



The Backside of Beyond

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Fall 2000 Issue

CAUTION

Website Under Construction

On December 16 we began the construction of our official Bardini Foundation website: www.bardini.org. Check it out! It's very rough, but it's a beginning.

In the very near future, as we proceed with the development, the site will offer all the back issues of this newsletter as well as all subsequent issues. These issues will be in Acrobat .pdf format for high resolution and easy printout. Another plus! The newsletters will be in color and it will be your ink, not ours!

The website will eventually be maintained on a daily basis with features that may include photographs and articles submitted by the public at large, links to other sites of common interest, on-line shopping for Bardini promotional items, and even a bulletin board/chat room for announcements and discussion among the friends of Bardini.

The possibilities are innumerable and your suggestions will be greatly appreciated. Send suggestions to: don@bardini.org

Tax Exempt Status Update

TEAM Engineering & Management, Inc., a Bishop-based firm, is continuing its efforts toward establishing an IRS 501(3)(c) tax exempt corporate status for the Foundation. Thanks, Karen and Walt!

Jim Zellers Slideshow

Jim Zellers, snowboarder supreme and Pastor of the Seventh Day Recreationists Church, entertained about sixty believers at **Mammoth Mountaineering Supply** the evening of December 20th. The presentation covered his global experiences on the extreme slopes of Africa, Nepal, Siberia, and Alaska, culminating with his daring descent off Half Dome in Yosemite Valley. Jim dedicated the beginning and end of the 90 minute sermon to Allan Bard and the spirit of the Right Reverend Bardini of the Church of the Open Slopes.



photo by Richard Leverage

Zellers donated the total proceeds from the show to the Bardini Foundation. Mammoth Mountaineering Supply donated a matching sum and provided refreshments. Thanks to Jim and Dave.

Gil Roberts - Chuck Pratt

Just as we were ready to print this issue we received the news of Chuck Pratt's death. He and Gil Roberts deserve more than a few lines here ... so ... next issue.

Request for E-Mail

We would appreciate that those of you with Internet access would e-mail us your e-mail addresses so that we may send your newsletters via Internet. Mailing out 500+ newsletters via the U.S. Postal Service is a costly and time consuming job ... a 1-man job done at home with a personal computer. Imagine, if you will, the amount of time it takes to create, edit, print out, collate, staple, fold, seal, label, and stamp 500 newsletters (1500 sheets, 3000 pages). Not only will the e-mail avenue save us the cost of postage, paper, toner cartridges, and labels, but it will speed up the process by days.

Please send your e-mail addresses to:

don@bardini.org

Bardini Guides Finish WFR Course

Tim Villanueva and Don Lauria successfully completed the **Wilderness First Responder** course sponsored by Sierra Mountain Center. Thirty-one students attended the 10-day, 80-hour, intensive wilderness emergency medical course.

The course was taught by the NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute at the University of California Research Station near the Owens River outside of Bishop, California. Nick Rathbone and Cindi Landis were the WMI instructors.

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Moose

by Dennis Miller



Moose is loose and out of the yard.
He's looking for his master, an angel named Bard!

He left in a hurry, no time to delay.
There's a rope down from heaven, he's got his belay!

Moose is loose and look at him fly,
Cruising the clouds way up high.

He's barking and growling and flapping his wings,
Listen to the sound of that dog angel sing!

If it starts to rain and the thunder gets loud,
It's just Mr. Moose pissing on a big cloud!

Everyone cried so Goddamn hard,
But it's over now, he's found his master Bard!

Moose is loose and he's on his way home,
Sniffing the clouds looking for a free bone!

Next time you hear the wind start to howl,
It ain't the wind, it's just a Moose growl!

Moose is loose and out of the yard,
He's found his master, an angel named Bard!

- Millis

From the Bardini House Log

"I feel the presence of the kindred spirit of the great outdoors. This gift to the outdoor community is of such a personal nature that I am truly honored to be allowed this brief sojourn."

- Steve Trevzani

"I'd like to thank ... the spirit of the Great Bardini for [his] hospitality. This not a hostel, it is very much a home ... I think it is important to keep all the information about Allan in the House so everyone can appreciate what a special person he was. His spirit will live on."

- Wes Petty

"What can I say? The Bardini Foundation has made all the difference. The climbing in Bishop is phenomenal ... Everything is more than perfect - ideal situation minus the super model neighbors and indoor hot tub."

