



BerNews

Spring 2008 Volume 5, Issue 2

Special Interest Articles:

- President's Letter
- Jonah Horn Goes to Nationals
- Third Annual Draft Test

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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

-Denise McCabe (Mick)

This issue's President's Letter will be devoted to my first experience attending a Bernese Mountain Dog National Specialty. This year's specialty was held April 21-26th in Warwick, Rhode Island.

Not being a road trip kind of gal, I was a bit hesitant to sign myself up for four days in the car, but I have to say that Julie Latterell, Dutch and Watson were the perfect traveling companions. The boys sacked out in the rear of the jeep, while Julie and I found our way to Rhode Island and back, under the watchful eye of Ms. Garmin (my husband's new GPS device). She often seemed to be "recalculating" as we missed a turn or two along the way! I have to say that the scenery in Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut and finally Rhode Island, made the drive very pleasant.

We arrived on late Sunday afternoon and the whirlwind began. After unloading the two dogs and all of our combined gear, we scoped out the grounds. The BMD Club of Nashoba Valley really did a fantastic job laying out the show site. Everything was very convenient to the hotel.

I must say, I never thought I would devote a full week to a dog show, but I had a fabulous time. There was never a dull moment. Besides the conformation events, there was Obedience, Rally, Agility, Herding, Tracking, oh, and did I mention the SHOPPING??



The big news for our club was that Julie and Watson made the cut in the Open Dogs category; while they didn't win, it sure was fun to watch them in the ring.

BernerU hosted 3 days of fantastic classes; there were so many that sounded interesting it was hard to choose. I attended several, but found that there were so many other things to do it was hard to fit in all of them that I signed up for.

I assisted with the Canine Good Citizen testing and also spent time helping out at the Nashoba Valley's Ways and Means store. They allowed us to partner with them to sell a number of our club's items (the Draft Dog shirts were once again the big seller). We sold over \$1,300 worth of merchandise.▶

Rally for Berners

-Carol Manley

"I love Rally" was the opening remark of Carol Manley, as she began her demonstration of AKC's latest sport - Rally Obedience.

Rally recently became a titling sport and is intended to be a stepping stone between the Canine Good Citizen test and the more formal competition obedience.

In Rally, a course of 10-20 stations (depending on level) is laid out. Each station has a sign that instructs the handler what exercise to perform with their dog. One major difference between Rally & formal obedience is the ability to talk and praise your dog throughout the course. The handler & dog move through the course and are judged on how well they perform each task.

The course layout, for the April 12th meeting, was a simple Novice level course and handlers were encouraged to walk the course themselves before trying it with their Berners.

It was great to see all ages & levels of ability giving Rally a try. Everyone, from puppies being led with a treat, to more advanced teams getting ready to compete, had a chance to run the course.

Classes are available throughout the metro area, to learn the skills required. You can also get additional information and download your own set of signs at www.rallyobedience.com or www.akc.org .•



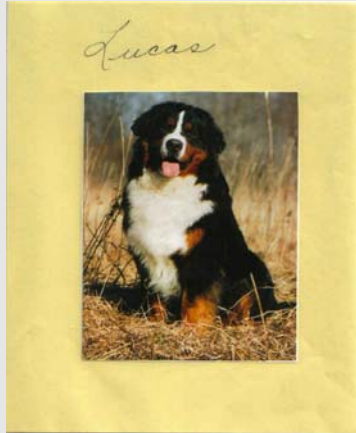
Denise and Mick are working as a team.

PERSONALS AND WANT ADS

BMDCGTC Hosts Third Annual Draft Test

-Shannon Cihlar (Eli, Brielle, & Chaska)

SMBMD* seeking caring, sensitive soul-who enjoys new experiences, people and dogs



* **Single Male Bernese Mountain Dog**

Lucas is seeking club members who would be interested in helping plan and organize fun and educational events.

Good planning and organization skills and a little extra time that you would be willing to devote to the club are all that is necessary!!

Please contact Lucas or the Public Education and Events Chair, Julie Latterell if you are interested in helping! (jal@saintpaulfoundation.org)

WE WANT YOU!!!!

Are you interested in finding out what other regional clubs across the country are doing or understanding more about what goes on with the National BMD Club?

If so, we need you!

The club is seeking someone to serve as the Regional Club Council Representative for the club.

