



BerNews

Fall 2008 Volume 5, Issue 4

Special Interest Articles:

- President's Letter
- Rescue Report
- Regional Specialty Recap

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Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Greater Twin Cities

The BMDCGTC was formed in 1988 to help promote the best possible breeding, training, health, and well-being of the purebred Bernese Mountain Dog.

President's Letter

-Denise McCabe

Now that the political elections are behind us, I'd like to start off by asking for your patience and understanding regarding the club's most recent mailing that included the Ballot for 2009 Officers, candidate biographies, 2009 Dues Notice, AKC questionnaire, Code of Conduct and proposed revisions to our Constitution and By-Laws. With the position of Secretary currently unfilled, the large job of copying, collating and mailing was a bit more than anticipated at a time when I was busy with my paying job!

Apparently I can't multi-task as well as I thought!

We are all looking forward to a new year and the election of new board members. Needless to say, I'm looking forward to announcing the results of the elections at our December meeting and welcoming a new Secretary to our ranks!

It's hard to believe that the Holidays are upon us, so please plan on attending our final Club meeting, Winterfest, on Sat. December 13th. We will be asking you to vote on the constitution and by-law changes at this meeting to facilitate our application for AKC accreditation. Changes to the by-laws require a quorum of the club membership, so we hope to see as many of you as possible. Besides, who can resist the roaring fire and holiday goodies that have come to be part of this annual event?

We are already well into the planning of club meetings and events for 2009; look for some of your favorites like the Fun Match, Health and Wellness Day, PlayPals, Twin Cities Pet Expo and the Annual Club Night Out, to be combined with some new and exciting meeting topics.

We will also be introducing a new Club website in January 2009. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Adam Conn for his contributions to the club through his creation and support of the current site; his move to New Jersey last summer required that we look for other options for our site. We created a small website committee and are working with an outside consultant to help us develop the new site. Due to time constraints, not all of the site content will be refreshed in this first rollout; but we plan to address all content updates in 2009.

Enjoy the holidays with your family, both two-legged and four and we look forward to seeing you at many events in 2009!●



Rescue Report

- Coleen Carroll

Wow! What a year for BMDCGTC'S Rescue Program. Certainly some real highs and lows, happiness and heartbreak, and learning experiences as well.

Rescue had a very busy 2008. Five rescues, 8 re-homes, another rescue pending, and 6 more weeks to go for 2008. I'll touch on a few of the rescue stories that we can all learn from, as well as a couple heartwarmers.

- First and foremost, everyone needs to be aware that Berner theft is real, and can happen in your 'perfectly safe' neighborhood. Bentley Altimari took off after a rabbit early one morning from his home in Ramsey MN. Michael and Tanya were right behind him, following in his footsteps & calling. It was unlike him to go after a rabbit in the first place. They spent the next several weeks putting up hundreds of signs and canvassing the area daily and in the evenings. Rescue participated by helping with the signs and organizing search parties. Sadly, there have been no sightings of Bentley to date. It's been a heartbreaking time for the Altimaris and for anyone that knows them, as well as the rescue volunteers. It is rare for us to have such a negative outcome, we have gotten used to happy endings. Everyone involved is sure that Bentley was picked up soon after chasing the rabbit. The only consolation is hopefully whoever took him, is caring for him as his own. He is a very recognizable boy, as he had surgery to partially correct his bowed front legs. He still needs another surgery to correct some joint issues to alleviate future arthritis. Ramsey MN borders some very rural land, and it is unlikely that he will be spotted and identified, but our hopes and prayers are with the Altimaris.
- Maggie (short for Magellan) was a tick infested, emaciated girl who managed to escape in Stillwater on the way to the Vet. Rescue spent 10 days searching the area. 100's of man-hours were put in to the search by Rescue, a few Club members, as well as many non-club members wanting to lend a hand. Maggie was finally caught with a LIVE wolf trap (looks like a large wire crate) in the back yard of a wonderful Stillwater family's yard. The home owner had spotted her in the past days, and called to tell us we could use his land to catch her. After putting a wire crate out for a few days, and baiting it with food, we replace the crate with the trap and baited it once again. At 2 am the homeowner called to tell us we had caught her just hours after we had baited the trap. He stayed with her to calm her, till 2:30am when we arrived. Maggie was given the loving care and attention she needed, and was adopted into a family in the Uptown area. They live near Lake Harriet, so she was aptly re-named Harriet. She has become a lovely pet who enjoys going to work with her new owners and walking the Lakes - ON LEASH!!!
- Diesel came to us on Labor Day weekend. Crystal Hoffman was kind enough to drive all the way to Doon Iowa - 4 hours EACH WAY - to pick him up. He was originally used for breeding and spent his entire 3 years in a kennel. The owners gave him up when he started showing signs of hip dysplasia. Diesel was extremely skittish, and had never been in a home, socialized and definitely NOT potty trained. Craig and Theresa Schwarten took him in for over 8 weeks. During that time they trained him, and got him used to being inside and around people. They showed him how to have a Happy-Berner life. With all their care, attention and training, he became an adoptable dog, and was recently adopted by a generous couple from the Rochester area, who have taken in abused dogs in the past. Hopefully they will be able to attend a few meetings and we can follow Diesel's progress. A Big Thanks to Craig & Theresa Schwarten, and Hoffman Doggy Delivery Service, for going above and beyond with Diesel. I'm sure he would thank them if he could!►