- Marcus Ainsworth

"It would be difficult to complain about the ... Bardini [House], let alone ... embellish an already perfect ... pad. Top notch!"

- Christopher Motta

"Passing thru from the backcountry. It's always so instantly grounding to touch base here with friends."

- Doug Robinson

"I have always loved the Bishop area, but the Bardini House made this trip amazing. I think only those who truly appreciate the outdoors can appreciate the Bardini House and the good spirits within ... Like the outdoors, this place is something we cannot afford to lose."

- James Peters

"Another excellent stay at the Bardini House. This place is so welcoming and cozy."

- Bill & Anne Stanley

Editor's Note:

Rarely does **Dennis Miller (aka Millis)** do anything predictable ... except maybe something totally unexpected.

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

Don't Be Stupid!

by Allan Bard

I want to talk about safe ski travel. Maybe it was just a bad year, but last year I saw more thoughtless tactics used in bad avalanche terrain in more different mountain states than ever before. There are many questions in the avalanche game but there are only a few answers. The first answer is "shit happens". Even the most cautious and educated of us can be caught up in "act of God" situations. This, however isn't an excuse for not adhering to the second rule for all such questions: Don't be stupid. Considering all the possibilities and the endless list of conditions and situations, to make a best guess about avalanche safety is an all but overwhelming task. This potentially complicated and frustrating theme in the avalanche game is not an excuse to throw up one's hands in despair, turn off your brain, hope for the best, and ski the slope anyway. Might as well put one in the chamber, spin it, put it to your head, and hope the hammer hits a chamber without a bullet. That kind of thoughtless action is not just lame, it's crippled.

Believe me, I've heard some pretty weak excuses for skiing certain slopes:

"It was such a nice day."

"We were all such good friends."

"We never thought anything would happen to us."

"It (the slope) seemed safe."

"It was such a beautiful open slope and the snow was so nice and deep."

Does this sound as ludicrous to you as it did to me? These are not concrete facts, measured against some semblance of reason and safety. These are non-answers that represent non-thinking. Some of these comments came from very experienced skiers that you would think should know better. Even more appalling, there are more than a few skiers out there that don't even come up with a vague reason for skiing a dangerous slope, they don't want to think about it, they just go. I implore you, don't do this - there's no future in it.

Okay, so how does one prevail against stupidity? The simple answer is education. Take an avalanche course. They're fun, interesting, and it will undoubtedly make

you more aware of finding both safe snow and good quality snow. And while I'm on the subject, this applies to those of you from the Midwest and the Northeast. Education never hurt anybody and avalanches can happen anywhere on any snowy incline, even if they are cloaked in trees. I get reports every year from friends in New England that tell of avalanche hazard in places far from the steep mountain slopes of the West. Don't kid yourself, it happens... and avalanches in the trees are ugly.

Having said "take a course", let me tell you a little about what you might learn. The basics are weather, snowpack, terrain, and travel techniques, or what I call protocol. Let's start with the first two. Predicting weather is at best educated guesswork. Finding out what the weather has delivered to you is just reading the measurements. Snow pack study, which is always so interesting in an avalanche course, can often create as many questions in a stability evaluation as it can answer, particularly for beginners. In addition to that, no matter what you know about the snow or the weather you can never know enough to be absolutely certain and you can't really do anything to affect their condition. In short, you get what you get. The snow pack and weather always stay just outside your realm of influence. But, you do have control over the terrain you choose to ski and travel protocols you choose to employ. Let's have a look at these options.

Choosing terrain carefully and then skiing it safely are the stock and trade of a ski guide. It is a fairly simple process that anybody can grasp and accomplish almost immediately, even though it may take years to refine. Let's start with the basics. The easiest element to understand is steepness. The pitch of a slope plays a major role in whether or not it slides. A slide most often occurs on slopes between 25 and 45 degrees. The magic number is 38 degrees. An amazing number of slides happen, both skier releases and natural releases, on slopes where the starting zones were 38 degrees. Go figure? Even so, the slope angle is something that can be measured easily and accurately.

Slope shape also plays a role in predicting stability. Snow is stronger under compression than under tension. The down side to this information is that although concave slopes have a more favorable shape because the snow is under compression, the cupped or bowl-like shape has a tendency to collect more snow, hence more loading and potentially more hazard. Convex slopes are being pulled apart under the forces of tension. Wind pillows, break-overs, and cornices are all examples of terrain that should be avoided whenever possible.

