



## CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY

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### **Join the Catalina Island Conservancy for the BZ Jones Hike *March 28 Trek Honors World-class Sailor and Conservancy Supporter***

LONG BEACH – The late Graham “BZ” Jones and his brother, Thad Jones, were world-class sailors renowned for their zest for life and their dedication to the Catalina Island Conservancy.

Their long history of volunteering with the Conservancy and their love for the Island led Brad Avery, president of the Conservancy’s boating support group, the Marineros, to organize Conservancy-led hikes in honor of the brothers.

On March 28, the Conservancy will host the Fifth Annual BZ Jones Hike, an approximately 12-mile cross-Catalina trek that will include a catered lunch and a party aboard a tug boat at the end of the hike. Every other year, the Conservancy hosts a Thad Jones Hike the same weekend that requires two days to travel from one end of the Island to the next.

“The whole idea behind the hike is to get people closer to the Island and increase their appreciation of Catalina by hiking it,” said Avery. “When you’re crossing the Island at that pace, you really get a sense of how big and special it is.”

The Jones brothers first came to Catalina aboard the family’s yawl, Aquilla, and both developed a love of the Island and sailing. BZ Jones was aboard the maxi race Kialoa II when she won the punishing 1971 Sydney to Hobart Race. He raced all the big offshore events in the Pacific and the Atlantic. At the age of 77, he signed up for a month-long sailing expedition to Antarctica aboard the 65-foot sloop, Alaska Eagle.

Thad Jones was the hiker of the family and recorded the first end-to-end hike on Catalina. He also was renowned for his navigational skills. Avery said Thad Jones was always in demand for sailing crews because of those skills and the fact that he was a physician who could provide medical care for crew members at sea, if needed.

“Thad holds the record for the most transpacific races from Los Angeles to Hawaii, 22,” Avery said. “He sailed on the best boats.”

The BZ and Thad Jones hikes also are fundraisers for the Conservancy, helping to support its mission of protecting and restoring the Island – a mission that the Jones’ brothers and their family have supported. Both brothers volunteered at the Conservancy. As they have in previous years, BZ’s and Thad’s children and other family members will join the hike.

“We will be there to honor our dads,” said BZ’s daughter, Laura Tomlinson. “We are really proud of them. They were fun, social guys who loved the Island. Their brotherhood, in the true sense of the word, has been passed down to us.”

### **Details about BZ Jones Hike**

**Date:** Saturday, March 28

**Registration:** Please call 562-437-8555 ext.224 or visit [www.catalinaconservancy.org](http://www.catalinaconservancy.org)

### **About the Conservancy**

Formed in 1972, the Catalina Island Conservancy is one of California's oldest land trusts. Its mission is to be a responsible steward of its lands through a balance of conservation, education and recreation. Through its ongoing efforts, the Conservancy protects the magnificent natural and cultural heritage of Santa Catalina Island, stewarding approximately 42,000 acres of land and more than 60 miles of rugged shoreline. It provides an airport and 50 miles of biking and nearly 150 miles of hiking opportunities within its road and trail system. The Conservancy conducts educational outreach through two nature centers, its Wrigley Memorial & Botanic Garden and guided experiences in the Island’s rugged interior. Twenty miles from the mainland, the Island is a treasure trove of historical and archaeological sites. It also contains numerous rare and endangered animals and plants. The Island is home to 60 species – and counting – that are found only on Catalina. For additional information, please visit [www.catalinaconservancy.org](http://www.catalinaconservancy.org).