



Bardini

# The Backside of Beyond

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Summer 2009

## We Need Your E-Mail Addresses!

If you have an **e-mail address** and you received this newsletter via the United States Postal Service (USPS), you should reconsider your subscription.

Even though we have finally acquired a non-profit mailing permit with the USPS, the cost of printing 500 copies of this newsletter, 6 pages in color, is the second largest Bardini Foundation expense next to liability and workmen's comp insurance.

Those of you with **e-mail addresses** that we have on file receive the newsletter via e-mail as an attachment in .pdf format. This involves no expense to the foundation and means that you get the newsletter the same day we finish writing it.

People who receive this through the USPS have their delivery delayed due to the necessity of printing, sorting, folding, securing, and labeling each of the 500 letters we send out. Some of you may not even receive the newsletter if you move.

We strongly advise you to help reduce our costs and speed your reception by sending us, via e-mail, your e-mail address.

You may already be aware that ALL the issues, past and present, of **Backside of Beyond** are available on our website. A click on the Newsletter tab will take you to the archived issues. These can be printed from the site or read directly on the screen from the .pdf format. The Adobe Reader program is required and is available from **Adobe.com** at no cost.

E-mail your e-mail address to:

[don@bardini.org](mailto:don@bardini.org)

This issue of Backside is dedicated to the memory of **John Bachar** 1957-2009



Photo by Karl "Baba" Bralich, peaklightimages.com

On July 5th, John Bachar fell while solo climbing at the Dike Wall near his home in Mammoth Lakes. John is *the* free-soloing legend of rock climbing history.

From the article "Being Bachar" in Rock & Ice Magazine #166:

Well past his prime, [John] knows that with each rising of the sun his climbing prowess fades another shade, but he's far from throwing in the towel and will do his thing until a broken hold or a deathbed closes his chapter in climbing history. And even then, he says, all the legions of rap bolters and their countless routes and incessant number-chasing will, "Just keep making me look better."

## Despite the Times A Fund Drive Success

You did it again - another successful fund drive. Our annual fund raising drive that began last December was successful despite the general economic downturn. Although the total donations were 30% below last year's total, the decrease is due probably to there being 30% fewer donors.

The **DEW Foundation** came through again matching your contributions to the penny.

We **look forward to your continuing support** of Bardini in the coming years and we will continue to demonstrate that your generosity is allowing us to fulfill our stated purpose.

## Doing Their Part for the Environment

About four years ago the Bardini Foundation signed up with CalTrans in the Adopt-a-Highway program.

We have been committed to keeping a one mile stretch of West Line Street, from the end of the Middle School fence to Tu Su Lane, litter-free. Not an extremely difficult job, but time consuming for one person and that was the size of our crew.

Last summer the youth group that we have been working with over the past four years created a name and logo for themselves - the **BackCountry Boys** - to relate more efficiently with their sponsors.

The boys saw our highway sign and decided to volunteer their group to the task and they have "adopted" our highway. We are pleased and relieved that the boys are now directly involved in civic responsibility.

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### 2009 Contributions Individuals

**Benefactor \$1000+**

Jean & Brian Parks  
Paul Rudder  
Chris Smith

**Angel \$500+**

Gary & Chris Bard  
Yvon & Malinda Chouinard

**Patron \$200+**

Lyman Johnson  
Bruce Russell

**Partner \$100+**

Molly Attell  
Kenneth Blanchard  
Andy Carson  
Clay Greene  
Charles Grobe  
Glenn Hirayama  
Tom & Norma Limp  
Kenny Lloyd  
Thomas Rossi  
Paul Trester  
David Weaver  
David Weston

**Contributor \$50+**

John Ellsworth  
Clay Greene  
Lawrence Nelson  
Thomas Rossi  
Terry Walker

**Sustainer \$25+**

Ralph Alcocer  
Kathryn Anderson  
Virginia Anderson  
Darla Heil  
Jerome Kaminski  
Joe Kelsey  
Darren Malloy  
Lawrence Stowell  
Jerome Tinling  
Deborah Tomczic  
Arlene Ustin  
Steve Vaughn  
Denise Waterbury

**Member \$10+**

Carol Broberg  
Gail Wilts

### Organizations

**Angel \$5000+**

DEW Foundation

**Sustainer \$100+**

TEAM Engineering & Management Inc.

The donations listed above were received during the fund drive from December 15, 2008 through March 15, 2009.

If you made a donation during this period and your name does not appear here, we apologize and will make sure that you receive recognition in the next issue.

### Where Does Your Money Go?

As has been explained in the past, a large percentage of the annual donations we receive go to meeting our liability insurance and workmen's comp insurance premiums.

