



TRBMDC Incline

Official Newsletter of the Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club

Special Points of Interest:

- A Note from our President
- 1203/22 Meeting Minutes
- Great Photos by Courtney Lotz
- TRBMDC is Always So Generous When it Comes to Rescue
- February 12 Winter Dog Walk at Hartwood Acres
- "You Can't Just have One!"
- Therapy Work - A Truly Rewarding Experience
- Happy January/February Birthday to our Berners
- Berner Rescue Stories and Specialty Ways & Means
- 2023 TRBMDC Dues are Due
- Holiday Memories

TRBMDC Officers and Board of Directors

Karen Artuso, President

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

Donna Millburn, Vice Pres. and Acting Secretary

615 Glengary Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15215
(412) 559-5655
Dmillb@comcast.net

Amy Lindenfelder, Treasurer

1825 Park Circle Drive
Glenshaw, PA 15116
(617) 462-3655
Amy.lindenfelder@gmail.com

Board of Directors:

Joyce Frey
Cathy Barth
John Millburn
Denise Reardon
Mary Sparks

Happy New Year to all of our Members and Berner Friends!

What a fun time we all had at the TRBMDC 2nd Annual Christmas Bonfire. Unfortunately the weather forecast didn't cooperate; and we had to change the date at the last minute. Some of you who originally planned to attend were unable to do so ... and you were surely missed! It was a bit cold and a bit windy, BUT certainly not as cold as it was around the Christmas holidays. The pups sure had fun running around sporting their new bandanas. They climbed up the ramp to the slide and a few even went down. I love it when Poco has worn herself out; and she sure did that day! We also did a great job at raising money for both Animal Friends and Heart of Michigan Rescue. Thanks for your generous donations! It was a successful party and a great way to kick-off the holiday season.

I have had a good time doing Puppy Referral last year. In 2022, we had 26 requests for information on breeders. Two of the families came to a TRBMDC meeting and have reported back with exciting news on their Berner pups.

- Penny and Scott Benz visited us from Ripley, NY. That is about 30 minutes from Erie, PA ... about a 3 hour drive. They came to our August meeting at Joyce Frey's. They now have an adorable female named "Willow". They picked her up in November. They had the most puppy filled Thanksgiving and Christmas. Penny said Willow LOVES Scott's shoes! This could be a problem!



- Lisa and Jeff McQueen visited from Morristown, Indiana. That was about a 5-1/2 hour drive! They came to the K9 Idol event in October. They began their search for a puppy and found a breeder who had two females that she decided to place. So, they added a 5 year old and a 7 year old, well behaved females to their family. Shortly after, they were contacted about an available male puppy. So they went from zero Berners to 3 Berners in one month! That's definitely some good-hearted Berner lovers!



We are looking forward to our Winter Dog Walk to be held on Sunday, February 12 at Hartwood Acres starting at 1:00 p.m. Last year, attendees had a great time walking the trails and playing in the off-leash dog park at Hartwood Acres. We are hoping to see many of you there again this year! (See page 10 for further details on the Winter Dog Walk.)

Karen Artuso, TRBMDC President



Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club Meeting Minutes

Location: Hosted by Karen and Ralph Artuso

Date: Sunday, December 3

The following members and visitors were in attendance: Julia Airgood (Remi & Margo), Michele & Bob Albert (Mia & Scarlet), Andrea, Paul and Ethan Bowman (Heido Jo & Lana), Karen Artuso (Poco), Ken Cechman (Leizel), Amy Lindenfelder, Donna Millburn (Lexi), and Betsy & Randy Walter.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: President, Karen Artuso

Karen welcomed everyone to the Holiday Party. Following today's brief meeting, the following activities are planned: making holiday bandanas for your Berner(s), raffles to support Animal Friends and Heart of Michigan rescue organizations, holiday photos, holiday luncheon, s'mores, and the annual gift exchange.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT: Vice President, Donna Millburn – No report

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Treasurer, Amy Lindenfelder

Checking Account Balance \$ 3746.81

Rescue Account Balance \$ 632.59

Members - Don't forget to pay your 2023 dues by January 1, 2023!

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY/ELECTIONS: Acting Secretary, Donna Millburn – No report or elections scheduled today

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AKC CORRESPONDENCE: Secretary - No report

AWARDS: Karen Artuso – Congratulations to Julia and her girls for their hard work and achievements during 2022.

