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**• Editorial •**

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**Dave Update**

• David Rubine

Welcome to the second edition of Relayer. We must apologize for the delay, but just like you we've been awfully busy.

First, let us thank everyone who attended or contributed to the second annual Friends Of Pinnacles Rendezvous last November at Pacific Edge. A detailed report will follow, but in summary it was a tremendously successful event. We can't wait for the 3rd edition.

What comes with success? MONEY! Friends Of Pinnacles is now the proud possessor of almost \$1000, currently residing in our war chest. We have a few ideas, such as: reprinting the Pinnacles climbing brochure (the original 2500 went surprisingly quickly) and maintenance of select routes. What we really need from you, our members, is ideas for ways to put our hard earned dollars to the best possible use. Remember, we are trying to promote environmentally low impact and safe climbing at the Pinnacles. We really do value all our member's opinions and encourage you to write or call us with suggestions.

For those of you who are new to Friends Of Pinnacles, our organization was founded because of a direct need to be able to provide climbers input into the climbing management philosophy at Pinnacles National Monument. Incidents, such as, clear-cutting of new trails and dangerous placement of new routes seriously jeopardized climbing at the Pinnacles. There was a clear need for an organization which represented the climbers voice, hence Friends Of Pinnacles was born.

Along with doubling our membership, we've made great strides towards an amicable and long term relationship with the Officials at Pinnacles National Monument. We appreciate your financial contributions and we invite you to participate in our future projects at Pinnacles.

Yours in climbing,

David Rubine

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**• FOP Update •**

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• Bruce Hildenbrand

Despite the rumors that we're actually trying to become better climbers, our Machete Ridge trail maintenance project is now complete. Over half a year in the making, the new trail on the Pinnacles West Side to the base of the Destiny area leaves the main trail across from the Flimsy Flumes formation and winds serenely along the Machete formation to Son Of Dawn Wall.

Besides constructing the trail, visually low impact fencing was used to isolate areas of high erosion potential. Areas where erosion was most prevalent were seeded with Curlex and planted with grasses and shrubs indigenous to the area. Over one hundred shrubs and small trees were introduced into the environment. Late season rains will hopefully ensure their survival.

200 FOP person-hours went into the construction the trail and replanting of the surrounding area. Many thanks to all those who participated and a special thank you to Brooks White of FOP and Ranger Lisa Smith of the National Monument staff for their extra special efforts leading the work parties.

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**• Telegram for Mongo •**

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**Letters To The Relayer**

• Brooks White

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

Hey FOP,

The climbers brochure looks real good. Moving to Southern Ca. you don't know what you miss until it's gone. Here in the land of blank granite boulders you really appreciate how nice it was to have the beautiful knobs of the Pinn's to pull on.

The only thing I don't miss are those crappy bolts. When I get back, in a few years, I expect to see all those split shank and Starr Dryvin bolts replaced with 1/2" stainless steel glue-ins?!?

Keep up the good work.

Marc Jensen

Friends Of Pinnacles,

While I was climbing at the Pinnacles, I heard someone say that FOP was trying to establish climbing ethics and set climbing policy at the Pinnacles. This is not what I feel is the right thing for FOP to be doing and, frankly, I was appalled to hear such a thing.

Please tell me this isn't what my FOP dollars are paying for!

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Thank you very much for your letter. Let us first assure you; we are not, in any way, interested in establishing a "climbing ethic" at the Pinnacles. It is certain that every FOP member, and every climber for that matter, has a strong opinion concerning climbing ethics, but the FOP board members all strongly believe that it is not part of our charter to take sides on these issues. Should an activity occur at the Pinnacles that would jeopardize climbing for the rest of us, such as bolting over trails, FOP would be sure to publicize that and get involved, but we feel it is not in the interest of our long term goals to get involved in ethics debates.

As for establishing "climbing policy"; Pinnacles National Monument and all other National and State parks are already doing this. One of FOP's major goals is to be sure that climbers are not left out of this discussion. We are doing that by keeping all of you informed as to what the park is considering doing and by maintaining a superior relationship with the park so that, when the time comes, our opinions are heard and duly considered. Our goal is to provide you a forum to get your concerns voiced to those park officials who are establishing climbing policy for all of us.

If you feel strongly about contributing more, please consider becoming a FOP board member.



Friends Of Pinnacles

We meet once every one or two months and volunteer whatever time we have to writing news letters and brochures, planning parties and clean-ups and whatever else is necessary.

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## • It's History, Man •

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• Stoney Middleton

"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.