Of course, the Foundation does have the normal expenses of doing "business". We pay for an annual business license, monthly website fees, DSL Internet access fees, online banking fees, newsletter ink cartridges, newsletter paper, newsletter postage, and payroll taxes.

In our support of Eastern Sierra youth groups we have been able to supply much needed loan equipment such as climbing shoes, tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, stoves, tarps, and backpacks. In order to meet safety standards our climbing equipment must be constantly upgraded. Part of our funds go to maintenance of this equipment base.

The two prime movers of the Foundation, the CEO and CFO, also known as the two mountain guides, receive no compensation from the Foundation other than that portion of their guide fees not allotted to the Foundation.

With the last three years of successful funding drives we are finally able to begin supporting other non-profits whose missions supplement ours. Environmental organizations like Friends of the Inyo and the Mono Lake Committee are groups that we consider each year. We have supported local cultural organizations like the Inyo Council for the Arts since our inception. These groups receive variable amounts depending on the Foundations donation totals and financial obligations.

John Bachar January 31, 2009



### Incoming



Just a quick note of thanks for all your effort in maintaining the Bardini Foundation. I hope this little bit of contribution helps. Cheers.

**Chris Smith, Honolulu, HI**



Thank you for the fine work and newsletter. Allan would be pleased to read of the youngsters brought to the adventure of the Sierra.

Thanks as well to Tim for his guidance to so many in their approach to climbing and winter skiing experience in the Eastern Sierra.

**Paul Trester, Encinitas, CA**



Here's our check. Please don't send an acknowledgement—cancelled check is fine.

I've been to the east side the last three years, but haven't stopped in Bishop to say hello. I truly cannot understand how, being retired, I seem to have so little time to do things I might want to do. Maybe 2009.

**Lyman Johnson, St. Louis, MO**



Please accept this donation in the memory of **Keith Spencer**. As you well know, times like these are very hard. He really was a wonderful person and a great companion on the trail. Please consider this donation in his memory as coming from myself and three other good friends—Ted John, Bob Creelman, and Jim Smith.

**Brian Parks, Madison, WI**



I haven't read Norman C.'s Favorite Story yet, but am looking forward to doing so. I always liked his attitude!

**Dave Weaver, Los Olivos, CA**



*If your lucky enough to be in the mountains,  
you're lucky enough!*

## My Life in Spire Repair

### Act-III

### 3rd Ascent of the Leaning Tower with Layton Kor

By Don Lauria

Layton Kor was probably the largest bundle of energy to ever climb a rock. Everyone is probably aware of his height – I wonder how many know how tightly wound he was. This guy was intense. Don't get me wrong. His behavior off the rock was not abnormal – except when he was behind the wheel of an automobile.

It was early 1965. I was in my tenth year as an aerodynamic engineer at North American Aviation in El Segundo, California. My climbing experience was initiated in 1961 and was limited to Stoney Point, Tahquitz Rock, and three trips to Yosemite. My first and only Yosemite climb in 1962 was Higher Cathedral Spire. I returned to the Valley in 1963 for one weekend to climb the Higher Spire again. In 1964, another Higher Spire ascent with Swan Slab and Patio Pinnacle thrown in. That's it – my entire Yosemite experience over a three year period amounted to five short ascents. Then I met Layton Kor and the curtain went up on Act-III of *My Life in Spire Repair*.

It was March of 1965, Layton was working at Chouinard's tin shed in Burbank, California, near the Lockheed aircraft plant. My Stoney Point climbing buddies, Dennis Hennek and Ken Boche were both working for Yvon then and when I had time after work I would drop by the tin shed by to visit and pound a few rivets in 1¼-inch angles. Compared to the motley crew, I looked sort of out of place in my suit and tie, but on my first visit Layton was impressed with my work ethic. I don't remember when or where it happened, but one day he asked if I was interested in doing a Yosemite wall climb. I didn't even ask which wall, I just said yes.



**Chouinard's Tin Shed in Burbank 1965**

L to R: Lauria, Hennek, Chouinard (crouching), Boche (in hat), Kor

The Leaning Tower - he wanted to do the third ascent of the Leaning Tower. The first ascent in 1961 had just been followed by Robbins' solo second ascent in 1963 and Layton had been quizzing Royal about the logistics. According to Royal there were still lots of bolts missing hangers and some bolts needing replacement. Other than that, he bade us well.