Margo - Oleka's Zoom Flying High CGC, TKN

CGCA-Canine Good Citizen Advanced

TKI-Trick dog Intermediate

RN-Rally Novice

Remi - Oleka's Que up Rembrandt at Hartwood CGCA,TKI, FDC, RI, NAP,NPF, AKC Achiever dog

RN-Rally Advanced

BN-Beginner Novice Obedience

FACEBOOK: Emily Nebiolo - No report

HEALTH: Emily Nebiolo - No report

INSTAGRAM: Amy Lindenfelder - No report

MEMBERSHIP: Amy Lindenfelder - No report

NEWSLETTER (TRBMDC INCLINE): Donna Millburn - Looking for your holiday photos for *The Incline*.

PUPPY REFERRAL: Karen Artuso / Joyce Frey - No report

REGIONAL CLUB COUNCIL: Joye Neff - No report

RESCUE: Julia Airgood -

SUNSHINE: Gwen Geis – No report

TRBMDC WEBSITE: Denise Reardon - No report

OLD BUSINESS: The engraved bench slats for the TRBMDC Memorial Bench should be installed soon.

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

BRAGS: Margo has only one Therapy dog observation left, and she will be certified as a therapy dog with Alliance Therapy dogs. All at the young age of just turning two.

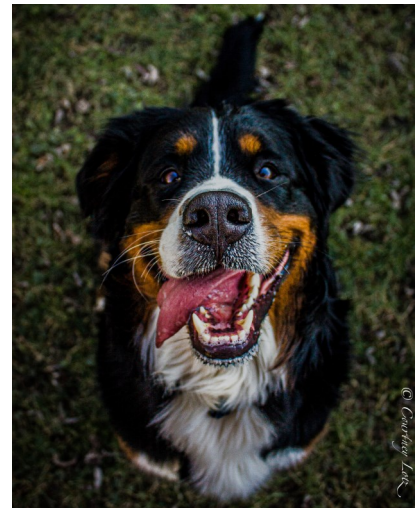
NEXT MEETING:

A motion was made by Randy Walter and seconded by Amy Lindenfelder to adjourn the meeting and start the party!

Respectfully submitted by *Donna Millburn*



Thanks to Courtney Lotz, Professional Photographer, for the Great Photos!









Our Amateurs Photographers Did Pretty Well Too!









... And one Last Blooper!

No dogs or humans were hurt in the taking of this photo.



TRBMDC is Always So Generous When it Comes to Rescue

At this year's Holiday Party, we held two fundraisers to benefit rescue organizations.

- Tickets were sold for raffle baskets to support Heart of Michigan's Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue. A total of \$190 was raised and donated by TRBMDC. Heart of Michigan is in critical need of on-going funds to continue their vigilant efforts of placing Berners in their forever homes.
- In addition, TRBMDC raised \$313 for "Pet Friends, Inc." in North Huntingdon, PA. In addition, cases of dogfood and cleaning supplies were donated. Pet Friends is an all breed rescue organization that will celebrate 20 years of operation in 2023. The rescue does not have their own physical building and rents kennel space. After diligent fundraising efforts, a physical shelter will become a reality for Pet Friends soon.

The dogs in their care are obtained from area animal control organizations and/or are surrendered by their owners. Cats are cared for temporarily in foster homes in the area. The cats in care are surrendered or are rescued from situations from citizens notifying Pet Friends of cats in need and litters of kittens each spring. All dogs and cats are vaccinated, microchipped, altered, and have any tests completed prior to adoption.

Betsy/Randy Walter and Michele Albert (TRBMDC members) have been volunteering for Pet Friends for many years. Thank to them for their efforts in support of this valuable rescue organization. TRBMDC was recognized for their donation and this photo appeared in their Pet Friends newsletter.





Looking for Something Fun to Do?

**Join TRBMDC for a Winter Dog Walk
at Hartwood Acres Park
(Sunday, February 12th - 1:00 p.m.)**



- What:** TRBMDC February Meeting and Winter Dog Walk
Starts with a brief meeting and group photo at Central Elementary School (located right beside Hartwood Acres on Middle Road)
Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. A Winter Dog Walk will follow in beautiful Hartwood Acres Park.
- When:** Sunday, February 12 (Starting at 1:00 p.m.)
- Where:** Meet at the Parking Lot of Central Elementary School located at GPS Location - 4100 Middle Road, Allison Park, PA 15101 (right beside Hartwood parking lot on Middle Road)
- Who:** All TRBMDC Members, Visiting Berner Lovers, and Berners invited!
- Why:** To enjoy a great, winter outing with your friends and Berners!

Bundle Up and Join the Fun!

