



Bardini

The Backside of Beyond

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Summer 1999 Issue

Bardini Ski Camp A Success

The Bardini Foundation held its first annual ski camp on the north fork of Big Pine Creek on May 12-16. The snow level forced us to establish our camp at the 9400 foot level just below First Lake rather than the planned Third Lake site. Our location required a short hike each day to reach skiable snow.

The first day of the five day camp was spent in a skills review on a 500-foot slope just above our camp. The remaining four days included two tours up to Palisade Glacier and two days skiing the lower canyon. One of the lower



canyon days included strong, cold winds creating persistent "loud" corn conditions. A more diversified group of clients could not have been anticipated. A FEMA consultant, an orthopedic surgeon, a ski resort operations director, a tug boat captain, and an unabashed bon vivant all expressed the desire to do it again, next year.

Bishop Bouldering Boom Creates New "Hostel Environment"

Some one left the gate open. The dog didn't get out, but the boulderers are coming ... in droves. Bishop may have become the winter-spring bouldering center of the universe. All it took was a guidebook and a couple of magazine articles to open the gate, and boom ... the "mattress mashers" have arrived!

During the first five months of 1999 the hostel has accommodated as many guests as the entire year of 1998. This unanticipated increase in usage has caused the Foundation to re-think its plan for the hostel. This surge of itinerant climbers in the Bishop area has begun to tax the limits of the hostel's capacity. The hostel occupancy during the late winter and early spring reached overflowing. Even though we stress that one must notify us in advance, groups of people were showing up with no advance notice. We have hesitated to turn away those

that are uninformed of the advanced notice request, but from now on it's first come first served ... the early birds get priority quarters with the option to limit further occupancy. Once the limit is reached we will turn away potential guests until the occupancy decreases.

Our original intent was to keep the Bard residence "in the family", that is, the doors would remain open to Allan's friends and clients just as they were during Allan's lifetime. However, it is evident that half of the guests have indicated that they had never met Allan, but knew of him. The remaining 50% had never heard of Allan Bard .

We don't intend that Allan's residence be treated as a shrine, but we feel a certain amount of respect for who he was should be a requisite to the use of the facility. The "hostel" is a residence, not a flophouse. It is to be treated as if you were a guest in someone's home in their absence. You should leave the place in the condition it was found. No need to do the laundry, but the dishes, yes. If you track in a lot of dirt, vacuuming shouldn't be below your station.

Nice thing about boulderers, though, is they bring their own mattresses.

Why "The Great Bardini"?

Why "The Great Bardini"? From where did this name come - this name that stuck to Allan for the last 20 years or so of his life? Who but Tom Carter could answer this question best. See "BARDINI" on page 2.

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BARDINI

by Tom Carter

Long ago, before Camp 4 was a potential historical landmark, there lived amongst the dirt and squalor a number of unique individuals who through chance and design became site-mates and friends. Among this troupe were such illuminati as Mike Farrell, Dave Bircheff, Bob Locke, Kilowatt Jamonski, and Alonzo Bardini. It was Bob Locke, known as Bobo (pronounced Bob-Oh), who in 1974/75 began to refer to the Bard brothers as "Bardini - Alonzo and D'alesandro". Bobo, an enthusiastic student of climbing's historical literature, considered the great Italian climbers as the premier "world hosts", carefree and "warm musical" people reveling in Life regardless of one's social standings. He associated our gusto and romance for the Valley with the colorful climbers pioneering the classics in the Dolomites. Hence, Mike became Enzo Farelli, Graham Gramicci, and so on ... Bardini tripped freely off the tongue and it stuck. It stuck, as anyone who met A.B. knew, because he was warm, musical, romantic, and had as much gusto for life, climbing and skiing, and being in the mountains as anyone on this planet. He inspired people - truly thousands - to seize life.

