September / October 2026

TRBMDC Incline

Official Newsletter of the Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club

Special Points of Interest:

- Note from our President
- Meeting Minutes - 080826
- Annual Picnic at the Artuso's Farm - 080826
- Fall Twin Lakes Park Dog Walk - 091926
- Rodeo Dog Workshop - 101726
- A Memorial Tribute to Ola Thomas
- That Little Stinker!
- Welcome to New Member
- Happy Birthday
- 2026 Award Celebration
- 2027 TRBMDC Dues
- Brags and Berners Enjoying the Good Life

TRBMDC Officers and Board of Directors

Dr. Bert Klei. President
5208 Karrington Dr.
Gibsonia, PA 15044
(724) 612-4522
trbmdc.presidentbk@yahoo.com

Karen Artuso, Vice President
P.O. Box 242
United, PA 15698
(412) 580-8047
ar2so@zoominternet.net

Ralph Artuso, Treasurer
P.O Box 242
United, PA 15689
412-580-8047
ar2so@zoominternet.net

Amy Lindenfelder, Secretary
334 S. Negley Ave, Apt. 1
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
(617) 462-3655
Amy.lindenfelder@gmail.com

Board of Directors
Donna Millburn
Joye Neff
Denise Reardon
Marty Sutton
Julie Young

Fall is upon us. The days are getting shorter, leaves are turning color, and the temperatures are getting to be more dog friendly. It's a good time to close out the year of events with a bang.

Before going into what is remaining this year, I would like to look back our annual picnic at the Artuso's farm. This event drew 29 dogs and 39 humans. It is one of the largest events we have had in recent memory. I would like to thank Karen for her hospitality. My dogs absolutely love her huge fenced in yard and the slide.

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The next event on our calendar is something we have not done before. Marty Sutton will give us an introduction to Rodeo Dog. Look for the announcement in this Incline and on our Facebook and/or Instagram pages. You can look on YouTube to get an idea what is involved in dog rodeo event.

After that … there are two more events remaining this year. We are planning a dog walk in Mingo Creek Park on November 21. The final meeting of the year, our Annual meeting, Awards Celebration, and Holiday Party, will be on Sunday, Dec. 6 at the Narcisi Winery in Gibsonia.

We'd like to hear from you. Over the last year, we have done several different things in different formats. What did you like? What could you have done without? Do we need to change starting times to the morning to avoid the summer heat and afternoon rains? Do we need more/fewer events? What topics would you like to see us address? New places to go? Do you have skills that the club can use? Please drop me an e-mail at: trbmdc.presidentbk@yahoo.com with your suggestions.

TRBMDC is your club. Help us become the club you want to be part of. The TRBMDC Board hopes to see you all soon. Give your dog a hug.

Best,

Bert Klei
President TRBMDC

Enzo and Etta enjoying Doggie Pool Day

Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2026 - Artuso Farm, Unity, PA

The following attendees were at the meeting: Michele Albert (Mia), Julia/Wayne Airgood (Margo & Dessa), Karen Artuso (Dolce), Rex and Debbie Baughman (Minka), Denni Chiappetta, Bert/Linda Klei (Enzo and Etta), Kristy/ Randy Lewis (Ansley), Karen Maravich (Fiona), Gus McBride / Tracy Sweeney (Ursa). Donna Millburn (Rayne & Dawson), Heidi/Max Pedicone (Stella), Heather Semple (Sainte), Dale/Mary Sparks (Shania & Hunter), John/Marty Sutton (Roxey), Megan/Pat Thomas (Ebbe and Tonka), Julie Young and Bruce Lanke (Maddie), and Visitors: Jessica Cochran (Ripley), Melissa Droschak +3 (Callie), Pam Herbert (Maizee), Scott/Sandy Nowak plus (Grace & Lucy), and Kent/Colleen O'Neill (Islay).

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: President, Bert Klei

The minutes of the June 27, 2026 meeting were approved by Donna Millburn and seconded by Mary Sparks.

