



The Bernese Mountain Times

Second Edition August 2023

Table of Contents

Fun Day	Pg 2
Playing Card Fundraiser	Pg 3
Draft Events Invitation	Pg 4
Draft Workshop Flyer	Pg 5
Draft Tests Flyer	Pg 6
Spring Dog Walk	Pg 7
Rescue Update	Pg 8
Carl McKnight Update	Pg 9
Memorial	Pg 9
Officers/Committees	Pg 10

Upcoming Events

September 9	Fun Day * Walkersville, MD
September 10	Draft Workshop Smithsburg, MD
September 16 & 17	Draft Tests Crifasi's Smithsburg, MD
October 22	Fall Dog Walk Great Falls Park McLean, VA
October 27 - 29	Independent Specialty West Friendship, MD
November 4	Meet Up Western Regional Park Woodbine, MD
November 11	Lunch * Reeves - Leesburg, VA

***Event Includes a Meeting**

Submitted articles and photos will be published as space allows. If your submission is too long, you may be asked to shorten it. We reserve the right to publish your article in a subsequent issue if it does not fit in the current issue.

Articles will be corrected for spelling, punctuation and grammar.



President's Message

Members,

We had a genuinely nice entry (majors for the classes each day) for our Supported Entry in May at Howard County Fairgrounds. Congratulations to our members for their wins and placements.

As we were not able to hold our annual Fun Day in the Catoctin Mountains, we are forgoing our Fall Match and will instead host a Fun Day on September 9, 2023, in Walkersville, MD. The flyer is included in this newsletter. We hope that all our Berner Community will join us.

There have been quite a few developments impacting our Independent Specialty to be held in October at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

We were advised by the Mount Vernon Dog Training Club (MVDTC) that holds AKC approval for that weekend that they will not give us permission to hold our events this year. As we cannot hold Rally/Obedience as part of our Specialty, as a measure of support for our performance club members, we will support the MVDTC BMD entries the weekend of Oct 27-29, 2023, at the event held in Point of Rocks, MD. We will also look to see if we can hold a separate Rally/OB event in 2024.

The Board held a special meeting to determine if we wanted to move forward with the Independent Specialty this year as our Specialty in 2022 was not well attended. We had a negative balance of almost \$4k in 2022. We discussed whether holding an Independent Specialty was in the best interest of all our members. The Board voted to hold this year's Specialty and to keep expenses to a minimum.

Potomac Valley Bernese Mountain Dog Club
~ FUN DAY ~
with our Berners!!



Saturday, September 9, 2023, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Bring lunch and lots of dog treats! Drinks and dessert provided by the Club.
General Meeting, raffle and time to meet and greet. Introduction to AKC STAR
Puppy, CGC and Rally. Give it a try and participate/practice with your Berner!**

**Walkersville Community Center located at 23 Kenneth Drive,
Walkersville, MD 21793**

Look forward to seeing you! Bring a Berner Friend!!

Playing Card Fundraiser!

The Potomac Valley Bernese Mountain Dog Club is having a fund raiser to help cover the expenses of our 2023 Independent Specialty

In 2016 we had a Special event called "Playing Cards with your Berners". Your Berners were on the face of the cards. It was a major success and now 7 years later we are going to do it again. A number of people were very disappointed that they did not participate last time so I hope you all join us this time.

All cards (including the 2 Jokers) are for sale. If you would like your dog on a card, all you need to do is pick a card on our Cognito Forms website

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/PotomacBerneseMtdogclub/bernerplayingcards2023>

and put your other pertinent information there on the form. Clear photos can be sent to me via email (santeraken@comcast.net) or can be mailed in the envelope in which you send your check. **Orders must be completed by October 1, 2023.**

Cards will be delivered before the Holidays so you can use them as stocking stuffers, gifts to puppy buyers, or just friends and family who enjoy your dogs. I must receive your check and photo (if you choose to send it to me in the mail in hard copy form) at least 4 days after I get your e-mail requesting me to hold a certain card(s) for you.

Sale Price of Cards are as follows:

Jokers- \$105 Face Cards: (A,K,Q, J)- \$80 Numbers: (2-10 all suits) \$55

Photo Requirements: (300 DPI or better at 2 ¼ x 3 ¼ inches size)

- **No people**
- **No show photos**
- **A free stacked photo is fine**

Your dog's photo and call name will be on the face of the card.. Our club logo will be on the back of the cards.