As memory serves, it was Emilio Comici who's daring and visionary routes and lifestyle inspired Bobo's naming of his Camp 4 friends. The powerful pull of the Valley - with its soaring walls and the blend of authentic genius, lust, and love - steeped us all in a swirl of dreams to live beyond the pull of society and drew us to the Backside of Beyond. Thank you, Bobo, for the zany insight and the festive way you bestowed the descriptor of Bardini to Bardini. It is more than a name. "Bardini" is a title representing Allan's spirit and temperament. His enthusiasm and frame of mind was a tonic - an elixir, full of energy, animation, and courage. We are under the influence of BARDINI - bigger than life, friend to the mountains and to all who enter their embrace.

Mi gira la testa ... il piacere e stato mio.

Ciao



Tomas Cartalucci

Help Us Identify Mystery Guests

This picture was taken with a camera left at the Foundation back in February or



March. If the owner will write, call, or e-mail us and identify the camera we will be delighted to return it.

News Notes

FOUNDATION TRAINS KIDS

The Bardini Foundation is lending its climbing guides to the Bishop Paiute Tribal Council Youth Sports to hold rock climbing classes for groups of elementary and high school students during a three week period in August. The kids will be trained the use of ropes, basic rock climbing technique, and environmental responsibility.

TRAK / KARHU PAYMENT

The Bardini Foundation received its first check from Trak, Incorporated. As stated in the Trak/Karhu ski ads, a portion of the the sales of the Bardini ski are going to the support of the Bardini Foundation. Greatly appreciated!

THE HOSTEL

The hostel has received a portion of its new look. Ed Cereda put in a new flower bed and new entrance walkway, while your editor tore out the concrete walkway under the apple tree, reseeded the bare spots in the front lawn, and added a curbside mailbox. We expect to install new carpeting and finish some electrical rewiring by the fall.

Two Books Dedicated to Allan Bard

In our previous issue we listed many of the people and organizations that have donated money and/or energy to Bardini Foundation efforts in keeping Bardini's spirit alive. We apologize for not mentioning two books that were published following Allan's death both of which are dedicated to Allan's memory.

So, ... How Does the Rope Get Up There, Anyway? by Kathy Myers and Mark Blanchard,

Published by Mountain N' Air Books, P.O. Box 12540, La Crescenta, CA 91224.

Cross-Country Skiing for Everyone by James Older,

Published by Stackpole Books, 5067 Ritter Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Our thanks to the authors, publishers, and contributors. Well done.



1999 ski camp participants "on the lift" above Third Lake approaching Palisade Glacier

We intend that each issue of *The Backside of Beyond* will present something by Allan ... either his writing or his photography.

The State of the Stride

By Allan Bard

What is cross country skiing today? The answer to that question is complicated, because cross country skiing is not one sport any more, it is many. The question is further confused by the technical issue of whether there is a *right way* to ski. Considering the myriad paths to nordic oneness and all the volumes of technical theory can truly boggle the mind. Ultimately all forms of cross country skiing, in the spirit of old fashioned ski touring, are still just skiing across the countryside ... it can be that simple.

Maybe it's a sign of oncoming age that the days of my youth seemed a simpler time. In the old days, we were just cross country skiers, waxing our wood skis and sporting our ubiquitous costume of knickers and sweater. We were often looked upon as granola crunching, yogurt eating, Volkswagon driving, health conscious, tree hugging environmentalists. Alpine skiers thought we were weird because we nordics believed sweating was okay. We were unique at best. We were outcasts, the poor folk of skiing. Poor folk that couldn't afford full width skis or a lift ticket. In some ways we were the original snowboarders, because for us nordics it was cool to be different and chic to dress funky.

Nordic skiing today is far from funky. Modern cross country skiing is pretty slick, and skiing, in general, has become expensive. Both alpine and nordic skiing, as practiced at groomed areas, are now "family sports" only for a constantly shrinking population of families. Once family participation was the mainstay of the ski industry and although it is far from being a sport only for the wealthy, it seems like it's going that direction fairly fast. You don't think so? Have you seen the cost of trail passes and lift tickets? Years ago I could have lived for a month for the cost of a weekend of family skiing. All of a sudden family ski touring looks pretty expensive. When was the last time you bought new gear? Whether you're wearing the form-fitting lycra and the ultra-light track slats of the aerobic guerrilla set or modeling a Gortex one-piece, shod in the latest of short fat skis and plastic fantastic tele boots of the backcountry fanatics, you spent a bundle equipping yourself. Cross country skiing ain't cheap anymore.

