

PINNACLE PEAK PARK'S SISTER MOUNTAIN NEEDS A NAME!

During the month of July, Pinnacle Peak Park will be collecting name recommendations from the public in order to name the mountain adjacent to Pinnacle Peak. Ballots will be available at the trailhead office from July 1 - July 31st. You can also submit your suggestion at <http://www.pinnaclepeakpark.com>.

There has never been an official name for the sister mountain, although, it has been informally called Red Mountain, Red Face, Round Mountain and the "Other" Mountain. To enhance both safety issues and clarity, the park would like to officially name the mountain. It's a two year process to get an official name approved at the City, State and National levels.



PMB 288 • 8711 E. Pinnacle Peak Road • Scottsdale AZ 85255

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Tarantula Hawk

The tarantula hawk is a species of spider wasp. Its larvae feed on tarantulas.



PHOTO: GENE HANSON • www.genehanson.com

Adults feed on nectar and pollen, but larvae feed on tarantulas.

than not the tarantula hawk wins by delivering a paralyzing sting to the tarantula. Once stung, the tarantula becomes paralyzed within seconds. The condition will last for the remainder of its life.

Then the tarantula hawk will drag the spider back into its own burrow, now a burial vault, lay a single egg in the spider's abdomen, then seal the chamber. If there is no burrow nearby the tarantula hawk will excavate one.

When the tarantula hawk egg hatches into larva, the tarantula becomes their first meal. It begins feeding on the still-paralyzed tarantula, beginning first with the non-essential organs. After about 30 days, the wasp larva has finally consumed most of the tarantula (which now dies), and the larva pupates and eventually metamorphoses into an adult wasp.

Male tarantula hawks do not hunt. They will fight other males for taller vegetation and high points from where they can better perceive a virgin female emerging from a burrow, which may be receptive to mating. This behavior is known as "hill-topping". After mating, the female starts her hunt for a tarantula.

By Matt Lucky

Tarantula Hawk attacking a Tarantula



PHOTO: JOHN GUNN

Everyone has seen them - the slow flying insect with the bright rust-colored wings and a black body, that's up to 2 inches long. Tarantula hawks are most active in the summer, during the morning when there are many hikers on the trail. The bright color is a warning to potential predators to stay clear. Their sting is considered to be the most painful of any North American insect. Thank goodness they rarely sting without provocation.

The tarantula hawk is a species of spider wasp. Adults feed on nectar and pollen, but larvae feed on tarantulas. Tarantulas are large hairy spiders and mainly eat insects and other arthropods, using ambush as their primary method to capture prey.

The tarantula hawk has "air superiority" over the tarantula. The female wasp finds a tarantula by smell. Once it finds a burrow it acts as potential prey touching the silk web surrounding the entrance. This draws the spider out, and then the duel to the death begins. The wasp probes and teases the spider with its antennae and may even flip the spider over on its back. More often

The Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park

is dedicated to assist in maintaining the wonderful character of the Park and to support improvements and educational activities through fund raising.

The Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park Newsletter is published four times a year and is viewable on the website. Distribution of the newsletter continues to be made at the Park and selected sites in North Scottsdale.

Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park is a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 organization. Tax deductible contributions supporting the Friends mission may be mailed to the address below or made through the website.

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PHOTOS: NANCY HARGGARD

This Newsletter is published by the Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park. We welcome participation in the form of story ideas, letters and comments. e-mail: Editor@MattLucky.com

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Naked Edge
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 Powder Puff
 Twenty-Eighth Day
 Turtle Piss
 Spiral Staircase
 King of Pain
 Delayed Flight
 Sidewinder

WHAT DO THESE NAMES HAVE IN COMMON?



PHOTOS: FRANK BIONDO



TOP: Dief coiling up the rope after a great climb.

RIGHT: Dief climbing "Dead Meat" on Loafer's Choice boulder.

What do the above names have in common? These are names of a few of the six dozen plus rock climbs at Pinnacle Peak Park. Pinnacle Peak was first climbed in 1947 via the South Crack aka "Standard Route". Since then countless climbers have enjoyed the fine granite climbing that Pinnacle Peak offers. The first person to climb a new route gives it a name and a difficulty rating. The rating is a number between 1 and 15 – it used to be 1 to 9 but as climbers got better the rating system had to be expanded. The hardest climb at Pinnacle Peak is a 12 and the easiest is a 3. Most of the climbs fall into the 7-11 range.

