



BerNews

Winter 2006 Volume 3, Issue 4

Special Interest Articles:

- President's Letter
- Fantastic Four
- Sponsorship for Regional Specialty

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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.

Letter from the President

-Shannon Cihlar (Eli, Brielle, & Chaska)

As 2006 winds down, our club is going strong. We have successfully held our annual Health and Wellness day in a new location which was quite lovely, in addition to being represented at the Berne Swiss Fest, our Swiss Fun Match, and the wine tasting party hosted by Shelley Strohm and Steve Boda. And don't forget the winter party coming up at Coleen Carroll and Rick Bryan's house next month. We also had two new events, the awards banquet and our first draft test. What a great group of dogs and owners we have.

Unfortunately, another aspect of our club which has been quite busy of late is the rescue committee. In the past couple of months we have had several dogs needing rehoming, a dog auction in northwestern Wisconsin which had two Berners in it, and just this week four Berners owned by one person needing to be rescued, one of which is pregnant and will have delivered her large litter by the time you read this. Thankfully we have a very committed rescue committee, and lots of very generous Berner owners donating time, money, and companionship to these dogs. In addition the BMDCA and BARC have offered financial assistance and help in placing these dogs and puppies. A huge thank you to all involved. We certainly hope this is not a trend that will continue.

Other events in the planning stages include our first regional specialty to be held next August in conjunction with the St. Croix Valley Kennel Club dog show. Our club is also looking into becoming

AKC sanctioned. As the year comes to an end, it is also time to renew membership and pay dues. We hope you enjoy being a part of this wonderful Berner club and community and that we will see you next month and next year!



A very pregnant Tilly.



(Left to right) Nancy Arndt, Coleen Carroll, & Dr. Jennifer Grybowski. Dr. Grybowski is doing all of the surgeries & a lot of the professional care.

Photos courtesy of Coleen Carroll & Rick Bryan●

Annual Winterfest & Club Meeting



Meeting Date/Time: Saturday, December 16, 2005
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.●

BERNER PLAYPALS

Berner Playpals is an informal gathering for club Berners and their owners that meet once a month for exercising and socializing. Activities include group playtime at off leash dog parks and club member's homes and group hikes.

Some upcoming events are:

December: Annual Winterfest at Coleen Carroll & Rick Bryan's home. This is combined with the club meeting.

January: Annual moonlight walk at Elm Creek Park Reserve Off Leash Dog Park.

February: TBD

March: Chester's Birthday Party at Alimagnet Park in Burnsville

Please check the club web site for exact dates and times.

If you are interested in hosting Berner Playpals at your home or know of a location that would be perfect, please let either Coleen Carroll or Nancy Arndt know.●

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.

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

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

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

Shyan Fitzgerald & Jason Mikunda
Minnetonka, MN
Berners: Kato
Sponsors: Nancy Arndt
Darwin Missling

Dean White & Renee Boyd
Hugo, MN
Berners: ?
Sponsors: Coleen Carroll
Rick Bryan

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

Duane & Chris Shelley
Stillwater, MN
Berners: Dakota & Sammy
Sponsors: Julie Latterell
Nancy Mayer

Craig & Theresa Schwarten
Stacy, MN
Berners: Emmett, Cherry, & Reuben
Sponsors: Darwin Missling
Peggy Bebeau●

Second Annual Awards Banquet



For the second year in a row the club will be holding a banquet in February to honor all those dogs who have earned AKC/CKC conformation, obedience, agility, rally, tracking, titles as well as drafting, herding, Canine Good Citizen, and Therapy Dog International titles in 2006. In addition, we have added the Delta Therapy Dog. We will also be honoring veteran dogs and any dog 7 years or over. If your dog has earned any of these titles in 2006 or is a veteran, please fill out the form below and return to Shannon Cihlar. More details will be coming regarding the exact date, time, and place. In addition we have a white elephant gift exchange and a silent auction. Good food, good friends, great time!

