










Mountain Dog MESSENGER

— NEWSLETTER OF THE BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF THE ROCKIES —

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Lobbying for the Safekeeping of Our Breed

Because of the increase in popularity of the Bernese Mountain Dog and therefore the potential to increase income with their sale, the spotting of a BMD in both pet stores and at auctions has become common over the past several years. National and local organizations of dog fanciers, most recently the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, have expressed concern about the impact of these puppy mill practices on the health and quality of our specific breeds. In response to BMD owners and breed supporters, the BMDCA, in 2001, formed a lobby task force to assist in monitoring legislative activity related to puppy mill and dog breeding practices.

The mission statement for this task force reads:

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, in keeping with our objective of preserving the unique beauty and character of our breed and of promoting the best possible care and training for the individual dogs, has retained the services of a lobbyist in order to:

-Bring the issue of ill, underage and mistreated dogs at dog auctions to the appropriate government bodies. USDA, APHIS, Animal Care.

-Restrict the importation of the large supply of ill/underage dogs slated for auctions in the US.

-Raise awareness within government agencies of the lack of inspection/regulation of large numbers of imported dogs and the potential public health and safety issues involved.

-Ensure the regulation of puppy mills, brokers, pet shops, commercial breeders, and the mass raising and transporting of companion animals as livestock.

A Lobby Task Force has been formed to:

-Raise funds and secure donations to continue to retain the services of our lobbyist.

-Keep the membership updated on the status of activities the lobbyist is involved with, the data collected and contacts being made by him.

-Enlist the help of other dog groups and the sharing of resources and volunteers.

-Assist the lobbyist in communication with the BMDCA and allied groups, the public, the government and the media and research as requested.

The directives of our national club led to the hiring of lobbyist Dr. John Melcher. In the spring and summer of 2002, Dr. Melcher met with both the Director of Animal Care of the USDA and with Jim Continue on page 3.

Letter From the President

— Patti Morgan —

Hello everyone! I want to wish you all a Happy New Year, 2003; where did this past year go?

The club has a lot of club events planned for the upcoming year, and if anyone is interested in helping with any club events please contact me. We are always looking for more help.

Sharon Montville is still working on helping to get the club AKC accredited. We plan to have a Draft Clinic sometime in May; we are looking at May 15, 2003 for the date. Nancy Fuselier is working at getting our annual eye and heartworm clinic put together. We will hold our annual Berner Fiesta sometime this summer, and a campout that we plan to have at Christine Ohlsen also this summer. We will have a Regional Specialty this fall with a Draft test, and to follow in a few weeks we plan to have another Draft test.

Don't forget about the upcoming events in January; the Canine massage Seminar with Debbie Towndrow, and our annual awards banquet.

Patti Morgan



Officers

President
Patti Morgan
10180 Shoup Road
Black Forest, CO 80908
719-494-0148

Vice President
Nancy Fuselier
8610 Angewood Court
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
719-531-7366

Secretary
Sharon Montville
7516 Tudor Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
719-548-0978

Treasurer
Sara Karl
3106 Westwood Boulevard
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
719-534-9056

Club Chair Positions

Awards Banquet 2002
Patti Morgan 719-494-0148

Breeder Referral/Public Education
Phil Shaffer 3033-526-1365

Bylaws
Martha Rosner 303-586-5960

Courtesy
Dottie Schulte 970-392-1806

Draft Test Fall 2002
Chris Mann 303-443-2837
Sara Karl 719-534-9056

Events
Karen Baru 303-841-9312

Historian
Martha Rosner 720-565-1641

Hospitality
Ron Abbott 970-353-1939

Librarian
Chris Mann 303-443-2837

Directors

2002/2003
Rob Abbott
P.O. Box 230
Greeley, CO 80532
970-353-1939

MJ Berendes
P.O. Box 416
Winter Park, CO
970-726-5098

Jeanne Stanwood
672 N. Faver Drive
castle Rock, CO 80104
303-688-0436

2003/2004
Amy Gonzales
5150 Tanager Street
Brighton, CO 80201
720-685-0186

Toby Pitchford
2902 Downhill Drive
Colorado Springs, CO
719-548-9578

Membership
Stacy Temples 970-493-3714

Newsletter Editors
Dottie Schulte 970-392-1806
Nadja Torling 303-433-4879

Programs
VACANT

Regional Club Council Representative
Lou Tucker 303-791-4425

Rescue
Patti Morgan 719-494-0148
Nancy Fuselier 719-494-0148

Show News Reporter
Valerie Horney 303-367-5059

Regional Specialty 2002
Sara Karl 719-534-9056

Ways & Means
Patti Morgan 719-494-0148
Dottie Schulte 970-392-1806

— Any member is welcome to join in any of the above committees.
Just contact the respective chair and express your interest. —

Submit All Membership Applications To:

Stacy Temples
PO Box 2490
Ft. Collins, CO
80522-2490

BMDCR Breed Contact Information Line:

Karen Baru 303-841-9312

Continued from page 1.

Holt who is the lawyer and lobbyist for the American Kennel Club. Along with these two groups, Dr. Melcher will represent the BMDCA on canine related legislative issues, such as regulation of auctions that sell wholesale or retail puppies, licensure of puppy brokers, transport of animals on foreign and domestic airlines, inspection of animals arriving from foreign countries and monitoring information/complaints from the public to determine health of imported animals.

Protecting both the safety of our breed as well as other canines requires help and commitment from all dog fanciers. Dr. Melcher requests our help by identifying any members and supporters of the BMD that have strong relationships with federal lawmakers such as members of congress who have jurisdiction in our respective areas of the country. At this time, the AKC is not able to provide funding for our lobby efforts but will assist by working with us to support our individual club initiatives. Funding for the BMDCA lobby efforts must come from individual or regional club support.

