



Karina and Colton in the Felton Parade

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### Message from the Curator

Now that I've had to ban a second bigfoot researcher from appearing in an official status at our museum, I think an explanation is due. Here it is.

First Roger Patterson, with the aid of Bob Gimlin, shot a film unlike any other. Since then they've been called hoaxers, commen, and profiteers by a few uninformed academics and by a number of professional skeptics. (When these skeptics failed to prove the film was fake, they resorted to ad hominem attacks on the men who made the film, inferring that they were dishonest and therefore must have faked the film.)

This has been going on since the making of the film 40 years ago on Bluff Creek. Eleven years ago, a man named M.K. Davis decided to enter the bigfoot research arena. Being experienced with photo enhancement via his hobby of astronomical photography, he felt he could nudge more details from the P/G film using this methodology. So he set out to gather the best copies he could find, calling on other researchers for their best versions of film frames, and eventually even convincing Mrs Patterson to provide him with her highest quality images (almost all images used for analysis over the years have been copies, at least one if not several generations removed from the original film.)

Davis began posting his results online in various forums, on temporary websites, and the like. His work was well accepted by most of us in the bigfoot community, because his enhanced images showed details in the film previously unavailable, such as the toes. He would isolate certain areas and utilizing short film clips

(animated gif files) demonstrate muscle expansion and contraction, previously overexposed details and the like, using dedicated image enhancement software.

Over the years he worked on all parts of the film, a few frames at a time, "seeking truth" as demonstrated by the details of the film. Then, a couple of years ago he announced that some of these details told a story (at least to him.) He began to venture beyond the realm of film enhancement with suggested interpretations of what was being revealed by this "new" look at the film. At this point he was treading on the slippery slope of subjective analysis and pulling away from the more indisputable aspects of the film images.

In 2006 the announcement was made that "Patty is human." This was based on his opinion that certain details in the film revealed a digging stick, a ponytail and hair braid. This caused a major reaction from factions in the bigfoot community who were less convinced that those items are actually present on the film. Some members of the bigfoot community were so incensed that they even indulged in ad hominem attacks, calling Davis a "racist."

Davis then got together with two different filmmakers and made his theories and filmwork public on two separate DVDs. The first spoke to the reasons he called it human and suggested that the apparent sagittal crest or "crown" on Patty's head might have been produced deliberately as is the case with certain Indian tribes. The second went even further, to suggest that the sasquatch might be descended from Chinese yetis who were trained as laborers and brought to North America in giant ships even before the arrival of Columbus.

All of this made Davis a controversial and much discussed figure almost overnight. We invited him to Bigfoot Discovery Day II, to have an opportunity to view his evidence up close (it's called "peer review") and have him show the detailed enhancements that prove the film does not depict a "man in a suit." I personally had no problem with anything he had said at this point, not that I was totally buying into it all, but I too have hypothesized that Patty *could* be more human than ape.

Then Davis was given several never-before-seen closeups from the film by Patricia Patterson. After viewing these new images he began some very startling hypothesizing, coming up with imagined events that could explain what he felt was evidence of blood at the film site. These hypotheses, which M.K. refers to as public "brainstorming" had the side effect of inferring that Patterson and Gimlin had not revealed all the truth about the filming. He even went so far as to suggest they, or someone else at the site, had gunned down several sasquatches and buried them with a backhoe!

At this point almost everyone who has studied the P/G Film over the years, including those who had praised Davis' work in revealing the genuineness of the creature in the film, jumped up and yelled "whoa." I won't go into the details of why the scenario with the backhoe is absurd but several bigfoot researchers--including myself--warned MK that these ideas were best kept on the "down-low" and away from public scrutiny until he had some sort of universally acceptable proof.

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# The Year's First Outing: BFRO California Spring Expedition

by Tom Yamarone

The first weekend in May found us deep in the backcountry of Mendocino County. This expedition was organized by museum member Brandon Kiel and we had an energetic group of attendees and BFRO members on the trip. I arrived on Friday and the expedition had already been out in the forest one night. We encountered patches of snow blocking the forest service road above 4,000 feet but quick action by the BFRO's leader had a local guy out there plowing the roads for us and we were soon 16 miles in from the nearest county road. It was perfect habitat with a couple of mountain lakes, creeks running strong from the snow melt and plenty of wildlife sign.

