

Spring 2025

THE Bernerblatt

The Newsletter of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley



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UPcoming EVENTS

bmdcnv.org/events

Saturday, June 14
AKC Farm Dog Test
 Timberlost Farm
 Ashburnham, MA 01430

Sunday, June 15
Draft Workshop
 Timberlost Farm
 Ashburnham, MA 01430

Saturday, June 28
**2028 BMDCA National
 Specialty Kickoff Party**
 Timberlost Farm
 Ashburnham, MA 01430

Saturday, August 2
**BMDCNV Supported Entry
 Pioneer Valley Kennel Club**
 Franklin County Fairgrounds
 Greenfield, MA 01301

Saturday, September 20
Fall Fun Day
 4-H Fairgrounds
 Westford, MA 01866

Sunday, October 12
Berners & Brews
 Laconia, NH 03246

**Saturday, October 18 &
 Sunday, October 19**
BMDCA Draft Tests
 4-H Fairgrounds
 Westford, MA 01866

Saturday, October 25
Berners & Boos
 Portland Head Light
 Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

These dedicated club members provide essential services to our membership. Please feel free to contact them with your questions, concerns, suggestions, requests for help, or offers of help. Our mission is to provide the best for Berners and their families.

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clubpresident@bmdcnv.org

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WORKING EVENTS
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On the Cover:

Remembering
 NBISS MBISS OHBIS GCHB CH RIVERWOOD'S THE FENNEL
 COUNTDOWN FDC DC CGC ATT ANDD DD "Fennel"
 11/08/18-04/10/25
 BG# 155358
 Owned by Sam & Tina Sirico & Laurel Wood
 Missed by many.

The masthead & newsletter design are by Nancy Hoyt.



PRESIDENT'S *Message*

Dear BMDCNV Members,

I hope you enjoyed our recent Annual Meeting. Special thanks to Dr. Val Colberg, Allison Harding, Sam and Tina Sirico, and Anya Wittenborg for sharing information and experiences about Bloat, and to Secretary Julie Mott for juggling the many details of organizing the get-together. It was delightful that so many members were able to join the Zoom meeting. The excellent talk was recorded, and you can enjoy it again at <https://www.youtube.com/@bernesemountaindogclubofna2547/videos>

The Annual Meeting is a special chance to appreciate our wonderful Berner community. We take care of each other through the good times and the bad, and it's incredibly special. Thanks to everyone for giving of yourselves and sharing your beloved dogs.

In this season of pollen, I like to mention a nice habit we've developed. I wash doggie faces first thing in the morning with a wet washcloth (no soap). It mimics Mother Dog's tongue, being a little rough, and it gets those shining faces off to a clean start for their day.

Being spring, it is never too soon to think about ticks. At our house, we rely on the Tick Twister® (ticktwister.com), a tool that is inexpensive, easy to keep in several handy places, and simple to use. Not to push a particular product, but it's good to be prepared. Ticks show up any time the weather is mild.

Many of you will have been to the BMDCA National Specialty in Gettysburg. I'm sure it was a terrific time! And a good chance to see what we are looking forward to in 2028. Be sure to join the 2028 Kick-off Party on June 28 at Timberlost Farm.

Please remember that I'm here for you, and we are all here for the dogs we so love. My goal is to treasure, protect, and celebrate the Bernese Mountain Dog. I know you'll join me in this.

All the best,

Mary Durham & Truly

Welcome

NEW
MEMBERS

Lisa & Mark Fontaine
Warwick, RI

Jill Friedman
Millbury, MA

Laurie Nunes
Mattapoissett, MA

Marianne Peckham
Winchester, MA

Brandi & Jonathan Swanson
Farmington, CT

Robert & Tracy Wales
Southington, CT

We invite all to join the members-only [bmdcnv.org](https://www.bmdcnv.org) group. Follow the instructions at <https://www.bmdcnv.org/become-a-site-member>

Tell us about yourself in our
New Member Showcase.

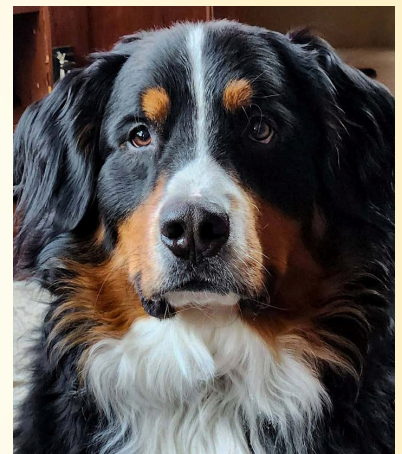
Click or copy this link, complete the summary, upload a pic, click submit, and that's it!

[bmdcnv.org/new-member-showcase](https://www.bmdcnv.org/new-member-showcase)

New Member Showcase

LAURIE NUNES
MATTAPOISETT, MA

We love going on Jeep adventures and walks, and out for ice cream with our Berner friends. Hunter-Reddy loves everyone he meets, his toys, treats, and spending time with his Grammie. We passed our CGC and Novice Trick Dog tests, and we hope to continue training.



Hunter-Reddy

★ VOLUNTEERS WANTED ★

Our club is full of wonderful, fun, talented people ... YOU! From time to time, we need to ask for help with specific things. Here are a few ways that you can join in the fun and help your club. Please contact Mary Durham, BMDCNV President, or any Board member with your questions and interest. Thank you!

Ways & Means – This is an incredible opportunity for people who love to be creative and enjoy retail and fashion. The team develops and sells high-quality products, celebrating our love of all things Berner! This is an important and multi-faceted job, so we hope to build out our team to keep our Paws ‘n’ Shop open. We’re looking to bring together a team of people with the following skills and interests:

- Product development: work with/artists/designers/vendors
- Internet sales and fulfillment – we use Big Cartel software to keep this part simple
- Maintain and store the physical inventory of our key products
- Financial oversight and analysis
- Social media/promotion/advertising

*Thanks from the Berner
at your feet!* 

Webmaster – The club’s website, bmdcnv.org, is built using Wix technology. It also interfaces with Big Cartel for the online store. The webmaster manages the overall website design, creates/edits online forms for events/membership renewal as needed, and makes updates to both the website and online store – this is a technical role. Wix and Big Cartel are user-friendly. Other volunteers maintain the individual Event listings, help with the maintenance of active user lists, and respond to any queries that come through the “Get in Touch” section. The webmaster sends out Virtual Response emails to our membership, although this responsibility could be handled by another volunteer. The webmaster also interfaces with the membership chair to update the online member renewal/payment process and stays in sync regarding the status of member renewals/payments.

Fun Day

We want to hear from you! The BMDCNV hosts two Fun Days each year (one in May and one in September). We try to feature new and different events at each Fun Day (matches, games, demonstrations, discussions, parades). We are always seeking new event ideas. Better still ... come help us. We hope to solicit new folks to help plan and volunteer at our events. If you can help, please contact Allison Harding (director_harding@bmdcnv.org).

Volunteer Coordinator

The Volunteer Coordinator recognizes club members who have helped the club in key ways throughout the year. In addition, the Volunteer Coordinator works with the Membership Chair to identify potential volunteers and strategizes with the Board and with event chairpersons to bring new volunteers into active participation in our club.

IT'S A (RESCUE) DOG'S LIFE!



Mackie and Jack

BERNER INC



EDUCATION & RESCUE
Dedicated to the Well-being and Safety
of New England Berners

Mackie is a 3-year-old Berner who spent his puppy life in a small mountain town where he enjoyed outdoor life with his active owners. But job changes brought Mackie and his people to a big city. Mackie's owners spent long hours at work. Mackie spent many long hours alone, crated in a small apartment. His main weekday outdoor activity was an hour in a dog park with a dog walker. Mackie began to backslide from his puppy training and was becoming unmanageable. His owners realized that their busy urban life was not suitable for Mackie and asked BERNER, Inc. to rehome him.

Mackie spent some time in a BERNER, Inc. foster home in a suburb with a big backyard and an active family with a work-at-home parent. Then Mackie found his perfect place: a rural home with BMDCNV members Jack and Marnie Henderson. Mackie is thriving in a farm setting where he has many animal and human friends. And, as the accompanying photo shows, Mackie loves snuggling inside with his loving people! Jack says that Mackie "is the nicest Berner we have ever had."

Mackie is like many of the dogs who come into Berner rescues: Young Berners who have become too much for their owners to handle. Many were sold online by brokers for high-volume Amish breeders and large puppy mills. Others were sold by backyard breeders via social media. Mackie was bought online from an Amish breeder. His original owners told me that they were not prepared for how much management their growing Berner would require. Their inexperience is typical of those owners who surrender their Berners to rescues. Typical of our adopters, though, are the experienced people like Jack and Marnie, who understand growing Berners and provide ideal Berner homes for them.

