



Bardini

The Backside of Beyond

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Winter 2012/2013 Issue

Bardini Youth Work Continues

The Bardini Foundation continues its involvement with Owens Valley youth groups this year.

Last season we provided camping equipment and financial support to a spring girls camp and a summer boys camp.

The boys expressed their appreciation in a local letter-to-the-editor: "We ... wish to thank the Bardini Foundation for teaching us backcountry skills and rock climbing techniques. The foundation's volunteers, Tim Villanueva and Don Lauria, deserve an extra special thank you as they take time out of their lives to take us into the backcountry and provide us with hands-on experiences."

Early this summer, Tim and Don supervised a rock climbing session at the South Lake cliffs. The boys were raw beginners, but by the end of the day they had learned to tie-in and were scaling the cliff with enthusiasm.



The boys climbing with Tim at South Lake

The Foundation will be working in the coming year with the Home Street Middle School staff and Native American students in a cultural awareness and outdoor education class. We will be teaching a snow safety course and a rock climbing clinic.

Astonishing Workman's Comp Insurance Premium

In 2004 the Bardini Foundation was granted a permit to guide in the Inyo National Forest. The grant necessitated that we attain liability and workman's compensation insurance. Those of you who have been with us all these years may recall that our first year in the guiding business cost us upwards of **\$16,000 for liability insurance**. We were able to meet the expense through the use of our personal credit cards and with the help of **Dave Huntsman** and his insurance company we were able to acquire more reasonable rates in the subsequent years.

The workmen's compensation insurance expense has not been a problem as our annual payroll rarely exceeds \$5000 and thus the annual expense runs about \$900.

This year, however, we were audited by the workmen's compensation company and were surprised (say, astonished) when they informed us that **our premium for this year would be \$5500** not the usual \$900.

The reason for the large premium was due to an odd ruling that applies only to non-profits. Because our (only) employee for the year was Tim Villanueva and because he is a corporate officer (CEO), the foundation is charged **based on a minimum wage of \$39,000 per annum**. Tim's wage for ski guiding was only \$2080 but we were charged as if he made \$39,000 which is more than our total payroll expense over the past six years.

In order to keep Tim on the payroll he will step down as CEO this year and be replaced by his wife, Gail.

Annual Fund Raiser It's That Time

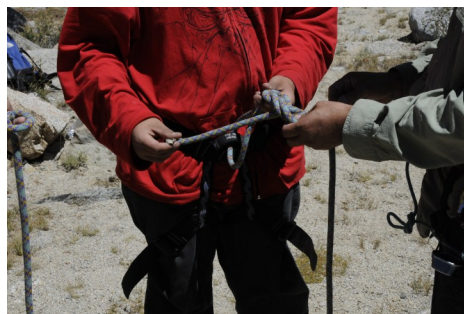
Last year was the **second best fund raiser** ever. This year we are in particular need of your help.

Due to an **unexpected and unusually large** workmen's comp in insurance premium, our general fund took a major hit (see the column to the left). We are hoping that we can replenish the fund through your generous donations.

The **Dale & Edna Walsh (DEW) Foundation** will again be matching each dollar received through **March 15, 2013**. **Shai Edberg**, the DEW Foundation director, continues to make this very generous annual commitment of matching funds. Each of your donated dollars will be doubled.

Support for the Bardini Foundation is an annual need - donations make up 50% of our gross income. Your donations finance our **liability insurance expenses** and enable us to maintain our **mountaineering and camping equipment**.

