



Bardini

# The Backside of Beyond

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Winter 2006 Issue

## Another Plea For Donations

It's that time again. As we discuss in the insurance article to the right, **the foundation is in dire need of your generosity** to maintain its existence.

Please take the time to understand our predicament. **This could be the end of the Bardini Foundation** This entire operation has been a labor of love for the two of us that do 99% of the work. For a more detailed explanation of how the Bardini Foundation operates read **A Labor of Love** below.

## A Labor of Love

As most of you know, the Bardini Foundation was established in July of 1997, just three weeks after the tragic death of Allan Bard in a climbing accident on the Grand Teton in Jackson, Wyoming. The foundation became a sole proprietorship on January 1, 1998. On February 20, 2001, the State of California endorsed and filed the Articles of Incorporation for Bardini Foundation, Inc. Later, on August 1, 2001, California granted Bardini Foundation, Inc. tax exempt status under the Tax and Revenue Code Section 23701d.

In a letter dated March 12, 2002, the Internal Revenue Service granted the foundation exemption from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3). Donors may deduct contributions as provided in section 170 of the IRC.

Continued on Page-4 ⇒

## Owens Valley Youth Explore the Sierra

During the last week of July, the Bardini Foundation **volunteered its mountain guides**, Tim Villanueva and Don Lauria, to teach rock climbing basics to a group of eight Owens Valley boys.

The youth ranging in age from 9 to 19, were sponsored by the Bishop Salvation Army under the auspices of Inyo County's Health & Human Services Department.



**Owens Valley youth on the rocks  
Being taught to climb safely  
And to respect the wilderness**

The boys spent four days camped on the north fork of Bishop Creek with two days in the wilderness dedicated to training in basic rock climbing technique and the use of ropes. A third day was spent **emphasizing environmental responsibility and included instruction in leave-no-trace tactics**, altitude sickness recognition, and "staying found" principles.

According to the Salvation Army representatives, "These boys will never forget this experience. We may well make rock climbing part of our annual outing."

## The Liability Insurance Thing

Once again we face the challenge of obtaining liability insurance. The challenge lies not only with meeting the expense, it lies equally with the scarcity of insurance companies offering liability coverage to mountain guiding operations.

So far we have only been able to find two, maybe three companies willing to accept applications from us. If we are forced to again sign up with last year's carrier, we will be faced with **another huge premium** in the order of \$16,000—almost half of which is additional fees beyond the actual insurance premium.

We still owe a credit card company about \$4600 of last year's \$16,188.09 insurance bill. Our total 2005 income totaled \$20,374 of which \$16,150 was derived from donations. The DEW Foundation provided 60% of that total.

**Without the very significant contributions** from generous donors we could not have operated last year and would have lost the permit that **we worked over seven years to obtain**. We fought through two appeals with the Forest Service to finally be granted our permit. Please read *A Labor of Love* and send a donation today!

**This issue of Backside of Beyond is dedicated to the memory of  
John (Jack) Hansen  
Dennis (Millis) Miller**

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## 2005 Contributions

### Individuals

The Bardini Foundation appreciates donations in any amount. All 2005 donors are listed here. The next listing will include only 2006 donations.

#### Benefactor \$1000+

Yvon & Malinda Chounard  
Michael & Valerie Cohen

#### Patron \$200+

Brian Parks  
David Huntsman  
Lyman Johnson  
Paul Rudder

#### Partner \$100+

Gary & Christine Bard  
Efren Barragan  
Lauren Nickell Cadl  
Carol Broberg  
Robert & Mary Eberhardt  
Kathleen & Michael Farrell  
Glenn Hirayawa  
Wallace & Mary Mayer  
Lawrence Nahm  
Doug Robinson  
Francene & Stewart Tabak  
Peter Tourtellotte  
Jeanne Walter  
David Weston