This representative would ideally be able to check e-mails weekly as that is the main form of communication. In addition, the RCC Representatives meet once a year in person at the National Specialty. The ideal person would be someone who anticipates attending the National Specialties, but that is not a requirement.

Please contact Julie Latterell if you are interested jal@saintpaulfoundation.org•

Seeking Certified Public Accountant

who has tax experience. If you know of someone who would be willing to help the club prepare their 2008 tax return, please contact the club Treasurer, Julie Latterell

jal@saintpaulfoundation.org

On May 17 the club held its third annual draft test. It was a beautiful day with perfect weather. Our judges were Mary Alice Eschweiler from Wisconsin and Ingrid Hubbard from Ohio. We had 10 entries with one absent. There was one open entry, a St. Bernard, and eight novice entries, all Bernese and all club members. We had three passing teams, Shannon Cihlar and Eli, Micky Trent and Merlin, and Theresa Schwarten and Emmett. Randy and Peggy Bebeau offered a hand-made cart for the oldest passing dog in memory of Abbey Rd Duncan Thunderwood, DD, CGC, TDI. Eli, at 8-1/2 years of age, won the cart. On Sunday there was a carting workshop with lots of great training tips and some great progress with several of the dogs.

I would personally like to thank all the stewards, Carol Manley, Craig Schwarten, Denise McCabe, Julie Latterell, Susan Acklen and Tim Staples, our secretary Nancy Mayer, veterinarian Micky Trent, and trophy chair Karen Johnson, as well as Randy Bebeau and Darwin Missling for all their hard work in helping to make everything run smoothly. It wouldn't happen without dedicated club members like you!●



Theresa and Emmett



Shannon and Eli



Micky and Merlin



Jonah Horn Goes To Nationals

-Sarah Tennesen

Jonah Horn was 10 years old when he first entered the show ring. At the ripe old age of 11, (12 in August), he has earned a very respectful class placement of Open Junior. "You have to win three first places in Novice to move up to Open, and then it goes by your age," said Jonah. "I've shown in probably five or six shows." When asked what his most memorable experience in the ring was, Jonah commented, "It was my second win in Novice, and I won best out of eleven kids in St. Cloud. That was really cool." He continued, "I finished in Eau Claire with my third win, so I moved up to Open Class."

I asked Jonah what it was like to show at the National Specialty in Warwick, R.I. this spring. He said that he was "really excited and also nervous about how good the other kids might be" compared to him. This reporter had the great pleasure of watching Horn in the ring and can say that he did an outstanding job and didn't look nervous at all. In fact, Horn actually smiled in the ring!

When asked what the funniest thing that ever happened to him in the ring was, Jonah said, "I put my table dog (French Bulldog) down to do my down and back after the judge had checked the bit. I forgot to wait and let the judge finish the exam."



Jonah Horn stands for inspection with Ch DouHil's a Lucious Dream, while Judge Mr. Thomas J. Brown looks them over.

Judging criteria

Juniors are judged on their ability to present, or handle, their dogs within the same formats and guidelines as those who compete in the breed ring. The quality of their presentation, not the dog, is judged. Juniors are encouraged to develop their handling abilities, dress appropriately, conduct themselves in a proper manner, and present their dog in a well-groomed condition.

There are six levels to Junior Showmanship, in two classes.

Novice classes are for kids who have not won three First Class Awards in a Novice Class

Novice Junior Class: kids 9-12 years
Novice Intermediate Class: 12-15 years
Novice Senior Class: 15-18 years

Open classes are for kids who have won three First Class Awards in a Novice Class

Open Junior Class: kids 9-12 years
Open Intermediate Class: 12-15 years
Open Senior Class: 15-18 years

What about the dog?

Any dog entered must be eligible to compete in dog shows or obedience trials. The dog must be owned by the child, a member of the child's family or member of his household. Many times junior showmanship classes are free (if the dog is entered in regular classes) or are offered at the reduced rate.

How to get started

The best way for kids and their parents to see what is involved in junior handling is to watch the Junior Showmanship classes at a dog show, (visit our club website for a show listing under "Events"). You will see how children take part at all levels of competition and how they have developed friendships. Also, they have learned to compete and accept their wins and losses in a gracious manner. Talk to these kids after they are done in the ring. You will be impressed by their knowledge, confidence, and willingness to share their experiences with someone new to the sport. Another way to learn the basics is at your local training club. Classes are in a relaxed atmosphere and give both dog and handler an opportunity to practice in a setting similar to an actual show.

