



The Backside of Beyond

Bardini

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2002 Issue

Bardini Foundation Gets Inyo Permit, But ...

After five years of operating our guide services in the Inyo National Forest under permits held by other commercial entities, the Bardini Foundation was selected by the U.S. Forest Service on June 13, 2002, as one of sixteen successful applicants that were "best qualified to operate and maintain these public services".

In our application we requested service day allocations in each of three service day categories: winter mountaineering, mountaineering, and backpacking. Unfortunately, we were granted only 200 backpacking service days.

It is difficult for us to fathom how the Forest Service expects any guide service to survive without allocated mountaineering service days. Lacking the ability to take people climbing and skiing, a guide service becomes nothing more than a summer-time, tent-based, bed and breakfast outfit - all the years of mountaineering experience and certification for naught.

The Bardini Foundation has formally appealed the June 13 decision as it pertains to service day allocations. The Forest Service will allow the Bardini Foundation to operate temporarily with mountaineering service days in the Inyo National Forest until the appeal of the June 13 decision is resolved.

This issue sponsored by **Wayne Griffin** of Ketchum, Idaho

The Harding Memorial at Mill Creek Station

This was not the first time the Sierra's east side had hosted a party for Warren Harding, but it was the first time Warren attended in spirit only.

On Memorial Day weekend, amid the crush of Mule Days visitors in Bishop, Roger Derryberry and Mary Lou Long opened their doors at the newly refurbished Mill Creek Station, 8 miles north of Bishop on Highway 395, to hundreds of people from all over the country. They were here to pay



Motley crew bouldering at the Druids after Harding Memorial. L to R, Russ McLean, TM Herbert, Malinda & Yvon Chouinard, Don Lauria, Kali McKeown, Oriol Sole-Costa, Nancy McKeown, Angela & Debbie Tomzcik

their respects to the memory of Warren Harding and to have a good time just as Warren would have insisted.

Names from the early days of Yosemite climbing, such as Chouinard, Denny, Beck, Foote, Hennek, Herbert, Kelsey, McKeown, Robbins, Whitmore, and many more, were in attendance. **Continued** ➔

Galen Rowell

by Cameron Burns

As you've read by now, Galen Rowell and his wife of 21 years, Barbara Cushman Rowell, were killed August 11 when a small aircraft they were travelling in crashed near Bishop, California. The fact that Galen and Barbara died in a plane crash is ironic and sad. Their entire lives centered on calculated risk-taking and this particular crash was, by most accounts, fairly mundane.

What you probably haven't read yet is a clear explanation as to why Galen Rowell *MATTERED* to American climbing - and mattered in a way few other men ever will. He climbed as much as Beckey, he explored of much of Asia's mountains as Bonington, he traveled as much as any modern sportclimber, he was as eloquent as Winthrop-Young, Robbins, and Amant combined (and arguably better), he understood every aspect of climbing *AND* excelled at it in all its forms, and he was a brilliant artist, speaker, imagemaker, writer, technician, naturalist, athlete, conservationist, and aesthete. Yep. This will sound ridiculous, but it's true: he was one of climbing's few ever Renaissance men.



In 1962, aged 22, he and a friend climbed the Northwest Face of Half Dome (Robbins's 1957 "world's first Grade VI"), a major ascent for the time. By the age of 30, he'd pioneered over 100 new climbs in his native Sierra Nevada -

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The three day affair featured videos and photos reflecting Harding's life, live music, potluck food and drink, and bouldering around Bishop. The highlight of the weekend was surely the Sunday evening Warren Harding storytelling time. One after another, people rose and advanced to the microphone before the crowd in the stone amphitheater and told their most humorous, sometimes hilarious, Harding stories.

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Randal Grandstaff

1958-2002

Noted climber and Owner of Sky's the Limit climbing school fell to his death on June 5 rappelling down a rock face at Red Rock National Conservation Area near Las Vegas, Nevada.

Randal Grandstaff, 44, fell about 150 feet after lowering a client safely to the ground. He had rigged his rappel with a special knot so that he might retrieve his anchor sling when he reached the ground. He began his descent when it happened ... he fell to the ground without uttering a sound. What happened? Did he err in setting up the rappel?



