

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/24/2024 7:00:23 PM

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Title:

Comments: Thank you for taking the time to read this. As a climber who feels torn between two generations - the generation of old pioneers that introduced us to what is possible, and the new generation of young athletes that will continue to push what we thought was possible - i feel that whether it's the 1960's and you have homemade blacksmithed gear and nautical ropes, or it's 2024 and you have padded gyms with state of the art equipment and technology like never before, it still holds true that we must continue to remember where this sport originated from and keep that alive for the next person with a crazy idea and a vision.

One issue that has been addressed, but needs to continue to be addressed in the climbing community is inclusion of all races, all economic groups, genders, young boys and girls, Veterans, and so on. i'm starting to see and meet so many wonderful people from all walks of life and it would be a bummer if they no longer had climbing as an outlet or a means of empowering them. to me climbing in the simplest definition is "problem solving through movement."

i like this phrase because the minds i've met climbing are some of the most creative i've come across, and it seems impossible to me we can't all find a solution in this problem we are facing.

After visiting a climbing art gallery in my hometown of Placerville, CA i was inspired to write this next bit as I stared at a 7 foot tall photo of Royal Robbins. RIP to that man and this is what he inspired me to write.

"even half way up the dawn wall Royal Robbin's himself paused for a moment - appreciated the beauty of the climb - decided his mission to stop chopping Harding's bolts was over and he continued up the face.

Overwhelmed by the beauty of it all. even the legendary man who originally set the guidelines for conservation/ minimalism and preservation of nature found that sometimes there is a time and a place for everything."

i think the lesson we can take moving forward is something of meeting in the middle. one of my climbing mentors and Norcal Legend Aidan Maguire kinda sparked the idea when he told me about how he rebolted some routes in the area that were outdated to make it safer for new climbers. this idea of not chopping bolts but to have full teams dedicated to preserving and protecting climbs and ensuring the bolts themselves are documented/ replaced when worn / etc. i'm sure someone has already come up with a better idea with the same concept but i also see that new idea as possibly creating jobs too. teams of climbers dedicated to ensuring semi annually or annually or whatever that the classic climbs of the parks are still on solid gear for the next generations to come.

which kinda ties into this whole thing because my experience in the climbing community has been nothing but positive and everyone i meet who has stuck around long enough becomes a steward of the land whether we realize it or not. these places to some of us are held in the same regard as holy temples to others. places of worship even. when we climb we leave a little bit of ourselves up there and a little bit of up there comes down with us. i think it's our duty to make sure the next generation can experience the same things we got to and still have places to go create their own crags as well. which again reminds me of C.R.A.G.S. here in norcal. (Climbing Resource Advocacy Group Sacramento) a wonderful organization who has cleaned up many a crag in this northern part of the state. again just another exemplification of the climbing communities' way of giving back and leaving this world better than we found it. i know there will always be some problem plaguing the national parks and our lands - but i can say pretty confidently that climbers are a part of the solution in whatever capacity we are called upon.

thank you for taking the time to read this and have a wonderful day.

respectfully submitted

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-a concerned climber , a Veteran, and someone who loves this land.