When I first started climbing in 1975 the only buildings you could see from the summit were Pinnacle Peak Patio, Reata Pass, Greasewood Flats and Hopes Hogan. Other than a few equestrian riders the area was mostly visited by climbers. Now the vast majority of visitors to the park are hikers (over one million so far). I still climb Pinnacle Peak on a regular basis. I'm pretty sure someone has stolen some of the holds over the years because some of the climbs seem to be getting harder as I get older. The feel of the small crisp granite edges and crystals still gives me a wonderful adrenaline rush when I climb. Because there are very few big holds (greater than 1/4 inch) climbing at Pinnacle Peak requires good balance and precise footwork. I hope to have at least a couple more decades of climbing the Peak in me. When you're hiking the trail take a look up at the rocks. If you see a climber having a great day it just might be me. *Paul Dief*

Love Story at Pinnacle Peak

Musician Dan Delaney and singer/entertainer Joanne Obrien fell in love with each other, and Pinnacle Peak Park. Dan and Joanne met in January when Joanne was in town on a concert tour. They began performing regularly together, and sharing their life, which includes hiking at Pinnacle Peak.

Volunteer Dick Luther was able to take the picture when Dan proposed to Joanne... Priceless... "It will always be a special place for us for the rest of our lives together ...".

Right: Dan proposes to Joanne



PHOTO: DICK LUTHER

Volunteers RECOGNIZED



PHOTO: RAY PRUANT

Kathy Mascaro, Yvonne Massman, John Loleit, and Mayor Jim Lane reacting to a humorous story by a park volunteer.

Pinnacle Peak Park celebrated its 7th Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner at Greasewood Flat. The dinner was funded by the park's non-profit organization: The Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park. This dinner is the Parks way of saying thanks to the 70 + volunteers that donate their time to maintain the trail, help hikers on the trail, and educate the visitors about the Sonoran Desert through guided hikes, talks, and special programs.

Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane recognized John Barto (retired Scottsdale Police Officer) as the Volunteer of the Year for his service to the park in a variety of ways such as helping out on

short notice, trail roving on busy weekends and holidays, and with closing the trail at least two nights a week.

The Mayor also helped us to recognize Joe Zveglic, who reached the "Pinnacle Award" of 2000+ hours of volunteer service to the park. Two volunteers, Ernest Alldredge and Dick Luther, reached the "Gold Level" which is 1000-1999 hours of volunteering. Beverly Angeli-Burch, Mark Johnston, Don Bowman, and Karen Silva each reached the "Silver Level" of 500-999 total hours, and 9 additional volunteers reached the "Bronze Level" of 250-499 hours.

Volunteers go through 30+ hours of required training in geology, history, archaeology, plants, animals, emergency response, customer service and tour guide training along with a variety of other topics to prepare them for volunteer service at the Park. Volunteers spend a couple hours a week or more in the park trail roving, performing trail maintenance, providing educational programs or working the information desk. Annual training starts in early October. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact John Loleit at 480-312-0991 for more details.

Future Capella Resort and Park Parking

Currently many visitors park along 102nd Way, because often the trailhead parking lot is full. Eventually parking will not be permitted on 102nd Way.

The resort developer plans to build an underground parking garage and help the City expand the Park's trailhead surface parking. Park visitors will continue to be allowed to park along 102nd Way until the parking structure and additional surface parking are available.

The Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park, the Coalition of Pinnacle Peak, and local residents worked with the developer's representatives, and spoke at various City planning and council meetings to help secure additional parking.

The popularity of Pinnacle Peak Park will continue to put demands on parking capacity. The Friends will continue to urge the City to provide adequate parking for park visitors.

Please help support the Friends mission

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____ Email _____

Contribution Category (circle one) Jojoba \$40 • Teddy Bear \$50 • Compass Barrel \$75 • Ocotillo \$200-499 • Saguaro \$500+

My check payable to Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park for \$ _____ is enclosed.

You may contribute using Friends website www.pinnaclepeakpark.com, or by mailing your check to:

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