



May - June 2024

TRBMDC Incline

Official Newsletter of the Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club

Special Points of Interest:

- A Note from our President
- 4/13/24 Meeting Minutes
- Farm Dog Overview and Photos
- 5/18/24 Draft Practice
- 6/8/24 TRBMDC Meeting, Geriatric Berner Discussion and Dog Walk
- 2024 Rescue Gift Bonanza and Rescue Fundraiser
- A "New" Forever Home for Leisel
- Berner Brags and Happy Birthday to Scarlet (9) and Quest (1)
- Cuteness Overload
- TRBMDC Calendar



TRBMDC Officers and Board of Directors

Karen Artuso, President

P.O. Box 242
United, PA 15698
(412) 580-8047
ar2so@zoominternet.net

Donna Millburn, Vice Pres.

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

Ralph Artuso, Treasurer

P.O. Box 242
United, PA 15689
412-580-8047
ar2so@zoominternet.net

Amy Lindenfelder, Secretary

334 S. Negley Ave, Apt. 1
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
(617) 462-3655
Amy.lindenfelder@gmail.com

Board of Directors:

Cathy Barth
Bert Klei
Joye Neff
Denise Reardon
Mary Sparks

Well if there's going to be a TRBMDC meeting, there MUST be wind. Not a breeze, but practically a gale force wind! On April 13, we met at Monroeville Park for a meeting and the program was aimed at learning about The AKC Farm Dog Test. We had a great group show up with many members and some visitors, as well. We had fun despite the wind. We had 15 Berners going through the Farm Dog Test that Julia, Donna and I set up. I think the dogs had a fun day and after a little more practice are ready to give the real test a try. It's a fun event and if all goes well, can get your pup an AKC Title!! After all, Bernese Mountain Dogs are "Working Dogs".

On May 18, we met at our home to do a Drafting Workshop. Once again, Julia and Donna did an excellent job getting three dogs started on drafting. Lexi Millburn and Remi Airgood showed the beginners the ropes. One dog was Stella (belonging to Heidi and Max Pedicone) ... and then two visitors, Finn (belonging to Amy Wildman) and Franco (belonging to Gary Falcone). In addition, we were all thrilled to see Cali there. It was a tough day for the Hester's girl, who is a recent rescue. She has been adjusting to her new, wonderful home very slowly. She is very shy, but she did great getting out of the car (on her first outing) and letting a few people and pups near her! We look forward to seeing Elaine, Denny, and Cali again soon. And I was happy to have our new puppy, Dolce, watch all of the fun. She was mesmerized with all the Berners in her yard! I do believe ... I saw a frown on her face as they left. Then, she crashed!! Thanks also to those of you who came just to watch the Drafting demo and socialize with other Club members.

Please keep an eye out for the flyer for our next meeting on June 8, where we will share information and discuss products helpful to our geriatric Berners. We encourage those of you that have had the pleasure of owning an older Berner to join in and share your experiences and lessons learned. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Harrison Hills Park at 1:00 p.m. at the Rachel Carson Pavilion.

Don't forget about reserving your 100 free tickets for the TRBMDC Rescue Gift Bonanza by contacting Joye Neff at joye.neff@gmail.com. The drawing will be held on June 10 at noon. Good luck. We are hoping for your loyal support in the TRBMDC Rescue Fundraiser, as well.



Karen Artuso, President



Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club Meeting Minutes

Location: Monroeville Park W – Pav. 1

Date: April 13, 2024

The following TRBMDC Members, Visitors (and Berners) were in attendance: Julia/Wayne Airgood (Margo & Remi), Bob Albert (Mia), Karen Artuso, Rick/Carolyn Cannon (Lucy), Bert/Linda Klei (Nelly & Enzo), Mike Kosko (Harlee), Joye Neff, Gus McBride/Tracy Sweeny (Ursa), Donna Millburn (Rayne), Marty Sutton (Roxey), and visitors Julie Croyle (Whiskey), Gary Falcone (Franco), Maria Germansky / Mia (Moose), Jill / Michael Gerson (Royce), and Randy/Kristy Lewis (Abby).

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: President, Karen Artuso

Karen welcomed everyone to the Farm Dog Workshop and meeting. She said that one of the most fun days she had with her beautiful girl, Poco, was the day she earned her AKC Farm Dog title.