—Linda DeCelles, Rescue Chair

WE THANK OUR GENEROUS DONORS! BERNER, Inc. depends on donations to care for our rescues.
Please go to our website to donate: www.bernerinc.org.

Annual Meeting Highlights

50 MEMBERS of the BMDCNV gathered online on Sunday, April 13, to hold the club's 43rd Annual Meeting, exceeding our quorum (which, according to our by-laws, is 10% of membership)!

Our featured topic, Bloat, strikes fear into the hearts of Berner owners, but it is so important to be aware of the signs of bloat and be ready to respond quickly if it happens. We were fortunate to have our guest speaker, Val Colberg, DVM, walk us through the signs and symptoms of Gastric Dilatation/Volvulus (Bloat) and explain treatment options. Additionally, some of our members shared their personal experiences with their Berners and Bloat, confirming that some presentations can be very subtle. Knowing your dog, what to look for, and being your dog's advocate are the keys to a good outcome. Look for more info on the presentation in these pages and online.

We celebrated our members and the joy of connecting and supporting one another in happy moments and at sad and stressful times. Membership Chair Elizabeth Malcolmson reminded us that we are a community, and our members are a resource for each other. We remembered two people who have been important to our membership but who aren't with us any longer, Brenda Abrams and Joan Diers. We also recognized the folks who are celebrating their 20th anniversary as club members and who will be receiving beautiful commemorative pins. We recognized the titles many of our dogs earned in 2024, including Amy and Mark Matthieu's Leroy, who became the first Bernese Mountain Dog to earn the National Association of Canine Scent Work Summit League title. We were treated to a video showing Leroy and Amy's teamwork during a 100-container challenge.

We heard reports from our officers and committees, some of which are also featured in these pages, and we were motivated to continue to support the tireless work of our rescue group, BERNER, Inc. Each Berner is a special placement that requires many hours for interviews and correspondence with surrendering owners, adopters, and fosters; consults with veterinarians and trainers; transport arrangements; and follow-ups.

We are a club of volunteers. By sharing our time, talents, and skills, our volunteers share their passion for Bernese Mountain Dogs to successfully manage the club and create the events and opportunities where we can learn, have some fun, and deepen the bond with our dogs. The annual meeting is a time to thank our hundreds of volunteers: the board of directors; the Bernerblatt team; 19 standing committees; and 216 event volunteers, who stepped forward to put on 21 events in 2024. Special acknowledgment went out to Candy and Rich Wright, who have shared their beautiful farm for so many club events; Nancy Bates, who led a Scent Work Workshop last March;

and Sue Mahan for feeding us so well at many events, because Berner folks do like to eat!, Shelley Mogil for helping to complete the time-consuming task of scanning over 15 years of past board meeting minutes, and Roberta French who has scanned many years of past issues of the Bernerblatt. The files have been uploaded to our website, filling out the digital archive, which preserves our records in one accessible place so they can be easily referenced and shared in the future.

The announcement of our 2024 Shelley Tyre Outstanding Service Award winner was delivered by last year's recipient, Mie Kingsley, who joined the meeting via video. We honored Erin Spanos and Cathy Sullivan-Neves for their work on Fun Day raffles, which have delighted participants and raised thousands of dollars for the club, enabling us to continue to serve our membership, conduct educational events, and help Berners in need. Having a lovely watercolor of Sue Morrill's Meikka, which was painted by member Alice Cheney, in Mie's video presentation of the award was an extra treat!

We were reminded by our president, Mary Durham, as always, to treasure, protect, and celebrate our Bernese Mountain Dogs.

—Julie Mott

Membership Report

Elizabeth Malcolmson, Membership Chair

Total members	2025	2024	2023	2022
Active Members	429	450	461	460
Active Households	308	324	339	339
Lapsed Members	91	66	61	36
Lapsed Households	53	50	43	21

Membership continues to be a team effort with Nancy Patterson mailing out packages from her home in Missouri to the new members, Julie Mott doing layout for the Membership Directory, the Board of Directors coordinating the selection of the cover photo while approving all new applications, and Mary Durham regularly checking in with me so I can focus on catching up on my membership-related to-do list.

Thanks to all our members who make the club richer in skills, and Berner love just by being members. In the near future, you may find ways to use your particular and special skills to make the 2028 National Specialty especially SPECIAL! There are SO many jobs, and it's safe to say, there will be ways for everybody to contribute!

Treasurer's Report

Bruce Hallden, Treasurer

Cash on hand 01/01/2023	\$ 50,483.57
Income for year 2024	30,368.41
Expenses for year 2024	-25,640.94
Cash on hand 12/31/2024	\$ 55,211.04

Annual Meeting Highlights

RECOGNITION OF 2024 TITLES

BREEZY

CH Tennescott Green Mts Blowin in the Wind
CD RA
Buffy Bell
AKC Companion Dog
AKC Rally Advanced

DESERAY

Lucchese's Ray of Sunshine Over Snowdin
CGC RN
Matthew & Melissa George & Kelley Neill
AKC Rally Novice

GRANT

GCH Snowpaw's Tracking in Snow to O'Daly
Carolyn Massey & Angela Evans &
Heidi Henderson
AKC Grand Champion

ISLA

Lucchese's Dark Diva CGCA CGCU TKN FITB
Susan McEvoy
AKC Canine Good Citizen
AKC Advanced Canine Good Citizen
AKC Canine Good Citizen Urban
Fit Dog Bronze

KENAI

GCH Lucchese's Bear Hug from Cypress BN RI
THDN CGCA CGCU TKA ATT FITB
Susan McEvoy & Kelley Neill & Samantha Sirico
AKC Advanced Canine Good Citizen
AKC Trick Dog Advanced
AKC Rally Novice
AKC Rally Intermediate
AKC Temperament Test
AKC Canine Good Citizen Urban
AKC Champion
AKC Grand Champion

KLEIDE

Seawind Farm's Promises to Keep TKN
Julie and Jim Mott
AKC Trick Dog Novice

LEROY

BARC's Leroy SMT NSAMx3 L3E L3I L3V L3C
Amy Matthieu
NACSW Level 2 Vehicle
NACSW Level 3 Vehicle
NACSW Level 3 Interior
NACSW Level 3 Exterior
NACSW Skills Achievement Challenge Master
NACSW Elite Division Trial
NACSW Elite Champion
NACSW Summit League –the first Bernese
Mountain Dog to earn this title!

LINDY

CT Backcountry Quickstep to Seawind OAP NJP
NFP ANDD DD ABNDD BDD
Beth Atkinson and Wendy Bennett
AKC Open Agility Preferred
AKC Variable Surface Tracker
AKC Novice Agility Jumper Preferred
AKC Tracking Dog Excellent
AKC Champion Tracker
BMDCA Draft Dog
BMDCA Brace Novice Draft Dog
BMDCA Brace Draft Dog
BMDCA Advanced Novice Draft Dog
BMDCA Advanced Brace Novice Draft Dog
AKC Agility Fast Novice Preferred

LYRA

Trailbound's More than Words TKA ORT NW2 RE
CGC CGCA CGCU NW3-E NW3-C NW3-V NW3-I
Linda Bates and Nancy Bates
Nose Work Skills Achievement 2
AKC Rally Excellent
AKC Canine Good Citizen
AKC Advanced Canine Good Citizen
AKC Canine Good Citizen Urban
NACSW Level 3 Exterior
NACSW Level 3 Container
NACSW Level 3 Vehicle
NACSW Level 3 Interior

NIKKI

Maine's Jardin des Fleurs RE FDC CGC
Terry Spies
AKC Rally Advanced
AKC Rally Excellent

PENNY

CH Trailbound's Pennies from Heaven CGC TKN
Allison and Ray Harding
AKC Champion

SOPHIE

Ledgewood's Starstruck TKN CGC
Abby Patrizio
AKC Trick Dog Novice
AKC Canine Good Citizen

TESSIE

Snowpaw's Nuf Ced BN RI FDC CGC CGCU TKI
RAT1 FITS
Lisa Freed
Barn Hunt Instinct
Fit Dog Bronze
Fit Dog Silver

TOBER

Steadfast Over the Moon CGC CGCA CGCU TKI
Wendy Higgins
AKC Advanced Canine Good Citizen
AKC Trick Dog Novice
AKC Trick Dog Intermediate
AKC Canine Good Citizen Urban

WYATT

CH Lucchese's Cattle Drive to Snowdin
Matthew & Melissa George & Kelley Neill
AKC Champion

We are pleased to recognize our 20-year members:

Sue Beagley
Helene Blackledge
Elizabeth Bohlin
Kathy Boisvert
Craig Raymond
Richard Burbridge
Matthew George
Melissa George



Madelyn Greco
David Houben
Noelle Houben
Amy Lincoln
Scott Lincoln
Kenneth Litman
Christopher Neves
Cathy Sullivan-Neves

Canine Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus (GDV)



Causes, Symptoms and Treatment with Val Colberg, DVM, and BMDCNV club members sharing their insights and experiences with Bloat.