A new fundraiser has been organized by Joye Neff. This one benefits the formation of a fund by the Berner-Garde Foundation that will be used to defray costs of getting a proper health diagnosis on your dog. In research, it is not only necessary to get tissue samples of a dog, but to also get an accurate diagnosis to make these samples truly valuable. (https:bernergarde.org/home/Donate. Please enter: "2026 Berner-Garde Fundraiser where I says "Enter dedication or in memory of Here.")

The Holiday Party, meeting and Awards Celebration has been scheduled for Sunday, December 6, 2026 at the Narcisi Winery. Dogs are not permitted to attend this event. Details will follow.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT: Vice President, Karen Artuso - No report.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY / ELECTIONS / MEMBERSHIP: Amy Lindenfelder (absent) / Bert Klei

A membership vote for Pam Herbert was held. She was asked to leave temporarily, while the vote was cast. In lieu of a secret ballot, Bert held a show of hands vote (due to the number of people in attendance). Pam was voted unanimously into TRBMDC membership and welcomed by those in attendance. We are looking forward to Pam's involvement in the Club.

In addition, we are in receipt of a couple of applications to be voted on at the October meeting (Colleen and Kent O'Neill, Scott and Sandy Nowak). John and Dana Brynes' application is on file and will be voted on after their second attendance to a Club function.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Treasurer, Ralph Artuso

Checking Account Balance in the Main Checking Account as of June 30, 2026 is $4,031.14 and July 31, 2026 was $4061.14.

Rescue Account Balance in the Rescue Account as of June 30, 2026 is $3,315.76 and July 31, 2026 was $3415.76.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AKC CORRESPONDENCE: KAREN ARTUSO - No report

PASSIVE RESCUE: JULIA AIRGOOD

REGIONAL CLUB COUNCIL: JOYE NEFF - No report

PERFORMANCE EVENTS: JULIA AIRGOOD - No report

Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club Meeting Minutes (cont'd.)

TRBMDC WEBSITE: DENISE REARDON - No report, but everything is updated.

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: AMY LINDENFELDER - No report

NEWSLETTER (TRBMDC INCLINE): DONNA MILLBURN

- As always, please forward any photos or articles that you would like shared in the Incline to Donna Millburn.

PUPPY REFERRAL: KAREN ARTUSO - No report

AWARDS: JULIA AIRGOOD

The 2026 Award Celebration will be held at the Holiday Party. Stay tuned for further information on when plaque metal plates must be provided to Julia, as well as, the necessary details on the earned awards.

SUNSHINE: GWEN GEIS - Gwen sends cards to members for illnesses, sympathy, births, etc., However she depends on the members to text or email her with the necessary information. So please keep this in mind.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

FINISHED BUSINESS:

Insurance- The Board decided to Switch Insurance Companies and now has a signed policy with Erie Insurance. The new policy covers Board members and Officers from being sued.

NEW BUSINESS:

Normally the August meeting is when the TRBMDC Board elects a Nominating Chairperson for the upcoming election of Officers and Board members. The Chairperson, in turn, selects a Committee to support her in the process of identifying candidates for open positions. However, this is not required in 2026, since all Officers and Board Members are in the middle of their first or second terms.

Upcoming Events:

September 19 - 3 p.m. Twin Lakes Dog Walk

October 17 - 2 p.m. Meeting and Rodeo Dog Workshop

November 21 - 2 p.m. Get Together at Mingo Creek County Park

December 6 - 12:30 p.m. Holiday Party, Meeting and Awards Celebration

BRAGS:

Dawson Millburn earned his AKC STAR Puppy.

Margo Airgood was invited to the AKC Agility Invitational to be held in Orlando, FL in December based on her performance in 2026. This is truly a great honor. Congrats to Margo and Julia

NEXT EVENT / MEETING: September 19 - 3 p.m. Dog Walk at Twin Lakes Park (Pavillion 4).

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made Mary Sparks and seconded by Donna Millburn

Respectfully Submitted by Karen Artuso (in Amy Lindenfelder's absence)

Thanks to the Artuso's for Hosting the Summer Picnic

Thanks to the Artuso"s for hosting the Club's Meeting and annual Summer Picnic on 8/8/26. We had a great turnout of members and guests. There were games galore, bring a gift - take a gift, a delicious luncheon, photos, raffles, and lots of Berner hugs!

Bring a Gift …
Take a Gift!

Let the Games Begin !

