

November 2014

The Berner Blatt

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley

THE CLUB FOR NEW ENGLAND BERNERS & THEIR FAMILIES





EVENTS
pages 6 & 7



Pippa watches for her command from Marjorie Cottle, Jamestown, RI, to begin the recall exercise at the BMDCNV Draft Test, Saturday, October 18, 2014.

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BMDCNV *Calendar of Events*

~ 2014 ~

November 7-10:

BMDCNV Retreat Weekend
Ocean Park, ME

November 16:

BMDCNV Board Meeting - 10 am
Stowe Mountain Lodge - Stowe, VT

~ 2015 ~

January 17:

BMDCNV Supported Entry
Greater Lowell Kennel Club
Wilmington, MA

January 24:

BMDCNV Draft Workshop
Hudson, MA

February 8:

Winter Walk • Ashford, CT

March 1:

BMDCNV Supported Entry
CT Working Dog Club • West Springfield, MA

March 23:

BMDCA National Specialty • Monterey, CA

April 26:

BMDCNV Annual Meeting • Boxborough, MA

May 30:

BMDCNV Regional Specialty
Ladies Dog Club • Wrentham, MA

FMI: www.bmdcnv.org/events.html

Help Wanted

Member Chair

After many years of service Jim Todhunter will retire his post of Membership Chair in March 2015.

Responsibilities included: Spearhead the annual membership drive, implement, monitor, manage membership records and develop plan to encourage renewals. Please volunteer your service to our club in this very important position.

Submit email to: president@bmdcnv.org

Breeder Referral Program

Change in Dues Collection

Although annual renewal and fees are not due until February 1st, please be advised that checks for payment of dues will now be sent to:

Megan McTavish, PO Box 208, Colebrook CT 06021

Calling All Veterans!

No matter if your veteran is a couch potato, rescue, farm hand, urban canine, therapy or show dog, or BFF... don't waste any time in submitting them for our special

2nd Annual Veterans Issue!

--> ***Last year we had 64 Veterans...***

click here to see last year's Veterans Issue:

<http://www.bmdcnv.org/blatt/december2013.pdf>

It's so easy!

Submit your Veteran information & picture at

<http://bmdcnv.org/veterans.html>

A wonderful way to honor your special veteran!

LAST CHANCE!
SPACE IS LIMITED!
Submission Deadline is
November 15th.

the **BMDCNV** *board of directors*

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Welcome! New Members

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Welcome!



National Specialty 2018 News

Needed...

Show Chair and Assistant Show Chair

Keeping with our tradition, our club has hosted the BMDCA National Specialty every 10 years, and we will host again in the Spring of 2018.

We're seeking a leadership team to share the duties of Show Chair and Assistant Show Chair.

Ideal candidates will compliment each other's strengths - well versed and familiar with the show ring, with strong organizational skills and commitment to the details. This team will lead experienced committees (members) who have done this many times before. The BMDCA has prepared an orientation manual with a step by step guide for you. Are you the ones to lead our 4th National Specialty? Email: president@bmdcnv.org

If you are thinking about a leadership role or Chairing a Committee step up now.

The work begins !

Call Marge at
207-351-5988

BMDCNV Supported Entry

Saturday, January 17, 2015

Greater Lowell Kennel Club, Inc.
Aleppo Temple Shrine Activities Center
99 FORDHAM RD. • WILMINGTON, MA

Closing Date: Wednesday - December 31, 2014

JUDGE: ABBY PATRIZIO (BMDCNV MEMBER)

New Members Showcase

Have you joined the club recently?

We'd like to get to know you! One of the fastest ways to meet other members is by volunteering... for anything! The other is the New Member Showcase... and it's fast and easy! Complete the quick summary, hit submit, email your pic and you're done!

<http://bmdcnv.org/newmember.html>

Please complete your submission by the 20th of the month to be included in the Berner Blatt.

BMDCNV Annual Election of Officers

In accordance with Article IV Section 3 of the BMDCNV Bylaws, the Nominating Committee was appointed and is comprised of Chair Beth Atkinson (beth@iwindsurf.com), Sue Mahan (mabelbmd@comcast.net), and Melissa George (mnmgeorge@metrocast.net), with Alternates Mary Durham and Laurel Wood, for the purpose of nominating the candidates for the slate of officers to be voted on at the 2015 Annual Meeting. The positions that are open for 2015 are:

Vice President: Patricia Buickerood is a candidate

Secretary: Open

Director: Jean Michael is seeking another term

Director: Anya Wittenborg is seeking another term

Director: Open

If you are interested in running for an open position or would like to suggest a candidate, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee. If you contact by email, please include the word "Nomination" in the subject line. Chair Beth Atkinson can be contacted at (978) 821-1681.

