



Bardini

The Backside of Beyond

The Bardini Foundation Newsletter

Winter 2015/2016 Issue

Eastern Sierra 2015 Activities

Last April, in hopefully the last year of a relentless drought in California, two of Allan Bard's old St. Louis clients and two associates of theirs decided to schedule an early trek into the Sierra with the Bardini Foundation.

An ambitious itinerary was planned that included surmounting Lamarck Col. In early May, Don Lauria and Russ McLean, Bardini guides, went in to scout out the approach to the Col. There was still considerable snow over the trail getting to Upper Lamarck Lake, and two more reconnaissance hikes were made in late May. The trail was then open to the lake, but more snow was encountered on the slopes leading to the Col. Because the weather had been warm it was thought (hoped) that by the time the planned trek reached the Col it would be passable.

On June 5th the St. Louis clients rolled into Bishop and, after an overnight stay, they were outfitted with sleeping bags, packs, and down jackets and the trek began. Every one reached Upper Lamarck Lake in decent time, but the hike proved to be more than enough for two clients and they opted out of the try for the Col.

The next day, with two clients on their way out, the two remaining clients left with two guides for the Col. Alas, much more snow was encountered on the long approach to the Col - the group returned to camp and the trek was aborted. So a planned 5-day trek ended ... a disappointment (primarily for the guides), yes, but an adventure for most nevertheless.

In mid-November, Tim Villanueva and Don Lauria spent three frigid days at Cardinal Lodge in Aspendell recertifying their Wilderness First Responder certificates.

Inaugural Run of Outdoor Youth Program a Success

In late June, chief Bardini guide, Tim Villanueva, volunteered his rock climbing expertise to the newly formed Eastern Sierra Youth Outdoor Program. The program was created by Todd Vogel of Eastside Sports, in collaboration with the Bardini Foundation, to provide an innovative and high quality outdoor education curriculum of five days in length for at least 25 kids ages 12-17 in the Bishop area..

Activities began, and first up for the group was rock climbing. The kids were told not to expect 100% of it to be great—climbing is not for everyone. But with five certified climbing instructors taking care of teaching and safety, the climbing segment was a great success. One participant was quoted saying, "When I climbed for the first time I felt I could do anything!"

Next up was a three day backpacking trip. Once again there was some doubt and hesitation, but as with the rock climbing session, with encouragement and a positive attitude the outcome was a great experience. "I signed up for the trip because I'd never been backpacking and my friends had signed up. I was a little skeptical," one youth reported. "We received a lot of lessons from our guides, and we learned a lot on our own. If I had tried backpacking without this intro, I probably wouldn't have liked it very much."

At the end of the program the participants were surveyed for their opinions. Among the questions asked was, "Would you do it again?" Every kid responded with a definite

"Yes!"

Youth surmounting the roof at South Lake climbing wall ▶

2015 Fund Raiser Again Fewer Donors

The annual donations in 2015 came from fewer donors than the prior year, but donation totals were still substantial. Looks like we're developing a trend of fewer donors with larger donations. Still, those of you that skipped writing a check last year should make sure you write one this year. And, of course, if you find your name on the donors list on page-2, we expect you'll be on next year's list, too!

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. Make your check out to: **Bardini Foundation, PO Box 1422, Bishop, CA 93515**



In This Issue

2015 Contributions-----	2	Incoming -----	2
Remembering Bardini -----	3	Purpose & Scenes -----	4

2015 Contributions

Individuals

Benefactor \$1000+

Dave Huntsman
Paul Rudder

Angel \$500+

Gary & Christine Bard
Yvon & Melinda Chouinard
Brian Parks
Lyman Johnson

Patron \$200+

Gil D'Urso
Bruce Russell
Jim Pettigrew

Partner \$100+

Molly Attell
Michael & Valerie Cohen
Dennis Hennek
Glenn Hirayama
Lee & Susan Hughes
Bill St. Jean
Stan & Ann Sanderson
Paul Trester
Clark Trowell

Contributor \$50+

Drew Dembowski
John Dostal
John Ellsworth
Joe Kelsey
Valerie & David Powdrell
Pete White

Sustainer \$25+

Craig Connally
Shawn Delehanty
Leroy Russ
Robert Woodward

Organizations

Benefactor \$3000+
DEW Foundation

Allan Bard's Last Letter

Written to everyone on Allan's extensive clientele list
It was written three weeks before his fatal accident in the Tetons

June 11, 1997

Greetings -

Summer is almost here officially and my summer season is already busy. It has been a crazy year. This year marks the most bizarre weather patterns I can ever remember seeing in the Eastern Sierra. Spring weather in February and snow storms in April and now afternoon thunder storms in May and June instead of August. In addition to the hectic winter weather, I had one of the busiest ski guiding seasons on record and as of yesterday the skiing is still good.