Oh NO … the Dreaded SOCK Race!

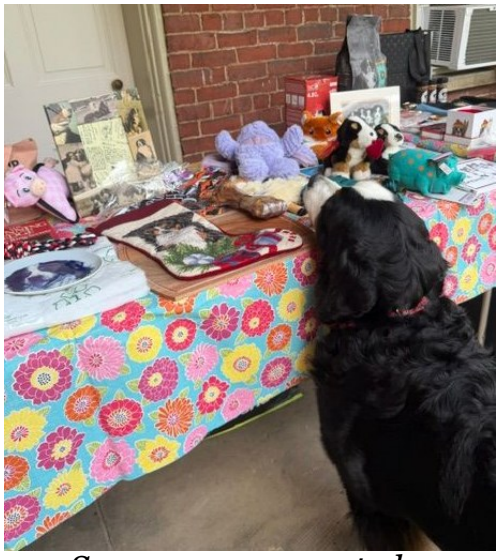
Now onto the Skill Games

Look at all those obedient Berners!

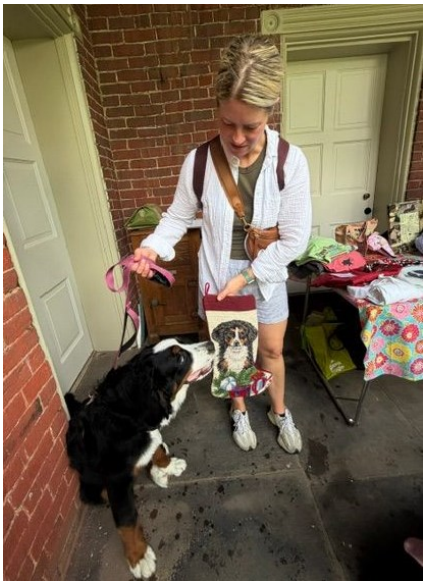
And …

our youngest and oldest Berner at the picnic

Smile and Show Your Pearly Whites!

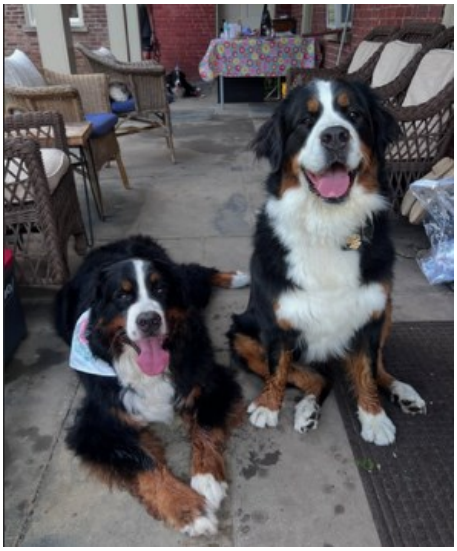


Someone appears to be shopping or snooping!



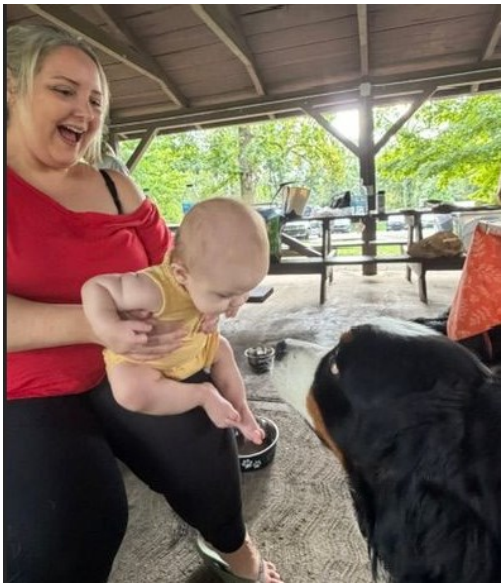
Now Let's Get These Working Dogs Really Pulling Carts

Great Friends and Great Dogs!



