The water levels were pretty high, so we were not able to explore most of the cave, but we saw some bats and did a little swimming.



### FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid financially.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have no new members.



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### NSS CORNER

**The Virtual Cave-Life in Caves:** Caves can support a surprisingly diverse fauna, ranging from casual visitors (troglonotes, which must exit the cave to eat) to those that can live equally well in caves or on the surface (troglonotes), to those that spend their whole lives underground and have special adaptations to the cave environment (troglonotes). Unlike the surface world, food in caves tends to be scarce. Without sunlight, plants can't grow. This tends to limit true cave-adapted species to small aquatic organisms and insects. Food is typically carried into caves by either active streams or small openings that let organic material wash into the cave. Because of their isolation from the surface and other caves, caves often harbor endemic species (i.e., known only to that cave). Indeed, caves less than a mile apart may have different species derived from the same basic insect family. This speciation is a good example of divergent evolution. Find some information on some of the numerous critters that live underground [here](#).

**Bat Ball 2019-New Year's Party:** New Years Eve Party and Fundraiser for NSS members and their guests. Ticket includes New Years Eve banquet, party, souvenir cup and T-Shirt. Camping and other events available 12/29/19 - 1/2/20. While in Huntsville also visit the Leave No Trace Symposium on the NSS HQ campus. Register [here](#).

### CAVING IN THE NEWS

**Man Makes Home Out of Cave Near Protesters' Camp:** A man, who calls himself Maunakewa, has made a home out of a partially-collapsed lava tube. He said he found the cave on July 18, the day after police arrested more than 30 kupuna on the access road during a protest. Maunakewa does not live in the cave full-time; he leaves the cave at least once a week to gather more supplies and visit his home. His cave is lit with electric lights, has a small windmill generating power for a short-range radio station, filters rainwater and is well-cleaned; human waste is disposed of properly, he said. [\(article\)](#)

**Science Museum Oklahoma Brings Caving Experience to Guests:** Science Museum Oklahoma is hosting CaveSim, so that those in Oklahoma City can experience caving. CaveSim is based out of Colorado and uses a crawl-through electronic cave simulator, vertical climbing tower, and hands-on caving activities to teach guests how to cave safely and responsibly. [\(article\)](#)

**Altamira Cave Replica:** Altamira Cave has been compared to the Sistine Chapel, with a ceiling full of prehistoric paintings. Access is limited, but fortunately, replicas can be found at the National Museum and Research Center of Altamira and the National Archaeological Museum in Madrid. [\(article\)](#)