#### Contributor \$50+

Joan & Louis Albertini  
Rick Barker  
Basia Belza  
Bruce & Susan Berman  
Annette Breznock  
Alvara & Ana De La Cerda  
Bill Donohue  
John Eilts  
Shirley & Larry Holwegner  
Edward & Jo Anne Smith  
Carolyn & Donald Russell  
Leanne Spees  
William Stall  
Paul & Debra Strickland  
Richard Sykes  
Kevin Tibbetts

#### Sustainer \$25+

Molly Barrett  
Patrice & Gregory Bava  
Susan Burak  
Mike Cereda  
Claude Fiddler  
Bob Kamps  
Robert McElroy  
Thomas Rossi  
Carolyn Tiernan  
Nancy Tuitama  
Diane Verna  
Blessed Hope Wolf

#### Member \$5+

Jerry Tining

## 2005 Contributions

### Organizations

#### Benefactor \$10,000+

**The DEW Foundation**  
*The Dale & Edna Walsh Foundation*  
The **DEW Foundation** deserves special mention. It contributed \$10,000 in 2005. Thank you, Shai Edberg!

#### Partner \$5000+

**Contributor \$1000+**  
**Sustainer \$500+**

## A Late Thank You Paul Rudder

Back sometime in 2002, Paul Rudder and John Moynier came down to Bishop from Mammoth Lakes to attend a meeting of the Bardini Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service. The meeting was called to resolve the Bardini appeal of a Forest Service decision that denied awarding a commercial permit to the Bardini Foundation.

The appeal was "successful" primarily due to Moynier's revelation regarding some omissions involving the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). However, the presence of a lawyer, in this case, Paul Rudder, always gets people's attention and **Paul's presence undoubtedly had a positive effect in the process** that led to the Forest Service's withdrawal of their decision



Carol and Jeanne approaching the summit of Mt. Humphries at 13,980 ft. More on page-4

## Dennis Miller

On January 10, 2006, Dennis Miller succumbed to cancer in Jackson, Wyoming.

From Andy Carson in Jackson on January 8th:

"It could be today, it could be a month from now - if we have any handle on it at all. Then there's the thought, not inconceivable, that he'll pull through. We visited this evening and he is more lucid and aware at night. I think the nights are very long, [but] then TV is handy. At least there are elk out the window."

The news of Dennis' passing was received just as this issue was going to print. I cut out a letter to the editor to squeeze this notice in. The next issue of Backside of Beyond will devote much more to Dennis and feature the last article he submitted in 2005.

## Letters to the Editor

Well, the truth be told, if you love something, you gotta give till it hurts. So here's—bucks to help you pay the piper and keep the program going. Nobody can say enough good things about the Foundation; you guys are terrific and deserve all the support us Bardini fans can muster. After all, whenever you put on skis and glide off through the woods, or hike up a trail and stop by a beautiful lake, Bardini Lives!

Paul Rudder  
Mammoth Lakes, CA

Here's a—contribution to the foundation. Long may it wave. My favorite Bardini t-shirt is going to fall off me in two more washings, so please send two more.

Doug Robinson  
Aptos, CA

We are pleased to help support the Bardini Foundation in its endeavors. Allan was a good friend and is sorely missed.

Bill & Lauren Nickell  
Groveland, CA

Enjoyed your El Capitan article in the last newsletter. Keep them coming!

Jerry Tining  
Alamogordo, NM

## The Original Vulgarian

John Hansen

1937-2005

By Don Lauria

I met John Hansen in the fall of 1961. We were both working as engineers at North American Aviation in El Segundo, California. I had just returned from vacation and my first excursion to the summit of a Sierra peak. The traditional routine was to pass around any photos from one's trip for all to see. One of my colleagues, upon returning my box of slides, mentioned he knew a guy in the Computer Department who was an avid mountaineer and asked if he could show the slides to him. I said okay and a little later he returned with John Hansen.