Certainly things will quiet down as we move into the gentle Sierra summer. On that note I am looking forward to seeing you if you have time to join me on a climb, trek or maybe one of my occasional whitewater adventures. As usual the Palisade Basecamp will be in place the last week of July and the first week of August, that's July 26 - August 9. When there are at least five folks in camp I can offer the basecamp service for an amazing \$30 per day, including tent, sleeping bag, all meals, shower and toilet facility. You practically can't stay home for that little. I will also be setting up my high camp on the Palisade Glacier at the same time. The high camp facility use is also included in the price.

Usually, I set aside this time to guide the classic climbs of the Palisades and little of my time anymore is spent teaching the skills of alpinism. This year in the tradition of over thirty years of mountain education I am offering a basic mountaineering course during the first week of camp July 27 - August 2. This fast paced course, taught in the tradition of three decades of Palisade guiding, is just the thing for somebody looking for comprehensive instruction in the multi-faceted world of alpine climbing.

The second week of camp I will be featuring something very unique. August 3 - 8 will be Climbing with the Legends. In camp that week will be climbers that are a living legacy of American and in particular Sierran climbing history. TM Herbert one of the funniest and most likable of American climbing legends, also the famous North American Wall climbing team of Don Lauria and Dennis Hennek, and speaking of funny and famous we have Herb Swedlund. Herb, whose list of first ascents is only exceeded by his litany of hilarity, is still actively guiding in the Tetons and has agreed to tear himself away for this monumental meeting of the "men to match my mountains". Last and certainly not least, Warren J. Harding, Batso himself, has agreed to make an appearance as our wine steward and campfire teller of tales. He may even go climbing. If you've ever dreamed about meeting and climbing with these guys, don't miss this week. Call ahead. Price will vary depending on sign-ups. **Cont'd** →

Incoming



Our journey into the Sierra was quite an adventure for me. Thank you for your expert guidance and planning. I was impressed by the thoughtfulness, care, and attention to detail with which you made preparations. I am especially grateful to have had the opportunity to meet you. [They] have been talking about you for years ... it was a privilege for me to be one of your company.

Michael Sims, St. Louis, MO

Thanks to all of you who have kept up the spirit of Allan through the Bardini Foundation. Keep up the great work.

Stan Sanderson, Crowley Lake, CA

Well, my Bardini baseball cap has finally seen better days and I am in need of a new one. Oh boy.

Brian Parks, Madison, WI

Sorry I am so late in sending this check. Found it hiding in a pile of "to do" things.

Molly Attell, Carmel, CA

Great job with Bardini ... just don't stop. Congratulations on keeping the old body moving and climbing. Just don't stop!

Pete White, Boise, ID

Thanks for the work you do! Cheers!

Susan & Lee Hughes, Mammoth

In honor of Allan Bard, [with whom] I climbed the Grand Teton in 1995.

Steve Powell, Enfield, NH

Good to say hello this morning. Trust the years will be good for you.

Lyman Johnson, St. Louis, MO



If that's not enough to think about, I could suggest maybe Whitney in late August, Clyde Minaret after Labor day, a trek through the Evolution region in Autumn, or perhaps a nice Zinfandel and some crackers with brie...

It's going to be another great summer. I'll be in the Tetons the first two weeks in July. I hope to here from you soon.

Ciao for now,

Allan Bard

Remembering Bardini

A compendium of remembrances

A letter from Rick Linkert written to Allan 10 days after hearing of his accidental death in the Tetons

Dear Allan, Denver, July 15, 1997

I found out about an hour ago – Vern called. For reasons I can't really explain, it somehow feels worse to hear this news in a Denver hotel room – so far from The Range of Light.

While I have not seen you in many years, I kept up with you through mutual friends. I always thought I'd see you again and I now regret that I didn't make the effort.

My memories of the early days at Indian Rock and in Yosemite are strong and filled with the magic called rock climbing. Thank you for the laughter and all the good times. I can recall, as if it were yesterday, laughing our way up and down climbs as we were making our way through the Yosemite free climbing circuit. When you, Dale, and I climbed Sacherer Cracker. I think it was our first 5.10. Much to your amusement, Dale discovered that his feet swelled with heat and altitude and the EBs that were painfully tight in Berkeley were excruciating at 4000 feet. I remember someone had the bright idea of climbing halfway up a squeeze chimney before changing into shoes, pulling on swamis, and roping up. You, Dale, and I could have put the Three Stooges to shame.

These and other memories will be with me for the rest of my life.

Climbing with you was always fun. On the East Buttress of Lower Cathedral Rock – right after the "Fissure Beck" – we were hit by a violent thunderstorm with torrential rain. We bailed through waterfalls, joking about drowning. As soon as we pulled the last rap, the sun came out and the rock dried with miraculous speed – much to our amazement. No matter – it was an adventure.

