



# The Backside of Beyond

## Bardini

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Fall 2002 Issue

### Forest Service Withdraws Decision Our Appeal Successful

As a result of the appeal points raised by the Bardini Foundation and others to the U.S. Forest Service's decision of June 13, 2002 (see the Spring/Summer issue of The Backside of Beyond), the Forest Service withdrew its decision in which it identified successful applicants under the Prospectus for "An Opportunity for Outfitting and Guiding in the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness entering from the Inyo National Forest".

In a letter dated November 18, 2002, JoEllen Keil, Inyo National Forest Acting District Ranger, stated, "I have elected to withdraw my decision ...".

"After reviewing the appeal points," Keil continued, "I feel it is important that the Forest subject the submitted proposals to a new review that determines the best qualified applicant by activity."

In our appeal of the USFS decision of June 13th, we contended that the Forest Service did not evaluate the various applicants according to the criteria stipulated in their Prospectus. The allotment of requested service days to each applicant was based on an overall rating rather than an evaluation in each of the three areas of activity. We contended that this method of evaluation was in conflict with the prescribed criteria. Apparently the Forest Service now agrees.

We expect that the new review will result in a more reasonable allotment of service days to qualified applicants.

### Tribal Youth Environmental Education

On December 30, a group of Bishop Paiute Tribe teenagers ventured out into the snow above Bishop to learn more about the winter environment. Several local agencies donated personnel as trip leaders to give these kids a chance to see and touch while they listened to discussions and watched demonstrations on a variety of environmental subjects.



Tim Villanueva of the Bardini Foundation discussed avalanche awareness and demonstrated the effect of snow layers on avalanche conditions.

The trip was initiated by the Bishop Paiute Tribe Environmental Management Office and facilitated by their trip leader, Toni Richards, who gathered the necessary equipment and provided education relating to air quality.

Darla Heil from the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission spoke to the group on the subjects of watershed, hydrology, and climate.

The Bishop Indian Education Center provided several trip leaders. Shawn Bengochia, Tanya Montes, and other education center staff helped organize the trip and provided transportation.

Toiyabe Indian Health Project, represented by trip leader Jeanne Walter, provided healthy lunches for the group.

### Bardini Guides Recertified in First Aid Skills

Bardini mountain guides, Tim Villanueva and Don Lauria, spent three days in November attending a Wilderness First Responder Recertification course sponsored by Sierra Mountain Center and provided by the Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School).

This three day scenario-based course is designed as review and practice of evacuation and decision making guidelines. It also provides wilderness medicine practioners with current updates in the wilderness medicine field.

This issue sponsored by **Bob Nagy** Sales Representative for Mountain Hardwear - Asolo- Wigwam



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## Lest We Forget

An Editor's Note

Every other issue or so of the Backside of Beyond should probably use some space to remind readers, especially new readers, of why the Bardini Foundation exists. Our Statement of Purpose, accurate as it may be, does hide the Foundation's simple reason for being:

A few of us would not accept Allan's passing as the end - the end of all the good times that we enjoyed in his company - the end of what he had determined to be his mission in life - the end of his enthusiasm for introducing people to the backside of beyond.

Obviously we were not alone. People are still moved to express their respect for Allan through their letters. We have published many letters written in Allan's memory. Although most of them contain similar sentiments, each is unique in its perspective. The letter that follows was written in 1997 by Norman Wilson, one of the most experienced and respected avalanche experts in the United States, and was intended by the writer to be delivered to Gary and Dale Bard via John Moynier, but in the confusion and sadness of those days -- days just following Allan Bard's death -- the letter remained in John's possession. John recently discovered it and felt that to make up for his oversight we should publish it - with the author's permission ... read on.

## Better Late Than Never

A Letter from Norman Wilson

July 1997

For Gary & Dale Bard,

I'm not sure when I first met Allan - probably 20-25 years ago. Since that time Allan and I crossed paths only 8 or 10 times - we always ran into one another at good places ... Tuolumne Meadows, Rock Creek, Tioga Pass ... good, good places.

It was always a pleasure to chat, share experiences, and get up to date on mutual friends. Invariably, I came away from our conversations with the feeling that I should get to know Allan better.

My recollections of Allan are of a man who was nearly always smiling - I think he helped people around him to smile. He touched a lot of people - through his teaching, his guiding, and his companionship.

The circumstances of his passing seem to me to be characteristic of the man. He assumed whatever risk there was that day - after first making certain that his client was in a safe location - that says a lot about Allan.

I think of Allan as a man who spoke softly. He didn't dabble in nonsense talk, and was skilled and respected in his chosen work.