Hartwood Acres is an Allegheny County Park and sits on 629 acres in Hampton and Indiana Townships. The park features amenities including the Lawrence Mansion, an off-leash dog area, an outdoor free-concert venue, cross-country skiing, walking, hiking, biking and horse riding trails.

It's the perfect location for a Winter Berner Dog Walk. The main trail is paved; however, there are numerous wooded trails, plus the fenced-in, off leash dog park ... just in case anyone would like to venture off to it.





You Can't Just Have One!

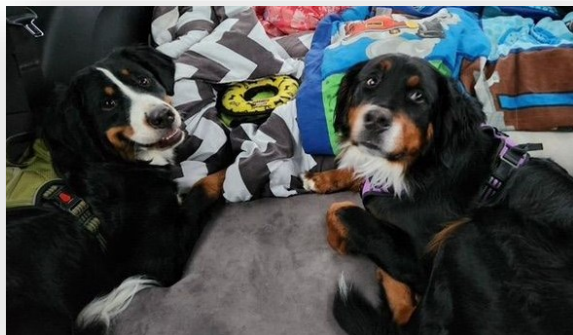
Written by Julia Airgood

Luna, a small 65 pound, two-year-old girl (from Millersburg, Ohio) was in need of a new home. Luna was supposed to be bred, but she only had one heat and didn't get pregnant. So the owners wanted to find her a new home and if they found a home that wanted to try to breed her, they were alright with her being bred. So I thought it was best to help find a home where she would be spayed and not in the hands of puppy millers. This was a bit tricky, since our Club is a passive rescue club. Being "passive rescue" means that we assist owners in placing dogs from one home to their forever home. Luna sounded like she would make a family a wonder companion. She is friendly and loves to be petted. Luna is good with kids and dogs. She is not fearful or shy of strangers and has no issues with resource guarding according to her owners. She had been given to her current owners as a gift to breed. She lived outside in a pen, but had a nice fenced in yard on a farm.



The goal was to find an experienced, new home, with a family who had fostered or adopted in the past. The fact that Luna never lived inside and was not housebroken needed to be carefully considered during placement. Thankfully, Tracy and Raymond Lowe of New York recently contacted me regarding adoption of a Berner. We could not have planned a better fit. The Lowes were experienced with previous adoptions. Tracy is a groomer and has some training in search and rescue. She is an importer for SPCA and has helped transport dogs all over the Northeast. The Lowes went to meet Luna in mid-November and took her home. Luna adjusted better than expected, especially going from an outside dog to a pampered inside dog. House training also went well.

Meanwhile on January 7, I was contacted by a family from Washington, PA needing to re-home their 19-month-old, Berner boy due to serious medical issues with the wife and daughter. The Dad was trying to hold things together with six kids. Their boy, Rusty, was up-to-date on shots, small at 75 pounds, and neutered. The owner admitted that Rusty needed training. He just didn't have the time to invest in what Rusty needed. Rusty also came from Millersburg, Ohio. He was from the same area as Luna, but a different Amish Breeders (we think). Don't forget that Luna was a gift from some other Amish Breeder. Unfortunately, Rusty's owners were unable to find his AKC papers. Coincidentally, the Lowes had noted on their application that they were hopeful to adopt two Berners at some point. Since Luna was so well adjusted in only two months, the Lowes were willing to drive seven hours to do a meet and greet with Luna and Rusty. Apparently, it went well, and they brought Rusty home. Rusty has some shy issues with men. With the Lowe's love and patience, Rusty will come out of his shell with Raymond. Last update, Rusty is already making progress. Thank you to the Lowe family for opening their home and hearts to give two Berners in need their loving, forever home.



The Berner bug bit the Lowe family, just like us ...

"You can't just have one!"





Therapy Work ... A Truly Rewarding Experience

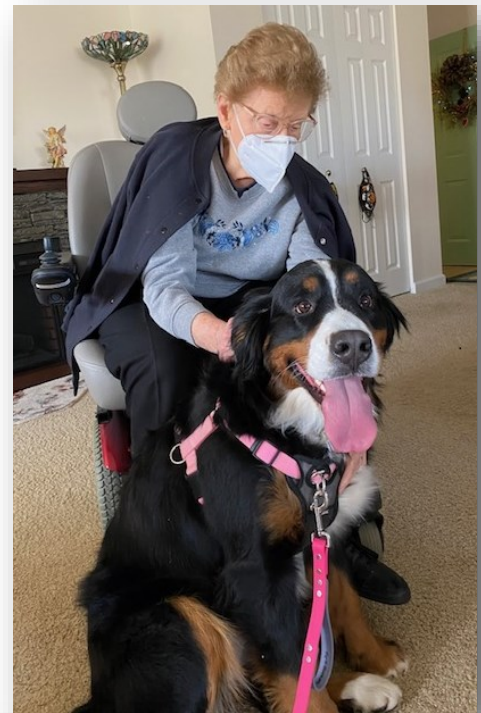
Doing Therapy work with your Berner is such a rewarding and bonding experience for the trainer and her/her Berner, as well as, the recipients of all the snuggling and love.