Climbers fall. They fall safely, usually short distances before being held by the rope. And when they fall, they shout "falling." It's a safety measure, like the golfers' "fore", and it's instinctual. Grandstaff had fallen thousands of times during his career, so when he fell without uttering a sound, his silence suggested that possibly unconsciousness precipitated his fall.

Grandstaff was a highly energetic and animated individual - he had one speed, fast forward. Not surprisingly, he also had an enlarged heart. His death raised the suspicion a cardiovascular event had played a role and the correctly tied knot brought the protection down behind him as he intended it to do.

Goodbye from Tim Villanueva

The guiding community lost another one. Randy and I worked for Palisade School of Mountaineering in Big Pine Canyon for two seasons 17 years ago. Randy, Allan Bard, and I guided 3 to 4 months each of those years. We three became quite close. I will always remember Randy as being very robust in life. He was not afraid to speak his mind about subjects that concerned him. Whether it be "what's for dinner?", or "where is professional guiding going?", Randy had an opinion. After we put the clients to bed, we had some great conversations around the fire - we could still have fires then. Thoughts of Randy, Allan, and the Palisades will always recall those great times to me.

Cascade

by
John Fischer

Darwin Bench.

High Sierra ski-tour morning alone.

Meditation rest morning with flowing water sounds,

like the laughter of my mountain friends who have gone ...

Their spirits shine with the tightening ice of the frozen night,

now freed by the strong spring sun.

Icicles and chips clink and skidder along the granite slab with the cascading, flowing, singing, ringing sounds of all that ever will be on Darwin Bench.

Editor's Note:

This poem was submitted by long-time friend and respected mountaineer, John Fischer. For many years John was the owner/operator of the Palisades School of Mountaineering and was mentor to so many climbers that became respected mountain guides ... Allan Bard, Randal Grandstaff, and Tim Villanueva being just three.

John explains, "Darwin Bench is at the end of Darwin Canyon, a classic hanging valley, perched above Evolution Valley and below Lamarck Col, Mt. Mendel and Mt. Darwin. Darwin Bench is a place of exquisite beauty and profound serenity."

Jim Bridwell Shows Slides in Mammoth

On April 13th, Jim Bridwell, renowned Yosemite rock climber and international mountaineer, presented slides of his most recent Alaskan adventures.

Mammoth Mountaineering Supply (MMS) hosted the show and donated the proceeds to the Bardini Foundation. This is the second time MMS has made an unsolicited donation to the foundation. Again, our thanks to Dave and his crew.

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Fit To Be Dried

by Allan Bard

Our Gor-Tex was more than a little damp, so was our fleece. This was a bad situation. We were all really wet. It would be dark in a couple hours and it was still snowing like crazy. At least we had dry sleeping bags. Better get some tents up soon and figure this out. Being soaking wet without a warm hut or even an open fire to dry out is a wilderness skier's worst nightmare. Wet, cold, and miserable, particularly when survival is eminent but tediously long, seems almost worse than getting it over with quickly in an avalanche. Ever been in this spot? Unfortunately I have, and several times. My first few wet weather tours were not pretty. Experience is a tough teacher. It gives you the exam before the lesson, but eventually I learned how to get dry in the worst of foul weather.

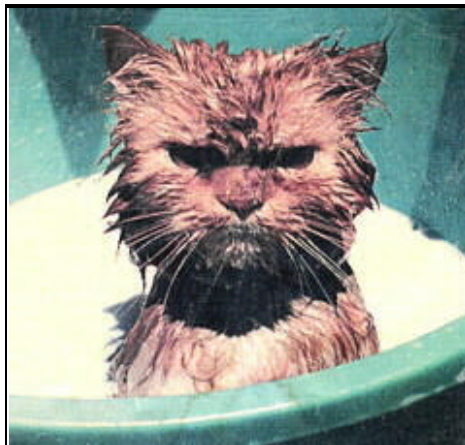
This stormy incident last spring gave me another opportunity to confront cold, miserable conditions and thrive not just survive. Simply by knowing how to get dry in wet weather, I managed to sidestep disaster and turn a potentially hideous tour into a very memorable one. I was guiding a ski tour through the precipitous Palisade region of the High Sierra. Mid-afternoon on day two we were enshrouded in clouds crossing Thunder and Lightning Col. At 11,800 feet the precipitation was a driving rain, on the pass at 12,000 plus, it was wet snow and the wind was howling. We were all sweat wet from the long climb to the pass and now it seemed we could not avoid getting totally soaked from wind driven rain and sloppy wet snow.

