



Pinnacles Partnership Voice

A Special Holiday Edition in Celebration of our Members

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'Tis the season of gratitude and celebration, and time for us to thank and celebrate the amazing members of Pinnacles Partnership. Though we would like to share stories from every member in this issue, space permits only a handful. Our new year's resolution is to share more member stories with each subsequent publication. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy these stories. We wish you a very merry holiday season and a happy new year!



Standing: Walter Melendy, Warren Bacon, Grace Graham, Ronald Chambers, Jef Schmidt
Sitting: Stan Schmidt, Clara Joan Hain, Laverne Chambers, Horace Bacon, Nadine Schmidt

STANLEY "SMITTY" SCHMIDT

Stan Schmidt was the youngest boy in his grammar school and, therefore, bullied by the older boys. Bear Valley School operated as a one-room K-8 school house from 1874 to 1952 serving the families living in Bear Valley and other communities close to the Pinnacles National Monument. Stan's nemesis—the biggest boy in school—often goaded Stan to do things that resulted in double spankings for Stan: the first at school by his teacher and the second at home for being spanked at school! Not only was Stan the smallest of the boys, he was the second son of a family struggling to eke out a living farming and ranching in a very rural area of San Benito County during the depression years.

In a story of his early years, Stan wrote: "Since (my brother) Jef was five years older than I, we never played together. He started going with my father when I was very young, and I had to stay at home, since I would only get in the way." Left at home to play with his younger sisters, Nadine and Charlotte, Stan often got into mischief. Stan recalls, "Both Nadine and I got our fair share of whippings with my father's quirt, but I am afraid that I scored the most."

As do many late blooming boys, Stan grew into a handsome teenager. His performance in school, however, did not bloom apace with his physical development. Stan recalls, "In my first two years of high school, my father insisted I take Shop and Ag and be a Future Farmer. I was to be the farmer. It is odd, how things turn out to be just the opposite of what our parents intended. They figured that Jef was the smart one, which he was, and that old dumb Stan would do well to stay in farming. Probably they had every right to think this way, as it took me a long time to develop. I also was in trouble continuously during grammar school. Not exactly the pride and joy of the family. When I started to play music, and got up a band, and started to make more money than my father ever did, I believe they may have changed their minds."

Enter "Smitty's Swingsters." When Stan was still in grammar school, he formed a band called "Smitty's Swingsters." One of his classmates, Sam James (Sam's mom ran the lodge at the Pinnacles and Sam's dad maintained the road through Bear Valley) played the drums; Stan's brother Jef played the saxophone; Stan's sister Nadine played the coronet and Stan "Smitty" Schmidt played piano. Smitty's Swingsters would hire out their services at \$16 for four hours at dances. At the end of a performance, they would pass around a hat. People would usually toss in a dollar or so each and the Swingsters would play as long as the "money lasted."

Stan reorganized his band when he entered high school. As Stan describes, “In high school, I had a much better orchestra than I had had in previous years, and we played for the high school dances. There was a drummer named Ray Klock, and two brothers named Andrews who played saxophone. They were excellent, and we made some good music. I believe Ray Klock made it to the big time as a drummer, but I am not sure. I made a lot of money playing the piano before I went into service, and I always had money in my pocket through high school and junior college. Of course I did not go out with girls, as I was busy playing, instead; and that saved even more money. I was also too bashful to ask a girl for a dance, let alone for a date.”



On Sunday, December 7, 1941, during a birthday celebration, Stan and his family learned from a radio broadcast that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. Stan was 15 years old, but even then he knew that he wanted to serve in the Navy Air Corps. Rather than waiting to be drafted into the Army, Stan enlisted in the Navy Air Corps in the fall of 1943. He was 17. Stan recalls, “The Navy did not take us for a few months, and I was finally given my travel orders to go to Dickinson, North Dakota, to start a two-semester course in college. After this, we were supposed to go to pre-flight, and then later to flight training.”

In Stan’s first year in the Navy Air Corps, pilots were no longer needed in such large numbers, so he and his classmates were tested for the V12 program. The V12 program trained professionals for the Navy and included a four-year college education compressed into 32 months. Stan passed the test and chose to pursue electronics. As Stan reports, “Electronics was a very young field at that time, and the people who could teach the subject were in service.”



As shy and mischievous as Stan “Smitty” Schmidt may have been, he certainly was not dumb! Stan recalls, “In the summer of 1945, when I became a junior (four semesters completed), I had the highest grade point average in my class. It was a 2.73 average, out of 3.0, which is the scale that was used at that time. There was never anyone as surprised as I, since I thought I was way back in the class. I have the ESHBACH "Handbook of Engineering Fundamental" as an award from the Beta chapter of Tau Beta Pi in 1945 for this achievement. Tau Beta Pi is the top honorary fraternity for engineering. I later became a member of Tau Beta Pi, Eta Kappa Nu and Pi Mu Epsilon. This was some achievement for the little farmer boy who took Future Farming in high school.” In June 1946, Stan was commissioned an Ensign, released from duty and graduated from college as an electrical engineer. He was not yet 21 years old!

