



Jan - Feb 2025

# TRBMDC Incline

Official Newsletter of the Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club

## Special Points of Interest:

- A Note from our President
- A Tribute to the Love of My Life
- 10/05/24 Meeting Minutes
- TRBMDC Meeting and Rally Obedience Demo
- 12/07/24 Meeting Minutes
- Holiday Party Memories
- 2/15/25 Hartwood Acres
- 2025 Officers & Board Members
- Kudos to Joye Neff!
- TRBMDC Rescue Corner
- Belated Berner Birthdays
- Rainbow Bridge
- BMDCA 2025 National Specialty
- Our Berners Enjoying the Holidays and the Snow

## 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

*Happy New Year! I hope everyone has been enjoying this beautiful, snowy weather we have been having! I know our dogs are!*

*I am so glad that I now have both Poco and Dolce's information in the Berner-Garde database. I'm not the most knowledgeable person with computers, but Bert Klei's step by step directions were easy to follow. I am so grateful that there is a website to collect data for our pups; and it is helping the researchers work on diagnosing causes and potential cures for cancer in our breed. If you haven't yet added your Berner(s) to the website, please do. They want information on any of our Berners, those we got from a breeder and also those we got from rescue. Let me know if you are like me and want the step-by-step directions provided by Bert.*

*We had a nice time at Twin Lakes in October on one of our spectacular fall days! We had a brief meeting and then Julia discussed Rally and had a complete AKC course set up for us to try. The course Julia set up could be used as a virtual AKC test. You could video tape you and your dog doing the test course and send the tape into the AKC. A Rally judge would let you know if you qualified and got your first leg towards your Novice Rally title. Dolce was way more interested in playing with Etta, the Klei's new puppy, than performing on the course. I would love to someday work on Rally Obedience with her, but it became painfully obvious that is in our future! Julia did a great job demonstrating how it's done with Remi and Margo. They are real pros!*

*We had our Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and were happy to take some time out of the busy holiday season to sit down with our friends. The party was at DeNunzio's in Monroeville. We were sorry to change the date, since several people had made other plans. You were missed! We had a fun time and raised \$180 for rescue.*

*We are looking forward to our Dog Walk at Hartwood Acres on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, the snow will be gone by then. I better not let Dolce hear me say that or I will certainly get into trouble!*

*Karen Artuso, President*





***A Tribute to the Love of My Life***  
***John J. Millburn***  
***(May 12, 1957 – November 18, 2024)***

*It is with an extremely, lonely heart that I write this tribute to my husband, John J. Millburn.*

*Many of you are aware of John's passing on November 18, 2024 following a long, courageous battle with Esophageal Cancer. John was private about his health issues and chose not to share them openly, so I respected his wishes. Of course, keeping secrets is not one of my better attributes. So, I wanted to take this opportunity to share more about the man that I loved and still do.*

*John was a devoted husband, father, son, Pappy (to Madisyn, his pride and joy), brother and a friend to many of you in Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club. John and I were married 44 years ago at Heinz Chapel in Oakland. He was a hero to many after serving as a Police Officer, Firearms Instructor and DARE Officer for 43 years. John took great pride in "Protecting and Serving" our community and even more so ... his family and friends. He had a firm, but gentle way, of treating those around him. I never heard anyone saying anything but loving comments about John ... except for maybe a few that he arrested!*

*John loved kids, which made him a perfect Baseball and Soccer Coach, Fox Chapel Baseball Booster President, DARE Officer, Father and Grandfather. He had a special rapport with children. He loved to tease them and enjoyed it more when they teased him back ... but they all loved and respected him.*

*Although John did not have pets growing up ... that came to a quick end when we first met. Apparently his love for animals must have been bottled up inside of him for all those years! I remember showing up at John's front door with Luke, my German Shepherd. His Mom's face was fearful, but I turned her into a dog lover too! Then ... there were two rabbits, a tree frog, Riley and Pecker (our ducks), Magnum the German Shepherd and ... then came the Berners! John loved to tell stories about all of them. When we first visited Bev and Ken to meet the breed John said, "I love the Breed, but who in the hell would have three!" Well several years later, we did! Over the course of the last 30 years, we have had nine Berners and one foster. John loved all of our Berners and even more so the lasting friendships that we developed over the years in TRBMDC. To name a few ... our trip to Switzerland for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Swiss Club, attending multiple National BMDCA Specialties, Chief Hotdog Chef at our TRBMDC Specialties, fall retreats at Oglebay and the list goes on and on.*

*One of John's final requests was that any memorial donations, in his memory, be sent to TRBMDC Rescue. I am overwhelmed and proud to say that TRBMDC has received \$2,190 to date in memory of John. Thanks to many of you for your generosity.*

*John ... it is incredibly difficult without you by my side. You were my rock; and I love you and will miss you forever. The TRBMDC memorial bench (in Monroeville Park) now has a new member to honor.*

*Love, Donna and Rayne*



## Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club Meeting Minutes

**Location:** Twin Lakes Park, Greensburg, PA

**Date:** Saturday, October 5, 2024

The following TRBMDC Members, Visitors (and Berners) were in attendance: Julia Airgood (Remi/Margo), Karen Artuso (Dolce), Denny/Elaine Hester (Cali), Bert/Linda Klei (Enzo/Etta), Donna Millburn (Rayne), Mary/Dale Sparks (Jackson), and visitors, Jessica Cochran (Ripley) and Bruce Lanke /Julie Young (Maddie).

