



BerNews

Summer 2011 Volume 8, Issue 2

Special Interest Articles:

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- Agility Trial Report
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- 2011 Draft

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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

-Micky Trent (Merlin, Cammie & Viva)

Spring has been busy for the club and its members, with many familiar events and some less traditional ones. In addition to Play Pals and the start of the summer run of shows, we have had the opportunity to try some new things as a club. The National Specialty was held in Southern California this year in April, and many club members made the long trip to participate, with and without their dogs. Many of you took the opportunity to try your dogs out in drafting at our club meeting and drafting practice in April at Hansen Park in New Brighton. We have some natural drafters in the group! Our club participated with Kris and Clark Osojnicky from Animal Inn in offering the first local BMDCA sponsored agility trial in May and had a great turn out. The club also had a representative showing at the National Canine Performance Events Agility Trial at the Washington County Fairgrounds in May.

As you can see, Berners can do a lot of different things. If you have a new pup or a long time family member and are interested in checking out some of the fun things to do with your dog, we hope you were able to make it to the club meeting from 10-1 on July 9th at the Cloud Nine Dog Training in Hopkins. We introduced many of the canine activities that Berners and other breeds can do, including agility, rally, conformation, herding, and more. Also look forward to our annual Regional Specialty on August 26th, our Health and Wellness day in September, and our annual two-day Draft Test in October. Check out the web site for more details as we move closer to the events.

I look forward to seeing all of you and your Berner friends at our events, or just out having fun!



BMDCGTC-Hosted Agility Trial

On the weekend of June 10, 11 and 12, the BMDCA and the BMDCGTC together hosted the first ever AKC all breed agility trial put on by either club.

It was a HUGE success. Weather could not have been better for running agility. The judges, (Jean Munger who is a Berner owner from the Chicago area, Cathy Nelson from Wisconsin and Tom Slattery from Afton MN) provided fun courses and the qualification rate was well above average, so the participants were very happy! Our entries filled on Saturday, we were about 10 runs short of full on Sunday, and we had a nice entry number on Friday. (Friday agility trials generally have smaller entry numbers than Saturdays and Sundays do.)

We have received many, many comments about the fun, relaxed atmosphere of the trial, and many requests to hold the trial again next year.

After all was said and done, the profits from the trial ended up very close to \$4000.00 which will be split 50/50 by the two Bernese clubs. (Each club will end up with just under \$2000.00).

My goals in hosting this trial were to provide a local AKC trial for the area enthusiasts during the month of June. (For those of us that only run AKC type of agility, there is just one 2-day trial in the entire month). So, I wanted to provide an opportunity for people to run. I also was hoping to make it worth the two clubs' involvement, by earning each club some money. It appears that both of those goals were indeed satisfied.

We had several key positions provided by local Berner owners. Anne Nichols was the "caterer" and created some wonderful food for workers and participants to enjoy (Anne was assisted in her efforts by Denise McCabe). Carol Manley was the shows Canine Massage Therapist, and provided a wonderful service to the entered dogs by performing dog massage throughout the day.

The trial was held at Animal Inn Training School in Lake Elmo Minnesota. The trial offered indoor crating for those that wanted to do so, which proved to be a very popular idea. Others put up tents throughout the property, and some kept their dogs in their vehicles, as the weather was on the chilly side. We have 5 acres of property for people to walk their dogs around for exercise or just entertainment.

All in all, I think it was a great success, especially for a first effort.

Hopefully we will be granted permission by both clubs to hold the trial again next year, and we would love for any of you to come out to participate, help, or just watch the event.

Thanks to those of you who did come out this year to help us put on a very successful agility trial!

Kris and Clark Osojnicky

Surf Report

2011 BMDCA National Specialty

Del Mar, California

April 4 - 9

By: Julie Latterell



Portion of Best of Breed line-up - sorry no photo of Mary and Bethany Pearson's boy Klaus who was there showing and made the cut!

Cowabunga dude! The 2011 National Specialty, with its “Surf’s Up” theme, was one I know I won’t soon forget!!!

I took the trip with 2 Berners and all of their dog-show gear (and a bit of my own) out to California in my Chevy HHR. Let’s just say that it’s NOT a particularly spacious vehicle, but it was pretty easy on the gas for my 3-day drive out to Del Mar. I had a bit of fun on the way out when my car overheated in the middle-of-nowhere, New Mexico. I had a Good Samaritan stop to help me, a great dog-loving, tow-truck driver for my 50-mile trip to Santa Fe where I got my car towed for repair, and stayed in a dog-friendly hotel in Santa Fe that was happy to have me and my Berners there for my unexpected 2 day stay. I also managed to have my car towed to the friendliest car dealership in Santa Fe where they were able to quickly replace my radiator, which had a hole in it, and get me back on the road to California!!!

