



July - August 2023

# TRBMDC Incline

Official Newsletter of the Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club

## Special Points of Interest:

- A Note from our President
- 6/9/23 Meeting Minutes
- A Tribute to Honor Past TRBMDC Members
- 6/9/23 Meeting Photos
- Grooming Tips
- 7/22/23 at The Greenhouse Winery
- 8/13/23 Meeting and Summer Picnic at Settlers Cabin Park - Iroquois Pavilion
- Happy Birthday to Nate and Tank
- Berner Brags and Fun
- Other Regional Club News
- TRBMDC Calendar

## 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

Our June meeting at Monroeville Park was bitter-sweet. We had sad and happy tears. It was sad to be down the road from where Bev and Ken (Cechman) lived without either of them with us. On the other hand, it was nice to see the bench in place to honor our members who have done so much for us over the years. It was also wonderful to have Sandi, Bev's sister, and Leizel with us. I'm sorry it was at an awkward time of the day, but so thankful we still had a great group in attendance.

The bench is on a path going from the gazebo down through the woods to another path. It is a very nice setting. It was an easy walk from Pavilion 1. We were able to get a photo of a bunch of us on the bench. Also, a nice one of Sandi and Leizel. Check out the photos enclosed.

We had a fun time sharing tips on how to groom our dogs. Donna went over what she had learned from Bev over the years. We even had a great demonstration of how to brush your dog's teeth! Bert and Linda had two very cooperative pups for this! Bert did recommend the liver flavored "dog tooth paste" that you can find at pet stores!

The gathering at the Greenhouse Winery in July was also a fun time. It was nice to hang out with friends, as well as, meet other Berner owners.

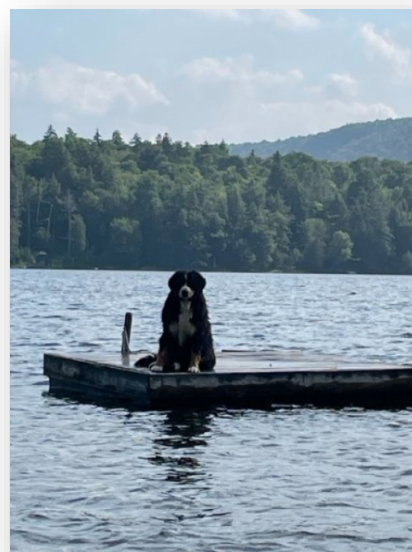
Hope to see all of you at our upcoming Summer Picnic at Settlers Cabin Park on Sunday, August 13. As always, visitors are welcome. Details are in the Incline. We also have a great K-9 Idol event planned for October 7. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details on K-Idol.

Thought you'd enjoy a photo of Poco on the lake in the Adirondacks. She worked diligently getting herself up on the raft and then decided that she didn't want to come back. Eventually she slipped off the side and swan back ... thank goodness.

Please send Donna Millburn (Dmillb@comcast.net) some photos of how your Berners have spent their summer months. We will share them in the next Incline.

Hope to see you at the picnic!

Karen





## Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club Meeting Minutes

**Location: Monroeville Community Park, Pavilion #1 - Natrona Hts., PA Date: Friday, June 9, 2023**

The following members and visitors were in attendance: Karen Artuso (Poco), Cathy Barth & Jim Meyer, Richard/Caroline Cannon (Lucy), Bert/Linda/Hanna Klei (Nelly & Enzo), Amy Lindenfelder, Donna Millburn (Rayne), and Tracy Sweeney. Visitors in attendance were Sandi Petkus (Leizel) and Courtney Lutz (photographer).

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT:** President, Karen Artuso

Karen introduced Sandi Petkus and Leizel (Bev Cechman's sister / Ken Cechman's sister-in-law). Sandi came to see the TRBMDC Memorial Bench honoring past TRBMDC members who have passed.

Karen thanked the Municipality of Monroeville, who waived the pavilion rental fee for the meeting, since TRBMDC recently purchased a memorial plaque in the park.

Karen announced that the Club made a \$250 donation to BARC to assist with their influx of rescued Berners.