I believe the world is a bit the less without him. Too bad we didn't know how little time we would have ... to know him ...

Norman Wilson

## Eastern Sierra MountainFest 2002

On October 25 & 26, Bishop held its first annual Eastern Sierra MountainFest at the Tri-County Fair Grounds.

On the 25th, Tom Hornbein, noted mountaineer and conquerer of Everest's west ridge, presented "Sunrises and Sunsets" a slide show featuring people he has climbed with throughout his career. Peter Croft opened the Friday night session presenting some of his outstanding slides.

On Saturday afternoon, Allen Steck gave a presentation on Hummingbird Ridge, and John Wehausen discussed the Bighorn Sheep in the Sierra. Later, there was a panel discussion between Lynn Hill, Peter Croft, and Allen Steck.

Saturday evening featured speaker Lynn Hill, presenting archive footage and pictures from The Nose, climbing in Utah, her travels to Vietnam, Madagascar, and the story of her career as a climber. Lynn Hill was introduced by Andrea Mead Lawrence.

In addition to the speakers, there was a Mountain Fair Fair Trade Show on Friday and Saturday, with booths open free to the public featuring: Dana Design, La Sportiva, Black Diamond, Sierra mountain Center, Rock Creek Lodge, Inyo and Mono County Search & Rescue, Mountain Hardware, Spotted Dog Press, Ortovox, Petzol, the Access Fund, and the Bardini Foundation.

## Electronic Newsletter

Now that you know it costs the foundation almost \$300 in stamps and materials alone to publish one issue of the newsletter, maybe those of you with **internet access** will use the website to obtain your copy of the Backside. Please **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**

## White Trash

by Allan Bard & Tom Carter

The driving snow obscured the porch light. With his face pressed against the frosted window pane Bardini continued raving about the chills, thrills, and high speed adventure of his favorite subject - crud skiing. I got up and strolled into the kitchen to retrieve a beer as he mumbled something about "the poetry of raw struggle with untouched wild snow fields, the elements and the risk of pitching perfection into chaos like a leaf in the wind." Bardini may blither, but the fact remains - crud snow, the infamous *white trash*, abounds.

There is a lot of strange snow out there in the "sticks," off the beaten track. It's said the Eskimo liberally use over 100 words to describe this ever-changing medium. Undoubtedly, dozens are probably unprintable profanities. But these rulers of the snowy wastelands consider the infinite possibilities with a festive, sort of trick-or-treat attitude. "If it doesn't make good skiing, it'll make great igloos!" Good idea. This attitude definitely offers more options than attaching the slanderous label of "unskiable junk" to all crud. That is muck-raking! And since White Trash is everywhere, you would do well to come to terms with bad snow early in your skiing career.

The continental "crud belt" extends from Maine to Alaska. Each year's bumper crop guarantees free passes to "augerama". Eating it big is as much a part of skiing as Warren Miller films, first tracks, and cheese fondue. Besides, dining on gooey snow is every skier's birthright. You can either eat it with style, or train yourself to ski it.

Learning to ski junk snow and have a little fun in the process is really just a matter of relaxing your expectations. Be positive, think of your next tumbling head plant as a stroke of genius. Kinetic art. When was the last time you saw any thing more hilarious than your partner blasting out of control, arms akimbo, as if on a runaway stallion, in a wild counterbalancing attempt to avoid the inevitable cartwheeling eggbeater? It's been too long, believe us. Given the right measure of humor and a "cowabunga" attitude, those ubiquitous fields of visco-elastic material are transformed into alluring battlegrounds, or, depending on your point of view, stages for epic comedy.

And, just as answering the "Divine Summons" to ski the "thick guano" is never ho-hum, retiring to the pub, after being keel-hauled through 20,000 leagues of applesauce is always enlightening. You

will overhear all manner of ludicrous testimonials and delirious descriptions of the "leap 'n' land wazu," the "rabbit punch", and the "hydroplane" which, although entertaining, offer little consolation to the neophyte. Sharing tales of laughable antics and reckless abandon with your skiing buddies is the time-tested, low-budget remedy for recovering from a humility hangover. Pay no attention to their premises that you were born a klutz and therefore are destined to die a klutz. There may still be hope.

True, unskiable snow can be devastating. Your chance of controlling it is remote at best. But, if you've never ventured out of



the security of the packed run, chances are you have a distorted view of what is actually skiable junk and what isn't. And with good reason. Snow is amazingly deceptive. We are continually baffled yet blessed by the abundance of civilized snow that masquerades as *white trash*.