Additional nominations of eligible members in good standing may be made by another member in good standing. A written petition must be submitted to the Secretary at least 8 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting (to be held 4/26/2015). Each petition must be accompanied by the written acceptance of the nominee signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate and, if elected, to attend all Board Meetings and Annual Meetings during the term. Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting or in any manner other than as provided in Section 3 of the Bylaws.

— *Beth Atkinson*
Chair, Nominating Committee

2014 BMDCNV MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Fall is in the air, and winter's just around the corner. This must mean it's that time of year again. Your annual membership dues for 2015 are Due & Payable on or before January 1, 2015.

Renewal notices will be in the mail by November 17. You will receive only one notice. There will be no question as to whether or not you need to renew. If you receive a renewal notice, you need to renew if you wish to remain a member of the BMDCNV. If you do not receive a renewal notice, it means that you fall into one of 3 categories:

- 1) You joined the Club after September 2014,
- 2) You are a BMDCNV Rescue Home that is currently eligible for complimentary membership, or
- 3) You are a Founding member of the Club and your dues are already paid up through 2015.

If you misplace your renewal form, you will be able to download a copy from the club's web site.

Unfortunately, if dues remain unpaid as of February 1, 2015, your membership will lapse and your subscription to the Bernerblatt and access to the BMDCNV Members Yahoo Group will also be terminated.

Your membership in the BMDCNV not only helps support the operation of the club and the many fun activities and events it sponsors, it also supports the club's mission of education and breed stewardship. Membership also connects you to the largest Berner organization of its kind allowing you to share in the camaraderie and community that is so unique to those who share the love for our wonderful Berners.

So when you get your renewal notice in the mail, be sure to put renewal at the top of your Fall to do list.

— *James Todhunter*
BMDCNV Membership Chairman

The BMDCNV chairpeople

These dedicated chairpeople provide essential services to you, 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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BMDCNV Draft Workshop - All Breeds Welcome

Saturday January 24, 2015

10 am – 3pm

Family Dog Training

12 KANE INDUSTRIAL DRIVE
HUDSON, MA

BMDCNV Members - \$ 35

Non-members - \$50



Carting 101 –

Carting for Beginner Dogs

This workshop is designed for the beginner dog who has limited or no experience hitched to a cart or pulling a cart. You will learn the steps to safely train your dog to pull a cart or wagon. You will train on lead and will progress toward walking between shafts at your own pace.

Requirements

For a successful experience, the team of 1 dog and 1 person must have good basic obedience skills (sit/stand/stay). And your dog must be comfortable in a group class setting.

Equipment

No equipment is needed, but if you have it, please bring it. A limited number of harnesses will be available to borrow.

FMI: EMAIL: MARGEBUMEN@GMAIL.COM

Reserve Now!

Reserve your space with your non-refundable \$10. deposit.

Deposit will be applied toward cost of class.

Balance will be invoiced. Entry is on a limited basis. BMDCNV members will have preference.

Mail payment with this form to: Marge Bumen PO Box 40, Cape Neddick, ME 03902
Check payable to BMDCNV.

Name _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Address _____

BMDCNV Member Yes No Phone _____ Email _____

Dog Call Name _____ Sex _____ Age _____ Weight: _____

Breed _____

Fall FUN Day!

October 19th

Westford, MA

Fun Match

JUDGE: ADAM CONN; MAYNARD, MA

Best Puppy: CIARAN, Bill and Cheryl Brickach

Best of Opposite Sex Puppy:

BETRUF'S CALLAFORNIA DREAMER,

Nancy Hoyt

Best Adult: CHILLY, Heidi Henderson

Best of Opposite Adult: HICKORY'S

GAELIC LENNGTON THE HIBERNIAN,

David and Ellen Horrigan & Amy Tucker

Best Veteran Exhibition:

SHANTI, Celeste O'Malley

Best Veteran: MISS V, Celeste O'Malley

Best Opposite Sex Veteran:

EBBIE, James Tompkins

Best Altered: KARMA, Heidi Henderson

Raffle Winners - Judy & Mick Beck
of Leominster, MA
Wilcez Woodworking Draft Cart Raffle
Earnings: \$1040.