There were 25 people out here this weekend and the group split up to camp in several different locations. We were in a small, unoccupied campground and had the place to ourselves due to the fact that we just opened the road. I was camped with museum members Bart Cutino and James "Bobo" Fay, along with visiting bigfooter Stan Courtney

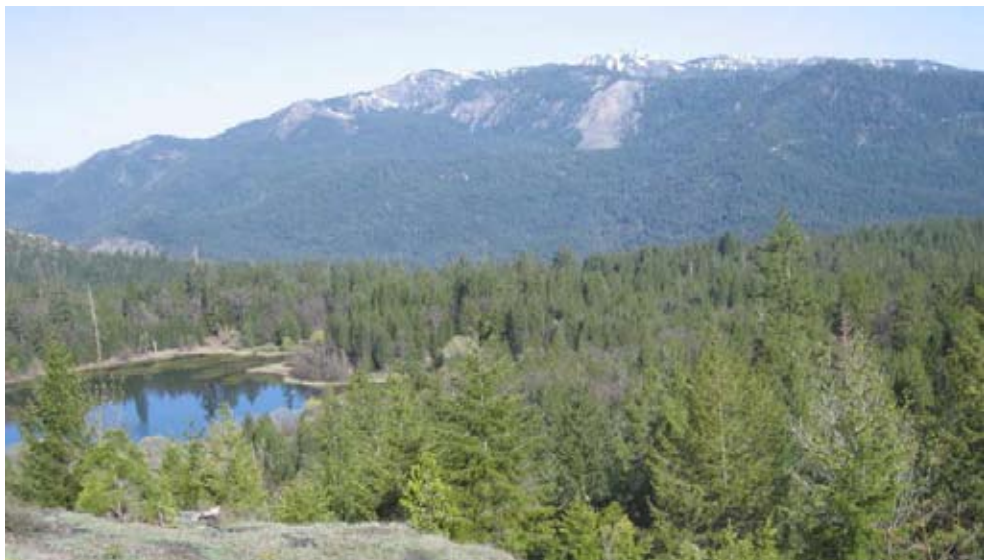


Cliff inspecting a creek crossing along the forest road.

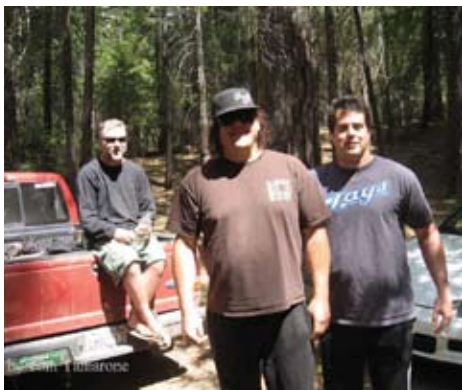
from Illinois and another expedition member. The first night we simply set up camp and began utilizing the thermal imaging units. There was no call blasting or other active measures taken. We were recording audio around the clock as well. We took several walks away from camp but for the most part, we conducted ourselves in a manner that anyone camping might do. We had a small campfire, cooked an aromatic dinner and played some songs. (In fact, it just so happened that some of these were recorded by Stan and can be found at his website [www.stancourtney.com](http://www.stancourtney.com) in a podcast entitled California – 48 in '08 dated May 6<sup>th</sup>.)

Around midnight, Bart and I decided to take a drive and use the thermal imager from the car. We were out about 45 minutes when we encountered another vehicle driven by Matt MoneyMaker. We returned to camp to park my car and got in with Matt for another 2 hours of road "therming." It was very exciting as Matt has equipped his vehicle with 3 thermal units. One is mounted on the roof with a support stand that can turn 360 degrees and is operated by remote control from the vehicle. The other two point out the front and back and all are monitored in the front seat on separate screens. We parked for the last half hour next to one of the lakes and it was an excellent setting. I may have heard a distant call at 3:30 a.m. but it was too faint and is not audible on my recording. We returned to camp at 4:00 a.m. and called it a night.

That was more or less the summary of action for this weekend. Expedition members reported possible calls, wood knocks and whistles, but I don't know of any actual recordings. Similar activities occurred over the next two days and the folks attending the expedition explored miles of backcountry roads and trails. The majority of the attendees departed Sunday morning for home.



View over a mountain lake in Mendocino County. (Photos by Tom Yamarone)



Cliff, Bobo and Bart in camp.

Several of us tend to stay the extra night as things sometimes get active with the departure of many of the vehicles and people.



Robert Leiterman playing his drum.

We were joined in camp Sunday night by Robert Leiterman, Cliff Barackman and Matt. Prior to hitting the roads and woods at 10:30 p.m. we had a fantastic campfire jam with Robert playing his



Tom and Bart pause along the snow covered road.



photo by Tom Yamarone

The Eel River on the drive up to expedition.

drum and a digeridoo. They may not have made their presence known to us, but I can certainly say we filled the woods with lively and interesting sounds for “the locals.”

We waited until Sunday night to try call blasting from some of the overlooks along the road. The remaining BFRO members that stayed the extra night were positioned throughout the watershed we were blasting over and we were able to communicate with family band

radios (walkie-talkies). There was nothing to report in response to the call blasting. That’s how it goes some of the time. The location was excellent and conditions were very good. It was a good first trip out and that, in and of itself, is a good exercise. It allows you to get your equipment in order and get ready for the remaining outings this year. That’s it! As always, feel free to write up and send in your field notes or any photos you might have from your outings.