Karen asked all in attendance to kindly introduce themselves and their Berners, since we had a lot of first time visitors.

Karen reported that we had a very challenging experience recently with one of our rescues. Hank was an Amish bred, Berner rescued by TRBMDC last fall. He was a beautiful puppy and placed in a wonderful home with Dana and John Byrnes and their children Grace, JP and Skye. However, he was suffering from Coccidia and Giardia when adopted. The impact on his intestinal tract was devastating. After consulting with multiple vets, changing diets, and taking many doses of medications, he still did not have a positive response. Hank stopped eating and was taken to see the Specialists at Blue Pearl. Several days later, his intestines telescoped inside each other. Due to his weakened condition, an operation was not a possibility; and he had to be put down at only 6 months of age. It was truly heart breaking for the family, as well as the Club. The Board voted to give back the adoption fee and a little extra because of the enormous vet bills incurred by the Byrnes. Dana wrote a heartfelt note of appreciation that was read by Bert Klei at the meeting.

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

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY / ELECTIONS / MEMBERSHIP: Secretary – substituting for Amy Lindenfelder was Donna Millburn – No report

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Treasurer, Ralph Artuso – March, 2024 Report

Checking Account Balance \$ 3,519.74	Health / Rescue Account Balance \$ 283.59
2024 Dues Received thru March 31, 2024	\$850.
2024 Main Acct. Donations through March 31, 2024 - \$496	
2024 Rescue Acct donations through March 31, 2024 - \$25	

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP: Secretary, Amy Lindenfelder/Donna Millburn – A membership application for Scot/Barbara Gordon and family was received by TRBMDC. After attendance to a second meeting, the Gordons will be voted upon. Several other applications have been provided to recent visitors at TRBMDC events. We will follow up with those prospective members.

AKC CORRESPONDENCE: Karen Artuso No Report

PASSIVE RESCUE: Julia Airgood Thanks to Mike Kosko, who made a trip this morning to transfer Aspen, a Berner boy, from an Amish farm in Sugarcreek, Ohio ... to another transfer home and then on to his foster family. This trip was coordinated by the National BMD Rescue Network ... and made possible by Mike's generosity.

A raffle is being held today to benefit the TRBMDC Rescue Account. There are several great rescue items and also a few Ways and Means items to build up our Rescue account again. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

REGIONAL CLUB COUNCIL: Joye Neff No Report

PERFORMANCE EVENTS: An Agility Workshop was held on March 14 at Splash'n Dash K-9 Sports in Plum. A Drafting Workshop is planned for May 18 at Karen/Ralph Artuso's house in Greensburg.



TRBMDC WEBSITE: Denise Reardon – Denise has added a link on the TRBMDC web-site for the BMDCA site.

FACEBOOK: Amy Lindenfelder – Keep an eye open for photos from today’s Farm Dog Workshop on both FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM.

NEWSLETTER (TRBMDC INCLINE): Donna Millburn

Please forward your favorite .jpg photos from today’s dog walk to Donna Millburn at Dmillb@comcast.net for inclusion in the Incline. In addition, I am always looking for Berner photos, brags, and articles for the bi-monthly newsletter.

PUPPY REFERRAL: Karen Artuso Karen announced her exciting news that she would be getting her new puppy, Dolce, on April 30. Can’t wait to meet her at the next gathering!

AWARDS: Julia Airgood Awards were presented for 2023 accomplishments at the February, 2024 Meeting.

SUNSHINE: Gwen Geis No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT EVENT / MEETING: May 18, 2:00 p.m. Draft Practice (notice date and time change from latest Incline). This is an event; therefore, a meeting will not take place. As always, visitors are invited.

BERNER BRAGS:

Julia and Wayne Airgood – Julia and Wayne attended the 2024 BMDCA National Specialty On March 31 – April 6 in Gray Summit, MO and had some important news to report.

- Margo is now a Bernese tri-athlete. She qualified in different events – Rally, Obedience and Agility. She qualified in five of her seven events entered and earned her new Rally Advanced title. 60 teams entered and 24 qualified. All this and she is only 3 years old.