Despite my brief misadventure, it was a fun-filled week of sun, connecting with friends new and old, and LOTS of time to enjoy the many events where Berners and their owners are the main attraction! Despite the long trip, there were quite a number of BMDCGTC club members that attended the show—either as spectators or as competitors.

The show was held at the Del Mar Racetrack with all of the events, except Herding and the VST Tracking test, held right on the show grounds. The conformation rings were near the draft test rings so spectators and competitors alike could watch dogs and their handlers easily in both venues. The agility rings were a little farther afield, but still easily accessible. The host hotel, the Hilton Del Mar, was right across the street from the show grounds and easy to get to. The hotel had the most dog-friendly accommodations many have stayed at—dogs were welcome on the lovely patio, in the hotel bars, and were greeted warmly by all the hotel staff. What could be better???



2011 Host Hotel, Hilton Del Mar

While the hosting clubs apologized profusely for the “cold” weather we had, for us winter-weary Midwesterners, it felt lovely! It was sunny the majority of the time we were there with temperatures in the 60’s-70’s during the day. Perfect for Berners! We did have a big thunderstorm, complete with hail one evening!!!

As usual, there were evening banquets, fundraising events, local sightseeing, informal social gatherings, meetings, opportunities for education at Berner-U, time to watch your favorite dog show event(s), and last, but not least, terrific Berner-related shopping (see related article)! Oh yes, and a special surprise for attendees after Best of Breed judging was over (see photo below)! *Berner cake (yes, that’s REALLY a cake!)*



served to show attendees ringside after Best of Breed judging concluded.

Club Calendar of Events

July-September

July 15 – 17

Duluth KC Show

Duluth, MN

July 30 – 31

Waukesha KC Show

Waukesha, WI

August 6 – 7

Coulee KC Show

LaCrosse, WI

August 13 or 14

PlayPals

Location TBA

August 26

BMDCGTC Regional Specialty Show

Lake Elmo, MN

August 27 – 29

SKVVC Show/Northstar Working Group Assn. Show

Lake Elmo, MN

September 10

Responsible Dog Owner Day – including Drafting demo and PlayPals

Washington County Fairgrounds

Lake Elmo, MN

September 17 – 18

Rochester KC Show

Rochester, MN

September 24

All-Breed Health and Wellness Day

Inver Grove Heights Animal Hospital

Inver Grove Heights, MN

NOTE: For the most update to date info on upcoming club events check out the club events calendar at www.twincitiesbmd.org

Surf Report continued...

Plans are well-underway for the 2012 BMDCA National Specialty in historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (site of the 2005 National Specialty) May 7th through May 12th, 2012. Reservations for the host hotel will be accepted after June 15th . See www.bmdca.org for the link to the 2012 National Specialty website for details about the show and to access the host hotel reservation form.

If you've never been to a National Specialty you should consider coming for a day or two—or the whole week! Make your vacation plans now for a trip to Gettysburg. It is guaranteed to be a vacation you won't soon forget—but hopefully for an entirely different reason than my 2011 National Specialty trip to California was for me!



SHOPPING AT THE NATIONAL SPECIALITY

BY SUSAN ACKLEN

For anyone who has never attended a Bernese Mountain Dog National Specialty, I highly recommend it. It's been Tim's and my 'family' vacation for 10 of the past 11 years. We have literally driven coast to coast with our berners attending National Specialties all over the country. Sure, there are the competitive events: conformation, obedience, agility, rally, and drafting (forgive me if I missed anything!), but there is much more. There are classes offered through Berner U, BMD health screenings, speakers in the evening, photo and rescue galleries to peruse through, organized social events, meeting new friends, visiting with old ones, and SHOPPING. Now that's an event I can compete in!

Hands down. My favorite -and most dangerous- shop at the Specialty every year is Schaussi's Alpen Schatz . Alpen Schatz means Alpine Treasure and, as Tim can attest, I have purchased many 'treasures' from them over the years. Mary Dawn, owner of Schaussi's and 3 big berner boys, offers exclusive alpine handicrafts imported from the heart of the Swiss, Italian, and Austrian Alps. Schaussi's has a gorgeous selection of handcrafted traditional leather Swiss dog collars, leads, and harnesses. They also offer a beautiful selection of Edelweiss jewelry, scarves, alpine hats, Swiss cowbells, and beer steins. They even have lederhosen ! [http :// www . alpenschatz .com/ xindex . htm](http://www.alpenschatz.com/xindex.htm)

Pat's Embroidery consistently has the largest and nicest selection of Bernese Mountain Dog designs anywhere. Pat Hembold's beautifully detailed designs are available on a variety of clothing: hats, t-shirts, hoodies , denim shirts, and fleece vests. Chances are you've seen several people - including myself - wearing Pat's Embroidery designs at club events! [p.hembold @ mlode .com](mailto:p.hembold@mlode.com)

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Save The Dates!!

