



The Backside of Beyond

Bardini

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Spring 2001 Issue

Lew Bard Remembered

Editor's Note:

The following is an edited letter from Gary Bard.

With deep sadness Dale and I want to let you know that our father passed away from heart failure on May 31, 2001. He had been living alone in his house by the Kings River east of Fresno for the last several years. In February a bout of pneumonia sent him to the hospital and then into a skilled nursing facility. He was a fighter and never gave up. Except for the last four months, he lived his life as he wished - in his house. Mom and Dad had some of their happiest years at the house on the lake. He lived an extraordinary life with many friends and a loving family. He will truly be missed.

Dad's wish was that any memorial contributions be made to the Bardini Foundation.

Editor's Note

There will be a remembrance held in Atascadero on July 20th. Some donations to the Foundation have already been received (see page-5)

See page-2 for more on Lew Bard and further details on the remembrance.

Mountain Light Gallery Opens

On May 23rd, Galen Rowell, internationally acclaimed photographer, and his wife, Barbara, opened the Mountain Light Gallery in the old bank building at the busy corner of Main and Line in Bishop, California. Hundreds of guests attended the catered affair and were treated to the superb display of Galen's photographs and books.

Although the catered food and drink was great, we must say Bishop finally has something more than Schat's Bakery to tantalize the tourists - something more cerebral and less gastronomic.

Donations, Please! We Need Them

Since its inception the Bardini Foundation has never found itself without sufficient funds to continue to inspire the common man to "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings." This quarter, however, for what ever reasons, donations have been very few and although we are not hurting financially, we need more to do more.

You folks must remember this is an ongoing project and one coffee cup or one t-shirt is okay for last year, but you can always own two t-shirts or coffee mugs or maybe three or four bumper stickers. So why not renew your commitment to our cause today?

The Quest Continues

On May 21st, California Form 3500 Exemption Application was submitted by J. Kent Steele to the Franchise Tax Board for review . Kent is pressing on with his quest for eventual IRS 501(3)(c) tax exempt status for the Foundation. As mentioned in previous newsletters, Kent Steele, an attorney at law, is donating his time and effort to this task.

Kent did not even know Allan Bard, but "wished he had" and was inspired by our cause. His expertise and volunteer work is sincerely appreciated.

bardini.org Website and Your Newsletter

The efforts toward improving our website (www.bardini.org) have been at a standstill due the work load here in Bishop. However, we expect that by the time the Winter issue of the newsletter is published, usually about March 20th, we should have brought the site up to speed.

Primitive though it may be, the website still contains all the **back issues** and the **current issue of Backside of Beyond**. We are still hoping that those of you with internet access will use the website to obtain your copy of the Backside and **NOTIFY us of your email address and your intent. Address your response to:**

don@bardini.org

In this Issue

Letters From The Past/Lew Bard -----	2	A Friend in the Alpenglow by Kirk Bachman -----	4
Chuck Pratt- A Day In The Life by Dennis Miller ----	3	Statement of Purpose/Spring Donors -----	5
Bardini House Info/Bardini House Log -----	4	Summer Activities -----	6

Letters From The Past

Rumaging through our pile of correspondence, some of it dating back to 1997, we ran across some letters from friends and acquaintances that help explain why the Bardini Foundation exists. We are continually asked, "Who was Allan Bard?" Maybe some of these letters will give you a clue.

Dear Bard Family and Friends,

You don't know me, but for one summer approximately 10 years ago I worked as an apprentice guide for the Palisade School of Mountaineering (PSOM). It was my great pleasure to have spent that summer in the company and guidance of a man of integrity, passion, and unceasing jocularity. A man who kept me in stitches with his whim, who taught me life lessons, who guided me when I needed guidance. I will never forget this man, Allan Bard, the Great Bardini.