2006 AWARDS

If your dog(s) has earned a new title in 2006, 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: November 28, 2006

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	Obedience Titles
Agility Titles	Canine Good Citizen (CGC)
Drafting Titles	Herding Titles
Tracking Titles	Rally Obedience Titles
Therapy Dog (TDI)	Delta Therapy Dog

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): _____ ●

The Dogs

On Friday, October 27th, the club became aware of four Bernese Mountain Dogs that were in desperate need of our help. An older farmer near Tracy, MN had four Bernese Mountain Dogs that he had used for breeding--1 male and 3 females. They are all approximately 2 - 2 1/2 years of age and are from a dog broker in Iowa. The farmer wanted to "get out of breeding Berners" because he had heard they were difficult whelpers and realizes he "can't give them the care they need during the crop harvest."

All four dogs (named, Tillie, Rosy, Karma and Hank) were in our care by Thursday, November 2nd and were taken immediately to the Stillwater Veterinary Clinic for examination. On Friday, November 3rd, we received notification that the very pregnant female, Tillie, is going to deliver a litter of puppies, which is anticipated to be fairly large.

The dogs were matted and dirty and had not even been named. They are obviously unused to walking on leashes, riding in cars and are afraid of different environments and floor surfaces. Since they were kept in a barn, they are not house-trained. They will obviously require patient socialization and training in order to become well-mannered residents in any home. All of the adult dogs will be spayed/neutered prior to placement in permanent homes.

Theresa Schwarten has very generously offered to foster the male, Hank and one of females, Rosy, on a short-term basis. John & Nancy Mayer have offered to take care of the other very shy female, Karma. When the new mother, Tillie, is ready to leave the clinic, she will reside with Coleen until the puppies are old enough

to be weaned.

Our club agreed to a financial outlay of \$1,500 to get these dogs out of a horrible situation--and ensure that any resulting puppies are placed in loving homes with spay/neuter contracts. While the board of the BMDCGTC generally does not endorse the purchase of dogs, the board unanimously agreed that this was indeed a situation that required our intervention in order to ensure the safety of the adult dogs and the best outcome for the unborn puppies. Coleen Carroll and a number of other rescue volunteers have been working *many* hours to make sure that is indeed what happens.

The club also gratefully acknowledges the support we received from BARC and the BMDCA in order to provide all the dogs with proper medical attention and the chance at loving, permanent homes. BARC has provided financial assistance and will facilitate the adoption process for the adult dogs and the resulting puppies once they are ready to go to new homes. The BMDCA generously offered financial support for medical expenses related to the spays and neuters and other costs related to medical care.

The Needs

Food and Supplies – donations of food and supplies may be made directly to BMDCGTC Rescue Chair, Coleen Carroll. Supplies may be dropped off at Coleen's home (please leave donations on the front porch):

Coleen Carroll
810 Hallam Avenue North
Mahtomedi, MN

Any unused donations of supplies and food will be donated to local

animal service/rescue organizations.

Monetary Donations – monetary donations may be made to BARC directly through their website www.barc.org or to the BMDCGTC (www.twincitiesbmd.org). All monies received will go toward rescue of Rosy, Tillie, Karma and Hank. This may include medical costs, purchase of food, supplies, and/or training costs to help ensure that the dogs have the best chance to be successful in their new homes. Any unused rescue donations will go toward future rescues. A huge thank you to those who have already made generous donations to rescue!

Foster Care

Short-term foster care for Rosy, Karma, and Hank will be provided by Theresa Schwarten, who can further evaluate the dogs temperaments and monitor their recovery from their spay/neuters. Coleen Carroll will be providing care for Tillie and her newborn puppies.

Long-term foster care homes will be needed! Homes need to be willing to spend time with socializing the dogs and exposing them to new situations as their progress allows. In addition, foster homes will need to be able/willing to provide some basic training and consistent boundaries in order to afford the dogs the best chance of success in their new forever homes.

The BMDCGTC will screen homes for long-term foster care.

Long-Term Placement

Initial screening of permanent homes for dogs and puppies will be done by the BMDCGTC. If owners pass the initial screening, they will be instructed to contact BARC for final screening and possible long-term placement. ●

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Greater Twin Cities
Presents our first Regional Specialty in Minnesota
Friday, August 24, 2007
Washington County Fairgrounds, Lake Elmo, MN

To All BMDCGTC Members and Berner Enthusiasts,

Our first Regional Specialty in this area is soon to become a reality! This event has been many years in the making and will become a great educational and participatory event. We now have an opportunity to help get this event off the ground. Please consider sponsoring a class or several classes for this important event. The trophies for Regional Specialties help to make these events so important for those of

us to help showcase our breed. It helps to recognize future breeding stock to maintain the standards for the breed that we love, and to support performance events that utilize the great bond between these special dogs and ourselves.

