



TRBMDC Incline

Official Newsletter of the Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club

Special Points of Interest:

- A Note from our President
- 12/2/23 Meeting Minutes
- Holiday Party Memories
- Winter Dog Walk - Hartwood Acres 2/18/24
- Getting to Know our New Members
- Survey on Berners with Sub-Aortic Stenosis
- 2024 TRBMDC Dues Notice
- Agility Demo/Workshop - Splash'n Dash K9 3/14/24
- A Tribute to Poco
- BMDCA National Specialty
- Happy Birthday
- PA Dog Law Updates
- Berner Brags & Photos
- 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.

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

Cathy Barth
Bert Klei
Joye Neff
Denise Reardon
Mary Sparks

We were thrilled to see so many people and pups make it to the Holiday Party this year. The weather really surprised me! We had a warm day for December and avoided the rain! There were so many wonderful dishes that people brought and so many wonderful desserts! Many got to have a holiday picture with their Berners. My favorite picture was Stella and her family with Harlee and her family! We were so happy to see Heidi and Max Pedicone with Stella meet up with Jane and Michael Kosco and Harlee. Stella is Harlee's mom, and both dogs were rescues. We had several raffles. One for Pet Friends where Donna raised \$102.00 plus donations of dogfood, biscuits and other items on their Wish List. And, one for the Club's Rescue where Julia raised \$308.00. It was a very productive and fun day.

I like to do training in the winter to entertain us when the weather may not be the best. I ran across an article in Whole Dog Journal (September 2021 Issue) called "Catch Them in the Act". I really liked the point they made. You and I know what we want our pups to do. We are asking our dogs to sometimes stop doing what they naturally do, jump up, grab food from the counter, or tear up stuff. When you see them doing what you desire, reinforce the good stuff even though you didn't ask for it. Try a happy, "Good girl!" or a pet on the head when they are lying at your feet quietly while you're on a Zoom meeting. Even a treat from time to time. Catch them doing what you want and reward them.

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that we had to put our sweet Poco down. She was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma in mid-December. We talked to our vet and to Blue Pearl Pet Hospital with an Oncologist. We had several options open to us and chose to treat her pain with medicines. The tumor was in her front right leg. She was very good at hopping around through Christmas and New Year's. Recently, she was not her happy self and was slowing down. It was time. The pain with this cancer is bad. I can't believe she's not here to greet me with her wagging tail and smile. I am so amazed with these dogs. They are the best.

Karen Artuso



Swiss Charms "Poco" Alce 6/12/15 - 1/19/24



Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club Meeting Minutes

Location: Ralph & Karen Artuso's Home - Greensburg, PA

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023

The following TRBMDC Members, Visitors (and Berners) were in attendance: Wayne/Julia Airgood, Bob/Michele Albert (Mia & Scarlet), Ralph/Karen Artuso (Poco), Jim Meyer/Cathy Barth, Rick/Carolyn Cannon (Lucy), Bert/Linda/Hannah Klei (Nelly, Enzo), Amy Lindenfelder, Randy/Gigi Lough (Quest), Mike/Jane Kosko (Harlee), John/Donna Millburn (Lexi), Max/Heidi Pedicone (Stella), Jeff/Lynn Rosenthal, Becki Sarring (Buddy), Dale/Mary Sparks (Jackson). Marty Sutton (Roxey), and Randy/Betsy Walter.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: President, Karen Artuso

Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting and Holiday Party. She asked members and visitors to briefly introduce themselves.

Randy Walter made a motion to accept the 10/7/23 minutes, as posted in the November/December 2023 *Incline*. Mary Sparks seconded.

Karen passed on our condolences to Cathy Barth and Jim Meyer, who had to say good-bye to their Sweet Bosco, who was 11 years old. In addition, condolences were shared with Dale and Mary Sparks, who recently said good-bye to Logan.

Karen reported that we have a lot planned for today - a raffle basket and food/supplies collection for Pet Friends, who is a non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue organization located in Irwin. They work to place dogs and cats in new forever homes. Betsy and Randy Walter and Michele Alberts have been volunteering for many years. Secondly, Julia Airgood has a selection of items to raffle to benefit our Club's passive rescue efforts. We have two new members to vote on. In addition, today will be our annual election of Officers for 2024.