Now, 10 years later, I am hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. I have returned to the beauty and splendor that I remember so clearly from my summer at PSOM and while in Mammoth Lakes for a resupply, I happened into a sports store and chanced upon a flyer announcing that this man had passed on. The Xerox had a beautiful quote that Allan had written about the wilderness experience and the acceptance of inclement weather as a fact of outdoor life. I was (and still am) stunned by this discovery and deeply saddened by his passing, yet I feel fortunate to have known him. And now, as I am writing to you from just north of Agnew Meadows, with the Ritter Range and the Minarets in focus, the weather has turned. After three weeks

of blue skies, our first storm has overtaken us, and as I watch the streaks of lightning, and as I hear the claps of thunder, I can only think of Allan. First rain, then hail, then a pause, and then more rain. The storm is strong, and yet I feel at peace, for somewhere in my heart and deep within my spirit I believe that it is only Allan saying "Goodbye". I will miss him, and I suppose that from time to time, when the lightning is cracking, the thunder is calling, and the rain is falling, I will wonder if it is Allan saying "Hello"

My sincerest regards,

K.G. (1997)

Dear Foundation,

Thank you for keeping the hopes and dreams of Allan alive and thriving. Allan made such a difference in my life. He guided me (and my husband) places I never dreamed I could go and [made it possible for me] to do things I never thought I could do. He gave me faith in myself. He touched my life and he changed my life.

Please find the enclosed money for a few goodies.

Keep it up - your efforts *are* really appreciated.

C.R. (2000)

Dear Folks,

Enclosed please find my check for \$50.

Please send me two baseball caps and one coffee mug and keep the rest as a donation.

I cannot thank you folks enough for keeping Allan's spirit alive. I already have another mug and t-shirt and every time that I see them, I feel a little bit of Allan's presence. I

miss him to this day, but I think those of us who were blessed with some quality time with Allan, carry a little bit of him around with us.

C.C.G. (2000)

Dear Bardini Foundation,

I read about Allan Bard in "The Edge" in 1997. At that time I was still receiving their newsletter because my son, Mike, and daughter-in-law, Mariam, were also written about in the Fall Issue. I was so taken by the story of Allan's life and the wonderful memorial you are maintaining in his name!

J.S. (2001)

More on Lew Bard

from Gary Bard

Dad was born in Omaha Nebraska in 1921. He joined the United States Coast Guard in 1940 and served in the Pacific during World War II. He retired as a Master Chief Boatswainmate in 1963. In 1944 he married our Mom, Lois Duncan of San Luis Obispo. They were 40-year residents of Alameda before moving to Sanger in 1988. Mom died in 1995.

There will be service at the Templeton Cemetery at 1100 on July 20, 2001. A remembrance will be held immediately following in Atascadero.

If you plan to attend the remembrance, please RSVP to Dale Bard PO Box 933 Forest Falls CA, 92339 (909) 794-1208

Donations should be made to Bardini Foundation, 515 Sierra St., Bishop, CA 93514. This fund was established to carry on the work of our brother Allan, who was tragically killed while guiding a client on the Grand Teton in Wyoming in 1997.

PRATT A Day In The Life

by
Dennis Miller

In May of 1974, after three previous failed attempts, I finally climbed the Salathe Wall Route on Yosemite Valley's granite monolith, El Capitan. My partner and I scaled the route in four marvelous days, in grand style, and somehow managed to make every ledge for our nightly bivouacs.

On the second day, we noticed a climbing team ascending the Shield Route just to the right of us. It was Chuck Pratt and Steve Sutton. They were about six hundred feet below us and climbing quite fast. By the time they actually got up the shield itself, we could only see them part of the time, but we could hear them calling back and forth to each other during their climb. We were the only climbing teams on El Capitan during those warm days of May.

The day my partner and I got down, we drove to the base of El Cap to see where we had been and to watch Pratt and Sutton finish their climb. I had a brand new spotting scope, and it was pretty cool to see where we had climbed and to watch Pratt and Sutton finish what I believe was the second ascent of the Shield.

Two days later, I was offered a full time job as a fire fighter in the Park Service's Helitack Division of the Forestry Department. All I had to do was cut my hair, purchase a uniform, and clean up my act. The Park Service actually gave me five days to sow the rest of my summer oats and report to the firehouse for my job instructions.

The next day, Chuck Pratt, Steve Sutton, Hugh Burton, and I bought two cases of quart bottles of Coors beer, and headed out of the Park to the Merced River just west of the small town of El Portal, just outside the Park's west entrance. We had sixteen quarts of beer between us, and we planned on drinking every last drop by nightfall.

By mid day we were pretty well toasted and decided to head back to the Valley and see what was kicking at Camp

Four. We piled into my blue and white 1969 Volkswagen Van, named Herb Blueness, and started the slow motion journey back to the Valley and awaiting friends. We were fearless, drunken heroes returning to the scene of our gallant exploits - warriors, explorers, scoundrels, misfits, beer connoisseurs. We were on a mission!