For tax purposes your **donation is 100% tax deductible**. If you require confirmation Bardini will snail mail or email you a letter confirming the date and amount of your donation. Make your check out to: **Bardini Foundation**



Learning to tie the figure-8 knot

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2012 Contributions Individuals

Benefactor \$1000+

Paul Rudder

Angel \$500+

Anonymous
Yvon & Malinda Chouinard
Michael Graber
David Huntsman
Brian Parks

Patron \$200+

Michael & Valerie Cohen
William Crisafulli
Wayne Griffin
Lyman Johnson
Todd & Alisa Lembke
Bob Nagy
Paul Trester
Jeanne Walter

Partner \$100+

Molly Attell
Jim Barbieri
Kathleen & Michael Ferrell
Peter Hackett
Dennis Hennek
Rosalie Herrera
Glenn Hirayama
Doug Robinson
Bruce Russell
Clark Trowell
Dave Weston

Contributor \$50+

Dave Bingham
Carol Blanchette
Carol Broberg
Mary Canada
John Eilts
John Ellsworth
Charles Grobe
Happy Hoods
Bob Harrington & Darla Heil
Stephen Hessen
Bonnie Kamps
Valerie & David Powdrell
David Weaver

Sustainer \$25+

Stuart Alt
Rick Barker
Shawn Delahanty
Lee & Susan Hughes
Joe Kelsey
Frank Pierson
Leroy Russ
Carolyn Tiernan
Jerome Tinling
Deborah Tomczik
Jim Valensi

Organizations

Angel \$5000+

DEW Foundation

Summer Outings

Two adventurous outings this summer. One with three clients, a 4-day trip to the east ridge of Mt. Russell and an ascent of Mt. Carillon.



East ridge of Mt. Russell from Mt. Carillon



Descending the summit of Mt. Carillon

The second trip with two clients and a dog was a 5-day, rain-soaked, cross-country hike over three passes. In over Piute Pass to Desolation Lake, over Steelhead Pass, and out over Pine Creek Pass.



Steelhead Pass - Doggie Hell

Incoming



Thanks for the email prompt, here's a donation. My Bardini t-shirt is about falling off my back. Any chance of a replacement?

Doug Robinson, Santa Cruz, CA

Thanks for all the work you put into this. Cheers.

John Ellsworth, June Lake, CA

Here's a check for 2012. Still planning to see you all on the East Side. Trust all is well and keep up the good work.

Lyman Johnson, St Louis, MO

Sorry to hear about Roy Coats. He was a good man. I met him at West Ridge - maybe 1972. I climbed Ritter with him.

Michael Graber, San Juan Capistrano, CA

I hope the wonderful Sierra are treating you well these days! Good luck for the coming year and keep Allan's memory moving forward so productively.

Brian Parks, Madison, WI

Keep up the good work!

Clark Trowell, Green Valley, CA



Tulainyo Lake - elevation 12,818 feet

Viewed from Russell - Carillon Pass
One of the bluest lakes you will ever see. Tulainyo is the highest lake (of lakes with more than one-tenth square mile of water) in the Continental U.S

Olio by the editor**An Art Gran Story**

Art Gran was one the Vulgarians from “back east” who came to Yosemite Valley in the early 60s and very soon became notorious.

Yes, Art Gran took his share of kidding about his famous descriptions of “hard” moves on his latest climbs. Always with animation – and total re-enactment, sans rock.

I first met Art at Stoney Point in Southern California - a bright Sunday afternoon with a large Sierra Club contingent in attendance. I was there with Jack Hansen (the “original Vulgarian”) and Yvon Chouinard.

We were bouldering at Boulder #2 and Gran and I had just climbed a steep route on the south side. We dropped the rope to Yvon and he tied in. For whatever reason (it was a very nice day), Yvon was wearing a full length heavy wool overcoat – a thrift store bargain. It was buttoned closed from bottom to top. When he signaled that he was ready to climb, Gran whispered to me, “Grab the rope. Let’s pull him up.” So, the second Yvon yelled, “Climbing”, the two of us hauled. In a matter of seconds Chouinard was on top gasping for breath and laughing nervously. He literally had not used any of his extremities in the ascent. His overcoat had spared his body from abrasion, but in the dynamic contact with the sandstone the coat had lost all of its buttons.

Gran was in stitches. Yvon had stopped his nervous chuckling. He was untying and seriously inspecting his damaged coat. I quickly explained that it was all Gran’s idea – sorry about the buttons, Yvon. Chouinard was no longer amused, but Art, still laughing uncontrollably, had dropped to his knees and began rolling around the top of the boulder. Yvon and I left Art with his rope and down-climbed to the road.