**Report of the President:** President, Karen Artuso Karen asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the 8/17/24 TRBMDC meeting as printed in the Sept/Oct. 2024 Incline. Mary Sparks motioned to accept and Linda Klei seconded.

Karen thanked Bert Klei for giving the Berner Garde presentation in September. She also extended her thanks in advance to Julia Airgood for her program on Rally Obedience to be given today.

The Club raised \$190 in August at the Summer Picnic for the National BMDC Rescue Network. At today's meeting, the Club is selling tickets for a Halloween themed basket. In addition, Julia is selling ticket on a handmade Holiday ornament (made by Julia Airgood) that will be personalized to look like your Berner! The tickets will be sold both today and at the Holiday party.

Karen announced that the BMDCA National Specialty will be held in Gettysburg, PA (April 27 – May 3). The Finger Lakes BMD Club has requested that TRBMDC join them to help manning the Specialty Raffle. Our job is to help accept the raffle baskets, take orders and count tickets, communicate ticket sales to the person on the register, pass cash/check/credit cards to the person working the register, encourage people to buy tickets, and assist in handing out the raffle items and baskets after the winners have been identified on Friday afternoon. The National Specialty is such a fun experience, so please mark your calendars and plan to help at the raffle. The BMDCA will be communicating when the host hotel and other venues will be open for registration. The hotels fill quickly, so watch for the notification.

The date for the annual TRBMDC Holiday Party has been changed to Saturday, December 7 (1:00 p.m.). We realized that the original date was over the Thanksgiving weekend, plus there was a Steelers game on that date. Therefore, we needed to change the date. Luckily, DeNunzio's was still available. Stay tuned for more information on the details of the Holiday Party via email.

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

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY / ELECTIONS / MEMBERSHIP:** Secretary, Amy Lindenfelder No report

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER:** Treasurer, Ralph Artuso – July 31, 2024 Report 2024

Checking Account Balance on July 31, 2024 - \$3,331.93 and on September 30, 2024 was \$2501.93.

Club insurance and misc. expenses were paid in September.

Health / Rescue Account Balance on July 31, 2024 - \$ 2298.59 and on September 30, 2024 - \$2680.59.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**MEMBERSHIP:** We have an application for Scot and Barbara Gordon; however, we will wait until Barbara has had a chance to meet members at an upcoming event prior to voting on their membership.

We are also happy to report that we have an application for membership from Bruce Lanke/Julie Young. They have attended two events and can be voted on at the Holiday Party meeting.

**AKC CORRESPONDENCE:** Karen Artuso No Report

**PASSIVE RESCUE:** Julia Airgood As always, TRBMDC has been contacted on several dogs that we are attempting to help place in loving homes.

**REGIONAL CLUB COUNCIL:** Joye Neff No Report



MEETING MINUTES FROM SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024 (CONTINUED)

**PERFORMANCE EVENTS:** No Report

**TRBMDC WEBSITE:** Denise Reardon – No Report

**FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM:** Amy Lindenfelder – Watch for photos from today's Rally Obedience Program and Meeting.

**NEWSLETTER (TRBMDC INCLINE):** Donna Millburn

Please forward your favorite .jpg photos from today's meeting to Donna Millburn at [Dmillb@comcast.net](mailto: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

**AWARDS:** Julia Airgood – Stayed tuned for information on the Awards Celebration planned during the Holiday meeting. If you and your Berner have earned any awards/certifications in 2024, you will want to pay particular attention. Your information will be needed to be formally recognized at the Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony.

**SUNSHINE:** Gwen Geis – No Report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** No Report

**NEW BUSINESS :** We would like to welcome our visitor, Jessica Cochram, to today's meeting. Her wonderful Berner is "Ripley". Jessica shared her story of her new Berner boy.

**NEXT EVENT / MEETING:**

\*\* New Date for December Meeting and Holiday Party - Saturday, December 7 (1:00) at DeNunzio's in Monroeville, PA. Sorry no dogs permitted. However, doggie bags encouraged.

**BERNER BRAGS:**

Julia Airgood – Congrats to Margo who earned a first place in Rally Choice, and Master Rally.

Karen Artuso – Congrats to Dolce, who earned her AKC STAR Puppy Certificate!

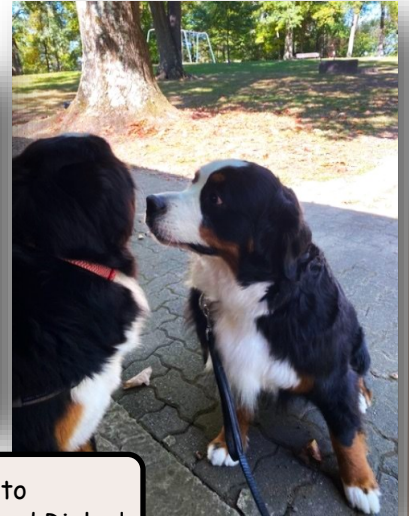
**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made to adjourn by Mary Sparks and seconded by Donna Millburn.

*Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Amy Lindenfelder*



# Meeting and Greeting at Twin Lakes Park



Welcome to Jessica Cochran and Ripley!

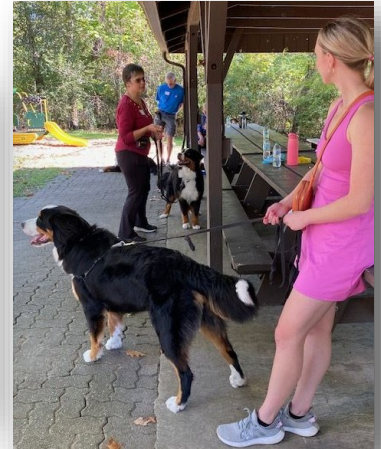


So glad to meet you, Eтта!  
You are so darn cute.





# Meeting at Twin Lakes Park

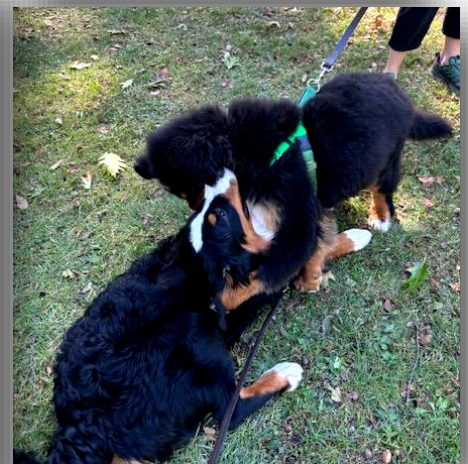




## Berner Friends are the Best!

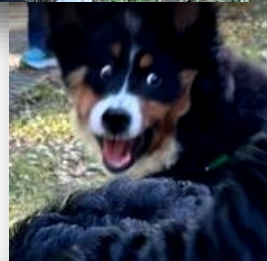


Wow ... everyone is looking at the camera!





# Berner Friends are the Best!







# Now Time to Learn about Rally Obedience!



At least Rayne had the SIT command down!





## Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club Meeting Minutes

Location: DeNunzio's Holiday Party

Date: December 7, 2024

The following TRBMDC Members, Visitors (and Berners) were in attendance: Wayne/Julia Airgood, Karen Artuso, Bert/Linda Klei, Randy/Gigi Lough, John/Marty Sutton, Bruce Lanke/Julie Young, Donna Millburn and Bill/Donna Stayduhar.

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT:** President, Karen Artuso

We are so glad to see everyone today. We are all very sad at the passing of John Millburn. Donna, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. We are so very sorry for your loss.

We have a special raffle today, Julia will make a replica of your Berner to hang on your tree. Today, we also have a raffle basket that everyone gets to put a ticket in, no charge! And lastly, we are raffling a huge, stuffed Berner. Good Luck to everyone.

2024 Awards will be presented to members, who have earned certificate and awards on their Berners this year.

After our Holiday luncheon, we will do our gift exchange as we eat our desserts. You will be given a number and will be called to pick the gift of your choice.

### **REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT:** Vice President, Donna Millburn

I would thank many of our Club members who have been so supportive over the past few weeks by sending cards and making generous donations to our Club's Rescue ... in memory of John. Contributions to date have reached \$1825. It was John's request to make our TRBMDC Rescue his charity of choice. Thanks to all of our TRBMDC friends. I sincerely appreciate all of the support from my Berner friends during this difficult time.

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY / ELECTIONS / MEMBERSHIP:** Secretary, Amy Lindenfelder (absent) / Donna Millburn to conduct the election)

Today, we will be voting on Julie Young/Bruce Lanke for membership. We first met, Julie, Bruce and Maddie at the Summer Picnic (August 17) at the Sparks house. They live in Bethel Park and actually met Joye Neff, who supposedly told them about the Club a while ago. Bruce and Julie got their first Berner, Maddie, in January 2024. They are interested in socialization for Maddie and can't wait to learn more about the wonderful breed. In addition, they have had various other breeds as rescues and currently own a rescue PIG! They are very interested in obedience, health, agility and therapy work with Maddie.

The Club unanimously voted to accept Bruce and Julie into membership of TRBMDC. Welcome to the Club!

### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER:** Treasurer, Ralph Artuso

11/29/24 Checking Account Balance \$2443.70

11/29/24 Rescue Account Balance \$2650.59

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****AKC CORRESPONDENCE:** KAREN ARTUSO No report**PASSIVE RESCUE:** JULIA AIRGOOD

Julia shared that she and Donna Millburn visited a rescue named Izzy at Animal Protectors of Allegheny Valley. Izzy was turned over by her owners after she had to have her third operation to remove a foreign object from her digestive tract. Izzy was a wonderful girl and seemed to respond well to training. However, it was going to be a challenge to place due to her desire to eat everything ... regardless if it was edible or not. It was reported that Izzy is safe at the shelter; however, her adoption fee was high to help cover the surgery that Animal Protectors paid for. The high fee and impulsive eating habits are making her difficult to place. We attempted to convince the shelter to allow the National Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue to intervene to assist in the adoption. Animal Protectors has been slow to respond, but TRBMDC will continue to follow Izzy and offer help.