Karen shared that an informal gathering of TRBMDC members and guests would be welcomed to the Greenhouse Winery in Irwin on July 22 starting at 2:30 p.m. This would not be a formal meeting ... just a fun time to gather with friends and their Berners. She also shared our upcoming Summer Picnic would be held at Settler's Park (Iroquois Pavilion) on Sunday, August 13 starting at 2:00 p.m. Settler's Park encompasses acres in Collier, North Fayette, and Robinson Townships. We are hopeful that a venue south of Pittsburgh will attract Berner owners from the south end of Pittsburgh.

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

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER:** Treasurer, Amy Lindenfelder

Checking Account Balance \$ 4,186.66                      Rescue Account Balance \$ 608.59

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY/ELECTIONS:** Acting Secretary, Donna Millburn

Members and visitors were reminded to sign the attendance sheet. Visitors were asked to provide their email address to be included on our newsletter "The Incline" mailing list.

The election of Carolyn and Richard Cannon to membership was held and unanimously approved. Welcome to TRBMDC Club, Carolyn and Richard!

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**AKC CORRESPONDENCE:** Secretary - No report                      **AWARDS:** Karen Artuso – No report

**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 photos and/or articles for *The Incline*. Email .jpg images to [Dmillb@comcast.net](mailto:Dmillb@comcast.net).

**PUPPY REFERRAL:** Karen Artuso—We continue to receive puppy and breeder requests. We have received 8 requests in last several months.

**REGIONAL CLUB COUNCIL:** Joye Neff - No report

**RESCUE:** Julia Airgood - Heart of Michigan continues to need volunteers for fosters and transportation of Rescued Berners.

**SUNSHINE:** Gwen Geis – No report                      **TRBMDC WEBSITE:** Denise Reardon - No report

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mary Sparks is chairing the K-9 Idol to be held at Northmoreland Park on Saturday, October 7 starting at 1:00 p.m. Last year, the event was held with great success. Looking forward to another fun time!

The TRBMDC will be selecting a Nominating Committee to be presented at the August meeting. They will be responsible for presenting nominees for Treasurer, Secretary, and 3 Board positions.

**NEXT MEETING:** August 13 - Settler's Park (2:00 p.m.)

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cathy Barth and seconded by Carolyn Cannon.*

*Respectfully Submitted, Donna Millburn, Acting Secretary*



## A Memorial Tribute to our TRBMDC Members Who Have Passed

On June 9, 2023, TRBMDC paid tribute to those members who have passed by having a bench engraved at Monroeville Community Park, West. The bench reads “In memory of our TRBMDC members whose love for Bernese Mountain Dogs left paw prints on our hearts”.



Let us remember the following members who have passed ...

Ken Cechman (3/20/23)

Bill Leistner (5/30/22)

Bev Cechman (7/26/21)

Dr. Mary Dawson (11/19/20)

Todd Lathrop (2/28/20)

Kathy (Gefsky) Baur (8/3/19)

Jane Leistner (11/13/17)

Arden Reihing (3/14/17)

Kim Moran (1/3/15)

Alta Hogg (9/1/11)

Gary Bowers (12/24/11)

Marian Rupp (12/3/10)

Gene Frey (10/28/10)

Brenda Bedrosian (3/10/10)

Robert Baur (12/7/09)

Debbie McGuire (6/8/01)

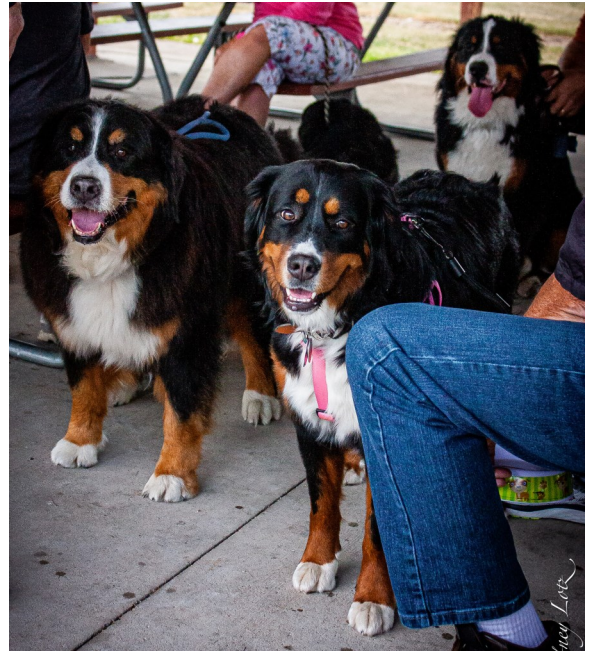


*Sandi Petkus and Leizel attended the memorial as a special tribute to Bev Cechman (her sister) and Ken Cechman (her brother-in-law).*

