

The JOSHUA TREE REPUBLIC

Volume 1 issue #1 Take care of yourself, take care of each other 2009 starter kit



Mission Statement:

To assist in providing news and events coverage for the village of Joshua Tree. To build a bridge of communication between the local citizens, businesses, and visitors. To illuminate the similarities and differences in the many voices of our community. To provide a forum called "SPEAK YOUR PIECE" through which all of us can communicate our ideas, thoughts, desires, wishes and dreams, aggravations and grievances, or simply whatever is on our mind. To help keep in touch with our fellow citizens, and our fellow travelers, and all of those working to make life better in the great Republic of Joshua Tree.



Campfire Propaganda

Founders Message:



Happy New Year to all of you in Joshua Tree, CA.

This is the prototype of a newsletter that **WE** would like to call **THE JOSHUA TREE REPUBLIC**. It is our wish that many Joshua Tree citizens and businesses will come together to help keep this newsletter in print and keep it alive, under whatever name or form, for all those who live in and visit our great town, now and in the time to come.

The Joshua Tree Republic will be dropping off a few copies at each business in town and asking you eventually for a yes or no vote on whether or not you would like us to continue to bring printed copies to your shop.

The next issue of The Joshua Tree Republic will come out just as soon as it's possible, but we're shooting for early February. Our dream is to have one issue per month.

think LOCAL think Now

Soon, we may approach you to ask for your support. We only hope that if you cannot contribute financially, then please by all means write and tell us what you do or don't like about the direction of **THE JOSHUA TREE REPUBLIC**, and do so by submitting your words to the column called **SPEAK YOUR PIECE**, which we will explain in the pages ahead.

Our goals are not financially motivated, we simply wish to further fulfill the mission stated on page one. We are aware we could do this all on the internet but we want everybody to participate, not just those with computers. **THE JOSHUA TREE REPUBLIC** is something you can hold in your hands and discuss with the citizen next to you. We want everyone who shops at local businesses and even folks passing through town from all over San Bernadino County and the rest of the planet (some at speeds that are upsetting, and we would like to address that problem later) to get more than a glimpse of our community as they sit down for a meal or a drink during their short time in our small town. We want to offer all of us who live here something physical that engages the citizens to participate more in local discussions, which is one thing they can do here at **THE JOSHUA TREE REPUBLIC**. And they/you can choose to do it anonymously as well.

It is obvious to The Joshua Tree Republic that there are several different camps and opinions going on around this town, perhaps making it the unique place it is, and here at **THE JOSHUA TREE REPUBLIC** we want to gather you all together to speak out about it. It's not shameful or wrong to speak out anonymously, in fact, it might help things move forward in a smoother way.

Basically, it would be nice to have a local news rag that pertains specifically to our special town of Joshua Tree, CA. It would be beneficial to have a column dedicated to the activities and stories of climbers, those somewhat transient or seasonal members of our community, and one for the park rangers and employees, plus at least one column dedicated the cultural happenings in other parts of the Morongo Basin as well- for instance our sister village of Pioneertown, where many national touring acts perform.



The look of this rag is very **HOMEMADE** as you can see. It's practically a "zine," as those of you in the underground journalism business would call it, and we just wanted to make the first one using a typerwriter, a computer, scissors and glue stick, literal cutting and pasting, and a copy machine or two. The format will surely change. It will have to. Somebody with the computer skills to lay this rag out will hopefully make it a lot easier to accomplish the task at hand! For now, it is what it is: a home made newspaper, made by a few citizens, looking for more citizens to help out. We love the Sun Runner and commend the new association between the American Free Journal and the Desert Valley Star, and we want to add just one more thing to the stack of stuff to check out as you have a meal or a cup of coffee at one of our fine establishments. However, we need your blessing, your participation, and your advice.

My partner Katie and I are just HI-Desert beginners, having only lived in this community for four years, but last time we checked it was a great and free country so **We** can speak our minds however **We** feel and this newsletter is how we choose participate in the great American tradition of free speech and community involvement. **We** hope you are able to join us in this mission. We have done a great bit of traveling around this land and we have encountered many great community newspapers such as the **ESTER REPUBLIC** in Ester, Alaska, or **THE MOUNTAIN EAGLE** in Whitesburg, Kentucky. These and many more have influenced us to want to start a similar project in our own home town. The Mountain Eagle in particular has a very effective section called **SPEAK YOUR PIECE** where everybody and anybody can say what is on their mind about something that is taking place in the community or in the world. You may have something positive to say, or it could address a situation that is bothering you and maybe suggest some changes. You may want to congratulate or support somebody or some group, or give them hell. You may want to share your ideas on local politics or government, or your recipes for pie. There is no subject under the mighty desert sun which is off limits.
We repeat, no subject is off limits.

