



Bardini

# The Backside of Beyond

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Winter 2010/2011 Issue

## Busy Winter/Spring Season

The ski season of 2009/2010 for Tim Villanueva, the foundation's chief ski guide, was a busy one.

From January through May, Tim led 29 day tours involving 19 clients into areas such as Mt. Morgan, Mt. Kidd, Mt. Morrison, and Mammoth Crest.

In March he gave a full day snow safety clinic to the Bishop High School ski team. A morning session was held indoors with lectures and discussions and the afternoon was spent learning the use of avalanche beacons and the basics of performing an avalanche rescue

## Your Last Paper Copy of the Newsletter?

If you have an e-mail address and you received this newsletter via the United States Postal Service (USPS), you should reconsider your subscription.

The Bardini Foundation is seriously considering **limiting the distribution of paper copies** of this newsletter to those of you that notify us of your preference.

Paper copies are not environmentally justifiable and, as they represent our greatest expense next to insurance, they are hard for us to justify financially.

If you have no access to e-mail reception and want to continue receiving a paper copy via the U.S Postal Service, we ask that you let us know by writing us at PO Box 1422, Bishop, CA 93515 or phoning us at 700-873-8036.

All the issues, past and present, of **Backside of Beyond** are available on our website, [www.bardini.org](http://www.bardini.org).

This issue of Backside is dedicated to the memory of **John Fischer** 1946-2010



**John Fischer Memorial** near Conway Summit

John Fischer, long-time Bishop resident and last owner of the Palisades School of Mountaineering, died in a motorcycle accident on June 5th of this year. John was on his way to meet friends at Virginia Lakes when he struck a deer near Conway Summit on Highway 395.

On September 12, a memorial attended by over a hundred fellow climbers, friends, and relatives, was held at Mill Creek Station just north of Bishop. His sister Kate summed it up on the SuperTopo website:

"What an amazing assembly that represented decades of John's friends and mentors!

It was an awesome afternoon, filled with bright light, fluttering prayer flags, and sometimes [long] silence during speeches."

**Just don't climb the mountain, be the mountain**

## Here We Go Again Annual Fund Raiser

Again, last year's fund raiser was the success that we had hoped for. **Please make this year as successful as last.**

Support for the Bardini Foundation is an annual need - contributions make up 50% of our gross income.

The **Dale & Edna Walsh (DEW) Foundation** will again be matching each dollar received through **March 15, 2011.**

The DEW Foundation director, **Shai Edberg**, has made this very generous annual commitment of matching funds. Each of your donated dollars will be doubled.

The monies generated by our annual fund raiser finance our **liability insurance expenses** and also enable us to maintain and renew the **mountaineering equipment** that is used in our youth activities and guide services - tents, ropes, hardware, sleeping bags, etc.

For tax purposes your **donation is 100% tax deductible**. If you require confirmation Bardini will snail mail or email you a letter confirming the date and amount of your donation.

## Finally, Mount Clarence King

Three Bishop women, all an experienced mountaineers, began in 2005 to seek out the 4th class Sierra summits that had so far eluded them—all they needed was someone to guide them.

Bardini guide, Don Lauria, led them up Mt. Humphreys (13,986 ft) in 2005, Bear Creek Spire (13,713 ft) in 2006, and finally, Mt. Clarence King (12,905 ft) in 2010.

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## 2009 Contributions Individuals

**Benefactor \$1000+**

Paul Rudder

**Angel \$500+**

Yvon & Malinda Chouinard  
David Huntsman  
Jean & Brian Parks  
Chris Smith

**Patron \$200+**

Carol Broberg  
Wayne Griffin  
Lyman Johnson  
Todd & Alisa Lembke  
Jeanne Walter

**Partner \$100+**

Molly Attell  
Andy Carson  
Sharon & Craig Campbell  
Drew Dembowski  
Jeff Dozier  
John Eilts  
Dennis Hennek  
Glenn Hirayama  
Joe McKeown  
Robert Nagy  
Richard Parker  
Bruce Russell  
Bill St Jean  
Stan Sanderson  
Paul Trester  
David Weaver

**Contributor \$50+**

Mike Connoly  
Dick Dorworth  
Clay Greene  
Charles Grobe  
Susan Hart  
Bonnie Kamps  
Valerie & David Powdrell

**Sustainer \$25+**

Martin Alfred  
Rick Barker  
Darla Heil  
Mark Goebel  
Lee & Susan Hughes  
Joe Kelsey  
Susan Auer-Lucas  
Jerome Tinling  
Gordon Wiltsie

## Organizations

**Angel \$5000+**

DEW Foundation

**Sustainer \$500+**

Mammoth Mountaineering Supply

## Bardini's Youth Group Work

This past year the Bardini Foundation had limited experience with the two youth groups we are normally involved with—the Back Country Boys of Owens Valley and various Paiute youth groups. Sickness of one of the leaders was cause for one rock climbing session cancellation and schedule conflicts prevented others.