*Leizel was Bev and Kenny's Berner and is under the loving care of Bev's Dad (George Petkus) and Sandi Petkus.*



## Other Memories from the 6/9/23 Meeting



© Courtney Lake

© Courtney Lake

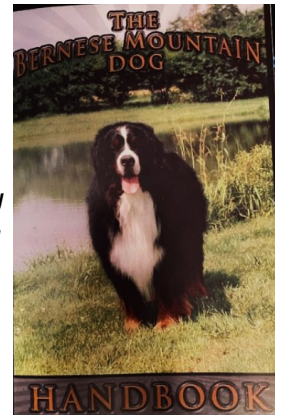


## Grooming Tips for Berner Owners

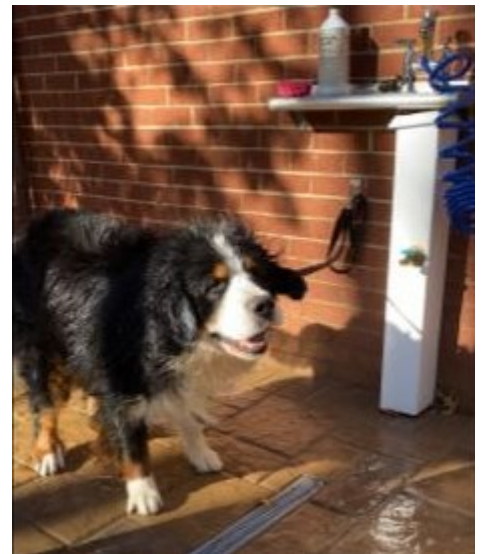
According to the Bernese Mountain Dog Handbook, published by the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America by the Publications Committee in 1994 and 2009 ...

*“The coat of the Bernese Mountain Dog is thick, moderately long and slightly wavy or straight. It has a bright natural sheen. Extremely curly or extremely dull-looking coats are undesirable. The Bernese Mountain Dog is shown in natural coat and undue trimming is to be discouraged.”*

Our job, as owners, is to keep their coats beautiful by occasional bathing, brushing and overall grooming. Their feet and nails should be neatly trimmed. It is also important to clean their ears regularly to avoid possible infections. Good dental hygiene is essential to your Berner's overall health. Berners' natural coats add to their stunning appearance. Your Berners are not Poodles ... therefore, unnecessary sculpting or trimming should not be performed. Remember that grooming should be a fun experience for both you and your dog!



- **Brushing Your Berner** - Use the proper tools. A **slicker brush** is used for general brushing. A **rake comb** is used for detangling and combing out any matted fur. **Scissors** may be required to cut out severely matted fur. Routine brushing several times a week helps to keep the shedding under control. The rake comb is used to help remove mats in the undercoat. Use the rake gently, so that you do not hurt your Berner. Proper brushing with the slicker brush helps to distribute the healthy skin oils through your dog's coat.
- **Bathing Your Berner** - Bath your Berner only occasionally. A Berner's coat sheds dirt very easily. Too frequent bathing can dry out their skin. ALWAYS brush your dog thoroughly prior to bathing. Once wet, mats are impossible to remove safely. Make sure you have a non-slip mat when bathing your Berner to protect he/she from slips or falls. A hair catcher over your drain is highly recommended. Be sure to bathe with lukewarm water. Wet your dog completely prior to applying shampoo. Then work the shampoo all the way down to the skin, Speak gently and lovingly to your Berner during the bath. Most Berners do not like water on their face, so use a moistened cloth and use caution around their eyes.
- **Drying Your Berner** - Use a **doggie hair dryer** for best results. They are more powerful and the temperature can be controlled more easily. It's critical to completely dry the coat. Since they have a double coat, it is important to dry the undercoat as well. A damp coat will provide the perfect environment for a hot spot to develop. If you start young, your Berner will learn to love the attention while blow drying their coat.





