



BerNews

New Year 2009 Volume 6, Issue 1

Special Interest Articles:

- President's Letter
- Why Enter Your Berner in Berner-Garde
- Annual Club Night Out

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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

A new year brings many fresh starts. I'd like to start off this letter by introducing our newly elected Board Members who will serve a two year term for 2009/2010:

Shannon Cihlar	Vice President
Karen Johnson	Secretary
Coleen Carroll	Board Member
Darwin Missling	Board Member
Micky Trent	Board Member
Debby Wilkins	Board Member

I'd also like to thank our outgoing Board Member, Susan Acklen for her contributions to the Board. The good news is that Susan will remain active as the newly appointed Membership Chair. Many thanks also go out to Lisa Fosdick for her service as outgoing Membership Chair.

The club's website also has a fresh new look. Please take a moment to check it out at www.twincitiesbmd.org. We are working on refreshing the website's content to provide club members, people seeking information on the breed and prospective puppy owners the best information possible. If you have any suggestions for the site, please contact me at president@twincitiesbmd.org.

One exciting feature of the new site is the photo gallery. We were not able to transfer the photos in our old gallery to the new site, but the good news is you now have the ability to upload new photos of your favorite Berner. Just go to the photo gallery page on the website and click on Login to Add Photos. You will be prompted for a User ID and

Password; just enter the user ID = member and Password = berner. This will give you access to the upload page where you will find instructions on how to upload your photo. Please note that your photo will not appear in the gallery immediately; our photo administrator will need to review the photo (to keep out those unsavory photo gremlins) and authorize it for inclusion in the gallery. This should not take more than a few days, so please be patient.

We also have some great Berner merchandise for sale at our Club Store BerneNecessities which can be accessed through our website at www.twincitiesbmd.org/store.html. Our Ways and Means chair, Sarah Tennesen is looking for your input on new items to offer for sale. You can contact her at tennesse@charter.net with your ideas. Remember, sales from the website go to help fund our club events, so your support is greatly appreciated!

Our newsletter will also have some new features in 2009 to help keep you better informed. We will feature a Sunshine Club column that will acknowledge members that have recently lost their beloved companions. If you are interested in recognizing your Berner, please send a note to our Newsletter editor at imveryserious@live.com. We will also be publishing the minutes of our club meetings so you will know what took place even if you weren't able to attend a particular event. We have other new features in mind for future newsletters, so please keep reading.

Why Enter Your Berner in Berner-Garde

- Nancy Melone, Ph.D., Editor, *The Alpenhorn*
Former Berner-Garde Foundation Trustee

I, too, am frustrated that more BMD pet owners do not register their dogs in the Berner Garde. One thing that we as advocates of BGF participation must do is to more clearly explain the advantages/benefits of entering our dogs from the pet owner's perspective. Many times, our PR focuses on the breeder benefits and neglects the many reasons why a pet owner can and should enter their dogs into the database. We need to make it clear how pet owners and their dogs benefit by participation.

On the positive side, of the 177 veterans that are presented in the December issue of *The Alpenhorn*, ALL are listed in the Berner Garde! Yep, EVERY SINGLE ONE of those 177 10+ year-old Veteran BMDs are in the Berner Garde, now. Take a look at your *Alpenhorn* when it arrives – you will see a BGF ID number after each name! Regrettably, some of these old Berners have gone to the Bridge in the last few weeks, but we have established the connection with their owners, and they are updating their dogs' records – sadly, some of them for the first and last times.

Similarly, look at the "In Memoriam" section in the October and December issues of *The Alpenhorn*. These dogs that are waiting at the Bridge also have Berner-Garde ID numbers next to their names (and also a diagnosis for cause of death, when known or suspected). A quick scan of these memorial pages tells us that we (all of us) have more work to do on the cancer and longevity fronts. Breeders must work to improve breeding decisions, but pet owners must provide data so that the research can be done to inform the decisions made by breeders. Everyone has a job, here. No one can sit on the sidelines like a bump on a pickle. We all have a stake in this.

How does participation in the database help the average pet owner?

Well, Bert Klei, Ph.D., a population geneticist, is about to begin some serious analysis of BGF longevity data. When pet owners follow up by entering and updating their dogs' records for a dog's ENTIRE LIFE, we have a larger data set to use in our research endeavors - this improves the research and the quality of what we learn from it. What we learn about longevity (I have been privy to some of the preliminary analysis) has the potential to improve breeder decision making and if the breeder learns from the analysis (e.g., what factors correlate or do not correlate with longevity and which ones can be manipulated in breeding decisions?), then all of us will benefit (on average) when we purchase our next BMD puppy. Similarly, the health data from pets can tell us what diseases/defects are/are becoming serious threats to Berner health enabling us to anticipate and focus our funding proactively on the most urgent diseases/defects and to solicit research attention directed at prevention of and new therapies for those problems. If we can anticipate problems (e.g., liver shunts), then we have a better chance of avoiding full-blown genetic disasters by making prudent breeding decisions (e.g., retiring from breeding any bitch/dog that has produced a shunt puppy until the time that we have a genetic test to identify normal-looking carriers from true genetically-normal dogs). In the meantime, we can support research with genetic data (e.g., submit DNA from affected dogs and their families to the Dutch study to isolate the gene to eventually develop a test). Pet owners are often the first to know these things and are also often the most motivated to work toward a solution, a therapy or prevention. They can play a critical data role in leading the research effort.

