



# The Backside of Beyond

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Winter 1999-2000 Issue

## Bardini Funds to Avalanche Institute

This spring the Bardini Foundation will make its first contribution of funds to the development of the **American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE)**. The Foundation was introduced to the idea of the AIARE through its work with Level 3 avalanche courses taught by Karl Klassen. We strongly support the goals of the Institute and intend to continue funding various phases of its development.

The concept for the AIARE springs from the vision of Jean Pavillard, a mountain guide certified in Switzerland, and a member of the International Federation of Mountain Guides. Jean now lives in Crested Butte, Colorado where he operates his guiding organization, Adventures to the Edge (ATE). Jean found while providing avalanche courses to clients, that unlike other alpine countries, the USA had no national or even regional avalanche standards. In addition, while training guides, Jean felt the aspirants needed the ability to progress beyond rule-based decision making. Traditional recreational avalanche programs in America didn't encourage people to go much farther than the basic tactics of recognition and avoidance.

## "Hostel" Policy Becomes "House" Policy

Having been in the "hostel business" for almost three years now, we feel we have accumulated enough data to rethink our policy with regard "hostel" operations. The original idea was to keep Allan's house "in the family" by taking over Allan's rent and maintaining his house as a (for want of a better word) hostel for itinerent skiers and climbers. However, we did not anticipate national recognition in Rock & Ice Magazine nor did we see the bouldering boom on Bishop's horizon and the ensuing high occupancy rate.

The Foundation has not advertised the Allan Bard house as a hostel except through our newsletter. The general public does not receive the newsletter and thus assumes that the place is like most hostels. It is not. It is Allan's home and though he's not home right now, his spirit resides there and those that visit should share that spirit.

Our new thinking on this matter is that "hostel" was a poor choice of words. From now on we will refer to Allan's residence as the **Bardini House**. Think of it as a bed and breakfast without the breakfast.

Cont'd on Page-2

## Tribal Youth Learn Snow Safety

On December 28, the Bardini Foundation in conjunction with the Bishop Paiute Tribal Youth Sports Program taught a winter skills program at the Mammoth Mountain ski area.



**Tim Villanueva explains the basics of avalanche safety to tribal youth group.**

The Foundation's chief guide, Tim Villanueva, along with Toni Richards, the Assistant Tribal Administrator, and Tom Purkiss, a retired local ski instructor, led the youth group in a short snowshoe trek and then demonstrated the use of avalanche beacons. Later, after a snow safety seminar, the kids got to test their knowledge by locating hidden beacons in the snow.

Due to lack of sufficient snow and the inability to dig snow pits, the proposed

Cont'd on Page-2

### In This Issue

|                                    |   |                                   |   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| The American Mountain Center ----- | 2 | Shooting Star Guides -----        | 4 |
| Clamps by Allan Bard -----         | 3 | Statement of Purpose -----        | 5 |
| Bardini House Info & Notes -----   | 4 | Wintertime Donors & Website ----- | 5 |
| Moynier's Second Edition -----     | 4 | Excerpts from House Log -----     | 5 |

## AIARE ..... from page-1

Cont'd on Page-2

**Karl Klassen** is a mountain guide certified by the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides, a member of the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations, and an active professional member of the Canadian Avalanche Association. Karl has developed, implemented, taught, and examined on professional guide courses as well as professional and recreational avalanche courses since 1988. He has written and edited numerous professional technical manuals and documents in the guiding and avalanche fields.

Together, Jean and Karl began development of a decision-maker's avalanche course. The course they created attained recognition from the American Mountain Guides Association as a requirement for ski guide certification. By 1999, their Level 3 courses were being taught across the country by the University of Maine in New England, by the **Bardini Foundation** and Alpine Skills International in California, and by Adventures to the Edge in Colorado.

The AIARE was created in response to requests from instructors and students for a more standardized approach to education. They recognized a lack of suitable instructor and student materials required to teach standardized courses. Jean and Karl felt that students required judgement based decision making frameworks and needed to learn not only how to avoid avalanche problems but how to make realistic decisions in avalanche terrain.

**AIARE goals:**

- 1- To support and/or undertake projects that promote the understanding of avalanches, standardize avalanche education, raise public awareness, and enhance public safety.
- 2- To provide the highest quality in avalanche education.
- 3- To address a variety of decision-making

- levels.
- 4- To encourage the accumulation of experience as well as education.
- 5- To develop a "worldwide" network.