## Grooming Tips (Cont'd.)

- **Cleaning and Drying Your Berner's Ears** - Moisture in the ear canal can cause ear infections. Dry the ears with a clean cotton swab. Using an **Ear Relief Wash**, such as Vet's Best is recommended. It is important that there are no Parabens, Dyes, or Alcohol in the ear wash. Moisten the cotton swab and using your index finger reach into your dog's ear to remove any buildup of dirt or wax. Then, use a dry swab to ensure both ears are dry.
- **Brushing Your Berner's Teeth** - This can be a bit tricky. Brush your dog's teeth a couple of times per week. Pick up a dog safe toothbrush or finger brush and a tube of doggie toothpaste. Beef or liver flavored seem to taste best to the dog. Start slow and rub your dog's teeth with your finger. Then touch the toothbrush to each tooth. Next put some toothpaste on your finger and let your dog lick it off. After the dog is comfortable, gently brush their teeth. Start at the front and work to the back teeth. Praise your dog along the way.
- **Caring for Your Berner's Feet and Nails** - Trim your dog's nails about once a month. Since most Berners have dark nails, you must trim slowly being careful not to hit the quick. The quick is a pink vein that runs through the nail. You will notice the white spot in the center of the nail. As it starts to darken, you are getting closer to the quick, so be very careful. It is good to have **styptic powder** on hand just in case you get too close to the quick and it starts to bleed. You can use a guillotine or scissor type trimmer or a doggie dremel tool. Use an emery board to smooth any rough edges, so your dog will not split any nails. Use small scissors to trim the hair around the nails, between the toes, and under the paws. Trim flat against the surface of the paw pads to avoid injuring their pads. Pull the hair up between their toes to trim between their toes.

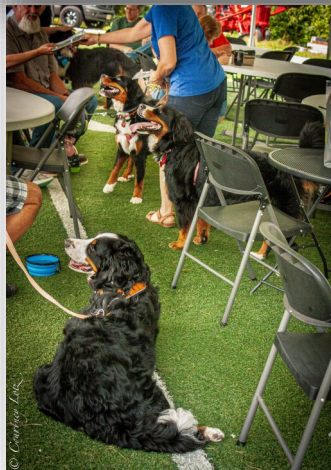
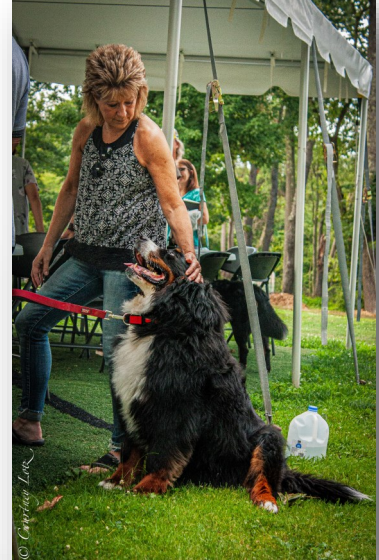


Brushing and Ear Care + Dental Hygiene + Nail & Paw Trimming

= Bentley - One Happy Berner!

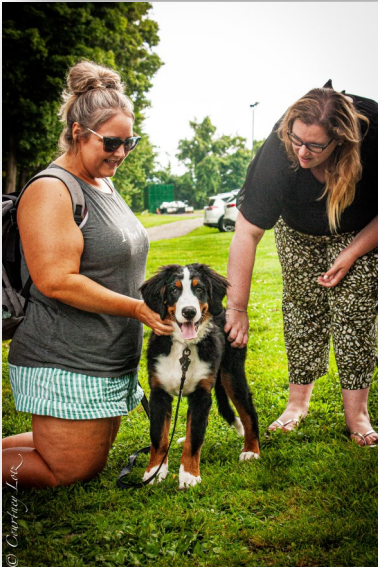
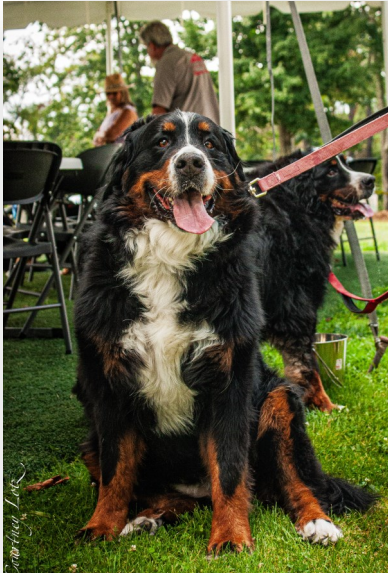


