



BerNews

Winter 2005 Volume 2, Issue 5

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
- First Annual Awards Banquet
- BMDCSEW Back-to-Back Specialties
- Start Your Carts

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President's Letter: Health & Wellness Day 2005

-Julie Latterell (Cooper, Dutch, Owen, & Watson)

October saw us host our 2nd annual all-breed Health and Wellness Day at St. Paul Dog Training in South St. Paul. With the aid of our health screeners from the University of Minnesota and our club member volunteers we were able to screen nearly 60 dogs for heritable eye conditions and cardiac health! In addition, we offered micro chipping services and von Willebrand's screening.

In addition to the health screenings provided, we were thrilled to have two speakers for the day. Deborah Wilkins of Abbey Road Bernese Mountain Dogs and BMDCGTC member, spoke to attendees about responsible breeding practices. As part of her talk, she highlighted some basic things your dog should have achieved if it is to be considered for breeding. She also made available a large array of educational materials and

books from her own "dog library." We thank her for sharing her time and expertise with us!

The afternoon brought us our second speaker, Dr. Cathy Sinning, DVM. She talked about ways to ensure your dog achieves its' optimum health including:

- Minimizing vaccines
- Feeding your dog the best quality food available – preferably raw or high quality kibble
- Proper nutritional supplementation
- Utilizing complementary care, such as, acupuncture, homeopathy and/or herbal supplements to help your dog maintain good health

were with AltaVet in south Minneapolis. They have recently branched out on their own and are currently doing house calls until they can find a suitable location for their own clinic.

All in all, it was a successful and fun day—helping us to achieve our club's mission to promote the development, improved breeding practices, and well-being of the purebred Bernese Mountain Dog!•



Merry Christmas

Dr. Sinning and her husband Jim (both veterinarians) formerly

Annual Winterfest & Club Meeting

Meeting Date/Time: Sunday, December 18, 2005
 Board Meeting: 12:30 to 1:00
 Club Meeting: 2:00 to ?

Meeting Place: Rick Bryan and Coleen Carroll's House
 810 Hallam Ave. N.
 Mahtomedi, MN
 651-407-8152

Directions: Take Hwy 36 east to Hilton Trail North.
 Where Hilton trail ends, go left onto Stillwater Blvd.
 Go right at East Ave.
 (just before the Freedom Station)
 At Hickory, the first stop sign, go left.
 Take a right at Hallam Ave. N.

The house is the green and yellow Victorian on the right.
 You can park in the driveway or out on the road.
 Please keep your dog on leash until you get inside the fenced area.

The festival will be in the backyard, so dress warmly. Hot drinks and a warm fire will be provided. Bring some munchies to share. ●



BRAGS

Carol Taylor's Sandusky's Stand in Awe aka Stanley passed his Canine Good Citizenship test on November 21, 2005.

New Newsletter Publication Dates

New BMDCGTC newsletter publication dates have been established for the club. From now on, the goal is to have the newsletter available for viewing on the fourth day of the following months – December, March, June, and September.

First Annual Awards Banquet

-Shannon Cihlar (Eli, Brielle, & Chaska)

The BMDCGTC is holding its first awards banquet to honor all 2005 title earners and veterans on February 4, 2006. We will have a silent auction with many nice prizes, and welcome any and all donations. There will also be a white elephant gift exchange. Bring that wrapped item you have that you just have no use for, but someone else might. The banquet will be held at Major's Sports Café, which is centrally located in Golden Valley. We invite all club members to attend for an afternoon of great food and fun!

There is still time to get those veterans registered. Go to:

<http://www.twincitiesbmd.org/AwardsForm.php> ●

Summary of the Club Financial Statement for 2005

-Nancy Arndt
(Crash, Rocky, & Cassie)

<i>Income</i>	
General Club Income	\$2,680.29
Membership Income	1,368.00
Ways and Means Income	4,178.00
Rescue Income	122.50
Breeder Referral Income	65.00
RCC Income	-
Website Income	-
Lucy Fund	1,032.00
Newsletter Income	-
Total Income	\$9,445.79
<i>Expenses</i>	
General Club Expenses	(4,180.67)
Membership Expenses	(157.42)
Ways and Means Expenses	(2,658.98)
Rescue Expenses	-
Breeder Referral Expenses	-
RCC Expenses	-
Website Expenses	-
Lucy Fund	-
Newsletter Expenses	(118.17)
Total Expenses	\$7,115.24
Net Income for the Period	\$2,330.55
Beginning Balance	\$5,567.37
Ending Balance	\$7,897.92



Dues are Due January 1, 2006

Hopefully you have received the 2006 dues renewal notice. Dues renewals and membership checks are to be mailed by January 1, 2006 to Denise McCabe, Membership Chair:

Denise McCabe
BMDCGTC Membership Chair
981 Priester Lane
Hudson, WI 54016

Full individual membership with voting rights (one adult)	\$15
Full family membership with voting rights	\$20
Associate membership with no voting rights	\$10
Newsletter only	\$7.50



BMDCSEW Back-to-Back Specialties

It is time to mark your calendar and to start making plans for the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Southeastern Wisconsin's annual Back-to-Back Specialties. The specialties will be held on Friday March 3, 2006 and Saturday March 4, 2006 at the same location as last year, the Milwaukee County Sports Complex, 6000 W. Ryan Road, Franklin, WI. Wisconsin Kennel Club will be holding an all breed show on March 5, 2006 at Wisconsin State Fair Park. Details of the WKC show are available at either <http://www.royjonesdogshows.com> or <http://www.akc.org/events/search/index.cfm>.

