

*Photo: Nona & Steve Barker (and Bert the Dog) circa 1973*

## **STEVE & NONA BARKER PRESIDENT & FOUNDERS**

Steve and Nona Barker have been the guiding force of Eagle Creek for over 30 years. Which is quite an accomplishment, unless of course, you compare it to what they do with the rest of their time.

Parents of three, longtime volunteer firefighters with the Elfin Forest / Harmony Grove Fire Department, board members of The Escondido Creek Conservancy, The Fire Advisory Board, and The Town Council - the Barker's are, to say the least civically involved. In their spare time, the Barker's are active hikers, sea kayakers, backcountry skiers and raise trekking llamas. As CEO, Steve typically downplays his role, however ask any of his employees about him and accolades follow.



Longtime coworker, and Executive Vice President of Eagle Creek, Ricky Schlesinger comments "community involvement is a feedback thing for Steve. He is open, candid, casual, and committed to the outdoor ethic. Incredibly civic minded both he and Nona are volunteers and will drop everything to rescue a car crash victim or fight a fire."

When asked about helping define the adventure travel, Steve confides, "We didn't create the market, the consumer did. In the end, we've been tinkering with product ideas to make the travel experience just that much easier. And luckily our customers appreciate that simple notion."

As the company begins its fourth decade of developing travel gear, Steve has set his sights firmly on the future. "Global travel has become a birthright. This is a tremendous opportunity for Eagle Creek. We have an opportunity to take concepts from outdoor such as functionality and quality and introduce them to a much wider population of folks and enhance travel experiences for a whole new generation."

*Photo: Ricky climbing in Idyllwild, Ca circa 1981*

**RICKY SCHLESINGER**  
**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

Born in Roslyn, Long Island, Ricky never imagined he'd be a long time Southern Californian when he came to work for Eagle Creek over 30 years ago. A natural leader, approachable and friendly, Schlesinger has been the point person on building adventure travel products for many years. "We earn our customer's trust by designing and offering innovative products that are insightful to the travel process," said Schlesinger.

Providing travel solutions and looking for new ways to approach this burgeoning market segment is natural for Ricky. Having driven a cab in Washington DC, played string bass in a bluegrass band, and studied photography, Schlesinger's talents and interests are as diverse as the cultures Eagle Creek consumers explore.

"Many of our users perform in their chosen arena at a high level and appreciate the technical aspects and durability of our products. However, you don't have to climb 5.10 or paddle Class V to use Eagle Creek," Schlesinger comments, "we focus on building great product with general use travel applications."