As we trudged toward our next objective, Chouinard was mumbling and staring down at the front of his coat, feeling the texture of the abraded material. Glancing back at Boulder #2 - Art was still on top coiling the rope and still laughing. Chouinard looked back and mumbled something about hyenas and burros – or was it jackasses?

How Peaks Get Named – Don’t Ask

If you know where to look, and if you really care, what was to be named BHOS Dome is (was - circa 1971) visible from the Mirror Lake parking area. In the spring of 1971, Dennis Hennek, TM Herbert, Doug Scott, and I did the first ascent of the south face – the Mugwump Wall as Scott labeled it.

It took us 1½ days to scale the very distinct dihedral for three pitches and then some easier climbing after veering left to a wide crack system. We rated it Grade III, 5.7, A3. Not a difficult climb, but it had a crux – that of trying to sleep though a Herbert tirade on the bivouac.

Tm Herbert did not own a down jacket. He was nurtured in Chouinard’s school of wool, but I was determined to wean him from his adamant stance - I loaned him a down sweater for the climb.

It began about midnight during some snow flurries. “Wake up, hey you guys, wake up. Hennek, kick that damn limey. Is everybody awake? I’ve actually been sleeping. This is the first time I’ve ever slept on a bivouac. Damn it, wake up and listen to me. I’ve been

sleeping. This is incredible. Hennek, is Lauria still sleeping? Wake him up. Scott, wake up. I’ve actually been sleeping. Hennek, kick that rotten limey. Damn it, Scott, you don’t seem to realize ... “

So it went. The next day we were back in Camp 4 and Chuck Pratt ambled up. “What did you guys do?” I described the dome and the route. He responded, “Oh, you mean that Big Hunk Of S&it!” Steve Roper, guide book author, loved it, hence BHOS Dome was named.

In the Beginning ...

Sometime between April of 1964, when we opened our first little 600 sq. ft. store on Pico Boulevard, and September of 1969 when we expanded into our new 25,000 sq. ft. store on Olympic Boulevard, somewhere in that brief period, something wonderful happened at West Ridge Mountaineering.

Those early days at West Ridge we opened the store at 5 PM because the owners worked in aerospace from 8 to 5. We also only hired climbers to work sales. On that particular wonderful evening, I happened to be the working owner. As I recall two young climbers were also working that evening when a stunningly attractive young woman wearing an exceptionally short mini skirt entered the store.

She announced that she was a student at USC and was interested in rock climbing. She had no experience – zilch. She was a student taking ballet and gymnastics. All the while, she is doing these incredible stretching exercises – one leg up on the waist-high sleeping bag table, her forehead pressed to her knee. These are very vivid memories.

She wanted someone to teach her rock climbing. My co-workers that evening were crawling all over each other trying to set up lessons.

As it worked out, neither of these handsome young lads was to land the job. Instead, one of our newest employees, and one of our least experienced, a lad named Alan Roberts, happened to be working the weekend she walked in and set a date for Stoney Point. Alan Roberts was, at that time, sort of the Woody Allen of West Ridge – not considered by his peers as anybody that should be teaching others to climb.

Ends up, he took her to Stoney twice and then to Tahquitz – where they failed miserably on the White Maiden - a classic easy route.

Alan went on to become a highly respected rock climber and Tuolumne climbing guide. She went on to become Beverly Johnson.

The rest of her story: Adventurer first-class, a celebrated female rock climber; she undertook climbing and skiing expeditions all over the world; in 1978 became first woman to solo climb an El Capitan wall, the southwest face, which took ten days; in 1980’s filmed the Russian-Afghan war with her husband; the first woman crew-boss firefighter in Yosemite; the first person to solo the Straits of Magellan in open kayak; the first person to pilot a gyro-craft in the Antarctic; skied across Greenland, wind-surfed across Bering Straits, she led an all-woman team to parachute into highlands of New Guinea; attended Kent State University and University of Southern California; was a gymnast in college and high school; Beverly died April 3, 1994, in helicopter crash during ski trip to Ruby Mountains of Nevada.