As mentioned on Page-1, Tim conducted a snow safety clinic for the Bishop High School ski team in March.

The foundation did, however, sponsor one Mono Lake kayak tour for four youths. Bardini financed the kayak rental from Caldera Kayaks of Mammoth Lakes.



Kayaking youth at Mono Lake

On an all day tour the boys were lectured on the history of Mono Lake and the uniqueness of its eco system. Despite Mark Twain's description of it as "a lifeless, treeless, hideous desert ... the loneliest place on earth", they learned that the lake is a unique and ancient eco system—over 760,000 years old - a vital habitat for migratory and nesting bird populations.



Bob Behrendt, Back Country Boys advisor, and "the boys"

## Incoming



Please add my email to the Bardini newsletter subscription list. I knew Allan when he worked in Stowe and I climbed with Dale Bard for an entire winter ice season in 76-77. I only just heard about the foundation and will be sending in a donation later today. I am so excited about the website and all that you are doing to share the mountain life with others and in the joyous way that Allan did .

**Richard Parker, Plymouth, NH**

Don, here's my e-mail address. Thanks for all the work you put into this and hope things are going well.

**John Ellsworth, June Lake, CA**

It gives me joy to contribute to honor Allan - our times together were too few.

**Brian Parks, Madison, WI**

Wow! How time flies. I reminisce fondly of our hike up Whitney [the Mountaineer's Route]. I wish I had the energy to go again.

**Susan Lucas, Victorville, CA**

Allan made a difference in my life - and my kids. If anyone of you is in the Sun Valley area, I would love to talk about it.

**Wayne Griffin, Ketcham, ID**

Your newsletter is pretty good. I read the whole thing. I am sure it takes you a bit of time to produce. I think as long as you can stay active with the foundation, it will keep you young.

**David Weaver, Los Olivos, CA**

Hi Don, we met briefly in Idyllwild last November [2009] at the Tahquitz and Suicide Rock climber's reunion ... I've enjoyed "getting to know him" [Allan Bard] through the wonderful anecdotal writings of his friends. Thanks for giving of your time to champion his cause.

**Drew Dembowski, Altadena, CA**

*If your lucky enough to be in the mountains,  
you're lucky enough!*

## TM Herbert

TM Herbert, besides being a famous Yosemite climber and the clown prince of rock climbing history, was at one time a Bishop resident and next door neighbor of Allan Bard

Where do you start with TM? Let's start with his name. As related to me by TM himself, his parents never attached names to the initials. According to his version, his birth certificate has only initials on it. Now it's not unusual for people to be called by nicknames – sometimes by their initials. My son Don was usually referred to as "DJ" by his immediate family, but Herbert took it further. He says his name is "TM" and he should never be referred to as T.M. Herbert because the T and the M don't stand for names. Okay, we got it, but do we believe it? I always have taken him at his word, so I believe it.

Okay, that's a start. Now to explore his character. Talk about characters! TM is THE American Climbing Character. Anybody professing knowledge of American rock climbing history knows of TM Herbert.

TM is the guy who wore a swami belt of 1-inch tubular nylon for part or possibly all of a climbing season without realizing the webbing had a splice maintained by masking tape somewhere around mid length. TM is the person that wrote those outrageously funny notes to me in the 70s imploring me to climb with him - stories funny enough to be published and republished. How can one forget his description of his physical prowess: "... I now weigh 103½ lb. and can still lift the front end of a D-9 tractor. And also I can hold a full lever on the high bar with my wee-wee."