Margo - Oleka's Zoom Flying High CGC, TKN and her owner, Julia Airgood, deserve accolades for recently passing Margo's Therapy Dog exam with Alliance of Therapy dogs. Margo loves people, so much that it's hard to get her attention ... even with high reward food treats. So Julia thought that therapy work for Margo would be a natural fit. At only two years old, Margo passed her exam and has started hopefully a long career of bringing smiles to many.

Shown below are some recent photos of Margo's first visit to Concordia in Cabot, PA.



The wonderful women (in the photo to the left) is unable to sit in a chair. She has to be lying down. She asked if she could get on the floor with Margo. The hug tells the rest of the story. Margo brought sheer joy to this woman.



*Congrats, Margo.
Your love is
infectious!*



Happy Birthday to our January and February Berners



Lexi (John & Donna Millburn) (Dante and Lexi are siblings)	2/26/15	(8 yrs. Old)
Dante (Terry & Denise Reardon)	2/26/15	(8 yrs. Old)
Mia (Bob & Michelle Alberts)	2/22/17	(6 yrs. Old)
Lottie (Vic & Pat Thomas)	2/13/19	(4 yrs. Old)
Zeke (Stephen & Stephanie Colodny)	2/07/19	(4 yrs. Old)

(If you are not sure if TRBMDC has your Berner's Birthday on file, email your Berner's name and DOB to Dmillb@comcast.net.)

BMDCA Specialty - Searching for Berner Rescue Stories & Photos

Here is your chance to share the story and photos of your Rescue Berner(s) at the BMDCA National Specialty in April in Sacramento, California ... and you do not even need to attend! Patti Finley and Carolyn Paige are co-chairing the 2023 Rescue Gallery and would be happy to answer any of your questions. However, the deadline is fast approaching - February 15! Contact them at "BerneseRescue@groups.io" to participate.

There are four packages to choose from ranging from \$15 to \$28. BMDCA does not make a profit on the Rescue Gallery. They just cover the costs and of course, shipping keeps increasing in cost. The complete package includes a story and a 8" x 10" color photo, a handmade, personalized pin with your dog's name, and a booklet of the stories and some other goodies as surprises. If adopters would like to enter multiple rescues, contact the co-chairs and they will provide a discount. Adopters can enter rescues living and those that have passed over the Rainbow Bridge. Stories for rescues who have passed will be printed on rainbow paper. There have been many tears shed by people reading these stories.

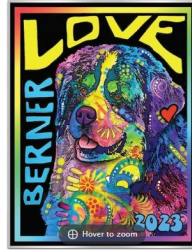
Deadline to Submit - February 15!



BMDCA 2023 Specialty “Love Shack”

Ways and Means for the 2023 Specialty is having a sale to allow for more merchandise to be added. If you are interested in doing a little shopping, log on to:

<https://www.bmdca-store.com/>



Reminder - 2023 TRBMDC Member Dues are Now Past Due!

In accordance with the By-Laws (Article 1) of our TRBMDC Constitution, membership dues are payable on or before January 1.

TRBMDC Members: Please return this information with your 2023 Dues

Please remit your dues promptly to the TRBMDC Treasurer, Amy Lindenfelder. Your check should be made payable to “TRBMDC” and mailed to the following address:

Amy Lindenfelder
1825 Park Circle Drive
Glenshaw, PA 15116

Please include the information shown to the right with your dues.