Rescue Report Continued...

- When Brandy's owner died, she went to her owner's sister, who then had a stroke and could no longer care for her. Poor Brandy was looking for a permanent home, and certainly missed her owner. Rescue took her in and quickly adopted her out to the Gustafsons. Their Berner had recently died, and they were willing to give Brandy a new home and family. There is a lesson here about planning for your dog's future. Do you have your wishes regarding your pets spelled out in case of a life changing event?

Thanks so much to all who have helped. We would inevitably miss someone if we tried to thank everyone. You all know who you are, and you participate in rescue for the dogs, not the Kudos. Well, Kudos to all that have helped this year. We give a special thanks to the Reisers for also opening their home for fostering. Fostering is especially difficult as you start with the 'broken' dog, and attempt to fix them. Once you've created a whole dog, you have to give it up and start all over again. It's very rewarding, but incredibly difficult to let them go.

If you are willing to foster or adopt or drive to pick up/drop off rescue dogs, please contact me at BernersEnvy@msn.com

Who is BMDCGTC Rescue?

- Lisa Fosdick
- Nancy Mayer
- Coleen Carroll



Diesel

Do you know a berner lover or two?

2009 Ways and Means has a wonderful array of gifts for the fast approaching holiday season. Currently, we have a large inventory of colors, sizes and styles and a nice balance of silk-screened items and embroidered items. Cozy fleece vests, thick hooded zip up sweatshirts, long sleeve and short sleeved t shirts, hats and pins are just a few of our items. New blanket design and stainless coffee tumblers are also on order for the holidays. Please go to the BMDCA website to Ways and Means and check out what is available. Orders can be placed via email, phone or snail mail (order form is located on the website). Thanks for supporting the **2009 Specialty** and we look forward to seeing all of you in the Pacific Northwest!

Colleen Cox
 2009 Ways and Mean Chair.
snowypinesdogs@hotmail.com
 360-978-4501

Regional Specialty Recap

-Julie Latterell

The club held its' second regional specialty show on Friday, August 22nd. Despite the hot, sticky weather, we had a terrific entry of Berners with over 50 Berners entered!

The day started off with Puppy and Veterans Sweepstakes, judged by Natalie Ellis Rake, followed by Junior Sweepstakes, judged by Mrs. Shilon Bedford. Regular and Intersex Classes were judged by Mr. Joseph Lobb from Canada.

Thank you to all the volunteers and exhibitors who helped make this event a huge success! Planning is already underway for our 2009 Regional Specialty, so mark your calendars now for Friday, August 21, 2009!

