Vermont Picnic

pages 6

The draw of a cool dip in the watering hole is too much to resist for these berners attending the Vermont Picnic at Dog Mountain, Saint Johnsbury, VT.
Help Wanted

Tracking Test
We need a few member volunteers to help us hold the BMDCNV tracking test on the weekend of September 13. No experience is necessary, and this is an excellent opportunity to learn what happens at a tracking test.

If you can help be a tracklayer, please contact Tom Jaskiewicz - tom@jaskiewicz.us or 603-878-2590.

Paws and Shop
Product Development & Marketing
Our retail shop needs your product development talent and energy... If you are a graphic designer and love developing product and getting it to market, then you’re a match!

You will work closely with Club Treasurer, Web-master, and Berner Blatt Editor. Contact: President, Marge Bumen - margebumen@gmail.com

Volunteer Chair
Meet lots of new people and have F U N! You’ll network with our members to contact and coordinate volunteers for our club events.
Contact: Martha Phelps - Volunteer@bmdcnv.org

Berner Blatt Editor
You could be the next great editor of our monthly newsletter, The Berner Blatt.
Your strong planning and organizational skills will help you coordinate content for publishing a standard template 12 page newsletter. You’ll work closely with club contacts for content and with an outside designer for layout and printing. No special programming skills required - if you can email, you can do this!

Contact: Retiring Editor, Berner Blatt - Linda Botti - ljbotti3360@comcast.net

Watch for 2016 Calendar of Events coming in the September Issue!
BMDCNV to Host BMDCA 50th Anniversary National Specialty

Host Hotel Sturbridge, MA named site of 2018 National Specialty – April 30 – May 5

By Jim Todhunter, Show Chair - NationalChair@bmdcnv.org

Returning to New England every 10 years, the BMDCA 2018 National Specialty promises to be an international event to remember, as it will coincide with the Golden Anniversary of the BMDCA.

Site Selection Completed

The site search for the 2018 National was narrowed down to two locations this spring: Warwick, RI and Sturbridge, MA. After careful and thoughtful diligence, the Site Selection Committee determined the Host Hotel in Sturbridge, MA would best meet the needs of the 2018 National.

Location Benefits

With easy accessibility and unique indoor and outdoor space, the Host Hotel offers many benefits. There are 232 rooms, and over 35,000 square feet of meeting space. Beautiful lawn areas provide great space for conformation with vistas of Cedar Lake as the backdrop.

Situated at the junction of the Mass Pike, US 84, and MA Route 20, and with three airports within an hour's drive, Sturbridge is centrally located and easily accessible for both our New England membership and attendees from further away.

Event Sites

Conformation, Obedience and Rally will be offered on the hotel grounds. Conformation will be judged outdoors; Obedience and Rally will be judged indoors. Agility may be held on-site, however at this time, we're also considering an off-site location.

Draft tests will be held at the Westville Dam Recreation Area, a 7 minute drive from the hotel. This site has several fields, allowing the option of running concurrent draft tests. There are also great trails that will make for a memorable freight haul. Of course, Draft is hungry work. There are covered pavilions at the Westville Dam that will facilitate feeding Draft test participants.

Tracking tests will be offered in Gardner, MA — approximately an hour drive. Several locations are being considered for herding - ranging from 15 to 60 minutes away.

Show Committee Opportunities – sign up is NOW!

With site selection complete, the work of planning the details of the National begins. The first step on this path is to fill the positions on the Show Committee. Many opportunities are available for you to jump in and help make the 2018 National Specialty the best ever! Click this link to see the list of positions… http://bmdcnv.org/2018/opportunities.htm. And thank you to those who have already signed up!

If you are interested in being a show committee chairperson or helping out on a committee, or just need more information, contact the Show Chair, Jim Todhunter: NationalChair@bmdcnv.org.