Information about how you can help from both a financial as well as a time commitment standpoint can be accessed through these sources:

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Greater Seattle
<http://bmdcgs.org/lobby/default.htm>: members of this regional club has spearheaded the lobby effort for the BMDCA by assisting to hire Dr. Melcher, maintaining contact with him regarding the BMDCA board's legislative concerns and developing fundraising activities.

You can email the task force as well as send information to Dr. Melcher through this website. Check out their Lobby Store!

Light One Candle
<http://141.211.110.76/candle/lightonecandle.htm>: founded in 2001, it's purpose is to establish, through donations from individuals and organizations, a fund that can be used to fight auctions, puppy mills and careless breeding through public education and pressure on legislators.

Information regarding puppy mills and animal exploitation, as well as efforts from individual Bernese Mountain Dog owners and supporters can be accessed through:

Bernese Auction Rescue Coalition or BARC
<http://www.barcinc.com>: a not-for-profit corporation whose purpose is to rescue Bernese Mountain Dogs from dog brokers, dog auctions, commercial breeding establishments, pet shops, and any other dangerous, abusive or exploitative, cruel or inhumane situation or condition and to place them in qualified homes as spayed or neutered companion animals.

No Puppy Mills
www.nopuppymills.com: private website that provides information regarding commercial breeding, state and federal laws pertaining to dog breeding, list of laws and websites pertaining to dogs in your particular state, press releases from the USDA as well as their lists of kennels and brokers that have been charged under the Animal Welfare Act for violations of the law.

The USDA Animal Care Division
can be accessed through
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/>. Information about animal welfare laws and regulations for breeding facilities is available at this website.

Whether we safeguard our breed through support of our national club lobby efforts or those of individuals who work towards rescue of puppy mill animals, we should all encourage potential

Bernese owners to purchase from reputable breeders who can provide health and genetic information about their puppies and breed for quality rather than profit.

ATTENTION BMDCA MEMBERS

WANT YOUR BMDCA BULLETIN BY E-MAIL? We have set up a distribution list which will deliver every Bulletin right to you at the e-mail address you provide. The list will be ONLY for distribution of the Bulletin; there will be no discussion, no dialogue and no e-mail addresses will be publicly displayed.

If you would like to sign up, send an e-mail message to Karyn Beyer at kjbeyer@starband.net, with "Bulletin" in the subject line. Please note, you must be an active BMDCA member to join this list.

Volunteers Needed

The Public Education committee is planning on setting up a public info display at the Plum Creek/CKC shows Feb 14-17 in Denver similar to what we've had in recent years. We have also requested to participate in the "Meet the Breeds" showcase on Sat/Sun. Please contact Karen Baru, [303-841-9312](tel:303-841-9312), KARBARU@aol.com if you would like to participate. Also, if you have artistic/creative skills and would be interested in updating our display, please contact Karen.

Berner Noel

2002



Klaus and Costco.



Phil and friends enjoying the buffet.



Mike Mann handing out goodies.



Jane and Toby .



Future junior handlers.



Can we have some too, please?

Show News

— Valerie Horney —



Grand Valley Kennel Club September 22, 2002

WD
Stardust Solid Granite, Rocky,
owned by Ken Rice and Linda Jaska
👤 NEW CHAMPION

Evergreen Kennel Club November 9, 2002

RWD
Summit's As Wild As The Wind,
owned by Sandy Dunaway & Tracey Keith

WB/BW
Lorien Dell's Sweet Mistreater,
owned by G & L Woods, P & C Marriner

RWB
Wagontale's Good Morning Glory, "Glory",
owned by Stacy Temples

BB
CH Summit's Oh Be Joyful,
owned by Sandy Dunaway & Sharon Keefer

BOS
CH Classique's Two Step CD, Reggie,
owned by Marcia Eckhardt & Christina
Ohlsen

2nd place open senior,
Breanne Dunaway

Flatirons Kennel Club November 10, 2002

RWB
Lorien Dell's Sweet Mistreater,
owned by G & L Woods, P & C Marriner

BB
CH Eur-Am's Enough Already CD NA, Ready,
owned by Valerie Horney,
from the veterans class!

GCSBMDC Regional Specialty this is all I remember! November 15, 2002

Veterans Obedience, qualifying score,
178.0 "Ready"

Veterans Sweepstakes 7-9 Dogs
1st CH Dogwood's Greyson V Blue Moon CD,
Greyson, owned by C & M Mann

3rd "Ready"

9-11 bitches
1st CH Nashems Taylor Made,
Taylor,
owned by Sara Karl and Jeni West

Regular Veterans 7-9 Dogs
1st "Ready"
2nd "Greyson"

9-11 bitches
1st "Taylor"

Open bitches,
4th Mountainair 's American Way,
"Justice", owned by Darcy Babb

Award of Merit
CH Pinnacle's Evans En Route, Evans,
owned by Bob and Lou Tucker

Tucson Kennel Club November 16, 2002

RWD
Davieu's Denvers Black Forest,
Ontos, owned by Patti & Doug Morgan

RWB
Oschnerhof's Anni,
owned by Heidi Oschner Mugler

BB
CH Oschnerhof's Grossel Jodel, Jodel,
owned by Heidi Oschner Mugler

GROUP 1
BOS
CH Bernerliebes Gem V D Falkenfluh, Gem,
owned by Pat Hughes

Canada Del Oro Kennel Club November 17, 2002

RWB
Mountainair 's American Way, "Justice",
owned by Darcy Babb

BB
CH Oschnerhof's Grossel Jodel, Jodel,
owned by Heidi Oschner Mugler

BOS
CH Bernerliebes Gem V D Falkenfluh, Gem,
owned by Pat Hughes

Greater Sierra Vista Kennel Club November 18, 2002

BB
CH Oschnerhof's Grossel Jodel, Jodel,
owned by Heidi Oschner Mugler

Southern Colorado Kennel Club November 30, 2002

WD/BW
Travois Perfect Storm "Storm",
owned by Karne Baru & Andrea Boortz
👤 NEW CHAMPION