Our annual meeting's featured program addressed a difficult topic, but one of utmost importance for Bernese Mountain Dog owners: Bloat. Our thanks to Allison Harding, Julie Mott, Mary Labato, Pat Long, Sam and Tina Sirico, Anya Wittenborg, Mary Durham, and our guest speaker, Val Colberg, DVM, for their assistance and contributions to make this presentation happen. Val is a third-year surgery resident in the Small Animal Surgery Service at the Foster Hospital for Small Animals at Tufts University in North Grafton, Massachusetts, with experience in surgical bloat cases. She was very invested in the topic and our dogs!

She covered signs and symptoms of the condition; x-ray diagnosis; surgical treatment to assess the condition of the stomach and other organs, and gastropexy, as well as recommended prevention strategies. Val included a video simulation depicting what happens to the stomach and spleen as the stomach distends and rotates on itself. We could all imagine how painful this must be for the dog. She stressed that Bloat is a medical emergency. If you see signs, don't delay calling your vet. The only way to tell if it progresses to volvulus, an obstruction caused by twisting of the stomach or intestine, is by veterinary diagnostics. If your dog can be diagnosed and treated early, the chances of complications decrease. Luckily, all the cases we discussed had positive outcomes. Knowing what to look for can save your dog's life.

Attendees were very engaged, and there were more questions than time allowed in our Question-and-Answer session with Val. We have provided all our questions to her and will share any responses we receive.

Resources:

A video of the presentation is available on the club's YouTube channel, found at:
[<https://www.youtube.com/@bernesemountaindogclubofna2547>]

Article: *Uncommon Signs of Bloat* by Lisa Kaufman, 2022; reprinted in the Summer 2023 issue of the Bernerblatt on page 14, is available at:
[https://www.bmdcnv.org/_files/ugd/03057b_162624ecdee444bf9aaff13dea04ef27.pdf]

Article: *Bloat in Dogs is Deadly*, Whole Dog Journal, May 2022, available at:
[<https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/health/bloat-in-dogs-is-deadly/>]

THE 2024 SHELLEY TYRE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

PRESENTED AT THE BMDCNV ANNUAL MEETING BY MIE KINGSLEY, 2023 SHELLEY AWARD RECIPIENT

Twenty-six years ago, in March 1999, Shelley Tyre was tragically taken from us. But her spirit remains with the BMDCNV in many forms. Her happiness, generosity, love of life, love of her dogs, and her enthusiasm and dedication to our club were as radiant as her smile. At this time each year, we stand in her light and present a club member with the Shelley Tyre Outstanding Service Award to acknowledge exceptional dedication and contributions to our club and our beloved Berners.

Twice a year for many years, through rain or shine, these two club members have loaded up at dawn and traveled the highways from Connecticut and Maine to arrive early at Fun Days in Westford, Massachusetts. They unload countless boxes and baskets from every nook and cranny of their vehicles to begin their set-up, transforming a half dozen or so tables with colorful tablecloths to stage an amazing display of almost every Berner item imaginable. Long before each Fun Day, they have collected and curated new, unusual, and sometimes handmade items just for this occasion from every corner of New England, assembling them into alluring gift sets and themed baskets, beautifully displayed with ribbons and homemade tags. It is a cheerful sight to behold!

The raffle tables are immediately the center of attention. They represent the best part of Fun Day for many visitors, who tour the loaded tables going round and round, taking their time

to decide which treasures they would like to take home with them. Logistics are handled seamlessly. Tickets are bought and entered for each item. The excitement builds. More tickets are bought and entered, just to be sure. Finally, the highlight of the afternoon arrives as the assembled crowd is on the edge of their seats. The winning numbers are drawn. The suspense builds. Tickets are examined and double-checked. Squeals of delight erupt, and big smiles confirm which happy Berner families will be making their way home with newfound treasures!

Our two raffle superstars make it look effortless, and they may think they are just having fun, but they are making an essential contribution to our entire organization! Fun Day raffles have raised thousands of dollars for our club treasury—funds that enable us to serve our membership, conduct educational events, and help Berners in need.

Their love and commitment to Bernese Mountain Dogs is truly evident in their love for their beloved Berners: Eragon, Sephira, Lizzie, Sydney Starr, Sitka, Lyric, Bunsen, Kaden, and baby puppy Spirit. And that love and commitment are behind their efforts to raise as much money as possible for our club and the betterment of the breed. Their friends say there isn't anything they wouldn't do for anyone—or the club! We all agree that Nashoba Valley has drawn the winning ticket with these two members!

THE 2024 SHELLEY TYRE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO:

CATHY SULLIVAN-NEVES AND ERIN SPANOS





My First National Specialty ...

2025 BMDCA 50TH NATIONAL SPECIALTY

Gettysburg, PA • April 27-May 3, 2025

I had no plans to go, but the chips fell into place at the last minute, and Tuesday morning, I found myself driving to Gettysburg. I had no idea what to expect (I wasn't registered), but I did sign up to volunteer at the obedience ring on Wednesday afternoon, having no clue what that would mean. Other than that, I was on my own—or so I thought.

When I got there, I took myself on a tour. The grounds were beautiful, with two hotels holding several rings apiece, lots of lovely green space for the draft tests, and a huge sports facility containing the main ring, vendors, grooming, and raffle. There was plenty of parking for cars and RVs, and lots of walking to be done. The weather was sunny and warm until the end of Saturday, when we finally had rain. And the Berners! Let's just say, there were so many of all different sizes and ages everywhere that I felt like I had brought my dog with me. I was clearly in Berner heaven!

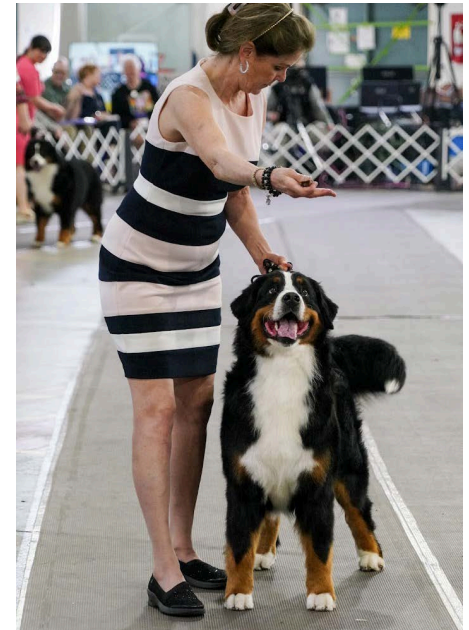
From only planning to volunteer one afternoon and not sure what else I was going to do, here is what my stay ended up looking like:

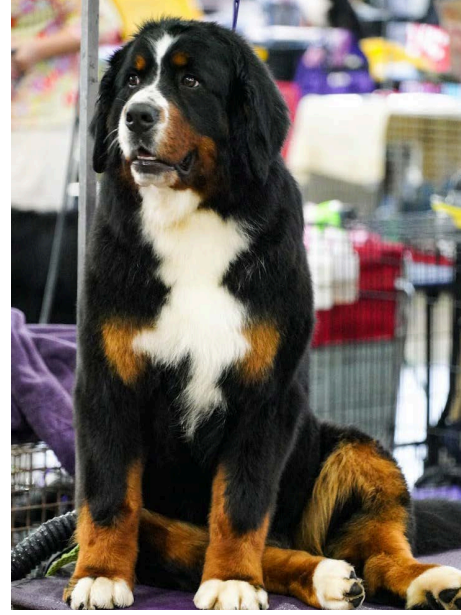
- Watched Sires and Desires Tuesday night
- Stewarded for Obedience all day on Wednesday
- Attended the Auction on Wednesday night
- Stewarded for Rally all day on Thursday
- Stewarded for Team Obedience Thursday afternoon (what a riot!)
- Watched Conformation Friday morning
- Did a horseback ride through the battlefields of Gettysburg on Friday afternoon
- Watched the Best of Breed all day Saturday

At the end of it all, I was tired, but excited and happy that I went and participated in this amazing event. I learned so much about the events I worked on, and the judges were happy to answer my questions. I also realized how much work and planning go into creating a show of this magnitude, and then, how many volunteers it takes to run the whole thing for the week. I have to say, BMDCNV members were everywhere volunteering at this event. I think we had fingers in every pie they had to offer. I felt so proud of our club.

