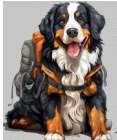




TRBMDC Incline

Official Newsletter of the Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club

Special Points of Interest:

- A Note from our President
- 2/18/24 Meeting Minutes
- Hartwood Acres Dog Walk
- Getting to Know our New Members
- Agility Demo/Workshop - Splash'n Dash K9, 3/14/24
- **Farm Dog Overview and Meeting 4/13/24**
- A Tribute to Hank
- Off to the BMDC National Specialty 
- Happy Birthday to Buddy, Bebe, HeidiJo and Nelly
- Berner Brags & Photos
- TRBMDC Calendar

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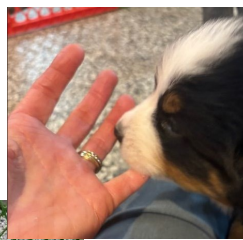
Board of Directors:

Cathy Barth
Bert Klei
Joye Neff
Denise Reardon
Mary Sparks

On February 18, we had a wonderful turn out for the winter dog walk at Hartwood Acres. The weather may have been cold, but we had sunshine! The hot chocolate hit the spot and the cookies were yummy. We had a brief meeting and voted in two new members, Mike and Jane Kosco (and their dog Harlee) and Marty Sutton (and her dog Roxey). Welcome!! We are happy to have you join us. We had a group that walked to the dog park and another group that walked up to the barn and the mansion. The mansion is a beautiful country estate built in the 1920's; and the stable has recently been renovated. There are free outdoor, dog-friendly concerts at Hartwood Acres in the summer.

On March 14, we met at Splash'n Dash K9 Sports to learn about Agility. Julia did a wonderful job demonstrating the beginning steps to several of the pieces of equipment used in Agility. Each dog had a chance to work on the individual tasks - the weave poles, jumping, the tunnel, as well as working on various things like the wobble board, the table or the ladder. Julia encouraged the owners to do a sequence of jumps, weave poles and the tunnel after their practice time. Some of the dogs really took to it! Bravissimo!!

I went to see Poco's breeder over the weekend. She has a litter of pups and has a female available for us. They are so stinking cute. The bottom of their paws are so soft. I had a nice time catching up with Heather Anschutz and met her current crew of dogs. They are all so friendly. I miss having that Berner hair on my clothes! It was so nice to get a Berner fix! We will pick our girl up in the beginning of May. I'm so excited!



Berner Trivia:

We all probably know that the first Berners were from Switzerland. There are still many Berners in the area called Bern, where the breed originated. Some of our members have even traveled to Bern quite a few years ago. Here's a little trivia question for you.

"In America we call our dog's breed, Bernese Mountain Dogs. If you lived in Bern, Switzerland, what is the breed's name for these dogs? If you know, email me at ["ar2so@zoominternet.net"](mailto:ar2so@zoominternet.net).

Karen Artuso, President



Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club Meeting Minutes

Location: Hartwood Acres Dog Walk Date: February 19, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.

The following TRBMDC Members, Visitors (and Berners) were in attendance: Karen Artuso, Mike/Holly Bacasa (Bodhi), Cathy Barth/ Jim Meyer, Dana/Skye Byrnes (Hank), Carolyn/Rick Canon (Lucy), Scot/Eve/Andrew Gordon (Messy), Mike Kosko (Harlee), Bert/Linda Klei (Enzo), Kristy/husband Lewis (Abbey), Randy/Gigi Lough (Quest), Gus McBride/Tracy Sweeny (Ursa), Donna Millburn (Lexi), and Marty Sutton (Roxey).

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: President, Karen Artuso

Karen welcomed our members and all the new visitors, and asked that they sign in and introduce themselves and their Berner(s). Many new faces and paws were in attendance, which was great. Karen asked that the minutes, as shown in the Jan/Feb Incline, be accepted as published. Carolyn Canon and Donna Millburn made motions to approve. In addition, Karen shared the 2024 calendar and mentioned that there would be a focus on "Berner Versatility", as shown in the events planned for 2024. The Bernese Mountain Dog is a Working Dog, and therefore has a variety of innate abilities that can be developed through training. TRBMDC will provide overviews to many of these through demonstrations and workshops throughout the year. There is a raffle today to benefit TRBMDC Rescue. Please support this effort. Ticket cost is 1 ticket - \$2, 3 for \$5, or an arm length for \$10. She invited all to have cookies and hot chocolate that was provided by the Club. Following the brief meeting will be a group photo prior to the Hartwood Walk.