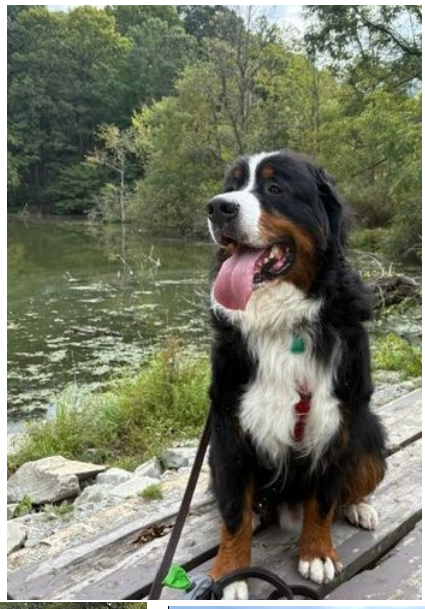
Fall Dog Walk at Twin Lakes Park - 9/19/26

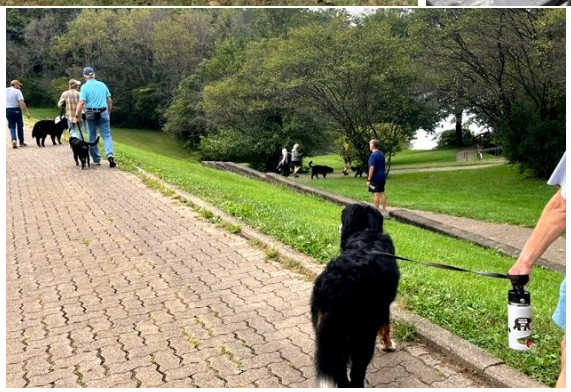
A Fall Dog Walk was held at Twin Lakes Park in Latrobe, PA. Twenty attendees and fifteen Berners showed up and participated in either the 1 mile or 2.5 mile walk. A few decided to only do part of the walk and hang out in the shelter instead. After all ... socializing with our Berners is just as fun, plus we got to hang out with our youngest member ... one year old, smiling Chase and his Mom, Becki.



Etta - OSHA is here!
Where's your hard hat?

Three Rivers
Bernese
Mt. Dog Club





RODEO DOG WORKSHOP

and TRBMDC Meeting

What:	Rodeo Dog Workshop and TRBMDC Meeting
When:	Saturday, October 17 starting at 2:00 p.m.
Where:	Monroeville Park West - Pavilion 1 (Turn off Tillbrook Road onto Baseball Blvd. Turn left into first parking lot. Look for the Yellow TRBMDC Banner.)
Refreshments:	TRBMDC will provide Pizza. Members are welcome to bring a side dish (salad, fruit or dessert).
What to Bring:	Please bring poop bags and water for your dog. Sharing water sometimes spreads contagious doggie diseases. All dogs will need to be on leash at Monroeville Park.

So what exactly is "Rodeo Dog"?

The purpose of Rodeo Dog is to form a bond (team) with your dog and compete in a fun and safe environment. The dog enjoys moving around barrels and the owner finds it challenging to decide the best way to work the dog. The team may start at an easy level which is on leash and works their way to harder and more challenging levels. This requires more training and more bonding within the team.

Rodeo Dog titles can be used as a qualifying component of AKC Fit Dog.

RSVP to Dmillb@comcast.net no later than Wednesday, October 14th if you plan to attend.

Crossing the Rainbow Bridge … A Memorial Tribute to Ola

Written by Megan Thomas

In Loving Memory of Ola …

Ola crossed the rainbow bridge on August 11, 2026, at the age of 11.

Ola was truly one of a kind. From the very beginning, she was what we lovingly called "spirited." She was never one to quietly fade into the background. If you met Ola even once, you remembered her. She loved attention and somehow had a way of becoming the center of it … wherever she went.

When Ola barked, her front feet would come completely off the ground, and she'd throw her head back like a Basset Hound. She was insanely stubborn, but somehow, it was always in the best possible way. I remember signing her up for agility classes. When it was her turn, she would walk directly into the obstacles and then celebrate as if she had just won Westminster. The instructor eventually suggested that I have her eyes checked. I assured them her eyes were perfectly fine. This was simply her way of telling me she had absolutely no interest in agility. Ola always did what I asked of her… she just did it her way.

She was born with more confidence than any dog I have ever known. Nothing phased her. She was fearless, unapologetically herself, and completely comfortable being exactly who she was. That was Ola.