Nordic skiers are now experiencing many of the mainstream complications of the alpine folks. Even us nord boarders are a part of this hula-hoop culture that is crazy for fads and trends, and the Madison Avenue jargon of buzz words that accompany them. Answer this. What kind of skier are you? Track skier? Classic or skating? Tele skier? Backcountry skier? Extreme skier? Ski tourist, or maybe even just a plain cross country skier, or a nordic skier? These are all types of cross country skiing, but they often employ very different equipment and have seemingly separate technique. Some of this variety in ski theory has a great deal to do with the diversity of terrain available in the U.S., but the myth that these new ski sports are anything but another form of classic ski touring, disguised in the rhetoric of catch phrases and trendy titles, is to some degree perpetuated by manufacturers in order to entice the consumer into being the fully rigged nordic skier of the 90's. Why own one ski when you could own five different skis. Don't get me wrong, all the new specialized gear is

great and truly superior to the old woodies, leather shoes, and cane poles. I personally own all kinds of modern nordic gear. But it is a little complicated sometimes. We are a culture of excellent consumers. We not only buy product, we buy into the boondoggle of definitions and we become believers. Although there are many of us that enjoy many forms of cross country skiing, there are folks out there that relate to one of these subspecies of free heel schussing more than another.

As in any activity that gets specialized there are always zealots, folks that would sing the praises of their chosen discipline and denounce others as incomprehensible, heresy, or just plain lame. Even in the nordic realm. For instance, track skiers that think backcountry skiing is nothing but a laborious activity that lacks much speed and grace, or backcountry types that think most track skiers are under-clothed fitness freaks who wouldn't appreciate the joy of a good set of turns through the powder anyway. Or maybe, telemark aficionados that can't relate to backcountry skiers that don't telemark. You get the idea. I guess some of this amazes me because my nordic roots are from a generation that believed in brown rice, world peace, tofu, and cross country skiing. It was just regular old ski touring, but somehow the soothing feeling that came from a quiet ski through the woods has been lost on many of the tele-rad or skate-to-be-bad ilk.

It is the tendency of every ski zealot to somehow perfect their particular discipline technically, indeed to seek the stone tablets of skiing "right". It is as if perfecting technique validates your chosen path. Like the Great Crusades, the search is often an end to itself, because the quest to find the one true and right way to ski is, at best, elusive. Last spring, some friends and I, all ski instructors of some renown and great experience, were skiing in Colorado trying to unfold the mysteries of correct technique. There has been some evolution in ski technique, but largely we ski the same as always, we just teach it and talk about it differently than we used to. After a whole day of skiing every imaginable kind of snow and terrain, we came to the incredible conclusion that there was no one technique, it was instead, all technique. Each kind

of skiing and technique complimented the other ... old and new, diagonal skiing and skating, telemark and parallel. When called to action we used every trick and technique we knew, sometimes in rapid succession. Often we made it up as we went along. Sometimes skiing is like life, you're halfway through it before you realize it's a "do-it-yourself" thing ... there are no manuals. Total mobility and the possibility for some homespun self-propelled creativity are what I've always loved most about cross country skiing ... a dance that you learn as you go.

So what is cross country skiing today? Well it's certainly different than it used to be, but some aspects remain the same. It's still a dance. It is the blending of all skiing in a composite movement that responds to changing snow and terrain with total forward flow. Cross country is as much *complete skiing* today as ever, but it is also far more varied in form than ever before. Is there a right way to ski? I don't know, but as I have often said, the most important technique in skiing is to go skiing, and the most important kind of skiing is the one that inspires you to action. The total variety of available movements in cross country skiing are the joys of our sport. The spirit of today's nordic skiing, in all of its forms, has mobility and simple travel at its roots. One thing has not changed ... when you go cross country skiing, you still go ... with the flow.



