

# 2016 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*. 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 Western 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.

## 2016 Southern California Grotto Executive Committee

Chair	Katie Schaefer	(818) 720 - 6080	<a href="mailto:schaefer@alum.caltech.edu">schaefer@alum.caltech.edu</a>
Vice Chair	Alan Rice	(714) 415 - 8049	<a href="mailto:alan@chronologictiming.com">alan@chronologictiming.com</a>
Secretary	Jessica Leila	(916) 751 - 8385	<a href="mailto:j.leila@jessicaleila.com">j.leila@jessicaleila.com</a>
Treasurer	Rich Collier	(818) 903 - 0545	<a href="mailto:socalgrottotreasurer@gmail.com">socalgrottotreasurer@gmail.com</a>

Other Executive Board Members:

Jennifer Hopper	(951) 452 - 8923	<a href="mailto:jennifer.hopper@ucr.edu">jennifer.hopper@ucr.edu</a>
Jerry Nickelsburg	(310) 874 - 8391	<a href="mailto:jnickelsburg@gmail.com">jnickelsburg@gmail.com</a>
Christopher Abando	(747) 888 - 7802	<a href="mailto:ccabando@yahoo.com">ccabando@yahoo.com</a>
Ben Smith	(303) 579 - 5903	<a href="mailto:bensmith.alps@gmail.com">bensmith.alps@gmail.com</a>
David Angel	(661) 204 - 4715	<a href="mailto:dangel@dangel.co.uk">dangel@dangel.co.uk</a>

## 2016 Southern California Grotto Contacts

Conservation	Alan Rice	(714) 547 - 7831	<a href="mailto:alan@chronologictiming.com">alan@chronologictiming.com</a>
Equipment	Jerry Nickelsburg	(310) 874 - 8391	<a href="mailto:jnickelsburg@gmail.com">jnickelsburg@gmail.com</a>
Explorer	Frank McDonough	(626) 993 - 7937	<a href="mailto:botaknee@gmail.com">botaknee@gmail.com</a>
Library	Brian Twomey	(213) 448 - 4811	<a href="mailto:bwtwomey@gmail.com">bwtwomey@gmail.com</a>
Membership	Vance Nelson	(818) 248 - 6546	<a href="mailto:vanmyn@gmail.com">vanmyn@gmail.com</a>
Membership Records	Rich Collier	(818) 903 - 0545	<a href="mailto:socalgrottotreasurer@gmail.com">socalgrottotreasurer@gmail.com</a>
Programs	David Angel	(661) 204 - 4715	<a href="mailto:dangel@dangel.co.uk">dangel@dangel.co.uk</a>
Website Coordinator	Bern Szukalski	(909) 798 - 5986	<a href="mailto:bszukalski@esri.com">bszukalski@esri.com</a>
Western Region Liaison	David Angel	(661) 204 - 4715	<a href="mailto:dangel@dangel.co.uk">dangel@dangel.co.uk</a>

*Cave Softly*