But beneath all of that personality was a dog who was deeply connected to me. She followed me everywhere, watched for me, looked for me, and always seemed to need to know where I was. Ola was more than just a dog. She was my shadow, my laughter, my constant anchor, and my best friend. I will miss her stubbornness, her barking, her antics, and all the little things that made her Ola. Most of all, I will miss simply having her beside me.

What a blessing it was to have loved her. What a privilege it was to be her person. Until we meet again, my sweet girl.

Megan Thomas

That Little Stinker!

written by Karen Artuso

We had an exciting night at the Artuso's one Saturday in September. Dolce came running down the steps at 9:00 p.m. and asked to go outside. We go outside and she's done doing her business, but dashes off into the darkness. She came dashing back and was foaming at the mouth and sneezing! What the heck? SKUNK!!! She was really distressed. She was frantically trying to get it off her for about 15 minutes and then relaxed a little. I think she got sprayed under her chin and maybe in her mouth. After calling Donna for support, I found a recipe online for washing her. The mixture neutralized the smell. It was more than a smell; it was irritating to my eyes and nose.

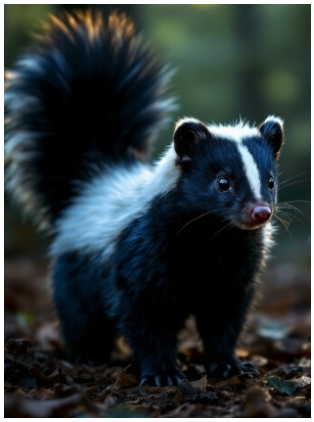
Now that it's over, here are some things to know about skunks and how to deal with your dog getting sprayed.

- Check your dog to see if they were sprayed in the eyes and are the eyes getting red, or are they acting anemic from ingesting the spray, call a vet. Most of the time that's not necessary. Keep an eye on your dog for the next three days.
- Keep the dog outside! The musk is oily and will soak into rugs and furniture.
- Check the eyes, if they are red, rinse gently with cool water or saline.
- Wipe away any spray with a paper towel, NOT a wet paper towel (like I did), because that causes it to smell more.
- Wash them with the mixture listed below to neutralize the thiols & triacetates! (The stuff that stinks!) Let it sit on the dog for 5 minutes and rinse thoroughly with water. Wash them with dog shampoo and rinse thoroughly again and dry them. Don't be surprised if your dog smells a little when they get wet for the next few months.
- Toss any clothing that the oil/spray gets on, you won't likely get it out.
- Check your dog to see if they got bitten. It is unlikely since they probably got sprayed from 7 to 15 feet away from the skunk. Skunks do carry rabies.

Skunk Mixture:

1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide
¼ cup of baking soda
1 teaspoon liquid dish soap

It is best to use rubber gloves to wash the dog. (I did not and was fine.) You may need to wash your dog more than once, if they got sprayed a lot. Dolce got away with one bathing. I will always have a quart of 3 percent hydrogen peroxide on hand now!!! Skunks are most active at dawn and dusk in the warmer months. When walking in the woods, stick to the trail. Keep the skunks out of your yard by keeping sheds or porches blocked so they don't have access. Don't put out pet food or let them have access to garbage or compost piles.



Don't let that cute little face fool you!

Good luck! It took 44 years of owning dogs to have this happen to me, so that's pretty good. I kind of wish it had been better!

Welcome to our Newest TRBMDC Member

Welcome Pam and Maizee

At the August 8 TRBMDC Meeting, the membership unanimously voted Pam Herbert into membership. Pam's Berner is named Mazie Mae, who is two years old. Pam has had Berners since 2004. In addition, she has had numerous other breeds over the years (Doberman, Collie, Golden Retrievers, Shih Tzu, and Pug). She is particularly interested in Dog Obedience, Health, Care, Therapy, and Service Work. She had really enjoyed being around all of our Berners as she visited TRBMDC events with Kristy and Randy Lewis. Pam lives in Philippi, West Virginia. She is retired, but used to be a bank teller. Pam enjoys traveling and she enjoys crafts and puzzles. She also loves socializing and trying new and fun dog activities with Maizee. Welcome to the Club, Pam!