Remi, who is 7.4 years old is still doing great. She Rally choice Q’d and received a second place. Then, she Q’d in Rally Masters! And, Wayne proudly handled her in the Veteran’s Parade!

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made to adjourn by Linda Klei and seconded by Carolyn Cannon. Now – on to the pizza, goodies, and the Farm Dog Practice!



If you didn't make the Farm Dog Meeting, you missed a good time!

*Respectfully Summited by Donna Millburn
in the absence of Secretary, Amy Lindenfelder*



Farm Dog Meeting





Sample AKC Farm Dog Certification Criteria



Pass through Gate and Meet the Evaluator



Perform a Walk Pattern and by a Passive Stranger



Walk on loose leash through Farm Equipment



Walk on loose leash through more Farm Equipment



Walk over Unusual Surfaces



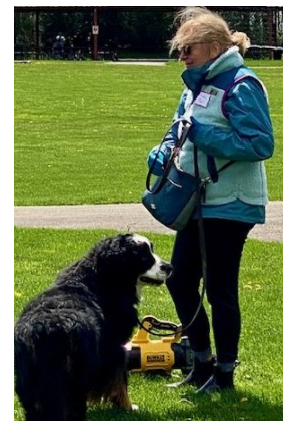
Perform a one minute Supervised Separation



Jump on Hay Bale



Approach Livestock on loose leash



Dog's Reaction to Noisy Leafblower



Check Out our Farm Dogs!







Draft Workshop at the Artuso's (5/18/24)



All of our Berners in attendance were Beginners, so Julia Airgood gave an overview on types of equipment (harnesses, carts, and practice equipment) for those interested in learning to Draft. She and Remi demonstrated the types of obedience commands necessary to begin Drafting. Participants were able to size their Berners for a harness, try the individual pieces of practice equipment and attempt to hook their dogs up to a cart. It was a bit of a crash course, but it gave the owners and their dogs lots to practice on prior to the next Draft practice.

Drafting is such a fun activity to try with your Berner. Some Berners take to it very quickly ... while others need to work for some time to gain the skills and confidence to pull a cart.



We had some very quick learners! In just one workshop ... three of our Berner Sennenhundes actually pulled the farmer's milk cans to the cheese factory. Just kidding ... but the Berners pictured above are actual Working Dogs in the Berner Oberland in Switzerland.



Beginner's Draft Workshop





Our Berners and their Owners Worked So Hard





As Draft Practice Came to an End ...



Welcome to Elaine, Denny and Cali - First Outing after Rescue!



Dolce ... our "Wanna Be" Draft Dog



Lexi and Remi teaching Dolce that Berners need to learn patience and also to smile at the camera!



TRBMDC Invites YOU to Harrison Hills Park

***(Rachel Carson Pavilion)
June 8, 2024 - 1:00 p.m.***

Visitors and their Berners Welcome!



TRBMDC June 8th Meeting, Geriatric Berner Discussion, Covered Dish and Dog Walk

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1:00 p.m. | TRBMDC June Meeting followed by Covered Dish |
| 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Geriatric Berner Discussion |
| 3:00 p.m. | Group Photo followed by Dog Walk on Trails or Dog Park |

Harrison Hills Park is an Allegheny County Park located at 5200 Freeport Road, Natrona Heights, PA 15065. The shelter is "Rachel Carson".

You'll find 14 beautiful miles of blazed trails in Harrison Hills Park, where everyone – from birdwatchers to dog walkers, hikers to horseback riders – all feel at home. The 500-acre park, in northern Allegheny County, abounds with woods, waterfalls and a spectacular overlook view of the Allegheny River. The Environmental Learning Center provides rich educational opportunities, including nature talks and walks. There are two dog parks - one for small and one for large dogs.

**RSVP to Donna Millburn at Dmillb@comcast.net, no later than June 3
Please plan on bringing a favorite covered dish - However, there is NO electric in the pavilion for heating food.**



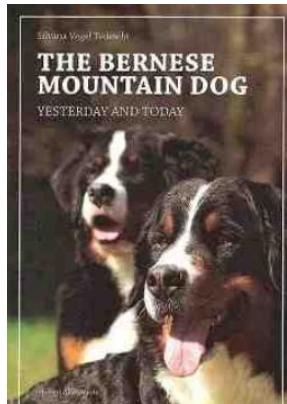
TRBMDC 2024 Rescue Gift Bonanza and Fundraiser

Joye Neff, one of our TRBMDC Board of Directors, has volunteered to lead the 2024 Rescue Gift Bonanza. In addition, she is also coordinating a Fundraiser for TRMDC's Rescue Fund. All of you, (Members and Prospective Members), should have received a copy of her Rescue Raffle and Fundraiser announcement via email with photos within the last week. (A duplicate copy will also be provided in this email.)