BMDCGTC Regional Specialty

August 26, 2011

in conjunction with the
St Croix Valley Kennel Club
and Northstar Working Group

4-day show cluster

August 26-29, Lake Elmo, MN

Regular and Inter-sex Classes:
Puppy and Veteran Sweepstakes:
Junior Showmanship:

Mark Milligan
Jessica Briggie
to be determined

*Join us for our Post-show **Banquet**
and our fabulous **Raffle***

Sharon Kranz, chair,
trikrew@q.com

TWO Draft Tests

October 22-23, 2011

(pending AKC approval)
More information on our website
Denise McCabe, chair
dlp124@comcast.net





Denise and Lily at the agility trial.



SHOPPING AT THE NATIONAL SPECIALTY CONTINUED...

It's an important tradition to support the National Club, regional clubs, and Berner Garde booths. In addition to the standard t-shirt and hat offerings, over the years we've purchased coffee mugs, jewelry, Christmas tree ornaments, coloring books, rain gear, flip flops and an apron - all Berner themed!

While not in San Diego this year, I must include some of my favorite vendors from past National Specialties:

Wilczek Woodworks offers custom crafted fine wood dog carts, wagons, and other drafting equipment. Bill and Barbie Wilczek are Berner owners, draft competitors, and take great care in helping others get started in draft. We have never competed in draft, but have two Wilczek Woodworks carts: a WIN cart with red slat sides and a replica antique hay wagon. Grace, who is no longer with us, used to pull the red cart around our neighborhood hauling kids, veggies from the local farm stand, and the occasional case of beer from the liquor store! We're looking forward to our next generation of Berners learning to draft. <http://www.wilczekwoodworks.com/index.php>

I have visited the Truman Collar booth during many past specialties and have never gotten away without buying at least one new collar! Truman Collars has an endless selection of fabric and ribbon-trimmed collars - including a large selection of Edelweiss trim. Collars are well-made, reasonably priced, machine washable, and come in either snap-buckle or martingale styles. Matching leads are available in any fabric or trim. Debby Fitch, owner and creator, donates 25% of all proceeds from the sales of Truman Collars to the Morris Animal Foundation in memory of Truman, her Bernese Mountain Dog that passed away of hemolytic anemia at age 4 and 1/2. <http://www.thetrumancollar.com/>

Consider making a National Specialty one of your family vacations. Regardless of whether or not you compete with your dog - there's something for everyone at the National! The 2012 Bernese Mountain Dog National Specialty will be held in historic Gettysburg, PA.

2011 Draft Test – The story continues.....

By Mick McCabe (in loving memory of Dutch)



Back in the spring of 2009, my friend, Dutch Latterell, and I took a trip to Iowa to try our luck at getting our Novice Draft Dog titles. You may remember that Dutch wrote an article on his experiences for this newsletter that year. The best part of that trip was our stay at the “Boomer Inn” with our friend, Boomer Krohn.

My Mom seemed to think that you can simply hook a guy up to a cart and go off and enter a test. Well, I showed her the error of that way of thinking! No matter if you are deemed a “drafting natural”, you need to train for and practice all of the elements of the test to earn the coveted NDD title. Needless to say, neither I nor Dutch passed that time.

Over the past two years, we tried a few more times to pass the test. We did train and practice, but there always seemed to be one thing that got in the way! One year it was lots of goose poop right under my nose on the freight haul, and then there was last year when I did everything perfect and my Mom failed to notice that the shaft of my cart had fallen out of the loop on my harness. Geesh, how is a dog supposed to pull a cart around the course with malfunctioning equipment!

So, when it came to this year’s test in Iowa, Mom and I were ready. Unfortunately my friend Dutch was not able to be there with me, but I knew that he was looking down from across the Rainbow Bridge and wishing me well.

It was raining all day so it was not nearly as hot as it was the first year in Iowa. Dutch would have liked that! I was one of the last dogs to be tested on Saturday. My Mom began to worry just a little when the grill was stoked up and brats and burgers started smelling really good just before I went into the ring. If you know me, you know I am rather partial to food and prone to abandoning all other thoughts to find my way to it. So in the ring I went to start the test while visions of burgers and brats danced in my head.....

Elements of the Test:

Basic Control – Heeling and Recall

How It’s Supposed to work...

The handler demonstrates a short heeling pattern. The leash is taken off and handler calls dog.

How I did...

I entered the ring with my nose in the air, determined to sniff out those burgers and brats. It was a little tough to stay focused on heeling around the ring, but my Mom really worked it and I managed to stay focused enough to not run out of the ring in search of the food. The judge said I did a perfect recall and even put a smiley face on my scorecard. Element passed!!

Harness and Hitch

How It's Supposed to work...

Demonstrate the handler can correctly harness the dog in preparation for the Practical Draft Work portion of the test

How I did...