Now, I am looking forward to our 2028 National, on April 30-May 6 in Warwick, Rhode Island. I feel better equipped to step up to volunteer, knowing that the small things count (like handing out ring favors, staffing a hospitality booth, or taking leashes from the participants), people are willing to help you understand how to do the job, and you don't have to be a dog show person to be involved. So, look for the call for volunteers, come to the kickoff party, and sign up to help. And do it soon. It's going to be a blast!

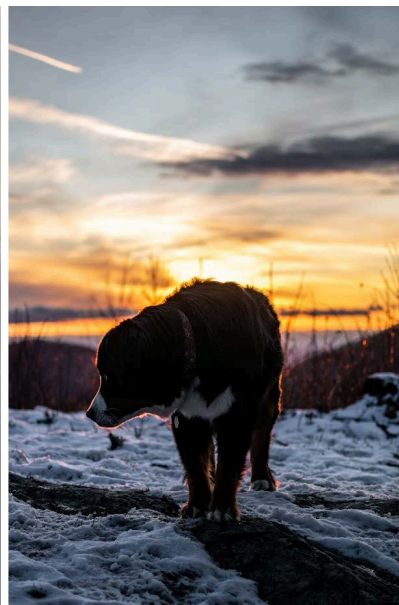
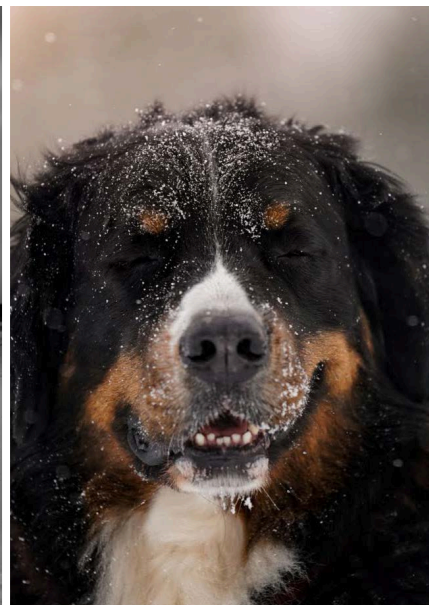
—Cindy Buhner, Bernerblatt Editor





ANOTHER NATIONAL SPECIALTY WIN!

Not all wins at the Specialty had to do with dogs in competition. The BMDCNV had another winner whose photography work was recognized at the Specialty. Jessica Moore, BMDCNV and Bernerblatt Team member, won several awards in the photo contest. Her photo "Reflections on the Beach" won Best in Show and People's Choice in the Blue and Gray category. Two of her other photos won 2nd ("Winter Sunset") and 3rd ("A Romp in the Snow") places in the Matthew Brady Shots category (shot with a digital camera using manual settings). And another photo, "Powdered Donut," was awarded People's Choice first place. You may recognize "Powdered Donut" as the cover of our 2025 winter Bernerblatt! Congratulations, Jess!



A Romp in the Snow

Reflections on the Beach

Powdered Donut

Winter Sunset

Show Results - Saturday March 1, 2025
Connecticut River Working Group Association
BMDCNV Regional Specialty

Regional Specialty Sweepstakes Judged by Ms. Sheri Wright-Wagner

BEST IN SWEEPSTAKES:

Celeste Kena Montbright "Kena"

Owner: Joanne Gerow & Jim Smalley & Gail Buchanan
Breeder: Lesya Popovych

BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX IN SWEEPSTAKES:

Banhof's My Foolish Heart "Spencer"

Owner: Michael & Janice Bann
Breeder: Michael & Janice Bann

Veteran Sweepstakes Judged by Ms. Sheri Wright-Wagner

BEST VETERAN IN SWEEPSTAKES:

GCH BigRocks Something Fabulous CGC RN "Trudi"

Owner: Priscilla Marsh & Diane Travis & Emily Marsh
Breeder: Priscilla & Emily Marsh

BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX VETERAN SWEEPSTAKES:

CH Borealbreeze Northern Lights TKN "Logan"

Owner: Karen Fox & Leslie Joannis & Jonathan Fox
Breeder: Leslie Joannis

Versatility Showcase Judged by Ms. Sheri Wright-Wagner

BEST IN VERSATILITY:

GCHB Riverwood's The Fennel Countdown ANDD DD FDC CD CGC ATT "Fennel"

Owner: Samantha & Christina Sirico & Laurel Wood
Breeder: Laurel Wood

BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX IN VERSATILITY:

GCHS CH Tennescott White Mtns Abenaki Brook RE CGC CD NDD BNDD ATT "Abi"

Owner: Barbara Beck-Wilczek
Breeder: Barbara Beck-Wilczek

Regional Specialty Judged by Ms. Christine C. Mann

BEST IN SPECIALTY SHOW, OWNER HANDLED

BEST IN SPECIALTY SHOW:

GCHB CH Riverwood's The Fennel Countdown ANDD DD FDC CD CGC ATT "Fennel"

Owner: Samantha & Christina Sirico & Laurel Wood
Breeder: Laurel Wood

BEST OF WINNERS, WINNERS BITCH:

Kena Celeste Montbright "Kena"

Owner: Joanne Gerow & Jim Smalley & Gail Buchanan
Breeder: Lesya Popovych

BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX IN SPECIALTY SHOW:

GCH CH Anastasia Summer Island Dreams "Tessa"

Owner: Diana Deyette & Natalie Ellis
Breeder: Natalie Ellis

SELECT DOG:

CH Twinhearts Secret Ingredient "Monty"

Owner: Lynn Meyers & Danielle Meyers & Rachel Meyers
Breeder: Lynn Meyers & Danielle Meyers & Rachel Meyers

SELECT BITCH:

GCHB CH BigRock's Piece De Resistance at Excalibur "Monet"

Owner: Kristen Greenwood & Robin Greenwood & Priscilla Marsh
Breeder: Priscilla Marsh & Bobbi Kinley-Blewett & Kristen Greenwood-Reynolds & Joan Gabriel

AWARD OF MERIT:

GCHB CH Wintergreen's Every Sailor's Dream BN CD CGC ANDD BDD ABNDD MDD "Schooner"

Owner: Susan Van Ocker
Breeder: Susan Van Ocker

AWARD OF MERIT:

CH Timberlost Lancy's Dumpling "Lancy"

Owner: Candace Wright
Breeder: Candace Wright

WINNERS DOG:

Good Times Von Romanshof "JJ"

Owner: Sandra Bainbridge
Breeder: Beata Pluta

BEST VETERAN:

Snowpaw's Waitn On The Perfect Storm "Wynter"

Owner: Heidi Henderson
Breeder: Heidi Henderson

BEST BRED-BY-EXHIBITOR:

Sprucepeak's A Little Help From My Friends "Dorie"

Owner: Celeste O'Malley
Breeder: Celeste O'Malley

RESERVE WINNERS DOG:

De-Li's Just The Way You Are "Ben"

Owner: Lillian Ostermiller
Breeder: Lillian Ostermiller

RESERVE WINNERS BITCH, BEST PUPPY:

Horizon's If The BBQ's Blazin', The Beer's Amazin' CGC TKN "Talea"

Owner: Amanda Wescott
Breeder: Amanda Wescott

Show Results - Sunday March 2, 2025

Connecticut River Working Group Association

BMDCNV Supported Entry and Sweepstakes

Sweepstakes Judged by Mrs. Mary B. Walsh

BEST IN SWEEPSTAKES:

Summer's Walking On Sunshine V Jura "Kat"

Owner: Lori Bellussi & Wendy Bennett
Breeder: Anne Summers & Kim McIntyre & Addy Cui & Patty Kaiser

BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX IN SWEEPSTAKES:

Bainbridge's Drop It Like It's Hott On Xcalibur "Snoop"

Owner: Kristen Greenwood & Robin Greenwood & Sandra Bainbridge
Breeder: Sandra Bainbridge

BEST VETERAN IN SWEEPSTAKES:

CH Borealbreeze Northern Lights TKN "Logan"

Owner: Karen Fox & Leslie Joannis & Jonathan Fox
Breeder: Leslie Joannis

BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX IN VETERAN SWEEPSTAKES:

Snowpaw's Waitn On The Perfect Storm "Wynter"

Owner: Heidi Henderson
Breeder: Heidi Henderson

Supported Entry Regular Classes Judged by Ms. Nancy Liebes

BEST OF BREED:

CH Anastasia's Tie One On With Alpengspirit "Macallan"