It took a couple hours to work our way down a steep talus slope and then ski in stormy flat light down into the trees. We dared not stop for fear of getting cold. We camped in the first protected flat spot. By the time we set up three tents in fading light, there wasn't a shred of dry high-tech apparel. By-the-way, there was a good sampling of the ski industry's best manufacturers present, and no gear was successful at keeping any of us dry. No offense to the gear makers, but sometimes it's just really gnarly outside. After we finally got settled in the tents, came the long process of melting snow, making dinner and drying out our gear.

Drying gear was the crux maneuver. Obviously one needs some kind of heat source to successfully dry gear. The two sources of heat available to us as wilderness skiers are a cook stove and body heat. That's pretty much it. Most of the wilderness areas where we ski tour prohibit campfires and being tent-bound in a wet storm makes a fire pretty useless anyway. So we have the stove and body heat to dry stuff and we have a limited amount of fuel to accomplish this task as well as cook and melt snow. In order to make it all happen one must be careful and very deliberate.

When you first get into the tent the air temperature is the same as it is outside. Just your body heat will change that a little, but a stove will change the temperature in the tent

radically. Forget the notion that you should not cook in the tent. Cooking outside the tent is too cold and miserable for all but the nicest days. If you don't want to burn the tent down then be careful with the fuel and things like over priming the stove. If that intimidates you, start the stove outside and then bring it in the tent. To avoid hypoxia or carbon monoxide poisoning, have the good sense to ventilate the tent, but stay inside. I know your mother never told you such things, but I'm not your mother. Besides, unless your mother is a ski guide she wouldn't know. It will be nice and warm in the tent as long as the stove is running. There are a couple of notes here. Any snow you bring into the tent will become water once the tent heats up. This is a bad deal for the remaining dry gear. Water in the tent in any other place but a cook pot or a



"After several days in tent, lying in a wretched state of sogification, ..."

water bottle is to be avoided. Be deliberate about cleaning off all snow from boots and clothes before entering the tent. Bring a sponge to mop dry any excess water. The other note is don't take your wet gear off - yet.

I know, the idea of leaving the wet stuff on sends a chill through your bones, but can you imagine three skiers each trying to hang up three or four articles of wet clothing inside the tent and hoping to dry anything? Trust me it doesn't work. The clothing is already hung up when you are wearing it, plus the soggy togs are draped over an important heat source, your body. But drying your clothes from the inside out is not the whole story. In order to successfully dry things in the tent one needs body heat from the inside and the heat source of the cook stove outside.

It sounds simple. Hang your clothes on a heat source, you, and then warm up the air around you. It really is pretty straight forward, but there are a few other important tricks. First of all the act of drying your clothing with body heat will in fact cool you off. So once your shell gear dries slightly, slip a down jacket on over the top of everything. This helps keep the heat isolated and keeps you warm. Of course warming up the tent will also help keep you toasty. Don't forget that to keep internal stove going a skier must eat. Another trick to combat the convective heat loss that occurs when you dry your duds in this fashion, is to change into dry socks and hats. Everybody knows that cold

hands and feet can make you feel colder and that there is great heat loss from an uncovered head. Changing out of some of your wet things will help you warm up, but it means that you must dry these sodden accessories elsewhere.

Socks, hats, and gloves should be wrung out first and then put inside the down jacket to dry out. Socks can be hung with the dry end down the sleeve and the damp toe-end inside the main body of the jacket in the armpit region. Hats and gloves can be laid flat against the chest and then the jacket zipped up. Another trick for drying damp gear like socks and hats is to sleep with them. Personally I hate sleeping with wet stuff and cold bulky water bottles, but I do. I accomplish this mildly distasteful job with the help of technology. I use a two sleeping bag system. The outer bag is a light weight synthetic bag and the inner bag is a summer weight down bag. This system has a host of other advantages over any other technology I've ever used, but in this context the items that might go in the bag, instead go in-between the bags. Bottles stay thawed, socks dry and I don't have to sleep with my gear.

