



Bardini

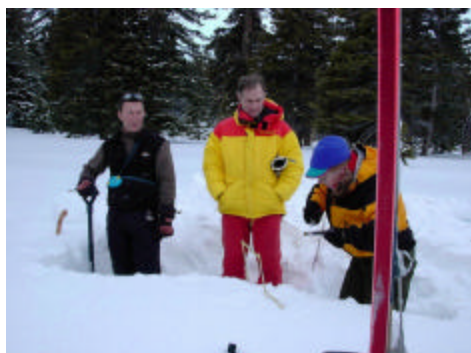
The Backside of Beyond

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Fall 2001 Issue

Mono County Search & Rescue Team Out in the Cold

Tim Villanueva of the Bardini Foundation took seven members of the Mono County Search and Rescue Team (SAR) out into the cold the second weekend in December - the occasion: A Bardini Foundation Level-II avalanche course.



Jeff Holmquist, a team board member, stated that the AVII course was the best SAR training he has ever attended. He would like to make this an yearly event and to have all winter SAR personnel to take this course.

Federal Tax-Exempt Status Update

On September 23, 2001 our application for IRS 501(c)(3) status was submitted. Typically, it takes 30 to 120 days for these applications to be processed. We are still awaiting our anticipated approval.

We're Looking for Newsletter Sponsors

With the anticipated approval of our application for IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, we are now asking for some of you to sponsor an issue of this newsletter. For a donation of \$250 you can sponsor the entire Spring issue of this newsletter. If you so wish, you will be acknowledged as the sponsor right on the front page (see the sample below). A group of you could chip in and be mentioned as co-sponsors.

This issue sponsored by the Bardini Foundation

Your donation will be wholly deductible as a charitable contribution on both federal and California income tax returns in the year 2002. If you are interested please contact: don@bardini.org or see back page for the postal address.



Pictured above and to the left are members of the Mono County Search and Rescue Team engaged in stuff block tests and snow crystal identification.

An Avalanche of Courses

In addition to the Level-II course attended by the Mono County Search and Rescue Team as mentioned on this page, five other avalanche courses are being or have been offered to the public this winter.

A Bardini Foundation level-I course was attended by six locals on December 7-9 in the Bishop and Mammoth areas. Another level-I is scheduled for January 25-27

With the cooperation of local retailer, Mammoth Mountaineering Supply (MMS), the foundation has offered two beacon refresher courses. One in late December and one on January 30. These courses meet at MMS in Mammoth.

Sierra Club Ski Mountaineers

On November 22, Tim Villanueva and Don Lauria presented an avalanche awareness seminar to the Ski Mountaineering Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club at Griffith Park in Los Angeles.

Twenty two members were in attendance for Tim's awareness lecture and to hear Don explain the origins and purpose of the Bardini Foundation.

Randy Lamm, the section chairman, stated that the lecture presented avalanche awareness in a unique format that was fully appreciated by all.

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Some New Promotional Items

Since a large number of you have bought t-shirts, coffee mugs, baseball caps, and bumper stickers, we are in the process of adding new items to our list.

We are offering an elegant ball point pen of classic design with the Bardini logo laser-engraved in gold on the barrel. One stroke and you'll know the extraordinary quality and precision. This handsome, stylish pen is brass and translucent blue with a distinctive black dot clip, complemented with real 24 karat gold-plated trim (see below). Price \$5.00



We are changing colors on the baseball caps. The new caps will have a dark blue crown with contrasting visor and a gold embroidered Bardini logo.

Our t-shirts will be available in two colors (yet to be determined) with contrasting Bardini logo - front and back. The new colors will be in addition to the ➡

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 and **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

As for our website, we are currently up to our necks in paperwork for the U.S. Forest Service in our application for a special use permit in the Inyo National Forest. However, we still 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.**

Important:

Some of you have misunderstood our intent. We merely email you a notification that the newsletter is now posted on our website. We do not email the newsletter to you. You must access our website and read it there or download it to your hard drive where you may read it or print it out.

standard ash gray and burgundy. We do not believe that the new colors will require a price increase.

The prices on the baseball caps will still be \$10. You must realize that promotional items are always sold for more than comparable non-commercial stuff. After all, the idea is to raise funds for the cause. However, we strive to find quality items. We do not want to sell junk to our subscribers.

New House Rates - Too Much?

At our Board meeting in November, the Bardini Foundation directors decided to increase the requested daily donations for use of the Bardini House. The House is in dire need of further repair and current income from House donations have not been sufficient to cover the expense of the necessary repairs and maintenance.