Rescue Corner *Julia Airgood*

The National Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue Network (NBMDRN) took in 13 of the 25 Berners from the Ashland, OH rescue seizure. A total of 72 dogs (various breeds) were rescued during this episode. TRBMDC will be making a $200 donation to NBMDRN to assist with the 13 lucky Berners that were rescues and placed.

As previously mentioned, Jeff and Lynn Rosenthal were fostering Reese, shown to the right. A few days after the Rosenthals fostered Reese, she had to have an urgent pray due to Pyometria and also needed abdominal reconstruction due to over breeding. She also had Lyme and bilateral ear infections. After recuperation, she was placed in her "furever" home.

Celebrating Our 2026 Title Holders

It's time to recognize our Berners who have earned titles in 2026. Many of you worked really hard to earn titles this year. This includes AKC STAR Puppy Awards, AKC Farm Dog Awards, AKC Canine Good Citizen Awards (CGC), AKC Obedience, AKC Trick Dog, Therapy Titles, etc. So don't miss out in giving them the recognition that they truly deserve. Titleholders for 2026 and their owners will be recognized at the December 6th Holiday Party at Narcisi Winery.

"Member" dogs earning their "first" title will receive a wooden plaque with an engraved plate indicating their earned title. Prior title holders need to return the metal plate to have the new title(s) engraved. If the plate is firmly attached to the plaque and you are unable to remove it, you will need to return the whole plaque for engraving.

Please provide the following information via email to Julia Airgood at wcairgood@verizon.net no later than November 10. Julia will be at the Rodeo Workshop on October 17. That would be a perfect time to give Julia the awards information and metal plate (if applicable).

- Dog's Registered Name (or exactly how you want the name to read on the plaque)
- Title(s) Earned in 2026 by your Berner(s) - Please provide proof of the title(s) earned
- If your title is not an AKC title, please provide the initials of your title to be shown on the plaque, as well as proof of the title(s) earned
- If this is the first title earned by your Berner, please advise, so that a plaque can be ordered
- Owner's Name
- Owner's Phone Number

Shown below are the TRBMDC Award Guidelines:

1. TRBMDC will provide one plaque per dog to Club members, in good standing, when the dog earns his/her first official title.
2. When additional titles are earned, the metal plate must be sent back to have the additional title(s) engraved. Plates should be returned to Julia Airgood at 415 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15215 no later than November 10th.
3. The titled dog must live in the household with the Club member.
4. Proof of the title must be submitted.

We are anxious to see how many of our members' dogs have received titles in 2025. The title holders will be announced and receive their plaque or engraved plate at the Holiday Party on December 6.

2027 TRBMDC Member Dues

2027 TRBMDC Member Dues are due January 1, 2027

Please remit your dues promptly to the Treasurer:

Ralph Artuso
P. O. Box 242
United, PA 15689

Make Checks Payable to "TRBMDC"

Please fill out the information below and include it with your check.

First Name Last Name Cell Email

_____

_____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Berner(s) Name Sex Birthday (including year)

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

Names & age of Berners who passed this year: _____

Type of Membership (Select one)

Individual Membership ($20) _____
Family – 2 adults ($25) _____
Junior – Child younger than 18 – ($12.50) _____
Associate – Includes Incline Subscription ($15.00) _____

Additional Donation

Donation to TRBMDC General Fund $_____
Donation to TRBMDC Rescue Fund $_____

If you are unable to participate in sponsored activities and would like to donate to the General fund or the Rescue fund, we would greatly appreciate that.

Please make checks payable to: "TRBMDC" and mail to the Treasurer at shown above.

Total Enclosed: _____ Check Number: _____ Date: _____

Berner Brags

Congratulation to Roxey and Dolce for both passing their AKC Farm Dog Certification Tests !