It was mid-April. There was still six feet of snow on the ground in the Valley when Kor and I drove into the Bridalveil Falls parking lot. With help of Ken Boche and a few other friends, we stomped in a path – a six-foot deep trough – up to the Tower traverse ledge. It took us a couple

of trips and most of the day to deposit our equipment. Kor and I spent that night in Camp-4. I think we were the only tent in the campground. I had a large McKinley canvas tent – large enough for Kor to stand erect. We sat under a roaring Coleman lantern that night discussing Kor's plan. He had a "plan." I had no clue.

It was obviously going to be a cold ascent and we were only taking down jackets. We would use our rucksacks for our feet. Layton had borrowed two pairs of Jumars from somebody and he had shown me how they worked in the tent the night before. We would not take a stove - just cheese, bologna, gorp, and water. Kor was convinced we could use candles to warm our hands on the bivouac. That was his "plan."

Up early the next morning, we trudged through the snow trough to our gear and began the traverse out to the beginning of the bolt ladder first pitch. The ledge was snowy, wet and slippery – and cold. There was no question as to who would lead the first pitch. Layton clipped into the first bolt and seconds later began what was to be a non-stop, irate conversation with the Tower, with God, and with anyone else within earshot. I had never heard anyone curse as often and constantly while climbing. I heard curses that I had never heard before or since – though I admit that one of his favorite rubbed off on me and I still hear myself using it – hopefully nobody else does. It is one that I can only repeat here as a reference to "matriarchal prostitution." Every missing hanger, every loose bolt, every scraped knuckle, every dropped nut (those that hold the hanger on the bolt), and every time he didn't get his foot quickly into the next loop, a curse would echo off the wall and down the Valley.

Layton climbed quickly and was up to the belay bolts – he was breathing hard when called down "Off belay." I'm sure his respiration rate was due more to vituperation than to exertion. The Robbins Jumar hauling system was not in our repertoire, so we hauled our food and gear by the old fashioned way - hand-over-hand.

My expertise with Jumaring was elementary at best and it took me longer to second the pitch than Layton took to lead it. When I finally arrived at his position he was already getting anxious and quickly put me on belay and urged me upward. About a third of the way up my pitch I clipped a bolt and in the process it came out in my hand. I thought, Whoa, now what? Layton was getting nervous, "Pound it back in, Lauria." I tried, but it still just fell out when I tried to clip it. "It won't go, Layton."

Kor was reaching the red line on his patience meter. He had the extra bolts, but rather than send them up to me he suggested I come down and let him finish the pitch. With great relief, I descended and he took over the lead, replaced the bolt with a new one, and with minimal expletives raced on.

I cleaned the pitch and when I reached his belay stance, Kor suggested that for the sake of time he should lead the rest of the pitches – to Guano Ledge, I thought. He was off, epithets flowing eloquently, and after two pitches requiring several hanger/bolt modifications and some very tricky wet face-climbing over the last ten feet, we arrived on snow covered Guano Ledge. Ahwahnee Ledge was out of the question - It was two feet deep in snow. We attempted to level out the very sloped Guano Ledge by clearing the upper portion and building up the lower portion of the ledge with the cleared snow. The temperature was in the 40s and everything was wet and it was getting dark – and did I say it was cold?

Never fear, we have candles. We settled down in our dampened down jackets with our feet in our rucksacks. Kor fought desperately with damp matches to light up three candles. With our 3-candlepower heater ablaze we soon realized that whatever heat was being generated, we couldn't feel it. The worthless matriarchal prostitutes!

It wasn't all a lost cause – we did have a cozy candle lit dinner and Kor revealed his future plans to climb every major wall in the Valley before he left for Europe to do the Eiger. He talked a little about religion, only to abruptly change the subject to his "plan" for tomorrow. Layton quite reasonably thought it would be best for him to lead the rest of the climb.

Continued on next page



### Act-III Layton Kor—continued

It was obvious that my inexperience was just slowing us down. So it was agreed – I was now auditing the course – and did I mention it was cold?

We still had six pitches to go and Kor knew it. He almost left skid marks leaving the ledge in the morning. He was around the corner out of sight, but never, never out of earshot. "You damn [matriarchal prostitute]!" resounded from the canyon walls.

Most of the remaining pitches are just a blur in my memory probably because all I did was belay and clean. There were two exceptions - the Evil Tree, where I learned even more new ways to cuss and the final pitch – the pitch where one traverses out from under the last overhang.

The hour was late. This was the sixth pitch of the day. Kor finished it and, now out of sight, called down for me to be careful cleaning. He warned me about the difficulties of Jumaring and cleaning a traverse. Eventually I found myself up in a corner, with my head bumping an overhang, detaching my lead Jumar from the rope to bypass the next pin. With one aid sling on one side of the pin and the second aid sling on the other side, I began to understand the difficulties.