### A Whiter Shade Of Pale

Guidebooks never lie. It's a known fact, so when Chuck Richards Pinnacles guide stated that the overhang on the third pitch of Piece Of Ewe was soundly protected by a bolt we decided to give the route a go. The first pitch is pretty uneventful, low angle gully climbing and Jim, Mike and I disposed of it quickly.

The hundred and twenty foot second pitch was protected by a single 1/4" bolt forty feet off the belay. Route finding difficulties left me facing a fifty foot traverse left to the belay. In an ever increasing wind I spent fifteen minutes trying to jam a knot of webbing in a bottoming Pinnacles crack. Although the moves looked to be about 5.5; with a single protection bolt now forty feet below me, it seemed like a wise thing to do. Eventually I realized the futility of the situation, (everybody knows how poorly Pinnacles cracks take natural protection and this was natural protection at its' purest form). Luckily the holds were there and I arrived at the second belay without incident.

You must remember that this was in the day before modern camming devices. We rarely carried any gear other than biners and slings. Unfortunately for us, the only thing that even resembled a belay anchor was a plum-sized chock stone in a very weathered crack. Had common sense prevailed, I would have never brought my partners up to join me at this pitiful stance. However, all that remained between me and the top of the climb was one lousy 5.7 overhang and the Richard's guide said that there was a bolt that solidly protected the moves.

Once we were all reunited at the second belay, I finally looked up at the overhang, but could not see the bolt. As we all know, Pinnacles rock provides ample camouflage for even the most conspicuous fixed anchor. "No problem. I'll just climb up there, the bolt will magically appear and we'll be in Fat City." Launching up the vertical rock I was totally unprepared for the fact that there was no bolt to be found. "What!!!!", I exclaimed. Even guidebook writer Richards realized the gravity of an unprotected fall from this position. During the first ascent of this route, his two friends had run out of bolts and he had forced them to tie into a rope, thrown down from above, to complete the sketchy moves over the bulge. Subsequently, they had returned and made the route much safer by adding the aforementioned, now missing, bolt.

I'd like to say I was in control, but I'd be lying. Richards was right, a fall from here would have grave consequences. I just sucked it in and somehow groveled over the bulge. Success! We lived. Strangely enough, I've never had a desire to repeat the route. Who knows if there's a bolt there now or not!

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## • You Oughta Know •

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### 2nd Annual FOP Party

Over 60 climbers participated in the 2nd Annual Friends of Pinnacles Rendezvous. With the August 1993 opening of the Pacific Edge climbing gym, the venue was moved from the Pinnacles National Monument Campground to the largest indoor climbing facility in the nation. Many thanks to Pacific Edge for generously donating the gym and personnel.

Besides great indoor climbing, attendees were treated to an entertaining slide show on recent climbing at the Pinnacles by famed guidebook writer Dave Rubine. Speed climbing was also available, free of charge, with equal prizes for both the men's and woman's divisions.

The gear auction brought out the best in everybody. Not only did we sell everything, but one gentleman, who shall remain anonymous, stepped forward to match the sale price of several items and when things reached a fever pitch, Pacific Edge donated a couple of monthly passes which were quickly gobbled up. Total money raised was close to \$1000.

The event was a great success because of three things:

- 1) volunteers who worked hard and cheerfully
- 2) participants who climbed hard and gladly opened their pocketbooks
- 3) sponsors such as Mountain Tools, Metolius, Bugaboo, Pacific Edge, Boreal, Sunrise Mountain Sports, Pacific Mountaineer and others.

Thanks to everyone and see you next year.

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## • What's New(s) •

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### Closures End

• Brooks White

To the delight of all of us in the climbing community, the Park Service will be ending all closures as of July 1st. According to sources at the park, all the raptors have completed their fledging process and the areas are clear. So let's get out there and climb and don't forget to thank the Park for opening these areas early.

### Busy With The Bolts

A couple of members of the Friends Of Pinnacles, who wish to remain nameless, were busy fixing and replacing hardware on several routes at the end of 1993:

The Upper Crust Area has been totally revamped with the crux bolt on **Castles Made Of Sand** tightened, new bolts and hangers on **Sound Chaser** and new bolts and belay hangers on **Relayer** (thanks to mystery person for the replaced bolts). **Ali Baba** finally has two good belay bolts. The spinner on the roof of **Stupendous Man** has been replaced and the second bolt tightened. On the Monolith, **POD** got two new bolts and several hangers. The **Regular Route** got two new bolts and the two bolt belay above it was replaced. The main belay above **Hawaiian Noises** and **Subterranean Tango** now has new bolts, chains and a backup bolt. The bad bolt on **Foreplay** was replaced and smash links added to the belay.

Many other bolt replacement projects are waiting. If you have any opinions concerning which routes should get priority, please let us know and we will take it into consideration.