**AIARE** is requesting donations from individuals, organizations, foundations, government bodies, and private corporations to support administrative costs and projects for 2000. You may stipulate that a portion of any donations mailed to the Bardini Foundation be applied to this project or you may make your check out directly to *American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education* and mail it to:

**American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education  
Box 91  
Crested Butte, CO 81224**

Donations are tax deductible and may be designated to one or more of the following specific projects:

- Program Development
- Instructor Materials
- Instructor Training

A complete packet outlining details of

## Edge Stone at the American Mountain Center



The American Alpine Club just sent us this photograph of the 6X10 sandstone "edger" that will be laid in the Mountain Center's terrace. Next time you visit Golden, Colorado make sure you go to the American Mountain Center and visit the terrace.

## Tribal Youth .... from Page-1

snow science and avalanche prediction portion of the seminar was postponed.

Toni Richards and Dale Bard of Black Diamond were instrumental in acquiring donations of warm hats and gloves, and connecting with Matt Monson of Atlas Snowshoes for 14 pair of snowshoes. CRAG, the local climbers' group, provided \$100 toward the purchase of spare sunglasses. The donated equipment will continue to be available for educational purposes through the Foundation.

## Bardini House .. from Page-1

The Bardini House **must be reserved in advance**, preferably by phone. The person(s) or group making the reservation should understand that the Bardini House has only one bedroom with a queen size bed (clean bed linens are provided). Other sleeping accommodations are left up to the guests. Most groups use sleeping bags and pads. Groups numbering as many as six can make do by sleeping on the newly carpeted livingroom floor. **Once reserved, no other persons will be accepted** as guests unless permitted by the original reserving party. This rule applies to the entire premises. No tents other than those of the reserving party will be allowed except with the reserving party's permission.

Keep in mind that this is a very small house with a small kitchen and a tiny bathroom. **It is not advisable to try to sleep more than six people in this place.** Groups MUST be compatible or things can get real tense!

We will begin to ask for credit card guarantees on reservations in the near future. With no card guarantee we may not be able to guarantee guests exclusive use of the facilities.

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

## CLAMPS

by Allan Bard

"Hey you're actually skiing on pin bindings. Wow, a real three pinner." In a day when most folks that enjoy free heel skiing are employing some variety of cable binding this realization was somewhat of an anomaly to the ski patroller who thought he'd met the last ski-a-saurus.

"Well", I said, "I came by it honestly, I've been a backcountry skier for quite a while, long before we were reduced to being just telemarkers."

"But why do you use three pins? Aren't cables better?", asked the puzzled patroller.

"Frankly, three pin bindings are half the weight, half the cost and twice as dependable as any of the cables. At least that's my opinion."

Even these simple concepts seemed to elude him, and why not? He didn't come from a cross country skiing background. He, like hundreds maybe thousands of skiers new to the sport, is an alpine skier turned telemarker and simplicity of equipment doesn't seem to compute. Bigger and more, not necessarily better, are age-old American traditions. Remember when cars were kind of gaudy and huge and had tail fins? These relics are no longer with us, thank God, and maybe the cable binding will go the way of the Edsel.

Over seventy years ago the three pin clamp became the improved ski touring binding over several incarnations of toe iron, strap and cable combinations. The Norwegian Roteffela binder (translated: Rat Trap) became literally the "better mouse trap". Now we seem to be taking a giant step backwards. Is this retro-tech or what? Some might say that three pins are old technology, but I say, "If it ain't broke don't fix it!" Once our boot and binding system was standardized, we had a 75mm three pin binding that fit all boots, needed no adjustment, was cheap and worked just great. Not only were all the boots and bindings compatible, but all the bindings were interchangeable with the same screw hole pattern. Now, although the boots and bindings are still compatible, there is little else to recommend this "improved" technology. Traditionally, history keeps repeating itself until we finally get the picture and actually evolve for other reasons than change for the sake of change.

At all the most recent ski demos there is a most interesting activity that is rather new to the ski touring world - binding adjustment. In

former times the reps just handed you skis and said have fun, now they have you stand on the carpeted platform, fill you full of the normal marketing boondoggle and twist, wrench, and screw you into the "latest" rage - the cable binding. I used to be able to ski on twenty different skis in the same day, now ten or fifteen is all that I have time for in a day of ski testing. Why? Because I'm fooling around with bindings instead of skiing. On that note I'm always faster in and out of my three pins than folks with cables. Sorry gang, there are no friends on a powder day. Cable heads get the second tracks when they ski with me. In addition, if you want to trade skis with someone it is difficult if not impossible unless



**Allan Bard in his element**

Photo by **Gordon Wiltsie**

your boots are the same size. What a drag, especially when it used to be so easy and one binding fit all boots.