Judges for 2009 will be (pending AKC approval):

- Marjorie Reho, Puppy and Veterans Sweepstakes
- Denise Dean, Regular and Intersex Classes
- Kathy Francis, Junior Showmanship

BMDCGTC Regional Specialty Show Results

For complete show results visit:

<http://www.onofrio.com/shwepubs.html>

Puppy Sweepstakes

Best Puppy in Sweepstakes

(580) **Dou-Hil's Cash Advance**

Owned by: Coleen Carroll and Rick Bryan
Bred by: Doug Hildre

Best of Opposite Sex to Best Puppy in Sweepstakes

(577) **Copeland's Nutcracker Sweet**

Owned and Bred by: Laurie Copeland

Veteran Sweepstakes

Best Veteran in Sweepstakes

(626) **CH Abbey Road's Kiley V Norfolk**

Owned by: Karen Stromgren and Lisa Rydeen

Bred by: Deborah J. and John Wilkins

Best of Opposite Sex to Best Veteran in Sweepstakes

(607) **CH De Enige Eli From the Barking Bunch**

Owned by: Shannon Cihlar

Bred By: Jose E. C. DeBresser

Regular Classes

Winners Dog

(599) **Garissa's One Wild Night**

Owned by: Laura Fourre & Deanna Beckman

Bred by: Deanna Beckman and Sue Wellenstein

Winners Bitch/Best of Winners and Best of Breed

(608) **Snowcap's Gotta Have Faith**

Owned by: Adriana Chefan and Kathy Auer

Bred by: Carla & Doug, and Amanda and Alexis Cook

Best of Opposite Sex to Best Of Breed

(621) **CH Hickory's Breaking the Ice**

Owned by: Sue Wellenstein

Bred by: Amy Tucker

Awards of Merit

(611) **CH Abbey Road's Day Tripper**

Owned and Bred by: Deborah J. and John P & Elizabeth R. Wilkins

(619) **CH Adesa's and the Beat Goes On**

Owned by: Ann & Bill Daily & Bobbi & Bill Blewett

Bred by: Shirley Hoeflinger & Bobbi Kinley Blewett

(640) **CH Sidori's Claret**

Owned and Bred by: Sharon Kranz

Best Junior Handler (Open Junior)

(403) **Jonah Horn, CH Dou-Hil's a Lucious Dream,**

Owned by: Sandra and Lenora Horn

Bred by: Doug Hildre

Best Brood Bitch

(632) **CH Chaska Van't Stokerybos**

Owned by: Shannon Cihlar

Bred by: Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Delrue-Vandewalle

Check out the following pages for photos of some of the winners! ►

Regional Specialty Recap Continued...

2008 Regional Specialty Volunteer Recognition

A huge thank you to the following volunteers who helped make sure the regional specialty ran smoothly by; ensuring judges selected and were picked up and dropped off, trophies were organized and marked, the show ring ran smoothly, raffle sales were brisk and those that wanted more information about the breed, the clubs rescue efforts, or information about how dog shows work could get it...

We couldn't have done it without you!!!!

Julie Latterell
2008 Regional Specialty Show Chair

Susan Acklen and Tim Staples
Susan Bacig
Coleen Carroll
Shannon Cihlar
Lisa Fosdick
Karen Johnson
Nancy Mayer

Denise and Mike McCabe
Mary Pearson
Craig and Theresa Schwarten
Sarah and Conner Tennesen
Micky Trent
Deborah Wilkins ▶

Regional Specialty Recap Continued...



Best Puppy in Sweeps Dou-Hil's Cash Advance, owned by Coleen Carroll, Rick Bryan and Doug Hildre

Best of Breed, Snowcap's Gotta Have Faith, owned by Adriana Chefan and Kathy Auer

Best of Opposite Sex, CH Hickory's Breaking the Ice, owned by Sue Wellensten

Best of Winners Garissa's One Wild Night, owned by Laura Fourre and Deanna Beckman●

Club Meeting Notice

Details:

Rick Bryan and Coleen Carroll's House
810 Hallam Ave. N.
Mahtomedi, MN

Saturday, December 13, 2008

Annual BMDCGTC Winterfest & Club Meeting

1:00 pm - Start
More details to follow.