Only after removing all but the last piece under the overhang I had an epiphany. I realized that each time I detached the lead Jumar from the rope, I was supported by only one Jumar. Duh! But here comes the good part. I realized that if the Jumar (the ONLY one supporting me) came off the rope, I would plummet to the end of the rope – in those days, approximately 150 feet! Why, you ask? Read on.

This was my first wall climb and my first experience with Jumars. Nobody told me that I should attach them to my swami belt. I had just done the entire climb without ever being attached to my Jumars! The only thing attached to my Jumars when I released them from the climbing rope were my aid slings. It was too dark and I was only a few feet below finishing the pitch, so I put the thought out of my mind and continued on. I was too embarrassed to mention my folly to Layton. I wouldn't have had time to anyway, as he was up and moving before I sat down. Over his shoulder came, "Come on we have to get down – now!"

So off we went on the wet rock as it began to drizzle. Layton knew approximately where we were going based on his discussion with Royal. I just tried to keep up. We managed to find the rappel anchors in the Leaning Tower Chimney and after three very wet and cold rappels we were on easier ground heading for the snow trough and the parking lot.

Two days later, at my home in Canoga Park, Kor was sitting at the breakfast table with me and my three kids and my wife relating to them the details of our little adventure. He kept rubbing his left eye nervously. I noticed that the eye was quite red. He thought there was just a little sand left over from the Tower, but hours later the irritation had become almost unbearable. So we took him to the closest ophthalmologist we could find. When he emerged from the doctor's office his eye was patched. The doctor said he had found a sliver of steel near the center of his left eye's lens (obviously chipped off a piton on the climb). If it had remained in the lens any longer it would no doubt have left a rust mark and Layton's vision would have been impaired – requiring eventual surgery.

For at least a year after the Tower, I would receive a postcard or letter from Kor relating his latest climbs and his future plans – the last coming from Europe. It was over twenty years later that we met up again.

I attended the AAC annual Banquet in Las Vegas in December of '86. At that banquet, as I entered the dining area, I bumped into Yvon Chouinard. We exchanged greetings and he mentioned that Layton Kor was in attendance. "Where?", I asked.

"He's hard to miss", Chouinard motioned across the room. I looked in the direction he was pointing and there in the distance, standing well above the crowd, was a silver-haired giant. By the time I got over to him he was seated at the dining table, his back to me. I tapped him on the shoulder hesitantly, fearing he would not recognize the idiot he led up the Tower in 1965. He turned, "Lauria, you rascal, how are you?"

I'm not sure I ever told Kor that I was never attached to my Jumars—but then I'm not sure he was either.

**If some of the climbing terminology used in this story mystify you, please refer to the column to your right. Not a complete dictionary, but maybe some help.**

## Finally Something to Look At the Website Photo Gallery

After bumping along for many years with a less than spectacular website we finally installed some photos under the Photo Gallery tab.

You will find two brief slide shows with accompanying music. These slide shows are not really relevant to the Bardini Foundation's activities as they are from the 70s and are portraits of many personalities from the rock climbing world of that era.

The presence of these slideshows is proof that we have the ability to fill the gallery eventually with photos from our various tours, treks, and climbs. Be patient. Stay tuned.

## A Little Help With The Climbing Vernacular

**Jumar Ascender** - a mechanical cam device that slides up a rope, but not down. Used by the second climber to ascend a fixed rope while removing (cleaning) all the protection hardware ("pieces" of hardware) placed by the first (the leader) climber. The device allows attaching a carabiner, that in turn allows attaching nylon slings.

**Bolt** - permanent anchor placed in the rock by drilling a hole and pounding over-sized threaded bolts into the hole.

**Hangers** - Metal coupling pieces that are placed over the threaded end of a bolt and then secured with a nut. The hanger has a hole in it large enough to accept a carabiner through which the climbing rope is clipped.

**Climbing slings** - lengths of nylon webbing tied into an arrangement of ascending loops. These loops are used by climbers to suspend themselves from bolts or pitons placed in a rock face that otherwise affords no support for the climbers feet. These "slings" are also attached to a fixed rope with Jumar Ascenders, one above the other, so that the climber can "climb" the rope by standing in the slings and "walking" them up the rope by alternately pushing one Jumar after the other up while shifting weight from one foot to the other.

**Carabiner** - a snap-link or a metal loop with a sprung or screwed gate through which the climbing rope is clipped.

**Pitch** - the distance the lead climber moves before stopping to wait for the second climber to reach his perch or belay stance..

**Bolt ladder** - A vertical string of bolt placements in rock essentially providing a "ladder" of hangers for the climber to clip his slings into.