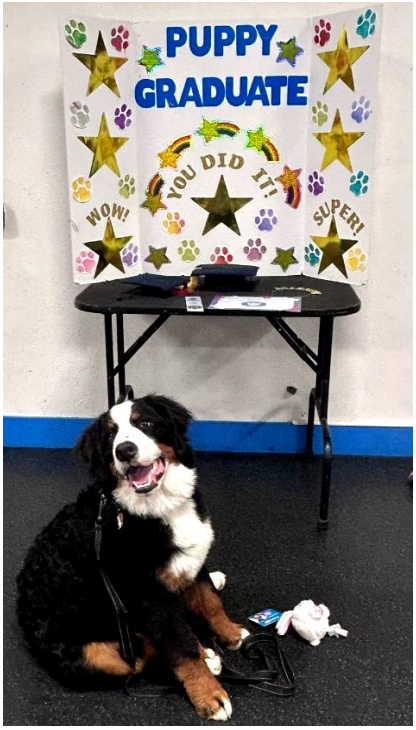
Both Marty Sutton (and Roxey) and Karen Artuso (and Dolce) have been practicing, since the TRBMDC Farm Dog Workshop at Beth McGonigal's Farm in June. In order to earn your Farm Dog Certification, your dog needs to take the test and pass from two different judges. On Saturday, September 12, they both competed at the Altoona Area Kennel Association's Farm Dog Testing in Duncansville, PA and both PASSED both of the tests! We are so proud of both Roxey and Dolce and, of course, their owners!

Great Job, Roxey!

Great Job, Dolce!

Congratulations to Mozart and Dessa for passing AKC STAR Puppy !

Yay, Mozart Reardon !



Yay, Dessa Airgood !

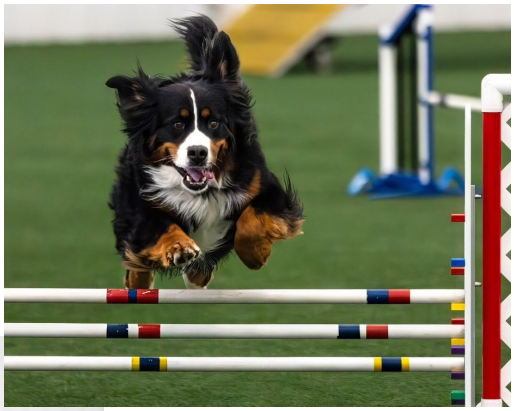
Margo Airgood Invited to AKC Agility Invitational

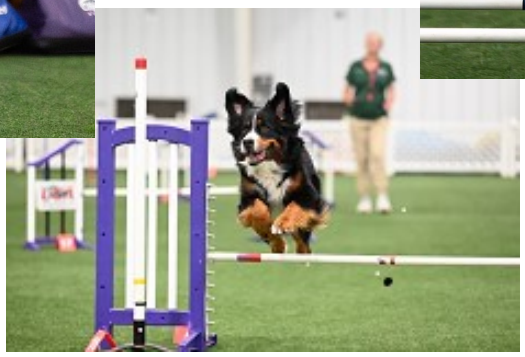
Every year, AKC keeps track of all the breeds and their stats doing agility. The top 5 of every breed gets an invitation to the AKC Agility Invitational held in Orlando Florida at the Orange County Convention Center every December. What an honor to be sent an invite in the first round picks. It's been a very hard decision to not to attend. Lots of logistics go into a 16-hour drive with your dog in December. We all know how we do what's right for our dogs. Keeping our trials local is what is best for Margo for now. Fingers crossed for next year. I do plan to watch it live on AKC, tv. and AKC Youtube channel.

AKC AGILITY 2026 INVITATIONAL

21st

AKC Agility Invitational





Ebbe Thomas Earned her AKC Novice Scentwork Title

Ebbe had a fantastic trial day! In containers, she took 1st place in both trials. Exterior, she placed 2nd and 3rd. Interior, she earned 1st and 2nd. Buried, she placed 4th and qualified. She earned her AKC ScentWork title in each category and also received her ScentWork Novice overall title! Now, on to the advanced trials!

Congratulations, Ebbe and Megan!

October Birthday Hugs

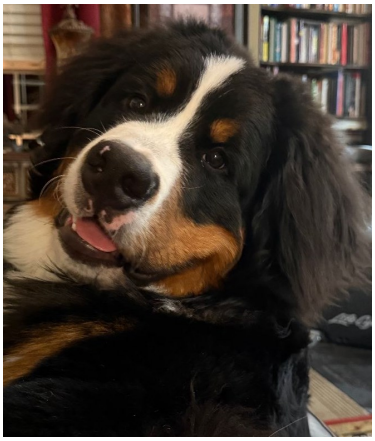
Look Who's Turning 3 Years Old!