Owner: Pamela Eldredge & Natalie Ellis
Breeder: Natalie Ellis

BEST OF WINNERS, WINNERS BITCH:

Horizon's If The BBQ's Blazin', The Beer's Amazin' CGC TKN "Talea"

Owner: Amanda Wescott
Breeder: Amanda Wescott

BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX:

CH Pinehill's Ring Of Fire CGC "Blaze"

Owner: Amy Morrow
Breeder: Amy Morrow

SELECT DOG

CH Twinhearts Secret Ingredient "Monty"

Owner: Lynn Meyers & Danielle Meyers & Rachel Meyers
Breeder: Lynn Meyers & Danielle Meyers & Rachel Meyers

SELECT BITCH:

GCHS CH Tennescott White Mtns Abenaki Brook RE CGC CD NDD BNDD ATT "Abi"

Owner: Barbara Beck-Wilczek
Breeder: Barbara Beck-Wilczek

BEST OF BREED OWNER HANDLED:

GCHB CH Riverwood's The Fennel Countdown ANDD DD FDC CD CGC ATT "Fennel"

Owner: Samantha & Christina Sirico & Laurel Wood
Breeder: Laurel Wood

AWARD OF MERIT:

GCHP CH Greenway's Timeless Legend V Oleka CGC TKN "Oliver"

Owner: Renee Galizzo & Dede Laveran & Lisa Galizzo
Breeder: Angela Evans & Nancy Daly

WINNERS DOG, AWARD OF MERIT:

De-Li's Just The Way You Are "Ben"

Owner: Lillian Ostermiller
Breeder: Lillian Ostermiller

RESERVE WINNERS DOG:

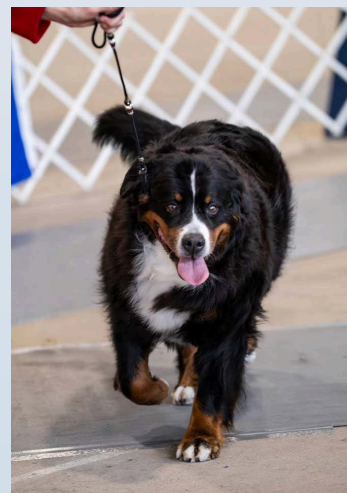
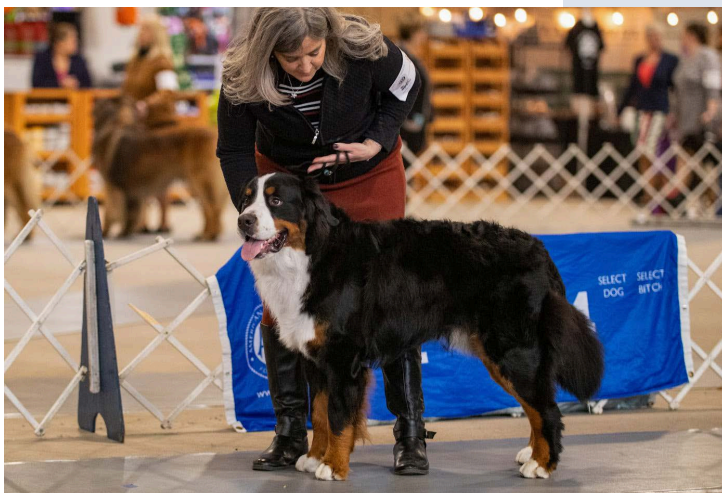
Horizon's Risk It For The Brisket CGC TKN "Brisket"

Owner: Amanda Wescott
Breeder: Amanda Wescott

RESERVE WINNERS BITCH:

Twinhearts Who's Your Caddy? "Bertha"

Owner: Lynn Meyers & Danielle Meyers & Rachel Meyers
Breeder: Lynn Meyers & Danielle Meyers & Rachel Meyers





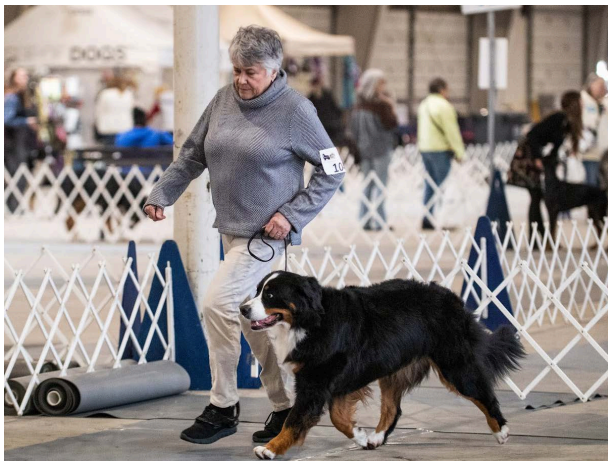
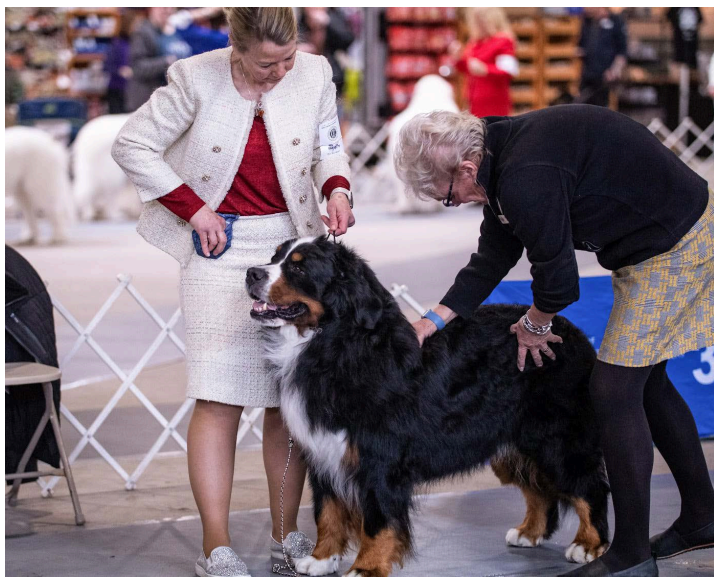
2025 BMDCNV Regional Specialty & Supported Entry & Versatility Showcase in Review

On March 1 and 2, 51 Bernese Mountain Dogs entered the ring for the BMDCNV Regional Specialty and Supported Entry and Versatility Showcase. The entry number was the highest we have seen since before COVID. We had every class filled from baby puppies to our beloved veterans and all those in between. The weather was in our favor for a winter show with a little feel of spring in the air.

The large entry for some may have been the warmup for the National Specialty to be held in Gettysburg, PA, in May. For others, it may have been a good “brush off the cobwebs of winter” to pull our dogs’ attention to our pockets loaded with good treats, looking for that forever gaze (and possible drool) with all eyes on the prize.

Trophies were both practical and very special. We had limited-edition notecards with various Berner scenes that were done years ago and well preserved by club member Deb Mulvey. Our Best of Breed prizes were handmade Bernese repoussé, done in tin on glass by BMDCA member Laura Mendez Lopez and shipped from her home in Mexico. We are very fortunate to have such talent in our community.

—Heidi Henderson



Photos: Lisa Freed





IBMA CNV SUPPORTED ENTRY!

Saturday, August 2

**Pioneer Valley Kennel Club
All-Breed Summer Show**

**Franklin County Fairgrounds
Greenfield, Massachusetts
August 2 & 3, 2025
Entries close Wednesday, July 16**

Bernese Mountain Dogs: Mrs. Christie Martinez

4-6 Month Beginner Puppy: Neal Goodwin

Obedience: Ira C. Kaplan DVM

Rally: Ms. Elizabeth Chase

**Trophies will be given for any Qualifying Scores
in Obedience and Rally on Saturday**

Junior Showmanship

NOHS

[Click here for the Premium List](#)

REMEMBERING JOAN DIERS

Long-time club member Joan Diers passed away at home in Deering, New Hampshire on March 22. She joined the club in 1998, and her husband, Steve Diers, joined in 2000. They cherished deep friendships made in our community. Steve was the club's Treasurer for many years. They celebrated 50 years of marriage last fall. As well as Steve, she leaves behind three children: Aaron, Achsa, and Abigail, and their spouses. She adored her seven grandchildren. Joan loved caring for animals of all kinds, her goats, chickens, and four dogs, Dually and Paulie, and Berners Brandy and Lily. Over the years, she shared her passion for Bernese Mountain Dogs with many families, having bred several litters with her dear friend Martha Phelps' guidance and support under the kennel name Mad Maple. She loved showing, especially the joy of bringing her Champion Bernese Mountain Dog, Mad Maple's Bromley V Merlin, to Westminster. She will be missed by many. The club has made a contribution to Berner, Inc. in her memory. Notes to Steve may be sent to 54 Clement Hill Road, Deering, NH 03244. Her obituary can be found online at <https://obits.csnh.com/joan-diers>.

