

Spring/Summer 2022

THE Bernerblatt

The Newsletter of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley



Inside this issue

Calendar of Events	2	Ladies' Dog Club.....	9
Therapy Dogs.....	5	Birthdays & Brags.....	10
Spring Fun Day.....	6-7	Draft Workshop.....	11
BERNER Inc. Rescue.....	8	Remembering Libby Kesner.....	11

bmdcnv.org/events

September 24

Fall Fun Day

Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds
Westford, MA

October 1

AKC Temperament Test

Inspire K-9's Training Center
Center Barnstead, NH

October 8

Berners & Brews

Trolley 27
Laconia, NH

October 22 & 23

BMDCA Draft Tests

Harvard, MA

October 29

Howl-o-ween Meet-up and Walk

Portland Head Light
Cape Elizabeth, ME



**JOIN US AT TROLLEY 27
LACONIA, NH**

**Berners
& Brews**

**• OCTOBER 8 •
10 AM - 2 PM**

Fall Fun Day Raffle!

**Contributed items or gift cards to fill raffle baskets
(Amazon or Chewy, for example)**

can be sent ahead of time to:

**Cathy M. Sullivan-Neves, 175 Fisher Road,
Corinna, ME 04928**

**For more information contact Cathy at
catladys@hotmail.com**



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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On the Cover:

Remember to stop and smell the flowers!

Jessica Moore's Berner, Violet (Berner-Garde #190440), enjoying the forget-me-nots in Montpelier, Vermont, in May.

The masthead design is by Nancy Hoyt. You may remember this handsome Berner from our fortieth anniversary merchandise!

President's Message



It is a great privilege to serve you, our members, and of course our Bernese. We are so blessed to have been brought together by these extraordinary creatures. Bernese pick the very best human companions. Paul and I often speculate how different life would have been, and how many great friends we would have missed out on, if we had made a different choice of dog back in 1977. It is my goal to always treasure, protect and celebrate our amazing Berners. I know you will join me in this.

We seem to be emerging from the pandemic world in fits and starts. It's been a challenging time and required extra creativity. But we've also seen that there are positives coming from it, like being "together" via Zoom. Look for some forthcoming announcements about things we'll be doing this way.

At the same time, it was terrific to be able to be together in person at the Spring Fun Day. It was wonderful to see so many families and Berners enjoying each other. We had a terrific team organizing the Fun Day. Thank you Candy, Allison, Ray, Anya, Linda, Diane, Adam, Heidi, Carolyn, Stephanie, Bill, Jean, Sue, Mimi and a long list of others! Can you help with a future event? Even in a small way? It's always more fun when you get involved. Contact any Board member to learn more.

We are building a new team to prepare and publish our beloved newsletter, the Bernerblatt. This is an incredible opportunity for people who love to be creative and want a front-row seat at the fun and accomplishments of our Berners and their people. Look deep into your Berner's eyes and remember that helping your club is helping your own precious baby!

We love all our members but our new members are special. Look at the Membership Directory and find someone near you who has ** at their name. These people are self-designated Berner Buddies who welcome contact with other Berner people and dogs. The Directory has a whole section organized by state and zip code to make this easy.

Remember that I'm here for you. If you have questions or want to talk about our club, you can email me at clubpresident@bmdcnv.org. My phone number is in the directory, too.

All the best,
Mary Durham

Welcome New Members!

Mark Cohen New York, NY	Sarah & Carlos Vidal Branford, CT
Ken Howe & Michele Giggi-Howe Thornton, NH	Patricia & Wheeler Van Brocklin East Greenwich, RI
Brian & Martha Bergeron Hopkinton, MA	David & Rachel Knowlton Ipswich, MA
Derilyn Gregory Newcastle, ME	Beth Benson & Chuck Goslin West Chatham, MA
Michelle Colvin & Alec Wolfe Merrimack, NH	Alexander Guerra & Iris Ahn Lincoln, RI
Nancy Patterson Andover, MA	Becky McPherson Pembroke, MA
Elizabeth & Molly O'Donnell Hampton Falls, NH	Patricia Meissner Charlestown, NH
Jim Levison Lyndonville, VT	Cynthia Collins Newmarket, NH
Victoria & Andrew Geruntho Ansonia, CT	Wendy & Mike Higgins Lakeville, MA
Kendra Collins Carmel, NY	Julianne Noble Dedham, MA
Kimberly Gates Bath, ME	Whitney Jameson Polk City, IA
George Brown Attleboro, MA	



Are you a New 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

Meet some of our members on the next page!
We look forward to meeting you!