Please check the events page on the Club's website for directions:

<http://www.twincitiesbmd.org/Events.html>●

New Member Applicants

-Lisa Fosdick

The following people have applied for club membership. They have attended at least one meeting and are eligible to be voted into the club at the next meeting, December 13.

Lori Cornell

Woodbury, MN

Berners: Santera's Surprises Abound (Griffin)
and Santera's Encore Performance (Mika)

Sponsors: Karen Johnson and Nancy Mayer●

Calling All New Title Holders

It's that time of year again. If you have earned an AKC title, drafting or herding title, CGC or therapy dog title in 2008, please let me know. If your dog is a veteran (7 and older), let me know that too. We will be holding our annual club night out in March and will be giving out certificates for veterans and awards for titles earned. It is a great time to socialize with fellow club members. We will be holding a silent auction as well. Watch for more details on the club night out coming soon.

Please send the appropriate information to: Shannon Cihlar, 1748 Co. Rd. 88 SW, Alexandria, MN 56308, Tel: 320-283-5378, E-mail: kscope@runestone.net

DEADLINE: December 31, 2008

Please include a brief write-up about your dog(s) for inclusion in the program.

Name of owner(s) _____

If dog is co-owned it must live in the household of member receiving award

Phone Number/E-mail _____

Registered Name of dog _____

Call Name of dog _____

Title Rec'd _____ Date _____

Title Rec'd _____ Date _____

Title Rec'd _____ Date _____

The following titles are eligible for awards: AKC, CKC, or BMDCA

Champion

Agility Titles

Drafting Titles

Tracking Titles

Therapy Dog

Obedience Titles

Canine Good Citizen (CGC)

Herding Titles

Rally Obedience Titles

We will also be honoring all veterans. If you have a veteran (7 years or older) in your household, please let us know.

Name of dog(s):

Provided is the summary Financial Statement for the club through October 2008. Any club member may ask for more information about any line item within the Financial Statement. Please contact the club Treasurer, Julie Latterell (jal@saintpaulfoundation.org) with any questions.

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Greater Twin Cities
Balance Sheet
as of October 31, 2008

Assets

Checking Account	\$ 8,352.88	
PayPal Account	813.61	
Petty Cash	190.98	
	<hr/>	
Total Assets		\$ 9,357.47

Liabilities

Sales Tax Payable	-	
	<hr/>	
Total Liabilities		-
		<hr/>
<i>Total Net Assets</i>		<u>\$ 9,357.47</u>



Summary Financial Statement Continued...

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Greater Twin Cities
Income Statement
October 31, 2008

Income

General/Membership	\$ 2,455.00	
Ways and Means	2,403.39	
Rescue	995.93	
Breeder Referral	35.00	
Public Education/Events	2,061.00	
Lucy Fund	1,445.00	
Trophy Fund	-	
Regional Speciality	3,896.00	
Draft Test	300.00	
Total Income		\$ 13,591.32

Expenses

General/Membership	\$ 4,503.13	
Ways and Means	3,083.91	
Rescue	2,036.11	
Breeder Referral	-	
Public Education/Events	2,883.52	
Lucy Fund	1,000.00	
Trophy Fund	-	
Regional Speciality	4,159.45	
Draft Test	963.40	
Total Expenses		18,629.52
Net Income for the Period		(5,038.20)
Beginning Balance		14,395.67
Ending Balance		\$9,357.47•

Kids Corner

-Sarah Tennesen

Winter weather is just around the corner. What Berner and kid doesn't love a midwest winter! Here are some things that you can do to make sure your four legged pal stays safe and healthy while having a great time.

Winter Health Tips . . .