View across the lilly-covered lake

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Then, on May 27th Davis was invited to guest on the Coast to Coast AM radio show with George Noory (the number one late night talk radio show in the country, made popular by Art Bell). There he shared these elaborate scenarios with millions of listeners. With him was one of the videographers he had worked with, John Johnsen.

When questioned by Noory, they both let loose with all the wildest scenarios they had ever imagined, without hesitation and apparently without any thoughts to the damage it was doing to the credibility of Patterson, Gimlin and the very film M.K. had just proven to be genuine! This shouldn't and wouldn't have happened had M.K. Davis shown even a modicum of respect for all the other researchers who preceded him, or listened to those of us who warned him that much harm would come to bigfoot studies in general should this unfounded scenario go public.

On the 6th of June I called M.K. Davis and rescinded my invitation for him to speak at our event. I explained the discomfort felt by all of us concerning the gunfire talk, and the imprudence of his appearance on C2C. In his own defense he stated that his massacre theory was just that --a theory-- and that he had also postulated a couple of other theories as well; he was sorry that others (such as Johnsen) had spread the story so far so fast. (Johnsen subsequently bragged online that he had sold over 120 DVDs as a result of the radio broadcast.)

MK told me he did not directly accuse Gimlin and had suggested there were possibly others in the area who may have done the shooting. But he held on firmly to his conviction that Patty was being fired upon while on camera. He then stated that he now doesn't think it likely that it was Gimlin who shot her because "the angle was wrong."

He indicated that he's sending all the materials he got on the Film back to Mrs. Patterson and wiping his hands of the whole bigfoot thing. He said he had already decided that our event would be the last one of its kind that he would attend, and said he was meaning to call me about it.

M,K, previously sent me a copy of the slide showing what he calls the "puddle **full of blood**" several weeks ago, and I told him it didn't look like blood to me; that the backhoe used by Gimlin to pull the truck out was several miles from the film site. I suggested he speak to Dan Perez whom he admitted a day later had corroborated my explanation that a backhoe may have been at the site at some time prior to October 20, but not when Gimlin and Patterson were there filming. Several others who saw all 5 of the new slides on his laptop at the Ohio Conference, stated online that they too were not convinced it was "blood." M.K.'s "story" was based solely on his subjective interpretation of a couple of newly revealed slides that only a few others have even had the opportunity to view, and it reminded me of red circles drawn around blobsquatches.

I asked Mr. Davis not to present at our event because it was the nearly unanimous consensus of our most active museum members, including a number of other widely respected bigfoot researchers. He was denied a podium at our event not as much because of what he said, but mostly because of the way he went about it, and his complete disregard for research protocols and the feelings and suggestions of his "peers" among the bigfoot research community.

I regret having had to make this decision, but if bigfoot research is ever going to gain the respect it deserves from the scientific establishment, this kind of sensationalism and grandstanding by amateur researchers needs to be kept in check. I also did it to show the respect I have for the work of Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin, and to give them my unequivocal vote of confidence. I never had the opportunity to meet Patterson, but I have met with and spoken to Bob Gimlin and I am absolutely sure he is a truthful and honorable man.

--Michael Rugg



Colton and Ralph Jack at the Felton Festival



Felton Community Hall. 6191 Highway 9

## Bigfoot Discovery Day II

So there have been some changes in our event. First of all, it will all take place in the township of Felton. We've shifted the night time lectures to the Town Hall, which holds more people and keeps the entire event within an area surrounded by bigfoot activity, much like Willow Creek.

We still plan to have a BBQ lunch served at the museum starting at 11:00 AM. Kathy Moskowitz Strain will be there to autograph her new book *Giants, Cannibals & Monsters* (and if you still haven't purchased your copy of Jeff Meldrum's book you have another chance to get him to sign it.) But now there will be another new author there as well.

David Paulides, a former policeman and private investigator, spent the last 3 years in the Hoopa area of Northern California investigating bigfoot sighting reports. Working with a police sketch artist, he has included dozens of eyewitness accounts of bigfoot encounters in his book accompanied by photos of the witnesses and sketches of the creatures they saw. The book is called *The Hoopa Project*. His website is [nabigfootsearch.com](http://nabigfootsearch.com)

The lecture program will now include both Kathy Moskowitz Strain and David Paulides as well as Rick Noll and Dr. Jeff Meldrum. Tom will sing us in and Mike will introduce our speakers. The date has not changed...its still August 9.

**We'll be discussing logistics of this event and progress on the Bigfoot Inn at our next meeting on June 22. Please don't miss this meeting or the next, on July 20. Also, if you are planning on coming a distance for BDDII... you need to look into lodging NOW, as vacancies can be scarce in this area during the summer months.**