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

Hostel Rules

Use Donations

Stays are limited to 10 days except by special arrangement. Guests are expected to make donations of \$10.00/night decreasing by \$1.00/night every 2 days up to the 10 day limit. These donations should be deposited **in advance**.

Hostel Guest Form and Visitors Log Book

It is **required** that **all** guests fill out the **Hostel Guest Form** before using the facilities. Please sign the Visitor's Log and feel free to input any comments or advice regarding your stay.

Other Donations

Regular: All donations, large or small, by check (made out to the Bardini Foundation) or cash, may be deposited in donation bottles in kitchen and front room.

Tax-deductible: Those who wish to donate \$250 or more and **REQUIRE** a tax-deductible receipt should make the check 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 from the American Alpine Club.

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 in the kitchen.

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.

Kitchen

Please read the SPECIAL KITCHEN RULES on the kitchen wall.

Bathroom

Toilet paper and bath soap are provided. If you have your own bath towels ... use them. The ones hanging in the bathroom are for the needy. The light switch is on the wall separating the toilet from the shower. It's hard to find in the dark.

Swamp Cooler and Wood Stove

Cooling or heating may be necessary. The swamp cooler is in the bathroom. The on/off switch is just to the left of the cooler. It may be necessary to turn on the cooler water. Ask Kurt or Don. Firewood is provided during the cold months for the wood stove in the front room. Please use discretion ... keep your fires SMALL!

Parking

Park your cars in the driveway (4 car limit). Overflow parking is relegated to the street. Please stay off the front lawn and try not to block anyone without making arrangements. Be thoughtful ... don't take more space than you need. We **MUST** always have access to the pasture gate. If your car is to remain while you're gone, make arrangements for access to your keys!

Telephone/Computer/Fax

Telephone calls are credit card only except by special arrangement. Access to the computer and fax machine must be arranged thru Don.

Tents

Please move tents daily to prevent grass damage.

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
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
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. 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.

We have added a tenth goal to our list. We will continue to support environmental and cultural projects in Bishop. We currently support the Inyo Council for the Arts and the Bishop Community Concerts Association.

Springtime Donors

Since our last newsletter the following people have made generous donations of money, time, or talents to the Foundation's cause.

The following list is incomplete ... for this we apologize. Many of you purchased shirts and mugs. Others made anonymous cash contributions. Our thanks to you all.

Individuals:

Jane Dulaney	Joe & Nancy McKeown
Dion & Cheryl Goldsworthy	Casey Sheahan
David & Mary Huntsman	Clark Trowell
Lyn Lauria	Diane Verna
Steve Marien	Terry Walker

Businesses & Organizations:

Couloir Magazine	Squid Ink
Trak, Inc.	

Support the Foundation



Help the Foundation
reach its goals
and
help yourself to
a

Bardini coffee mug

a 10-oz. white porcelain mug
with the Bardini logo
only **\$5.00**

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 ***

Update

Annual Bardini Climbing Camp

July 25-29, August 1-5



In the summer of '99, the Foundation will resume where Allan left off in '97, 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. His luxurious Fifth Lake camp and glacier highcamp will be fully operational from July 25th through August 5th. In addition to great homecooked food from our high country kitchen, your own personal tentage, climbing equipment, showers, and a real comode, we are providing sleeping pads. This means you can walk in with a sleeping bag and climb for many days in comfort and style. You may also come self-guided or join us for a guided excursion as you wish. The self-guided trips include all the amenities including food and highcamp facilities. 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!

Summer Guide Services

During the summer months, except during the Bardini Climbing Camp, the Foundation offers climbing classes, guided climbs, and guided treks throughout the Sierra Nevada range of California, and the Wind River range of Wyoming. We present climbing and trekking as an activity involving the total person ... the physical, emotional, and intellectual being. We stress a natural, non-mechanical approach based on the client's aptitude and desire. Our instructional sessions are not those of a structured climbing school ... the sessions are flexible and adjustable to the specific needs of the client. The fees vary with location, difficulty, and hazard of performing the service, and with the level of competence of the client.

Support Foundation Efforts

read our Statement of Purpose - Page 5!

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



Bardini Lives!

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

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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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