Decks of cards will be on sale at local club events and ready by the end of November (1st part of December at the latest). Anyone wishing to order a deck of cards can contact me at the following e-mail address to get an order form for the decks. Decks will be \$18 a deck.

Sandy Novocin - santeraken@comcast.net

Funds to pay for online orders must be sent the same day as the order for cards is made. Send funds made out to the Potomac Bernese Mountain Dog Club to the following address. (Make sure you state on your check which cards you are paying for and if you also ordered deck(s). Send to the following:

**Sandy Novocin
14311 Shirley Bohn Rd.
Mt.Airy, MD 21771**

I hope you decide to join in our fund-raising event. It is always fun to see our dogs in print and to be able to share them with others.

Hi Fellow Drafting Enthusiasts!

PVBMDC is once again offering an exciting September program for Draft teams here in the Maryland Catoctin Mountains.

On **September 10** we will conduct a **Draft Workshop** at Hearts Delight in Smithsburg, MD, for learning and sharpening your carting skills.

For Novice and more experienced teams: the ring will be set for maneuvering practice and dry runs with an instructor/ judge, along with freight haul practice over the network of paths used in our Draft Tests.

For Beginners: we will hold a Beginners Workshop with a step-by-step hands-on training method with Jack Crifasi. This training program has been presented many times at our annual PV workshop and at BMDCA National Specialties. It will help teams get off to a good safe start with their beginning dogs. All Berner-sized equipment is provided, or bring your own for proper setup.

Send in the Pre-registration form or register at the site. Starting time is 9AM Sunday Sept 10. Flyer/registration is attached.

On **September 16 and 17** we will hold our annual **Draft Tests with judges Larry Bohlig and Sue Van Ocker** at the same site as the workshop. The premium is out and attached, and needs to be submitted before the Sept 6 closing, coming soon!

Premium List Link:

https://www.bmdca.org/_files/ugd/a5469f_6e258315be674b82ae4436eb65781fc5.pdf

The tests will be held under the NEW 2023 (as of July !) regulations:

https://www.bmdca.org/_files/ugd/8cca93_8060876ec8dd4eb790e58490c781a978. Be sure to review the changes!

Further information is available at our website www.PVBMDC.org or contact me at Jack4Berners@gmail.com.

Regards,
Jack Crifasi, Draft Chair, PVBMDC



Potomac Valley Bernese Mountain Dog Club
All-Breed DRAFT WORKSHOP
Sunday, September 10, 2023



Working Dogs Ready for Drafting!

Site: Hearts Delight Farm, 4050 Garfield Road, Smithsburg, MD 21783

Site located in Catoclin Mountains west of Thurmont, MD

Workshop 9 am to 2 pm - Bring a bag lunch - drinks are provided

Use the workshop to practice for the September 16 and 17 PVBMDC draft tests at the same location!

Workshop Description: Beginner, novice and experienced dog teams are welcome! Open to any breed able to pull a cart! Please don't bring bitches in heat to the site! All dogs must be crated or on leash at all times except during off-lead drafting exercises.

Beginners: All dogs should have some basic control training on leash but no draft experience is required. 4 to 6 foot leash is suggested, with regular collars. Harnesses and training equipment are provided for a range of BMD-sized dogs, or bring your own. An experienced instructor will lead the workshop, introducing teams to basic skills required for drafting, with hands-on training using drag bars, sleds and carts, and guidance for further at-home training. Dogs must be in fit condition and over 8 months old. Safety and positive training are essential, so bring plenty of food treats for rewards!

Novice and Open teams: Practice commands and handling techniques for participation in a BMDCA draft test. A draft ring and freight haul will be set up, with mock judging and handling hints by an instructor.

For more information, email either jack4bern timers@gmail.com or check out the Draft Workshop Flyer at www.pvbmdc.org.

For pre-registration, please send this form with a copy of rabies certificate and \$25 check for each team to: Jack Crifasi, 4050 Garfield Rd, Smithsburg, MD 21783. Make Check to payable to PVBMDC.