- Always **wash your dog's paws** after a winter walk on roadways to remove salt.
- **Anti freeze** that leaks onto driveways and roads smells and tastes good to dogs but it is poisonous.
- Your dog's **ears, feet and tail** are susceptible to frostbite so don't leave them outdoors all day.
- Dogs can become **dehydrated** in winter. Make sure he always has plenty of fresh water available. **Snow is not an efficient alternative to water.**
- Woodstoves, fireplaces and portable heaters can cause **severe burns** to your canine companion. Be sure your dog stays away from all heat sources.

Fun links for kids to explore . . .

(make sure you have your parents permission to look at these sites)

<http://www.loveyourdog.com/tricks.html>

a kids guide to some fun tricks to teach

http://www.gourmetsleuth.com/recipe_dogbiscuit.htm

Yummy treats to make for your pet

<http://animal.discovery.com/petplanet/>

Animal Planet's - Pets Planet link, full of fun games, puzzles, wallpaper and more.

<http://www.workingdogweb.com/kids&dogs.htm>

Great site for everything DOG!

Stories, activities, coloring sheets, games, cartoons, ask the vet, and more ▶



Holiday Safety

The holidays are full of fun and activities but keep an eye out for trouble...

- Christmas plants like holly and poinsettia are poisonous to dogs. Keep these plants out of our dog's reach.
- Don't place lights on the lower branches of your Christmas tree. They can become hot and burn your dog.
- Puppies may chew on electrical cords. Be sure to place cords where your dog can't get near them. Dogs can be electrocuted or shocked if they chew on electrical cords.
- If you buy holiday gifts or treats for your dog, check them very carefully. Rawhide treats and small plastic balls or toys can be choking hazards.
- Avoid using glass ornaments. They will cut your dog's mouth and paws if broken.
- Never leave your dog unattended if he can get to your Christmas tree. Sharp needles on both artificial and live trees cannot be digested and can cause lots of problems if swallowed.
- Your dog's intestines can become blocked if tinsel is swallowed. It's best to avoid using tinsel when dogs are present in your home.
- Keep all candy and treats out of your dog's reach. Chocolate, alcohol and marshmallows are toxic for dogs.
- Keep your dog on his regular diet, don't give him holiday leftovers. His system will not like it!



Looking for a special Berner gift for that special someone for Christmas?

*Support the BMDCA 2009 National Specialty and get your
holiday shopping done too!*

To visit the National Specialty Ways and Means store click here
[National Specialty Shopping](#)

WINE FUNDRAISER!!!

The 2009 Specialty Committee is partnering with the Northwest Cellars & Wine Alley Wine Shop to offer a great red and light and lively white wine labeled especially for us.

How the fundraiser works

You will deal directly with wine shop. The wine shop will collect your money and ship your wine.

Specialty earns \$3.00 for every bottle purchased!!!●

Club Officers

President

Denise McCabe
715-531-0344

President@TwinCitiesBMD.org

Vice President

Coleen Carroll
763-208-6278

VicePresident@TwinCitiesBMD.org

Secretary

(Open)

Treasurer

Julie Latterell

Board Members:

Susan Acklen
Micky Trent
Sarah Tennessen
Lisa Fosdick

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.twincitiesbmd.org

Club Calendar of Events

December 11 – Board and Committee Chair Meeting

December 13 – Winterfest
– New Board members announced

January 2 – 4 – Northstar ~~Working~~ Working Group & Land 'O Lakes Kennel Club Show in St. Paul

January 8 – Board and Committee Chair Meeting

February 14 – Club Meeting – Understanding Dog shows

February 21 – 22 – Club Booth at Twin Cities Pet Expo

February 27 – 28 – BMDCSEW Regional Specialty

March 12 – Board and Committee Chair Meeting

March 14 – Annual Club Night Out!

About BerNews

The content of BerNews represents the views and opinions of the authors, and not necessarily those of the BMDCGTC or its members, nor does publication constitute endorsement.

Articles written by members of the BMDCGTC on any subject that may be of interest to members are welcome. All works must be sited.

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BMDCGTC

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