



# BerNews

Summer 2010 Volume 7, Issue 2

## **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.*

### **Special Interest Articles:**

- President's Letter
- Performance Events at the BMDCA 2010 Nat'l Specialty
- Minnesotans in Conformation at Nat'l Specialty
- Drafting and Herding Reports from Nationals

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## **President's Letter**

*-Micky Trent (Merlin, Cammie & Viva)*

We are almost half way through 2010 and, after a nice cool Spring for the dogs, summer is coming. There have certainly been plenty of opportunities to enjoy the weather and your dogs this year to date. Our club had a very successful Wine Tasting Party in February. Many thanks to Lisa and Steve Fosdick for hosting and many thanks to all of the participants who donated their time and money to help out with a good cause. March started off with a bang, as many of our club members marched east toward Milwaukee for the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Specialty. March club activities included a Health and Wellness Day and PlayPals. Our Health and Wellness provided an opportunity for dogs to have an eye exam (CERF), be microchipped, and donate samples for the BMDCA genetic study. Human companions were able to learn more about BernerGarde, listen to a national expert on canine cancer, Dr. Jaime Modiano. And of course, there was time to socialize. Playpals had great weather for a walk around Alimagnet Park in March. Some of the dogs, at least, thought it was quite warm enough for a swim in the lake. For those who enjoy showing their dogs in conformation or agility, April provided many opportunities, all in preparation for the big show at the BMD National Specialty in May in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Please check out the follow-up articles in this issue on the breed ring, performance events, herding and drafting to learn about the events and how your club colleagues did. After returning from Nationals, we completed our first B level Obedience and Rally match on the way to AKC accreditation.

The second half of the year will be just as busy. If you are looking for opportunities to work or play with your dog, or to have a good time with your club colleagues, check out the following planned events:

### **June Events:**

- Play Pals, June 12th, 10:30am, Como Park – Come join us for a walk around Lake Como! Gather on the grass outside of the Black Bear Crossing Café (1360 Lexington Parkway N. St. Paul, MN) and plan on an on-leash walk around Lake Como.▶

## President's Letter Continued...

### July Events:

- BMDCGTC B-Match (pending AKC approval), July 6th– We will be holding the second and last of our B conformation matches required in the process of seeking AKC approval. The event will be at Washington County Fairgrounds beginning at 6:00pm, with registration beginning at 5:00pm. Bring your young dogs to get a little ring experience or try your own hand at handling. Entry fees are \$5/class. Volunteers are needed, no experience needed. Contact the match secretary, Micky Trent ([trent001@umn.edu](mailto:trent001@umn.edu)) if you would like to help out.
- BMDCGTC Club Meeting, July 6th – Plan for a club meeting and picnic in conjunction with the BMDCGTC B-Match. Stay tuned for more information.
- BMDCGTC Garage Sale to support the Fall Draft Test, July 24th – The event will be held in Roseville. We will be seeking items for sale and help with the sale. Stay tuned for more news or contact Shannon Cihlar ([kscope@runestone.net](mailto:kscope@runestone.net)) if you would like to help or would like additional information.
- Play Pals, date and time to be determined – Carolyn and Marilyn are working on a plan for a July get together.

### August Events:

- BMDCGTC Regional Specialty, August 27th – This event will be held at the Washington County Fair Grounds. Come see some of the best dogs in the upper Midwest and join your club members for a banquet and a club meeting. Volunteers needed and appreciated.
- BMDCGTC Club Meeting, August 27th – We will be holding a Club meeting in the afternoon after the specialty. Stay tuned for more information.

### September Events:

- Play Pals, Sunday September 12th at 1:00 – Location to be announced.