I feel that, in a sense, we all grew up together during those early climbing days. Our lives have taken us in different directions, but we will always be united by a common bond – a shared love of this wonderful, and now seemingly terrible, sport. No, sport is not the right term. It is something beyond sport – even for those of us who have drifted away from the climbing life.

Well my old friend, I am so sorry. Our loss is heaven's gain. I still can't help but think that Peter Pan was never supposed to die.

Rick Linkert

In the Footsteps of the Bard

Over the course of a lifetime, we meet many people; some easily forgotten, others who leave a lasting impression. Allan Bard was the kind of person who made a difference in almost every life that he touched, and he certainly touched my life. He was an inspiration to me, as well as countless others; a mentor in every sense of the word, and the mark that he made on my life is clear both in the career I've chosen and the person I've become

Our paths first crossed in 1978. There is an old saying that when the student is ready, the teacher will appear, and so it was for me. I began my apprenticeship with Bardini the following year, and looking back on the last 20 years, I'm proud to say that much of my life has followed in the footsteps of the great Bardini. Al's philosophy was to "redline the fun meter," and he made sure that everything we did was done in a spirit of fun, whether it was making a first ski descent, giving a slide presentation to a packed hall, or helping novice skiers with their first telemark turns.

Ever the consummate guide, Allan provided the example, the motivation and the skills to enjoy the mountain lifestyle and to share it with others. He showed me how to handle a timid client on difficult terrain, how to crank a turn in funky snow, how to tell a tale around a campfire, write a story for others to enjoy, build a hut, plan an expedition. Along the way, Allan always offered heartfelt encouragement and thoughtful guidance, as well as pointed criticism when needed, all in the spirit of brotherly love. Allan's main purpose in life was to share all he knew, loved, and experienced.

I feel honored to have shared in the life, love and experience of Allan Bard; to have been blessed by the opportunity to work beside him, to walk in his footsteps. With his passing, we have suffered a great loss, but Allan will live on in the hearts and spirits of all of us who love the mountains and enjoy the freedom of the hills. We are all better for having known Bardini, and it's up to us to carry him with us as we go forward. Bardini Lives!

John Moynier

A Friend In The Alpenglow

Sitting at the local summer pizza parlor, alone in Stanley, Idaho I gazed out through the window to the pink skyline of the Sawtooth Range. A close friend of mine had unexpectedly just died from a climbing fall – on the Grand Teton-news I had only heard a few hours earlier.

The view through the window, the pink glow from one of the Sawtooth's spires reminded me of Allan.... It reminded me at once, of my personal loss, that of his family and many close friends, the planet's.... But at the same time I could feel his tender presence in this pink, somehow this alpenglow which now lightly touched the Sawtooth skyline reached to me. With the pink glow and distance came a tear to my eye.

Though I knew Allan for only a mere six years, we became very close friends. Uncannily from the time we first met, through swapping stories of our life experiences, skiing together, talking, laughing, reflecting, we had come to share a lot of common ground in both our personal and professional lives as mountain guides. Very often, even though we were involved working or playing in the mountains and rivers, hundreds or even thousands of miles away, I knew somewhere he was up to the same. I knew Allan as he "lived in the present" and I will continue to remember him that way. Still, I will miss the presence of a telephone call with him. I will miss the visits he made to the Sawtooths to share his wit,

Continued on next page

Remembrances - continued

humorous stories and insights while playing on the rivers and in the mountains. I will miss his spontaneity.

Allan was one of the few people who knew how, and by what means, to hang out in rural America's far mountain reaches clutching onto a lifestyle, committed to a passion, doing what was a love of place. He had a very large 'sense of place' extended to many geographies with friends in every wild outland and mountain outpost. He loved sharing experiences in these places ... he embraced guiding as his way of giving to others what the mountains had given to him. I feel very fortunate to have spent time with him and to have known him. I hope to always remember and help carry on some of the spirit he provided to those who were his companions.

I will continue to look to the alpenglow to find his presence there.

Kirk Bachman

The Bard of Sierra Street

Twenty years ago, I unloaded my beat-up old Datsun in to a \$100/month house on sleepy Sierra Street, happy to be living beneath the great eastern escarpment of the Sierra Nevada. Soon thereafter, I began extolling to my vagabond friend Allan Bard the virtues of year-around habitation in one location. At the time, he was ski-guiding winters, temporarily lodged somewhere on the Eastside, but by spring he would move his possessions into a storage shed (often mine) and go through the corn and climbing seasons living out of his car and backpack. Five years later, he gave up his transhumant existence and moved onto Sierra Street, one house away. What followed was 15 years as neighbors and brothers, bonded in our love of life and the wildness of the mountains.