The reality of this system of drying gear is that it takes some time. In the case of our trip through the Palisades, it took nearly 24 hours to get the six of us dried out. Hey, when it's a major blizzard outside, what else have you got to do?

The one guiding principal in this system is a need for great attention to detail. Every task in the tent is done with great deliberation from starting the stove without burning the tent down to being efficient with fuel consumption in the snow melting procedure and rotating dry gear for other wetter equipment. An important aspect of planning a wilderness tour is anticipating a potential need for such activity and bringing extra food and fuel. Besides, during a storm day extra cookies and cocoa are not just food they're good entertainment.

When the storm cleared on the morning of the fourth day we were dry, well fed, happy and ready to get out of the tent and go powder skiing. I can recall other tours. After several days in tent, lying in a wretched state of sogification, we escaped with water-logged tails between our well soaked knickers. There's not much future in that - skiing out just when the skiing gets good. When I was a less experienced wilderness skier I just figured that to deal with mean ugly weather required a degree of toughness that only a Paul Bunyon or a Rooster Cogburn possessed. As in many things, a logical systematic approach has it all over brute toughness. Awareness is a powerful thing. Armed with the inside scoop on getting the wet out, I hope you'll be inclined to stay in the hills and go skiing the next time you're fit to be dried.

Anyone wishing to sponsor an issue of
Backside of Beyond
apply via e-mail or U.S. Postal Service

don@bardini.org
or
Bardini Foundation
515 Sierra Street
Bishop, CA 93514

From the Bardini House Log

"High winds and lightning make the pit a bummer. Many thanks for the cozy respite."

Zach Sturges & Matt Klick
Great Falls, MT & Seattle, WA

"Man-o-man, the corn snow is sooo good here in the Promised Land! Thanks for keeping the spirit alive."

Jim Valensi
San Pedro, CA

"Thanks - for another great nights' sleep."

Jamie & Karrie
El Portal, CA

"A moment to remember - Allan Bard, Doug Robinson and a night in a safe haven. Thanks for keeping the memories alive."

Atena & Drew

Been here off and on a few days ... surfin' the vibe, steeping the sanctuary, propagating the legend. Reading. Drinking. Laughing around the back table: Summer evenings that redeem the desert"

Doug Robinson
Aptos, CA

"I love being in Allan's house. I can imagine how he'd jive around with our kids. Sorry they're missing out on Uncle Allan Bardini -"

Kristen
Aptos, CA

"After a particularly bad night at the pit, we stumbled over the posting at the Happys and ended up finding much more than we expected. Thanks for making it possible for three starving student climbers from Davis to stay an extra night in the best climbing town on earth. We didn't know Allan, but now we wish we had."

Scott, Rebecca, & Justin
Davis, CA

"Ah, yes, back in paradise again. What a feeling, what a place, Oh Bardini, you always gave us a space. The memories are still fresh in this place -"

Jim Valensi
San Pedro, CA

"People really seem to love this place. I bet if you kept a list of some of the projects and fix-ups, you could easily get some volunteers to help out - including me."

Jim Herrington
Milwaukee, WI

Bardini House Information

Use Donations

Stays are limited to 10 days except by special arrangement. We hope that our guests consider a **donation of \$20 per night for one person or \$15 per person per night for two or more people** to be an appropriate contribution to the maintenance of the house. These donations should be deposited **IN ADVANCE**.

General

Guests may use the kitchen, and bathroom facilities; the stereo, VCR, and TV system; the outside deck, BBQ, and lawn (tents on back lawn ONLY); the laundry washer may be used, but the freezer in the laundry is for Foundation use **ONLY**. If you need a freezer use the refrigerator's freezer in the kitchen. Heat is by wood fire or body heat conservation ... firewood is available at the local market... body heat is the guest's responsibility.

TV/Stereo/VCR

Guests are free to use the TV, stereo, and VCR. Videos of current and classic movies are on the bookshelves. Anyone wishing to donate videos or mountaineering/skiing books to our library should contact the hosts.

Monday Nights & Other Significant Occasions

Guests must be prepared to share the premises and the TV for Monday night football with the regular locals that wander in (usually about 4 to 5, but sometimes as many as 10). It's generally a painless experience and usually adds to the ambiance. Meals are prepared and guests are welcome to partake. Superbowl Sunday and New Year's Day sometimes require the same tolerance.