In addition, Benjamin Buttons, is a male rescue with a deformity in his back causing incontinence. His tail will be docked in January to keep him cleaner. Tails of Hope is the rescue; and they have been communicating with Julia. The National Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue is now on the case to help find an appropriate owner. Benjamin will also be a difficult Berner to place due to his special needs.

A third rescue, a 6-1/2 yr. old female in the Pittsburgh area is also in need of transportation help on 12/14. She needs a ride from Breezewood to Cleveland. If interested, please advise.

**REGIONAL CLUB COUNCIL:** JOYE NEFF No update

Julia and Karen reported that Joye Neff is currently running an on-line fundraiser to support Berner Health. Free tickets are available and your donations would be appreciated. The drawing is December 11, 2024.

**PERFORMANCE EVENTS:** No report**TRBMDC WEBSITE:** DENISE REARDON No report**FACEBOOK:** AMY LINDENFELDER No report**NEWSLETTER (TRBMDC INCLINE):** DONNA MILLBURN

Please forward your favorite .jpg photos from the holidays to Donna Millburn at [Dmillb@comcast.net](mailto: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 No report**AWARDS:** JULIA AIRGOOD

(See photos and highlights of 2024 awards in the Incline.)

**SUNSHINE:** GWEN GEIS No report**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** No report**NEW BUSINESS:** No report**NEXT EVENT / MEETING:** Stay tuned for details and date of February Hartwood Dog Walk.**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Linda Klei and seconded by Bill Stayduhar to adjourn the meeting. Now on with the Holiday Gift Exchange and dessert!



TRBMDC Holiday Party at DeNunzio's





*Congrats*



Julia and Wayne Airgood

**"Margo"**

**Oleka's Zoom Flying High at Hartwood**

- AJP - Agility Open Jumpers Preferred
- OFP - Agility Open Fast Preferred
- RA - Rally Advanced
- XFP - Agility Excellent Preferred
- RE - Rally Excellent
- BMDCA - Active Dog Award
- Triathlete Award - National Bernese
- Mt. Dog Club Specialty



Marty and John Sutton

**"Roxey"**

**Wild Wood Roses's Sassy Roxey**

- CGC - Canine Good Citizen (2023)
- ATT - AKC Temperament test title
- TDC - Therapy Dog United, Inc.



Linda and Bert Klei

**"Enzo"**

**Thorncreeks Vincitore**

- AKC - Star Puppy
- CGC - Canine Good Citizen

**"Etta James"**

**Thorncreeks At Last**

- AKC - Star Puppy



Karen and Ralph Artuso

**"Dolce"**

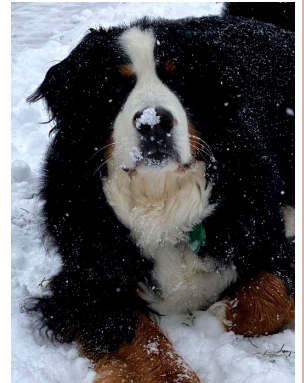
**Swiss Charm Dolce Ragazza**

- AKC Star Puppy



## ***Looking for Something Fun to Do?***

**Join TRBMDC for a Winter Dog Walk  
at Hartwood Acres Park  
(Saturday, February 15th - 1:00 p.m.)**



- What:** TRBMDC February Meeting and Winter Dog Walk  
Starts with a brief meeting and group photo at Central Elementary School (located right beside Hartwood Acres on Middle Road)  
Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. A Winter Dog Walk will follow in beautiful Hartwood Acres Park.
- When:** Saturday, February 15 (Starting at 1:00 p.m.)
- Where:** Meet at the Parking Lot of Central Elementary School located at GPS Location - 4100 Middle Road, Allison Park, PA 15101 (right beside Hartwood parking lot on Middle Road)
- Who:** All TRBMDC Members, Visiting Berner Lovers, and Berners invited!
- Why:** To enjoy a great, winter outing with your friends and Berners!

### ***Bundle Up and Join the Fun!***

Hartwood Acres is an Allegheny County Park and sits on 629 acres in Hampton and Indiana Townships. The park features amenities including the Lawrence Mansion, an off-leash dog area, an outdoor free-concert venue, cross-country skiing, walking, hiking, biking and horse riding trails. It's the perfect location for a Winter Berner Dog Walk. The main trail is paved; however, there are numerous wooded trails, plus the fenced-in, off leash dog park ... just in case anyone would like to venture off to it.





## TRBMDC Officers/Board Members

You might be wondering why we did not elect a Nominating Committee this fall? It's because all of our TRBMDC Officers and Board Members accepted the first year of their first or the first of their second term effective 1/1/2024. Therefore, we did not have any positions open as of January 1, 2025. Therefore ... a Nominating Committee was not required.

The following TRBMDC Officers and Board Directors will be continuing their respective terms into next year.