New Member Showcase



S.T.A.R. Puppy

Michelle Colvin & Alec Wolfe

Merrimack, New Hampshire

How Many Berners: 1

Favorite Activity:

Tricks, Cuddles, Talking & FOOD!

Riley is our 5-month-old Berner who loves people and puppies alike! She is a very social little girl who is happiest when she's with her people. Her favorite song is the Little Mermaid, "I wanna be where the people are". One of Riley's favorite things to do, besides eating, is learning new tricks and words. She loves being talked to and always has the best head-tilt response. Riley loves her Big Sister Bailey, my parents' 11-year-old Berner; and her weekly training classes. She is a ball of energy that has brought much happiness into our lives. We are big Berner fans and excited to join this community!



Bear and I at the Food Bank (5 months old)

Kimberly Gates

Bath, Maine

How Many Berners: 1

Favorite Activity:

Walking and playing at the dog park

I am the Director at the Bath Area Food Bank. I have two children in college, Bowdoin and SMCC, and the perfect husband. I am an empty nester and have time to work with our Bear. He is able to come to work with me every day and LOVES IT! He has completed puppy class and basic obedience. We are looking forward to learning more as Bear gets older. He is presently 6 months of pure love. We have always adopted Labradors in the past, and it was like someone turned a light on ... once we adopted Bear, our Berner.

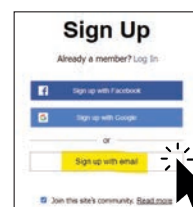
Access members-only features by creating a login ID on bmdcnv.org

- Create a login to access the Members area of our website, where you'll find current and back issues of Bernerblatt newsletters, our By-Laws, Board meeting Minutes, and more in the Files section.
- You'll also be added to the BMDCNV Member Group, which serves as a message board and forum where you can exchange posts, and upload photos and videos to share with other members.

1. Go to bmdcnv.org. At the top of the home page, click "Sign Up or Log In."



2. Click "Sign up with Email."



Therapy Dogs

101

Highlights from the Annual Meeting Presentation

Therapy dogs are dogs who go with their owners to volunteer in settings such as schools, hospitals, and nursing homes. From working with a child who is learning to read to visiting a senior in assisted living, therapy dogs and their owners work together as a team to improve the lives of others.

Heidi Henderson spoke on the many ways and places canines are utilized in therapy work (see box at right), and how to become a certified Therapy Dog team.

Therapy dog work starts in the earliest days; the human-animal bond you establish will carry you into the work. Basic obedience such as prepping for the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test (CGC) is a good place to start. Beyond that, begin thinking about where you would like to volunteer. Your dog must know to leave it, touch and wait. This isn't great work for the "bull in the china shop". Socialize your dog at places that mimic some of the people, places, sounds, and things you might encounter in the settings where you'd like to volunteer.

You should decide what type of work you are interested in doing before going through a therapy dog evaluation. Then contact a local facility to see if they align with a particular therapy dog program. There are many local and national groups that have local chapters.

AKC has a therapy dog titling program, Therapy Dog Novice (THDN) and higher levels after that. More information can be found on the AKC website. The AKC has vetted hundreds of Therapy Dog organizations. You should seek out a nearby group to register with.

At age one, dogs can enter training and evaluation programs. You'll be taught the rules and regulations of the particular group and its insurance carrier. Therapy dogs are expected to be trained. An evaluator will look at your control of the dog, and the dog's demeanor and temperament. A skittish animal around a wheelchair or other things found in therapy settings won't make the cut.

Barbie Wilczek has had 12 different therapy dogs—10 of which were/are Bernese—through Love on a Leash and Therapy Dogs International. Doing therapy dog visits to nursing homes is rewarding and a continual learning process.

Barbie provided moving examples of visits: A deaf-blind woman in a nursing home got more joy from the dog visits than she likely had the rest of her week. She had a little dog pin and only wore it on Saturdays, when the dogs visited.