### Fall Events:

- BMDCGTC 2 Day Draft Test, October 30-31 – We will be holding our second 2-day draft test at a new site this year, Hanson Park in New Brighton. Volunteers needed and greatly appreciated. Contact Micky Trent ([trent001@umn.edu](mailto:trent001@umn.edu)) for more information.
- Herding Fun Day in Pine City, date to be determined – Want to see a herding demo or see if your dog has herding instinct? We will be planning a fun day at Elysian Farms in Pine City with Kim Schneider, a herding trainer who has worked with many breeds of dogs including Berners. If you want to learn more, contact Micky Trent ([trent001@umn.edu](mailto:trent001@umn.edu)) or stay tuned for more information

I hope that I haven't missed anything, but if I have it will show up on the web site and email blasts. I will be sending out the dates and times for Club meetings soon, so be sure to put them on your calendar. We could not offer the number of fun activities that we do without all of your help. Many thanks for all of our members who have volunteered so far this year, and for those who haven't had a chance to lend a hand, there are still plenty of opportunities. Pick an activity that you would like to see and learn about and volunteer. You can contact any of the Committee Chairs or Board Members to ask about helping with an event. I hope to see you there.●

## Performance Events at the BMDCA 2010 National Specialty

*-Denise McCabe (Mick & Lily)*

What a sight! Berners in Agility, Berners in Obedience, Berners in Rally! I had the great privilege of watching this beautiful breed participate in all of these venues at the recent National Specialty in Oconomowoc, WI.

As one who is relatively new to performance events, I was amazed at the large entry of BMDs in these events at this year's specialty. There were over 100 entries in each event.

In my opinion, there is nothing more beautiful to watch than a dog and handler working together. When it works, you can see the connection between them and it is a sight to behold!

The agility trial was held on Tuesday at a beautiful park not far from the show site. Unfortunately, Mother Nature was not shining on us that day. There was an all day downpour with temperatures in the 40's. I can say it was quite miserable out there as I volunteered to set jumps for the event, which meant standing at ringside and adjusting jump heights for the various events. But the participants took it in stride and those hardy souls that chose to brave the elements were out there in their rain gear. Dogs participated in Agility Standard Classes, Jumpers with Weaves and F.A.S.T. We didn't have any BMDCGTC members participating this year, but I hope to be out there soon with my girl, Lily. Micky Trent also participates in agility with Cammie and Viva, so be sure to let us know if you'd like to get started in agility. Worthy of note, is the High in Trial achievement by MN resident, Clark Osojnicki with MACH 3 Brighteye Roxy Mountain Cascade, MX, MXJ, MSF.

Obedience was held on Wednesday and with 107 entries was an all day event. BMDCGTC members Jennifer Krohn (J & N's Schussboomer) and Carol Manley (J & N's Morning Thunder, RN) were among the participants qualifying in Novice B. Way to go!! High in Trial honors went to Anne Nichols and Starlight's Nighttime Jyoti Star, CD RE with an impressive score of 198.5 out of 200! ►



▲ *Denise & Mick in Rally (photo by Sara Reischel)*

◀ *Anne Nichols and Jyoti (HIT Obedience winner)  
(photo by Nancy Mayer)*

## Minnesotans in Conformation at the National Specialty

-Shannon Cihlar

Conformation classes compare one dog to another to see which dog most closely matches the breed standard. Dogs are placed 1st through 4th, with the 1st place most closely matching the breed standard. Many club members were in attendance at the National Specialty this year and represented our club well. Following are the classes entered, the dogs and their placements and the owners and breeders.

Futurity Puppy 9 and under 12 months, Dogs:  
 Second Place: Northfork That's Amore'  
 Owners: Deborah Galuk and Karen Stromgren-Johnson  
 Breeder: Karen Stromgren-Johnson

Fourth Place: Northfork Name of the Game  
 Owners: Karen Stromgren-Johnson and Jerry Johnson  
 Breeder: Karen Stromgren-Johnson

Futurity Junior 15 and under 18 months, Bitches:  
 First Place: Wynsome's Sheza Brickhaus  
 Owners: John and Nancy Mayer and Shannon Cihlar  
 Breeder: Shannon Cihlar