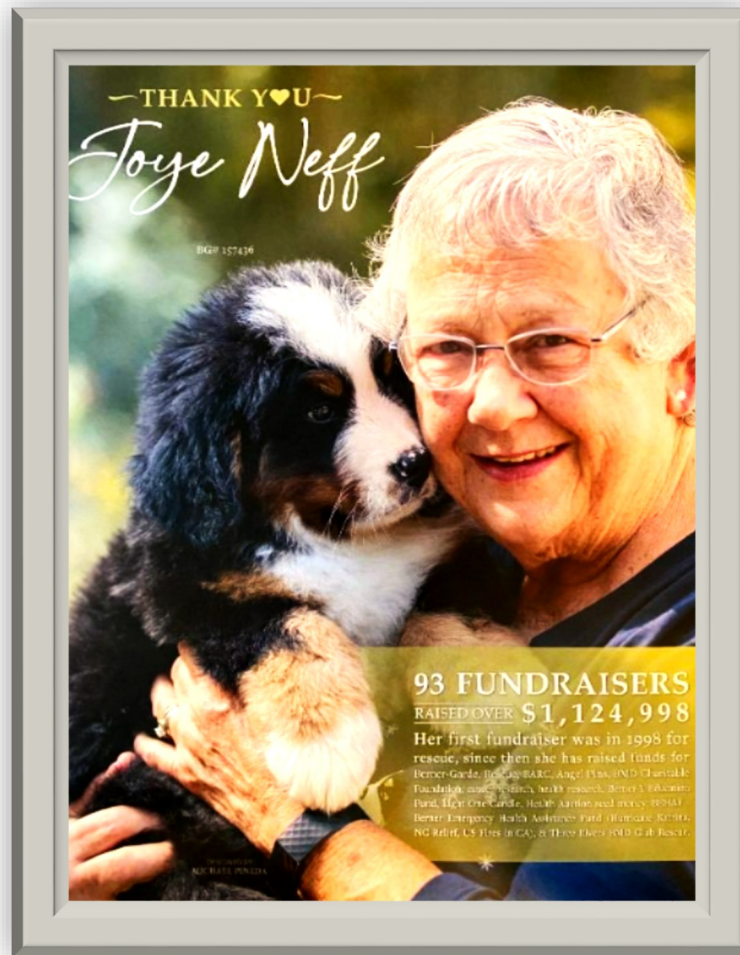
<b>President:</b>	<b>Karen Artuso</b>	(position will be open 1/1/26)
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Donna Millburn</b>	(position will be open 1/1/26)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Ralph Artuso</b>	(eligible for second term 1/1/26)
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Amy Lindenfelder</b>	(eligible for second term 1/1/26)
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	<b>Denise Reardon</b>	(eligible for second term 1/1/26)
	<b>Joye Neff</b>	(eligible for second term 1/1/26)
	<b>Dr. Bert Klei</b>	(eligible for second term 1/1/26)
	<b>Mary Sparks</b>	(position will be open 1/1/26)
	<b>Cathy Barth</b>	(position will be open 1/1/26)

This means that our Club will have an important task in front of us this time next year! At the December 2025 Annual Meeting, the President, Vice President, and two Board Members will need to be elected. In addition, the Treasurer, Secretary and three Board Directors are up for election to their second term. According to our By-Laws, Club Officers and Board Directors are only permitted to hold the same office for two elected terms. If anyone is interested in being an understudy for an upcoming position, it would be a great way to learn the position this year without the responsibility. If interested, contact Karen Artuso at ar2so@zoominternet.net.

It's important that we all do a little sole-searching to see how we can help TRBMDC in the coming years. Sounds like a great New Year's resolution ... to become more involved! Sometimes it takes a village (or a pack) to plan fun activities that we can enjoy with our Berners. Please consider being a part of the pack!



## TRBMDC Brags



The above photo and write-up honoring TRBMDC Club Member, Joye Neff, appeared as the back cover of The Alpenhorn in the Fall 2024 issue. For those of you who are not familiar with The Alpenhorn, it is the quarterly, official publication of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA).

Joye was deservedly honored for her relentless efforts in fundraising. As noted, she has held 93 Fundraisers and raised a total of \$1,124,998 for various non-profit Bernese Mountain Dog organizations. She first started her fundraising efforts in 1998 for rescue. Throughout the years, Joye has organized fundraisers for Berner-Garde, Rescue, BARC, Angel Pins, BMD Charitable Foundation, cancer research, health research, Berner-L Education Fund, Light One Candle, Health Auction seed money, BEHAF Berner Emergency Health Assistance Fund (Hurricane Katrina, NC Relief, US Fires in CA), and our very own Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue.

Joye is currently a TRBMDC Board Member and our Regional Club Council Representative. Joye ... we are SO PROUD of your efforts!





## TRBMDC Rescue Corner



Thank you for your generosity to support our Rescue Fund. Because of it, we have been able to help two special needs Berners in shelters in our area with some of their costs.

Izzy was turned over to Animal Protectors of Allegheny County in New Kensington. Izzy required surgery for eating something than she should not have. Unfortunately, this was Izzy's third surgery for ingesting something that should not have been eaten. Thankfully, Izzy is no longer in the shelter and hopefully found her forever home.

Benjamin Buttons (shown above) is with Tails of Hope Animal Rescue in Harrison City. Benjamin has a congenital deformity of his lower spine. He was deemed unsellable by his breeders. So, he was going to be put down. However Vicki, owner of Tails of Hope, was picking up retired breeding mommas and noticed him. So he is being given a second chance at life. Tails of Hope spent a lot of money to identify his needs and try to give him the best quality of life. Benjamin is now ready for adoption; and the process has begun to place him. This special boy really needs a special home; and its possible that a home may have been found.