After 9/11, Barbie was asked to visit a Family Assistance Center for bereaved relatives of the World Trade Center disaster. A woman was filing for a death certificate for her husband. Barbie positioned her Berner near the woman and her father-in-law, and they instinctively started petting him. Barbie felt her dog helped them. Weeks later Barbie saw the woman again, and the woman wanted Barbie to know how much her dog's visit had meant to her.

We have formed a Therapy Dog Committee, whose purpose is to advocate, advance, & celebrate the work of Bernese Mountain Dogs in Therapy and Canine Assisted Interventions.
therapydogs@bmdcnv.org

Caleigh and George Brown: Caleigh became involved in therapy dog work as a young girl in the Thunder Hill Canine Encounters 4-H. She and her father George were certified with Dog B.O.N.E.S: Dogs Building Opportunities for Nurturing and Emotional Support.

Caleigh recommends making short visits at first to get the dog used to the environment. She does a lot of school visits to help kids dealing with stress and learning. Her Berner Teddy won the AKC 2021 Therapy Dog Award for Canine Excellence (ACE). The award is based on his six years of therapy dog activity in a variety of schools and other settings. George became a member of K9

Some Therapy Dog Activities

AAA: Animal Assisted Activity

Done in a recreational setting at a nursing home, long-term care facility, or hospital; to reduce stress and make people smile.

AAT: Animal Assisted Therapy

Typically directed by health care and human services providers. For example, a dog retrieving a ball from a stroke victim.

AAE: Animal Assisted Education

Focused on academic goals for students. For example, Tail Wagging Tutors.

AAWW: Animal Assisted Workplace Well-being

AACR: Animal Assisted Crisis Response

Provide comfort and support to people affected by crises, trauma, or disasters.

First Responders. This group travels all over for trauma-related response such as mass shootings, murders, violent prison assault and other places where a crisis response is needed.

As a nine-year-old, Teddy went to Washington, D.C. after a Capitol Police officer was murdered. George, a retired police officer trained in Critical Incident Stress Management, spent several days with the U.S. Capitol Police, National Guard, and staff providing peer support. When Teddy walks into a room he has a way of knowing who needs him the most. Teddy's work is to take people out of the moment, to let down their guard. For many of the people he meets, this is an important form of therapy.

Caleigh and George have repeated their therapy dog work with Berners Gromit, 4, and Taro, 1. These dogs also do school therapy visits and have both been deployed with K9 First Responders to the U.S. Capitol and other locations.

Their best advice is to make sure to match the dog's capabilities with the environment. Not all dogs are suitable for all environments (such as places with loud noises).

Heidi cautioned us about shy or fearful dogs: you should find the setting that's right for them, such as with small children who aren't seen as threatening. Not all dogs are destined to be therapy dogs.

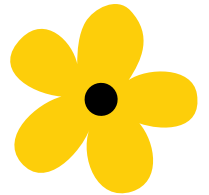
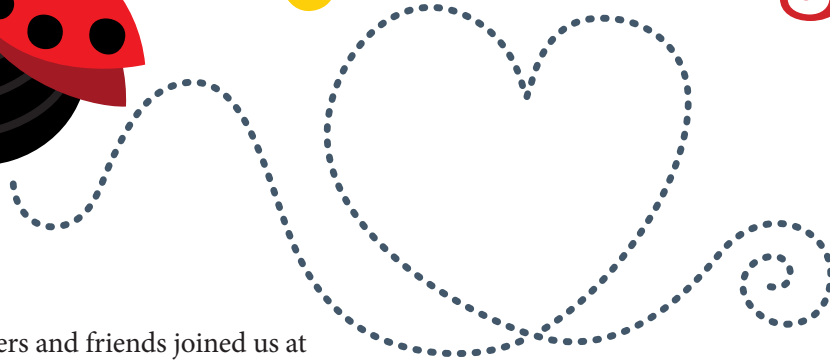
Barbie stressed it's easy to overwork dogs. Be careful how much you work them because a visit can be extremely stressful on them.

Enjoy the experience and the wonderful bond you'll make with your Therapy Dog.

George Brown & Mimi Englander, contributors



Spring Fun Day!



Over 150 members and friends joined us at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Westford, Massachusetts for this year's Spring Fling! The forecast was calling for sweltering heat, and after taking into consideration the safety of our Berners, the board decided to condense the schedule and move up the festivities by an hour. The last-minute schedule change didn't seem to deter anyone!