Keep watching here in the Berner Blatt for regular updates on our progress down the road toward the 2018 National.
Fall Fun Day!
Sunday, October 18, 2015
10am - 2:30 pm
Westford 4H Fairgrounds
Westford, MA

Berner Family Reunions
Bring your Mom’s, Dad’s, Littermates and more!
Prizes for many categories!

Fall Draft Test
See Bernese Mountain Dogs at the Draft Test

Berner - Garde Database Entry
On-site BG Operators will create or update your BG record.

Berner - Garde Clinic
Repository Blood Draw for on-going research by Veterinarians

Professional Photography
Get your “family” photos taken by Sea-Jay Photography.

Retail Therapy!
These folks will be joining us for some retail therapy:
• Big Gentle Dogs
• Nana Says

Education and Training
Center, Conformation
Match, Puppy Play Corral,
Raffles and more!
Great Family Fun with your
Bernese Mountain Dog!

Back-to-Back Draft Tests
Sat. & Sun., October 17 & 18, 2015
Westford 4-H Fairgrounds • Westford, MA

Event Chair: Barbara Beck-Wilczek:
barbie@wilczekwoodworks.com • 603.444.0824

Secretary:
Jo Coniglio (Saturday); Jon Cons (Sunday)

Judges (Both Days):
Kathy Berge, Indianola, Iowa &
Steve Dudley, Williams, Arizona

Entry Deadline:
Wednesday • Oct. 7, 2015 • 6 pm

FMI and premium list:
http://bmdcnv.org/events.html#draft
What Happens At An AKC Tracking Test

At an appointed time, the exhibitors draw for tracks in the presence of one or both judges. The draw determines the track order. Meanwhile, tracklayers are “laying” the tracks. On the judge’s order, the handler and dog approach the starting flag.

For the TD track there is a second flag 30 yards along the track. As the dog searches for the track direction, the handler remains behind the start flag so as not to foul the track at this point in case the dog needs to be restarted. As the dog begins to pick up the track scent, his head goes down and he pulls into the harness. Off they go! When they pass the 30-yard stake, the two judges begin to follow the team a distance behind.

The dog must sort through a variety of scents and distractions to focus on the human scent trail he is following. When the dog reaches a turn, his head often comes up, and he may need to search for the new direction. When he locates the new direction, his head will go down as he scents along the new leg. Wind and weather influence track conditions, as do change of cover.

The handler follows behind his dog, holding the lead behind the marked 20-foot position. The line is up to 40 feet in length to allow the dog to search for the track if necessary. If the dog indicates loss of track, the handler stands still, especially if he knows he is on the track. This allows the dog to search in the correct area. The handler can back up if necessary, using slack line. It is important that the handler know where the track leg is behind him for such situations.

It is a very happy and emotional moment when the dog finds the article at the end of the track. The sport of Tracking is a joy for dog, owner, judges, tracklayers, and all the people involved in putting on the test. There is nothing quite like it.


BMDCNV Tracking Test

High Ridge Wildlife Management Area
Gardner, MA • September 13th
Test Hours: 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Judges:
Doris Viguers and Michael A. Clemens

Test Chair and Secretary:
Phil Atkinson, 422 Sugar Rd, Bolton, MA
978.779.5201

This is an AKC event. There will be 3 tracks for Tracking Dog (TD) and 3 tracks for Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX), with Bernese Mountains Dogs getting preference in the draw!

~ Entries close
Thurs., Sept. 3, 2015 @ 5PM ~
at the home of the secretary

FMI and Premium List:
http://bmdcnv.org/events.html#tracking
We had a small, but successful Supported Entry showing at the Vermont Scenic Circle Show in Tunbridge, Vt. There were 15 entered in Breed, none in Obedience but two in Rally. It’s too bad more people couldn’t experience this unique and special setting. It’s so typical of Vermont with its jutting little hills that surround the fairgrounds, the church steeple with bells that ring on Sunday, the refreshing river that only the lucky dogs and owners get to experience and of course the maple goodies in the Maple House.