I was climbing Nutcracker Suite with TM back in the 70s. Above the crux somewhere we caught up with a couple of young climbers who were obviously finding the climbing a tad difficult. They were intently watching TM. As Herbert approached them finishing a difficult pitch involving a little lie-backing, he began what I have always referred to as Herbertian whimpering. Gasping, agonizingly, "Watch me here! I'm losing it! Waaaaaatch me!!" The young climbers were beginning to anticipate a catastrophic fall and visibly trembling. TM began muttering, for their benefit as he moved cautiously upward, "Five-eight ... five-eight ... oh, oh, 5.9 ... No only five-eight ... Watch me here!" All of a sudden, with his arms flailing, TM leapt from the lie-back landing right in front of the frightened spectators and began strolling up the steep face toward them gleefully dragging the rope behind him. His hands outstretched toward them, he broke into a trot, throwing in a few of his patented fake stumbles, "Fourth class ... fourth class .., I'm saved ... Thank the Lord, I'm saved." When I got to the belay spot shared with the kids, one of them whispered, "Is that TM Herbert?" I answered, "You think?"

TM hates RVs, house trailers, and the people that drive them. He once got so irate while trapped behind an RV on the Tioga road out of Lee Vining that he started pounding on his windshield. He pounded one too many times and it cracked. He told me that he

once overtook a guy in a house trailer going up to Yosemite on the road out of Fresno. It seems the guy had passed up one too many turnouts for Herbert. He reached into the guy's window grabbed his keys and flung them far out into the brush and left him there with his mouth agape. These were the things that raised his ire.

Herbert can be and often is a very stubborn person. He has his way of doing things and it is near impossible to change his mind. He has his rituals and don't try to modify them. I don't know how many times he has insisted that I stop at the dwarf Juniper on the descent off of Stately Pleasure Dome. "You've got to look at this tree. It's almost as wide as it is tall." I have repeatedly told him as we approached the tree that I am aware of its aspect ratio and that he is merely repeating himself. To no avail, "You've got to look at this tree. It's almost as wide as it is tall."



For years TM refused to buy a down jacket. He believed, because Chouinard convinced him, that wool was the only thing for bivouacs. "Stays warm even if it gets wet!" For that reason he never slept on a bivouac because he was too cold. I've mentioned before how he became a convert on the first ascent of BHOS Dome, but I didn't mention that the conversion was successful only because he forgot his wool sweater and was forced to accept the loan of a down jacket.

Just ask his former wife, Jan. Anything inside the house was "squaw work". "Braves" chopped wood. Braves did manly things. None of that girly housework for this brave. In fact, to some extent, Herbert was drawn away from a promising teaching career because carpentry was a man's job – none of that wishy-washy political maneuvering in the educational field for him.

Don't expect Herbert to accept your hospitality. He has ingrained in his sculpted cranium that it is an imposition to eat at your dinner table or sleep on your sheets. He often has insisted that he be able to heat

his can of Dinty Moore stew on your stove while you ate your separate dinner. If he accepted a bed to sleep on, he always spread his sleeping bag on it – never turned the covers. Rather than eat at your table he will insist on going out to dinner – on him. In the old days that meant taking you to Sizzler because, "They have a great salad bar".

As a climber, he was as safe as any I've ever climbed with. He didn't take chances with the weather. He always placed bomb-proof belay anchors and never trusted a single rappel anchor unless it was a tree or a new bolt. That's not to say he ever rappelled off a questionable anchor. He did if he had to, but he still didn't trust it.

TM's ability as a climber relied heavily on his strength. For someone who never weighed more than 160 pounds he had incredible strength. I use the past tense because he has quit climbing and working in Patagonia's shipping department is not like working out at the gym. He quit climbing when his eyes got so bad he had trouble focusing on the holds and climbing with glasses was

Continued on next page

### TM Herbert - continued

out of the question. Last time I saw him I noticed his hearing aids and listened to his complaints of dwindling strength. If you've ever experienced the firm grasp of your wrist by an adamant TM Herbert, then you know how insistent he can be. I would guess that at his age he's still relatively strong, but he's not up to his old standards and that means he can't do what he used to do – climb.

Discussion of his incredible strength brings to mind one of TM's few winter mountaineering excursions. It was 1969. Yvon Chouinard, Doug Tompkins, TM Herbert, Bill Lang, Eric Rayson, and I spent about a week in the Northern Selkirks of Canada. We did a little climbing, but before making any attempts we warmed up on easy terrain with some snow and ice practice. On a steep, firm snow slope, we practiced self arrests. TM had very little experience in this venture and on his first running start he flung himself at high speed down the slope. In a fruitless attempt at rolling onto his axe and plunging the pick into the snow, he gave up and while descending at breakneck speed, he rolled onto his back and with his right arm outstretched, ice axe gripped firmly, he plunged the spike of the shaft into the snow and came to an immediate arm wrenching stop. How anyone could have maintained a grip on the shaft under such circumstances still boggles my mind. But then I remember his firm grasp on my wrist and I understand.