There is also a table with 2024 Dues Forms. We would like to encourage all members to pay their 2024 dues. They are due by January 1. In addition membership applications are on the table, if you are interested in joining TRBMDC. If you have been to two meetings, you are eligible to apply.

Lastly, I would like to introduce two pups here today, with a fun story to tell. Julia was contacted about two females that needed to be placed. Stella, the mom, was adopted by Heidi Pedicone (TRBMDC member). Harlee (daughter) was adopted by Mike/Jane Kosko, who are here today. So, it is a family reunion for Stella and Harlee today!

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

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Treasurer, Amy Lindenfelder

Checking Account Balance \$ 2955.48 Rescue Account Balance \$ 253.00 Time to pay dues for 2024!

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

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

Today we will vote on two new TRBMDC memberships: Becky/David Sarring (Buddy/Stormy, their German Shepherd) and Randy/Gigi Lough (Quest). Both applications were discussed and a vote was taken. We welcomed all as new members.

2024 Officer/Board Elections: First, thank you to those Officers and Board members who have filled their terms and are stepping down at the end of the year. We are also grateful to those who have agreed to volunteer for new positions. The following are on the slate for this year:

President - Karen Artuso (second term)

Vice President - Donna Millburn (second term)

Secretary - Amy Lindenfelder (first term)

Treasurer - Ralph Artuso (first term)

Board of Directors: Cathy Barth, Bert Klei (first term), Joye Neff (first term), Denise Reardon (first term), and
Mary Sparks

Election of 2024 Officers and Board Members were taken by secret ballot and all were unanimously elected for their terms.
(cont'd on next page)



Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club Meeting Minutes

Location: Ralph & Karen Artuso's - Greensburg, PA

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023

(12/2/23 Minutes cont'd.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AKC CORRESPONDENCE: Secretary - No report

AWARDS: Julia Airgood - 2023 Titles and Certifications earned by Club members were announced, Recipients were congratulated and will be presented with their new plaques or updated plates at the February meeting.

Donna/John Millburn and Rayne: AKC - Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and STAR Puppy Award

Karen/Ralph Artuso and Poco: AKC - Farm Dog Certification (FDC)

Julia/Wayne Airgood and Remi: AKC: Companion Dog (CD), Rally Excellent Title (RE)

Julia/Wayne Airgood and Margo: AKC: Farm Dog Certification (FDC), Rally Intermediate (RI), Therapy Dog Novice (THDN), Novice Jumpers Agility Preferred (NAJP), Novice Agility Fast Preferred (NAFP), Open Agility Fast Preferred (OAFP), Novice Agility Preferred (NAP), Companion Dog (CD), and BMDCA - Active Dog Title (only 3 dogs have earned to date)

Non-AKC: Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD), Canine Performance Events (CPE Level 2)

New Members: Julia will check with new members for awards or certifications earned in 2023.

Randy Lough and Quest: AKC: Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and STAR Puppy

Congratulations to all of our TRBMDC award winners! We are so proud of you.

FACEBOOK / INSTAGRAM: Amy Lindenfelder - Amy has taken FACEBOOK over from Emily Nebiolo.

HEALTH: TBD - No report

MEMBERSHIP: Amy Lindenfelder - No report

NEWSLETTER (TRBMDC INCLINE): Donna Millburn - Always looking for your photos and/or articles for *The Incline*. Please email .jpg images to Dmillb@comcast.net.

PUPPY REFERRAL: Karen Artuso - We continue to receive puppy and breeder requests.

REGIONAL CLUB COUNCIL: Joye Neff - No report

RESCUE: Julia Airgood - Hank's wonderful, rescue story was shared by Donna Millburn.

SUNSHINE: Gwen Geis - No report

TRBMDC WEBSITE: Denise Reardon - No report

OLD BUSINESS:

The Club discussed our two PNC Bank accounts during our October meeting (Main Checking and Rescue Accounts). Although we pay a small fee (\$3 per month per account), the Board decided that it is important to keep two separate accounts open for visibility and documentation. Rescue donations are specifically for the sole purpose of rescue efforts. The out-going and new Treasurers will discuss other options with the bank for possibly eliminating the monthly service fee.

NEW BUSINESS:

See Officer and Board Elections under Secretary. See 2023 Titles/Certifications under Awards.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18 starting at 1:00 p.m. at Hartwood Acres. See meeting flyer enclosed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Millburn and seconded by Linda Klei.