Hansen was not too tall, maybe 5' 9", but very wide, very fit, built like an ape. He had a New York accent, a cauliflower ear, a mischievous laugh, and a great gift of gab. He immediately needed to know of my entire personal mountaineering history (which at that moment involved a single non-technical Sierra peak). He asked if I was interested in learning to climb. I asked if he meant with ropes and stuff. He answered that, of course, ropes, pitons, ice axes, crampons - all that stuff! I replied that he must be kidding - I was definitely not interested. He insisted I go with him to **Stoney Point** and do some bouldering. Bouldering? I politely said no. He insisted. I said no again. He questioned my sense of adventure and suggested the coming weekend would be ideal for my introduction to rock climbing. For more than 15 minutes he parried my refusals. His persistence won out. That weekend would change my life.

I drove 35 miles to the San Fernando Valley where John lived with his wife and infant son and arrived at 7:00 AM, as agreed, to find him still in bed. He came to the door naked. "Oh man, sorry. I overslept. Come on in. I'll be ready in a minute." He returned to the bedroom. I could hear an infant crying and his wife's complaining. He had obviously forgotten to tell her of his plans. He immersed from the bedroom wearing a beige wool sweater, brown corduroy knickers, mountain boots, and a navy blue beret. "Come on, let's get something to eat."

We stopped at an IHOP for pancakes. John's beret and knickers got a few looks as we entered, but I was so absorbed in interesting and enthusiastic conversation about rock climbing, I soon forgot the stares.

I spent the entire Saturday climbing at Stoney in a pair of John's mountain boots two sizes too small for me. He took me around the entire area, climbing everything in sight. By the end of the day I could barely lift my arms. I was exhausted - but was I stoked!

That evening at John's apartment, he found a "not-so-dear-John" note from his wife - she had

packed up and left with child. Seemingly unperurbed, John filled me with Gerwurztraminer and tales from his **Vulgarian Shawangunks** days. Well into the evening he talked about mountaineering - famous European and American climbers and climbing history. He pulled six mountaineering books off his shelf and insisted I take them home and read them. By the time I got home I was already planning my next weekend at Stoney Point.

I climbed four more times with John at Stoney Point, and then, on New Year's Day 1962, he took me out to the Devil's Backbone on Mt. San Antonio with my brand-new boots, brand-new ice axe, and brand-new crampons. He tied me into a 9mm rope and told me to take a running leap off the ridge down the steep north face to practice a self-arrest. My first attempt ended abruptly at the end of the rope. I had not only failed to slow my descent, I had forgotten to put on my brand-new leather gloves which left all the knuckles on both my hands bereft of skin. My second descent, with gloves, was successful and I figured that I had mastered the art - no need to do that again. My life as a mountaineer had begun.

John was a gregarious sort and he introduced me to many well known climbers including Yvon Chouinard, Bob Kamps, and several of his **Vulgarian** buddies like Jim McCarthy and Art Gran.

One November evening in 1961, we visited Chouinard in his little room in back of his parent's home in Burbank. It was Yvon's 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The evening could have been a bit more cheerful, but Yvon was due to report for his pre-induction physical the next morning and was not happy about it. However, Yvon had a plan. He heard that a sufficient amount of soy sauce consumed prior to a physical exam could raise one's blood pressure to 4F levels. So John and I went out and bought a six pack of eight-ounce bottles of soy sauce and returned to watch Chouinard down as many as he could stand. The birthday party ended and later that week a very sick Yvon was inducted into the U.S. Army. The experiment had failed and Yvon ended up in Korea for two years. Yvon mentions this happening in his new book *Let My People Go Surfing*.

John and I climbed together just a few more times at Tahquitz Rock and in Yosemite through 1964 and then saw each other on mostly social occasions, some of which were memorable - and somewhat **Vulgarian**. Like the night he and Dave Huntsman went out in Dave's VW to try out John's new small caliber pistol. After attempting to shoot out a few street lights, John accidentally fired a round into his calf and refused to go to the emergency hospital fearing the required police report. Later, Dave forced him to seek treatment. Then there was the night at a small gathering in Dave's home. John was challenged to an arm wrestling contest with a complete stranger at the kitchen table. After many seated minutes of stress and strain without an apparent winner, the two adversaries, still locked in combat, rose to their feet and fell across the kitchen table breaking the table's legs and careened into the matching chairs doing irreparable damage to them also. It took three of us to pry them apart and three years for Mary Huntsman to forgive him.