Galen Rowell

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from grade II rock climbs to grade V walls. He began climbing in Yosemite early, at age 16, and was as involved in major ascents there as almost anyone.

Between 1967 and 1983, aged 27-43, Galen did more mountaineering than most of us in a lifetime. But Galen didn't just stop at ascents of every type of rock on earth, of ice, of high mountains, of big walls - he ran, hiked, skied, and climbed on every continent, establishing new routes, finding new areas, and succeeding in a litany of geographic adventures that rank up there with the accomplishments of Burton and Speke, Scott and Peary, and Shipton and Tilman. For example, while he was doing those things listed above, he was also involved in a 1974 winter traverse of California-Nevada's White Mountains, a 1975 traverse of Nevada's Ruby Range, a 1978 ski circumnavigation of Denali; attempt on K2, a 1980 ski traverse of the Karakoram, and a single day ascent of Denali from the 10,000-foot level. Throughout the 1980 and 1990s, Galen continued to push himself in every mountain arena available to him. He hooked up with Skinner and Piana to freeclimb Proboscis, Mt. Hooker, and Half Dome's Direct Route, for example.

If Galen's climbing was impressive, turn your attention now to his photography and writing. When Galen was 24, his Aunt Marion gave him a copy of Tom Hornbein's *Everest: The West Ridge*. Back then, wilderness photography books were black-and-white and the images were mostly landscapes, shot by fellows who

needed cars to get the equipment to the scene. *Everest: The West Ridge* had the same lavish reproduction that had been used for the works of Ansel Adams and Eliot Porter, Rowell noted, "But *Everest: The West Ridge* featured compelling color images by amateur 35mm photographers of the entire spectrum of experience of a Mount Everest expedition. Native people, natural scenes, camps, climbs, and comrades were all eloquently rendered."

By the late 1960s, he had become a regular contributor to several small mountain magazines. But his big move came in 1971, after he saw *The Creation*, a book by Ernst Haas. "It firmed up my resolve to become a full-time free-lancer the following year," he wrote. Until then, he had worked as an auto mechanic, at a Berkeley garage he owned.

Galen's big break came quickly. In 1972, Robert Gilka, National Geographic's Director of Photography, hired Galen to photograph an ascent of the Northwest Face of Half Dome. This time, however, he, Doug Robinson, and Dennis Henneck would climb the route "clean"-without the use of rock-scarring devices like pitons. Galen shot only a tiny number of rolls of film compared with the thousands used by National Geographic photographers of today, and his modest article about the ascent was meant to be a sidebar to a bigger feature by David Brower on Yosemite in general. When Galen's images arrived on Gilka's desk, the magazine had a new cover story. Galen was 30.

In 1974, Galen's knowledge of and appreciation for the walls of Yosemite Valley and the incredible climbing history made there

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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, rockclimbing/mountaineering skills, and wilderness appreciation
3. A guest house for itinerant climbers and skiers (Allan's residence)
4. Continued publication and distribution of Allan's Shooting Star Guides
5. A newsletter to promote mountain ethics, protocol, and safety
6. Publication of Allan's writings and photographs
7. Funds for search and rescue groups, for training and equipment
8. Slide shows and seminars on mountain sports, safety, and photography
9. Funds to train and accredit, in cooperation with the American Mountain Guides Association, mountain guides of Allan's quality
10. Support for environmental and cultural projects of community interest in Bishop, California

We are accepting donations from anyone interested in supporting our efforts.

Checks should be made out to the Bardini Foundation and mailed to the Foundation in Bishop.

Website Revisions Delayed - Again

More excuses. Same old stuff. Too much going on ... too little time. But the intent remains. In the words of Bill Porter, patience and persistence.

Our proposed improvements include format upgrades, photographs, icon links, and online acceptance of donations and purchases. Primitive though it remains, the website still contains all the **back issues** and the **current issue** of **Backside of Beyond**.

Get Your Newsletter Delivered Electronically

Now that you know it costs the foundation over \$250 in stamps and materials alone to publish one issue of the newsletter and that any donations generated by its publication must equal the cost or we lose, maybe those of you with **internet access** will use the website to obtain your copy of the Backside. Please **NOTIFY us of your email address** and your intent so that we can take you off the snail mail list and put you on the email list. **Address your response to:**
don@bardini.org

Spring/Summer 2002 Donors

The following people have made generous donations of money, time, or talents to the Foundation's cause. The list is incomplete ... for this we apologize. Many of you purchased shirts and mugs or stayed at the Bardini House. Our thanks to you all.