Horn also shared the following insight into getting started. He advises, "Don't be nervous and always do your best. And like my Mom says, make sure the dog is happy." It seems the Horn family motto about the show ring is "tail waggin' fun" which sounds like a very good motto to live by!

For more information on Junior Showmanship and getting started, please visit this AKC site:

http://www.akc.org/kids_juniors/jr_getting_started.cfm•

*Friday Weather Forecast:
Warm and sunny with light
breeze generated from happy
tails.*

Club Meeting Notice

Club Meeting and Presentation at:

Please join us on Saturday, 6/14 for a Club Meeting and Picnic at Bassett Creek Park in Crystal, MN. We will have a short club meeting followed by a presentation by Lin Gelbmann, University of Minnesota - Veterinary Medical Center.

Lin is a Certified Veterinary Technician, Certified Equine Sports Therapist and Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner, and is the coordinator of the U. MN Canine and Equine Rehabilitation Services. She will give a short presentation on Canine conditioning and rehabilitation. Lin is also a professional dog trainer in obedience and field trial. She competes at the Master level in Agility, and is an AKC Hunt Test Judge. She owns three dogs and two horses.

Details:

Bassett Creek Park
6001 32nd Ave. N.
Crystal, MN

11:00 AM – Meet and Greet

11:30 - Noon – Club Meeting

Noon – 1:00 – Presentation – Canine Conditioning and Rehabilitation

1:00 – 3:00 - Picnic Lunch

The Club will provide hot dogs and burgers to grill, beverages, plates, napkins and silverware. Please bring a dish to share.

Dogs must be on leash at all times in the park.

Please check the events page on the Club's website for directions to the park:

<http://www.twincitiesbmd.org/Events.html>•

New Member Applicants

-Lisa Fosdick (Mesa & Lexi)

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, June 14.

Scott & Lisa Byrnes

Maple Grove, MN

Berners: Bull Valley's Sire Charles Callebout
(Charlie)

Sponsors: Coleen Carroll & Adam Conn

Michael & Tanya Altimari

Ramsey, MN

Berners: BernerGardens Bentley Classic
(Bentley)

Sponsors: Coleen Carroll & Denise McCabe

Deborah Galuk

Eden Prairie, MN

Berners: Bernbrae's Barron von Sixel,
Bernergarden's Poison Ivy

Sponsors: Coleen Carroll & Doug Hildre

Jan & Rick Vaughan

Shoreview, MN

Berners: Castle Mountain Bessie Morgan (BMD),
Harley (BMD), Chauncey (Wheaton), Tessie (Border
Collie)

Sponsors: Julie Latterell & Lisa Fosdick

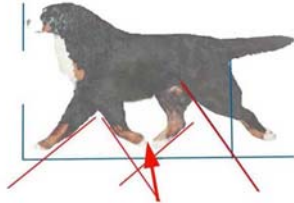
Lois & Mark Starkey

Maple Grove, MN

Berners: Schwarten's Laci Lu

Sponsors: Mary Jensen & Sarah Tennessen•

Canine Structure and Movement Seminar



The language of canine anatomy, the definitions of gait patterns, and the necessity of angulation and balance to good structure—these are the essentials to understanding movement in the Bernese Mountain Dog. With the guidance of our presenter, Marjorie Reho, Dallybeck Bernese Mountain Dogs, we will get a look at shoulder assemblies and examples of center lining, crossing, crabbing, pacing, and paddling in our much loved, live companion dogs. What's normal? What's correct? How do you spot faulty movement? Come and learn to see what the judges see!

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY:

Marjorie Reho has owned Bernese Mountain Dogs and been active in the BMDCA since 1978. Under the kennel name of "Dallybeck," she has bred 24 litters, and has produced some of the top dogs in the United States and Canada. At National Specialties, her own Dallybeck – produced dogs, and offspring of Dallybeck dogs, have won such prestigious awards as High In Trial, Best of Opposite Sex, Winners Dog, Best of Winners, Award of Merit, first in Stud Dog, first in Brood Bitch, both Best and Best of Opposite in Veterans Sweeps with son and dam, and many class placements in obedience disciplines, and conformation, regular and non-regular, puppy through veteran classes; some of these awards won several times over. Many dogs from her breeding have been Versatility Award Winners over the years. She has produced the BMDCA Top Producer, Conformation Dog.