We made it all the way to the Tuolumne Meadows turnoff before we needed to make a pit stop and opted to pull of at the small conversion dam turnout. After raising the level of the Merced River by at least seven inches, we piled back into Herb Blueness and continued our journey up the canyon toward Yosemite Valley.

I started hearing some sort of clanking noise coming from the rear of the bus, and looking in the rearview mirror, I saw Chuck perched on the rear bumper, his belt in hand, whacking the top of the van like a mule skinner would crack his whip over the backs of his mules. It was a hilarious sight!

Suddenly, Steve screamed out, "Pratt's down, eh!" Sure enough, there lay Charles Marshall Pratt in the middle of the road his gut full of beer and a smile from one side of his face to the other. Traffic began to pile up behind us.

Steve and Hugh were instantly out of the van standing over the fallen hero. I pulled over, yanked the parking brake, and joined them. Pratt seemed to talking in tongues, some sort of language none of us understood, but we understood him well enough to know he was okay.

A man came running up from one of the stopped vehicles behind us, "I'm a doctor. You shouldn't move the victim!" We laughed at the absurdity of his comment, and the three of us picked Chuck up, somehow managed to get the rear door of the van open, and tossed our damaged goods in like a sack of Idaho potatoes. Pratt continued to speak in tongues as we drove off - our destination now Lewis Memorial Hospital - leaving a stunned and confused young doctor standing in the road scratching his head and mumbling something about the Hippocratic oath.

On the one way portion of the road, I drove the entire way to the hospital in the wrong direction without hitting

another vehicle or being pulled over by a Park ranger. Truly, the four of us were invincible that day. Well, except for Pratt!

The following day, with a metallic drumming in my head and a stomach full of barking Chihuahuas, I went to see Chuck at the hospital to assess the damage he suffered in his fall. When I entered his room, Chuck was propped up in bed, looking like the Bruised Buddha in his pearly white gown, drinking something through a straw. His injuries amounted to scrapes, bruises, and a broken collarbone. It could have been far worse.

I said I was sorry for what had happened, and he raised his hand and shook his head, Chuck's way of saying it was okay. I said I was sorry again, and he just smiled. I came to try to make him feel better, but instead, he was trying to make me feel better. Chuck, with a frown and in a raspy but very firm voice, said, "You guys finished the beer didn't you?" I said we had and he, with obvious relief, smiled and added, "That's good news, you should never waste good beer!"

Editor's Note

Some readers may find this story just slightly distasteful in that it relates illegal activities and some obviously poor choices in civic conduct. Without condoning their behavior, one must remember the context. These guys were young and were all big wall climbers - they had just been thousands of feet above Yosemite Valley, matching their skill as climbers against the ever present dangers of scaling one of the most imposing granite monoliths in the world. Mistakes in the vertical world can be fatal. They hadn't made any - they "were invincible". Living for days on a Yosemite wall is not a picnic. It has been described as "... entail[ing] awkward climbing, difficult piton placement, hanging belays, heavy hauling, hammock bivouacs, scraped knuckles, numb feet, coughing, cramping, torturous sun, threatening clouds, never enough water, rurps, and skyhooks - all the ingredients of a great Yosemite adventure." These guys were happy to be alive.

From the Bardini House Log

This place was the perfect thing for the three of us after a 9-day leg off the PCT. Thank you so much! . I would love to have read a story of Allan Bard's life.

- Bryan Jones

Food, friends, laughs. Great energy always flows here!

- Anna Siebelink

Great to have a home to come to after climbing. The spirit of the community lives on. Thank you.

- Ben Shapiro

Bardini House Information

Use Donations

Stays are limited to 10 days except by special arrangement. We hope that our guests consider a **\$10 per night per person donation** to the Foundation 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 ... wood is supplied ... 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. Questions on the operation of the equipment should be directed to either Kurt or Don.

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.

A Friend in the Alpenglow by Kirk Bachman

Sitting at the local summer pizza parlor, alone in Stanley, Idaho, I gazed out through the window to the pink skyline of the Sawtooth Range. A close friend of mine had unexpectedly just died from a climbing fall on the Grand teton - news I had only heard a few hours earlier. The view through the window, the pink glow from one of the Sawtooth's spires, reminded me of Allan. It reminded me at once of my personal loss, that of his family and many close friends, and the planet's. But at the same time I could feel his presence in this pink alpenglow which now lightly touched the Sawtooth skyline and reached to me. With the pink glow and distance came a tear to my eye.