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

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY / ELECTIONS / MEMBERSHIP: Secretary, Amy Lindenfelder (not in attendance) Donna Millburn to fill-in.

Today, TRBMDC membership will be voting on Mike/Jane Kosko and Marty Sutton for membership. We will ask that they temporarily vacate the area for the discussion. Sponsor: Karen Artuso spoke of Mike/Jane's behalf. Sponsors: Cathy Barth and Donna Millburn spoke on Marty Sutton's behalf. TRBMDC agreed unanimously to accept both into membership and believes both will be an asset to the Club. New members were invited back and welcomed to TRBMDC membership.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Treasurer, Ralph Artuso

Main Checking Account (December 2023 – January 2024)

December 1, 2023 Balance:	\$2, 955.48
Fees	- \$6.00
Deposits:	\$445.00
Transfer to Rescue Account	- \$344.00
Christmas Party Expense	- \$265.80
January 31, 2024 Balance:	\$2,784.68

Rescue Fund (December 2023 – January 2024)

December 1, 2023 Balance:	\$78.59
Fees:	-\$16.00
Deposits:	\$515.00
Transfer from Main Account:	\$344.00
Donation To:	
Humane Animal Rescue	-\$200.00
January 31, 2024 Balance:	\$721.59

(cont'd. on page 3)



Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club Meeting Minutes

Location: Hartwood Acres Dog Walk - 2/18/24 (cont'd.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP: TRBMDC Board - Election of Jane and Mike Kosko (H) and Marty Sutton (I).

- Jane and Mike Kosko own Harlee. She was a rescue and daughter of Heidi and Max Pedicone's rescue, Stella. Julia Airgood and Karen Artuso are their sponsors
- Marty Sutton owns Roxey, a two year old Berner and Marty's first Berner. Marty met Cathy Barth in Cabot, PA. She has attended two meetings. Cathy Barth and Donna Millburn are her sponsors.

Jane and Mike Kosko and Marty were all unanimously voted into Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club as members. Welcome!

AKC CORRESPONDENCE: Karen Artuso No Report

PASSIVE RESCUE: Julia Airgood

Julia shared a study done by Bruce Whiteside. A total of 660 pure bred, Berner rescues were taken into various rescues, including BMDC regional rescues, Heart of Michigan, BARC and the new National BMD Rescue network ... along with Berner Friends World Wide in 2023. Costs incurred totaled over a half of a million dollars! This data gives you a better idea of why it is so important to continue to support the various rescue organizations.

REGIONAL CLUB COUNCIL: Joye Neff No Report

PERFORMANCE EVENTS:

You will notice that the Board of Directors decided to highlight the versatility of our breed this year by providing overviews and demos of some of the numerous activities that our working dogs enjoy with their owners. Examples to be shared in 2024 include Drafting, Agility, Rally, Obedience, and Farm Dog.

TRBMDC WEBSITE: DENISE REARDON No Report

FACEBOOK: AMY LINDENFELDER No Report

NEWSLETTER (TRBMDC INCLINE): Donna Millburn

Please forward your favorite .jpg photos from today's dog walk to Donna Millburn at Dmillb@comcast.net for inclusion in the Incline. In addition, I am always looking for Berner photos, brags, and articles for the bi-monthly newsletter.

PUPPY REFERRAL: Karen Artuso

There was one puppy request in January and February.

AWARDS: Julia Airgood

Plaques and plates were provided at today's meeting for those Berners earning Awards and Certifications in 2023.

SUNSHINE: Gwen Geis No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A raffle is being held at today's meeting to benefit our TRBMDC Rescue Account. Tickets are available as follows: 1 ticket for \$2, 3 tickets for \$5, and an arm length for \$10. Thanks in advance for your support. The winning ticket will be pulled prior to the start of the dog walk. A group photo will follow the raffle announcement.