Let's face it, most BMDs in the world are not primarily "show dogs" living with breeders, but rather they are nice pets that go to homes where they are champions of the family room, kings of the couch and beauties on the bed. If we are missing data from these family dogs in the Berner-Garde database, then we are missing a very large portion of what we need to benefit the breed – the largest group to benefit is of course -- family dogs!

I have always said that without pet data our research efforts will be seriously constrained. We need you pet owners to participate with your dogs so that your dogs become a legacy for the future! We need you to encourage other pet owners to do so as well. If anyone requires a little help, many of us are happy to offer a guiding hand. ●

Annual Club Night Out

-Shannon Cihlar

You're Invited, Please come!! This year's annual club night out is going to be a fun time. We have chosen a new location, Buca di Beppo in St. Paul, a great family style Italian restaurant.

There will be a silent auction which is sure to have a lot of great items available. All donations are appreciated. The auction helps to cover the cost of the awards.

This year in addition to honoring new title holders and veteran dogs, we will also be honoring rescue dogs. If you are attending the club night out and have a rescue dog, send the dog's name and a brief write-up to the awards chair at kscope@runestone.net or call 320-283-5378. Deadline is March 1.

It's not too late to get those veterans in. Just send in the dog's name and a brief write-up. We want to hear from you! Deadline is March 1.

The Annual Night Out is scheduled for Saturday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. The menu includes bruchetta, Caesar salad, chicken parmigiana, penne arrabiata, cheese manicotti, and dessert of tiramisu, as well as unlimited soft drinks, coffee and tea. Cost is \$36 per person.

Please RSVP to awards chair at above address or phone by Monday, March 9, 2009. *Don't forget an item for the silent auction!* We look forward to seeing you there.●

WANTED:



WEBSITE EVENTS ADMINISTRATOR

☆☆☆

WEBSITE PHOTO GALLERY ADMINISTRATOR

If you like to organize and have 1 hour per week available to assist the club please contact president@twincitiesbmd.org

Our new website needs a dedicated volunteer to keep our events page and photo gallery up to date; training will be provided.●

Club Meeting Notice

Saturday, February 14, 2009

Place:

Bloomington Obedience Training Center

Socializing – 9:00 to 9:30

Presentation – 9:30 to 11:30

Club Meeting & Lunch – 11:30 to 12:30

***Lunch will be provided

Come hear the mysteries of dog shows revealed in this presentation by fellow club-member, Berner breeder and AKC Conformation/Junior Showmanship Judge, Debra Wilkins.●

New Member Applicants

-Susan Acklen

The following people have applied for club membership:

AJ Faleck

Minneapolis, MN

Berners: Wally

Sponsors: Colleen Carroll & Denise McCabe●

VOLUNTEER at the TWIN CITIES PET EXPO!



FEBRUARY 21 – 22, 2009
MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER

www.twincitiespetexpo.com

or visit our club website for more information www.twincitiesbmd.org

VOLUNTEER to sit at the booth and help educate people about the breed! We are asking volunteers to commit to a 2 hours minimum.

Volunteers will receive **free** admission to the event and are encouraged to bring their well-mannered Berner to meet and greet visitors to the event!

Last year was our first year at the Expo and volunteers reported that they had a **GREAT time** and had the opportunity to do some **fun shopping** as well. You don't need to have any special knowledge or expertise. All club members can be advocates for the breed and the club.

The club will provide:

- public education materials about the breed - including pros and cons of ownership
 - Information about the club and it's mission and goals
- Our mission is to connect with people interested in the breed and to educate them about how to identify responsible breeders *BEFORE* they add a Berner to their family.

Contact Mary Pearson at mpearson@fredlaw.com if you would like to volunteer.●

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Greater Twin Cities

-Karen Johnson, Secretary

Minutes: General Membership Meeting
Residence of Rick Bryan & Coleen Carroll
December 13, 2008

Call to Order at 2:15 PM
Quorum: Yes

Presidents Report: Denise McCabe reported on the new Board Members voted in for 2009. The Board of Directors will be as follows:

Denise McCabe-President
Shannon Cihlar- Vice President
Karen Johnson- Secretary
Julie Latteral- Treasurer
Darwin Missling
Sarah Tennesen
Micky Trent
Debby Wilkins

Denise thanked Coleen and Rick for their hospitality in hosting this annual meeting and also thanked the outgoing Board Members Lisa Fosdick and Susan Acklen for their service.