Stan returned to his family’s home in Bear Valley and began looking for work in electronics. Stan’s brother Jef worked in the family’s ranching and farming operation with his father. Although Stan seriously considered partnering in the family operation, he decided to give his college training a try. In the Fall of 1946, Stan landed his first job at the then relatively new Ames Aeronautical Laboratory at Moffett Field.

In 1958, Ames became part of NASA. Stan worked at this facility until his move to Lockheed Missiles & Space Company in 1961. While working at Ames Stan went to Stanford on a part time basis and earned his MS in 1952 and PhD in 1959. He also gained international recognition for his research efforts while developing the Apollo navigation system.

Until he married in 1949, Stan continued to burn the midnight oil by playing in one band or another. Stanley "Smitty" Schmidt is now retired and living with his lovely wife Meredith in Santa Clara County. (On February 5, 2009 they will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary!) Stan's children Greg, Rick and Janis now own interests in the family properties in Bear Valley and Horse Valley. They lease their property to the Peterson Land and Cattle Co. which is owned by Stan's brother's children and their spouses.

Stan is a California Condor member of Pinnacles Partnership. Learn more about Stan's passion for the preservation of Bear Valley School by visiting www.bearvalleyschool.com.



GRACE KAPLAN

In May 2007, Grace Kaplan became a Pinnacles Partnership's member.

Grace was one of four members who collectively made possible the very 1st Condor Biologist Exchange on September 11, 2008 in Argentina!

Pinnacles Partnership and the staff of Pinnacles National Monument are very impressed with Grace and her philanthropic nature!

Thank you, Grace, for your time, generosity and support!

My name is Grace, and I am an eleven-year-old sixth grader in Davis, California. When I was nine years old, my family and I camped at the Pinnacles National Monument, and, as soon as I learned about them, I was very taken by the Condors' troubles. Right then I knew I wanted to help the Condors. So when I got home, I emptied the "donate" section in my piggy bank and gave it to the Condor program to help the Condors. I love Condors because they are not exactly cute, as most girls want birds to be, but they are very majestic and wonderful animals. They are also incredibly interesting, and there are so many new things to learn about them. I also believe in non-profit organizations because I like what they do. I think that they are doing something great when they help people and animals, and don't ask for anything in return.

Shortly after we got home from camping at Pinnacles, my fourth-grade teacher gave us an assignment to choose a topic and teach the rest of the class on that topic for an hour. I felt so strongly about Pinnacles that I chose it as my topic for teaching. For the project, I made a nine-foot-long Condor wingspan out of black butcher paper and had everyone come up one by one and measure their "wingspan" against the Condor's. Then I had them calculate their "wingspan" as a percentage of the Condor's. I also had them play a variation of tag, called "Food Chain Tag," so they could learn about some of the food chains at Pinnacles and see the effect that people have on the animals that make up the food chains. I also taught about the formation of Pinnacles and explained the science of Plate Tectonics using posters I made with photos and diagrams of my trip to Pinnacles! After the hour was up, my teacher gave me an A+ on the lesson, and said that my lesson made him want to take his family to Pinnacles that summer!

I love the Pinnacles, am very interested in the Condors, and hope to return there soon!

Sincerely,
Grace :-)



THE TERRY FAMILY

Philanthropy, as defined by wikipedia.com, is the act of donating money, goods, services, time and/or effort to support a socially beneficial cause, with a defined objective and with no financial or material reward to the donor. By any definition, Tom and Maria Terry are most certainly philanthropists at heart.

Tom Terry is a Mechanical Engineer by profession but has great interest in geology and science in general. Maria Harrington-Terry is currently a Business Administrator, but she also operates a home-based business as a Calligrapher. Maria has been lettering for about thirty years.



Tom & Maria Terry are California Condor members of Pinnacles Partnership

Tom's father, William Terry, set up a family fund at a foundation in Santa Clara County some years ago and William and his wife, Jan, have long been involved in their community. Through the years, William and Jan have encouraged their children, including Tom, to support nonprofit programs and to be active in their local communities. Tom's maternal Aunt, Helen Ross, is also a contributor to the Pinnacles Partnership. As Maria explains, "Giving runs on both sides of the family."

According to Maria, "Tom and I look for quality organizations, like the Pinnacles, that are under publicized and often overlooked. Our reason for selecting the Pinnacles was mainly...our desire to help preserve treasures like the Pinnacles National Monument and the California Condor for future generations."

Tom and Maria's gift to Pinnacles Partnership in 2007 was—like young Grace Kaplan's gift—one of the four donations that funded the very first Condor Biologist Exchange in Argentina on September 11, 2008.

This year Tom and Maria have provided financial support for 2008-2009 Science Camp; however, Tom and Maria's philanthropy did not end upon making this generous gift. Tom has offered to review and comment on recently revised curriculum for the 5th Grade level Science Camp and has expressed an interest in becoming a Vision Team member. According to his wife, Tom loves to teach people things about science and math. The Vision Team—still in the development stage—will be comprised of educational professionals from local communities to provide ongoing advice and expertise concerning the Science Camp.