The puppy parade featured 18 puppies! Many dressed up for the "bugs and butterflies" spring theme and some puppies even convinced their owners to dress up!





The Junior Handlers talk by Adam Conn and the Potential Puppy Owner talk by Diane Smith were well attended.

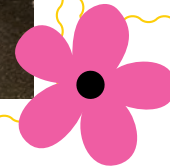
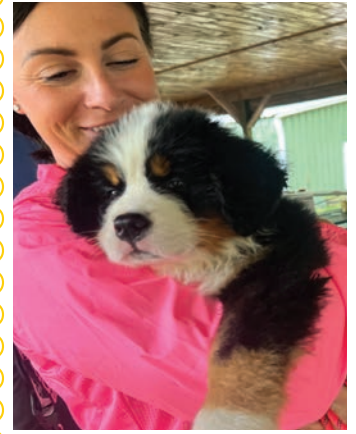
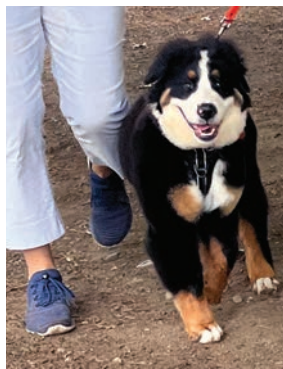
Thanks to Cathy Sullivan-Neves and Erin Spanos, the raffle table had lots of great items and was busy throughout the day. Attendees clutched their tickets as numbers were drawn. Congratulations to the lucky winners!



Ways and Means was busy all day selling wonderful Berner merchandise. The funds we raised will be used for future club events and activities. Thanks to Bill and Stephanie Freeman and helpers Jean Michael and Anya Wittenborg.

We would like to recognize Candy Wright and Allison Harding for co-chairing such a successful event; and thank everyone who volunteered throughout the day.

—Melissa George



AKC Sanctioned B Match

Judge: Adam Conn

Best in Match:

Lady, owned by Ava Bollig

Best of Opposite Sex in Match:

Ransom, (male) owned by Alise Burbridge

Best Puppy in Match:

Ransom, owned by Alise Burbridge

Best Opposite Sex Puppy in Match:

Fern, (female) owned by Katrina Woodin Copeland

Best Veteran in Match:

Bartlett, owned by James Chiasson

Best Opposite Sex Veteran in Match:

**Primrose, (female)
owned by Jennifer Hall**

Our Recent Rescue Adoptions

—Linda DeCelles

Rubble was surrendered to BERNER Inc. as an intact 15-month old. He had been bought with two puppies of another breed from an Amish puppy mill. Rubble was diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat. That, plus having three large puppies proved too much for their buyer. Rubble went into a BERNER, Inc. foster home and then to a foster-to-adopt home. After he was neutered, Rubble was officially adopted. Today he is a healthy young Berner with a happy life ahead of him.



BERNER INC



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

Owen was purchased in 2020 through an online broker for an Amish puppy mill. After a year, the young woman who bought Owen lost her home and left him with her mother. The progression of a serious illness caused the mother to give up Owen immediately. BERNER Inc. arranged an emergency boarding with a kennel we know. Two days later, Owen went to a foster-to-adopt home. After neutering, Owen was adopted. Now he lives a full, happy life.



Razzy was acquired as a puppy from an Amish puppy mill. She was well-loved by her family and given up reluctantly at a year old when a family member developed cancer. The family had to give up their home and relocate for cancer treatment and could not take Razzy with them. Today Razzy is a happy, affectionate girl who shares her home with loving adopters and a Leonberger.



In 2008, the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley established a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to address the needs of the 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 our website bernerinc.org; or by mail to BERNER Inc. P.O. Box 202, South Berwick, ME 03908. Thank you!