2028 National Specialty

Kickoff Party

Saturday, June 28

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Timberlost Farm, Ashburnham, MA

Lunch will be served.

★ Please come join us. Learn more about the event and possible ways to help. No experience necessary.

Let's get this party started!!

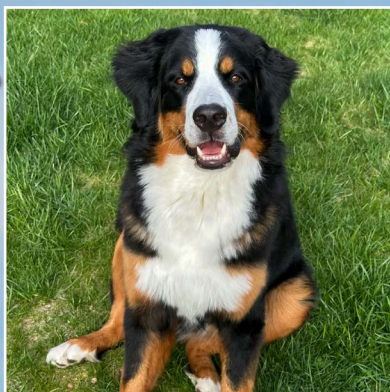
Please RSVP: <https://2028kickoffparty.rsvpify.com/>

Heidi Henderson & Alise Burbridge
Co-chairs National Specialty 2028

Celebrating Our Berners!



Birthdays!



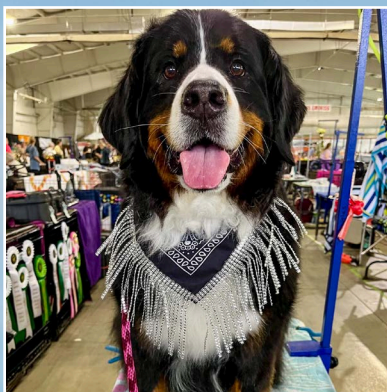
Evie

MAD MAPLE'S LIBBY ON EVEREST
06/15/24

Happy 1st Birthday to our girl, Evie.

She has brought us so much joy already. Smart, funny, playful, and very cuddly. She is a big hit at the playground and has even become besties with our local police officer. We love you to the moon and back.

*Liz & Carl Bohlin
Sagamore Beach, MA*



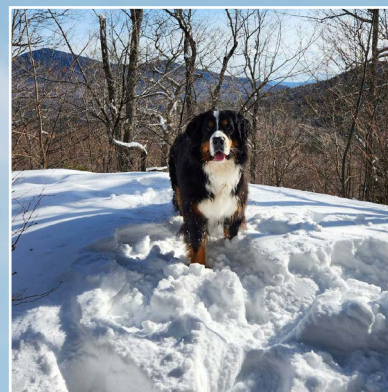
Nikki

MAINE'S JARDIN DES FLEURS
RM FDC CGC

05/01/17 BG# 142085

For Nikki's 8th birthday on May 1, she got to run around the Parade of Veterans ring at the Gettysburg National Specialty! Many thanks to Heidi Henderson and her volunteers for organizing that beautiful tribute to our treasured senior Berners.

*Terry Spies
Phoenicia, NY*



Rooster

03/04/21 BG# 219943

Lil' Roo came to us a year ago, a re-home from a friend. He's fit in nicely with big brother Tobi, minds well, and sticks close by on walks. He is rather stand-offish with our new kitten. Rooster loves car rides and hikes.

*Roberta French & Charlie White
Sandwich, NH*

Braggs!

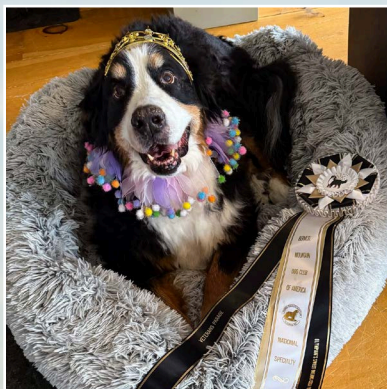


Watson

TYBERN'S CLEVER, MY DEAR WATSON
04/21/23 BG# 225893

Happy 2nd Birthday to our MOST unagile, treat-oriented, cheerleader! You melt our hearts everyday, sweet boy (right).

*Nancy Hoyt & John Osthoff
Torrington, CT & Becket, MA*



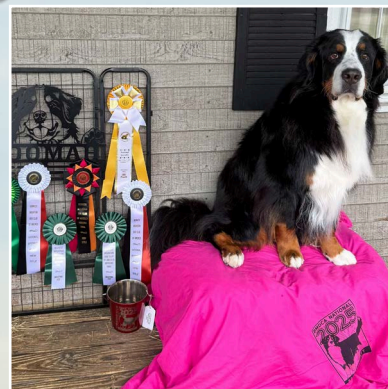
Bacio

OLYMPIAN'S SWEET DREAMS
CGCA FDC TDN

07/04/13 BG# 125054

Our sweetest princess was not able to travel to the BMDCA National, so we celebrated her when we got home. 11 years 10 months young in this photo.

*Jeanne Robbins
Canaan, NH*



Boomah

COVENANT'S A PROMISE KEPT RN CGC
ATT FDC TKA

08/13/20 BG# 187639

Boomah completed his Herding Instinct, Rally Intermediate, and Beginner Novice Obedience (placing 3rd) titles at the BMDCA National in Gettysburg. We are super proud of "Big Deal"!

*Jeanne Robbins
Canaan, NH*

Braggs!



Braeburn

SPRUCEPEAK'S YOU ARE THE
APPLE OF MY EYE
10/22/20 BG# 192270

Just back from a fun-filled week at the BMDCA National Specialty in Gettysburg, PA. Braeburn in the ribbons with a Fourth Place in AOH Class. I'm very proud of my little Apple.

*Celeste O'Malley
West Brattleboro, VT*



Bruin

SPRUCEPEAK DARE TO DREAM BIG
TKN
08/28/23 BG# 217557

Bruin completed his Canine Good Citizen and Trick Dog Intermediate titles, earned a leg towards Farm Dog, and placed 4th in conformation at the BMDCA National in Gettysburg. We are very proud of this youngster.

*Jeanne Robbins & Celeste O'Malley
Canaan, NH*



Dolly

06/12/15

Dolly came to us in March 2021 through Berner Rescue when her owner passed away, and claimed this bench as her own when she arrived. She will be 10 soon, and, from time to time, shares the bench with her best friend, Kodi.

*Barbara Higgins
Cranston, RI*



Kenai

GCH CH LUCCHESI'S BEAR HUG FROM
CYPRESS BN RA THDN CGCA CGCU TKA
ATT FITB
01/17/23 BG# 211625

We are beyond proud of Kenai earning his AKC Rally Advanced Title after qualifying for his last two legs in April! Keep up the good work!

*Sue & Randy McEvoy
Bellingham, MA*



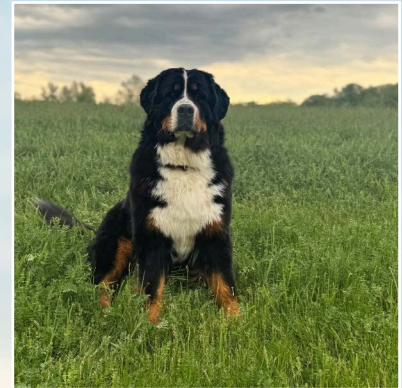
Kepler

LEDGEWOOD'S STARS ARE ALIGNED
TKN NDD
10/28/22 BG# 210445

Kepler qualified in Novice Draft two days in a row at the BMDCA National Specialty! What a thrill to do this at such a prestigious occasion!

Thanks, buddy!

*John & Elizabeth Malcolmson &
Abby Patrizio
Rockport, MA*



Lancy

CH TIMBERLOST LANCY'S DUMPLING
BN RN FDC CGCA TKI ATT
01/30/23 BG# 211408

So proud of this girl earning her Championship!

*Candace Wright
Ashburnham, MA*

The **Berner-Garde Foundation** was established to assist in efforts to improve the health of Bernese Mountain Dogs. The Foundation maintains the most extensive collection of BMD health and pedigree information available in a computerized database. Every BMD entered into the system is given a unique identifier (BG#). The Foundation seeks information on as many Berners as possible to benefit genetic health research, so if your dog isn't entered, please consider doing so. To learn more, go to <http://bernergarde.org/home/>.

Celebrating Our Banners!



Braggs!



Leroy

BARC'S LEROY ELT-CH SMT X 2 L3C
L3V L3I L3E

05/11/18 BG# 165053

Team Leroy competed in an NACSW Summit-level trial in Johnstown, NY, in March. Leroy earned his 2nd Summit title, had a 1st place and 2nd place search, and came in first overall.