Continued on next page

Olio - continued

DOLT aka Bill Feuerer

Over six years a friendship had developed between Dolt and me. A friendship whose depth became apparent through tragedy and perhaps was never apparent to Dolt, Dolt may never have believed that he was loved by anyone.

I first met William Andrew Feuerer in Yosemite's Camp 4 the day in 1966 that he began touting his latest innovation, the nylon hammer holster. He accosted me after determining that I owned part of a mountain shop and I might be interested in selling his holster. In the months that followed, Dolt began to frequent our shop, always bringing in his latest ideas for discussion. He became a fixture. He made daily phone calls and nightly visits. He was always anxious to determine the needs of the contemporary climber. Did we think nuts were going to catch on in the United States? Should he make some? Was Chouinard's cliff hanger practical? Should he make a better one? He was constantly questioning, questioning.

From 1967 through 1969, Bill created an industrial dynasty on paper - Doltco, The Dolt Companies, Bill Dolt, and TDH (The Dolt Hut) Manufacturing company. He did it with long hours, 500 square feet of metal shop, a post office box, and a penchant for advertising. He employed a workforce of one, Bill "Dolt" Feuerer and work he did.

Bill once came stumbling into our store on an unusual early morning visit. His blue eyes were beaming despite his obvious exhaustion. He had been working on his ultra light chocks into the late hours of the night and had fallen asleep in the magnesium shavings under his drill press. In he staggered, a walking incendiary, magnesium shavings still clinging to his hair and eye brows. He was attired in his usual Dolt "uniform" black air force dress shoes, burnt through with swage splash, gray Sears Roebuck work clothes; a red kerchief tied about his neck; and on his head, the locomotive engineer's cap. His enthusiasm was unquenchable - he just had to show us his latest handiwork.

Dolt's enthusiasm was exceeded only by his generosity. He lined the walls of our shop with Dolt photos. He gave us all his prototypes to test. Hennek and I used his original Dolt Cobras (sky hooks), and his only two Twinkle Dolts (head lamps) on our El Cap climbs. He gold plated a couple of Dolt Pegs that Boche and I used on the Nose and presented them to us. He gave the shop the original Dolt Winch from the first attempts on El Capitan. Dolt actually gave me three titanium alloy Dolt Pegs to test and keep for my own. One day he came in with a box under his arm. The box was nicely finished wood. Inside, nestled in red velvet, was his "complete" selection of highly finished Lost Arrow style pins all neatly seated in the velvet. I don't remember the exact number, but there were more than ten. He was offering me this collection in appreciation of West Ridge's help through the years. I paid him around \$120 for the box and its contents and put the box on a shelf in my office.

Dolt's vicarious interest in our climbing adventures rekindled the climbing spark in Dolt's soul, and he became a familiar sight bouldering at Stony Point in the year 1969. Bob Kamps once related a story to me attesting to Dolt's incredible strength as a climber. At Stony Point one Sunday afternoon, the beer drinking competitors were happily solving a relatively easy boulder problem. Dolt was among the first to master the route, and when everyone had finally succeeded at it, Dolt picked up a rather large, heavy rock and repeated the route, using only his free hand. Kamps remarked that it was all he could do to lift the rock. No one else could repeat the feat.

On Christmas Eve 1969, Dolt was invited to my home for dinner. He presented us with an old Argosy magazine containing Harding's, and Merry's account the first ascent of El Capitan and an old Dolt Hut catalog, circa 1957. That night he told us tales of early Yosemite and of his childhood. He was an orphan, raised by foster parents. He mentioned

his attempts at matrimony that had repeatedly failed. Although Bill exhibited sincerity and generosity, he still managed to remain somewhat aloof, possibly a little paranoid.

Through the year 1970, Dolt was not seen nor heard from at the shop. I suspected that he may have been inadvertently slighted. I tried writing him with no response. Finally in the spring of 1971, Dolt and began making his regular visits to the store.