NEXT EVENT / MEETING:

Programs: (Donna Millburn)

- March 14 (Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – Program – Agility Demo & Workshop - Splash'n Dash K9 Sports, Plum, PA
- April 13 (Saturday, 1:00 p.m.) – Meeting & Farm Dog Practice - Monroeville Park West, Pavilion 1, Monroeville, PA

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Bert Klei and seconded by Cathy Barth to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Millburn for Amy Lindenfelder



Cold Fingers ... but Warm Hearts at Hartwood





Lots of New Friends Joined the Fun





Off to the Dog Park





Getting to Know our New Members

At the February meeting, we welcomed the following new TRBMDC members and their Berners.

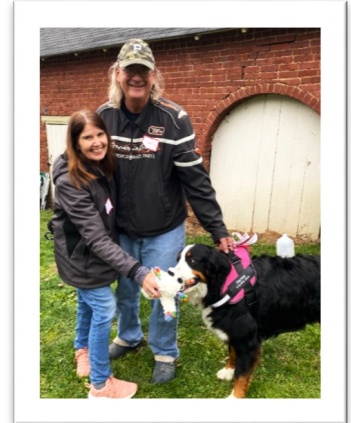
Mike and Jane Kosco (and Harlee)

Mike and Jane Kosco adopted Harlee in April, 2023. Harlee is a very sweet girl and is two years old. Harlee's mother, Stella, was adopted by TRBMDC Club members Heidi and Max Pedicone. So it was meant to be to bring these two back together in our Club. In fact, they had a family reunion at the 2023 Holiday Party!

Mike is an IT Administrator and Jane is a Scheduler. Both are also coaches. Both Mike and Jane enjoy walks on the nearby trails. Scuba diving is a favorite hobby of theirs.

Harlee is Mike and Jane's first Berner; however, typically, they have two dogs. Other breeds they have owned include Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, German Shepherd, Golden Retriever and Sheltie. Therapy work is something that they are interested in; and recently Harlee gave Agility a try and did a great job.

Welcome to the Club, Mike, Jane, and Harlee. We are looking forward to getting to know you a lot better at this year's activities.



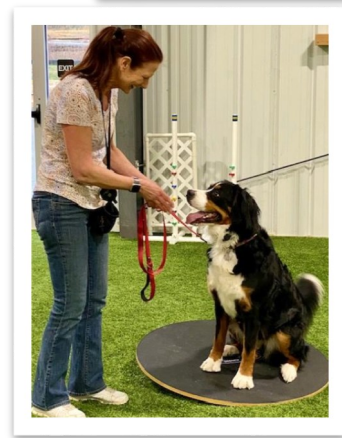
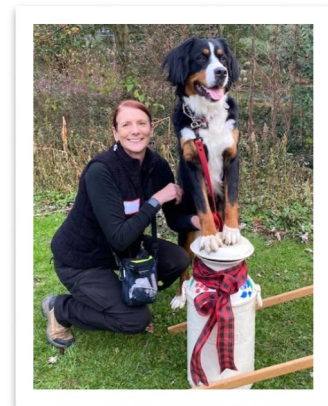
Marty Sutton (and Roxey)

Marty is the Executive Director at the Armstrong County Housing Authority and is posing with her wonderful, female Berner ... Roxey. Roxey is two years old. Marty lives in Cabot, PA, which is where she first met TRBMDC member, Cathy Barth.

Roxey is Marty's first Berner. In the past, Marty has owned a Golden Retriever, English Springer Spaniel, Collie/Husky Mix and Beagle. Marty is interested in learning as much as possible about the Breed, but is particularly interested in Obedience, Therapy Work and Agility. Marty is very committed to having a great partnership with Roxey and looking forward to making her a well trained Berner.

Marty competed in Equestrian events for 25+ years, primarily in Jumping and Dressage. She also enjoys crafting and sports in her spare time.

We are thrilled to welcome Marty to the Club and look forward to watching Roxey participate in many Berner activities.



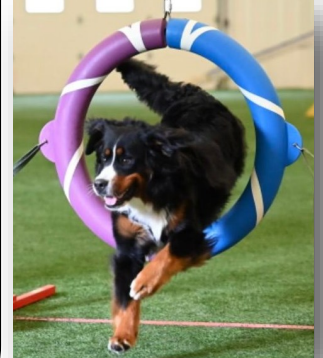


Agility Demo and Workshop

If you missed the Agility Demonstration and Workshop, conducted by Julia Airgood, you missed a great time!