It was in the early 70s that John's profession became more important than his passion and after his second marriage to an assistant district attorney, he quit engineering and the sciences to become lawyer himself. A few years of individual practice tending to needy clientele and he realized he could not afford the profession. He quit law and returned to science. He remained distant friends for the next 41 years until his death in 2005.

Though not an exceptional climber, John was an exceptional person. He was an engineering physics graduate from Columbia University, a champion collegiate Greco-Roman wrestler, and a fierce liberal - politically and socially. He had the strength of an ox and intelligence bordering on genius. He could overhaul automobile engines as casually as he discussed celestial mechanics. He was conversant in the calculus of variations, a connoisseur of fine wines, and generous to a fault.

I'm relating this to you because, although few people have heard the name *John (Jack) Hansen* in connection with climbing or mountaineering, after all these years, I discovered something about John that he never shared with me - something that should be known. Something that should be part of climbing history.

Most of us that climb, or have climbed, have heard of the "Vulgarians" - the **outrageous Shawangunk climbing cabal of the late 50s and early 60s**. Here's a little history from the *gunks.com* website - an excerpt from a conversation in August of 2004 with Dick Williams, one of the early Vulgarians and one of the many reputable climbers to come out of the Gunks:

**Dick Williams** - *So, that particular morning we were all at the base of Never Never Land and [Jim] McCarthy is trying to do the direct finish. So anyway he's up there - I don't think I'd ever belayed anybody before - it was my first time, so I'd been watching some people belay and they'd belay over the shoulder with the rope under your armpit, like this, you know.*

**Interviewer** - *Wow.*

**Dick Williams** - *And Jim's about to do this final bit and he looks down and he sees how I'm belaying. And he says, "You don't belay someone my weight like that." I said, "Ok." and just dropped the rope. "If you don't like it, get somebody else to do it." Everyone goes racing to the rope. Jack Hansen gets a hold of the rope and puts him on belay. **Jack Hansen was the guy who coined the phrase, "the Vulgarians" - he gave us that name.***

**Interviewer** - *He puts him on hip belay, right?*

**Dick Williams** - *Body belay, yeah. So Jim goes up, sure enough he falls and that big tree that's there now was just a little sapling and the rope was behind it and it really broke the thing. **John** didn't let any rope go through his hand - he probably [held] about a 30-footer.*

So now you know what it took me 41 years to find out. Not only was Hansen a Vulgarian, John Hansen was the "original" Vulgarian.

## Jim Ratz

By Phil Powers

During my first week on the job here at the AAC, I lost my close friend and climbing partner, Jim Ratz, to a rappelling accident. We are still not quite sure what happened—mistake, rockfall or medical emergency—but the result remains the same: We have lost a member of our community and a champion for the mountain environment.

Jim was at a crag that he frequented on most sunny afternoons, with friends nearby. He had probably descended this particular route dozens of times. We will never know whether complacency was a contributor. Nonetheless, I am reminded that even when climbing seems most under control, the vertical world is not a forgiving one.

### Editor's Note:

Phil Powers is the Executive Director of the American Alpine Club. He, with Rob & Kathryn Hess, own Jackson Hole Mountain Guides. Jim Ratz was also a co-owner. JHMG allowed Bardini to work under their permit before we acquired our own. Jim Ratz was a genuine friend of the foundation.

### Support Foundation Efforts



*Bardini*

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## A Labor of Love

Continued from Page-1

At its inception the Bardini Foundation had eleven people that signed on as interested and enthusiastic "directors". We had two "board meetings" in 1998 and various individuals were assigned specific responsibilities. Until the foundation became a corporation in 2001 no further meetings were held. During its sole proprietorship period the primary business functions, newsletter publication, and guiding operations were handled by two Bishop residents with one or two other "board members" acting as consultants.