TRBMDC gave Animal Protectors and Tails of Hope \$250 each ... to help towards their costs incurred. This was possible thanks to your donations to the TRBMDC Rescue account through raffle sales and donations.

*Julia Airgood*

TRBMDC Rescue Chairperson



## “Belated” Birthday Hugs ... Playing Catch Up!



### Happy 8th Birthday to Remi!

Oleka's Que Up Rembrandt at Hartwood

DOB: November 27, 2016

Berner-Garde #138846

Julia & Wayne Airgood



### Happy 7th Birthday to Rubee!

Radiant Rubee

DOB: September 1, 2017

Gwen & George Geis



### Happy 4th Birthday to Margo!

Oleka's Zoom Flying High at Hartwood

DOB: December 2, 2020

Berner-Garde #190438

Julia & Wayne Airgood



## “Belated” Birthday Hugs ... Playing Catch Up!



### Happy 4th Birthday to Tonka!

Brunage Grand Yukon

DOB: 11/2/2020

Berner-Garde #190604

Megan Thomas



### Happy 2nd Birthday to Rayne!

Cedar Creek's Fire and Rayne

DOB: November 12, 2022

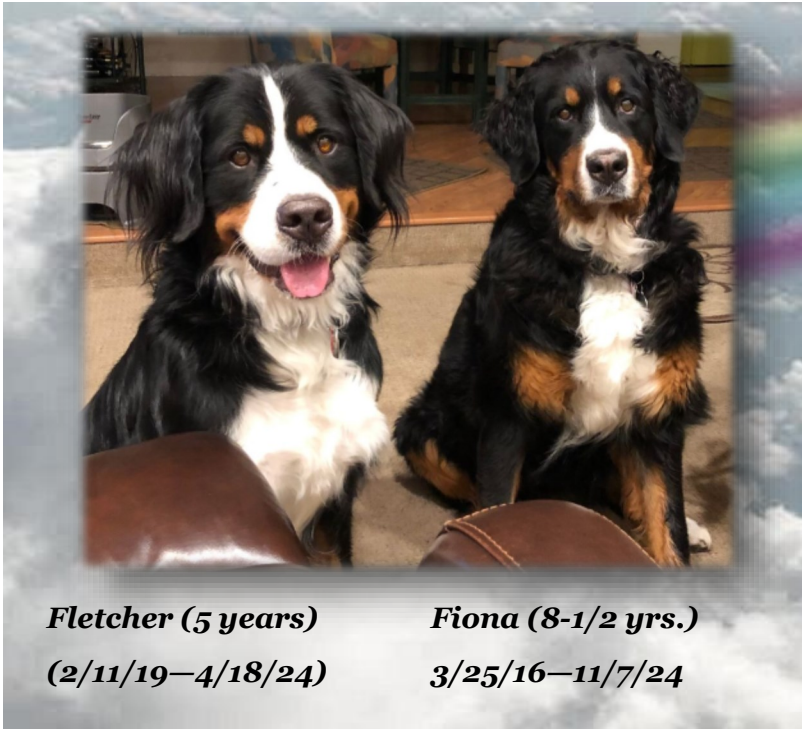
Berner-Garde #213269

Donna Millburn

*TRBMDC Members: Don't forget to let us know if we have missed your Berner's Birthday. There is a good chance the he/she is not in our birthday spreadsheet. Please send an email to myself at [Dmillb@comcast.net](mailto:Dmillb@comcast.net) advising his/her Call Name, Registered Name, DOB, Owner's name and Berner-Garde Number.*



## Crossing the Rainbow Bridge



**Fletcher (5 years)**

**(2/11/19—4/18/24)**

**Fiona (8-1/2 yrs.)**

**3/25/16—11/7/24**

*Fletcher and Fiona were two very special Berners that Lynn and Jeff Rosenthal adopted with the assistance of Julia Airgood. They both were so blessed to have had such a loving family.*

*Unfortunately, both Fletcher and Fiona succumbed to dreaded types of cancer. Lynn and Jeff did everything they possibly could have done for both of them. Fletcher had Histio and Fiona had two types of cancer. They were so loved and are so missed!*

*It was so difficult losing both of them in 2024.*

*Lynn and Jeff Rosenthal*



**Tank (8 yrs.)**

**(7/9/2016 - 11/15/2024)**

*Tank was special. He was so full of love. Tank was perfect. The pain of missing him is unbearable. Missing those big eyes staring at me to get up in the morning. Missing him waiting for me to get ready for work (he knew there was a hard boiled egg to be shared before I left). Missing that bark of excitement when he knew he was going somewhere ... anywhere. Tank had people to meet. We are missing watching Tank and Gabby together.*

*It really was love at first site. ❤️ They were inseparable. My heart breaks for Gabby.*

*We all miss you big guy. This doesn't seem real. ❤️ 🐾*

*Love,*

*Sue Stonick and Larry Heidenreich*



# BMDCA's 50th National Specialty April 27 - May 3, 2025 Gettysburg, PA

<https://www.bmdca.org/2025-specialty>

Make your  
reservations  
NOW!