Name(s) _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip/Country _____

Name(s) of Berner(s) / Genders _____

Type of Membership (select one) and Annual Dues:

Individual Membership (\$20) _____

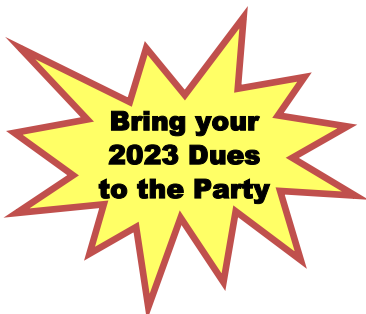
Household—2 adults at same address (\$25) _____

Junior- child less than 18 years (\$12.50) _____

Associate - includes Incline subscription (\$15) _____

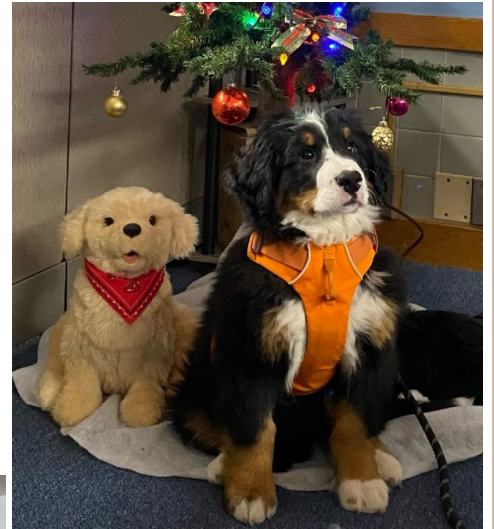
Subscription to *Incline* Only (non-members) (\$15) _____

If you are not a current member and unable to participate in sponsored activities, a donation (in any amount) would be greatly appreciated to our General Fund. Please make check payable to “TRBMDC” and mail to our Treasurer.





Holiday Memories

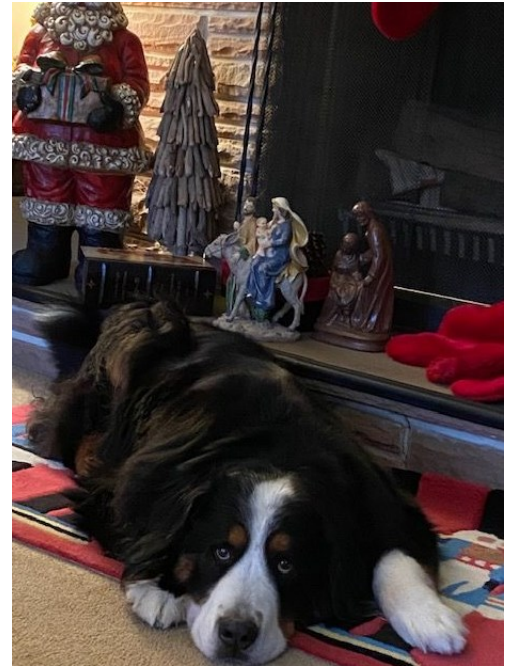




Holiday Memories



Notice the Berner tree behind Julia's adorable grand-daughter





TRBMDC 2023 Calendar

*See you on Sunday,
February 12 at
Hartwood Acres*

TRBMDC 2023 Calendar:

- Sunday, February 12 (1:00 p.m.) Meeting & Winter Dog Walk at Hartwood Acres
(Meet at Central Elementary School Parking Lot)
- Sunday, April 16 (1:00 p.m.) Meeting & Educational Talk
(Location - TBD)
- Sunday, June 11 (1:00 p.m.) Meeting, Memorial Tribute & Dog Activity
(Monroeville Park West)
- Sunday, August 13 (1:00 p.m.) Meeting & Summer Picnic
(Location - TBD)
- Saturday, October 7 (1:00 p.m.) Meeting & TRBMDC K-9 Idol
(Northmoreland Park - Pavilion 7)
- Saturday, December 2 (1:00 p.m.) Annual Meeting, 2023 Awards Celebration & Holiday Party
(Location - TBD)

(Other fun activities are in the planning for the off months)

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April 2-9, 2023 BMDCA 2023 National Specialty (Sacramento, CA)

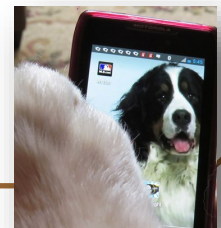
TRBMDC's Social Media

Facebook (Emily Nebiolo)

The TRBMDC Facebook name is "Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club". If you would like to post something on Facebook (a club announcement, Berner picture or achievement), email your write up with pictures and attachments to threeriversbernesemtn@gmail.com. In the Subject line, please type "For Facebook Post"; and it will be reviewed prior for posting. We are looking forward to increasing activity on the site, so please be sure to send your input and photos 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 to Amy Lindenfelder at 617-462-3655. Amy is the Administrator of the TRBMDC Instagram site and is anxiously awaiting your adorable Berner photos and/or videos to share with our followers.



Thanks to our contributors: Julia Airgood, Karen Artuso, Paul Bowman, Courtney Lotz (Professional Photographer), Donna Millburn (Incline Editor), the TRBMDC Board of Directors, and all those who submitted photos.