Charles Borgh	Dave Peterson
Mary Gastil	Toni Richards
Jim Herrington	Chad Shepard
Matt Klick	Zach Sturges
Kristina Mustacich	Barbara Taylor

Special Mention:

Mammoth Mountaineering Supply
The DEW Foundation
Wayne Griffin

Galen Rowell

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prompted him to compile the 1974 book, *The Vertical World of Yosemite*, edited by Galen. Although the material was mostly written by other climbers the compilation was so well organized and produced, it remains arguably the finest book ever produced on that subject matter. By 1980, Galen had produced a string of mountaineering narratives, detailing impressive mountaineering activities all over the world. Some of these books, like *High & Wild*, *In The Throne Room of the Mountain Gods*, and *Many People Come, Looking, Looking*, have since become classics of the genre. In 1984 he received the Ansel Adams Award for his contributions to the art of wilderness photography. In 1986, he released what many consider one of the finest books about photography ever written, *Mountain Light: In Search of the Dynamic Landscape*.

Galen was also a media watchdog, a freedom fighter, and a conservationist. In the mid-1990s, he began writing a column for *Outdoor Photographer* magazine, which would soon become one of its most popular. In his December 1996 column, Galen wrote, "Despite the first amendment, America has anything but a free press. Despite the ever greater power of the media in America, truth and freedom seem less apparent. Special interest groups, including, but not limited to, the big corporations that own most mainstream publications exert direct and indirect pressure over the images and words that appear."

In 1995 Galen wrote and shot a feature on in California peregrines for a major environmental publication. The article described reproductive problems resulting from DDT exposure. At the time, the Department of the Interior was considering delisting the peregrine falcon as endangered. My text was edited to greatly minimize the problems, and phrases that I never wrote were added. I was willing to compromise some, but not to negate carefully researched facts. The story was summarily canceled with a revealing explanation. The organization that publishes the magazine was lobbying hard in Washington for reauthorization of the ESA. They had a vested interest in using the peregrine as a success story to convince Congress that the ESA works."

Galen never compromised. He sought the truth and often found a lot more. His was a keen mind, a keen sense of all the world's complex connections. He showed us how to be inspired by the big view, but he also taught us to look a little deeper-to notice the subtle things in nature and in ourselves. I'm glad he stopped by; I shall miss him.

Bardini Baseball Caps

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MountainFest 2002 To Be An Annual Bishop Event

Eastern Sierra MountainFest 2002
Friday, October 25 & Saturday, October 26
Tri-County Fair Grounds, Bishop, CA

**Celebrate the Mountain Experience at the
First Annual
Eastern Sierra MountainFest**

Friday night: Tom Hornbein will present, "Sunrises and Sunsets" about people that he's climbed with over the years. Peter Croft will be the opening speaker.

Saturday: Allen Steck will give a presentation on Hummingbird Ridge, and John Wehausen will speak about the Bighorn Sheep in the Sierra. In addition, there will be a panel discussion with Lynn Hill, Peter Croft, and Allen Steck.

Saturday night: Featured speaker Lynn Hill, will present archive footage and pictures from The Nose, climbing in Utah, her travels to Vietnam, Madagascar, and the story of her career as a climber. Lynn Hill will be introduced by Andrea Mead Lawrence.

In addition to the speakers, there will be a Mountain Fair, Friday and Saturday, with booths open to the public featuring: Dana Design, La Sportiva, Black Diamond, Mountain Hardware, Spotted Dog Press, Ortovox, Petzol, the Access Fund, and the Bardini Foundation.

Cost: \$97 per ticket for the catered dinner on Saturday night, all presentations, and panel discussions.

The Mountain Fair Trade Show is free to the public.

For more information call or email:

888-395-3952
760-873-405
mikem@schat.com



Bardini Foundation

515 Sierra Street
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The Backside of Beyond

Volume IV June/September 2002 Number 3

The almost quarterly newsletter of the **Bardini Foundation, Inc.**

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