**Host Clubs:**

- Zone 1 East Coast and South Regional Clubs:  
 Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Central Virginia  
 Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Hampton Roads  
 Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley  
 Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Watchung  
 Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Finger Lakes  
 Blue Ridge Bernese Mountain Dog Club  
 Chattahoochee Valley Bernese Mountain Dog Club  
 Mason Dixon Bernese Mountain Dog Club  
 Piedmont Bernese Mountain Dog Club of SC  
 Potomac Valley Bernese Mountain Dog Club  
**Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club**

**On-Site Hotel Accommodations :**

- The Eisenhower Hotel (only wait list available)**  
**The Aspire Hotel (no dogs - adjacent to the Eisenhower)**  
**Overflow Hotel: Country Inn and Suites**  
 Contact the Hotel/Lodging Liaison:  
 Alice Clark at [aliceann8@hotmail.com](mailto:aliceann8@hotmail.com) or  
 (907) 224-4160

Be a part of history and plan on attending the 50th Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America's National Specialty in Gettysburg, PA. Mark the dates into your calendar (April 27 - May 3, 2025) and if you haven't already, make your reservations now! All of the details are now available online on the web-site. The Planning booklet is on-line this year and easier than ever to register for any of the fantastic events planned for the week. Three Rivers BMDC volunteered to assist Finger Lakes with the National Specialty Raffle, so we are looking for helpers to volunteer a few hours at the Raffle. It takes a village to pull off such an elaborate show, events and activities. Please plan on being a part of our village. It will be an experience you will never forget!

You will have a chance to see our beautiful breed at their finest; and we are only 3-1/2 hours away. And while you are there for the Specialty, take some time to visit the Gettysburg battlefields and historic venues. The town of Gettysburg is so quaint; and there are lots of wonderful shops and restaurants, as well. A "Blast from the Past Gettysburg Specialties" is shared on Page 23 & 24. Just maybe, you will recognize a few members.

The Specialty will feature the events shown to the right, plus many more events including a Meet & Greet, Health Testing, Pee Wee Special Attraction, Veteran's Parade, Farm Dog, Testing, Mixers, Raffle, Dessert Bars, etc.! The Berner University will feature many educational panels and research overviews.

It will be a week packed full of fun for you and your Berners. So do not hesitate ... Get registered for a great time!

- Herding Trials
- Tracking Trials
- Agility Trails
- Draft Tests
- Futurity Conformation
- Veterans Conformation
- Obedience Trials
- Rally Obedience Trials
- Conformation & Best of Breed
- Jr. Handlers
- Scent Work
- Photo Contest
- Rescue Gallery
- Berner University
- Health Auction
- Awards & Judges Dinners



## 2025 INTERACTIVE EVENT SCHEDULE

(tentative)

### Schedule Notes & Additional Features

- Click on the underlined text to view detailed, printable information for each event/activity
- **All Star Expo Hall Hours:** 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Tues. - Fri.; Move-in Mon. 12-10 p.m. Sat Move-out by 6 p.m.
- **Berner-Garde:** Visit ringside booth to participate in a Cancer Study, Scavenger Hunt, W&M & other items. All Star Expo Hall all week.
- **Catalog Sales:** Sun. – Mon. @ Registration Eisenhower Hotel Lobby; Ringside Tues. – Sat. during show hours.
- **Ways & Means & Vendors:** Open during show hours All Star Expo Hall.
- **2025 Raffles:** Open during show hours All Star Expo Hall; closes at noon Friday.
- **Galleries:** [Photo Contest Winners](#), [Rescue Gallery](#) & [Titleholders Gallery:](#) All Star Expo Hall all week.

### Sunday April 27, 2025

- [BMDCA Board Meeting](#) – Aspire Hotel Technology Meeting room, 8:30 a.m.
- [AKC Herding Trials](#) – Keepstone Farms, Berryville, VA
- [AKC Tracking Tests](#) – Fair Hill NMRA, Fair Hill, MD
- **Registration** – Eisenhower Hotel Lobby, 2 – 8 p.m.

### Monday April 28, 2025

- **Registration** – Eisenhower Hotel Lobby, 8 a.m.
- [Vendor Move In](#) - All Star Expo Hall 7 a.m.
- [Grooming Move In](#) – All Star Expo Hall, begins at 12 p.m. Refreshments 1 – 5 p.m.
- [Agility Trial](#) – A Click Above, Leesburg, VA
- [Berner U](#) – Aspire Meeting Rooms, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
- [Draft Test #1](#) – Eisenhower Hotel Grounds
- [Reunion Happy Hour](#) – Tropical Courtyard, Eisenhower Hotel, 5 – 7 p.m.

### Tuesday April 29, 2025

- **Registration** – Moves to All Star Expo Hall (ringside) remainder of week
- [Berner U](#) – Aspire Meeting Rooms, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
- [Sweepstakes](#) – All Star Expo Hall
- [Draft Tests #2 and #3](#) – Eisenhower Hotel Grounds
- [Farm Dog](#) – All Star Events Complex Grounds
- [CGC & Trick Dog Tests](#) – All Star Lobby Office
- [Int'l Meet & Greet](#) – All Star Expo Hall 4:30 p.m.
- [50th Anniversary Kickoff Celebration](#) featuring the [Sires & Desires Showcase](#) – All Star Expo 5 -7 p.m.

