



BerNews

Spring 2007 Volume 4, Issue 2

Special Interest Articles:

- President's Letter
- The Fantastic Four
- Lucy Fund Wine Tasting

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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, Brie, Chaska, & Ruger)

After a mostly dry and nice winter weather-wise, our February plans were blown out of the water by snow storms. First our Awards Banquet had to be postponed to March 24, and then the next snowstorm prevented some of us from attending the Regional Specialty in Wisconsin. However those that were brave enough to make the trip did quite well. Huge congratulations are extended to all! See results inside. Of course, these were the best couple of weeks as far as our dogs were concerned.

Coming up in the next couple of months is the annual fun match, the National Specialty in May, followed by our 2nd annual draft test in June. Please consider volunteering to help at the fun match and/or the draft test. It is a great way to get to know folks and to learn the workings of these events, which is a big part of this club. •

The Fantastic Four: A Cooperative Rescue Story

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

The Call for Help...

At the end of October 2006, BMDCGTC Rescue Chair, Coleen Carroll was contacted by the BMD Club of Northern Illinois about a rescue located in Stacy, Minnesota.

What we were soon to find out was that this was not a typical rescue, nor was it a single rescue. It was the rescue of four adult Berners; three females and one male. Also, what we were to find out a mere 3 days after they came into our care was that we would also be rescuing 11 other little Berner bundles of joy.

Our club has thankfully not had to handle many rescues. When we were approached about the four adults in need of help, we truly had to think long and hard about how to best proceed. The farmer who owned the four adults

did not want to surrender them, but rather to sell them. It is not typically our club's policy to purchase dogs. Therefore, our board had to quickly decide how we wanted to proceed (**Lesson 1**). After Coleen Carroll's many conversations with him, she felt confident that he wasn't going to sell these dogs only to purchase more later. These dogs were livestock to him. ►



Coleen Carroll and two of the Fantastic Four, Hannah and Rosy

Lucy Fund Wine Tasting

-Shelley Strohm & Steve Boda (Bella & Gwyneth)

What could be better than an evening of fine wine and fine dogs?

The BMDCGTC held its third annual wine tasting event to raise money for the Lucy Fund: a fund established to help club members cope with unexpected medical bills for their Berners.

It's hard to believe, but this event seems to be more fun every year. Human club members sampled several affordable wines while canine members romped. Everyone was very well behaved, and no one trumped Moxie's position as party girl extraordinaire - awarded to the first mammal that breaks a wine glass.

As always, the silent auction was a huge success (ask Adam about the tub of beer), and when combined with personal cash donations, we made \$1,000.

Special thanks to Lori Brostrom and Michon (her Havanese) for all of her hard work shopping, cooking, cleaning, and keeping Shelley on task during the tasting.

And best of all, we recently awarded funds to Carol Manley for her dog Sabrina, who had a trip to ER for bloat. Happily, Sabrina is doing well!

Here are the wines we tasted, in order of presentation:

1. Fred Loimer 'Lois' Gruner Veltliner, 2005 \$14
2. Feudi di Romans Pinot Grigio, 2005 \$15
3. Bodegas Bleda, Castillo de Jumilla, Monastrell/Tempranillo blend, 2004 \$9
4. Enzo Boglietti, Dolcetto d'Alba, 2005 \$17
5. Castle Rock Pinot Noir Reserve, Russian River Valley, 2005 \$23
6. Broadbent Rainwater Madeira, NV \$15

Numbers 1 and 2 can be found at Kowalski's Wine Market in Mendota Heights on the northeast corner of Hwy 110 and Dodd Road. Number 3 is in stock at a small store in Highland called Liquor Village on Ford Parkway on the east end of the Ford bridge. Boglietti Dolcetto is sold in its upper tier version 'Tigliner' for about four dollars more also at Kowalski's. It should be easy to find the Castle Rock Pinot Noir, many stores in the metro carry the brand. The Madeira is available at Thomas Liquor on Grand Avenue in St. Paul. These wines are probably available elsewhere too.

Thank you for attending the wine tasting and contributing to the Lucy Fund.

See you next year! Bow wow.●



The flame went out on Blaze before the party was over.

SECOND CHANCE TO ATTEND AWARDS BANQUET

Due to bad weather, the awards banquet has been postponed until March 24, 5:00pm at Jax Café.

You can still sign up at:
<http://www.awardsbanquet.eventbrite.com>

The deadline is Tuesday, March 20.