Instead of the straight \$10 per night per person, we are now asking for \$20 per night for single occupancy and \$15 per person per night for multiple occupancy. As one of our guests suggested, "This may sound like a trite solution to your occupancy problems, however, I feel you need to charge more money. The only thing you don't offer that the hotels down the street do are HBO, heated pool, and wake up calls."

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/black imprint

only a **\$5**

donation

Bardini Coffee Mugs



10-oz. white porcelain mug with the Bardini logo

only a **\$5** donation

plus \$3.90 US Priority Mail

Powder Pokin'

text and photography by
Allan Bard

I have an apparent character flaw. Sometimes the worse the snow is the better I like it. It isn't that I relish the idea of doing battle with the demons of hellish snow - far from it. But going out on a bad snow day requires that I be clever enough to find the elusive good snow, and I like that challenge. To this end, good snow is anything that's fun to ski. But it's the pokin' around, sneaking from stash to stash to poach a few turns that's the real fun part. It's kinda' outsmarting Mother Nature, or perhaps it's just learning to read the sign-posts that lead you to her secret powder pokes.

Now the way I learned about this powder pokin' stuff was often by not finding the good snow and exhausting myself in the process. What I lacked in mountain sense and ski technique I made up for with persistence. I learned that the most important element in the search for good snow is - going out. Even if you know the snow is bad. Go anyway. Let me illustrate.



It was early January 1983. I was on a tour with friends in the high Sierra's Rock Creek Canyon. The wind howled all night. Our hopes of powder skiing in the morning blew east with the passing of the storm. After several pots of coffee, a pancake breakfast till 10:00 AM, and much discussion about the merits of crud-a-neering, we did the right thing, we ventured out. At first it was under the guise of just getting a little exercise. The wind had most certainly had its way with the snow. We could read the signs of the wind on every surface. It had swirled up and down slope and whistled up and down the canyon. The wind scoured one exposure and blasted another. Oh well, the sun was out, the wind had mainly died and the sightseeing was tremendous, so what if there wasn't any powder. Or was there?

As we toured along, I found soft uncrusted wind-drifted powder in certain protected areas. It certainly wasn't wide spread, but it was there. Maybe there was a spot in the canyon that had only received the indirect action of the blowing snow - something that was wind-drifted, not wind scoured. After noticing that all the pockets of fluff were on steeper northeast exposures I got out the map. Between reading the map and the snow surface, I had all the information I needed. All of a sudden, it was like the snow had neon arrows pointing to a particular spot. This was where "the kind" powder was lurking.

Right dead-square in front of me was a 700-

foot high hill that sat just below the wind ripped ridge crest. This low hill, in the center of the cirque high in Rock Creek Canyon, was in the lee enough to receive wind-drifted snow and was protected from direct scouring.

The wind had stripped snow from all the surrounding slopes, raking the powder down slope and out onto the valley floor. The textured sastrugi edges read like wind Braille. They pointed from every direction at the slope in front of me and seemed to shout: the only skiing in this whole canyon is the bowl on the small hill right in front of you. SKI IT!

The snow texturing in the bowl was different than the adjacent wind torn slopes. Here the wind had gently drifted snow down the slope. The feathery leading edge of the petite sastrugi was delicate and soft and the snow beneath was too - creamy and delicious. We skied it all afternoon. It was probably the only snow in the canyon that was skiable. It was great powder. So what's the point? No matter what - go out, and then, learn to read the signs.

What signs you look for largely depends on what kind of snow you're searching for. But for the moment let's talk about powder.

Most skiers think any light density snow that's easy to ski is powder. There's no doubt its fun, but real powder, textbook powder, is old settled snow, not fresh snow. What changes new-fallen snow into powder or crud is its exposure to sun and wind.

What I'm about to tell you will enable you to ski good snow sometimes two or three weeks after the last storm. Seek snow that has had little or no effect by the wind or solar radiation. Heat changes the snow - whether it's the heat generated from the wind agitating the snow crystals, or the heat of direct or indirect solar radiation. Crusts and thick snow are formed from heating and then freezing the snow. Heat changes the density by adding "free" (liquid) water to the snow, and subsequently changing its quality.

In terms of powder, go north - that is, ski north-facing aspects. For my time and effort, that means take a compass in order to ski due north. I have come to think of the compass as the "powder meter". Follow the compass needle around enough and see for yourself. There isn't any snowy slope in the northern hemisphere that's immune to this bit of physics. In winter there just isn't much sun, if any, on true north facing slopes. Briefly, what happens when snow stays cool, is that not only is it less prone to crusts formed by heat, but it tends to dry out. With exposure to cold air, moisture passes out of the snow crystal without ever becoming liquid water. As long as air temperatures stay below 25 degrees F. and the snow is protected from the wind, the snow should stay good for a long time.