Margie's active interests in the breed focus on the total dog: structure, soundness, type, temperament, working ability and longevity. She became the first recipient of a Dog World Award for Bernese in obedience, and also placed a Tracking Degree on her bitch. In conformation, she has judged Puppy and Veteran Sweepstakes classes in Canada, and at the BMDCA National Specialty in Colorado. ▶

Canine Structure and Movement Seminar

Saturday, September 20, 2008

Stone Mountain Pet Lodge

9:00 – 12:00 Seminar

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 Club Meeting

FREE to Club Members who bring item for potluck lunch!!!!!!

This seminar will be open to non-club members for a fee of \$25. The BMDCGTC and its club members will provide a potluck lunch for all participants.

For more details, please contact Public Education/Events Chair, Julie Latterell

jal@saintpaulfoundation.org•

Club Calendar of Events**June 12-** Board and Committee Chair Meeting**June 14** – Picnic & Club Meeting
Canine Conditioning and Rehabilitation**July 15** – Regional Specialty Catalog Ad Deadline**August 2nd & 3rd**
Berne Swissfest**August 14** – Board and Committee Chair Meeting**August 22** – BMDCGTC 2nd Regional Specialty**September 6-** Rescue Fundraiser/Dog Wash**September 20** – Canine Structure and Movement Seminar
Club Meeting & Potluck**October 9** – Board and Committee Chair Meeting**October 19** – Canine Health and Wellness Day**December 11** – Board and Committee Chair Meeting**December 13** – Winterfest

For detailed info on upcoming events check out the club events calendar•

Mark your calendars – for the BMDCGTC Regional Specialty show!

Summer is rapidly approaching and that means the BMDCGTC Regional Specialty is right around the corner!

The Regional Specialty is a draw for the top Berners not only in the Midwest, but from all over the country to compete for Best in Specialty Show honors. In addition, there will be a supported entry for obedience on Friday and a supported entry for conformation on Saturday.

Also on Friday, the club will host a public education booth, a rescue booth and will also offer an awesome selection of raffle items for attendees!!!!

The show will begin Friday morning and the days' activities will culminate with a banquet after the Best of Breed winner has been named.

We are seeking volunteers for:

- Public Education Booth
- Rescue Booth
- Raffle Booth

Volunteers will get prime ring-side seats which will offer terrific viewing of the events in the conformation ring!!!!

This show is held in conjunction with the St. Croix Valley Show Cluster, which will provide an additional 3 days of shows for Berners. If you can't make it to the show on Friday, join us on Saturday, Sunday or Monday!!!! We would love to see you! Keep posted to our website for more details about the show www.twincitiesbmd.org

Volunteer Opportunities:

Denise McCabe denisemccabe@baldwin-telecom.net

Raffle Donations:

Sarah Tennesen tennesse@charter.net

Banquet information:

Coleen Carroll bernerenvy@msn.com

Susan Acklen sacklen@comcast.net •

Toxic Blue-Green Algae: Crosby's Story

-Rick Bryan

It happened very quickly and although many skilled hands were involved trying to save him, there was nothing they could do.

The tests all showed normal physiology and blood-work, when he was still alive, and the autopsy was inconclusive. This is how we lost our boy.

Many of you may know Crosby (a.k.a. "The Hamburgler") as the forever-optimistic Berner, gazing longingly at his hamburger. His picture was chosen as the People's Choice Award Winner in the 2003 Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America National Specialty Photo Contest. You should also know he was strong, healthy, and a box-of-rocks. Nothing slowed him down. We expected to see 12 to 13 years out of him, based on his health during his first 9-1/2 years. Within 3 days he was reduced to a shadow of his former self, and no one knew why.

Our friends, who are also our vets, insisted it presented as a neurological issue probably caused by eating something toxic. We knew Cros well enough to know he wasn't a dog that picked up stuff and ate it. We knew where he had been, and who he was with. We were absolutely sure he didn't eat anything. We were wrong ... kind of.