The aspect of a slope relative to sun and wind is also an important factor. Slopes in the lee of the wind will collect more snow than would naturally fall on the slope during a snowstorm. This additional snow depth created by the wind would increase the total load and potentially cause problems. This is particularly so near the top of the slope in the starting zones. The amount of sun a slope gets is largely dependent on which way the slope faces. In the northern hemisphere in winter, north slopes get little or no sun and south slopes get lots of sun. Lack of sun keeps the snow cold, but perpetuates whatever instability there might be. Sunny south slopes change the snow quickly causing instability initially, but usually stabilizing the slope fairly fast. The steepness, shape, and aspect of the terrain are critical to predicting potential stability and choosing a safe passage.

Knowledge of snowpack and terrain help one to know where to go and, adhering to strict travel protocol, will answer the questions of how to ski there safely. There are some that may not agree with my rather conservative approach, but few that can argue with the results. One of the initial thoughts on this subject is that no matter how safe you think the snow is, always treat it as if it is dangerous. Never second-guess this situation. In terms of uphill travel, try to pick the low angle terrain for your approach. As much as one can, stay in well anchored (e.g., heavily forested, rock outcrops, etc.) areas. Always cross open slopes one at a time or very spread out, moving from island of safety to island of safety. Be careful about the potential for being strained through trees or swept over cliffs. If one has a choice avoid open slopes and crossing any avalanche paths. Try to cross under the path or along the ridges above the hazards. Always carry shovels, avalanche beacons, probe poles, and other emergency equipment like first aid kits and extra clothing. Make sure you have practiced with the beacons and that you have a contingency plan in case of an accident. Assume nothing. For instance, make sure everybody in your touring group is wearing a beacon and that it is operational with a physical check on every ski tour. When downskiing, take a conservative line first. Ski in the trees or near the trees as much as you can. Make sure you have identified an escape route before you ski. Ski one-at-a-time, from island of safety to island of safety. When you reach the safe zone stand as close to the trees or rock outcrops as you can. The casual approach, standing too far from the safe zone, could still result in being swept away. I always use the buddy system even though we may be skiing one-at-a-time. Stay ready and prepared. Stay warm

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Don't Be Stupid!

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and stay together. These are the basics of good safe travel protocol.

When the questions of avalanche safety cannot be answered by the first two rules, remember the final important rule: bring beer. If it is so dangerous that a ski tour is out of the question, a tall ale and discussions of ski tours and powder shots past and future is a safe approach. If on the other hand, you've managed to stay a half step ahead of disaster and have had a glorious day of skiing to boast about, then a beer or two is a fitting finale to the celebration of a fine winter day. There are many problems to solve in the avalanche game but only three basic governing principals: shit happens, don't be stupid, and if all else fails, bring beer. In all seriousness gang, in this upcoming ski season, remember to have fun, ski well, but please, please be safe.

Editor's Note: Please remember that the Bardini Foundation sponsors all levels of avalanche courses. See the back page for details.

Bardini Edge Stone Before and After

The Allan Bard memorial edge stone is now in place in the terrace at the American Mountain Center in Golden, Colorado.



Andy Selters, local mountaineer and photographer, was in Golden last fall and gave us a photo of the edge stone set in its permanent location.

Bardini House Information

Use Donations

Stays are limited to 10 days except by special arrangement. We hope that our guests consider a **\$10 per night donation** to the Foundation an appropriate contribution to the maintenance of the house. These donations should be deposited **IN ADVANCE**.

General

Guests may use the kitchen, and bathroom facilities; the stereo, VCR, and TV system; the outside deck, BBQ, and lawn (tents on back lawn ONLY); the laundry washer may be used, but the freezer in the laundry is for Foundation use **ONLY**. If you need a freezer use the refrigerator's freezer in the kitchen. Heat is by wood fire or body heat conservation ... wood is supplied ... body heat is the guest's responsibility.

TV/Stereo/VCR

Guests are free to use the TV, stereo, and VCR. Videos of current and classic movies are on the bookshelves. Anyone wishing to donate videos or mountaineering/skiing books to our library should contact the hosts. Questions on the operation of the equipment should be directed to either Kurt or Don.

