
• Editorial •

Impact

• David Rubine

For years climbers have enjoyed unregulated climbing access at the Pinnacles. Even in the most remote areas of the Monument, you'll often spot some ancient quarter inch bolt halfway up a rubble pile. Pinnacles climbers, like all climbers, seek out the unknown crag and the untested face, ever in search of adventure. It's what inspires us to climb - but it can also blind us to the impact we as climbers have on the rock and its surroundings.

When a new route appears, we often see only a bolt hole or two in the rock, and maybe a little more chalk dotting the landscape. We often can't see what's now missing from the scene - the 100-year-old lichen, rocks, manzanita, fox, or jack rabbit swept or scared away to clear the way for what we call progress. A new climb often brings in more climbers, who create more random trails, and may place even more bolts - and so the cycle continues. I must confess I'm a part of this cycle, since I was the fanatical climber who wrote a guidebook for the masses to map the way to all these climbs, and further promoted use of the area.

Perhaps ironically, writing the guidebook made me take a closer look at the Pinnacles, where I began to discover what "impact" really meant. It isn't about bolts - or at least, not just bolts. It's our voices calling across canyons, our runners dotting rock faces with bright strange colors, our litter (and human waste!) added to that of hundreds of hikers, and our footprints everywhere in the soft desert dirt. The Pinnacles becomes a little less of a wilderness with every passing weekend.

Pinnacles climbers love the Pinnacles perhaps more, and more often, than any other group. The climbers who've formed and supported Friends of Pinnacles are still working out what it means to climb with minimal impact, and how we can protect this area for climbers to come. Thanks to your membership and support, Friends of Pinnacles has the strength of numbers that we'll need to work with the Park Service to balance our two main concerns: reducing impact and maintaining free climbing access. We're very pleased that you've joined us.

• Upcoming Events •

• Brooks White

January 8th, 9th and 10th - Machete Ridge Trail Project
These dates are subject to change. Notifications will be sent.
March 4th - Open FOP Meeting, location to be announced.

• Telegram for Mongo •

Letters To The Relayer

• Anne Russell

Hey Relayer,
Now that you have a Newsletter you need a Letters section. Give us your mailing address so we can send you our questions, suggestions and opinions concerning Pinnacles National Monument.

Jane & Joe Climber

Dear Jane & Joe,
You and all Friends Of Pinnacles members are encouraged to send their letters to:

Friends Of Pinnacles - Letters
122 Parnel Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Don't delay - write us TODAY!

• FOP Update •

• Brooks White

What have we been up to? Well, the first FOP event took place on November 14th, at the Pinnacles East Side campground. We organized a party to celebrate the creation of the group and to present the Park Service with our climbing brochure. Close to forty climbers showed up to the party and about a dozen spent the night. There was food, drink, a VERY high percentage raffle and a lot of great climbing stories. Twenty-seven new members signed up and \$250 was raised to help cover the cost of the brochure. The highlight of the event was hearing the Park Service express their sincere gratitude for our providing the brochure and demonstrated concern for the Monument itself.

We've been burning the midnight oil getting the first run of the Pinnacles climbing brochure printed and now it's finally here! We think it looks pretty good and will go a long way towards encouraging climber awareness at the Monument, not to mention continuing the good relations between climbers and the Park Service.

Friends Of Pinnacles currently boasts 55 members, but we need more - the more members, the more we can accomplish. Please, ask your friends to send their name, address and phone number to us here at FOP so we can make them official members. They, like you, will receive this Newsletter, announcements about upcoming events and general news effecting climbers at the Monument.



• It's History, Man •

"It's History, Man" is a collection of stories and viewpoints recounting the history and development of climbing at Pinnacles. Each issue will feature a glimpse into a past episode of climbing exploration.

An Afternoon Well Spent

• Kelly Rich

So often we'd walk by the thing, a chalkless crack winding partway up a rotten-looking buttress. Tom was nice enough. "Yeah, you guys can have that one."

So there we were, looking up with only a few hours left in the day. I hung off a hook to get the first bolt in up high. "That oughta do, Dave."

Pulling off the first few moves on a new climb is always a thrill. David placed the second bolt next to the crack. Standard Pinnacles procedure.

My turn. I clipped the first two bolts and swung up to the top of the crack. Yeow! The rock was actually better than it looked! We knew right then, this was a gem.

After two hours, 5 bolts decorated the route. My turn. I raced up to the anchors, running out the top section (I'd come back later and add a 6th bolt).

Sometimes, the best part about doing new routes is that you get to name them. I voted for "Wet Kiss." It's the name I wanted to give Foreplay, but Ruselle won on that one. Besides, this was the next best thing to a Big Pucker.

• You Oughta Know •

Status of Pinnacles' CMP

• Sam Davidson

For decades the National Park Service has taken a hands off approach to climbing management. Today with the sport growing so rapidly and climbers' impact becoming more obvious, the Park Service is looking at ways to more effectively control climbing.

All units of the National Park System where climbing is practiced are now required to prepare Climbing Management Plans (CMPs). These plans will establish policy guidelines to help each park, monuments or reserve balance resource preservation with climbing activity and opportunities.

Pinnacles' CMP has been under development for more than five years, and is now close to being presented in draft form for public review. Pinnacles has employed the Limits of Acceptable Change formula (an exhaustive process of data collection, analysis, and procedural responses) to help the Monument determine when, where, and to what degree it needs to regulate climbing.

It is vitally important that climbers give input to Pinnacles on the draft CMP. You can help by writing directly to Pinnacles and requesting that your name be put on the mailing list to receive the draft CMP when it is made available in 1993.

Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, Ca. 95043

Friends of Pinnacles will maintain close communication with Pinnacles on its CMP, to insure that climbers' opinions are well represented. Climbing at Pinnacles may not be too different in the future, but more regulation is likely. Let us know what you think.

• What's New(s) •

• Brooks White

That's Bad!

Caution! Some of the bolts/hangers on two of the routes in the Upper Crust area are missing. "Relayer" is missing several hangers and a bolt. "Sound Chaser" is also missing several hangers.

It's fairly common for routes at the Pinnacles to lose holds resulting in a more difficult climb; here are a couple good examples. The classic "Fourty Days Of Rain" lost a critical flake from inside the roof crack making it an off-hands roof problem. Insiders say it goes .12c now. Meanwhile, both "Tarantula" and "Zippety-Doo-Dah" lost crucial crux holds bumping them to .12b and .12d respectively.

That's Great!

Thanks to Ken Lowe, the "Regular Route" on the Monolith has a bomber new first bolt. FYI: It took many attempts, with a large crowbar, to remove the old Star Dryvin.

Credit goes to Eric Gable for replacing the hangers on "Subterranean Tango".

That's New!

Here's the lowdown on some new routes at Pinnacles:

Angstroms Away (.10a) - left of "Rat Race"

Ken Lowe and Carey Zumpano

Knobular Thrills (.11a) - left of "Stupendous Man"

Clint Cummins

Melvin (.11a) - left of "Between A Rock And A Hard..."

Kelly Rich, Dave Rubine, Tom Davis

Racing Stripes (.9) - left of "Melvin"

Tom Davis, Kelly Rich

Power Point (.11c) - left of "Mammary Pump"

Eric Gable

Relayer Staff:

Editor In Chief: Dave Rubine
Associate Editor: Sam Davidson
Contributing Editor: Anne Russell
Design & Production: Brooks White