Special Thank-you to Jo Cogiglio and Cheryl Brickach for securing the cart in RI and donating to the club. A terrific fundraising project for NV!



A **HUGE** thanks to all our volunteers and helping hands for such a successful day!



Thank you to Bill Freeman for the photos!



By The Numbers

- 250 guests fed and watered
- 200+ Berners
- 65 Cheek swabs for the BG Repository
- 61 Blood samples for the BG Repository
- 20 Veteran Berners
- 17 New dogs on Berner-Garde
- 16 New people on Berner-Garde
- 15 New BMDCNV members
- 12 years 11 months - age of most senior Berner, Ledgewood's Mabel, Susan Mahan
- **1 Great Fun Day!**

A huge **thank you** to the organizers and workers at today's Fall Fun Day. It was a wonderful event!

We brought two of our veterans today, and it was terrific to see all of the attention to that very special group. From the parade to the VIP tags, the cake, the special gifts and favors and all of the attention, Aria and Dancing Bear felt incredibly special! The tissues in the gift bags were a special touch and it certainly brings tears to my eyes to see such a wonderful sight!

— Best to all,
Mary Durham & Ursli Kennel

BMDCNV Draft Test

Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds • Westford, MA



Saturday, October 18, 2014

JUDGES:
KARYN BEYER & PHIL ATKINSON

Saturday Results:

Open:

- Earning his second MDD leg
SHERMAN - Margot Burwood

Open Brace:

- Earning their BDD titles
SYDNEY AND SHERMAN - Margot Burwood

Novice:

- Earning his 4th ANDD leg
TUGBOAT - Barb Gibson
- Earning her NDD title
DARCI - JoAnn Biercuk

Novice Brace:

- Earning their BNDD titles
BENTLEY & MOLLY - Lynn Jones



Sunday, October 19, 2014

JUDGES:
KARYN BEYER & BARBARA GIBSON

Sunday Results:

Open:

- Earning her second MDD leg
GWEN - Beth Atkinson
- Earning her MDD title
ZURRI - Cheryl Brickach

Novice:

- Earning her NDD title
HUBBLE - Deb Metcalf-Morris
- Earning her 4th ANDD leg
JUNIPER - Phil Atkinson
- Earning her NDD title
JAM - Linda Seaver
- Earning her NDD title
PIPPA - Marjorie Cottle

Novice Brace:

- Earning their BNDD titles
JUNIPER AND GWEN - Phil Atkinson

To all the volunteers, stewards, and helping hands who supported us over the 2 days,
THANK YOU!

Jon Cons and Bill Freeman,
Thank you for the great photos!



Rescue Notebook

Ever Wonder What Happens on the BERNER, INC. Call Line?

by Linda DeCelles, Berner Inc. Rescue Chair

Berner, Inc. maintains a call line through the Ring Central system (it connects to our phone number : 1-877-4BM-DCNV). Normally, we receive over 350 calls a year. We check our messages every day and return over 60 calls each year. (The bulk of our callers get the information they want from our pre-recorded information on the line.) We receive calls from all over the country, although our rescue services are dedicated to the New England states.

The EASY Calls!

Many callers are looking for breeder information or adoptable Berners. Our voice mail will re-direct these callers to our BMDCNV website for the online breeder directory and Berner, Inc. rescue information and the adoption application. Our pre-recorded message refers out-of-area callers to the BMDCA website for clubs and rescues for their regions. Sometimes though, callers disregard the recorded message and leave inquiries anyway. We call them back with the appropriate information.

The Not-So-Easy Calls.

Berners in need of rehoming or rescue are expected, but are never easy. When we speak with these callers, initially we assess their situations: Is there an emergency that requires them to rehome their Berner right away? Have the owners decided that their Berner needs a better home, but can wait until we have a foster home available? Whatever the situation, most owners are very heartbroken at the thought of having to give up their dogs. We try to help them through the very emotional process of giving up their dog

The Shelter and Veterinary Requests.

Berner, Inc. receives calls from animal shelters to take Berners that have been surrendered by their owners or impounded or picked up by animal control officers. Veterinary clinics have

called to have us take Berners that have been abandoned by owners unwilling or unable to pay bills. Some owners ask their veterinarians to contact Berner, Inc. to take their dog for them. All-breed rescue groups have called to ask us to take Berners who have been surrendered to them.