Severe sustained cold temperatures (below zero) can cause a snow condition that is top-to-bottom "sugar snow" or depth hoar. This is often dangerous, not so much because of the avalanche conditions, but because of bottoming out - crashing through the powder to the rocks and stumps below. Avalanche is always a consideration, but is mainly out of the scope of this article

A place that it is usually safer to ski, and definitely more protected, is in the trees - safer, because the snow has more natural anchoring

and better, because the snow is less affected by the wind. But treed slopes are not the only wind-protected areas, just the most obvious. Sometimes there will be certain windless lee slopes on one side of a gully or ridge. Sometimes the trees on the windward side of an open tree shot will have a narrow margin of un-wind-affected snow, right along the lee edge of the trees. One day after there were literally 70 - 80 mph winds in the Mammoth area, I found 700 feet of open powder skiing in the lee of a tree chute. The rest of the snow almost everywhere was horrible, but this was all very creamy.

So besides the exposure of the slope, relative to wind and sun, elevation plays a role. Still-air cools at a rate of 3-5 degrees per thousand feet of ascent. A couple thousand feet of elevation gain (6 to 10 degrees loss of temperature) is often enough to make a difference in snow quality. Many times I have seen a melt/freeze sun crust at 8,000 feet that doesn't even exist



two thousand feet higher. What's the secret? No melting, no crust.

Of course powder is not the only kind of good snow. In fact it is arguably not even the best. My personal favorite is corn snow - fast safe and easy to ski. Certainly, temperature, elevation, exposure to sun and wind all play a role in the development of proper corn snow. A compass is a handy thing for corn as well. East facing slopes soften first, so go east in the morning - then south slopes in midday, west in early afternoon, and north in late afternoon. Corn around the clock with the compass. Also, determine how low in elevation is it freezing and how high is the thaw coming, and when? These are all questions that must be answered to time your ski decent and enjoy the snow right when the corn "goes off". Planning your tour to get to the downhill segment just at the right time will greatly enhance the quality of the ski conditions. If the corn starts happening at 11:00 AM and the hike takes 5 hours, better leave by 6:00 AM. Simple arithmetic. This information isn't rocket science, folks. Often it is just about rethinking information you already know.

Knowledge is a powerful force. But no matter what, whether you're searching for corn or windboard, or the elusive powder, you won't know for sure what great skiing is out there by staying at home postulating. Be creative when you poke around, but be unafraid - venture out - feel the pull of the unskied and the unknown - Let the Force Be With You.

We intend that most issues of The Backside of Beyond will present something by Allan ... either his writing or his photography.

From the Bardini House Log

"The fact that Allan Bard's friends kept and keep this place speaks volumes about Bardini. He evidently inspired and inspires. 'Bardini Lives'".

- Anneka Murdel,
now from Bishop

"Thanks again for a basecamp for filming Sierra Nevada Bighorn sheep ... I'll have great memories of a great place. Never met Bardini, but his spirit lives on through his friends."

- Frank Green,
Green TV, San F, CA

"We were really happy when we have put a foot for the first time in the Bardini House. It was good to find a place with a soul and a spirit like that. We have read the things about Allan Bard and it give us a great lesson about live and how have fun in the mountain. One last word for you American people, to thank you for your welcome in your country." [sic]

- Liv Sansoz
Jasonne Meyer
Olivier Appourcreau
Fred Tuscan,
FRANCE

"Once again thanks for providing such a wonderful place for travelers top stay."

- Kelly Chinn,
Texas, USA

"Great pad. Great movie collection. Great position. What can we say[?] There is such a great vibe here - thanks for the wonderful donation of keeping the Bardini House alive and hospitable. We hope to return soon."

- Ben Shapiro,
Terry Jackson,
Los Angeles, CA, USA

"It's like you are being welcomed even without anybody around. Thanks!"

- Oskar Schippers
GERMANY

"Some well needed R and R from the cold, cruel world. Bishop and the Bardini House have been incredibly warm and kind, despite 5 inches of snow. In all of our 3 months of traveling, we've yet to find a place quite this homey ... Also, if you're bored between seasons ... and it's too cold to climb, have log races with a friend in the little stream out front."

- Patrick and Anna,
Midwesterners, OH, USA

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.

Ed Cereda is the Eastern Sierra's renowned ski mechanic. His mastery of the craft is legendary. If your skis need work, next time you are in Bishop, give Ed a call.