After a crash course on the beginner agility equipment, attendees and their Berners had the opportunity to rotate through all of the equipment and learn some new skills. It was amazing how well the Berners did! Following the workshop, Julia and Margo did a run through of the course and others got to try their newly acquired skills on the course.

In the middle of the workshop, we celebrated Nelly's 11th birthday with yummy cupcakes for the humans and Untamed Meatballs for the pups, compliments of the Bert and Linda Klei.

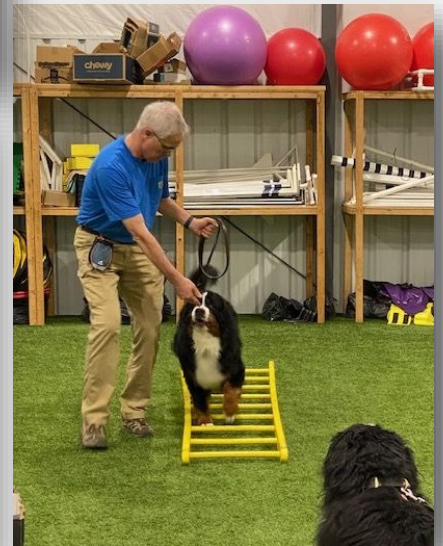


Equipment Demonstration





HAPPY 11th BIRTHDAY
NELLY!





Agility is Fun for Everyone!





AKC Farm Dog Overview and Practice

April 13, 2024 - 1:00 p.m.

Monroeville Park West (Pavilion 1)



What: TRBMDC Meeting, AKC Farm Dog "Practice", and Pizza Party

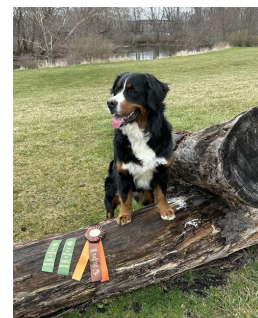
(Feel free to bring a side dish or dessert, if desired.)

The AKC Farm Dog certification involves your dog performing a series of 12 exercises typical for a farm environment ... such as close proximity to penned livestock, jumping and staying on hay/straw bales, walking on unusual terrain, jumping over logs, etc. No herding is involved. The goal is to assess your Berner's aptitude as a Working Dog by exhibiting self-control, confidence, trainability, and trust with the handler.

When: Saturday, April 13 (Starts at 1:00 p.m.)

Where: Monroeville Park "West" - 2399 Tilbrook Road, Pavilion 1
Turn off Tilbrook Road onto Baseball Blvd. Turn left into first parking lot.
Look for the yellow TRBMDC Banner!

Who: TRBMDC Members and all Berner Friends
All Guests are Welcome - Bring Your Berners on Leash, Water, and Poop Bags



Please RSVP to Dmillb@comcast.net, if you plan to attend no later than April 10, 2024 ... so we have an approximate count for pizza and refreshments!



AKC FARM DOG CERTIFICATION TEST EVALUATION

Host Club/Event: _____ Location: _____ Date: _____

Dog Name: _____ AKC Registration/Listing No.: _____ Breed: _____

Owner Name: _____ Judge Name: _____

IMPORTANT: Test result form only – see FDC Test Guide for complete test requirements.