Hope to see you there!●

Annual Fun Match & Club Meeting

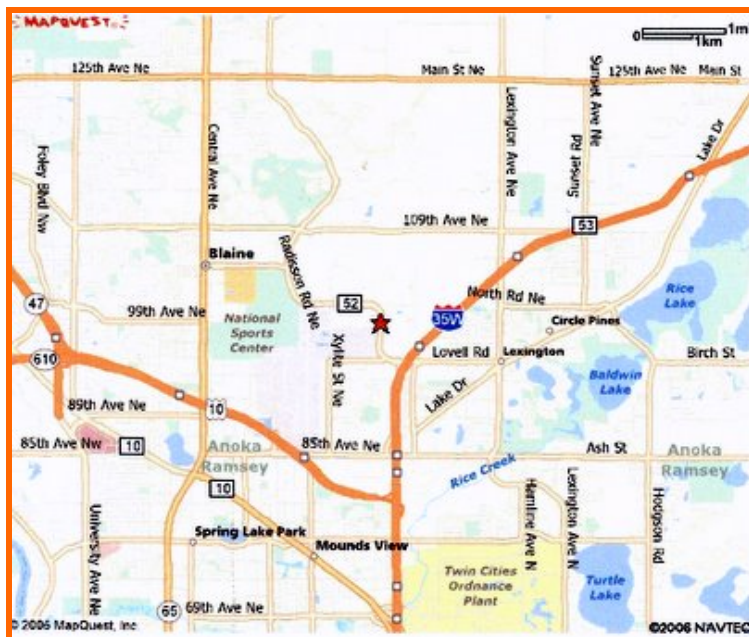
Meeting Date/Time: Sunday, April 15, 2007
Registration begins at 9:00am

Meeting Place: Stone Mountain Pet Lodge
9935 Radisson Road NE
Blaine, MN
763-792-8929

Order of Events: Registration
Canine Good Citizen Testing
Lunch, Meeting, & Dessert Auction
Conformation
Fun & Game Contest
Parade of Champions, Titleholders,
& Veterans
Raffle Drawing

Directions:

From I-694, merge onto 35W North.
Take the 95th Ave. NE/County Rd. 52 Exit 32.
Keep right at the fork to go on County Rd. 52 N/Radisson Rd. NE.
Make a U-turn onto County Rd. 52 S/Radisson Rd. NE.
End at Stone Mountain Pet Lodge. ●



ALL ARE WELCOME:
Greater Swiss Mtn Dogs
Bernese Mtn Dogs
Appenzeller
Entlebucher



http://twincitiesbmd.org/Events_SwissFunMatch2007.php

Brags

Results from the BMDCSEW Specialty:

Best In Specialty Ch. Country Wings No More Credit, owned by Doug Hildre, was Best In Specialty on both Saturday and Sunday, beating the last four winners of the breed at Westminster.

Bostwick's Two Ps in a Pod CGC TDI owned by Adam Conn took 3rd place in 12 to 15 mo. Puppy Dog Sweeps and 3rd in 12 to 18 mo. Dogs on Saturday.

Sidori's Claret, owned by Sharon Kranz, took 4th in the 15 to 18 month Bitch Sweepstakes and 2nd in the 12 to 18 month Regular Bitch Class on Saturday.

AKC/CKC Ch. Abbey Road RK Samson CD CGC, owned by Karen Johnson, took 4th in 7 to 9 year Veteran Sweeps and 7 to 9 year Veteran class.

AKC/CKC Ch. Abbey Road Kiley v Northfork, owned by Karen Johnson, took 2nd in Veteran Sweeps 7 to 9 years, and 1st and 2nd in Regular Veteran Class.

Castlemtn B Head Over Heels, owned by Karen & Jerry Johnson, took 3rd on Friday and 4th on Saturday in the American Bred Bitches Class.

Dou-Hil's A Luscious Dream, owned by Sandi and Lee Horn, took 3rd in Open Bitches on Friday and Best of Breed at the All-Breed Show on Sunday.

CONGRATULATIONS!



The Fantastic Four Continued...

When he found out that they can be difficult whelpers and may have health problems, he saw it as a money-losing situation and wanted a way out. In addition, he expressed concern that he would not have time to whelp the litter of puppies that was due to arrive any day. He said, "He would be too busy harvesting crops to help with delivering puppies."

In short order, our entire board agreed that this was a situation that warranted an exception to our typical policy. These were Berners truly in need of our help. We felt that ultimately the breed would be better served by finding loving homes for the adults and puppies and removing all the dogs from the breeding pool. However, we were concerned about undertaking a rescue of this magnitude without some assistance.

Rescue Chair Coleen Carroll quickly contacted the BMDCA and BARC who generously and quickly agreed to provide assistance in helping us with this rescue (**Lesson 2**). The BMDCA agreed to cover medical costs for the adult dogs that amounted to over \$1,300. This included spay and neuter costs and general medical care. BARC agreed to reimburse the BMDCGTC for the purchase price of the dogs, facilitate foster care for the adult dogs, and help facilitate adoptions for both the adults and the resulting puppies (**Lesson 3**). BMDCGTC rescue committee members provided short-term foster care and hours of loving care for the mother and the resulting litter of 11 puppies. In addition, they spent countless hours screening homes and making the final placement decisions for the puppies.