Cables began increasing in popularity when they seemed to help the performance of otherwise whimpy, old style noodle boots. They gave the boot more torsional rigidity and kept the heel from slipping off the ski. Pardon me for pointing out the obvious, but the most floppy boots today are far more substantial than even the most bricked out footwear of yesteryear. The plastic boot revolution has all but eliminated the need for cable bindings. Why I don't even put the heel plates on most of my skis. You don't believe me? Try it for yourself. Why do I need cables with such meaty performance boots? I've heard the rationales for cables matched with plastic

boots and, personally, in practice I find no advantages and plenty of disadvantages.

I've been told that stiff plastic boots will lever the toe right out of the pins and clamps. I'm sure this is possible if the care is not taken to install the boot properly into the binding in the first place. How does the old adage go, "never time to do it right and always time to do it over." When one is used to simply stepping into alpine bindings, cleaning the binding of snow and making sure that the boot toe holes are properly seated over the pins must seem tedious. Maybe about as much of a pain as mucking about with the cable. The difference is that the pin binding is still cheaper, lighter, it has less moving parts to break (and they all break, don't kid yourself) and affords all the performance of cables when the boot is properly installed.

This is a backcountry sport. We ply our craft far from the maddening crowds and the repair shops. If I carried all the different binding parts to repair all the different cable bindings, my already huge repair kit would double in weight. It seems that none of the cables are interchangeable. I suppose the lack of interchangeable parts is true of regular alpine clamps and A/T gear too. Maybe that is why three pins have always seemed the obvious choice in the backcountry.

Now I'll bet that this radically simplistic approach to connecting boots to skis will ruffle more than a few feathers from consumers and manufacturers alike. Oh well? I've been skiing in the backcountry most of my life and ski guiding for almost twenty-five years and I've seen a lot of fad gimmick gear come and go. Heel locators, 50mm bindings, ski-knee leashes, mohair strips, mica bases and aluminum edges all seemed like a good idea once. Now most of that gear collects dust in my garage. If you love your cables and think I'm full of baloney - that's cool! But have you tried pin bindings? The theory that always works is that skiing is about skiing not about gear. All the high tech gear in the world won't make you a better skier or somehow do the skiing for you. More is not always better. Keep it simple. Keep the gear light and the skiing nimble and most important - just ski.

### Editor's Note:

This piece by Allan is at least 3 to 4 years old. Innovation in mountaineering equipment has continued almost as rapidly as the advance of computer technology. Rapid change in these times is inevitable, but in the selection of gear that takes you into the backcountry, Allan's conviction that simplicity and versatility are the major attributes to be sought remains a tenet to live by ... your life could depend on it.

## Bardini House Notes

The cold winter months and heavy guest traffic at the hostel limited the scheduled improvements to that of replacing the old tarp with a permanent fiberglass roof over Bardini's boathouse. Ed Cereda and Don Lauria pictured below were the prime movers on this project. All the Foundation rafting and river camping equipment is now safely sheltered from the elements. We still intend to beautify the bathroom with new flooring and an improved shower environment.



One of the Foundation's most enthusiastic and unheralded contributors, Jim Valensi, should have been mentioned in the last few newsletters for his constant attention to the fire safety at the hostel. He has replaced all the fire extinguishers and added one to the deck area outside. In addition, he repainted the laundry area. All this at his own expense and without solicitation. Thanks Jim.

## Shooting Star Guides

The Allan Bard Shooting Star Guides are a set of five climbing guidebooks ... better described as route cards... printed on waterproof, tear-resistant paper. They give you 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 guides are available on a wholesale basis to climbing shops and book stores throughout the western states and to the public directly by mail.

### Retail Price:

**\$25.00** for a full set of 5  
(includes shipping)  
Calif. residents add applicable tax

## Important Notice

Bardini E-Mail Address Has Changed to: [bardini@schat.com](mailto:bardini@schat.com)

## Bardini House Information

### 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**.

### 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.

### 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 Years Day sometimes require the same tolerance.

## Moynier's Book Dedicated to Allan Bard

The second edition of **John Moynier's** backcountry skiing book **Backcountry Skiing California's High Sierra**, formerly *Backcountry Skiing in the High Sierra*, is prefaced with "Perhaps the biggest change since the last edition was the passing of ... Allan Bard. The Sage of the Sierra, the Great Bardini ... this book is dedicated to him ... I hope that the Spirit of Bardini lives on in the pages of this book and that the Range of Light inspires you as it has so many of us." **Backcountry Skiing California's High Sierra** by John Moynier, Falcon Publishing, Inc., Helena, MT, \$14.95

## 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

## 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. A mountaineer's hostel for climbers and skiers at Allan's 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.**

## Wintertime 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. Others made anonymous cash contributions. Our thanks to you all.