Respectfully Submitted, Donna Millburn, Acting Secretary



A Great Way to Kick-Off the Holidays



A total of \$102 in cash plus dogfood, bones and supplies were donated to support Pet Friends

Julia raised a total of \$308 for the Club's rescue account from donated items



Berners are So Photogenic



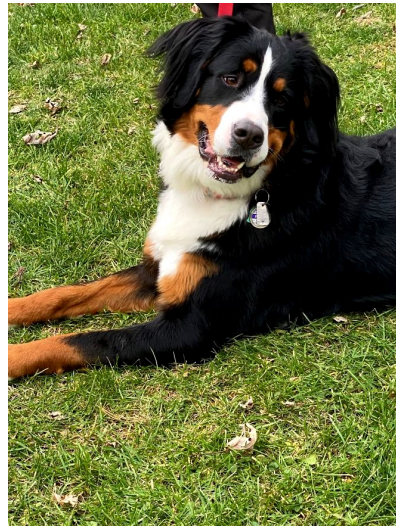


The Holiday Buffet was Delicious





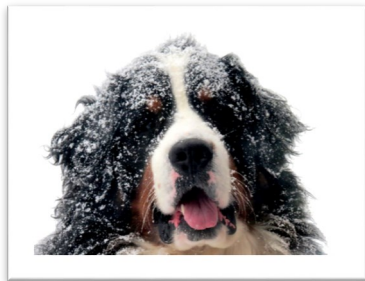
Let the Gift Giving Begin!





Thanks to Ralph and Karen for Hosting our Holiday Gathering!





Looking for Something Fun to Do?

**Join TRBMDC for a Winter Dog Walk
at Hartwood Acres Park
(Sunday, February 18th - 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 18 (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 a fenced-in, off leash dog park ... just in case anyone would like to venture off to it.





Getting to Know our New Members

At the December 2nd meeting, the members in attendance voted and welcomed two new household memberships.

David and Becki Sarring

Dave and Becki and their Berner (Buddy - 10 months old) and their German Shepherd (Stormy - 2-1/2 yrs. old) live in Jeannette, PA.

Becki is a Mental Health Therapist and Dave is a Heavy Equipment Operator. Buddy is their first Bernese Mountain Dog, but already well on his way to being well mannered, just like Stormy. In fact, Buddy was voted the TRBMDC K-9 Idol in October and won a trophy! And Stormy, is on a Therapy Dog Team.

Becki is interested in training Buddy to do some animal assisted Interventions in her therapy work. That sounds like such a rewarding aspiration! In addition, she is interested in learning lots about Obedience, Drafting, Therapy, Agility, Health, Scent Work, etc. Becki attended the recent Draft Workshops and plans to see if Buddy is interested as he matures.

Welcome to the Club, Becki and Dave!



Randy and Gigi Lough

Randy and Gigi and their Berner (Quest - 8 months old) live in Beaver Falls, PA.

Randy is an IT Director and Gigi is a Speech Therapist. Quest is their first Berner and such a handsome guy! We first met Randy, Gigi and Quest at the TRBMDC Summer Picnic. Quest was the cutest, little pup! In the past, the Loughs owned Labrador Retrievers and belonged to the Labrador Field Trial Club. Randy attended a recent Draft workshop to find out the basics for when Quest is old enough to pull. He is a smart little guy and has already earned his STAR Puppy and his Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Certification.

Randy and Gigi are looking to the Club as a resource to aid in the growth and maturity of their first Berner. They are looking forward to developing friendships with other Berner folks in the Club.

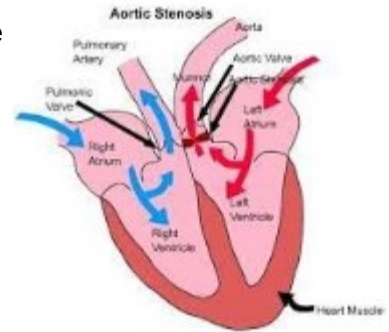




Berners Diagnosed with Sub-Aortic Stenosis (SAS)

The BMDCA Health Committee Chair, Pat Long, has requested that the Regional BMD clubs ask if anyone is aware of Berners who have been diagnosed with Sub-aortic Stenosis (SAS). We would encourage you to respond to the referenced survey, if applicable.

“Sub-aortic Stenosis (SAS) is a narrowing of the aortic valve of the heart. The milder versions may not negatively impact the dog, but the more severe cases can cause sudden death. It is hereditary in a number of breeds, and we do see it in Bernese.