Regarding **OUR** own opinions or general attitude towards life here in Joshua Tree and how we feel the rest of the world should think, we hereby make no excuses or apologies for our own views, and are willing to accept and listen to the views of all others, within reason and open to healthy debate, of course. So to answer your other question, yes, these pages will have social and political messages which may or may not reflect the opinions of the good people of Joshua Tree. We really want to provide a space where we can all discuss what is on our minds, what makes us happy or what upsets us, and what it is that we live for.

This naturally precludes that there will be opinions involved in the various columns or articles, depending on who steps up to write them, and you know what they say about opinions and A-holes: everybody has one. This is very true, and for the life span of this news letter we want to bring as many of these opinions into the light as possible.

There are many of you out there who we thought about when putting this first issue together. Consider reading these words as our way of inviting you to join this journalistic Joshua Tree Army of sorts. We are asking you to help us to learn about the different kinds of people that live in the "little village" between the "big towns" of Yucca Valley and 29 Palms.

THE JOSHUA TREE REPUBLIC is... YOU! This is your place to speak your mind and to help make this a better and more participatory place for all of us to live.

Thanks for reading.



T. EASTON, editor/founder

we wish you well, please keep in touch

Please write something/anything for **SPEAK YOUR PIECE.**

SPEAK YOUR PIECE:

TELL US WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND...

NO NEED TO GIVE YOUR NAME.

This column is an anonymous forum for you to speak your mind about whatever you want. Our dream is to have a ten minute segment on our very own KCDZ FM 107.7 where a local artist's CD is played in the background as the DJ reads selections from the current JOSHUA TREE: **SPEAK YOUR PIECE**

We can dream, can't we?

*This is the first issue so we went around and asked a few anonymous citizens what they would like to say to kick off the premier of...
JOSHUA TREE: SPEAK YOUR PIECE.*

Here are a few examples to get you started.

It could be a positive bit such as:

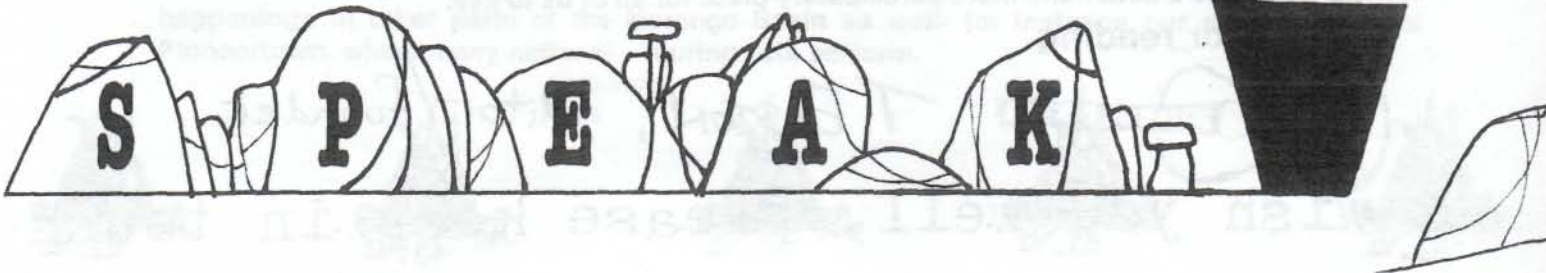
Kudos to the Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce for putting those beautiful stars up on the local businesses to light up our town during the holiday season. They look great, and I find myself smiling as I pull into town.

or it could be more aggressive such as:

So what is going on with the old Beatnik Cafe? Is it that difficult to have permanently functioning internet coffee shop in this town? It seems like we should have of the world's best examples of this kind of a shop-with an open stage, and a place to share ideas. Is anything like this going to happen with that space?

I'd like to thank the county of San Bernadino for finally widening Highway 62 on the west side of town. Juniper and 62 was a dangerous intersection where many accidents ocured, and many people were injured. Now if we could just get more people to slow down when they are entering our town. What's the big hurry anyways?

The Red Arrow Gallery presents:
PORCUPINE: Hand Painted Vinyl Album Jackets
by Tim Easton with 12 new songs on a 12 inch
long playing record on the inside. May 2009.



SPEAK YOUR PIECE cont.

What is up with all the graffiti down in Coyote Hole? I have noticed that down in what should be a beautiful and natural rock palace in which to take a walk, young couples are writing puppy love things like "Gary + Nicole" (these are the actual names I saw) and I bet any money that if we went to Yucca Valley High we could find these two and see how the relationship is going.

I have also noticed that somebody took some paint down there recently and just took it upon themselves to cover up a lot of the graffiti. Thanks for this, but maybe you could have picked a color of paint that blended in more with the local scenery? A brown or an off-brown? All I'm sayin.'

Many thanks to the Joshua Tree Insurance Company (ie...our friends and neighbors) who helped each other out during the snow storms in December. It's good to know you are there.