We (and our vet) are now 99% sure Crosby died after ingesting toxic blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) from a small lake we brought him to the day before this all started. It is the same lake our dogs swim in all the time. We break biscuits in pieces, and toss them far into the water, and our dogs love to swim after them. If you've ever seen dogs trying to get a floating biscuit, you know they get a fair amount of water with each try. Think bobbing-for-biscuits.

Blue-green algae can form in any body of water that isn't moving, but it seems to like shallow pond-like areas. This summer has been particularly hot with very little rain, which is perfect for breeding this algae. There are tons of different kinds of algae and most are non-toxic. Strains of blue-green algae can produce almost a dozen different types of toxins. Once the toxin is ingested, there is nothing to do for your animal except support care. If there were a test that would have told our vet what toxin was attacking Crosby's central nervous system, it wouldn't have changed the outcome.

Symptoms can appear within 15 to 20 minutes after exposure. In dogs, the neurotoxins can cause salivation and other neurologic symptoms, including weakness, staggering, difficulty breathing, convulsions, and death.

Crosby had started to pant and drool profusely. Big puddles. He was also in respiratory distress, and wouldn't lie down comfortably. When I was lying on the floor with him, he peed and peed and didn't even know it. It just leaked out of him. When he got up to walk, he would stumble and wobble. Not weak, just drunk-like. Also, if you've ever seen a dog with epilepsy, you may have seen "fly-biting" episodes where they look and react to something that isn't there. He did some of this also. Then, he was fine. Then he wasn't. ►

This came and went for about 24 to 36 hours, and when he was fine, he was very fine. Good old Crosby. We went on a walk, peed on stuff, met some dogs. But then he was back at it, in a short time. Things got bad very quickly. Every panel, every test – blood-work, x-rays, ultra-sounds, etc. – came back negative. He had a normal, strong pulse and heartbeat. Then he crashed, and died quickly.

I would have waved off a second-hand story about someone's dog that died after swimming in a toxic pond. Please don't. I've done the research. It happens all the time, and has for years. There is nothing they can do. I've spoken to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and while they know it is out there (Crystal Lake in the north metro is closed because of it, at the time this article was written), all they can do is track it. I was told of two more dog deaths in the previous few weeks of writing this article.

Not all blue-green algae blooms are toxic; in fact, the vast majority of them are not. But because they can occur so quickly and can vary so much in toxicity and frequency, all blue-green algae blooms are potentially dangerous. They cannot be accurately predicted and there are no easy laboratory tests for the toxins produced. A blue-green algae bloom can change from non-toxic to toxic or vice-versa without a significant change in appearance. Web sites for the Center of Disease Control, World Health Organization, Minnesota Department Pollution Control Agency and others have many pictures of the different forms of blue-green algae, and many look like the normal algae blooms we are used to seeing in ponds and small lakes. The algae can come and go in a matter of days. It can blow to the other side of the lake, and blow back again. Even if your dogs don't drink the water with the algae in it, the toxin can get on their coats while swimming and they can lick it off.

It was so sad to see our healthy boy die so quickly and easily. Our dogs love to swim. They will continue to do so, but we will be much more careful and stay away from algae areas, and shallow ponds. If it doesn't look good or smell good, stay out. ●



**In memory of CH Ravenswald Lover Boy (1997-2007)
Crosby (aka "The Hamburgler")**

Club Officers

President

Denise McCabe

715-531-0344

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Vice President

Coleen Carroll

VicePresident@TwinCitiesBMD.org

Secretary

Mary Pearson

Treasurer

Julie Latterell

Board Members:

Susan Acklen

Micky Trent, DVM

Randy Bebeau

Lisa Fosdick

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.twincitiesbmd.org

President's Letter Continued...

Don't let it be said that I didn't contribute to the economy that week. There were so many ways to spend money and help the Berners at the same time. BernerGarde had a great Ways and Means shop; there was a fabulous raffle sponsored by Nashoba Valley and the big spending opportunity came during the Health Fund auction. You can ask the Twin Cities contingent how much fun I had keeping my hand in the air to bid on a hand crafted quilted kimono. It just so happens that the kimono had a picture of Mick front and center. I was also the winning bidder on a ceramic Christmas sleigh pulled by 5 Berners complete with antlers and one red nose; for a Christmas lover like me, it is perfect. If you've never been to a National Specialty, I'd highly recommend it. I'm already signed up for next year's show in Portland, Oregon, April 26 – May 2, 2009.●

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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