We have made some noteworthy additions for 2006:

** The size of our show site will be doubled. We have secured the other quarter of the building and the show will now occupy the whole back ½ of the building.

** Rally obedience will be offered (Friday only).

** We will be hosting a wine and cheese get together on Friday March 3, 2006 after breed judging.

** The trophy budget has been increased.

Additionally, like last year the

Premium Lists and Entry Forms are available for downloading at our website, <http://www.bmdcsew.org/>. Just click on the SEW Specialties '06 link in the menu on the left side of our homepage. If you would rather receive a hard copy via surface mail, please contact the Event Secretary with your name and address, as soon as possible. On the other hand, if you know anyone that would like to be included in our electronic mailing, please forward this e-mail or have them e-mail the Event Secretary.

All forms (banquet, trophy donation, prepaid catalog etc.) are also available at our website as individual downloads and can be filled out on your computer and printed out. You will need Adobe Reader installed on your computer and it is available for downloading at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. For instructions on filling out forms on your computer see the link "form assistance" at our website.

If you have any questions please contact the Show Chairperson, Jane Haefner at jhaefner@execpc.com or the Event Secretary, Mark Milligan at bonmead@netnet.net.

Hope to see you on March 3 & 4, 2006!

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Southeastern Wisconsin●

Start Your Carts!



The BMDCA has informed the club that our application to hold an All-Breed Draft Test in June has been approved! We will be hosting the event on Saturday, June 17th at Bassett Creek Park in Crystal with a workshop on Sunday. In order to pull off a successful test, we will need the help of everyone in the club. We have a great need for stewards, docents, and helper-bees -- no experience required. Adam Conn will serve as the Test Chair and Shannon Cihlar as the Test Secretary. Julie Latterell will be acting as Chief Steward -- she'll need numerous day-of volunteers. We also need people to help with decorations, equipment wrangling, ring favors, raffle, ways & means, and hospitality for the event. We are also looking for themes!

The Draft Tests are a series of exercises designed to develop and demonstrate the natural abilities of purebred Bernese Mountain Dogs in a working capacity involving hauling. The Bernese Mountain Dog has historically functioned as a draft dog in various capacities, and performance of these exercises is intended to demonstrate skills resulting from both inherent ability and training which are applicable to realistic work situations. Efficiency in accomplishment of tasks is essential. It is also desirable that the dog evidence willingness and enjoyment of his work in a combination of controlled teamwork with his handler and natural independence.

We are fortunate to have Ruth Nielsen and Jennifer Brightbill come in from the West Coast to serve as our judge. Ruth conducted our workshop last year, and is looking forward to seeing how we've progressed in a year. We are hoping to recruit a full entry of 20 teams for them. In 2005, 50 Berners earned their Novice Draft Dog (including Shannon's Brie at Nationals), and 20 the Open Draft Dog. Nine teams earned their Novice Brace title and just one pair earned their Open Brace -- Brace Drafting is amazing to watch attempted, let alone done successfully!

More information on drafting can be found at the BMDCA website: <http://bmdca.org>

Stepping Out in Winter 2005

-Catherine Johnson (Chester)



Even though you may not be a deer hunter yourself, be aware of the hunting seasons in your area. Here Chester sports his blaze orange vest so nobody can mistake him for a deer.



Berners love to spend time in the snow. However, if your berner starts biting at his/her paws, it might be time to break out the booties. The booties prevent ice balls from forming between your dog's toes and pads.

Club Officers

President

Julie Latterell
715-772-3121
President@TwinCitiesBMD.org

Vice President

Coleen Carroll
651-407-8152
VicePresident@TwinCitiesBMD.org

Secretary

Jim Sheehan
612-701-4016

Treasurer

Nancy Arndt
763-783-1996

Board Members:

Shannon Cihlar
Peggy Bebeau
Darwin Missling
Adam Conn
Susan Acklen

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.twincitiesbmd.org

New Member Applicants

-Denise McCabe (Mick)

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 18.

Robb & Gail Simpson

Lakeland, MN
Berners: Dually
Sponsors: Coleen Carroll & Rick Bryan

Laurie & George Rose

Lake Elmo, MN
Berners: Windy
Sponsors: Kathy Pruno & Nancy Arndt

Laurie & Jim Coleman

Richfield, MN
Berners: Buddy
Sponsors: Darwin Missling & Amber Loshbough

Chad & Maggie Dayton

St. Paul, MN
Berners: Bella
Sponsors: Darwin Missling & Adam Conn

Shyan Fitzgerald & Jason Mikunda

Minnetonka, MN
Berners: ?
Sponsors: Nancy Arndt & Darwin Missling

Amy & Martin Saar

St. Paul, MN
Berners: ?
Sponsors: Julie Latterell & Nancy Arndt

Angie & Jeff Burke

Blaine, MN
Berners: Boone
Sponsors: Adam Conn & Nancy Arndt

Julie Rivers & Chris Place

City: Rochester, MN
Berners: Cali & Hops
Sponsors: Coleen Carroll & Nancy Mayer●

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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