



Bardini

The Backside of Beyond

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Summer 2008

Owens Valley Youth Group Comes Of Age

On our fourth annual outing with an Owens Valley youth group, the foundation finally got the boys into the wilderness on a 4-day trip to the area below Banner Peak. This was their first overnight wilderness experience.

On **June 26th**, ten boys and three staff counselors, along with two Bardini guides, Tim Villanueva and Don Lauria, ventured out from Agnew Meadows heading for a camp between Shadow Lake and Lake Ediza. Most of the group mounted horses and, followed by seven mules, they moved out on the San Joaquin River Trail. Three of the group backpacked in.

This year the group was afforded the opportunity to learn snow travel skills and to hone their rock climbing techniques. Ice axe arrests, glissading, and step-kicking were new experiences for the boys that desired them. Others spent time fishing, learning leave-no-trace rules, and how to live with campfire smoke and mosquitoes.

In discussions around the campfire each evening, the boys and staff decided that to facilitate raising funds for future outings and to give their group an identity that sponsors could relate to, the group needed a name and a logo. Lots of names were tossed about and one of the boys roughed out a sketch with ice axes and fly rods. The result is on this page.

The **Back Country Boys** offered this statement at the conclusion of the trip:

We wish to thank all of our sponsors and particularly **Reds Meadow Pack Station** for donating the horses and mules that made the trip possible. Finally, it was the **Bardini Foundation** staff and the support of the **Inyo County Department of**

Health and Human Services that made the trip a success.



Back Country Boy near Banner Peak



Back Country Boys logo

Fund Drive Success Thanks to All

Well, you did it again. Our annual fund raising drive that began early last December was a great success. We exceeded the previous year's goal before March 15th and, as is their custom, the **DEW Foundation** matched your contributions to the penny.

As has been explained in the past, a large percentage of the annual donations we receive go to meeting our liability insurance and workmen's comp insurance premiums. With the last two years of successful funding drives we are finally able to begin supporting other non-profits whose missions supplement ours. Environmental organizations like Friends of the Inyo, the Access Fund, and the Mono Lake Committee are groups that we consider each year. We have supported local cultural organizations like the Inyo Council for the Arts since our inception.

In our support of Eastern Sierra youth groups we have been able to supply much needed loan equipment such as climbing shoes, tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, stoves, tarps, and backpacks. In order to meet safety standards our climbing equipment must be constantly upgraded. Part of our funds go to maintenance of this equipment base.

We **look forward to your continuing support** of Bardini in the coming years and we hope to demonstrate to you that your generosity is helping us to fulfill our stated purpose.

This issue of Backside is dedicated to the memory of **Will Crljenko** 1952-2005

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2008 Contributions Individuals

- Benefactor \$1000+**
Paul Rudder
- Angel \$500+**
Gary & Chris Bard
Yvon & Malinda Chouinard
Peter Hackett
Brian Parks
- Patron \$200+**
Tom & Laurie Daniels
Wayne Griffin
Lyman Johnson
Todd & Alisa Lembke
Russell Tucker
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Clay Greene
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- Member \$10+**
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John Wedberg

2008 Contributions Organizations

- Angel \$5000+**
DEW Foundation
- Sustainer \$100+**
TEAM Engineering & Management Inc

Automatic Monthly Donations

Paul Rudder, the Mammoth attorney who was so generous with his time and expertise back when we were struggling to obtain our commercial guide permit, has continued to make automatic monthly \$100 donations to the foundation

It seems Paul has inspired others to follow his example. **Charles Grobe** has initiated an automatic monthly donation of \$50 to the Bardini Foundation.

Thanks to Paul and Charles for their continuing support! Any more takers (givers)?

Incoming

I appreciate your efforts to keep Allan's memory alive through the Foundation's important work.

Tani Barbour, Vista, CA



Had some great moments with my youngest daughter on the ski trails, sharing Allan stories, quotes, and love with her ...

P.S. Great story about [Fred Beckey] on the website ... !

Brian Parks, Madison, WI



Please accept this donation in the memory of **Will Crjenko**.

Clark Trowell, Green Valley, CA



Thank you for keeping me in touch with the newsletter and thoughts of my home town.

Molly Attell, Burlingame, CA



Rock climbing session near
Lake Ediza



Snow school at the base of
Banner Peak

The Carter Letter

The letter was postmarked October 18, 1996. It is a letter written by Tom Carter to Allan Bard. It was written following a long bitter estrangement that arose from business-related disagreements in the management of their Bishop-based mountain guiding service, Alpine Expeditions (AE).

Most of us remember the Tom and Allan show, a few may even remember Alpine Expeditions, and fewer still will recall Yeti Guides.

The letter is a testament to a friendship and a remembrance of times past - eternal friends, good times. To those of us who shared those friends and good times, this letter rekindles a flame that warms the heart.

There is a lesson here for all of us.

A.B.

I've been writing this letter in my head over the years and it will be fairly scattershot, but it is something I feel I want and need to do.

To begin with, I am so grateful for the years we spent together, our friendship, the things we did, because of the unique energy, interests, escapades, etc., they were the very best, glorious days of my life. Adventure, comradeship - we were Yetis. Our love of the hills - we meshed. Not very many get to experience what we did.

I believe you are one of the most remarkable men I have ever known - tops. Your loyalty, commitment, imagination; your power to love, your great scope, talent, and artistry. You were my mentor in guiding and teaching and more. This all remains true to me.