WB
Prariefire's Cloudburst,
owned by Sharon Johnson

RWB
Spring's Lady Molly CD, Molly,
owned by Nancy Fuselier

BB
Nasems Got it Made, Ricky,
owned by Sara Karl,

BOS
CH Summit's Oh Be Joyful,
owned by Sandy Dunaway & Sharon Keefer
December 1, 2002

WD
Spring's Rio Grand Mick, Mick,
owned by Nancy Fuslier & George Clark

RWD
Blue Moon's Broadway Joe, Joe,
owned by C Mann & J Stanwood

WB/BW
Mountainair 's American Way, "Justice",
owned by Darcy Babb

RWB
Prariefire's Cloudburst,
owned by Sharon Johnson

BB
CH Prairiefires Its Showtime, "Po",
owned by Sharon Johnson

BOS CH Triad's All night Serenade.
"Alie", owned by Karen Baru

New Title Holders: 2002



It was a stellar year for all the doggie members and their owners of the BMDCR. .. congratulations to all those who earned titles in 2002. Your persistence, hard work and dedication is recognized and admired by all of us.

Ahquabi's Bank on It

Valerie Horney
01/21 Champion AKC
06/09 Champion CKC
09/28 Companion Dog CKC

Bernerliebe's Goal Maker

Christina Ohlsen
02/17 Companion Dog

Bernerliebe's Imagine That

Patricia and Neil Hughes
02/16 Companion Dog

Black Coral Divine Miss "M"

Vicky Whitney
06/09 Companion Dog

Ch. Blue Moon's Betenoire Wagontale CD, DD, CGC, HIC

Stacy Temples and Howard Ramsdell
10/23 Draft Dog CKC
10/23 Companion Dog CKC
2001 Top Producer Working Dog Titleholders

Ch. Blue Moon's Bewitched NDD

Canine Good Citizen
Therapy Dog-Delta Society Pet Partner

Ch. Blue Moon's Brigitte Bardough NDD

Christine and Michael Mann
04/26 Draft Dog
Therapy Dog-Delta Society Pet Partner

Blue Moon's Unsinkable Molly B

Mimi Hobbs
Therapy Dog-Delta Society Pet Partner

Brighteye's Haute Latter OA, NDD

Elaine Witulski and Deborah Hotze
11/17/01 Novice Agility Jumper
02/17 Open Agility Jumper

Davieau's Denver's Lil Bronco

Patti Morgan
06/08 Champion

Davieau's The Ute Spirit Hatchi

Kevin and Elena Clement
10/6/02 Canine Good Citizen

Ch. Dogwood's Greyson v Blue Moon CD, BDD, DD, CGC

Therapy Dog-Delta Society Pet Partner

Ebnet's Trademark

Dottie Schulte
10/18 Champion

Ch. Eur-Am Bitious CD, DD, BNDD, CGC, HIC

Dottie Schulte
10/05 Brace Open Draft Dog

Ch. Eur-Am's Enough Already NA, DD, BNDD, CGC, HIC Val

Horney
04/07 Companion Dog
10/05 Brace Open Draft Dog

Eur-Am's Leading the Troops

Leong and Adair
06/01 Champion
Ch. Eur-Am's My Katja CD
George and Lynn Wood
04/26 Novice Draft Dog

Going Places VD Falkenfluh

Ann Dobrovolny
08/17 Champion

Kaibab's Another Round

Valerie Horney
07/21 Companion Dog
10/05 Novice Draft Dog
09/27 Champion

Lorien Dell's Mississippi Moaner

George and Lynn Wood, R. Cook, F. Moberly
02/15 Champion

Ch. Nashem's Bad to the Bone CD, NDD

Sara Karl
2001 BMDCA Top Producer Champions

Nashem's Tailwind Moondance

Sara Karl
09/23/01 Champion

Ch. Nashem's Taylor Maid CD, NDD

Sara Karl and Jeni West
2001 BMDCA Top Producer Champions

Ch. Pinnacle's Evans En Route NDD, CGC

Robert and Louise Tucker
04/26 Draft Dog

Pinnacle's Everest DD

Eden Jonas and Chuck Armatys
02/25 Companion Dog
03/03 Champion

Prairiefire's Chateaubriand

Shrodt and Johnson
09/03/01 Champion

Prairiefire's Rolls Royce

Charli Nicholas and Sharon Johnson
10/14 Champion

Prairiefire's Starry Sky

Carter and Johnson
05/19 Champion

Snobari's Alpine Kaiser

Cheryl Gillpatrick
06/07 Champion

Spring's Chesterfield

Nancy Fuselier
04/05 Champion

Ch. Spring's Lone Ranger CDX, DD, CGC

Nancy Fuselier
UKC-Companion Dog
UKC-Companion Dog Excellent
ASCA-Companion Dog

Ch. Spring's Windsong CD, NDD, CGC

Nancy Fuselier
UKC-Companion Dog

Spring's Lady Molly CGC
Nancy Fuselier
Companion Dog

Spring's Sandia
Nancy Fuselier
Canine Good Citizen

Summit's Let Freedom Ring
Sandy Dunaway
Champion

Summit's Look Heart No Hands
Jacqueline Morrow-Schuck
10/6/02 Canine Good Citizen

Summit's Pearly Everlasting
Sandy and Breanne Dunaway
11/18/01 Champion

Travois Bonanza v Atkeson
Atkeson and Baru
06/01 Champion

Tiptop's Night Muzik
Robert and Louise Tucker
03/04 Champion

Wagontale's Cheyenne Sunrise
Kathy Gray and Stacy Temples
Champion
Novice Draft Dog
Canine Good Citizen