I may be a bit green (pun intended) about this, but why do they continue to build houses in the Morongo Basin without solar panels on the roof? For that matter, why isn't our whole town's power source coming from solar and wind. The same power that dries my laundry or blows my lawn furniture all the way to 29 Palms can surely help put a dent in my utility bills. Other towns have this power harnessed, why can't we work towards that goal?

Much love and gratitude to all those who set up and support the Farmer's Market each Saturday in "downtown" Joshua Tree. And thanks to all those who have set up new businesses in the last year or so. Ricochet, Tea Cakes Bakery, to name a few...thanks for the local colors and flavors.

To all those in town who voted for Prop 8. The ages and the tides are against you so you should probably get around to accepting that people should be able to love who they want and how they want. Besides, our founding fathers said that church and state should be separated, so do them and us a favor and leave religion out of your argument, even though it seems pretty clear to me that Jesus would send flowers to all weddings.

Thanks to the Joshua Tree Saloon for starting an open mic night. It's nice to go in there and NOT feel like somebody wants to kick my ass.



W E L C O M E

SPEAK YOUR PIECE cont.

Respect and thanks to all those United States Marines coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan. We appreciate your hard work and sacrifice. It's a good idea to go shake a veteran's hand and thank them for their service...any veteran from any war....without them, this little newsletter would not exist.

TO CONTRIBUTE TO "SPEAK YOUR PIECE" which includes commenting on previous entries to this column, please write us...

WEB: email joshuatreerepublic@gmail.com and put "SPEAK YOUR PIECE" in the SUBJECT LINE.

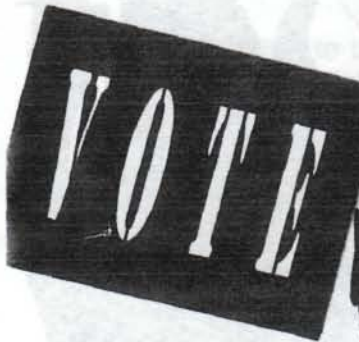
DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER? GO TO THE JOSHUA TREE LIBRARY TO BORROW ONE or....

snail mail:
THE JOSHUA TREE REPUBLIC
"Speak Your Piece"
P.O. BOX 1976
JOSHUA TREE, CA 92252

PLEASE KEEP ALL SUBMISSIONS TO ONE OR TWO PARAGRAPHS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EDIT ALL ENTRIES.
THANKS,

The Joshua Tree Republic

take care of yourself, and take care of each other



"Close enough to LA for a weekend away, it will feel like a two week retreat when you book into Rattler Ranch. The way the desert has always lured the artistic and contemplative, your spirit will feel cleansed and nourished by the landscape. And for non-hermits, plenty of idiosyncratic action can be found in the town of Joshua Tree and its outlying satellites. The welcome's warm, the water's hot, the beds are great - get yourself out there!"

This excerpt is taken from Caroline Butler's forthcoming book "Scattered" about her travels around America.



the Red Arrow Art Gallery at 61010 29 Palms HWY Joshua Tree, CA 92252 is a unique space for uncensored artistic expression in this community, of this community, and for this community. please stop by and visit. gallery hours: mon-thurs BY APPOINTMENT friday 5-8pm sat/sun 12-5pm please visit www.theredarrowgallery.com or email info@theredarrowgallery.com

think LOCAL think Now

WANTED: WRITERS AND PARTICIPANTS TO HELP CONTINUE THE PRINTING and DISTRIBUTION OF THIS HERE RAG CALLED THE JOSHUA TREE REPUBLIC.

WE NEED LOCAL INTEREST STORIES, LOCAL INVESTIGATIVE STORIES, LOCAL ART AND MUSIC REVIEWS, LOCAL ARMCHAIR MARK TWAINS AND HUNTER S. THOMPSONS, CARTOONISTS... POETRY, SONGS, DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND SHORT STORIES PERTAINING TO JOSHUA TREE ARE WELCOME. WHO IS GOING TO WRITE THE "CLIMBER'S CRACK" COLUMN? A CLIMBER, WE HOPE. FANCY YOURSELF A FILM CRITIC? BOOK CRITIC? MAYBE YOU LIVE IN A CAVE UP IN THE PARK AND YOU HAVE SOME CAVE DRAWINGS FOR US? ARE THERE SOME "GREEN ISSUES" YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS? WHAT ABOUT A MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL COLUMN THAT FEATURED A PIECE ON ONE SPECIES OF LOCAL FLORA OR FAUNA? IS THERE A PLACE OUTSIDE JOSHUA TREE THAT HAS INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE ABOUT IT? WHAT ABOUT TELLING US ABOUT MUSIC OR ANYTHING INFLUENTIAL IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU THINK WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HERE IN JOSHUA TREE? WHAT ABOUT AN ADVICE COLUMN? WE NEED SOMEBODY TO ORGANIZE AN EVENTS CALENDAR. WE NEED PROOF/READERS!!!

Welcome to the JOSHUA TREE ARMY.
Play Your Guitar. Plant Something.