BERNER INC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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CLERK & DIRECTOR
Dawn Flaherty

DIRECTOR
Linda DeCelles

TREASURER & DIRECTOR
Tom McKinney

DIRECTOR
Anya Wittenborg

DIRECTOR
Sue Nowak



Supported Entry & Sweepstakes



Ladies' Dog Club Spring Show
Saturday, June 4
Wrentham, Massachusetts

RESULTS

Sweepstakes

Judged by Mrs. Susan Van Ocker

Best in Sweepstakes

Horizons One For The Money "Moolah"

Owner: Amanda Wescott
Breeder: Amanda Wescott

Best of Opposite Sex Sweepstakes

Seawind Farm's Rest Assured "Ransom"

Owner: Alise Burbridge
Breeder: Alise Burbridge

Best Veteran in Sweepstakes

CH Ursili Firn AXP AJP NFP CGC "Firn"

Owner: Paul J. Emerson & Mary J. Durham
Breeder: Paul J. Emerson & Mary J. Durham

Best of Opposite Sex Veteran Sweepstakes

Windfall's To A Thousand Places "Digit"

Owner: Adam P. Conn & Kris Hayko & Michael Knicely, DVM
Breeder: Kris Hayko & Michael Knicely, DVM

Regular Classes

Judged by Ms. Peggy Beisel-McIlwaine

Best Of Breed

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

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

Best of Winners, Winners Bitch

Indian Hill's Bring Me To Life "Amy"

Owner: Joanne Gerow, James Smalley, Gail Buchanan
Breeder: Joanne Gerow

Best of Opposite Sex

GCHB CH Marben's McKenna V Crimson Harvest CGCA "McKenna"

Owner: Tiggie Gerli & Kym Dekker Collins
Breeder: Tiggie Gerli

Select Dog

GCHS CH Alpenspirit I'm A Soul Man FDC "Otis"

Owner: Pamela Eldredge & Mylene Turbide
Breeder: Mylene Turbide

Select Bitch, Best of Breed Owner-Handled

CH Seawind Farm's Promise To Patchwork "Sydney"

Owner: Stephanie & Bill Freeman & Alise Burbridge
Breeder: Alise Burbridge

Award of Merit #1

GCH Riverwood's The Fennel Countdown NDD FDC CD CGC "Fennel"

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

Award of Merit #2

GCHB Trevi's Winter Bliss "Bliss"

Owner: Barbara Ann Bych
Breeder: Carri Ehrich

Winners Dog

Steadfast Grand Day Out FDC THDN CGCA TKA "Gromit"

Owner: Caleigh Brown & Dorri Poppe
Breeder: Dorri Poppe

Reserve Winners Dog

Trevi's Life In The Fast Lane "Deacon"

Owner: Barbara Ann Bych
Breeder: Barbara Ann Bych

Reserve Winners Bitch

Horizons One For The Money "Moolah"

Owner: Amanda Wescott
Breeder: Amanda Wescott

Best Bred By Exhibitor Puppy

Seawind Farm's Rest Assured "Ransom"

Owner: Alise Burbridge
Breeder: Alise Burbridge

Best Bred By Exhibitor

Seawind Farm's Quintessential "Quin"

Owner: Alise Burbridge
Breeder: Alise Burbridge

Best Veteran

CH Ursili Firn AXP AJP NFP CGC "Firn"

Owner: Paul J. Emerson & Mary J. Durham
Breeder: Paul J. Emerson & Mary J. Durham

Below Left: Sue Van Ocker, Alise Burbridge and Ransom, who was Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes; Middle: Celebrating the Veterans! Mary Durham with Firn, 9, Adam Conn with Digit, 7, and Holly Toner with Keevah, 9; Right: Lisa Freed and Tessie in the Open Bitch class lineup.



Birthdays, Congratulations and Brags



Go Team Gromit!

STEADFAST GRAND DAY OUT FDC
THDN CGCA TKA

Congrats to Junior Caleigh Brown and Gromit, who earned his first points at the Ladies' Dog Club show. They won a 4 point Major Winners Dog on Saturday and a 3 point Best of Winners on Sunday!

—George Brown, Attleboro, MA



New Versatility Dog!

CH TRAILBOUND'S GRAND GALA
CD RN NDD

Gala achieved her Versatility Dog title, completing the trio of titles by accomplishing her Novice Draft Dog title while competing at the BMDCA National Specialty in Hampton Roads, Virginia. We are so proud of our girl and can't imagine the great things ahead for her competing in Versatility in the future.

— Allison and Ray Harding, Milford, MA

The Bernerblatt is your newsletter and we love your submissions! Sharing birthdays, remembrances, brags, and anything you think is interesting to the members is not only easy, it's recommended and encouraged!

Type your message in the body of an email and attach your favorite, high-resolution jpeg photo.