Wagontale's Cowboy's Eby Creek
Karen Guzik and Stacy Temples
09/14 Champion

Wagontale's Encore for Emma CGC
Amanda and Mark Stanley
Therapy Dog

Ch. Wagontale's Espresso Love
Kevin and Jeani Kaul and Stacy Temples
Canine Good Citizen

Wagontale's Great Grey Wizard
Pam and Barry Solomon and Stacy Temples
Canine Good Citizen
Wagontale's Gone To Texas
Patricia Tackett and Stacy Temples
Canine Good Citizen
TT ATTS

Woodmoor's Barri v Kreuzberg CD, DD, CGC
Ron Abbott
04/26 Brace Novice Draft Dog

Woodmoor's Black Diamond
Sharon Montville
06/09 Companion Dog

Woodmoor's Oberon v Bergtal CD, DD, CGC
Ron Abbott
04/26 Brace Novice Draft Dog

QUALIFIERS FOR BMDCA VERSATILITY AWARD:

Ch. Eur-Am's My Katja CD, NDD
George and Lynn Wood

Ch. Kaibab's Another Round CD, NDD
Valerie Horney

Ch. Pinnacle's Everest CD, DD
Eden Jonas and Chuck Armatys

QUALIFIERS FOR BMDCA WORKING DOG AWARD:

Ch. Eur-Am's Enough Already CD, NA, DD, BNDD, CGC, HIC
Valerie Horney

SPECIAL "HUMAN" RECOGNITION:

Mary Bugg Nancy Fuselier and Daily Bugg
UKC Sub Junior Handler with several first class placements!

Dogs earning titles in 2002 will be honored at the Awards Banquet in January. If your dog earned ANY title during this past year and is not on this list, please contact Dottie Schulte dottieS911@aol.com or 970-392-1806 so that your dog can be recognized. Also, if there is no date attached to the title on this list, could you contact Dottie so the certificates will be correct.

BMDCR-SPONSORED CERF EYE and HEARTWORM CLINIC

Saturday, March 15

Eye Exam: \$20

Heartworm Test : \$18

**For appointments call:
Nancy Fuselier DVM
(719)-531-7366**

**Veterinary Eye Clinic
Dr. Todd Hammond
7630 West 39th Avenue
Wheat Ridge, Colorado**

**South of I-70, just west
of Wadsworth on 39th Avenue**

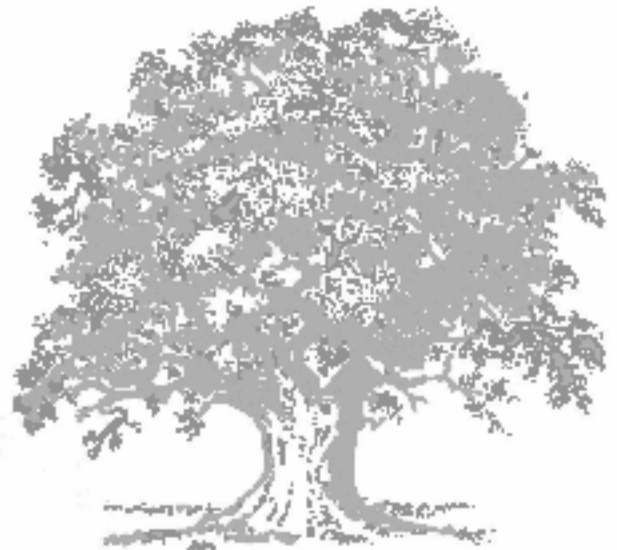
It was mid morning December 2, 1993. I was on my way to pick up a "strange looking Berner" as a foster dog from the Canon City Humane Society. I got there 8 hours before they were going to put her down. I was on my knees on the floor waiting for them to bring her from the back. When she saw me she broke loose from the handler and hit me hard enough to knock me onto my back. She proceeded to stand on me and lick my face. There was no way I could foster this wild beast - she was mine!

She was 9 months old; a 28" 55 pound bundle of frightened energy. She was as filthy as a dog could get and covered with ticks. She had been beaten and locked in closets and sheds. She was a sight for sore eyes. Her first owner called her Berner Dog. I can't imagine what her second owner called her.

She finally became known as Kody Noel, my Christmas dog! She grew into an 80 pound protector of her family. She brought love, laughter, and loyalty to her family every day of her life.

Nine years and two weeks after that fateful day in Canon City she is out of my care and into the hands of God.

Sandy Kraemer



Canine Congenital Heart Disease Screening and OFA Heart Clearance Clinic

**ONSITE at The Rocky Mountain Classic
Sunday, February 16, 2003**



Veterinary Heart and Lung Specialists

Carroll Loyer, DVM,
Board-certified Specialist in Cardiology
Karen Sanderson, DVM,
Residency Trained in Cardiology
Julie Martin, DVM, MS
Board-certified Specialist in Cardiology

Veterinary Heart and Lung Specialists are offering a congenital heart disease screening and OFA heart certification clinic **onsite** at the Colorado Kennel Club Dog Show on Sunday, February 16, 2003. The clinic is open to all breeds of dogs over one year of age except Doberman pinschers and Boxers. The fee is \$55 per dog, payable by check, cash, or credit card. AKC registration papers should be presented with the dog. Please call to reserve an appointment time. Walk-ins will be welcome if appointments are still available.

**TO RESERVE AN APPOINTMENT,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Sharon Keefer
Veterinary Heart and Lung Specialists
303 874-2094 -or- skeefer@vrcc.com**

Board Meeting Minutes December 8, 2002

Location: Home of Laura Haupenthal and Alvin Beers

Attendees: Ron Abbott, Karen Baru, MJ Berendes, Joanna Hughes, Sharon Montville, Patti Morgan, Jeanne Stanwood, Cindy Still

Called to order at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes approved from last meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Cindy reported the current bank balance and the transition to Sara Karl. We need a copy of the minutes that Sara and Patti are newly elected officers to give to the bank for the new signature card. The Colorado Secretary of State business license for \$25 is renewed for the coming year.

