



The Backside of Beyond

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Fall 1998

The Foundation's First Newsletter

It's been a while coming and though we have lots to learn about desktop publishing, The Backside of Beyond will be issued three or four times a year, depending on our learning curve. It is our hope to keep you up-to-date on the foundation's activities, plans, and offerings for each season.

What is the Bardini Foundation?

For those of you who have no clear idea of what the Bardini Foundation is all about, I refer you to our Statement of Purpose on this page. How we started? Well ...

It was about 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 5, 1997 when Andy Carson called me from his office at Jackson Hole Mountain Guides in Jackson, Wyoming and notified me of Allan Bard's fatal fall on the Grand Teton. Andy was so shaken he could hardly speak, but he minced no words. I was devastated.

In a daze of disbelief, I walked three houses down "Climber's Row", past Allan's house, to Kurt Stolzenburg's place. I called Kurt outside, away from his pre-teen sons, and blurted, "Allan's dead."

We began walking back toward Allan's house as my words began to sink in. How? Where? When? Kurt and I had been neighbors and friends of Allan's for decades ... we both were silently asking, Why? Why? We had so much of our lives tangled up with Allan's. Everything was going to be different from now on, our lives

would be changed.

As we stood on the wooden deck in Allan's backyard, Kurt said, "Nobody's movin' into his house!" I had already made that decision. That was the beginning of the Bardini Foundation.

More about Allan's house in the Hostel



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Bardini Hostel in Bishop

On "climber's row" in Bishop, California, there's a string of five small houses in varying degrees of delapidation ranging from "very" delapidated to "not really" delapidated. Allan Bard's house, at 515 Sierra Street, was sort of in the low mid-range. All five houses have been, and are now, inhabited by people that refer to themselves as "climbers".

Although Allan was continually upgrading his place, he still wanted to paint, re-roof, and re-carpet the house and add on to his wooden deck in the backyard. The Foundation has begun to fulfill his wishes. The house has been painted and according to Allan's beloved landlady, Dorothy Cashbaugh, the "cabin" has become a "cottage" (see inset).

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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".

Mountain knowledge passed on by Allan during his lifetime emphasized education, safety, and awareness. He said, "When people have been touched by the wild lands, they are forever more aware. They will never again see snow and mountain peaks and wind-sculpted tree trunks without being affected inside, differently than before they knew of such things, and they will return time and again to get in touch, to be touched."

The Bardini Foundation is providing:

1. A mountaineer's hostel for climbers and skiers at Allan's Bishop, California residence

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Statement of Purpose

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2. Continued publication and distribution of Allan's Shooting Star Guides
3. A newsletter to promote mountain ethics, protocol, and safety
4. Year-round backcountry guide services
5. Publication of Allan's writings and photographs
6. Funds for search and rescue groups, for training and equipment
7. Creation of a portable, zero-impact Sierra ski hut system to be operated by local guides for winter and spring ski touring
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

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. Those who wish to donate \$250 or more and **REQUIRE** a tax-deductible receipt should make the check payable to the American Alpine Club. We will forward the check to a special Bardini Fund being administered by the American Alpine Club and the donor will receive a tax-exempt contribution receipt directly from the American Alpine Club.

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During the spring and summer of '98, about fifty people visited the Bardini residence. The word was out that the Foundation had established an informal hostel for itinerant backcountry skiers and climbers. The visitors voluntarily donated funds to the Foundation in return for their use of the facilities.

At the last Board of Directors meeting, hostel rules, regulations, and fees were established and posted.

Those wishing to stay at the hostel need only to call, write, or e-mail the Foundation for reservations and more information.

The Bardini Ski by Karhu

Karhu has chosen to honor Allan by naming a ski after him and designing it to reflect Allan's versatility on all kinds of snow. The company has pledged a portion of their Bardini ski sales to the Foundation.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to **Steve Gladstone and all those at Karhu** who were a part of the project for their sincere and unsolicited efforts in making the Bardini ski a reality.



Shooting Star Guides

Shooting Star Guides are a unique set of five climbing guidebooks ... perhaps better described as route cards... printed on waterproof, tear-resistant ASCOT paper. Allan wrote these guides in 1991 and because of his intimate knowledge of the area, these guides give you the inside scoop on all the information needed to approach, scale, and descend these fine peaks:

Mt. Whitney, East Face
Mt. Whitney, East Buttress
Mt. Sill, The Swiss Arete
Cathedral Peak, Southeast Buttress
Matterhorn Peak, North Buttress

The ASCOT paper is bombproof allowing you to fold and stuff the guides into your pocket making them accessible while climbing. Each route card contains quality photos of the peak, clearly mapping the climbing route and descent. In addition, each guide contains a brief history of the area and a sketch of a Sierra wildflower.

These guides are a valuable addition to any mountaineering library. The Bardini Foundation is continuing to distribute these on a wholesale basis to climbing shops and book stores throughout the western states and offers them to the public directly by mail.



Retail Price:
\$25.00
for a full set of 5
(includes shipping)

Calif. residents add applicable tax

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This is a piece that Allan wrote for Off Piste in 1996. The title was unanimously chosen by the Board of Directors to be the name of the Bardini Foundation newsletter.