I want you to know that when I'm in the Sierra, I remember all the time, the times. I find myself hoping you are somewhere in the mountains too. At a high camp, approaching a peak, soaking up the sunset - on and on. I hear music from our slide shows and I cry - joyful tears of love. Love of the effort, the light, the plan, the great joy of you and me doing what we did best, what we loved most. It is a great and wonderful feeling. And I've never not felt it. The more I go into the mountains, the more I feel it and the more I want you to know I'm thinking of you, hoping you are in the cirques drinking the air - happy to be in the Sierra.

Our lives, our roads got rough, terrible, at times miserable. But regardless, I feel fortunate to have lived where, how and when I did and do. I know myself a little more each year and realize how selfish, intolerant, ridiculous, mean, untruthful.... However, all that we are not or were not does not measure up to what we shared together. I honor that memory and address my failure at not preserving our brotherhood.

I want you to know that I know you didn't drive a wedge between us. I did. And with all my heart I know how much you tried, slaved at making it work when I was drifting-and purposely cutting myself off from A.E., you, everything. Your honesty, tenacity and commitment were exemplary. Our troubles, aided by me, were emotional. Artificial barriers were crossed, paths to understanding closed and fingers pointed to absurdity. All the reasons each of us had, just or unjust, overpowered what we were to each other. What remains true...our friendship is what I have always remembered and treasured- our ties, times, our dynamics.

Allan, you are a man of honor. I did not honor you during a crucial time, this I know. I expect this letter to elicit numerous emotions and even if we cannot see our way to bury the hatchet, I want you to know what an effect you have had on my life. I admire you.

I do not expect our youthful glory to be revisited- indeed, they were our "glory days", but I would be honored if we could not just make a truce, but actually forgive fully. Despite my destruction of our bonds, I am hoping for time and remembrance to heal and inspire you.

If you are angry, galled by my request - honestly, I understand. I have looked deep into myself and my past. The transgressions warrant anger and disillusionment. Why trust someone who acted like that? We both lashed out over things that could have/ should have been negotiated. But you were at the end of your rope with

Continued on next page

The Carter Letter

continued

with me and everything else. You had been carrying the burden for a long time.

Those times are past. I am not asking you to partner up with me and be what we once were. We believed in each other as I've rarely believed in another, or ever will in a world that was ours for the taking. Exciting stuff. In my heart and soul I know this overpowers what we were not, what we failed at.

I'm getting back into the Sierra more and it feels so good, so soothing. I've been in the **Palisades** a couple of times and hoped we'd run into each other. In fact, I yodeled, hoping for your response, last Spring when I saw tracks I thought could be yours by the old P.S.O.M. camp.

I know we had a damaging wreck, a big wreck, but I want you to know how much our friendship has always meant to me, here's love from my heart and soul,

Tom

Palisades Redux



The Palisades as they will never be seen again.

Looking out from the old Fourth Lake Glacier Camp's little stone shop/café/cabin.

This photo was taken in 1957 or 1958 the day after my brother-in-law and I retrieved an air-dropped food pack from the top of a tall pine tree for Norman Clyde at Third Lake

The pack was kicked out of a Cessna by Bob Symons famed Sierra bush pilot.

It's long story and it was Norman's favorite - to be published in the next newsletter and on www.bardini.org as an anecdote.

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, mountaineering skills, and wilderness appreciation
3. Continued publication and distribution of Allan's Shooting Star Guides
4. A newsletter to promote mountain ethics, protocol, and safety
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



The Back Country Boys climbing in the wilderness

Bardini & the Environment

If one is wondering how the Bardini Foundation "fits" into the category of environmental activist, one can go to Patagonia's website grant application guidelines where it is stated that "the battle to save our environment will never be won unless the public is informed."

The Bardini Foundation has three approaches to reach the goal of an informed public:

Recreational through guided treks, ski tours, and peak climbs

Educational through rock climbing and avalanche courses

Conservationist through leave-no-trace classes.

All of our youth activities are conducted gratis. Our guiding and educational service fees are minimal--priced well below the market because we seek no profit and require no growth. We need only meet the immediate expense of the service. Our general operating expenses are covered through donations.

Muir wrote that the Sierra should be explored by everyone with "the right manners of the wilderness". In that vein, we strive to enlist the support and cooperation of our clientele, the common man, in preserving the forests and other natural features of the Sierra Nevada by allowing them to explore and enjoy the Sierra Nevada with specific attention to minimum impact use. Excursions of this sort, properly conducted, do an infinite amount of good toward awakening proper interest in the forests and the other natural features of the Sierra.

Ansel Adams said "the mountains are more to us than a mere proving ground of strength and alert skill. Rock climbing should be considered a thrilling means to a more important end." After all, rock climbing has spawned many environmental activists, Yvon Chouinard and David Brower being among the more prominent.

Brower implied that mountain outings are "the best source of the conservation warrior." Muir argued that travelers come back from the wilderness ready to fight for its preservation. The Bardini Foundation is dedicated to creating future warriors for the wilderness.



Support Foundation Efforts



Bardini

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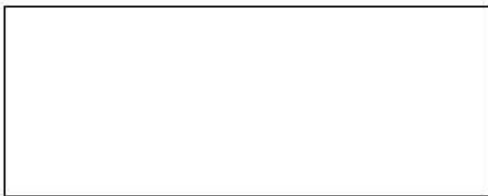
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Bardini Foundation

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