### Individuals:

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Arthur Baggett       | Steve Marien     |
| John & Jules Barklow | Peter Mayfield   |
| Dan Blackburn        | Bob Meador       |
| Rick Casemore        | Bill Russell     |
| Kathy Cosely         | Barbara Schantin |
| Brad Gould           | Jim Valensi      |
| Wayne Griffin        | Todd Vogel       |
| Bob Grosse           | Dave Weston      |
| Paul Harris          | James Wilson     |
| Mark Houston         | Nyri & the kids  |

### Businesses & Organizations:

Squid Ink (Joe & Nancy McKeown)  
Wilson's Eastside Sports

## Special Thanks to John Moynier

To **John Moynier** for his mention of the **Bardini Foundation** ski guide services on his Eastern Sierra page of the **Cyber Space Avalanche Center** website: [www.csac.org](http://www.csac.org)

## Excerpts from the House Log Book

"I wrote my first song in the Bardini House, 'High Sierra November ... Smoke Blanchard and Norman Clyde, and the Great Bardini by my side' "  
- **Jamie Anderson**

"E viva il Grande Bardini! What a great space. I've got to stop now before I cry all over the page. Thank you, thank you, thank you."  
- **C.B & Betsy**

"We really enjoyed our stay here. It is just the way Allan's name is going around the globe."  
- **Bina & Dominiti from Switzerland**

"... full of amazement that such a house exists - many thanks."  
- **Duncan McCallum & Saskia Anley from Scotland**

"Another precious autumn in the Range of Light. The Right Reverend would be proud. See you on the Backside, Allan. We miss you!"  
- **Richard & Cory Lerversee**

"Bittersweet sadness amid the laughter within these walls ... There is no death where love continues so strongly."  
- **Kelly & Tom**

"Within the moment we walked in the door the mighty Bardini's spirit had enveloped our hearts. May Allan's love for these hills be infused in all that pass through here."  
- **Chip Chase from West Virginia**

"We will pass on Bardini's loving and adventurous spirit ..."  
- **Anon.**

"...a wonderful spirited place ... this place is full of legend ..."  
- **Joshua McCreedy from Michigan**

"The spirit lives, thanks to Bardini for all. Left with a smile and a great 5 days on the slopes Bardini called his backyard." - **Tom**

"As I stepped up to the stove, I said, 'I am not afraid'. With a bang and flame it said, 'Fear you will!' "  
- **Nat Krankus**

"Hospitality, like water, flows freely from nature, always downhill, toward rest in a great basin among men." - **Matthias Beebe**

"... a refuge after a few hundred miles on the Pacific Crest Trail ... listening to interesting stories of climbers and getting an idea of special people like Allan."  
- **Don**

## Foundation Has a Website in the Works

The Bardini Foundation has reserved the name **bardini.org** and is in the process of building a website to promote our stated purpose and provide international access to our newsletter.

## \*\*\* Y2K Foundation Activities \*\*\*



There's Still Time!

Sign Up Now!

These camps are unique in the Eastern Sierra ...  
You can't afford to miss this opportunity

### Annual Bardini Ski Camp

May 16-20, May 22-26

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

### Annual Bardini Climbing Camp

July 23-27, July 30-August 3

In the summer of 2000, the Foundation will be putting together another 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 will continue the tradition. Guided climbs and instruction at all levels of rock, snow, and ice technique will be offered. As with the ski camp, amenities abound.

## Support Foundation Efforts

read our Statement of Purpose - 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 Foundation

515 Sierra Street  
Bishop CA 93514

### The Backside of Beyond

Volume II

March 2000

Number 2

The quarterly newsletter of the  
**Bardini Foundation**

515 Sierra Street  
Bishop CA 93514-2330  
(760) 872-1665  
(760) 873-8036  
bardini@schat.com  
climber@telis.org

Publisher/Editor

Don Lauria

Board of Directors

Gary Bard, Dale Bard, Ed Cereda, Jane Dulaney, David King,  
Don Lauria, John Moynier,  
Doug Robinson, Rick Saez, Kurt Stolzenburg,  
Tim Villanueva