Very few dogs are identified in Berner-Garde as having sub-aortic stenosis (SAS), which makes it difficult to justify large expenditures on research. The BMDCA is conducting an anonymous survey to gain information about how much of a problem the disease may be in our breed.

If you own or have owned a Berner with diagnosed or suspected SAS, we need to hear about it.

If you have produced -- as the owner of a sire or dam -- a Berner with diagnosed or suspected SAS, we need to hear about it.

Participating dogs may be living or have died. Please repeat the survey for each dog if you have multiple dogs with diagnosed or suspected SAS to report. They all matter.

The survey takes less than five minutes to complete and again; and it is anonymous.

If you have questions about this survey, please contact the BMDCA Survey Committee Chair, Dr. Mary-Ann Sontag (sontag.ma@gmail.com).

If you have questions for the BMDCA Health Committee, please contact Committee Chair, Pat Long (pat@bmdinfo.com).

Click [HERE](#) to be taken directly to the survey.”

https://umt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dbZepy61Jn4F3im

The Survey can also be accessed from the www.BMDCA.org homepage.

Thank you.
BMDCA Health Committee
Pat Long, Chair

Sub-aortic Stenosis causes your dog's heart to work too hard.

Symptoms could include the following:

- Lethargy
- Exercise intolerance
- Difficulty breathing
- Coughing
- Collapse
- Sudden death



Reminder - Are Your 2024 TRBMDC Member Dues Paid?

TRBMDC Members: Please return this information with your 2024 Dues

Name(s) _____ Cell Phone _____
_____ Cell Phone _____

Email Addresses _____

Street Address _____
City/State/Zip/Country _____

Name(s) of Berner(s) and Date of Birth / 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) _____
- Donation to TRBMDC General Fund _____
- Donation to TRBMDC Rescue Fund _____



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

Please remit your dues promptly to the TRBMDC Treasurer, Ralph Artuso. **Your check should be made payable to "TRBMDC" and mailed to the following address at your earliest convenience.**

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



Agility Demo/Workshop

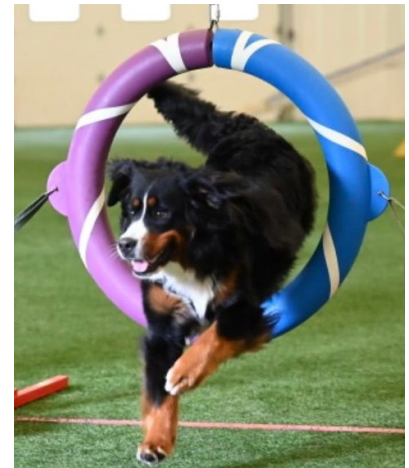
Sponsored by Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club



Splash 'n Dash K9 Sports (Plum, PA)

Thursday, March 14 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)

- What:** Agility Demonstration/Workshop for Bernese Mountain Dogs
- When:** Thursday, March 14 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)
- Where:** Splash'n Dash K9 Sports - 1901 Sheene Drive, Plum, PA 15239
- Who:** All TRBMDC Members, Visiting Berner Lovers, and Berners invited!
- Why:** To introduce the sport of Agility to interested Berners and their owners by providing an overview and opportunity for the dogs to try some agility skills on beginner equipment



Rules for Participation:

- A Splash'n Dash Hold Harmless Agreement must be completed prior to participation and brought to the event
- Bring your own water bowl and water. Avoid sharing for the safety of your dogs.
- Clean any crates used with supplied bottles of cleaning solution
- Potty your Berners outside prior to entering and during the event to avoid any accidents. We need to respect the facility's new turf and avoid special procedures and time wasted cleaning accidents.

If planning to attend, please RSVP by March 1 to wcairgood@verizon.net with number of people and Berners



Splash'n Dash Hold Harmless Agreement - *Must be Signed by all Attendees*



This HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is made as of the date signed below by and between Splash 'n Dash K9 Sports, Inc. (hereinafter "SND") and _____ (hereinafter "USER"). SND and USER are sometimes individually referred to as "Party" and collectively referred to as the "Parties."

WHEREAS, USER desires to use SND's property located at 1901 Sheena Drive, Plum, PA 15239 (the "Property") for personal dog training.