On Saturday night, they once again, had a wonderful local duo to entertain us. The show chair and the grounds people, who have been there for years, couldn’t have been nicer to work with. A big thank you is due to Heidi Henderson for all her help. I think the two of us as show chair rookies did a pretty fine job, if I may so myself! The exciting part is that the Best in Breed winner, GCh Witchways Here Comes The Magic, also won Best in Show that day.

— Buffy Bell; Reading, VT

Best In Show Judge: Mrs. Danelle Brown
Supported Entry Judge: Dr. Kenneth A. Doeg

**BEST IN BREED/BEST IN SHOW**
GCh Witchways Here Comes The Magic
Owner: R Harrison & J Dickhoff
Breeder: Joyce Dickhoff & Lilian Ostermiller

**WINNERS BITCH/BEST OF WINNERS/BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX**
High Oaks Not In Time Nash
Owner: Mary C Bass
Breeder: Maddalena Manciani

**WINNERS DOG**
Snowdin Spellbound’s Brighter Days BN RN
Owner: Matthew & Melissa George & Dayna Merrow
Breeder: Dayna Merrow

**SELECT DOG**
Ch Zermatt’s Matteo Von Edelweiss
Owner: Ann Davis
Breeder: Erin O’Malley

**BEST OF VETERAN**
FCF Snow Paw Pass’s Karma
Owner: Heidi Henderson
Breeder: Heidi Henderson

**Obedience**
Rally Novice: 1st
Edelweiss Annali Von Black Creek
Ann Davis

Rally Novice: 2nd
Edelweiss Annali’s Greta
Ann Davis

Rally Excellent B: 2nd & Rally Advanced B: 3rd
Tennescott White Mtns Moriah BN RA
Buffy Bell
I would like to thank Heidi Henderson for all her work to make our visit to Dog Mountain a success. We had a great time hiking the crest of a hill for a photo opportunity and view of the valley, great food, a meaningful blessing of the dogs and readings by Renee. We enjoyed watching the dogs swim in the pond and run free. It was great to see old friends and meet new people... a wonderful day overall on the Mountain. Thanks again Heidi!!!

— Carol Jensen and Willow; Cromwell, CT

Cory Manning manned the grill, like a rockstar! And with his wife Tressy, helped us setup and breakdown which was a huge help! My father in-law read the dog blessing in the chapel, which was great, cause I could not even utter any words in the chapel, without a full meltdown, like last year.

The staff of Brian & Katie at Dog Mountain were lovely and printed extra Bernese prints for the day. If you were lucky enough to buy one of the last 4 flying Bernese ornaments (hand painted the night before by Katie) then know, these were special as they are not making them anymore or trying to find a new source for them.

It was so great to see everyone in truly a magnificent magical place! Thank you all for bringing such lovely foods, beautiful dogs and great people!

I think I see a third annual in our future next year! Peace and Paws!

— Heidi Henderson; Killington, VT

For more great photos, check out Heidi’s photo file at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/87964967@N08/sets/721576560107776209/
Xena Finds Her Dream Home
by Linda DeCelles
Berner Inc. Rescue Chair

Xena is one of those uncommon Berners who loves water. She has found her dream home by a lake with Amber, her dream adopter, who gives Xena all the loving care she needs. Xena goes to the lake every day. She has a mild case of stenosis, and swimming in the lake is like therapy for her. And also lots of fun!

Xena had a nightmare start to her life. Her original owner became terminally ill. Xena was moved from relative to relative. For some time she was in abusive situations. Friends of the owner contacted a Berner Inc. volunteer and Xena went into foster care. In two foster homes she got the veterinary care, the emotional stability and the normal relationships she needed. Both fosters discovered her love of water. So we were all pleased when Xena went to a home by a lake. Most of all, we're happy that Amber is the adopter we dreamed of for Xena.