The Behavior Problems.

Berner owners call asking for advice for behavior problems with their dogs. These calls are referred to trainers and training classes or to a Berner, Inc. or a BMDCNV volunteer with experience in handling whatever issue the caller has.

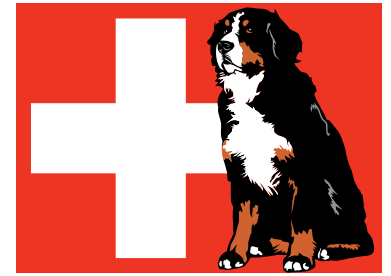
Some owners call to surrender their Berners to rescue because of behavior problems. We assess situations like these to see if we can help the owners keep their Berners. Here's an example of a successful interchange: A Berner owner was being pressured by her husband to give up their 2-year-old male Berner because he had nipped their preteen son's friend. She explained that the son admitted that his friend had been surreptitiously teasing the dog, who finally nipped at him when the friend cornered him. The husband assumed that this proved that their Berner was "aggressive." I suggested that the owners consult with a trainer (and keep the son's friend away from the dog!) before making any decisions about surrender. A Berner, Inc. volunteer in their area got them a trainer referral. The owner called me later to say that the trainer assured them that their Berner is not aggressive, and they were working with the trainer to learn the proper way for their family and friends to interact with a dog (the Berner was their first dog).

The Medical Advice.

Many calls for medical advice come in to the hotline. While we don't give medical advice over the phone, we do advise the owners to consult with veterinarians. We may also connect

continued next page

BERNER INC



EDUCATION & RESCUE

WE ARE THE RESCUE ARM OF THE NASHOBA CLUB

bernerinc.org

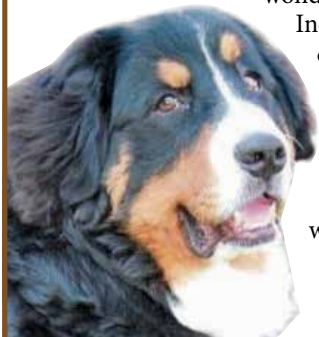
BERNER INC

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



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callers with club members who have expertise in particular Berner health issues and who can suggest to the owners questions about diagnosis and treatment they can discuss with their veterinarians.

The Grief Support – The most difficult calls.

The toughest calls are those from owners with Berners that have been diagnosed with a terminal disease or incurable disorder. Some callers just want advice from Berner people about how to live with their dogs' illness. Some want us to find new homes for their sick and aging Berners. Some just want solace for losing their beloved Berners. For example, we received a call from a woman with a Berner that had died from histiocytosis at age four. She just wanted to share her grief with a Berner person who would understand what she was going through. I talked with her (having had the same experience) and referred her to the Berner-L for more support.

And the rest

Calls of all kinds turn up on the hotline. Calls from people wanting to donate money or items. Yes! Calls from people looking for referrals to boarding kennels or groomers. Calls from people wanting general information about Berners: Should they get one? The most singular call I've answered was from a guy who wanted to know where he could "rent a Burmese [sic] Mountain Dog" because he wanted to take a photo of him with the Berner to promote his ski equipment business.



Yes, There are all kinds of kinds.

Bottom line, most callers are looking for a safe and happy re-home for their beloved dog. As a club, we are fortunate to have built a very robust rescue and support system for these unfortunately situated dogs. Thankfully, many club members are resources we can lean on in situations such as these. Please continue to support us and you will help every Berner that comes into rescue reach their second (or more!) chance at a happy and healthy forever home.

It's a good thing!

Monthly Health Tip for keeping our Berners in tip-top shape!

ALWAYS CONSULT WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN REGARDING ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN WEIGHT AND BEFORE BEGINNING A DIET AND EXERCISE PLAN FOR YOUR BERNER.

Stress and the Importance of Routine for our Berners

Sensitive by nature, our dogs can absorb the stress and tension around them. Usually from a change in environment, occasional stress is not a serious condition, however excessive or prolonged stress can produce the same negative effects in dogs as it does in people.

An Ounce of Prevention

Stop stress before it starts with clear consistent communication and training. Your dog will be happier, more secure and less prone to stress and behavioral problems. Establish clear boundaries and set aside a safe environment for them. You'll need to provide the three "Cs": control, consistency and companionship - and you'll need to do that as a matter of routine.