WHEREAS, in exchange for making the Property available to USER for such purposes, USER desires to hold harmless SND from any claims and/or litigation arising out of the USER's use of the Property. USER agrees to abide by any and all rules, guidelines and policies set by SND.

IN CONSIDERATION of the mutual covenants and conditions contained herein, SND and USER agree as follows:

1. **Hold Harmless.** Upon the use of the Property by USER or any of its agents, family members, guests or invitees for the purposes specified herein, the use of the Property shall be entirely at USER's own risk and USER assumes all risk and full responsibility for USER's own health, wellbeing and safety, USER shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless SND from any and all actual or alleged claims, demands, causes of action, liability, loss, damage and/or injury and/or transmission of disease (to property or persons, including without limitation wrongful death), whether brought by an individual or other entity, or imposed by a court of law or by administrative action of any federal, state, or local governmental body or agency, arising out of or incident to any acts, omissions, negligence, willful misconduct or knowing exposure to others of COVID-19 or other illnesses or risk of illness by USER, its agents, family members, guests or invitees in connection with or arising out of USER's use of the Property. This indemnification applies to and includes, without limitation, the payment of all penalties, fines, judgments, awards, decrees, attorneys' fees, and related costs or expenses, and any reimbursements to SND for all legal expenses and costs incurred by it.

2. **Authority to Enter Agreement.** Each Party warrants that the individuals who have signed this Agreement have the legal power, right, and authority to make this Agreement and bind each respective Party.

3. **Amendment; Modification.** No supplement, modification, or amendment of this Agreement shall be binding unless executed in writing and signed by both Parties.

4. **Waiver.** No waiver of any default shall constitute a waiver of any other default or breach, whether of the same or other covenant or condition. No waiver, benefit, privilege, or service voluntarily given or performed by a Party shall give the other Party any contractual right by custom, estoppel, or otherwise.

5. **Attorneys' Fees and Costs.** If any legal action or other proceeding is brought in connection with this Agreement, the successful or prevailing Party shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and other related costs, in addition to any other relief to which the Party is entitled.

6. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement [and the accompanying Premises Use Agreement] contains the entire agreement between the Parties related to the matters specified herein, and supersedes any prior oral or written statements or agreements between the Parties related to such matters.

Splash 'n Dash K9 Sports, Inc.

Leslie Meyn, President

USER or Responsible Parent/Guardian

Signed: _____

Printed: _____

Dated: _____



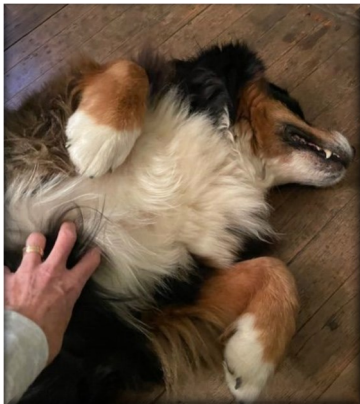
Crossing the Rainbow Bridge

A Tribute to Poco Alce (Italian for Little Moose)

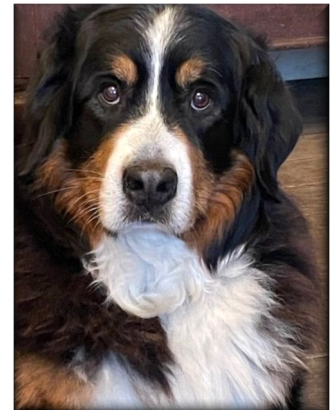
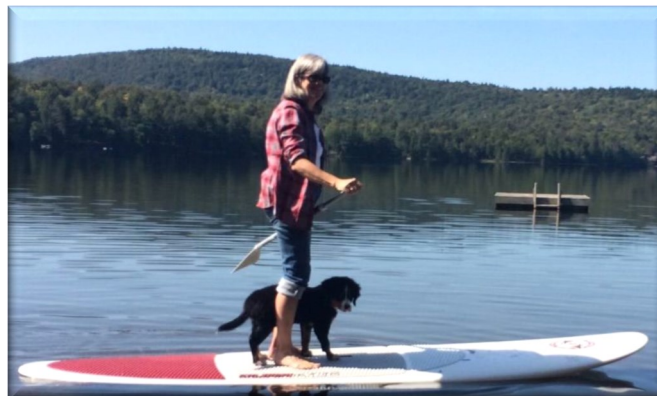
6/12/15–1/19/24