On one occasion after a particularly grueling uphill cross country tour, we made the distressing discovery that fickle winds had blasted the Blue Lagoon, our favorite powder bowl. Its marbled surface spelled c-r-u-s-h. Anticipating a real pummeling, we whimpered quietly and considered padding our beknickered backsides with Sunday editions of the L.A. Times before launching ourselves into the suitably dubbed "fall-line."

Looking down the slope we collected ourselves. Were we going to punch through? Where did our weight need to be to ski this junk; where was the ski's sweet spot? We rehearsed our stance and flex, scrutinized the snow and considered how much momentum was needed to drive each turn into the next. Diving into a tele,

we discovered the wind-sculpted surface was merely a thin veneer. There was no snagging crust and the snow released us with ease. As our speed picked up, the veneer shattered and skipped down the bowl like stones skittering across a frozen pond. Camouflaged beneath the crystalline film lay 18 inches of old settled powder. Our ski tips tore through the cellophane top-sheet, sending a gush of loose powder puffing up through the ruptured surface on every turn. We were screaming! It was fabulous skiing.

Every sport has its extremists. And this thrill-seeking stuff is pretty contagious. But it is possible for things to get out of hand. You may find you're alienating your friends and relatives if you are still out there whooping it up when the lodge is crammed with shell-shocked crustbusters. Who knows, these people probably think you're wacko, the victim of a real mental delamination! Nevertheless, a positive perspective is the key to enjoying the ever-changing winter wilderness. It's the attitude that "skiing is fun, funky snow or not," that is the true secret to becoming a Crud Hog.

Perspectives, of course, vary according to vantage point. To the untrained eye those pudding pastures look benign, drawing snow bunnies like the tar pits drew mastodons. But to the true crud lover, slopes of pristine mashed potatoes are recognized for what they are, a delight as welcome as untracked powder, regardless of how messy they may be to ski.

What you're sharing with friends in these trackless fields is the freedom of choice and high adventure that is the essence of skiing. Off the groomed trails, the outback lies waiting in an unbroken expanse, a sea of textured beauty. Winter's alpine ambience is incomparable, a breathtakingly serene and worthy stage for the pursuit of grace and balance. To dance across this snowscape is a dream realized. Ephemeral and vaporizing even as you glide, this transient crystalline mantle is destined to evaporate into clouds. Whatever the snow conditions, this feeling of hushed wonderment is a priceless treasure found only far from the madding crowds.

Bardini breathed a sigh of satisfaction and added with a wink, "The wilderness in winter is a magical protean place, even when the snow is the "wrong stuff." White trash? Not always, but there is a lot of unpopulated skiing out there.

Anyone wishing to sponsor an issue of  
Backside of Beyond  
apply via e-mail or U.S. Postal Service

don@bardini.org  
or  
Bardini Foundation  
515 Sierra Street  
Bishop, CA 9351

## From the Bardini House Log

"Thanks to all who keep this place alive. This is a respite in a crazy world. ..."

Brad, CJ, Lee, & Patrice, Santa Cruz, CA

It's been 2 1/2 years since our last visit and it has surprised me how many times I have thought of the Bardini House and what a beautiful tribute it is to Allan's memory. We should all hope that when we are gone we can leave something behind for others to enjoy. Thanks again for this refuge from franchised America."

Mark Saunto, Portland, OR

"Allan, thanks for sharing your place with us. We only wish we'd been able to catch you home. While I can't say I've succeeded at walking a mile in your mocassins, I can say I'm richer for having followed your Shooting Star Guides on the East Buttress & Mt Sill - truly inspirational! Thank you for giving me the best lessons to share with my kids. Bardini lives!"

Tim Keenan, Sacramento, CA

"I hadn't stayed here since the summer before Allan died. I met Allan through Bruce Russell in 1995 and slept here when Bruce rented this house for 3 months while Allan was in Alaska. The thing that touched me most about Allan was his appreciation for the simple beauties that the Sierra offers. His appreciation deepened my interest in the Bishop area and I continue to return more & more frequently."

Larry & Sydney Conn, Costa Mesa, CA

"It's been three years since I left Bishop to complete my teaching credential/masters in education, and still the East Side pulls me back like no other place. Just before I left I had been teaching part-time at the high school ...and sewing big-wall gear ...I needed a rest ... called in sick, got a night at Allan's house and went to work on the mountain of eclectic [videos] that had been amassed. It was one of the best days off ... I've had yet. Thank you for sharing the warmth and vision of Allan with us all."

Martin Roberts, Santa Cruz, CA

"Ancora una volta qui, stregato dall' atmosfera, trascorro una magnifica giornata dentro questa casa, il tempo immobile, tuffandomi(?) meg(?) occhi pui bella del mondo.

