

## NEW FIXED HARDWARE APPLICATION

APPLICATION NAME: Pony Express - P2 anchor bolt/chains

LOCATION: West Ridge, shared anchor atop Zip Code, Iron Pony and P2 of Pony Express.

The current anchor consists of one 3/8" bolt and a small tree just above the bolt. The tree trunk is approximately 4-5" in diameter. Two rappel rings are on the cord tied to the tree and the bolt.

In addition to belaying and rappelling the anchor is also used for top-roping the second pitch of Pony Express. Climbers topping-out on other W Ridge route sometimes downclimb to this anchor in order to rappel. The anchor sees a fair amount of traffic.

I propose removing all cord and installing one 12mm x 90mm (approx 1/2" x 3 1/2") Fixe stainless steel Triplex bolt and stainless steel hanger slightly above and left of the existing bolt. The rock above the existing bolt is fractured. The rock to the right of the bolt may be sound but a crack can be seen and the position would create considerable rope-drag on the edge of a large block when pulling the rappel rope from below.

I will use lap-links to attach a length of chain to the existing hanger and a separate length of chain to the new hanger. Each chain will have a Quick-link at the business-end for threading rappel ropes and top-roping. The chains will be longer than average anchor chains to facilitate easy clipping from the no-hands stance.

The existing bolt is approximately 8 1/2' above the ledge. In order to clip directly to the hanger one must make an easy, overhanging climbing move to pull-up reach it. The most obvious handhold is on a very large (1,000 lbs?), detached chunk of stone, though it doesn't seem to pose a threat if left undisturbed. The rock below the existing bolt is of questionable quality at best and fractured nearer to foot-level.

The longer chains reduce a few risks of breaking a hold, vs. having to make a climbing move to reach shorter chains, among them:

- 1) a bad lead-fall. Because of the very moderate and low-angled terrain lead-climbers aren't likely to place gear in the final 12' (Pony Express) to 20' (Zip Code, Iron Pony) of the routes.
- 2) a ground-fall by someone who has downclimbed to the anchor, intending to rappel.
- 3) rockfall to those climbing or on the ground. The staging area is one of the most popular along the West Ridge, serving the three routes previously mentioned plus Mesca-line, Sister Morphine and Iron Pony.

Removing the cord from the tree will likely prolong the tree's life. The addition of a bolt and long chains will make for a stronger, safer and more user-friendly anchor.

I will use a battery powered drill and install the hardware on a weekday when the staging area is less crowded/devoid of climbers. All hardware will be camouflaged.