BERNER INC NEEDS YOU...to Get Donations from retailers you shop with on-line!

When you register with igive.com and designate Berner, Inc as the cause you'd like to support, ALL your on-line purchases will automatically generate a donation from the retailer to Berner, Inc.... at NO cost to you!

It’s quick... It’s easy... and FREE!

Learn more at http://igive.com//Q6w2UJmt

BERNER INC
BERNESE EDUCATION & RESCUE NORTHEAST REGION

In 2008, the BMDCNV membership established a 501(c) (3) charitable organization to address the needs of the ever-increasing number of Berners being relinquished by their owners and to educate the public in the responsible care of this wonderful breed. The work of BERNER, Inc. is supported by the generous donations of people like YOU! Please consider honoring the achievements or the life of your dog (or of a friend or family member) with a tax-deductible donation either by Paypal on the web site, or by mail to:

BERNER, Inc. P.O. Box 1221
Arlington, MA 02474

iGive.com®
Change online shopping for good.

$1,077 earned to date!
Welcome! New Members

Nancy Thurlow
Durham, ME 04222
rphtech2000@yahoo.com

Fred Fox
Dover, NH 03820
aefox77@yahoo.com

Matthew Jones
Portsmouth, NH 03801
mj5780@yahoo.com

Jack Smith
Duxbury, MA 02332
jack.smith@db.com

New Members Showcase

Are you a new Member?

Tell us about yourself in our New Member Showcase. Click on this link...

http://bmdcnv.org/newmember.html

Complete the quick summary, hit submit, email your pic and you’re done! Please complete your submission by the 20th to be included in the next issue of the Berner Blatt.

We look forward to meeting you!

4th Annual BMDCNV Fall Retreat Weekend At Oceanwood

REGISTER ON-LINE:
http://www.bmdcnv.org/retreat.html

REGISTER BY MAIL:
Reservation Form
and check payable to BMDCNV: Melissa George
237 Rand Hill Rd, Alton Bay, NH 03810.

RESERVATION FORM:
is available at Yahoo Group:
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/BMDCNVmembers/files.

November 6-9, 2015
Oceanwood Camp and Conference Center • Ocean Park, Maine
oceanwood.org/facilities

Rates:
$250 pp
$80 pp deposit will hold your reservation.

Includes all meals, lodging and events! Payment must be received before you can be listed for preferred housing.

Share photos & videos of your Berners!
Join the Facebook group at

fb.com/groups/BMDCNVMembers
Happy Birthday Jackson
8/25/13
Hickorys Expected the Unexpected is 2! Love our wild boy!
— Vicki Fallin & Bruce Hallden

“Blue” - 8/24
Happy 7th birthday to our newest veteran!
CH Foxfire’s Blue Northern CGC
— Love, Karen and Jon Fox

Happy 7th Birthday, Kodi
You have joined the Veterans!!
Foxfire’s Kodiak Blue’s Brother
— Fran & Phil LaFlamme; Salem, CT

Happy 9th Birthday Bobby, our miracle boy.
You remind us every day how lucky we were to find you.
— Love, Mimi, Dave, and the terrierist twosome – Jesse and Sophie

Ursli Firn earned her Canine Good Citizen title earlier this month.
She joined in a class at Paul’s Family Dog Training where they practiced for the test, with the test held on the last day of the class. It was quite amazing, as the entire class worked very hard, had a lot of fun, and everyone was able to earn their CGC title that day! Wow!
— Mary Durham; Groton
Monthly Health Tip for keeping our Berners in tip-top shape!

Prevent Heat Stress, and Stay Cool This Summer

Hot weather spells trouble for dogs. Because they can't release heat by sweating the way humans do, heat and humidity can raise canine body temperatures to dangerous levels. Heat stroke kills, and heat stress (a less severe condition) can take a serious toll on a dog's health. Always consult your veterinarian for any change in your dogs' behavior or comfort.