Se potro tomare ancora mon coso! Una giornata di vacanza o un giorno normale o il sogno di un giorno normale in un giorno sogno."

Anonymous, Milano, IT

[Translation in next issue]

## Bardini House Information (Revised)

### Use Donations

Stays are limited to 10 days except by special arrangement. We hope that our "overnight" 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. If you invite some "day-use" friends in to **shower, cook, or watch a video**, they should consider making an appropriate donation or you may be asked to donate an extra **\$5 per person per use**.

### General

Guests may use the kitchen, and bathroom facilities; the stereo, VCR, and TV system; the outside deck, and BBQ; 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 (in season) 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'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	<b>\$20</b>
Cable Bindings (All Except Rainey Designs Hammerhead)	<b>25</b>
Rainey Designs Hammerhead Bindings	<b>30</b>
Releasable Telemark Bindings (All)	<b>40</b>

#### Related Charges

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

#### Randonnee Binding Mounts

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

#### Tunes, Repairs, Etc.

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

### 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.**

### Good Idea!

A complete stranger to me, a guy named Bob Black from Lilburn, Georgia, emailed the Foundation and wanted to know how much a subscription to The **Backside of Beyond (BOB)** would cost him. He had run across our website and decided that the archived issues of **BOB** "look[ed] like a great way to stay in touch with a part of the world [he] really miss[ed]." Alas, I had to inform him there is no subscription and thus no charge ... but then it came to me, why not? Despite the fact that anyone can read the archived issues on the Net for free, why shouldn't we suggest a minimum donation of \$4.50/year for all readers regardless of their means of reception?

Prepare yourselves, folks! Next issue this will be on the front page!

### Website Revisions? Well ... A Few

Finally, by the time you receive or read this on the Net, there will be a few changes in content ... no perceptible style changes ... still just boring, elementary HTML generated text.

Our proposed format upgrades, added photographs, more icon links, animation, and online acceptance of donations and purchases are still in development. Be it ever so humble, the website still contains all the **back issues** and the **current issue** of **Backside of Beyond**.

### Fall 2002 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. Our thanks to you all.

#### Individuals:

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Stephen Boyd   | Ian Potter     |
| Bruce Coleman  | Toni Richards  |
| Larry Conn     | Frank Pierson  |
| Jane Dulaney   | Martin Roberts |
| Ian Frias      | Mal Swanson    |
| Daniel Goodwin | Clark Trowell  |
| Tim Keenan     | Lori Zeoli     |
| Brian Janaszcz | Norman Wilson  |

#### Special Mention:

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| The DEW Foundation | Couloir Magazine |
| Bob Nagy           |                  |

### Support Foundation Efforts

**Bardini BUMPER STICKERS**



for a **\$5** donation



**Bardini T-SHIRTS POLO SHIRTS**

get top quality preshrunk cotton t-shirts and polo shirts ash gray with burgundy lettering polo shirts have knit

collars 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 Baseball Caps

These caps are brushed cotton, fully adjustable, in either navy or denim with gold embroidered logo

only a **\$12** donation

plus tax (CA only) and shipping\*



## Bardini Coffee Mugs

10-oz. white porcelain mug with the Bardini logo

only a **\$5** donation

plus tax (CA only) and shipping\*



Send your check to the  
Bardini Foundation  
515 Sierra Street  
Bishop CA 93514

\*combine with a shirt to save

## Foundation Activities

### Level III Avalanche Course

February 1-3

This is a course for guides, search & rescue members, and other professionals. You must have completed a Level I and Level II avalanche course.

### Spring Ski Safari

April 25-28 \* May 2-5 \* May 30-June 2

Guided Sierra ski descents and back to the car each evening.. Locations vary depending on conditions.

### Bardini Ski Camps

May 9-13 \* May 19-23 \* June 6-9

Rock Creek \* Palisades \* Shasta

Ski in and take guided day tours from our camps.

### Ski Guide Training Course

February 24-March 1

This course prepares you for the AMGA Ski Guide Course/Exam. Expect to be challenged. Requires a \$300.00 non-refundable deposit to hold your reservation.

The Bardini Foundation offers guide services year-round. Treks, climbs, and ski tours can be contracted throughout the year. Call, write, or e-mail the Foundation at (760) 873-8036 or (760) 872-4413 or [don@bardini.org](mailto:don@bardini.org)



## Bardini Foundation

515 Sierra Street  
Bishop CA 93514

## The Backside of Beyond

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**Bardini Foundation, Inc.**

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Bishop CA 93514-2330

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