I can still hear Ralph say to me let's go big one more time. We both love the big dog personality. Poco was very loyal to her family. She was protective of me when at home and when we made our many trips to the Adirondacks, her happy place. From the very beginning she loved sitting on her back porch and watching for animals to come "out." Her favorite was the raccoon living in one of our big trees. She guarded the place from raccoons, squirrels, and an occasional bear in the Adirondacks. Ralph described her as "looking deep into your eyes like she knew what you were thinking." She was such a sensitive companion. She knew when I needed her to come and sit with me. She was independent and yet wanted to be with us. Such a wonderful buddy to have. We miss her dreadfully when we come home or when we are hanging out in the evenings. I still spend time looking for her only to remember she's gone. I am so glad I have met so many wonderful people through our Berner group. It's nice to have friends who "get it!" These dogs are so special, each so very special.



Miss you, Poco ... Karen and Ralph





2024 BMDCA National Specialty

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



A consortium of ten Regional Bernese Mountain Dog Clubs will be hosting the 2024 National Specialty in Gray Summit, MO from March 31 - April 6, 2024. The Purina Event Center (on Purina Farms) is the premier, full-service site for both indoor and outdoor dog shows. The Event Center is located on 84,000 square-foot-state-of-the-art indoor facilities.

During the course of the week, a variety of competitive events (Conformation, Puppy and Veterans Sweeps, Junior Showmanship, Futurity, Obedience, Rally Obedience, Agility, Herding, Drafting, Farm Dog, PeeWees, Scentwork, and a Photo Contest) will be held. In addition, Health Clinics and DNA Testing, Symposiums and Berner University classes are held throughout the week. One of my favorite events is the Parade of Veterans. A Specialty Raffle and a Health Auction are held to raise funds. The BMDCA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet is held on Friday night. The Best of Breed Show is held on Saturday afternoon followed by the Judges Dinner in the evening. Attending the National Specialty is like a Berner Lover's Dream. There is a little of everything jam-packed into one week. For those interested in shopping - it's a Shopper's Paradise of Berner and Dog related items.

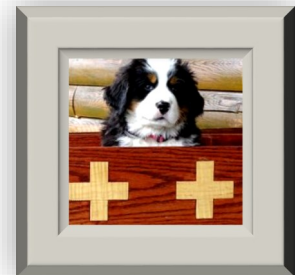
I'm guessing that many of you may not make the trip to the Specialty, but here is something that you can do remotely, if you are a BMDCA member. The Photo Contest will be an online gallery this year, All entries will be uploaded to an online gallery. Category placements and Best Photo in Show will be determined by a panel of judges. Berner fanciers and friends around the world will be able to view the entries and cast their vote for their favorite photo. Votes will be limited to one vote per category.

Photos must be the work of the entrant and can only be entered in one category. The contest is for BMDCA members only. \$10 entry fee for the first photo and \$6 for each additional entry. Entry deadline is February 12, 2024.

For additional details, visit www.bmdca-store.com under 2024 NAT'L SPECIALTY TAB , CLICK PHOTO CONTEST.

Photo Contest Categories:

- Berners Bringing Friends Together - Specialty Themed
- Pupweizen Puppies - Show off those adorable BMD puppy photos
- Bernweizen BMDs at Work & Play - Our Berners at Work & Play
- Just Look at Me and My Family - Berners with humans and animal family members
- For the Love of a Grey Muzzle - Our Beloved Veterans
- The BMD Portrait - Classic Headshots of our Majestic Berners
- BMDs in 50 Shade of Gray - BMDs in B&W Format



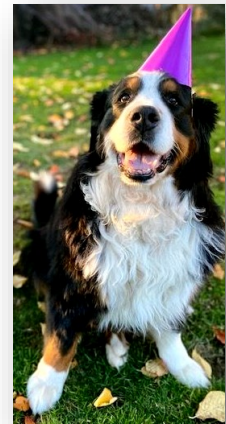
Also visit the 2024 WAYS AND MEANS for some great logo shirts, sweatshirts, hats, vests, and other items!



Happy Birthday to our January / February Berners

Happy Birthday to the following:

Mia Alberts	2/22/17	7 yrs. old
Zeke Colodny	2/7/19	5 yrs. old
Lexi Millburn	2/26/15	9 yrs. old
Dante Reardon	2/26/15	9 yrs. old



Is your dog in our Birthday register? If not, let us know at Dmillb@comcast.net, so we can add he/she to the Birthday listing. Please provide Berner's name and DOB.