Though I knew Allan for only a mere six years, we became very close friends. Uncannily, from the time we first met, through swapping stories of our life experiences, skiing together, laughing, reflecting, we had come to share a lot of common ground in both our personal and professional lives as mountain guides. Very often, even though I was involved in working or playing in the mountains and rivers, hundreds or even thousands of miles away, I knew somewhere he was up to the same. I knew Allan as he "lived in the present" and will continue to remember him that way. Still, I will miss the telephone calls from him. I will miss the visits he made to the Sawtooths to share his wit, humorous stories and insights while playing on the rivers and in the mountains. I will miss his spontaneity.

Allan was one of the few people who knew what it took to hang out in rural America's far mountain reaches, clinging to a lifestyle, committed to a passion, loving where he was. His "sense of place" extended to many geographies with friends in every wild outland and mountain outpost. He loved sharing experiences in these places. He embraced guiding as his way of giving to others what the mountains had given to him.

I feel very fortunate to have known and spent time with him. I hope always to remember and help carry on some of the spirit he provided to those who were his companions. I will continue to look to the alpenglow to find his presence there.

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.**

Bits & Pieces

From Don Carpenter at NOLS -

"We use Allan Bard's *Backside of Beyond* as a lead-in to our Instructor Skills Course."

From Couloir Magazine's Soapbox -

"Allan Bard, Tom Carter, and Chris Cox traversed the Sierra Crest from Mt. Whitney to Mammoth with double-cambered nordic skis, leather boots, three-pin bindings and gaiters. This 200-mile trek, known as the 'Redline Traverse', has never been repeated. If it does, it most certainly won't occur with the type of gear those three used." - Matt Samuelson

From the cobwebs of your editor's mind -

Some guy wrote a letter to the editor of a ski magazine complaining that they had discontinued his favorite byline. He said that if they weren't going to print his favorite byline, the least they could do was reprint a bunch of Bardini's stories.

Spring 2001 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.

Individuals:

Bryan Jones
Tyler Lazarian
Ben Shapiro
Anna Siebelink
Haakon Sorensen
Anna Tumck

In Memory of Lew Bard

W R Bentler
Kenneth Blanchard
E. Jane Davis
Kathlyn Silva
Jack & Margaret Thorburg

Businesses & Organizations:

Kent Steele, Attorney at Law

Bardini Baseball Caps



These caps are brushed cotton, fully adjustable, with tan crown and forest green visor and embroidered logo

only a **\$10** donation

Bardini Lives! Bumper Stickers



These are white vinyl with black imprint

only a **\$5** donation

Bardini Coffee Mugs



10-oz. white porcelain mug with the Bardini logo

only a **\$5** donation

plus \$3.20 US Priority Mail
Calif. residents add appropriate sales tax

Summer Foundation Activities



Annual Bardini Climbing Camp July 30-August 3

This summer of 2001 the Foundation will be putting together another climbing camp in the Palisades. In addition to great home-cooked meals from our high country kitchen, climbing equipment, solar showers, your own personal tent, and a real commode, we can also provide sleeping pads and sleeping bags. You may also come self-guided, join us for a guided excursion, or opt for climbing lessons, as you wish. Guided climbs and instruction at all levels of rock, snow, and ice technique will be offered. It's a short time window afforded by the Forest Service, so don't delay, sign up early!

Bardini Foundation guides work as employees of Jackson Hole Mountain Guides of Jackson, Wyoming. Our commercial outfitter/guide services are authorized in the Inyo National Forest wilderness areas under the special use permit held by Jackson Hole Mountain Guides.

Due to circumstances beyond our control and totally unrelated to our guiding services, guides working under the permit issued to JHMG will be unable to write their own wilderness permits this season. Our services will depend upon our ability to acquire wilderness permits under the rules applied to the public at large and will be subject to the limitations imposed thereby. These limitations will not be in effect beyond this season.

Support Foundation Efforts

Bardini BUMPER STICKERS



for a \$5 donation

T-SHIRTS POLO SHIRTS

get top quality preshrunk cotton t-shirts and polo shirts ash gray with burgundy lettering polo shirts have knit collar and cuffs with Bardini Foundation over pocket

Tee shirts have **Bardini Lives!** across back with **Bardini Foundation** on left chest



Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

T's only

\$12.00

Polo's only

\$15.00

plus \$3.20
US Priority Mail

California residents add appropriate sales tax



Bardini Foundation

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