Bill had been having difficulties all through the year 1970 in deciding whether to remain an employee of McDonnell Douglas or to quit and give The Dolt Company his complete attention. Later that year, he told me he wanted to buy back his pin collection to use for advertising photos. I told that he could use them as long as he wished for that purpose, but that a deal is a deal, I would not sell them. He was comfortable with that and took them.

On December 6, 1971, while delivering some Dolt Rope, Bill mentioned that he was definitely leaving McDonnell Douglas after 10 years to go into Doltco on a full time basis. He was asking my opinion. A great idea - I was sure he could do it. He was elated by the encouragement.

One week later, Bill telephoned, his voice quavering, "I'm thinking of selling most of my interests in Doltco, are you interested?"

"But Bill, I thought..."

"I changed my mind, Douglas has offered me such a good deal I can't let them down." He sounded unconvinced and subdued.

"Okay, Dolt, I'll buy whatever you're selling." I really didn't believe he would do it.

"I'll call you later to arrange a meeting," he replied, weakly.

On Christmas Eve 1971, the telephone rang at the shop in the midst of a Christmas party.

"Hello, Don?", Dolt asked in a hushed tone.

"Yeah, Bill, what's up?"

"I just called to wish you a Merry Christmas", Dolt answered, his voice almost a whisper.

"Merry Christmas to you too, Bill."

He didn't answer.

"Bill, what's with the deal we were talking about a couple of weeks ago?" I was searching for a subject that might break his silence.

"Oh, I'm not sure what I'm going to do", he replied slowly. I had never heard him sound so depressed. He continued, "I just called to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

"Well, thanks, Bill. Same to you", I replied awkwardly.

"Thank you, Don. Goodbye."

As far as I know those were the, last words William Andrew Feuerer ever uttered.

One week later, the police were summoned to Dolt's apartment by Ken McNutt who had noticed the week's accumulation of newspapers on Dolt's porch and found his door chained from the inside. Dolt was found hanging from a water pipe on his back porch. He left no note, no will ... nothing. His funeral, paid for by his veteran's insurance, was attended by fourteen people, only six of whom were from his climbing world. The priest in attendance knew only two things about Bill Feuerer his name, and how he died.

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 Bishop, California

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.

Bardini Baseball Caps

These caps are brushed cotton, fully adjustable, in a variety of colors with embroidered logo



only a **\$18** donation plus tax (CA only) and shipping*

Bardini Coffee Mugs

10-oz. white porcelain mug with the Bardini logo

only a **\$5** donation plus tax (CA only) and shipping*

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Bardini Foundation

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*combine with a mug to save on postage



Steelhead Pass survivor



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Bardini Foundation Activities - 2012/2013

Avalanche Courses

This year we are co-hosting the avalanche courses with **Sierra Mountain Center**.

Refer to their website for more information: www.sierramountaincenter.com

Join us for your avalanche education courses.

Level - I Courses

Dates: December 20-23, 2012

February 2-4, 16-18, 2013

March 2-4, 16-18, 2013

March 30- April 1, 2013

Get involved! Be a Conservation Warrior

The **Bardini Foundation** will be providing **volunteer support** for the **Inyo National Forest** watershed restoration efforts in the Hilton Lakes and Hilton Creek drainage in the John Muir Wilderness. Beginning next spring/summer, young adult conservation corpsmembers from coastal regions of California will perform the labor to improve over-widened trails and reconstruct stream crossings along 11 miles of the involved area.

This is an opportunity for **local youth and tribal** groups to be involved in this experience and to help restore natural landscapes and native lands. The Bardini Foundation will assist through our work next year with the Home Street Middle School staff and Native American students in a cultural awareness and outdoor education class. We will provide clinics in wilderness safety, rock climbing, and leave-no-trace to those involved in this restoration effort.

We encourage any local individuals or groups to **get involved during volunteer weekends** on this project.

The Bardini Foundation is in partnership with the Inyo National Forest