More Than Just the Daily Grind

Your dog needs a routine structure and framework within which to feel secure and to behave appropriately. Simply knowing where they will sleep, when they will be fed, walked and played with on a regular basis can go a long way to making them feel more

relaxed and secure. Routine is rooted in regular companionship - without it they will not adapt well to unavoidable life changes.

Get a check up

If your dog still appears stressed after you have worked with them for a day or two, get them checked out. In some cases, the stress may have aggravated an illness or caused one or an illness may initiate a stress-type response. Your veterinarian can rule out any physical causes and should be able to offer suggestions on how to help your dog physically as well as behaviorally.

By maintaining the daily routine in your dog's life and keeping them healthy, active, mentally stimulated and well fed, you will go a long way toward preventing or treating any stress they may encounter. Don't you wish it were that simple for you?

Read more... excerpted and edited from:

<http://m.petco.com/Content/ArticleList/Article/30/1/285/Stress-and-the-Importance-of-Routine-for-Dogs.aspx>

the **BERNER INC** *board of directors*

PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR - Alise Burbridge
TREASURER & DIRECTOR - Tom McKinney
CLERK & DIRECTOR - Anya Wittenborg

DIRECTOR - Dawn Flaherty
DIRECTOR - Linda DeCelles
DIRECTOR - Beth Atkinson

Birthdays, Congratulations and Brags...



Happy 8th Birthday to Mavis!

BERNER, INC.'s MAVIS MISBEHAVIS
Still putting the "mountain" in
Bernese Mountain Dog!
— Mari & Rob Higgins; Concord NH



Keiko

Happy Birthday!

2 YEARS OLD - NOVEMBER 21ST.
— Tressy Manning; Barnard, VT



Happy Birthday, Hannibal!

8 YEARS OLD - OCT 23
You are the best! Love you, love you!
— Pam and Charles Swearingen;
Belmont, MA

GCH CH BACKCOUNTRY PANDEMONIUM
TDX, RA, NAP, DD, BNDD, WD, VDX

We're so proud of our Gwen! She finished her Grand Championship in September, earned her NDD, DD and BNDD during the fall draft season, which qualified her for the BMDCA Working Dog, Versatility Dog and Versatility Dog Excellent Awards.

Our love and gratitude to the Wendy's (Bennett & Boehme) for producing a girl who is always raring to go.

— Beth & Phil Atkinson; Bolton, MA



NEW CHAMPION!

So proud to announce that **Karma** (aka Karmalita, Hooligan, Wild Child) is now an AKC Champion! Karma finished in grand style taking WB, BOW & BOS at the shows in Buena, NJ in October. Bred & co-owned by Celeste O'Malley in Vermont, Karma is now CH Sprucepeak's Pay it Forward v TrailBound RN. Now to work on the titles at the other end of that name... Versatility here we come!

—Michelle Keck; Jim Thorpe, PA TrailBound Berners



SO PROUD!

Three cheers for **Tessa**, taking Winners Bitch and Best of Winners at the 2014 BMDC Watchung Regional Specialty under breeder/judge Sandra Walker. This was Tessa's first major win and I couldn't be prouder of this young girl. She is Skylyn-n-TrailBound's True Test of Time RN and I love her to pieces.

—Michelle Keck; Jim Thorpe, PA TrailBound Berners

Congratulations!

Eiger (BG # 72272) won another major in September and finished his AKC championship in October.

— Karlo Laforteza; Milford, CT

2015 Berner Calendar

12" x 12" Large format
Bernese Mountain Dog 2014 Calendar.

16 month calendar from
September 2013- December 2014

Open size: 12" x 24"

Each month features a beautiful BMD photo &
plenty of room to write special dates
on the calendar grid.

\$13.75

PLUS \$5.75
SHIPPING



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Customer Signature

QTY	COLOR/SIZE/DESCRIPTION	PRICE EACH	TOTAL PRICE



Nov. 2014

TOTAL PRICE of MERCHANDISE	
SHIPPING \$5.75	
TOTAL Thank You!	

In Remembrance

Porter

6.14.11 - 9.30.14

Rest in peace my sweet Porter boy, my hiking partner, my best friend, my work partner...my everything.

I miss you so much my sweet boy. I hold you in my heart forever.

“HOW LUCKY I AM TO HAVE SOMETHING THAT MAKES SAYING GOODBYE SO HARD”

— WINNIE THE POOH

— Mandy Farrar; Caratunk, ME



BMDCNV


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