	Pass	Needs Training
1. Greet Evaluator – Initial Dog Appraisal Handler approaches evaluator, dog stops at handler's side on a <u>loose lead</u> while evaluator performs introduction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Perform a Walk Pattern around Farm Environment and by Passive Stranger The handler walks the dog on a <u>loose lead</u> in a prescribed pattern through farm objects. A passive stranger sits quietly on course.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Jump on Hay/Straw Bale The handler instructs the dog to jump up on a bale of hay and stay on the bale for a minimum of 10 seconds while maintaining a loose lead.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Walk by Farm Animal(s) The handler walks the dog on a <u>loose lead</u> in view of penned farm animal(s) approximately 30 feet away from the fence line housing farm animal(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Walk Over or Through Unusual Surfaces The handler walks the dog on a <u>loose lead</u> over or through three different unusual surfaces, including a plastic tarp, safe wooded surface, and another typical farm environment surface.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Supervised Separation The handler places the dog in a freestanding kennel or dog crate and walks out of sight for a minimum of 1 minute.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Pass Through a Gate The handler and dog navigate through a gate on a <u>loose lead</u> , the dog must wait calmly as the handler opens the gate, calls dog through the gate opening and closes the gate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Handler Feeds Livestock The handler performs a farm chore of feeding farm animals while the dog is secured a minimum of 30 feet away from the animal enclosure.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Reaction to Another Dog The handler is positioned in a designated area with the dog at side on <u>loose lead</u> . The dog may stand, down or sit. Another dog is walked by on lead approximately 10 feet away.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Reaction to Noise Distraction The handler may stand or quietly walk in a designated area with the dog at side on <u>loose lead</u> . The assistant creates two background noises typical to a working farm environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Dog Approaches Livestock The handler, with the dog at side on a <u>loose lead</u> , enters a fenced area that contains livestock within a separate enclosure. The dog is introduced to livestock and encouraged to approach the pen, the dog is then called back to the handler and returns readily when called.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Physical Examination The handler physically examines the dog for any plant material, debris or objects that the dog may have collected while working on the farm.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OVERALL TEST ASSESSMENT: Was the dog consistently responsive to the handler and successfully exhibited self-control while exposed to a farm environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* To pass the FDC Test, dogs must pass all elements of the test, including test assessment.

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE: _____



Crossing the Rainbow Bridge

A Tribute to Sweet and Lovable “Hank”

(8/20/23 - 3/8/24)



It is with an extremely heavy heart that I share this memorial tribute to 6-1/2 month old, “Hank”. Many of you had the chance to meet Hank at the February Dog Walk at Hartwood Acres or read about his adoption in the November/December 2023 incline. Who would have ever thought that I would be writing a memorial for him in the March/April 2024 Incline? And this is a very personal one.

At the request of Julia Airgood, John and I had the privilege to pick Hank up at the Humane Animal Rescue (HAR) at just 10 weeks old – our first foster. John and I fell in love immediately with his precious little face. Hank was adopted from an Amish Farm in Ohio by a college student, who was unable to keep him. The Amish breeder was unwilling to accept him in return. So Hank was dropped off at the Humane Animal Rescue. He tested positive for Coccidia, an intestinal tract infection caused by ingestion of feces or soil infected by microscopic parasites that attach to the lining of the intestines and cause severe diarrhea. He later tested positive for Giardia as well. Needless to say, he had an extremely rough start to life ... like many other Amish bred Berners.

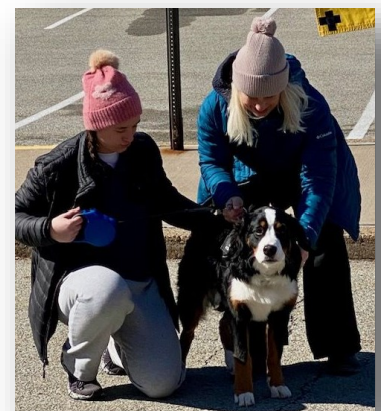
Hank was adopted by John, Dana, Grace, JP and Skye Byrnes on 10/27/23 ... a perfect placement to a loving family, who happened to be our best friends and next door neighbors. We were hoping to give them the same joy we have had with our Berners throughout the years. Unfortunately after numerous vet consultations, changes in diet, multiple doses of antibiotics, etc., little Hanks’s intestinal tract remained extremely inflamed. He stopped eating and was taken immediately to Blue Pearl for additional testing by Specialists. He was hospitalized for two days, but not improving or eating and still testing positive for Giardia and experiencing terrible diarrhea. A second sonogram was taken and his intestines telescoped inside each other. Technically, it is called “Intussusception”. His weakened condition was not conducive to Hank making it through the difficult surgery. And then, there was no guarantee that the telescoping would not occur again. So the Byrnes did the right thing for Hank and put him out of his pain. However, that difficult decision left the Byrnes heart-broken. Putting a wonderful puppy down was so tough. However, they gave Hank the very best of their love for his short lifetime. We will never forget his sweet disposition and soft eyes. And our Rayne still sits at our fence waiting for Hank to come over to play.