Photos from the 1st Science Camp held in April 2008

Pinnacles Partnership and the Pinnacles National Monument staff salute Tom and Maria Terry for their financial support and their generosity in sharing their time and expertise!



On October 11, 2008, the Tourism Committee of the San Benito County Chamber of Commerce hosted the very 1st Condor Classic bicycle event, showcasing the breathtaking landscape of San Benito County.

Staging at San Juan Oaks golf resort, nearly 500 riders embarked on one of four rides ranging from a twenty mile ramble over the farm roads of the San Juan Valley to a one hundred mile trek through our local wine country to the Pinnacles.

Eighty cheerful volunteers (including the dedicated Condor Classic committee members) worked diligently to ensure that each guest had a lovely and memorable experience. As a result of their efforts, the event raised \$5,000 in net proceeds which the Committee donated to Pinnacles Partnership.

Pinnacles Partnership and the staff of Pinnacles National Monument are very grateful to the Condor Classic Committee Chairs: Kathy Schipper, Mark Paxton, Josalyn Scantlin, Michael Rupp, Denise Cauthen-Wright, Loree Van Bebber, Scott Fuller, Theresa Martin, Ron Ross, Brenda Weatherly, Jessica French, Brian Lucas, and Timothy Takeuchi, as well as the many other volunteers who participated in the planning, marketing and execution of this delightful day!

Pinnacles Partnership was so impressed with the professional design of the website and other marketing materials prepared by Schipper Designs for the Condor Classic, we have asked Kathy to redesign and update our website. Watch for our new look and expanded website appearing sometime in January 2009 at www.pinnaclespartnership.org.

Since May of 2007, Tim Regan has served as the President of the Board of Pinnacles Partnership and David Cole as Vice President.

As officers and board members, Tim and David have provided insight, guidance and many, many hours of volunteer service to foster our partnership with the National Park Service in the furtherance of our mission.

But Tim and David have not simply served as officers and directors. Tim serves as chef Extraordinaire at our annual picnics (pictured on bottom right) and as spokesperson for Pinnacles Partnership at every public event. David (pictured on top right) has provided fundraising and business management expertise which has proved essential to project development and funding.

And, Tim and David have shown their personal investment in Pinnacles Partnership by each sustaining their annual membership at the California Condor level.

Pinnacles Partnership and the staff of Pinnacles National Monument are deeply grateful to you both!





URSULINE "SUZI" BRUNNEMANN "OUR TEXAS AMBASSADOR"

In 1941, Ursuline "Suzi" Markowski graduated as a Registered Nurse from Ohio Christian College in Columbus, Ohio. She was working as a Red Cross Nurse when Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7th. Shortly thereafter, she enlisted in the Army Nurses Corps and was stationed in a hospital in the Normandy region of France. Suzi was 21 years old.

Although English was Suzi's native language, she had a knack for languages. As a child, Suzi developed fluency in Polish to please her grandparents, and became fluent in French in Normandy.

Thus, when the concentration camps were opened in 1944 – 1945, Suzi was a natural to serve as an interpreter for the Polish refugees. Suzi and the Medical Adjutant for Suzi's hospital unit would ride together in the unit's one jeep to various locations, and Suzi would translate for the Polish refugees so that the Adjutant could note the essential information required for medical triage.

It was during these long rides together that Suzi, a 2nd Lieutenant, got to know the Adjutant, a 1st Lieutenant. And, on November 26, 1945, Suzi and 1st Lieutenant Auben W. Brunnemann married (by permission granted by Eisenhower). The wedding was held in Napoleon Bunker and some of the Polish refugees that Suzi had befriended gathered wildflowers to bring to the event. Although the wedding party snacked on rations, they sipped Reims Champagne from canteen cups.

Early in 1947, Suzi and Auben returned stateside to pursue life as civilians, but soon discovered that they both preferred military service. Auben enlisted in the Air Force, and was a Lieutenant Colonel when he retired after many years of service. Suzi re-enlisted in the Reserves and remains on the inactive list. Suzi served as a Red Cross Nurse for 35 years and has continued to keep her nursing certificate current.

Suzi's youngest son, Eric, is the Superintendent of Pinnacles National Monument. Shortly after Pinnacles Partnership was founded, Suzi picked up a brochure and a few toy condor hatchlings at the Pinnacles' gift shop. Upon returning to her home in San Antonio, Texas, Suzi began to spread the word about the Pinnacles' Condor recovery program and Pinnacles Partnership. Suzi became a member of Pinnacles Partnership, and has recruited several other Texans as well! Thank you, Suzi, for your many years of service for our country, for your amazing recruitment efforts on our behalf, and for giving us Eric!



If you are interested in joining Pinnacles Partnership but are strapped for cash during this troubled economy, consider our pledge program. By making a pledge, you direct us to bill you the amount you desire at intervals you designate (monthly, quarterly or annually). For example, if you joined at the California Condor level and directed us to bill you monthly, your monthly payments would be \$84. For more information, call Paula M. Grace at (831) 634-1012 ext 12.

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