*Amy & Mark Matthieu
Brimfield, MA*



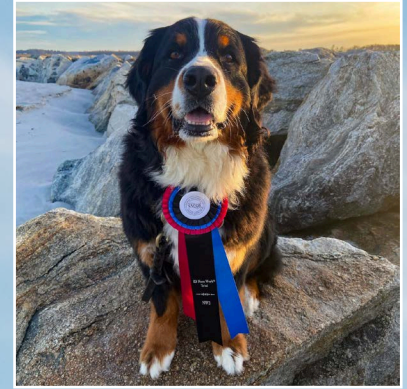
Lindy

CT BACKCOUNTRY QUICKSTEP TO
SEAWIND OAP NJP NFP GMDD

10/31/20 BG# 189552

Lindy earned her Grand Master Draft Dog title at the Blue Ridge BMD Club's draft test on March 22nd. Lindy's brace partner, Zuber (owned by Alison & Tom Jaskiewicz), also earned his GMDD that day. So fitting for two such wonderful and hard-working dogs.

*Beth & Phil Atkinson
Bolton, MA*



Lyra

TRAILBOUND'S MORE THAN WORDS TKA
ORT NW3 RE CGC CGCU CGCA
NW3-E NW3-C NW3-V NW3-I

02/08/21 BG# 191109

There are three sides to every story, and Lyra's "tail" of her nosework trial at Camp Lincoln in Kingston, NH, on April 26 was no exception. Lyra earned her NW3 title with three pronounced searches!

*Nancy & Linda Bates
Old Orchard Beach, ME*



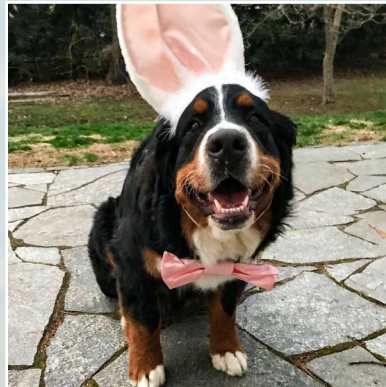
Tessie

SNOWPAW'S NUF CED BN RI FDC RATI
RATN CGCU TKA ATT CD-V VHMA
FITS SN-C

08/30/19 BG# 159681

Tessie is proud to announce she earned her CDSP Starter Novice title! Super fun sports program. She also achieved her CD-Virtual, after a long, long journey. Proud of my #onlyonlyonly best girl.

*Lisa Freed
Bedford, MA*



Truly

SHEPHERDSPATCH TRUE HEART
06/03/24 BG# 223909

Baby Truly is learning that in our family, we enjoy costumes! Here she models her Easter Bunny outfit.

*Paul Emerson & Mary Durham
Groton, MA*



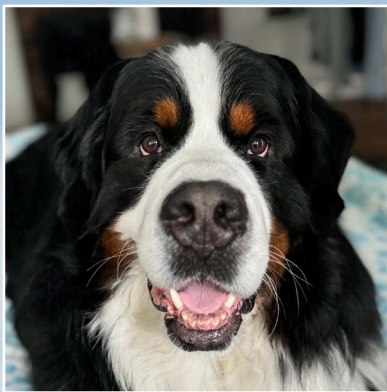
Zuber

KAIBAB'S LUMINOSITY CD NJP GMDD
01/21/21 BG# 190200

Super Stars Lindy Atkinson and Zuber Jaskiewicz completed their Grand Master Draft Dog titles in Open Brace on March 22 in North Carolina. Their journey has been an incredible collaboration between our two families. So proud of our pups!

*Alison & Tom Jaskiewicz
Mason, NH*

Remembering...

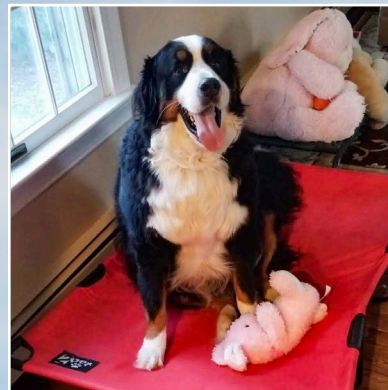


Fennel

NBISS MBISS OHBIS GCHB CH RIVERWOOD'S
THE FENNEL COUNTDOWN FDC DC CGC
ATT ANDD DD
11/08/18-04/10/25 BG# 155358

We are so grateful for the love and time we had with our sweet Fennel and the connections we made through him. He is incredibly missed and will live on as a legend in our hearts. We are counting down until we meet again.

*Sam & Tina Sirico & Laurel Wood
Old Saybrook, CT*



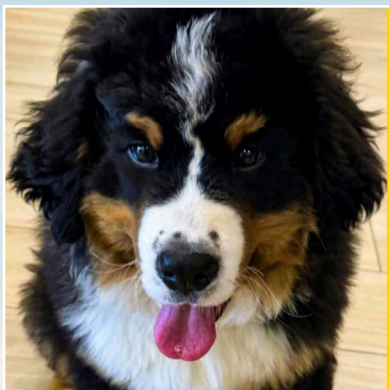
Tonka

MISU TATONKA LOCOTA
02/27/16-11/23/24 BG# 137129

In remembrance of my beautiful boy and his beautiful soul. Miss you with every breath I take.

*Audra Lacey-Ehrlich
Millis, MA*

Welcome!



Spirit

PEACEFIELD'S LEGACY LONE RANGER
TRUE SPIRIT
01/23/25 BG# 227890

Welcoming a new addition to our family—SPIRIT. Grandson to our beloved Eragon and Miss Lizzie. He made his debut at the 2025 Gettysburg National Specialty, melting the hearts of many who met him.

*Cathy M. Sullivan-Neves &
Christopher J. Neves
Corinna, ME*



Zepp

STEADFAST ROCK AND RAMBLE ON
02/10/25

We are happy to share that Tober has a new little brother! Meet Zepp, he's 3 months old and has an incredible big brother to look up to. He's already learning so much from Tober. Looking forward to watching their bond grow over the years!

*Wendy Higgins
Lakeville, MA*

Celebrating Our Berners!

AKC FARM DOG TEST (FDC)



- Who:** You and your trusty canine companion
- When:** June 14, 2025
- Where:** Timberlost Farm, 327 Ashby Road – Route 101, Ashburnham, MA 01430
- Why:** To fulfill your dog's dream to be a farm dog
- How:** Premium available on the BMDCNV website (events) or InfoDog.com

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

Traits observed during the AKC Farm Dog Certification Test are designed to emphasize a dog's ability to demonstrate the self-control, confidence, and trust necessary to succeed in a canine/human partnership in a farm environment.

Remember, our beloved Berners are farm dogs from the midland regions of Switzerland. The Bernese Mountain Dog was primarily a companion and watchdog for the farming family. They may have been used to pull a cart and accompany the cows to pasture. They are well suited to a farming lifestyle with their well-muscled and sturdy bone structure, devotion to their people, and willingness to work.



www.bmdcnv.org/events

WESTFORD HO!

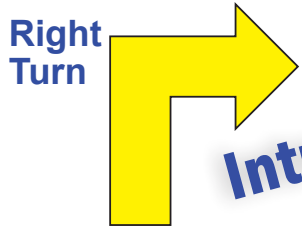
Two Days of Draft Tests
Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds, Westford, Massachusetts

Sheriffs: Phil Atkinson & Barry M. Solomon
Deputy: Beth Atkinson
Wagon Master: Buffy Bell

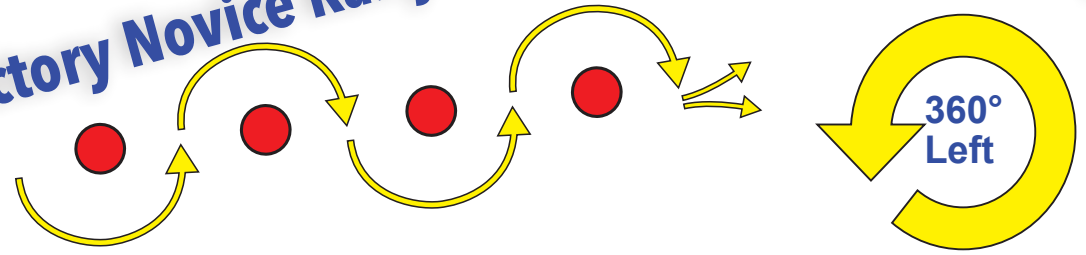
Tests open to all eligible dogs
Entries close Wednesday, October 8 at 6 PM EDT

Hosted by the
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley
Saturday, October 18 & Sunday, October 19

Graphic Design: Julie Higgins Mott. Photo: Sue McEvoy. BG#s left to right: 155358, 211625, 211408.



Introductory Novice Rally and Obedience Workshop



These are just a few of the commands you heard and practiced at the BMDCNV workshop on March 15, 2025. Many, many thanks to BMDCNV member and Director, Allison Harding, and her helper, Liz Keohan, for leading this workshop. Likewise, to Barbara Erickson for hosting this event at her venue, Blue Rock Training Center, in Orange, MA.