2024 RESCUE GIFT BONANZA

Joye has collected 25 donated Berner gifts and is giving each of you 100 FREE Tickets!! Yep - you heard right, 100 FREE Tickets. All you have to do is provide Joye with the item numbers and number of tickets for your desired items. Joye's email address is joye.neff@gmail.com. She will put tickets in the envelopes for your requested items. Then, just sit back and wait until the drawing on Monday, June 10 (noon). Shown below are just a few of the items being raffled.



2024 TRBMDC RESCUE FUNDRAISER

The TRBMDC Rescue Fund is dangerously low. If we need to help a "Berner in Need", we might not have enough money to truly help. You can make a difference by making a donation by one of the following three ways:



1. Mail a check payable to TRBMDC (Write Rescue Fund in the memo line and mail to Joye Neff, 108 Minnock Drive, Mars, PA 16046
2. Send your donation via Venmo at: @JoyeM-Neff
3. Send your donation via Paypal at: Joye Neff

PLEASE help the Rescue Fund! Thanks a million for your generosity! Joye M. Neff



A “New” Forever Home for Leisel

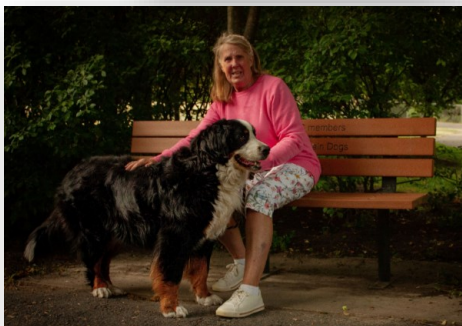
It warms my heart to share this story with all of you. Of course, many of you have fond memories of Bev and Ken Cechman throughout the years with our Club. John and I visited them and their three Berners nearly thirty years ago to get familiar with the breed. Needless to say ... that’s what started our love of the breed. When Bev passed in July, 2021 and then Ken in March of 2023, they still had one Berner, Leisel. Bev had gotten Leisel from a breeder in Poland. Bev’s Dad decided to move out of his family home and into Bev and Ken’s home to keep Leisel in her familiar surroundings and care for her. This was the perfect scenario ... until he eventually needed additional care for himself.

Bev’s sister, Sandi, approached me to ask if anyone from the Club would foster and potentially adopt Leisel, a very sweet nine year old. That’s when I remembered that Cathy Barth had approached me after Ken passed and offered to take Leisel and love her in her senior years. We are all blessed by the friendships that we have developed in our Club throughout the years. In fact, several other members later made the same offer. Following Sandi’s request, I called Cathy and ended up first speaking with Jim. Both of them have been grieving the loss of their last Berner, Bosco, who recently passed, so I wasn’t sure if they were ready. Jim said that it might be the perfect time to help Cathy through her grieving process. When Cathy called back, she said, “Yes, of course!”

Bev and Ken would be so happy to know that Leisel is with Cathy and Jim. Leisel is getting along fine with their other two dogs ... and their cat (who thinks it is a dog) has bonded with Leisel too! Sandi has made it official; and Leisel has found her new forever home. We all hope to see Jim, Cathy and Leisel soon at a Club event.
(written by Donna Millburn)



Cathy and Jim with Leisel, the newest addition to their family



Leisel and Sandi at the TRBMDC memorial bench in Monroeville Park



Berner Brags - The Achievements Keep Coming!



Congrats to Roxey (and her owner, Marty Sutton), who passed the Therapy Dog United Test in April. We are so proud of both of you! Her little furfriend, Maple (on the wheelchair) also passed!.

The Airgoods rocked it at the National Specialty!

Margo (3) is now a Bernese triathlete. She qualified in different events - Rally, Obedience and Agility. She qualified in five of her seven events.