Futurity Junior 15 and under 18 months, Dogs  
 First Place: Wynsome's Jethro-J&N's  
 Owners: John and Nancy Mayer and Shannon Cihlar  
 Breeder: Shannon Cihlar

Sweepstakes Junior 15 and under 18 months, Bitches  
 Fourth Place: Wynsome's Sheza Brickhaus  
 Owners: John and Nancy Mayer and Shannon Cihlar  
 Breeder: Shannon Cihlar

Sweepstakes Veterans 11 years and over, Dogs  
 Third Place: Ch. Abbey Road RK Sampson CD  
 Owners: Karen Stromgren-Johnson and Lisa Rydeen  
 Breeder: Deborah J. Wilkins

Regular Classes Puppy 12 and under 18 months, Bitches:  
 Fourth Place: Wynsome's Sheza Brickhaus  
 Owners: John and Nancy Mayer and Shannon Cihlar  
 Breeder: Shannon Cihlar

Nonregular Classes Veteran 7 and under 9 years, Dogs:  
 Second Place: Ch. Country Wings No More Credit  
 Owners: Doug Hildre and Ondrea Hildre  
 Breeder: Kathleen Radke ▶



*In the middle – Carol Manley & Rumble and Jennifer Krohn & Boomer (Obedience Novice B Qualifiers))*

## Conformation continued ...

The Junior Showmanship classes are judged on the ability of the junior handler to present their dogs to their very best. Classes are divided by age of the handlers and how many wins they have had. Several Minnesota junior handlers did very well at the National.

Open Junior: For boys and girls at least 9 years and under 12 years  
Fourth Place: Claire Horn showing SanLee's Basil in the Mix  
Owner: Sandra Wagner and Richard Rivera  
Breeder: Lenora and Sandra Horn

Open Intermediate: For boys and girls at least 12 years and under 15 years  
Third Place: Jonah Horn showing Ch. Dou-Hil's A Lucious Dream  
Owner: Lenora Horn and Sandra Horn  
Breeder: Doug Hildre

Fourth Place: Lisette Horn showing SanLee's Mint Julip  
Owner: Lenora Horn  
Breeder: Lenora and Sandra Horn●

## DRAFTING REPORT FROM NATIONALS

*-Micky Trent (Merlin, Cammie & Viva)*

There were 3 separate draft tests at Nationals, 2 on Tuesday at nearby Nashota Park and one on Wednesday on the grounds of the host hotel, Olympia Resorts. Tuesday was a challenging day to say the least. The morning started off in the low 40s with driving rain and wind chills in the 30s. The dogs didn't seem to mind, but their human partners all looked pretty miserable. Despite the weather, the stewards and judges did a wonderful job keeping the process positive and moving.

Members from our BMDCGTC all landed in the rainy, cold Tuesday tests. Shannon Cihlar, our club's vice-president, was the secretary for Draft Test 1 and did a great job of dealing with the challenges of the weather and some last minute judging and steward changes. Club members Julie Latterall, Micky Trent, and Jennifer Krohn all had one or more dogs in the Tuesday test. Julie Latterall and Dutch (Am/Can CH Sidori T's Rainin Dutchmen – 7yr) gave the Novice Draft test a try and got very close, but Dutch saw no reason to back up when he was within a few feet of the exit in the maneuvering section. Jennifer Krohn and her speedy boy, Boomer (J and N's Schussboomer – 5yr), almost made it through their novice test but weren't able to adjust to the slow pace of the long haul. Micky Trent and her dogs Merlin the Magi (Merlin - 9.5yr) and Castlemtn's American Camelot (Cammie-4.5yr) successfully completed their first leg of 5 required for an Advanced Novice Brace title. Merlin received the award for the oldest dog to successfully pass a test in Draft Test 1. ●