Thank god TM doesn't have a computer and probably never will (did I say he was stubborn?) Unless someone, maybe his eldest son, shows him this stuff, he'll get it all word-of-mouth, subject to the usual inaccuracies. So I'll always be able to claim that it was not quite what I said or that I didn't say it at all.

So to finish up this brief series, there's the time I and Susie Condon went to Baja with the Herbert family. We were all packed into his Chevy Suburban or International Travelall or whatever - TM, with his crewcut, Susie with her very blond hair, Jan with her infant son in her arms, and clean-shaven me along with chaise lounges, coolers, boxes of food, water containers, camping stove, sleeping bags, and tents.. We went as far south as San Felipe and had a wonderful trip. On the return, as we were passing through the border station out of Tijuana, the border guards, for God knows what reason pulled us over. If there was ever a more straight-laced looking group, I couldn't imagine it. Herbert was flabbergasted. Why me? Look I'm an American, a veteran, a father, an upright citizen. Why me?

All to no avail, they took everything out of the car and then began taking the inside side panels off. They used mirrors under the fenders and the frame. In all we were delayed over an hour. When they finished looking they said, "Okay, you can put it all back together now." Then it took us another half hour to put the panels back on and reload the car.

The entire 125 mile trip back to Los Angeles was a non-stop Herbert tirade. The language was colorful and descriptive. The adjectives flowed eloquently from TM's lips. I had never heard the Border Patrol described in so many different ways – all derogatory. I had no idea Nixon's parentage was so questionable. I learned that there was a conspiracy against all of us with its protagonists firmly entrenched in Washington, D.C. And finally, when we arrived in LA, I was totally surprised to learn that the border agents hadn't found a pot stash some unknown friend had left in TM's glove compartment - a remnant from a party at which TM was the designated driver.

## Mt. Clarence King What's Next?

Late summer of 2010 once again found Carol Broberg, Rosalie Herrera, and Jeanne Walter being assisted by a Bardini guide up a 4th class Sierra peak. This intrepid client trio, all amazingly strong hikers and mountaineers, had previously summited Bear Creek Spire in 2006 - Jeanne and Carol had also summited Mt. Humphreys in 2005—all with the same old guide.

For a multitude of reasons, three seasons passed before the planned trip over Baxter Pass into Mt. Clarence King was accomplished—good thing, too, because the Bardini guide is aging fast.

Two days were spent on the approach to "the most beautiful basecamp in the Sierra" [my opinion] at the foot of Clarence King's SE face. On the third day the group climbed the diagonal ledge system that leads over the south ridge to the peak's south face. We were amazed to find evidence that a bear had preceded us up this very exposed ledge system.

The south face is fairly easy scrambling until one gets within 200 feet of the summit. Then things get steep and a rope is advisable. The summit block (the last 10 feet to the actual summit) is often left to a rock climber as it is rated 5.7 and has one of the scariest moves to the summit in the Sierra. Our group was satisfied to sit a few yards to the left of the block. Ominous thunder in the distance led to a belayed descent and return to basecamp. Two days were spent on the hike out. Next year Mt. Russell.



**Tim Villanueva and Beau Lewis on Beau's first ski tour ever in the Mount Morrison area with beau's father Cam Lewis last April.**

## 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



Photos by Carol Broberg

**ABOVE:** Don Lauria, Rosalie Herrera, and Jeanne Walter at the beginning the diagonal traverse to the south ridge of Mt. Clarence King

**RIGHT:** The roped climbing on Mt. Clarence King

## 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.





**Bardini Foundation**

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## The Backside of Beyond

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## Bardini Foundation Activities - Winter 2010/2011

### ***Avalanche Courses***

This year we are co-hosting the avalanche courses with **Sierra Mountain Center**.  
Refer to their website for more information: [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)  
Join us for your avalanche education courses.

### ***Level - I Courses***

**Dates:** January 15-17, 2011  
March 5-7, 26-28, 2011  
**Price:** \$350

### ***Level - II Courses***

**Dates:** February 12-15, 2011  
**Price:** \$495

Any custom course or ski tour can be arranged for your group

The Bardini Foundation offers guide services year-round.  
Treks, climbs, and ski tours can be contracted throughout the year.

**The Bardini Foundation is in partnership with the Inyo National Forest**