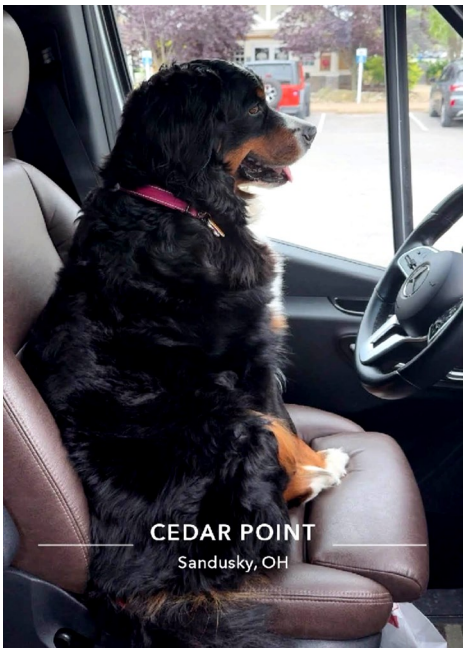
It's Maddie - 10/29/23

(Julie Young and Bruce Lanke)

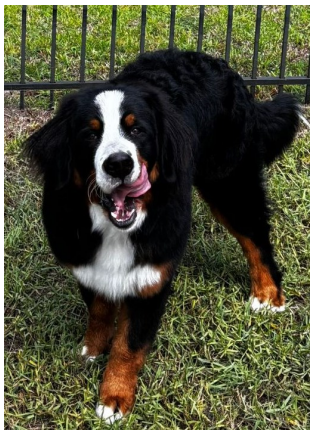
Just Enjoying the End of Summer with Our Berners

Just Enjoying Summer with Our Berners





Just Enjoying Summer with Our Berners



Two of Chase's Besties - Stormy and Buddy

Remi Going Strong at 9 years old !

TRBMDC Calendar

Hope to see you all on Saturday, October 17 at 2:00 PM at the Meeting and Rodeo Workshop.

Meetings are held every other month.
Programs/activities are held on the alternate months.

TRBMDC 2026 Calendar -

February 21 (Saturday, 2:00 p.m.)	Meeting & Winter Dog Walk
March 14 (Saturday, 9:00 a.m.)	St. Patrick's Day Parade with Berners of Pittsburgh
April 25 (Saturday, 3:00 p.m.)	Meeting and Dog Walk at North Park - Lone Pine Shelter
May 9 (Saturday, 2:00 p.m.)	Draft Workshop at the Artuso's Farm
June 27 (Saturday, 3:00 p.m.)	Meeting and Farm Dog Practice at Beth McGonigal's Farm
July 18 (Saturday, 3:00 p.m.)	Get Together at South Park (Grant Pavilion) & Ice Cream
August 8 (Saturday, 3:00 p.m.)	Meeting and Annual Summer Picnic at Artuso's Farm
September 19 (Saturday, 2:00 p.m.)	Get Together - Twin Lakes Park (Pavilion 4)
October 17 (Saturday, 2:00 p.m.)	Meeting and Rodeo Dog Workshop - Monroeville Park West - (Pavilion 1)
November 21 (Saturday, 2:00 p.m.)	Dog Walk at Mingo Creek Park
December 6 (Sunday, 12:00 p.m.)	Annual Meeting, 2026 Awards Ceremony, and Holiday Party at Narcisi Winery (4578 Gibsonia Road, Pgh., 15044)

The Officers and Board are looking forward to all of the fun meetings and activities!

TRBMDC Web-site (Denise Reardon)
Our Club's website is https://www.threeriversbernesemountaindogclub.org

Facebook (Amy Lindenfelder)
The TRBMDC Facebook name is "Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club". If you would like to post something on Facebook , email your write up with pictures and attachments to **threeriversbernesemtn@gmail.com.**

Instagram (Amy Lindenfelder)
The Club's Instagram name is "trbmdc". Since it is the Club's site, please send pictures and/or videos in a text message

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