Awards Banquet: MJ reported that it will be held January 19 at the Old Neighborhood Restaurant in Arvada. The cost is \$21.00. Patti gave a reminder about the Kathy Roth award. People need to let Martha Rosner know about their awards including CGC.

Massage Seminar: only 5 slots left for participants with dogs. It will be held January 11/12.

Fall Draft Test: Ron reported that it will be held September 4, 2003 at Spring Creek Park in Fort Collins. The site is reserved. The secretary will be Valerie Horney. The judges will be Steve Dudley and Patti Morgan.

Ad for 2003 catalog: We need to get our ad ready for the 2003 National Specialty catalog. Karen will talk to Dottie Schulte and Mary Rogers.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

CERF Clinic: Need to discuss when Nancy is present.

Additional Fall Draft Test: Patti and

Sharon discussed the possibility of holding a second Fall Draft Test - the closing date would be after the first test was held. Decided to bring it up at the General meeting.

Draft Clinic: Decided to include basic obedience as well. We need a date - May 17th? Conflict w/Durango?

BernerFiesta: Need to get a volunteer to host this.

Berner Campout: Need to find out what Maria Foster would like to do.

Hospitality at 2003 National: Patti presented info on the National site and reported that BMDCR was invited to host hospitality one day Saturday. We donate \$300 toward the cost, and we get all the donations for that day.

Motion: We will donate \$300 for Hospitality on Saturday at the 2003 National. Cindy/Jeanne - all in favor.

Pubic Ed: Karen is getting a lot of responses. With the current puppy mill situation education is more and more important.

The board adjourned to executive session to discuss issues related to the lack of a membership directory and other membership committee issues. the board voted unanimously to appoint Tobey Pitchford and Cindy Still as co-chairs of the membership committee.

Adjourned at 12:10.



General Meeting December 8, 2002

Location: Held at the home of Laura Haupenthal and Alvin Beers in Greenwood Village

Attendees:

Voting: Sharon Montville, Patti Morgan, Cindy Still, Karen Baru, Laura Haupenthal, Alvin Beers, Jean Stanwood, Lou Tucker, MJ Berendes,

John Berendes, Holly Foster, Maria Foster, Ron Abbott, Joanna Hughes, Amy Gonzalez, Christine Mann, Mike Mann, Sandy Kramer, Phil Shaffer, Valerie Horney, Dottie Schulte, Jacqueline Schuck, Jane Sorrick, Tobey Pitchford, Sara Karl.

Sustaining: Martha Rosner, Bob Tucker, Kevenin Clement, Elena Clement, Ryan Johnson, Nadja Torling, Terri Dittmer, Chris Bierman, Arden Merkle, Bob and Ann Rutherford.

Guests: Joan Carter, Brian and Leslie Klinginsmith.

Called to order at 12:20.

Motion: Approve last meeting minutes. Lou/Jeanne Passed.

Secretary Report: None.

Treasurer Report: Cindy Still. Finances are looking really good.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards Banquet: Jan 19 at the Old Neighborhood in Arvada. \$21. RSVP cutoff is January 5.

Breeder Referral: Phil is getting 1-2 calls per night.

Public Ed: Karen is getting a lot of responses. Update on the puppy mill situation was given.

Fall Draft Test: Ron reported it will be held Thursday, Sept. 4 before our Regional Specialty on Sept. 5. Val Horney is the secretary. It will be held in Fort Collins. Jean Stanwood is also on the committee.

Regional Specialty: Sara Karl reported that it will be in Greeley and will be indoors indoors - Island Grove Park. Joanne Anselm will judge conformation and juniors. Debbie Miller will judge sweeps. No obedience judge yet. Karen will do trophies.

Events: Karen mentioned there is a Terry-All fun match before CKC shows in February.

Hospitality: Ron is looking for volunteers for future meetings.

Librarian: Chris Mann - no report.

Motion: That we approve the new membership applicants as a slate. Dottie/Laura. Passed. New voting members are Tobey Pitchford and Amy Gonzalez. New sustaining members are Valerie Campbell and Sue Lugdon.

Newsletter: deadline is the 20th. Email Dottie if you have earned an award.

Programs: Still vacant - does anyone want this job???

Regional Club Council RCC: Lou - events calendar online. Breeder Referral discussion - National vs Regional. Lobbyist - National club is running out of funds. Will vote at next meeting.

Rescue: 8 so far this year.

Ways and Means: There is stuff here to buy!

AKC Accreditation: Sara will help Sharon get this sent to AKC.

Massage Seminar: Filling up rapidly - only 5 slots left if you want to come with a dog. January 11/12

NEW BUSINESS

Election: Thanks to Treasurer Cindy, and Board Members Joanna and Karen for the service. The slate was voted in: President Patti Morgan, Treasurer Sara Karl, Board member Amy Gonzalez, Board member Tobey Pitchford.

Fall Draft Test: Possibility of a second fall draft test was brought up.

Motion: Hold a second fall draft test subject to availability of judges and site. Holly/Val Passed. Val is considering chairing it.

Draft Clinic: Tentative date is May 17 in Elizabeth.

BernerFiesta: Laura volunteered.

Berner Campout: Maria doesn't know her summer schedule yet but there is a good chance she will not be able to attend due to her school schedule. In the past it has been at Golden Gate State Park for 2 days. Will ask Christina Ohlsen if she might be willing to host it. After the meeting, Christina arrived for Berner Noel and she said YES!

Hospitality at 2003 National: on a Saturday from 6-10 a.m., we need volunteers. Lou said she will help.