Sponsoring a class will not only help the Club to put on a successful show, but this can be a tribute to your own champion, your kennel and breeding program or perhaps to remember a special Berner that has passed on before us.

The BMDCGTC has a nice start on donations already, but at this point there are plenty of trophies still available to sponsor. Please fill out the enclosed form to show your support for the breed and the specialty. On behalf of the BMDCGTC I would like to thank you in advance for your donation.

Respectfully,
 Karen Stromgren Johnson
 BMDCGTC Trophy Chair●

Sponsorship for BMDCA/BMDCGTC Regional Specialty
August 24, 2007

Please fill out and return to: Karen Johnson
 12550 120th St N, Stillwater MN 55082
 651-351-1935 or Northforkkaren@Yahoo.com

Best of Breed or High in Trial- \$60.00

Best of Opposite Sex or High Combined- \$45.00 each

Awards of Merit (4 are available)-\$40.00 each

Best of Winners-\$40.00 each

Reserve Winners Dog or Reserve Winners Bitch-\$25.00 each

Best Junior -\$35.00

Best & Best of Opposite in Puppy Sweeps \$50.00

Best & Best of Opposite in Veteran Sweeps \$50.00

Classes (1st thru 4th) are \$40.00 each, (includes conformation and obedience)

(6-9 mo. Dog or Bitch, 9-12mo. Dog or Bitch, 12-18 mo. Dog or Bitch, Am. Bred Dog or Bitch, Bred by Exhibitor Dog or Bitch, Open Dog or Bitch, 7-9 yr. Veteran Dog or Bitch, 9-11 yr Veteran Dog or Bitch, 11 & over Veteran Dog or Bitch, Novice A or B, Open A or B, Utility A or B, Veterans obedience, Novice junior, Open Junior, Novice Intermediate, Open Intermediate, Novice Senior, Open Senior, Stud dog, Brood Bitch, Brace, and Rally.

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Class(es):

Check enclosed () Or Bill Me ()

How you would like your name to appear in the catalog:

Amount:

Health and Wellness Day Is a Wrap!

Stone Mountain Pet Lodge - Blaine, Minnesota

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



Nancy Arndt helping a happy Berner, Inessa, and her owner get ready for her CERF Eye Exam

Thanks to a bevy of volunteers, wonderful Stone Mountain staff, skilled health screeners, and an incredible facility--and some pretty awesome dogs--another successful Health and Wellness Day has come and gone.

Stone Mountain Pet Lodge staff began the day catering to our every need, including offering tours of their incredible, state of the art facility, including full-service pet salon and fully stocked store, where they sell pet food, treats, toys, and pet supplies.

Our health screeners, Dr. Luca Ferasin (OFA Cardiac exams), Dr. Katie Diehl (CERF Eye exams) and our own club member, and multi-talented health screener, Micky Trent (Microchipping, DNA Screening and von Willebrand's testing), arrived next along with our incredible volunteers (see sidebar). Oh yes, and did I forget to mention our other talented club member, Katie Larson? She arrived too, along with her photography

equipment to take photos of us with our favorite Berners! Theresa Schwarten and club member, Sharon Millard, were there to give grooming tips and dremel nail trimming lessons. Many folks were seen getting their Berners spruced up before their photo-ops with Katie! We also had Marie Sheehan manning our Ways and Means Table and Julie Latterell and Adam Conn in attendance to give demonstrations of the BernerGarde health database.

The event was open to Berners of course, but other dog breeds were welcome as well. The day saw Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Bouvier des Flandres, English Springer Spaniels, Border Terriers, English Toy Spaniels, and a Labrador Retriever in attendance all helping to make our day a success. After the final tallying was done, we provided 18 OFA Cardiac Exams, 17 CERF Eye Exams, 9 DNA screenings, Microchipped 6 dogs and performed 2 von Willebrand screenings.