## Herding Report

*-Micky Trent (Merlin, Cammie & Viva)*

Herding is a traditional activity of Bernese Mountain Dog (BMD) as an all purpose farm dog, and the instinct has been clearly maintained in many dogs. Herding dogs must have some degree of prey drive, but have to suppress the final outcome of prey drive, the kill. BMDs are considered to be drovers, and were primarily used by Swiss farmers to move stock with the farmer from one spot to another. As opposed to herding breeds like the Border Collie or Kelpie, Berners are considered to have a relatively "loose eye," meaning that they do not intimidate stock by fixing them in a stare. Instead, they use their physical presence and body position to control the movement of stock. As of the date of Nationals in May, 2010, BMDs were only eligible for competition in non-AKC events such as the American Herding Breed Association (AHBA) and Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) events. The herding trials at the 2010 and preceding National events were all under the auspices of the AHBA. However, the Bernese Mountain Dog will be added to the breeds eligible for AKC titles in herding as of July, 2010. All venues have an introductory "herding instinct" component, followed by tests that require increasing levels of skill and training.

The BMDCGTC had a strong and successful presence at the AHBA trials at the National trials in 2010. Former club president and current treasurer, Denise McCabe, and her girl Lilly (J & N's Lilygloves), successfully passed the first Herding Capacity Test (HCT) on their first try. Micky Trent was successful in passing HCT I and II with two dogs: Merlin the Magi (Merlin - 9.5 yrs) and Avalon Mist Lady of the Lake (Viva - 10 mo). Merlin and Viva were 2 of 3 dogs to earn titles and earned the awards for the oldest (Merlin 9.5yr) and youngest (Viva 10mo) to earn herding titles at Nationals.

Stay tuned for more herding information for Berners. Our current plan is to have a club meeting and herding introduction in October or November (nice and cool). If you have any questions about starting your dog in herding, please contact Micky Trent ([trent001@umn.umn](mailto:trent001@umn.umn)) or Denise McCabe ([mickster@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:mickster@baldwin-telecom.net)).●

## Treasurer's Report

*-Denise McCabe (Mick & Lily)*

Treasurer's Report as of 5/31/10:

The balance in the BMDCGTC's accounts as of 5/31/10 is \$11,021.86. This includes \$3,962.80 in the Lucy fund which are restricted for that fund's use only. Ways and means had a nice boost with a deposit of \$1540 from Sales at the BMDCA 2010 National Specialty. A big thank you to Sarah Tennessen for coordinating the club's booth!●

## Club Officers

### President

Micky Trent  
651-639-0483  
[President@TwinCitiesBMD.org](mailto:President@TwinCitiesBMD.org)

### Vice President

Shannon Cihlar  
320-283-5378  
[VicePresident@TwinCitiesBMD.org](mailto:VicePresident@TwinCitiesBMD.org)

### Secretary

Karen Johnson

### Treasurer

Denise McCabe

### Board Members:

Coleen Carroll  
Micky Trent  
Darwin Missling  
Debra Wilkins  
Sarah Tennesen

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.twincitiesbmd.org](http://www.twincitiesbmd.org)

## Performance continued ...

Performance events concluded on Thursday with Rally. There were over 150 rally entries which highlights the growing popularity of this fun event. It is a great way to introduce your dog to the performance events, while still allowing you to talk to and encourage them on the course. BMDCGTC members Micky Trent and Denise McCabe participated with Merlin (Merlin the Magi, RE), Viva (Avalon Mist Lady of the Lake) and Mick (Dou-Hil's A Cold One Michelob, RAE). All qualified in their various events. I'm thrilled to report that Mick achieved his first perfect score of 100 in the Rally Advanced B class, placing second. In Rally, if two dogs achieve the same score, the tie is broken by time.

I had a great time participating and watching all of the performance dogs and encourage you all to get out there and participate!●

## 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.

Send to:

Catherine Muenich  
15520 Eagle Shore Dr.  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
[munch904@aol.com](mailto:munch904@aol.com)●

### BMDCGTC

C/O CATHERINE MUENICH  
15520 Eagle Shore Dr.  
Apple Valley, MN 55124



**COMPANY NAME**  
**STREET ADDRESS**  
**CITY, STATE 00000**