THE BACKSIDE OF BEYOND

by Allan Bard

Steve McQueen said, "I'd rather wake up in the middle of nowhere than in any city on earth." Edward Abbey referred to the urban scene as "syphilization". We read between the lines and suspect a cure for the most subtle of modern maladies, the condition caused by the strained nervous sense of urgency that seems to define life in the city.

In my job as a backcountry ski guide I see people arrive at my door step from almost incomprehensibly busy lives in the city, ready to leave all the stress and schedules and meetings and freeway traffic alone for awhile. They need time to re-create, to recharge the old batteries, to think of nothing and reflect on everything, indeed to put life into perspective. Mostly they need to go skiing on the high and distant horizons. But skiing and mountains are only the medium for this revitalization, not the message. The message we receive is the importance of a quiet mind and satisfied soul.

Suddenly my job description is so much more than expert skier, tireless trail breaker, beast of burden, clever navigator, head chef and avalanche forecaster. In addition, I become confidant, confessor, entertainer, therapist, friend, and perhaps even the Right Reverend Bardini - First Church of the Open Slopes. It is a job with great responsibility and not just those related to hazard evaluation and risk management.

As a ski guide I have the pleasure of bringing people and mountains together to the greater benefit of both. I notice that, when people have been touched by the wild lands they are forever changed, forever more aware. They will never again see snow and mountain peaks and wind sculpted tree trunks, without being affected inside, differently than before

they knew of such things, and they will return time and again to get in touch, and be touched. Certainly these are some of the deepest joys of skiing in wild places. It becomes important then, in fact essential, to savor and share these places and feelings. It is interesting that when we travel far afield to ski, what we often find is not just some intoxicatingly remote landscape but the convoluted topography of our own souls.

This is the value of skiing in, and being with, the lofty terrain of the mountains. These are the advantages of taking the high ground. I have been out into the great hinterlands beyond the backside of beyond, and my life is rich because of it. I am a wealthy man who just happens to be broke most of the time, but I'm in good company. John Muir stated simply, "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings." Bill Koch once said, "The world would be a little better place to live if more folks went cross country skiing." I must agree with both of my learned colleagues.

Maybe world peace is just a few telemark turns away? Maybe it's worthy of being a movement? With bumper stickers! TELEMARKING IS PEACE - SKI THE BACKSIDE OF BEYOND. Why not? I know of little else like a good day in the backcountry that gives me such incredible tranquillity. This is especially true in times when life seems tediously long. But, as we know, life is short. Which reminds me. I saw this rather interesting Sharper Image catalog item. It is a clock of sorts, but this time piece ticks off



the time the average person has left to live. Standing and watching it is a little unnerving. A minute goes by and then another and then both are gone forever. Three-hundred and sixty-five days a year we get the opportunity to have a fresh start at life. A new day and fresh powder reminds those of us that slide on snow that skiing is life. Passion and vitality for living are some of the gifts we receive from skiing, particularly skiing in the great beyond.

One need not travel to the North Pole or the Himalaya or the Andes or any of the high hidden places of the world to know these things. Outback might simply mean skiing out back - out in the quiet woods behind the barn or perhaps, skiing through Central Park when the fist of winter grips the city in an icy gridlock. It could be skiing down a New England hillside or across the great expanse of a Heartland cornfield. You are out on the

backside of beyond when you feel the crisp bite of winter air in your lungs and the sting of wind driven snow on your face, and when you realize how insignificant you are in the face of such harsh adversity. That relativity, which comes from knowing the wild places, is essential to our well being and yet we so often stay home, stay inside and insulate ourselves from it. I say, resist the urge to be complacent about experiencing the brutally beautiful joys of the backcountry skiing life. Go my friends. Don't delay. Lose yourself and maybe you'll find

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515 Sierra Street
Bishop CA 93514

Foundation Activities

Ski Guides Avalanche Training Course

February 12 thru February 15, 1998

This is a Level III course and is a prerequisite for AMGA alpine and ski guide certification. The Bardini Foundation has contracted Karl Klassen as instructor. This is for guides only ... you must have completed a Level I and a Level II avalanche course! Contact the Foundation or Tim Villanueva for reservations. If you need a level I or II avalanche course or a refresher, contact the Foundation.

Annual Bardini Ski Camp

May 12-16, May 19-23

This year the Bardini Foundation is offering our ski camp in the Palisades, one of our and Allan's favorite spots. We will be based near Third Lake and take guided day tours from our fully stocked camp. Tents, a cook tent, stove, solar showers, and fresh food are just a few of the amenities provided. You travel to camp with only your personal gear. We are offering two 5-day camps in the month of May. Come to the Palisades ... an area of fantastic alpine views and fabulous ski terrain.

Annual Bardini Climbing Camp

July 25-29, August 1-5

In the summer of '99, the Foundation will be putting together a climbing camp in the Palisades. Guiding has a long tradition in the Palisades of the eastern Sierra and Allan was part of that distinguished history. We plan to continue the tradition. Guided climbs and instruction at all levels of rock, snow, and ice technique will be offered. As with the ski camp, amenities abound.

Support Foundation Efforts

read our Statement of Purpose - inside!

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Bardini

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Bishop CA 93514

The Backside of Beyond

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Bardini Foundation

515 Sierra Street
Bishop CA 93514-2330
(760) 872-1665
bardini@telis.org
climber@telis.org

Publisher/Editor

Don Lauria

Board of Directors

Gary Bard, Dale Bard, Ed Cereda, Jane Dulaney, David King,
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