After my Mom's goof up last fall, you can be sure that she hitched me up and then double checked her work. We passed this one too!

Practical Draft Work – Basic Commands, Control with Distractions, Loading and Unloading, Maneuvering

How It's Supposed to work...

The team has to maneuver in a ring around a course designed by the judges. They must halt, pick up and drop off a small load, work around visual and auditory distractions, back up 1-foot while hooked to the cart and go through a narrows.

How I did...

Thank goodness there were no little kids' sand pails on the course this year. Two years ago it was really hot and I was sure that some nice person had left me a drink so I veered off course to check it out. With no big distractions, I maneuvered my way through the course with no problems. My Mom managed to stay calm and guide me through the narrows with no upsets. The judge did mention that I needed to keep working on my halts so that's my homework for next time, but they were good enough so...

Passed this one!!

Group Stay

How It's Supposed to work...

This is done with up to 6-draft teams in the ring at once. Dogs can either sit or lay down and must stay in that position for a full 3-minutes with the owner across the ring from them at the novice level.

How I did...

Lying down for three minutes in the shade has never been a problem. My Mom did worry a little when I ate some grass and then started hacking... she was afraid I might need to stand up to clear my throat, but I just coughed it up so...

Passed this one!!

Distance Freight Haul

How It's Supposed to work

Dogs and handler go on ½ mile freight haul over varying terrain pulling 20 lbs. This element is done on-leash for the novice level.

How I did...

You know, I'm almost 7 so you'd think I wouldn't want to charge ahead, but NO... I really felt like the dog in front was moving way too slow, so my Mom had to ask the judge for permission to pass him. It took a little while for us to find the right spot, so I had to practice walking slowly and in control until we could whiz by. The rest of the ½ mile walk went great and when we came to the end my Mom was so happy we ran out of the ring and she gave me a big hug.

There's always a little nerve wracking wait while the judges tally up the scores and the secretary writes it on the board, but there it was in writing....we passed.

My Mom was really happy and shared her lunch of a big juicy hamburger with me.

And then, to top off the day, we got a really nice keepsake box from the Heartland club as our trophy. Maybe my Mom will fill it with treats.

Now Mom says we have to keep practicing and work up to pulling 90 pounds. She wants me to get my Draft Dog title, which means I have to do it all over again, this time off leash. I've got all summer to get buff so I think I'm up to the challenge.

Please come join us at our club's fall draft test, October 22 and 23rd at Hansen Park in New Brighton, MN. Details are on our website.



Pre-registration Form
BMD Club of the Greater Twin Cities All-Breed Health and
Wellness Day
Saturday, September 24, 2011, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Pre-registration by September 16th is strongly encouraged!

Inver Grove Heights Animal Hospital
7131 Cahill Avenue
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota 55076

Screening	#	\$	Total
OFA Cardiac Screening* - Dr. Chris Stauthammer, Diplomate of American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in the specialty of Cardiology. Assistant Professor in Cardiology at the UMN, CVM.		\$40 \$35 for BMDCGTC members!	
CERF Eye Exam*- Dr. Larocca, Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists and and a board certified ophthalmologist		\$35 \$30 for BMDCGTC members!	
HomeAgain Microchipping*		\$35 \$30 for BMDCGTC members!	
Von Willebrands screening (BMD's only) Pre-registration required		\$105	
TOTAL			\$

Owner Name:

E-mail Address:

Phone #: _____

Dogs Names:

Breed:

20% DISCOUNT will be offered on digital hip and elbow x-rays (\$114 for one, \$228 for both)!!! Please contact Mary Phelps at Inver Grove Heights Animal Hospital directly to make an appointment for these screenings 651-451-4404

NOTE: Discounted hip and elbow screenings are offered at this event as a convenience for attendees and to encourage screenings for heritable diseases. Inver Grove Heights staff will be responsible for all aspects of these x-rays, including scheduling appointment times, the x-rays themselves, and submission to OFA. All hip and elbow x-rays are typically done without sedation. If IGH staff feels sedation is needed, IGH staff will discuss with the owner and their standard release forms will be required.

**PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK PAYABLE TO BMDCGTC TO:
LAURA FOURRE
lfourre@gmail.com**

**6016 ST. JOHNS AVENUE
EDINA, MN 55424**

***COSTS ARE FOR HEALTH SCREENINGS ONLY. ADDITIONAL FEES TO SUBMIT TO OFA, CERF OR HOMEAGAIN ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNER**

Club Officers

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Shannon Cihlar
Laura Fourre
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.twincitiesbmd.org



In Memory

The Rescue Committee would like to recognize a donation by Jennifer Krohn of \$50 in memory of Scott and Julie's boys Dutch and Watson.

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.

Graphics courtesy of Dawn Gabig, Classique Graphics

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