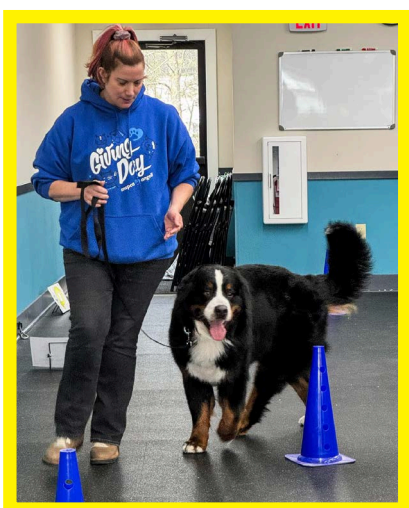
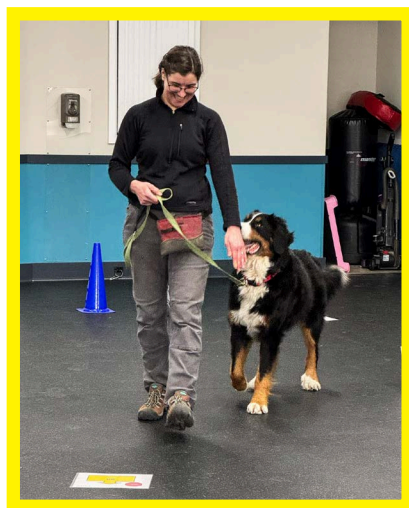
Participants learned how to appropriately enter and exit the ring, communicate with their dog, where to place their hands, loose leash, and more! Everyone had a chance to take their dog through a Rally course with Allison providing as-needed one-on-one training tips for success in the ring.

Allison shared her wealth of knowledge of Rally and Obedience, built from her experience over many years. First and foremost, bite the bullet and "get into the ring"! These activities stimulate not only your dog's brain, but also yours.

So much was crammed into the four-hour course, we could have gone on for another four or five hours. There is so much to know and practice, as well as fun to be had. Sign up for a class near you or contact Allison Harding for more information. Well done, everyone, and every dog!

After introducing the 10 participants to the process of how to find an event and enter a Rally or Obedience Trial, we reviewed ring protocol and the "dreaded" signs and course.

—Candace Wright



HISTORICAL HARVEST

20 Years Ago

Under the leadership of President Jeff Nowak, Vice President Martha Phelps, Secretary Marjorie Cottle, and Treasurer Jon Cons, the BMDCNV in 2005 experienced a vibrant year filled with events, community engagement, and notable achievements.

January's issue kicked off the New Year, highlighting Berners in holiday parades, Lisa Seretto's rescue story about "Maddie", and announcing upcoming events: Winter Walk and Winter Draft Workshop. February offered puppy biting tips, told "Freya's" inspiring rescue story, and introduced Abby Patrizio, the club's Public Education Chairperson. Upcoming events included: the Shrewsbury Obedience Trial, CT Working Group Expo, and an "unofficial" Winter Walk hosted at the home of Lesley Jacobson and Ron Dubreuil in VT. March celebrated the Winter Walk, enjoyed by 125 attendees and 75 dogs, shared "Emma's" touching rescue-to-therapy-dog journey, and addressed bloat. Readers were introduced to Elizabeth Malcomson, Editor Emeritus, and Parade of Flags design winners were announced—Kendra Friedman (first) and Michelle Keck (second). Upcoming events included: Regional Specialty and Fall Draft Test.

April's announced the 2nd Annual Dog Story contest and that the Bernerblatt newsletter would soon be available electronically! It highlighted the Winter Draft Match in VT and noted a leadership change, with Susan Nowak succeeding Pauline Merrick as Regional Club Council Representative. Upcoming events included: Spring Fun Day and Fun Match, a Carting Workshop, and the Specialty. May announced nominations were open for the AKC's 2005 Awards of Canine Excellence. BARC was described as an "angel train," and two upcoming Puppy Mill Awareness Days were announced. June reported that the AKC Canine Health Foundation granted \$200,000 to map the gene responsible for malignant histiocytosis in Berners, and readers were introduced to Mimi Englander, the club's webmaster. Results from the 2005 Specialty held in Gettysburg were reported.

July's issue shared efforts to collect Berner fur for the 2008 Health Fund Auction, reported on heat stroke,

and told the story of nine-week-old "Gracie". The results of June's Carting Workshop were given; over 27 dogs participated, and \$1,000 was raised for the club! The Berner-Garde Fundraiser and upcoming Fall Draft Test were shared. With the dog days of summer well underway, August reported that 75 attendees and 44 Berners and friends enjoyed the Summer Picnic. Susan Nowak, Regional Club Council Representative, and a new series, "Bringing Up Puppies," were introduced. September reported on plant toxins, Anya Wittenborg reported a busy summer with rescue efforts, and Bob and Margot Burwood shared their rewarding experiences bringing their two therapy dogs to schools. Readers were informed that Ellen Barnaby resigned as Breeder Referral Chair.

October's issue highlighted the success of the Carroll County Club event and the story of "Daisy's" BIG adventure! November introduced readers to the co-owner of Berner-L, Pat Long, and highlighted the NV Draft Test held in CT, noting 15 participants. Canine Influenza was reported in an article, Laurel Crowley was selected as the new Breeder Referral Chair, and the "Bringing Up Puppies" series featured Craig and Tracey Healy's A Litter. As the year concluded, the December issue introduced Alison Jaskiewicz, club Director, and the club announced they were seeking nominees for Treasurer. The "Rescue Notebook" column by Paul Emerson and Mary Durham told of "Madison", a rescue they decided to keep.

—Roberta French, BMDCNV Historian



Searching for Bernerblatts

If you have any of the following Bernerblatts, please contact historian@bmdcnv.org.

1981 any except December
1982 any except February
1983 January thru May

1991 any except November
2006 December
Any 2007 through 2013

Bernerblatts can also be viewed in the Members Only section of the BMDCNV website under FILES.

When Am I Too Old for a Dog?



Berners are big. Even small Berners are big dogs. As people get older and the natural process of aging takes its toll on the human body, the question of having a Berner (or any dog for that matter) comes into play. What a terrible thought! We can't imagine it and don't want to think about it. But at some point, the thought crosses our minds. As you ponder this, here are some questions to ask yourself.

Why have a dog?

A dog gives you a reason to get out of bed in the morning, whether you want to or not. They keep you in a routine, encourage you to get dressed, and remind you that your neighbors don't want to see you in pajamas! A dog is someone to talk to, cuddle with, and lean on when no one else is around to hear your worries. They're also the perfect excuse for a trip to the local ice cream stand—a cone for you and a cup for them.

A dog is a reason to live. They keep you moving—no lounging on the couch all day when a pup needs a walk. Studies show pet ownership can relieve stress, lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and boost overall happiness and well-being. Dogs are incredibly intuitive; they sense when you're struggling and simply sit beside you with quiet, unconditional love.

They're also the best icebreakers—who can resist striking up a conversation when you have the most adorable dog on the end of a leash?

I'm getting older, so what does that mean?

Yes, we all are! But for all the reasons above, we justify having a dog as we age. That said, it's important to ask some hard questions:

- What dog is right for me at this stage of life? A lively puppy may not be the best fit. Puppies require constant training and energy. Are you up for the challenge? A calmer breed, a smaller breed, or an older rescue dog may be a better choice. Rescue groups and shelters often have older dogs looking for a second chance.
- What if I'm not there for my dog or am no longer able to take care of the one I have? It isn't easy to think about, but planning is essential. And this should be done at any age. Make sure someone is willing and able to care for your pet if needed. Some people include their pets in estate planning, ensuring their furry companions will be well cared for. However, it's important to choose someone your dog loves and who loves your dog just as much in return. That's not being a "crazy dog person"—that's providing peace of mind. And if you need to re-home your dog, many reputable breeders will take back a dog you can no longer care for. Alternately, you can turn to rescue organizations such as BERNER, Inc. for help re-homing your dog.

When do I decide that this will be my last dog?

Only you can answer that question. It's a deeply personal decision, influenced by lifestyle, health, finances, and future responsibilities. Weigh the pros and cons carefully. But remember—dogs bring purpose, companionship, and unconditional love. And if you still have love to give, maybe, just maybe, it's never really the last dog.

—BMDCNV Public Education Committee

Women's 100% cotton V-neck short-sleeve tee in violet
with a BMDCNV exclusive design by Melissa Bartlett

Available online at Paws 'n' Shop



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