Two non-Berners waiting for their OFA Cardiac Exam

We hope to see you at our 2007 Health and Wellness Day event, which is sure to be even bigger and better than this year!•

Look for information about a rescheduled presentation by Anne Wolff Nichols on "*Deepening your Relationship with Your Dog*" sometime after the first of the year!

H&W Day Volunteer Recognition

Susan Acklen – Registration
Jeff Arndt – Microchipping, DNA, vWB
Nancy Arndt – Facility Liason, Eye Exams
Peggy Bebeau – Event co-chair, Cardiac Exams
Rick Bryan – Photo Wranglers
Coleen Carroll – Microchipping, DNA, vWB and Photo Assistant
Shannon Cihlar – Lunch and Photo Coordination
Adam Conn – BernerGarde
Lisa Fosdick – Cardiac Exams
Brian Kittilson – Photo Wrangler
Katie Larson – Professional Photos
Julie Latterell – Event Co-chair, BernerGarde
Zoe Liston – Microchipping, DNA, vWB
Nancy Mayer – Eye Exams
Sharon Millard – Grooming Demos
Darwin Missling - Registration
Theresa Schwarten – Grooming Demos
Jim Sheehan – Eye Exams
Marie Sheehan – Ways and Means Table
Tim Staples – Registration
Sarah Tennesen – Registration

BRAGS

Thistledown Sabrina V JN, owned by Carol Manely, completed her Rally Excellent title on Oct. 21st at the TCOTC Obedience & Rally Trial. She scored a 99 and placed 3rd in the Excellent B class.

J & N's Morning Thunder, owned by Carol Manley, passed all the required elements of the Canine Good Citizen test on Nov. 9th.•



**BMDCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY
MONDAY MAY 7, 2007 LOUISVILLE,
KENTUCKY**

Jerold Bell DVM

**A Practical Genetic Overview of the Bernese
Mountain Dog**

Matthew Breen PhD

Malignant Histiocytosis in Bernese Mountain Dog

Elaine Ostrander PhD

Bernese at the National Institutes of Health

ESSENTIAL EDUCATION

I have attached an ad for Berner University 2007 for the regional club newsletters, the Alpenhorn and the 2007 web site (see above). We are not only fortunate to have BMDCA members willing to teach but three well-known researchers who will come and speak to us about our beloved dogs. Dr. Bell's symposium will be three hours, offer a complete review of health issues facing all owners and present breeding guidelines for the future. This evening will be a "must attend" event, Monday, May 7, 2007.

There will be another ad forthcoming with the complete class schedule but we thought you might enjoy knowing about our all star line-up. If you have any difficulty with it, please contact Andrea Brin at healthyoptions@brin.org as she is our computer guru.

Bellyrubs for all your dogs,

Linda

Linda Seaver & Andrea Brin
Berner University
Mary Shaver Education Chair
BMDCA National Specialty 2007●

BMDCGTC SEEKING NEW CLUB LOGO

ATTENTION WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW CLUB LOGO. WE INVITE ANYONE WITH GREAT IDEAS AND TALENT TO SUBMIT A SAMPLE TO ANY BOARD MEMBER BY DECEMBER 12, 2006. THE ARTWORK MUST REPRODUCE IN COLOR AND BLACK AND WHITE. AN ELECTRONIC VERSION IS REQUIRED, AND THE PREFERENCE IS VECTOR ART. GET CREATIVE AND SUBMIT THOSE LOGOS!●

Club Officers

President

Shannon Cihlar
320-283-5378

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:

Julie Latterell
Peggy Bebeau
Darwin Missling
Adam Conn
Susan Acklen

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.twincitiesbmd.org

Thanks to businesses that have donated items to help the Fantastic Four rescue dogs...

Hauglie's Inc. Blaine, MN	Carpet & vinyl for whelping box
Chuck & Don's Mahtomedi & Roseville, MN	Dog food
Pet Chef Express Burnsville, MN	Dog food
Stillwater Vet Clinic, MN	Wonderful care, boarding, food, supplies, & much needed baths●

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 cited.

Send to:

Catherine Muenich
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munch904@aol.com●

BMDCGTC

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