Thanks to the TRBMDC Board for a memorial gift to help offset some of Hank’s substantial medical bills. It was unnecessary, but greatly appreciated by the Byrnes Family.



Run free, sweet Hank! You are dearly missed.

Written by Donna Millburn in Memory of Hank





2024 BMDCA National Specialty

(March 31-April 6, 2024) Gray Summit, MO (Purina Farms)



<https://www.bmdca.org/2024-specialty>

Join "BMDCA2024 National Specialty Checkerboard" on Facebook

It is such an exciting week coming up for all of the Berner owners. The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) is holding their 2024 National Specialty in Gray Summit, MO. It is being held at the Purina Event Center (on Purina Farms), and is a premier dog show site. Attending a Specialty is so much fun!! It is so heart-warming to see hundreds of our stunning dogs competing in Conformation, Obedience, Rally Obedience, Agility, Herding, Drafting, etc.



And ... TRBMDC can be very proud that one of our members, Julia Airgood, will be competing at the Specialty with both of her Berners. Margo will be competing in Agility, Rally Obedience and Obedience. And Remi will be competing in Rally Obedience. We are sending tons of Good Luck and Berner hugs to Julia, Margo and Remi. We are so proud of you! And Wayne - you are in charge of taking some great photos for the next Incline!

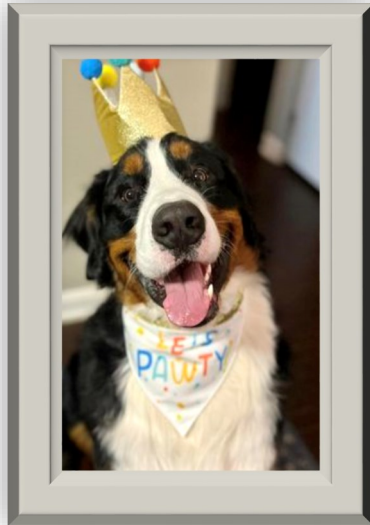


Host Clubs

- Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Northeastern Illinois
- Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Southeastern Wisconsin
- Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Greater Twin Cities
- Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Rockies
- Buckeye Bernese Mountain Dog Club
- Grand Canyon State Bernese Mountain Dog Club
- Heart of Michigan Bernese Mountain Dog Club
- Heartland Bernese Mountain Dog Club
- Lone Star Bernese Mountain Dog Club
- North Coast Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Ohio

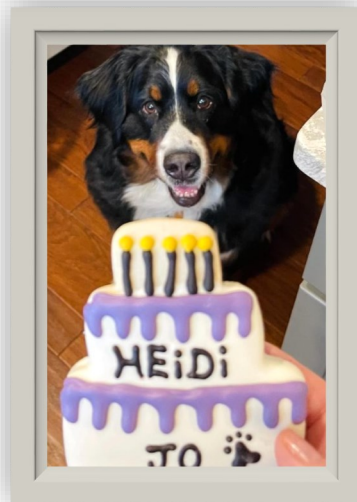


Happy Birthday to our March / April Berners



Happy 1st Birthday to Buddy (& Littermate Bebe)

Buddy (Sarring) turned 1 year old on March 23, 2024. Much to his delight, his sister, Bebe (Rikstad) came to celebrate her birthday as well. Best Birthday Surprise ever!



Happy 3rd Birthday to HeidiJo

HeidiJo (Bowman) turned 3 years old on March 9, 2024, She got a new pink collar, a birthday lamb chop squeaky toy and special treats from Three Dog Bakery. And Dad grilled her a steak—what a lucky Birthday girl! Those terrible twos are now behind her.



Happy 11th Birthday to Nelly

Nelly (Klei) turned 11 year old on March 17, 2024 ... on St. Patrick's Day! She had a special celebration with other Berners at the Agility Workshop. Nelly got a special, lavender Bunny for her birthday and shared her Untamed Meatball treats with her four-legged friends. And her human friends celebrated with cupcakes that tasted like yummy, Girl Scout cookies.



Berner Brags and Favorite Moments



Margo Airgood earned her Open Preferred Title this past Friday. On Saturday, she Q'd in Masters Jumper with Weaves. This was Julia's first ever Master Q and Margo's first points to earning a PACH. Congrats!