Committee Reports:

Public Education/Events- Volunteers will be needed for our booth at the upcoming Pet Expo February 21 and 22.

Rescue- Coleen reported that there may be a dog ready to home soon that is currently being fostered.

Play Pals- The next Play Pal event will be at Perch Lake Park in Hudson. See the website for more detail.

Trophies- Karen gave a brief talk about the need to fundraise for our trophy fund. Thanks to all who can help out with trophy donations.

Unfinished Business:

Darwin made a motion which was seconded by Ed to approve the changes to the Constitution and By-laws and submit them to AKC to work toward becoming an AKC sanctioned Club. The motion passed.

Denise stated that we are still looking for someone to update the events portion on the website. Nancy Mayer has been doing work on the website.

New Business:

The annual Club Banquet is tentatively set for March 14 at Jax Café in Minneapolis.

The next Club meeting will be on February 14 at the Bloomington Dog Training Center. The program will be Introduction to Dog Shows given by Debby Wilkins

The Club hopes to have an event calendar for the year available soon and will be sending in application to AKC for Accreditation.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.●

Club Meeting Beginners Class in AKC Conformation Showing

What Is Its' Purpose and How DOES it Work??

Saturday, February 14th

Bloomington Obedience Training Center

9:00 - 2:00

For more details and directions, visit our club Events calendar at
www.twincitiesbmd.org

- Have you ever wondered why dog shows exist?
- Have you ever been to a dog show and watched the dogs go in and out of the ring and had NO clue what is happening and why?*
- Do you think you may be interested in showing but don't know how to get started?
- What *ARE* the judges looking at when they pick the winners?
- What does all the information in a show catalog mean and how it can help you when you add that next Berner to your family (and you know you will!)

**Come hear the mysteries of dog shows revealed
in this terrific presentation by fellow club-member, Berner breeder and AKC
Conformation/Junior Showmanship Judge
Deborah Wilkins**

Socializing	9:00 – 9:30
Presentation	9:30 – 11:30
Lunch/Club Meeting	11:30 – 12:30
Socializing/Clean-up	12:30 – 2:00

Note: Dogs are encouraged to attend, but must be kept on leash. This event is open to club members and non-club members and will be open to other breeds as well.

Even some "experienced" conformation exhibitors might fall in this category

The Heart of Minnesota Great Dane Club and The Northstar Working Group Association present:

A TWO-DAY BEHAVIOR AND TRAINING SEMINAR
MARCH 28-29, 2009

PAT MILLER

Whole Dog Journal training editor, lecturer, and author of *The Power of Positive Dog Training*, etc.

Saturday:

BODY TALK: *Discover how to send the right messages to your dog, and how to use body talk to your best advantage for training and relationship purposes.*

Sunday:

BITE ME! *Use gentle, positive training methods and management to reduce and sometimes even eliminate the risks presented by an aggressive dog.*

RESOLVING AND MANAGING BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS: *Apply the principles of behavior and learning to resolve problem behaviors without the use of force.*

The Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers has approved 13 CEUs for this seminar.

UNIVERSITY OF MN CONTINUING EDUCATION AND CONFERENCE CENTER

1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day

\$175.00

Reservations include: Continental breakfast, lunch, and afternoon break each day; coffee, tea, water, and soft drinks available all day. Handouts will be provided.

Please Note: This is NOT a training workshop; please do not bring dogs.

For more information, contact Dian Levin (SerendipityDanes@aol.com, 952-469-2830) or Margaret Ontl (maontl@sbcglobal.net, 715-549-6136).

For more information about Pat miller, visit www.peaceablepaws.com.

PAT MILLER SEMINAR, MARCH 28-29, 2009

\$175.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ CELL: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MAKE CHECKSPAYABLE TO HEART OF MINNESOTA GREAT DANE CLUB AND MAIL TO:

SID LEVIN, 22687 FOREST RIDGE DRIVE, LAKEVILLE, MN 55044●

Club Officers

President

Denise McCabe
715-531-0344
President@TwinCitiesBMD.org

Vice President

Shannon Cihlar
320-283-5378
VicePresident@TwinCitiesBMD.org

Secretary

Karen Johnson

Treasurer

Julie Latterell

Board Members:

Colleen Carroll
Darwin Missling
Micky Trent
Debra Wilkins
Sarah Tennesen

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.twincitiesbmd.org



National Guard Officer Lieutenant Reid enjoys some free time with Chester before being deployed.

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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