Brag: Laura has a computer!!!Joanna's Travis will be a therapy pet dog at Children's Hospital. Sara's Taylor turned 9!

The next meeting will be at the Awards Banquet on January 19.

Veteran's Corner

Ch. Eur-Am Bitious CD, DD, BDD, 2/13/95

loved and owned by Dottie Schulte

Ch. Eur-Am's Enough Already CD, NA, DD, BDD, 9/29/95

loved and owned by Valerie Horney

There have been many great brothers in history. . . Orville and Wilbur Wright, Jimmy and Billy Carter, Bill and Roger Clinton, Dickie and Tommy Smothers. . . and Chase and Ready. Although six months apart, they share the same parentage (Ch. Samuel vom Steinhoff x Quadella vom Steinhoff) and the same mannerisms. They competed as young boys in the conformation ring, many times splitting the Winners Dog points for the weekend. Best friends as well as brothers, Ready is the more stable of the two, a steady worker, serious about life but always willing to have a good time. . .and many times embarrassed by the antics of his older sibling. While Chase is the verbal one, insisting on the last and first word, easily distracted, tail and butt always in motion. . . and at times irritated by his younger brothers looks of disdain. Both BMDCA Versatility Dogs and Ready (a BMDCA Working Dog as well) they celebrated the beginning of their "golden years" by competing in tandem at the October 5, 2002 draft test to earn their Open Brace Draft Dog title. Despite Chase's occasional "senior moments", our boys showed their younger cohorts about aging gracefully by pulling 180 pounds. They are truly barking in the face of age. . .



Histiocytosis Research: Your Help is Needed to Reduce the Incidence of this Disease

A BMDCA health survey suggests that one in every five Bernese will die of malignant histiocytosis (MH), a rapidly progressive cancer that cannot be currently treated. That's more than one in each litter if the average litter size is six puppies. Regardless of whether the incidence is 1 in 5 or 1 in 50, for the individual Bernese and owner, it is too high. It has been established that MH has a genetic base. Researchers at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Washington state have taken an interest in this disease and are willing to help identify DNA markers associated with this disease and gene mutations that cause MH.

Heidi Parker, in the laboratory of Dr. Elaine Ostrander at Fred Hutchinson, is conducting a study of MH in the Bernese Mountain Dog. With our help, her lab could be successful in finding associated DNA markers within the next three to four years, and the causative gene mutations in the next decade. This genetic information would be available to such companies as VetGen and Optigen to develop a DNA test that breeders could use to make more informed breeding decisions in an effort to reduce the incidence of this disease. In addition, once the causative gene mutations are found, drug therapies could potentially be developed by other companies to either prevent the development of or reduce the severity of the disease in Berners that already carry the disease genes.

Developing a DNA test for a polygenic disease such as MH did not seem feasible years ago, but recent advances in canine genomics, combined with the unique population history of dog breeds, are making it possible now. A detailed map of markers and genes covering close to 100 percent of the DNA that makes up a dog's chromosomes (it's genome) has been generated and the genome of

the dog is being sequenced. These maps and sequence data can be used to identify differences DNA variations between healthy dogs and dogs with MH.

Heidi and colleagues in the Ostrander lab are taking the genome-wide scanning approach to identify the DNA variants that cause MH. This approach makes no assumptions up front about what genes contribute to the disease. The whole genome scan will be conducted using a subset of markers from the 3,400 marker map that are evenly distributed across the dog genome. DNA isolated from blood samples of dogs affected with MH and unaffected normal controls will be tested for these markers.

To start their search for the DNA variations that cause MH, the Ostrander lab needs blood samples from approximately 40 control dogs and 40 dogs diagnosed with MH. Only one standard blood draw is needed for a dog to be included in the study. The "control dogs" must be at least 10 years old and never diagnosed with any type of histiocytosis. Control dogs could have had benign tumors or other forms of cancer. Donations from these dogs may also prove useful for future studies if that cancer information is included with the blood sample. If you submit your sample for control and your dog is later found to have MH, you will need to contact the researchers.

Affected dogs include any dogs diagnosed with MH. It is preferred that the diagnosis be made by histology (confirmed with tissue analysis). However, if you strongly suspect MH based on symptoms, then send a blood sample and include information about why you think the problem might be MH. Once the diagnosis has been confirmed by biopsy or necropsy, you will need to contact the researchers. This

conformation will be needed to include your dog's sample in the study.

Although no Berner lines are free of MH, donations are confidential. Blood samples are assigned a number when they are received and are referred by that number in all studies. Pedigree information is requested, but only to assess the relatedness of dogs used in the study. The more unrelated dogs that are used, the more confident one can be that the DNA variations found to be associated with the disease are applicable to all Berners.

Heidi currently has 22 samples from control dogs and 6 samples from dogs with MH. She needs at least 18 more samples from control dogs and 34 samples from affected dogs in order to start the study, so help is needed from all Bernese owners.

If you would like to donate a blood sample from your dog, please request a free blood collection kit from Heidi Parker or Nate Sutter in the Ostrander lab. Send an e-mail to both Heidi and Nate hgparker@fhcrc.org and nsutter@fhcrc.org, or call 206-667-6980 to ensure that a kit is sent to you. They are willing to Fed-ex a kit overnight in emergency situations. If you need that service, call them rather than sending an e-mail. Alternatively, you can have your vet collect a sample and send using the instructions below. In the blood collection kit supplied by the researchers, you will receive a blood collection tube and instructions for you vet for the blood draw. Mail the blood sample to the address of the Ostrander lab provided with the kit. The sample must be received within one week to be certain that enough quality DNA is available for the study. Cost for the vet visit, blood draw and shipping of the blood to the lab is the responsibility of the dog owner as the lab is unable to reimburse this cost. If you are not using the blood collection kit, and your vet is drawing the blood, request

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that they use tubes with anticoagulant and fill with 6 to 8 ml of blood. Label the tubes with the following information: Dog's Name, Breed, Sex, Age, Owner's name and phone number.