And Remi (7.4) qualified in Rally Choice and earned a second place. Then, she qualified in Rally Masters. Plus, Wayne showed her in the Veterans Parade!



Happy Birthday to Scarlet and Quest!



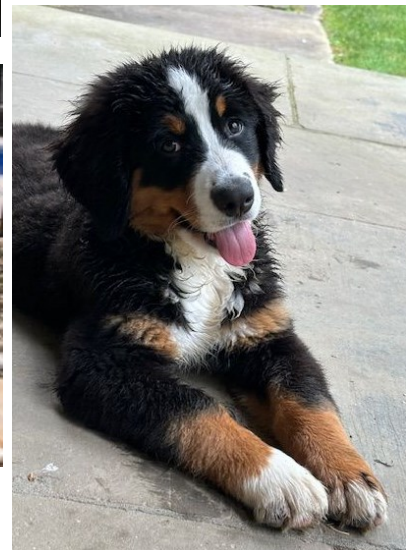
Scarlet (Albert) - 9 years old on 6/11



Quest (Lough) - 1 year old on 5/15



Caught in the Act of Just Being Cute!





Caught in the Act of Just Being Cute!





TRBMDC 2024 Calendar

*See you on Saturday,
June 8 - starting at
1:00 p.m. at Harrison
Hills Park - Rachel
Carson Pavilion!*

Meeting dates are held every other month. Programs are held on the off months.

TRBMDC 2024 Calendar:

February 18 (Sunday, 1:00 p.m.)	Meeting & Winter Dog Walk Hartwood Acres Park – Meet at 4100 Middle Rd, Alison Park, PA 15101
March 14 (Thursday, 6:30 p.m.)	(Program) Agility Demo/Workshop (Indoors) Splash ‘n Dash K9 Sports 1901 Sheena Dr. Pgh., PA 15239 (Plum)
April 13 (Saturday, 1:00 p.m.)	Meeting & Farm Dog Practice Monroeville Park West (Pav. 1), 2399 Tillbrook Rd. Monroeville, PA 15146
May 18 (Saturday, 2:00 p.m.)	(Program) Drafting Practice at Artuso’s Farm 2231 Brinkerton Rd, Greensburg, PA 15601
June 8 (Saturday, 1:00 p.m.)	Meeting, Geriatric Berner Discussion - Harrison Hills Park (Rachel Carson) 5200 Freeport Rd., Natrona Heights, PA 15065
July 14 (Sunday, 1 - 4:00 p.m.)	(Program) Dog’s Day at the Greenhouse Winery (closes at 4:00 p.m.) Greenhouse Winery 2155 Gracin Ln. Irwin, PA 15642
August 17 (Saturday, 2:00 p.m.)	Meeting & Summer Picnic – Hosted by the Dale & Mary Sparks 1361 State Rd. 168, Georgetown, PA 15043
September 21 (Saturday, 1:00 p.m.)	(Program) Dr. Bert Klei - Berner-Garde (Location – TBD)
October 5 (Saturday, 1:00 p.m.)	Meeting & Rally Demonstration Twin Lakes Park (Pavilion 4), 219 Twin Lakes Rd, Latrobe, PA 15650
December 1 (Sunday, 1:00 p.m.)	Annual Meeting & Holiday Party (Sorry - no dogs permitted) DeNunzio’s Italian Trattoria - 2644 Mosside Blvd. Monroeville,, PA 15146

TRBMDC Web-site (Denise Reardon)

Our Club’s website is <https://www.threeriversbernesemountaindogclub.org>

Facebook (Amy Lindenfelder)

The TRBMDC Facebook name is “Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club”. If you would like to post something on Facebook , email your write up with pictures and attachments to threeriversbernesemtn@gmail.com.

Instagram (Amy Lindenfelder)

The Club’s Instagram name is “trbmdc”. Since it is the Club’s site, please send pictures and/or videos in a text message to Amy Lindenfelder at 617-462-3655.

Thanks to our contributors: Julia Airgood, Karen Artuso, Cathy Barth & Jim Meyer, Joye Neff, Donna Millburn (Incline Editor), the TRBMDC Board of Directors, and our wonderful Club photographers.