PA Governor Updates Licensing Fees and Better Protection for Dogs

Did you remember to buy your dog license(s) yet for 2024? If not, it is time to do so. Any dogs older than 3 months old are required by PA law to have a current dog license. And I wanted to bring to your attention that Governor Shapiro enacted an updated Dog Law to protect Pennsylvania Dogs, Consumers and Communities. This law was encouraged by animal welfare advocates, kennel owners, country treasurers, and local law enforcement agencies.

As a part of this law, the licensing fee has increased. It is the first time in nearly 30 years that the price of an annual dog license has increased. As of February 1, 2024, the annual fee will be \$8.70 per dog. And the price is no longer impacted by whether your dog is spayed or neutered. If you choose to get a lifetime license for your dog, it will be \$52.70 per dog; however, your dog is must be tattooed or chipped. In addition, a Senior Citizen licensing rate is still available to seniors. Licenses can be obtained by contacting your County's Treasurer's office. In addition to the change in fees, fines for unlicensed dogs will range from \$100 - \$500. So, make sure your dog is licensed.

There are some positive updates regarding kennels and shelters in the updated law:

- Kennels and shelters that offer dogs for sale must include their kennel license number in advertisements
- Kennels selling or adopting dogs at retail to the public must disclose breeder information, vaccination and medical documentation, and any bite attacks on a human or domestic animal
- Dogs imported into PA kennels must be isolated for at least 14 days
- And several other changes to already declared "dangerous" dogs

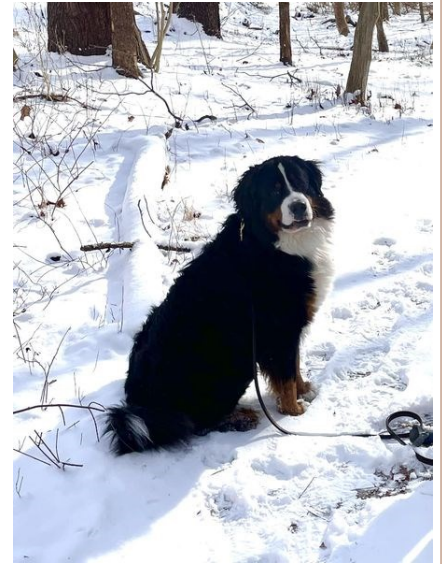
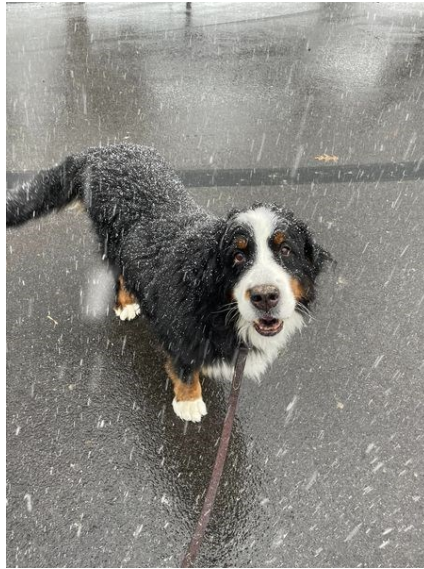
As always, dogs are personal property, and owners are responsible for damages causes by their dog.



Berner Brags and Winter Favorites



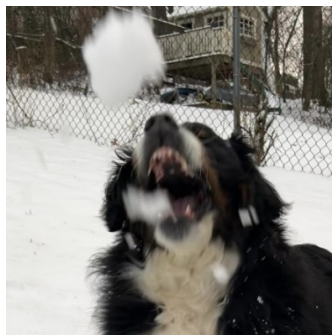
Congrats, Margo!



A Berner who doesn't want to get out of the snow - no surprise here!



What? A Berner that doesn't want to play in the snow!



Maybe a catch?





TRBMDC 2023 Calendar

See you at the Winter Dog Walk at Hartwood Acres on February 18

Meeting dates are held every other month and shown in **RED** below.

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)
- 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 13 (Saturday, 3:00 p.m.)** (Program) Dog’s Day at the 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 12 (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
(Location TBD)

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, Pat Long (BMDCA Health Chair), Donna Millburn (Incline Editor), Joye Neff, the TRBMDC Board of Directors, and our wonderful Club photographers.