### Wednesday April 30, 2025

- [Health Clinics](#) – All Star Lobby Office
- [Futurity](#) – All Star Expo Hall
- [Veteran Sweepstakes](#) – All Star Expo Hall
- [Versatility Showcase](#) – All Star Expo Hall
- [Obedience](#) – Eisenhower Hotel Grand Ballroom
- [Juniors Seminar and Pizza Social](#) - All Star Lobby Conference Room, during lunch break
- [Heart of Gold Mixer](#) – Eisenhower Tropical Courtyard 4 – 6 p.m.
- [Health Auction](#) – Aspire Hotel Grand Ballroom [Dessert Bar](#) (optional) 6:00 p.m.; Silent Auction 6:30 p.m.; Live Auction 7:30 p.m.

### Thursday May 1, 2025

- [International Guest Breed Standard Seminar with Ringside Mentoring - Concessions Room off Lobby, All Star Expo Hall](#)
- [4-6 Month \(Beginner Puppy\)](#) – All Star Expo Hall
- [Regular & Non-Regular Dog Conformation Classes](#) – All Star Expo Hall
- [Veterans Parade](#) – All Star Expo Hall, during lunch break
- [Team Obedience](#) – All Star Expo Hall, to follow Non-Regular Dog Classes
- [Rally Trial](#) – Eisenhower Hotel Grand Ballroom
- [Top 20 Judging](#) – Aspire Hotel Grand Ballroom
- [Golden Gala Gathering](#) – Eisenhower Tropical Courtyard, 5 – 7 p.m.
- [Top 20 Golden Gala](#) – Aspire Grand Ballroom, 7 p.m.
- [Junior Showmanship](#) – Top Twenty Intermission, The Aspire Hotel Grand Ballroom

### Friday May 2, 2025

- [AKC Judges Education with Ringside Mentoring](#) – All Star Expo Hall and Conference Room
- [Regular & Non-Regular Bitch Conformation Classes](#) – All Star Expo Hall
- [Pee Wee Special Attraction](#) – All Star Expo Hall, during lunch break
- [Draft Test #4](#) – Eisenhower Hotel Grounds
- [Scent Work Trial](#) – Eisenhower Hotel Grand Ballroom
- [BMDCA Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration](#) – Aspire Hotel Grand Ballroom, Cocktails 6 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.; Meeting and Awards 7:30 p.m.

### Saturday May 3, 2025

- [AKC Judges Education with Ringside Mentoring](#) – All Star Expo Hall
- [Best of Breed, NOHS, Best Puppy, Best Veteran, Best Bred-by Exhibitor](#) – All Star Expo Hall
- [Judges Dinner](#) – The Aspire Hotel Grand Ballroom, Doors Open 5:30 p.m.; Dinner 6:00 p.m.

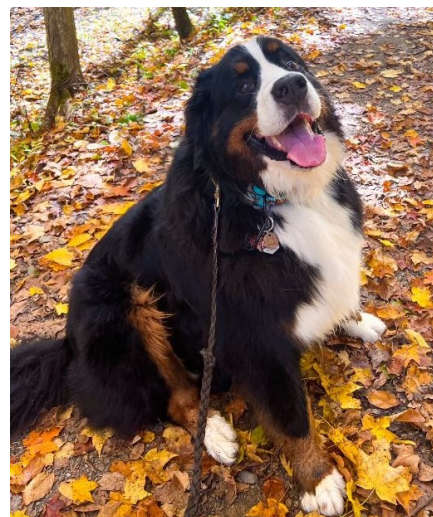








## Our Berners Enjoying the Good Life!





## Our Berners Enjoying the Good Life!

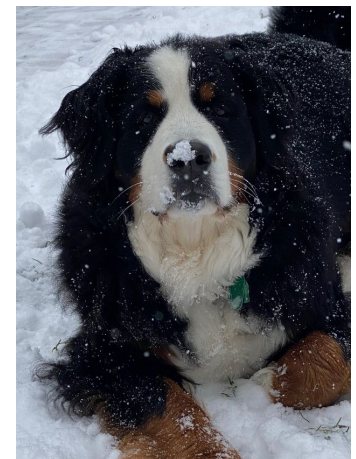




## Our Berners Enjoying the Good Life!



*Tank and Gabby - RIP dear Tank*





## TRBMDC 2025 Calendar

*See you at the  
Hartwood Acres  
Bernese Dog Walk on  
Saturday, Feb. 15  
at 1:00 p.m.*



Meetings are held every other month.  
Programs/activities are held on the alternate months.

### TRBMDC 2025 Calendar:

February 15 (Saturday, 1:00 p.m.) Meeting & Winter Dog Walk  
Hartwood Acres Park – Meet at 4100 Middle Rd, Alison Park, PA 15101

### Dates and Location of 2025 Meetings/Events to be announced after January 15th Board Meeting

<To be Updated in next Incline>

March

April

April BMDCA National Specialty (Gettysburg, PA)

May

June

July

August Annual Summer Picnic

September

October

November

December December Meeting & Holiday Party

### 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](mailto: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, Donna Millburn, the TRBMDC Board of Directors, and our wonderful Club photographers (Julia Airgood, Karen Artuso, Gwen Geis, Bert & Linda Klei, Kristi Lewis, Joye Neff, Sue Stonick, Megan Thomas and myself).