**Belay** - the use of rope to protect the climber in case of a fall. On climbs requiring slings, the second climber self-belays by attaching himself with Jumars to a rope fixed from above by the lead climber.

**Traverse** - movement across rock that is more horizontal than vertical.

## Statement of Purpose

The Bardini Foundation is a group of friends and relatives who wish to honor and commemorate their friend and brother, the late Allan Bard, fondly known as "The Great Bardini". The Foundation was formed to continue Allan's work and carry out his plans and dreams of exposing people to the total mountain experience. In Allan's memory, the Foundation will strive to provide the common man with Muir's inspiration to "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings".

The Bardini Foundation is providing:

1. Year-round backcountry guide services
2. Sponsorship of courses in avalanche safety, mountain emergency medical practices, mountaineering skills, and wilderness appreciation
3. Continued publication and distribution of Allan's Shooting Star Guides
4. A newsletter to promote mountain ethics, protocol, and safety
5. Publication of Allan's writings and photographs
6. Funds for search and rescue groups, for training and equipment
7. Slide shows and seminars on mountain sports, safety, and photography
8. Funds to train and accredit, in cooperation with the American Mountain Guides Association, mountain guides of Allan's quality
9. Support for environmental and cultural projects of community interest in

## Bardini & the Environment

If one is wondering how the Bardini Foundation "fits" into the category of environmental activist, one can go to Patagonia's website grant application guidelines where it is stated that "the battle to save our environment will never be won unless the public is informed."

The Bardini Foundation has three approaches to reach the goal of an informed public:

*Recreational* through guided treks, ski tours, and peak climbs

*Educational* through rock climbing and avalanche courses

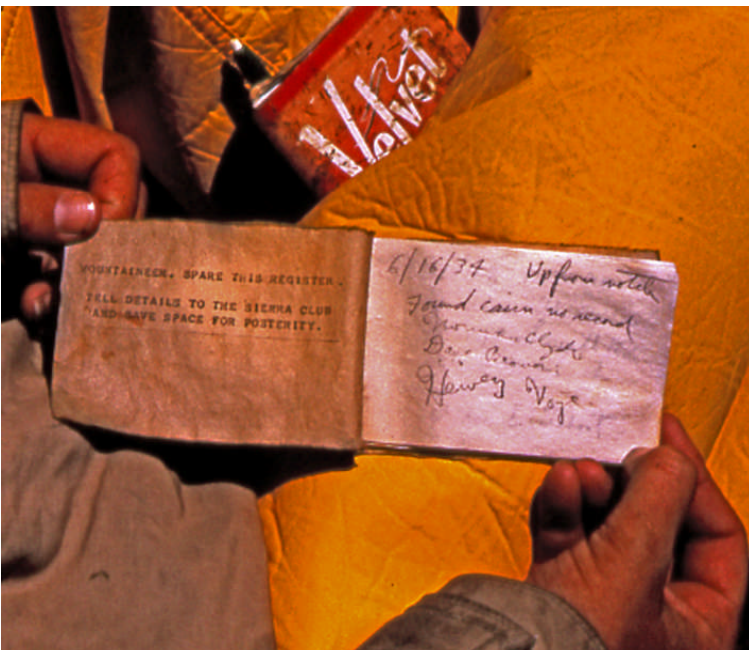
*Conservationist* through leave-no-trace classes.

All of our youth activities are conducted gratis. Our guiding and educational service fees are minimal--priced well below the market because we seek no profit and require no growth. We need only meet the immediate expense of the service. Our general operating expenses are covered through donations.

Muir wrote that the Sierra should be explored by everyone with "the right manners of the wilderness". In that vein, we strive to enlist the support and cooperation of our clientele, the common man, in preserving the forests and other natural features of the Sierra Nevada by allowing them to explore and enjoy the Sierra Nevada with specific attention to minimum impact use. Excursions of this sort, properly conducted, do an infinite amount of good toward awakening proper interest in the forests and the other natural features of the Sierra.

Ansel Adams said "the mountains are more to us than a mere proving ground of strength and alert skill. Rock climbing should be considered a thrilling means to a more important end." After all, rock climbing has spawned many environmental activists, Yvon Chouinard and David Brower being among the more prominent.

Brower implied that mountain outings are "the best source of the conservation warrior." Muir argued that travelers come back from the wilderness ready to fight for its preservation. The Bardini Foundation is dedicated to creating future warriors for the wilderness.



**Photos taken on summit of Polemonium Peak July 23, 1973**  
The handwritten entry from the tobacco can summit register reads:

6/16/1934 Up from the notch.  
Found cairn no record.  
Norman Clyde  
Dave Brower  
Hervey Voge





# Bardini Foundation

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