Include pedigree and relevant health information. The kit will come with labels for return mailing. If you are not using the kit, have your vet package for mailing and send by either United States Postal Service or any other shipping company (FedEx, Airborne Express). You do not need to refrigerate the tubes of blood after drawing as the anticoagulant will keep it preserved for up to a week or so.

Mail to

Heidi Parker, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, 1100 Fairview Avenue North, D4-100, Seattle, Washington 98109-1024

As you collect the samples, whether using the kit or otherwise, contact Heidi to let her know when you expect the samples to arrive. Hgparker@fhcrc.org, 206 667-6980, fax 206 667-2917.

Please inform your friends and dog cohorts about this study. Malignant histiocytes proliferate and spread rapidly so weeks-even day-matter. The more people that are aware of this study, the higher the likelihood that owners of dogs who are unfortunately diagnosed with MH will get the chance to participate. Obtaining "control dog" samples is also just as important for this study to succeed. If you have ideas on how to inform more Berner owners about this study and increase sample donations, please contact either Coleen Hacker hackerck@yahoo.com, 650-596-0916 or Pat Long berner1@concentric.net. For additional information about MH you can access Dr. Peter Moore's website, www.histiocytosis.ucdavis.edu or contact Pat Long at the above email address for the health disk of the Berner-1 Education fund, which includes an extensive article on histiocytosis.

Last month Sue Lugdon and Valorie Campbell were voted in as new sustaining members. Welcome to the club! And Amy Gonzalez and Toby Pitchford became new Voting members and also were elected to serve on the Board of Directors. Congratulations to all and thanks for offering to help with club business!

New Members:

Valorie Campbell
7606 S. Steel St.
Centennial, Colorado 80122
720-529-3808
campbellva@hotmail.com

Sue Lugdon
9340 Prairie View Drive
Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80126
303-791-7646

Address Changes:

Laurie Dehring
3615 W. Walnut Hill Lane, Unit 1076
Irving, Texas 75938-4104
214-441-2921, Pdehring@aol.com

Pamela & Edward Hull
2251 Arapahoe Rd.
Estes Park, Colorado 80517
970-577-9684, pam-ed-hull@msn.com

Denise & Daniel Prewitt
4460 Hilltop Road
Evergreen, Colorado 80439
303-670-3033
dprewitt@lifemasters.com

Jacque Rideout
3235 Challenger Point Dr.
Loveland, Colorado, 80538
970-222-5089

Veronica Ross
PO Box 345
Yampa, Colorado 80483
970-638-1088
rossclan@springsips.com

Lynn Wood, Loriendell@hotmail.com

Kevin & Elena Clement,
EKCCLEMENT@attbi.com

Patricia Hughes, patneal@daeo.net

New Sustaining Member Applicant:
Esther Wilson
PO Box 8
Broadview, MT 59015
406-575-4400
MontanaBernese@aol.com

Self-employed. Owns CH Newcastle's Shalimar V Bev's Shalli, F, 6/17/99 bred by Patty Smith of NY and Kielerstar McClintock, Mac, M, 5/28/02, bred by Judy Arneson-Johnson and Wilpower's Private Collection Megan, F, 3/28/02 bred by herself. Esther has been corresponding with Sharon Montville for most of the past year. Esther wants to connect with other Berner owners in her area and to both learn and help with BMDCR efforts and she wants to help with Rescue in her area. She can help with the newsletter, at shows and with the website. She is also a new national club member and a member of the INWBMDC and her interests are conformation, agility, health issues, obedience, breeding, drafting, and therapy work. She has done volunteer shelter work for over 17 years; fostering, whelping, training and placing puppies and she and her husband have raised Leonbergers, Tibetan Mastiffs, Shepherds, Malamutes, Grt. Pyrs., Greyhounds, Goldens and St. Bernards. She trains in obedience and wants to learn to show her own dogs in conformation. Ester has bred one Bernese litter and she has posted her views on breeding at her website www.wilpowerkennels.com. She has also served as an officer in car clubs.

New voting member applicant:

Joan Carter and Aubrey Carter junior member,
15305 Softwood Rd.
Elbert, CO 80106
teacher, Ch Prairiefires Starry Sky bred by Sharon Johnson and Triads Sexy Sadie bred by Cindy Still. Joan's interests are breeding, conformation, agility, obedience, draft, and health issues. Aubrey participates in junior showmanship. She is sponsored by Cindy Still and Sara Karl.



Mark Your calendar

Jan 11-12

Obedience Trial
Longs Peak DTC, Larimer Co Fairgrounds, Loveland

Jan 11-12

UKC Agility Trials
Twin Peaks DTC, Boulder Co Fairgrounds, Longmont
Cynthia Hutt @ 303-655-8476 or lapiefern@hotmail.com

Jan 19

B/OB Match
Terry - All KC
Adams Co Fairgrounds, Brighton

Jan 25-26

AKC Agility
Pikes Peak Obedience Club
Latigo Trails Equestrian Center, Elbert Co
Debbie Funk 303-695-4224 or funkyorkies@juno.com

Feb 1

Friends of Irish Setters Fun Match/Obedience & Conf
Adams Co. Fairgrounds, Brighton
For more info: 303-355-6849 evenings or thil@earthlink.net

Feb 2

B/OB Match
Flatirons KC, Boulder Co. Fairgrounds, Longmont
Reg.@ 8:00 for sporting, working, herding, UB & A OP, NB
judging @ 9:00. Reg. before noon for other groups, JS, OA,
NA, Grad Nov., Pre-Novice. 303-828-0195.

