

2012 Southern California Grotto Information Sheet

The Southern California Grotto is a local chapter of the National Speleological Society (NSS). Founded in 1948, the Southern California Grotto is one of the oldest chapters of the NSS and it continues to thrive as one of the largest grottos in the western United States. The Southern California Grotto has a long history of active caving and cave-related projects throughout California and other states, and extending to other areas of the world. Members of the Grotto endorse the goals of the National Speleological Society - the study, exploration, and conservation of caves. The motto: "*Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints. Kill nothing but time.*" summarizes the ideals practiced by cavers while exploring the underground world.

Grotto meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Beckman Institute Auditorium located at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena. Free parking is available in the parking lot on Michigan Avenue. Meetings are open to all interested people, and normally feature a slide show or other presentation by Grotto members or guests. After the meeting, many members meet at Conrad's Restaurant on the northwest corner of Lake Avenue and Walnut Street for a drink, something to eat, and to continue caving discussions.

The Grotto Executive Committee meets the second Tuesday of the month in various Grotto members' homes. Locations of the monthly meetings are announced at the regular monthly meeting, and also published in the Grotto newsletter. Executive Committee meetings are open to all grotto members and begin at 7:30 PM.

Southern California Grotto membership is \$15 per year (\$10 per year with proof of NSS membership) and includes the monthly newsletter *The Explorer* (\$5 surcharge to receive printed version). After June 1 membership is half price. A trial membership is available for \$3 and is valid for two months. Participation in Grotto activities such as caving trips and technical practice sessions is limited to Grotto members. Membership in the National Speleological Society is strongly encouraged and members receive a \$5.00 discount on annual Grotto dues. Grotto members may also choose to subscribe to the Western Region of the National Speleological Society publication, *The California Caver*, for an additional \$10.

The Southern California Grotto promotes safety, proper caving techniques, and conservation. Climbing practices, instructional sessions, demonstrations of proper use of caving equipment, and other cave and caving related activities are conducted by grotto members. Grotto equipment is available for use on trips by Grotto members.

For additional information contact one of the Southern California Grotto Executive Committee members or Committee Chairs listed below.

2012 Southern California Grotto Executive Committee

Chair	Thea McSweeney	(414) 708 - 5184	thea.mc@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Jen Hopper	(951) 452 - 8923	jennifer.hopper@ucr.edu
Secretary	Jaime Lintemoot	(626) 358 - 4606	jlintemoot@gmail.com
Treasurer	Rich Collier	(818) 903 - 0545	rich.n.collier@gmail.com

Other Executive Board Members:

David Angel	(661) 204 - 4715	dangel@dangel.co.uk
Alan Rice	(714) 547 - 7831	alan@chronologictiming.com
James Rice	(714) 547 - 7831	james@chronologictiming.com
Daniel Veelik	(626) 303 - 6563	dveelik@dslextreme.com
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2012 Southern California Grotto Contacts

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Equipment	Vance Nelson	(818) 248 - 6546	vanmyn@gmail.com
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Safety and Techniques	Bart Rowlett	(310) 533 - 8627	lfielding@elcamino.edu
Trip Coordinator	Thea McSweeney	(414) 708 - 5184	thea.mc@gmail.com
Web Site Coordinator	Bern Szukalski	(909) 798 - 5986	bszukalski@esri.com
Western Region Liaison	Lynn Fielding	(310) 533 - 8627	lfielding@elcamino.edu

Cave Softly