# Hanging Out with Our Berners at the Greenhouse Winery





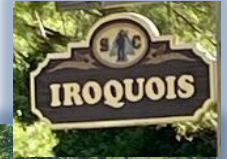
## Hanging Out with Our Berners at the Greenhouse Winery







## TRBMDC Meeting and Summer Picnic



**When:** Sunday, August 13 (2:00 p.m.)




**Where:** Settler's Cabin Park - Iroquois Pavilion  
608 Ridge Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

(Take 376W to 608 Ridge Road ... Turn Right into Park on Papoose Drive ... Turn Left at "T" onto Teepee Drive ... Iroquois is at the very end.)

**What:** TRBMDC August Meeting, Summer Picnic and Dog Activities  
Visitors are Welcome - Bring your Berners!

**Food:** Please plan to bring a Covered Dish or Dessert of your choice  
TRBMDC will provide Hotdogs, Meatball Sandwiches and Drinks

**Activities:** Berner Games & Summer Photos

-  Can You Identify Your Berner Blindfolded?
-  Sock Race
-  Your Berner Eats What?

**R.S.V.P. to [Dmillb@comcast.net](mailto:Dmillb@comcast.net) by 8/10/23**

(Settler's Cabin Park encompasses 1,619 acres in Collier, North Fayette, and Robinson townships. It features a historic log cabin, wave pool, dive pool, shelters, dog park, tennis courts, playground, and walking/hiking trails)





## Happy Birthday to Nate and Tank



Happy 4th Birthday, Nate!



Maines' Joyeful Nathaniel Bear

"NATE" 7/29/19  
(Owned by Joye and Bill Neff)

Happy 7th Birthday, Tank!!

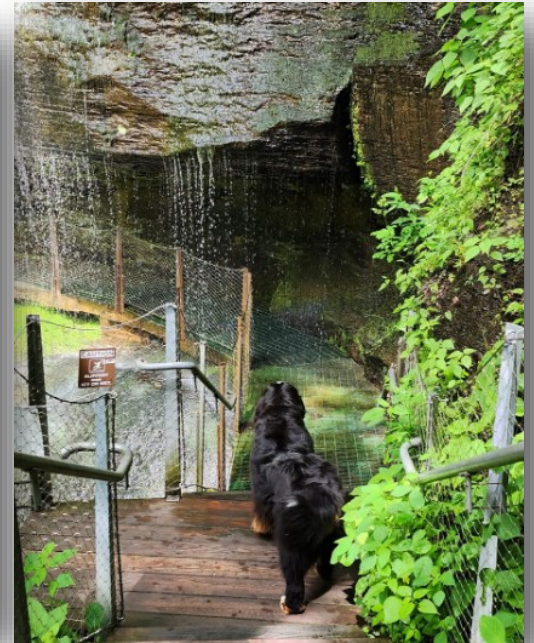


"TANK" 7/9/16  
(Owned by Sue Stonick and  
Larry Heidenreich)

*(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](mailto:Dmillb@comcast.net).)*



## Berner Brags and Summer Fun





## Berner Brags and Summer Fun





## Other Regional Club News

### Buckeye Bernese Mountain Dog Club

The Buckeye Bernese Mountain Dog Club invites you to join them for their draft tests being held on September 30 and October 1, 2023. These back-2-back all breed draft tests will take place on the grounds of the Columbus All-Breed Training Club, which provides ample parking on asphalt and the use of a climate-controlled building which includes a kitchen area and restrooms.