Monday Nights & Other Significant Occasions

Guests must be prepared to share the premises and the TV for Monday night football with the regular locals that wander in (usually about 4 to 5, but sometimes as many as 10). It's generally a painless experience and usually adds to the ambiance. Meals are prepared and guests are welcome to partake. Superbowl Sunday and New Year's Day sometimes require the same tolerance.

Ken McNutt Remembered

An old friend of Ken McNutt's, Kent Steele, wrote the foundation to thank us for the last issue's story, "**The Tower**". McNutt was his closest friend and although Kent did not know Allan Bard, he said, "... I wish I had."

Kent is a lawyer living in Idyllwild, California, in the shadow of Tahquitz Rock and Suicide Rock, where so many of us, including McNutt and most of the early Yosemite pioneers, learned to climb on some of the finest granite in the world. Kent has offered us any assistance we need in establishing our tax exempt status and we intend to use his expertise when the need arises ... and it will.

Kent reminisced about McNutt's stories of being born in a drafty cabin in Arkansas - a cabin "so drafty you could throw a large dog through the cracks" - and how McNutt

served in the infantry at the Battle of the Bulge, and later became an engineer in the aerospace industry. Steele said, "People like Allan and Ken leave us with a desire for more - more time, more sage advice, more wine, more fun. They also leave us feeling like we didn't really earn the friendship they so freely gave to us."

Foundation Guides Attend ISSW 2000

Tim Villanueva and Don Lauria attended the **International Snow Science Workshop** held in Big Sky, Montana, October 1 through October 4. Over 600 attended the international workshop. Sixteen countries were represented.

Four days and thirty-two scientific presentations later, the Bardini attendees emerged enlightened and better prepared for the oncoming avalanche courses to be sponsored by the foundation. See the back page for avalanche course details.

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 guest house for itinerant climbers and skiers (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. Slide shows and seminars on mountain sports, safety, and photography
8. Funds to train and accredit, in cooperation with the American Mountain Guides Association, mountain guides of Allan's quality
9. Support for environmental and cultural projects of community interest in Bishop, California
10. Sponsorship of courses in avalanche safety, mountain emergency medical practices, rockclimbing/mountaineering skills, and wilderness appreciation

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.**

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)

Fall 2000 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. Our thanks to you all.

Individuals:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Marcus Ainsworth | Lawrence Nelson |
| Rick Barker | Walt Pachucki |
| Jules & John Barklow | Paul Patterson |
| Karen Brorsen | Wes Petty |
| Kelley Chinn | Cici Reed |
| C. Clay Greene | Stephen Schneider |
| T.J. Heibel | Barbara Schantin |
| Peter Horvath | Andy Selters |
| Brian Kelleher | Anne & Bill Stanley |
| Mike Kennet | J. Kent Steele |
| Marcus Kohl | R.T. Thomas |
| Tom Long | Bob Trousdale |
| Russ McLean | Arlene Ustin |
| Christopher Motta | Carolyn Walker |
| Joy Mueller | Jim Zellers |

Businesses & Organizations:

- Mammoth Mountaineering Supply
- Wilson's Eastside Sports
- TEAM Engineering & Management, Inc.

Bardini Baseball Caps



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

only \$10

Bardini Coffee Mugs



10-oz. white porcelain mug with the Bardini logo

only \$5

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



Winter & Spring Foundation Activities



Avalanche Courses

- | | | |
|------------------|--|----------------------|
| Level I | Introductory course - no prerequisites | Jan 4-6 and Feb 9-10 |
| Level II | Intermediate course - Level I required | Feb 2-4 |
| Level III | Advanced course - Levels I & II required | Mar 1-4 |

Spring Ski Safari

May 7-11

Guided Sierra ski descents. Locations vary dependent on snow conditions.

Bardini Ski Camp

May 21-25

The annual Bardini Ski Camp in the Palisades. Take guided day tours from our fully stocked camp near Third Lake. Tents, a cook tent, stove, solar showers, and fresh food are just a few of the amenities offered. You travel to camp with only your personal gear.

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

Support Foundation Efforts

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

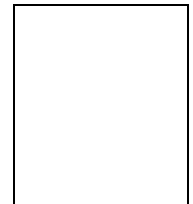
T's only \$12.00
Polo's only \$15.00

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



Bardini Foundation

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