Reduce canine summer heat stress

- Schedule long walks for the coolest time of the day, but spend a few minutes outdoors during warmer hours, too. Just after sunrise and just before sunset are the best times to take your dog for a run or a long walk.
- Always watch for signs of stress. Dogs pant to release heat, so if your dog pants more heavily than usual, slow down, stop, find shade, offer water, and rest for a while.

Cool Off?

- Find Shade - at home or away, look for shade, shelter, parks, play areas, picnic tables, and hiking trails that are sheltered from direct sunlight.
- Swim or Dip - A plastic wading pool can be a perfect place to dip and chill.

- Use Ice - Many hot dogs enjoy curling up with a nice cold ice pack or frozen plastic water bottle. Dogs who use frozen water bottles as pillows cool down quickly, since blood circulates close to the surface at the neck and throat.
- Keep your dog well groomed, with frequent brushing to remove dead hair, especially the undercoat.
- Rinse and thoroughly dry your dog after swimming.

Water, Water, Water

- Your dog's panting cools him by releasing body heat, but this process also can dehydrate his body.
- Re-supply his cold water... Fill a dog bowl or bucket and freeze it overnight. As it melts during the day, it provides a steady supply of refreshing, cold water. Alternatively, or in addition, freeze or simply chill water in the refrigerator in a plastic water bottle and add the melting or chilled contents to your dog's water periodically throughout the day.


RU on Club E List? Sign up today! Contact: memberchair@bmdcnv.org

2016 Nominating Committee Chair

Diane Van Pelt has been selected by the BMDCNV Board to Chair the 2016 Nominating Committee.

In accordance with our bylaws, we are looking for two more members to serve on the Nominating Committee and two alternates.

BMDCNV Board Positions that are open for election in 2016 are: President, Treasurer, and two Directors.

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, serving on the Board, or would like to put forward a member, please contact Diane Van Pelt: Bernergal@comcast.net.

Family Dog Training, located in Hudson, MA is offering the following benefits to BMDCNV, BMDCA and BMDCC members:

Rescue Bernese Mountain Dogs owned by members: (verified through the rescuing organization)
- Free tuition in any training classes at Family Dog Training
- Free telephone/email behavioral consultation
- 50% discount on in-home consultation within service area

Other Bernese Mountain Dogs owned by members
- 50% discount on all Family Dog Services including training

Visit us at:
http://www.family-dog-training.com
Contact Paul Emerson
at bernerfur@charter.net or 508-243-3922
It is with great sadness that we report the death, on June 11th, of BMDCNV founding member Ellen Nott.

Ellen got her first Berner, Marney, in 1981 and since then had been an active participant in all aspects of club life and a frequent volunteer in many different roles at club events and National Specialties. In the earliest days of the club, meetings were held at Ellen and Charlie’s house in Acton, MA. The club was so small then, everyone fit easily in their backyard!

Ellen was the chair of the first BMDCNV Fun Day at the Westward Fairgrounds - establishing the grounds as the site for this annual event. Ellen also served as a Club Director and served as Puppy Chair for 10 years, during which time she visited many puppy litters across New England - a loving (and concerned) observer to the early days of the development of the breed.

And Ellen was a superb cook whose wonderful food contributed greatly to the BMDCNV’s reputation as the regional club with the best food!

In 1995, Ellen was awarded the Gaines Good Sportsmanship Award. (now known as the Shelly Tyre Award).

Ellen loved her dogs and loved working with them; together with several of the five she owned over the years, Ellen earned obedience, tracking and draft titles. She was one of the first to put a tracking title on a Bernese Mt Dog and she, and her beloved Pritzie, earned the BMDCA working versatility title.

It’s easy to see the influence of the hand and heart of Ellen in the objectives listed in the constitution of the BMDCNV. She was a good friend to many of us and to all Bernese Mountain Dogs.

— Martha Phelps, Penny Petrone, Bev Barney