The theme for this year's test is "Let It Ride", and our "lucky" judges are Phil Atkinson and Julie Bacon, with Apprentice Judge Jill Shaeffer. Closing date is September 20, 2023.

Premium List can be found at [buckeyebmdc.org/events.html](http://buckeyebmdc.org/events.html) or on the "Upcoming Draft Events" section of the new BMDCA website - [bmdca.org/draft](http://bmdca.org/draft).

Any questions? Please send an email to either Tim Thompson (draft tests chair) or to Becky Caesar (Draft Tests Secretary). Email addresses can be found in the Premium List.

### North Coast Bernese Mountain Dog Club's Regional Specialty Week-end 8/3/23 thru 8/7/23

The NCBMDC Regional Specialty is fast approaching. The Judging Programs for the 4 day Steel Valley Cluster All Breed Dog Show are posted and below are the times when the Berners will be in the show ring. The shows will be in **Ring 2** on the Canfield Fairgrounds each day. For those who have not attended in the past:

Ring 2 is located at the far NW corner of the Fairgrounds.

Thursday, Aug. 3rd: 9:30 AM                      Judge: Mr. Stephan Dainard

Friday, Aug. 4th: 8:00 AM                      Judge: Ms. Pamela Bruce

#### **Saturday Aug. 5th NCBMDCO Specialty**

**Puppy & Veteran Sweepstakes: 8:00 AM    Judge: Ms. Christina Reedy**

**Specialty: 8:45 AM                      Judge: Ms. Sulie Greendale-Paveza**

Sunday, Aug. 7th: 9:00 AM                      Judge: Ms. Cheryl Sams

Coffee and donuts will be available early Saturday morning. The hospitality luncheon and raffle will be held after the Best of Breed judging at approximately 11:00 AM.

NCBMDC hopes to see many of you there over the four days of the show...especially at our Regional Specialty on Saturday. It's a fun day ... especially watching our beautiful breed in the show ring!

If you have any questions, contact Joan Atkins at: [jpatkain@roadrunner.com](mailto:jpatkain@roadrunner.com)



## TRBMDC 2023 Calendar

*See you on Sunday,  
August 13 for the  
Summer Picnic!*

### TRBMDC 2023 Calendar:

- |                                      |                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, February 12 (1:00 p.m.)      | Meeting & Winter Dog Walk at Hartwood Acres<br>(Meet at Central Elementary School Parking Lot)                                       |
| Sunday, April 23 (1:30 p.m.)         | Meeting & Educational Talk on Canine Genetic Testing<br>by Dr. Bert Klei<br>(Ringers Pet Dog Training, Natrona Heights, PA )         |
| Friday, June 9 (5:00 p.m.)           | Meeting, Memorial Tribute & Grooming Tips<br>(Monroeville Park West - Pavilion 1)                                                    |
| Saturday, July 22 (2:30 p.m.)        | Informal Get Together at Greenhouse Winery -<br>The Main Winery (2155 Gracin Lane, Irwin, PA 15642)                                  |
| <b>Sunday, August 13 (2:00 p.m.)</b> | <b>Meeting &amp; Summer Picnic</b><br><b>Settlers Cabin Park - Iroquois Pavilion</b><br><b>608 Ridge Road , Pittsburgh, PA 15208</b> |
| Saturday, October 7 (1:00 p.m.)      | Meeting & TRBMDC K-9 Idol<br>(Northmoreland Park - Pavilion 7)                                                                       |
| Saturday, December 2 (1:00 p.m.)     | Annual Meeting, 2023 Awards Celebration & Holiday Party<br>(Location - TBD)                                                          |

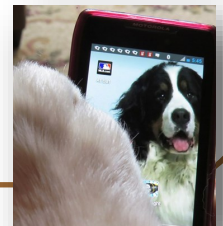
## TRBMDC's Social Media

### 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](mailto: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"](mailto: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: Karen Artuso, Amy Lindenfelder, Donna Millburn (Incline Editor), the TRBMDC Board of Directors, and our wonderful Club photographers.

A special thanks to Professional Photographer, Courtney Lutz, for her photography.