Tank and Gabby enjoying a sunny, Spring day



Lexi sunning herself after her first outdoor bath of the season



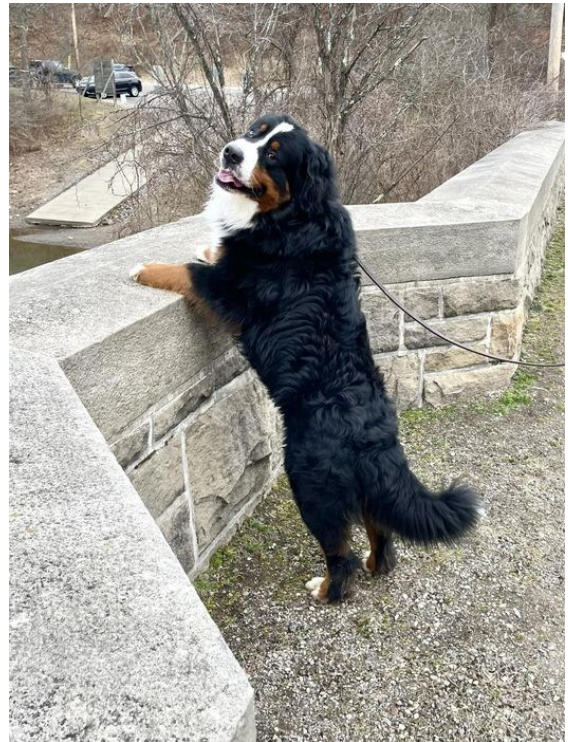
Rayne catching those last few snowflakes before Spring arrives



Berner Brags and Favorite Moments



Thanks to Mike Kosco for helping to transport these three Rescue girls!



Don't jump, Enzo!



*Congratulations, Becki and Stormy for passing the final Therapy Dog Certification. The best therapists have four legs and fur!
Can't wait to see Buddy try therapy work too!*



TRBMDC 2023 Calendar

*See you at the
Farm Dog Overview
and Practice -
April 13 (1:00 p.m.)*

Meeting dates are held every other month. Programs are held on the off months.

TRBMDC 2024 Calendar:

February 18 (Sunday, 1:00 p.m.)	Meeting & Winter Dog Walk Hartwood Acres Park – Meet at 4100 Middle Rd, Alison Park, PA 15101
March 14 (Thursday, 6:30 p.m.)	(Program) Agility Demo/Workshop (Indoors) Splash ‘n Dash K9 Sports 1901 Sheena Dr. Pgh., PA 15239 (Plum)
April 13 (Saturday, 1:00 p.m.)	Meeting & Farm Dog Practice Monroeville Park West (Pav. 1), 2399 Tillbrook Rd. Monroeville, PA 15146
May 4 (Saturday, 1:00 p.m.)	(Program) Drafting Practice at Artuso’s Farm 2231 Brinkerton Rd, Greensburg, PA 15601
June 8 (Saturday, 1:00 p.m.)	Meeting & Making Our Older Dogs Life More Comfortable Settlers Cabin Park 608 Ridge Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15205
July 14 (Sunday, 2:00 p.m.)	(Program) Dog’s Day at the Greenhouse Winery Greenhouse Winery 2155 Gracin Ln. Irwin, PA 15642
August 17 (Saturday, 1:00 p.m.)	Meeting & Summer Picnic – Hosted by the Dale & Mary Sparks 1361 State Rd. 168, Georgetown, PA 15043
September 21 (Saturday, 1:00 p.m.)	(Program) Dr. Bert Klei - Berner-Garde (Location – TBD)
October 5 (Saturday, 1:00 p.m.)	Meeting & Rally Demonstration Twin Lakes Park, 219 Twin Lakes Rd, Latrobe, PA 15650
December 1 (Sunday, 1:00 p.m.)	Annual Meeting & Holiday Party DeNunzio’s Italian Trattoria - 2644 Mosside Blvd. Monroeville., PA 15146

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 to Amy Lindenfelder at 617-462-3655.

Thanks to our contributors: Julia Airgood, Karen Artuso, Donna Millburn (Incline Editor), the TRBMDC Board of Directors, and our wonderful Club photographers.