Be sure to include complete name(s) and the city and state where you live.

That's it! We'll do the rest.
bernerblatt@bmdcnv.org



Happy Birthday Basil!

BASIL

My guy Basil is turning 10 on July 2!!!

—Leslie Judice, Laconia NH



Congrats Fennel!

BISS OHBIS GCH RIVERWOOD'S
THE FENNEL COUNTDOWN
NDD FDC CD CGC

Fennel was awarded a Group 1 in the Owner-Handled Working Group at the Ladies' Dog Club on June 5th, and finished the day with a win in the Owner-Handled Best In Show ring! Fennel is owned and loved by Sam & Tina Sirico & Laurel Wood.

—Sam Sirico, Old Saybrook, CT



Happy Birthday Trinity!

BETRUF CELTIC TRINITY

"The Dog in the Hat"

by Nancy Bates

Thing 1 (Trinity) is turning 8.
Thing 2 (Lyra) thinks that's great!
June 21st is the date.

That we eat cake to celebrate!

— Linda Bates, Old Orchard Beach, ME

June 11 Draft Workshop

Watch for notices about more draft workshops coming this fall!

We had a wonderful draft workshop on June 11 at Timberlost Farm in Ashburnham. The weather was perfect, the grounds gorgeous, the company spectacular, and all the working teams made significant progress! We had nine draft teams and ten dogs that worked really hard! We had a few dogs that had never been in a harness previously, completely hitched and pulling by the end of the day. Some got to "try out" a maneuvering course, and also watch other teams do the maneuvering so they could see it and hear the judge's comments.

Thanks to Candy Wright for hosting the event and to Susan Mahan for the incredible lunch and strawberry shortcake! Thanks also to Paul Emerson, Mary Durham, Tom Jaskiewicz, Allison Harding, Celeste Dowd O'Malley, and Patricia Buickerood for volunteering as instructors and helpers. Thanks to Anya Wittenborg for organizing this great event!



Laurie Brown working with Lisa Freed and Tessie at Timberlost Farm.

One of the things that we talked about at the workshop is how important it is for your dog to *not pull weight* until they are two years old, and their skeletal system is mature. But there are a lot of training steps that you can begin prior to that. Don't hesitate to come to the next workshop if you are interested in learning more about draft. We can get you started on safe and useful exercises.

— Laurie Brown & Mary Durham, contributors



REMEMBERING LIBBY KESNER

Nashoba Valley and the Berner world lost a great friend when Libby Kesner passed away in June. She had been a member of our club for thirty-three years. She was a presence at many Fun Days and Regionals, a judge, a member of our Breeder Referral Program, and beloved by many friends and her puppy people. She was a mentor to many new breeders, always making the time to share her vast experience and knowledge.

Under her kennel name, *Maine's*, she produced 69 litters. Her lines are behind many Berners in our region and beyond, including champions in the U.S. and Canada, working dogs, and many beloved family pets. Her last litter went to their homes in May.

A much-loved tradition was the puppy parties at her house when her litters were going off to their new homes. New and past puppy owners, friends, neighbors, breeders, and others would gather to visit and eat their fill of delicious potluck—Libby herself made fantastic baked beans—with the highlight of the day being puppy evaluations. After the puppies were bathed, (a wet puppy is the best way to see its structure); the fun began. Each puppy was placed standing on a table, and reviewed from head to toe; checking length-to-height ratios, bites, eyes, fronts, rears, shoulder laybacks, tail sets, hocks, and more. Each puppy was discussed at length and show/breeding potential assessed. The puppies got lots of hotdogs, and those participating got an amazing hands-on education. Libby loved Berners, and she could "talk dogs" all day.

This is how many would like to remember Libby (shown below middle row, seated third from left): surrounded by dear friends and lots of clean puppies; the diverse community she nurtured sharing her love and passion for Bernese Mountain Dogs.



Have a wonderful summer!
Nancy and Linda Bates' Lyra (left) and Trinity are having a grand celebration!



Join us on social media!
fb.com/groups/BMDCNVMembers
facebook.com/bmdcnv
[fb.com/BERNERInc.](https://fb.com/BERNERInc)
Find us on Instagram @bmdcnv
bmdcnv.org/groups

BMDCNV

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Brunswick, ME 04011



bmdcnv.org