Our domestic needs were simple with the priority being to spend as much time in the mountains as possible. Our houses were rustic affairs, 70 years old and rich in Owens Valley history. We would joke, when doing basic maintenance or remodeling with old scrounged materials, that we were actually making the houses even older. Eventually, our neighborhood grew as other like-minded compadres took up residence in the shacks around us. The 500 block of Sierra Street was known to the local cowboys as "rock climbers row".

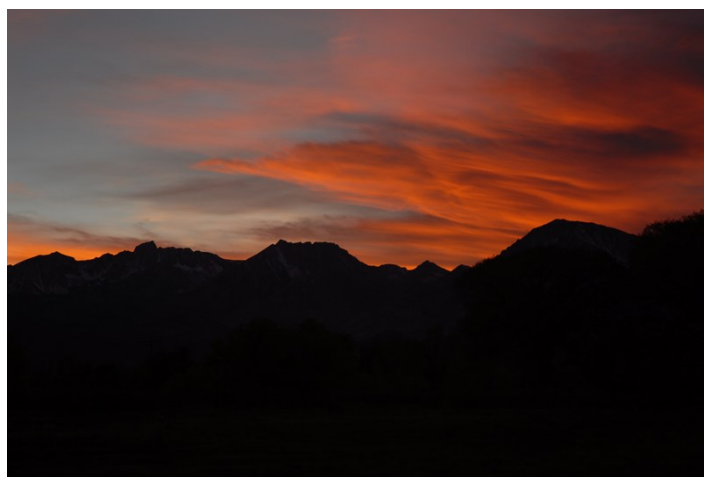
Countless trips were hatched here, outfitted with gear from the Sierra Street "rental shop," a composite of the ancient sheds behind both our houses. "The rental shop is always open," was Bardini's constant quip. Lodging, food and good cheer flowed freely. Full-course meals materialized effortlessly at Bardini's night after night. In fact, the newest item in his house, surrounded by all sorts of well-used outdoor gear, was a commercial kitchen range, testament to his generosity and gregariousness.

On July 19 of this year [1997], 400 mountain souls convened in Bud Cashbaugh's field on Sierra Street to pay tribute to Allan Bard. He had enriched our lives with his contagious smile and the azure sparkle of his eyes.

Many of us were deeply affected by the spirit of this tribe, whose history and connectedness run deep and wide. A sense of community blew through the crowd like the warm summer wind as we marked the end of an era on Sierra Street.

The old giant Sequoia in front of Bardini's house now stands watch over a quieter scene, but all those who have passed underneath it take with them the spirit of the Bard of Sierra Street.

Allan Pietrasanta



The view from Sierra Street



Editor's Note

The theme of this issue's Backside is "Remembering Bardini". We thought it was about time to remind everyone why the Bardini Foundation exists:

The Bardini Foundation exists because Allan Bard was someone that was not to be forgotten. Those that knew him will never forget him. We could not just be satisfied with his memory, we needed something material, something current that carried on his wish to demonstrate the Sierra's good tidings as Muir suggested and get the uninitiated into the wilderness. For the past 18 years since his death and the establishment of the foundation, we have been doing just that.

Bardini lives!



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, and safety,
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

Scenes from Bardini Treks



Lower Lamarck Lake



Last pitch on Mt. Humphreys



Summit of Mt. Humphreys



Bardini Foundation

PO Box 1422
Bishop CA 93515-1422

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BISHOP, CA
PERMIT NO. 12

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Backside of Beyond

Volume XVII I

January 2016

Number 1

The annual newsletter of the

Bardini Foundation, Inc.

(760) 873-8036 www.bardini.org

(760) 872-4413 don@bardini.org

Publisher/Editor

Don Lauria

Board of Directors

Bob Behrendt - Don Lauria

Tim Villanueva

Advisory Board

Ed Cereda - Robert Dery, MD - John Ellsworth

John Moynier - Walter Pachucki - J. Kent Steele, LLD

«First» «Last»

«Street»

«City», «State» «Zip»

Support Foundation Efforts



Bardini

T-SHIRTS POLO SHIRTS

T's only \$15.00

Polo's only \$18.00

plus postage

US Priority Mail

California residents add appropriate sales tax

Bardini Baseball Caps

These caps are brushed cotton,
fully adjustable, in a variety of colors
with
embroidered logo



only a **\$20** donation
plus tax (CA only)
and shipping*



Bardini Coffee Mugs

10-oz. white porcelain mug
with the Bardini logo

only a **\$5** donation
plus tax (CA only) and shipping*
Send your check to:

Bardini Foundation
PO Box 1422
Bishop CA 93515-1422

*combine with a mug to save on postage

The Bardini Foundation is in partnership with the Inyo National Forest