Ed's Underground SKI SERVICES

760-A W Pine St, Bishop, CA 93514

(760) 872-1348

Mounting/Tuning

CrossCountry and Telemark Binding Mounting

3-Pin, NNN, SNS Profile, SNS-BC, & Pilot Bindings	\$20
Cable Bindings (All Except Rainey Designs Hammerhead)	25
Rainey Designs Hammerhead Bindings	30
Releasable Telemark Bindings (All)	40

Related Charges

Climbing Heels, Tele Vates, Heel Locaters, Etc.	\$10
Binding Riser Plates (in addition to binding moun)	10
Remove old bindings & plug holes (in addition to mount)	8
Additional Charge for Mounting Volant Skis	10

Randonnee Binding Mounts

Fritschi Diamir, Lite Tech, & Silvretta Bindings	\$40
All others	\$45/hr

Tunes, Repairs, Etc.

Hot Wax (Hand Ironed & Brushed)	\$10
Race Prep (Rilling, Brushing, Temp Specific Wax)	25
Metal Edge Tune (Edges, Minor Base Repair & Wax)	30
Non-metal Edge Tune (Minor Base Repair)	20
Removal of Grip Wax (In Addition to Ski Tuning)	20
Pine Tar (For Wood Ski Bases)	40
Custom Repair Work (Major Base Repair, etc.)	\$45/hr

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

"... in bowling-shoe-soft cross-country boots, bamboo poles, self-destructing three-pin bindings and double-cambered wooden skis ...

The late backcountry ski guru, Allan Bard, summed up those years perfectly when he exclaimed, 'I can't believe we did what we did'. One thing is for certain: that the gear produced a generation of skiers with incredible balance! That fragile gear also forced you to reconsider every action and helped instill a deep, long-lasting respect for the winter environment and how quickly an afternoon jaunt from the hut could turn into a serious situation."

From a recent issue of *Backcountry Magazine*,
Full Circle by Brian Litz

"Dear Bardini Foundation,

Please accept the enclosed donation in Allan's memory. I first skied with the Great Bardini in the upper Kern River drainage about 1979 or 80 when he was working for Dave Beck. I saw him off and on through the years, [and] had the pleasure of doing a couple of trips with him ... He was truly a gem and someone whose memory I'll cherish the rest of my life."

A letter from Stu Alt, Scottsdale, AZ

Fall 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:

Stu Alt	Tracy Ramm
Virginia Anderson	Bill Russell
Eddie Begoon	Liv Sansoz
Dave Brinton	Ben Shapiro
Kelly Chinn	Patrick Sherwin
Nicholas Clyma	Oskar Schippers
Jason Duckowitz	Bill Stall
Mark Gray	Chris Tracy
Frank Green	Robert Trousdale
Valerie Hoecke	Terry Walker
Terry Jackson	Nyri Wheeler
Anneka Mundel	David Weston
Stephen Place	Jim Valensi

Special Mention:

Kent Steele, Attorney at Law
The DEW Foundation
Couloir Magazine
Ron Dexter (sorry, Ron, for being so late)

Source of Foundation Funds

Many readers have asked how the foundation can maintain a guesthouse, publish a newsletter, offer volunteer guide services, contribute funds to search and rescue teams, and contribute to community projects on income obtained from such a small group of contributors (we only have 542 people on our mailing list). The answer is **we can't!** If it weren't for Allan Bard himself this whole project would have died out three years ago. Income from guesthouse donations (Allan's house) and photo royalties (Allan's photos) provide over two-thirds of our operating funds.

Royalties are obtained from a digital stock photo bank based on sales of Allan Bard photographs. Donations come primarily from itinerant climbers and skiers who make use of the Bardini House and contribute money for its maintenance. Additional donations are received from readers of this quarterly newsletter, an annual bake sale, and year round sales of promotional items such as t-shirts, baseball caps, coffee mugs, fleece vests, ball-point pens, and bumper stickers. Additional funds are derived from monies in excess of the actual costs of guided treks, climbs and tours, and instructional courses and camps. **Please support our efforts!**

Winter Foundation Activities



Avalanche Courses

The Bardini Foundation is the only Eastern Sierra guide service listed on the AMGA website as avalanche course providers at all three levels.

Level-I

Jan 11-13 2002 Grand Targhee, ID
Feb 23-25 2002 Tahoe area, CA

Level-II

Mar 1-3 2002 Bishop-Mammoth, CA

Level-III

Level-III courses are for guides, search & rescue teams, and other professionals.
Levels-I and -II are prerequisites.

Feb 1-5, 2002 Mt. Shasta \$525
In cooperation with Shasta Mountain Guides

Bardini Ski Camp - in the Palisades - dates: sometime in May

The Bardini Foundation offers guide services on a year-round basis.
Backcountry treks and ski tours can be contracted throughout the year.
Please call, write, or e-mail the Foundation at (760) 873-8036, (760) 872-4413, or don@bardini.org

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 \$3.90
US Priority Mail
California residents add appropriate sales tax



Bardini Foundation

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Bishop CA 93514

The Backside of Beyond

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