Feb 14-17

The Rocky Mountain Cluster
AKC All Breed Dog Show/Obedience and Agility Trials,
National Western Complex, Denver
entries close on Jan 29
Superintendent, Jack Onofrio 405-427-8181 or
www.onofrio.com

Feb 23

AKC Rally Seminar,
Pikes Peak Obedience Club,
Irving Middle School Gym.
172 N. Murray Blvd. \$35; No dogs.
Janice dearth @ www.petpicturetransfers.com

CLINIC

Jan 12

Canine Massage Seminar
by Debbie Towndrow CMT, @ Blue Springs & Katydid,
limited to 30 participants, no limit on observers.
Contact Patti @ 719-494-0148. This is a BMDCR sponsored
event. Please support our club!

- Dog Letters To God -

Dear God,
How come people love
to smell flowers, but
seldom, if ever, smell
one another?
Where are their
priorities?

Dear God,
When we get to Heaven, can we
sit on your couch? Or is it the
same old story?

Dear God,
If a dog barks his head off in the
forest and no human hears him, is
he still a bad dog?

Dear God,
More meatballs, less
spaghetti, please.

Dear God,
When we get to the Pearly
Gates, do we have to shake
hands to get in?

Dear God,
We dogs can understand human
verbal instructions, hand signals,
whistles, horns, clickers, beepers,
scent IDs, electromagnetic energy
fields, and Frisbee flight paths. What
do humans understand?

Dear God,
Are there dogs on other planets
or are we alone? I have been

howling at the moon and stars for
a long time, but all I ever hear
back is the Poodle across the
street!

Dear God,
Are there mailmen in Heaven? If
there are, will I have to apologize?

Dear God,
Excuse me, but why are there
cars named after the jaguar, the
cougar, the mustang, the colt, the
stingray, and the rabbit, but not
one named for a dog? How often
do you see a cougar riding
around? We dogs love a nice ride!
I know every breed cannot have
its own model, but it would be
easy to rename the Chrysler Eagle
the Chrysler Beagle!



Wagontale Henry's Happy Hour practicing agility in his back yard.

BMDCR Club Information

Meetings

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Rockies holds regular meetings on the fourth Sunday of January, March, September and November, unless members are otherwise notified. There is an educational program followed by a business meeting. All programs begin at 2:00 p.m., and the business meeting about an hour later. Location of meetings will be announced each newsletter. Do not bring dogs to these meetings.

In the even-numbered months we will offer a club activity that includes dogs – e.g. the Bernerfiesta, Berner hike, draft clinic, herding instinct certification test, Berner Noel, etc. The starting times and locations of these events will vary, depending on the activity. Please mark your calendars to reserve these dates for 2002. There may also be additional events – club-sponsored fun matches, club fund-raising activities, our supported entry or regional specialty, breeders showcases, or other all-breed events open to Berners – held at other times during the course of the year. You will be notified of these events through the newsletter.

Newsletter/Subscriptions

We welcome articles written by members on any topic of interest to Berner fanciers. We also reprint uncopyrighted articles from other publications – such as the Alpenhorn, other regional club newsletters, the AKC Gazette, and other dog club newsletters – as space permits.

The newsletter is sent free of charge to all BMDCR members in good standing and to other regional Berner clubs that send us their newsletters. Newsletter subscriptions are available to non-members for \$25.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to BMDCR and sent to Stacy Temples, PO Box 2490, Ft. Collins, CO 80522-2490. Club members' name and/or mailing address changes should also be submitted to Stacy.

Litter Box Policy

BMDCR voting members who have paid the annual \$5.00 Breeder Referral Service fee will be entitled to free Litter Box advertising (for one or more litters) for the entire calendar year. Sustaining members may participate in the BR program if they are sponsored by 2 voting members who also have paid the Breeder Referral fee.

Rules for Listing a Litter

Litter must come from a member breeder or stud owner in good standing with the BMDCR who has paid the designated fee. The litter must be registrable with the AKC. Litter parents must have had hips and elbows x-rayed and submitted to the OFA, GDC, OVC or other recognized registry. Dams must be over 18 months of age. Litter owner must provide a 4-generation pedigree to buyers. Puppies must be sold with a health guarantee subject to veterinary exam within 48 hours of sale. Litter owner must have a complete entry in Berner-Garde by the time the litter is 12 months old.

At the September 22, 1991 general meeting, our club voted to follow the format used by the BMDCA for all Litter Box advertising in our newsletter. All ads must be limited to the following information: Sire, Dam, Whelping Date, and Breeder's name, address, and telephone number. In addition, "The only acceptable reference to joint conformation in Litter Box announcements are GDC, OFA, OVC numbers for hips and elbows, including the letter rating and age in months at evaluation. The statement, 'elbows negative for dysplasia,' appearing on OFA certificates issued before institution of the OFA elbow registry, may be used." (October 1991 Alpenhorn) BMDCR Breeder Referral guidelines were modified by vote of the General members on November 18, 2001.

Classified Advertising/Display Advertising

The BMDCR newsletter accepts classified ads. This is the perfect opportunity to get rid of that used dog equipment cluttering up your garage, publicize dog-related services, or sell Berner arts and crafts items. Classified advertising should be sent to the newsletter editor. There will be a charge of 10 cents per word. A check for the required amount, payable to BMDCR, should be included with your ad copy. Display advertising will be handled by the editor. All display ads should be sent directly to the editor. Rates are as follows: Full Page: \$25, Half Page: \$15 (these include use of one photo; additional photos will cost \$10 each). 1/4 Page: \$10, Business Card: \$5 (these are no-photo ads). Camera ready ads subtract 25%. Include a check payable to BMDCR with your ad copy.

Submission Deadlines for Publication

The BMDCR newsletter is published bi-monthly. All articles, reports, and ads must be received by the editor as follows: the 20th day of February, April, June, August, and December for the next months issue.

**BMDCR
Dottie Schulte
1943 Montview Drive
Greeley, CO 80631**