When the foundation became a corporation, three Bishop residents were appointed as its officers. At this time a 6-man Board of Directors was established along with a 9-person Advisory Board.

Since the foundation idea was conceived of initially in the City of Bishop and the Bardini House was located Bishop, the operation of the foundation has been entirely in the hands of the same Bishop residents.

**The only wages paid by the foundation are paid to guides from 47% of the guide fees charged—not from donated funds.** All other work done by the officers, i.e., bookkeeping, newsletter publication, advertising, web site maintenance, and Bardini House operation (until January 1998), is volunteer work.

In keeping with our stated purpose, the foundation has truly been a **labor of love**. **To see all this go for naught would be a tremendous disappointment**, not only to the volunteers, but also **to the hundreds of generous donors**, who have kept us afloat for the last nine years! Yet without liability insurance the first two provisions in our statement of purpose will no longer be available and we will lose our Forest Service commercial permit. With that loss Allan Bard's dream of spreading the good tidings of the mountains to the common man will come to an end.

**If the Bardini Foundation cannot meet its liability insurance obligations in 2006, the Forest Service will revoke our commercial permit and we will be out of business. Please consider a donation no matter how small. If the average contribution from everyone on our mail list was just \$25, we could raise \$15,000. Please, everyone, write a check today!**

## Bardini Summer Activities

In addition to the youth group mentioned on page-1, five other outings were conducted by the foundation from May through September.

A short trek in May, two days of spring skiing in early June, a trek in July, a climb of Mt. Humphries in early September (see the photo below), and later that month a loop trek out of South Lake.



Jeanne Walter and Carol Blomberg shown smiling on the summit of Mt. Humphries despite the 18 degree temperature and the 40 mph gusts

The revenues from these five excursions totaled \$2825 of which \$1325 went to guide wages.

Because the foundation was not granted its Forest Service commercial permit until mid-April, this season's business volume does not reflect a "normal" business season.

The 2006 season will have the advantage of advance advertising that the 2005 season lacked. Our only obstacle lies in the liability insurance premium coming due around the end on March. We are currently shopping the market in hopes of finding a carrier with more reasonable rates than those we experienced in 2005. Wish us luck—or better yet, **send in your donation.**

### 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.

### Bardini Baseball Caps



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

**only a \$15 donation**  
plus tax (CA only)  
and shipping\*

### Bardini Coffee Mugs

10-oz. white porcelain mug  
with the Bardini logo  
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Send your check to the  
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PO Box 1422  
Bishop CA 93515-1422

\*combine with a shirt to save on postage



**Feigning athleticism, the guy in the middle, Grey Durham, leans heavily on his pal Mal Swanson (R), while propped on his hiking pole. Dave King (L) represents the Bardini Foundation on this late September loop trek. Just kidding, Grey — He did have fun.**

## Bardini Foundation Activities - Winter/Spring 2006

### *Eastern Sierra Ski Mountaineering Camp*

The Eastern Sierra offers some of this country's best and most accessible big mountain skiing. We will teach you the techniques to travel safely in the mountains. One day will be spent at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and the following four days will be at Tioga Pass Resort.

\$995/person (minimum 4 skiers)

**March 24-28, 2006**

### *Bardini Avalanche School*

#### *Level - I*

This intensive 3-day seminar is designed to give you a basic understanding of avalanche formation and to develop your observation skills. Rescue tools will also be covered.

#### **Tioga Pass Resort**

\$150/person (not including lodging) four client minimum

#### *Level - II*

Call for details. Tim Villanueva (760) 872-4413

#### *Level - III*

We are the Eastern Sierra's original source for Level-III. The Level-III course is for mountain professionals, experienced ski guides, and aspiring forecasters. The Level-II course is a prerequisite to Level-III.

#### **Tioga Pass Resort**

**January 22-26, 2006**

\$520/person (not including lodging) six client minimum



## Bardini Foundation

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### The Backside of Beyond

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