The Rescue

Through conversations with the farmer we learned that all four

adults were purchased through a dog broker in Iowa. Little was known about their backgrounds and pedigrees. The farmer had told us one female was "very pregnant." All were around 3 years of age and had been kept in a barn with little human contact. When Coleen Carroll and long-time club member/breeder Nancy Mayer met the farmer to pick up the dogs, they were hauled out of the back of an open pick-up truck. It was obvious they had never been in a car before and had likely never seen a collar or a leash before. They were literally terrified and shaking. The two rescuers were also to discover that the farmer had never even bothered to give the dogs names.

The dogs were quickly brought to a local vet clinic that was ready and awaiting their arrival. What they saw when they arrived were four incredibly dirty dogs that were terrified of everything, including the strangers that surrounded them. One of the females, given the name Rosy was particularly scared. Another, dubbed Hannah by clinic staff, was extremely dirty and upon examination was found to have a horrible ear infection. The infection went untreated for so long that her eardrums actually ruptured. The third female, named Tillie, was extremely pregnant and due to whelp any day. The lone male (believed to be the father of the impending litter), given the name Hank, was also dirty and very fearful.

After a weekend stay at the clinic, baths by clinic staff, and Monday morning spays and neuters for the three adults, Hank, Hannah and Rosy were sent "home."

After being checked out thoroughly at the vet clinic, Tillie was sent home with Coleen Carroll to await the arrival of her puppies. After

meeting Coleen's other three Berners, Tillie went for a tentative exploration of their large backyard. They had a fire burning in their fire pit, as it was a cool fall day. Tillie was so unused to all the new things to see and explore she actually began to walk into the fire! It was obvious she had not seen or experienced many of the things that a Berner that is truly a beloved pet might encounter. Thankfully, Tillie was unharmed by her dangerous stroll near the fire and 2- days later whelped a litter of 11 healthy puppies.

Loving Homes

Hank has been permanently placed in a home in California, screened and carefully selected by BARC. We have received word that he is adjusting well to his new, loving surroundings.

Hannah is being fostered by a BARC home in Nebraska and is hoping for permanent placement soon.

Rosy is being fostered by Nancy Mayer. Nancy reports that although still unused to human attention, she is slowly blossoming into a sweet and gentle girl who is looking forward to finding a loving permanent home, carefully screened by her caregivers to ensure a proper fit.

Tillie is quickly adjusting to motherhood and responsibilities of raising a litter of 11 puppies. Coleen Carroll, is continuing to care for both her and the puppies. BMDCGTC Rescue committee members are busy assisting BARC in puppy placements by screening potential homes. Final placement decisions will be made by the people who know the puppies best—those that helped rescue their mother and her three friends from their sad, isolated life on the farm. ►

More on the Fantastic Four...

Oh and Tillie, well...happily there are a few people lobbying to give her a new loving home. She has blossomed into quite a sweet girl....



Tillie and newborn litter of 11 puppies

Thanks....

Thank you to local club members and individuals across the country that made generous donations to the BMDCGTC to help ensure the success of this rescue and to make future rescues possible.

A special thank-you also goes to the BMDCA and BARC from Hank, Hannah, Rosy, and Tillie in helping to make this cooperative rescue story possible.●

- **LESSON 1 - Ensure your board and rescue committee have a rescue policy in place!** This will allow your club to react quickly in rescue situations. **IN MOST CASES, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!**
- **LESSON 2 – Do not be afraid to ask for assistance (see LESSON 3)**
 - National Organizations
 - Pet Stores for donations of supplies
 - Vet Clinics for donations/discounts for services
- **LESSON 3 – Ensure details of cooperative rescue efforts are well understood and documented from the outset**

Draft Test Needs Volunteers

-Adam Conn (Bison & Orca)

The June Draft Test is fast approaching, and we still need volunteers who can come out to play. All of the positions are pretty low-key jobs, and you get a tremendous opportunity to watch Berners actually working! Our first test went very well last year specifically because we had great volunteers. Let's make this year even better.

The test is held in Bassett Creek Park in Crystal (just off Highway 100), with the entire maneuvering course under a tremendous canopy of trees. The backdrop is spectacular, with cranes, geese, and even deer watching on. We have plenty of space to ex-pen and crate dogs.

Here are the positions available, with a brief job description. Notice that **NO** experience is required -- all training will be done on site!

- **Chief Ring Steward** — coordinates stewards, leads freight haul. **No experience required.**
- **Freight Haul Stewards** — walks alongside entrants during 1/2 mile freight haul. **No experience required.**
- **Course Stewards** — provides required audio and visual distractions, give and receive light load during test. **No experience required.**
- **Course Builders** — helps place obstacles and move narrows during test. **No experience required.**
- **Hospitality** — coordinates food & drink for entrants and helpers. **No experience required.**
- **Raffle Coordinator** — solicits donations and sells raffle tickets during test day. **No experience required.**

Contact Adam Conn at (763) 208-6278 or AdamConn@aol.com if you are interested in helping out.●



BMDCA 2007 National Specialty
May 7 through May 12, Louisville, KY

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.twincitiesbmd.org



Show for the Roses

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.

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