Rabies Certification? Yes No **Fee Enclosed?** Yes No **Workshop Date:** Sept 10, 2023

Dog's Call Name/Breed: _____ **Dog's Age:** _____

Experience (circle one): None Beginner Novice Intermediate Advanced

Comments/ Goals: _____

Participant Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

The PVBMDC Officers, Members and Instructors are not responsible for any damages and/or injuries sustained to humans, animals and/or property while participating in this event. All participants and guests acknowledge that this event involves multiple animals, attend and participate at their own risk, and agree to hold the PVBMDC, instructors and the private property owner harmless from any and all claims of personal property loss, damages and/or injury. PVBMDC has the right to refuse entry to any dog that is aggressive or disruptive during the event. Your signature constitutes acceptance of these terms.

Participants (Signature): _____ **Date:** _____

Potomac Valley Bernese Mountain Dog Club BACK-2-BACK ALL BREED DRAFT TESTS



**Saturday and Sunday,
September 16 & 17, 2023**

**Distinguished Judges:
Larry Bohlig and Sue Van Ocker
Jill Shaeffer, Apprentice Judge**

***Hearts Delight Farm
4050 Garfield Road
Smithsburg, MD 21783***

Please put our Back-to-Back Draft Tests on your calendar for a perfect fall weekend of Drafting. We have a beautiful private test site located in the heart of Maryland's Catocin Mountains. Your Bernese Mountain Dog will love working on the groomed Appalachian forest trails. Open to all breeds! Premium at www.pvbmdc.org

Jack Crifasi, Draft Chairman - jack4bern timers@gmail.com
Katherine Skerl, Test Secretary - kskerl@focus-corp.com



Spring Dog Walk

The April Meet-up at Black Hill Regional Park was abruptly canceled due to last minute notice the park was closed for a private event. This was a disappointment as it is a particularly desirable park, but we will return next year.

Great Falls Park, VA hosted it's first annual B.A.R.K. Ranger event including a parade to kick off National Park Week. Registration was required, but admission to the park was free. A few club members and their Berners were able to join in with other dogs for a nice walk. The Rangers refer to our group as the Berner Brigade, and expect to hold additional events throughout the year. They will post to their Facebook page.

The PVBMD Spring Dog Walk returned to Western Regional Park. MD. We welcomed 10 Berners and their families. Berners ranged in age from 6mos. - 8 y.o. The weather was Berner approved, 68 degrees, with sprinkles to gentle rain. We went for a nice walk through the hilly forested and ravine trails, and around the soccer fields. Thank you to Blair who brought along homemade, healthy pup-cakes to share with the Berners to celebrate Blueberry's 3rd birthday! This was well received by all. Everyone enjoyed the chance to visit and learn from one another. The park is easily accessible with free parking, and there was plenty of space for all. Pavilions are not available for rent on weekends this time of year, but are first come first served. We will continue to revisit this park.

Extending a big thank you to HANK and my husband Gus, who generously give of their time to visit each park in advance to walk and curate the trails, determining if they are suitable and worthy of the Berner seal of approval.

The Berner families continue to be very appreciative of these Meet-up opportunities. They hear about these activities predominantly through Facebook, the PV website, other Berner families, and attendance at prior PV events. We now will take a break for the summer and return to the Fall Dog Walk at Great Falls Park, VA to kick-off prime Berner season in October 2023, with Meet-ups resuming November 2023 through April 2024, and the Spring Dog Walk in May 2024.

PVBMD Tentative 2023-2024 Meet-up Schedule:

October 22, 2023	Fall Dog Walk - Great Falls Park	Great Falls, VA
November 4, 2023	Western Regional Park (tentative)	Woodbine, MD
December 17, 2023	U.S. National Arboretum	Washington, DC
January 13, 2024	Northern Fauquier Community Park	The Plains, VA
February 18, 2024	Theodore Roosevelt Island	Washington, DC
March 16, 2024	Manassas National Battlefield Park	Manassas, VA
April 13, 2024	Black Hill Regional Park	Boyd's, MD
May 4, 2024	Spring Dog Walk - Western Regional Park	Woodbine, MD



PVBMD Rescue Update

Thank you to Mary McKnight who has been our PVBMD Rescue Chair since 2016. Her dedication to our Berners needing rescue or rehoming has been heroic. Taking on this effort is bittersweet; joy-filled when you find the perfect new home and sad because it is needed. If anyone would like to provide assistance please contact me.

In the past, PVBMD has typically rehomed or rescued an average of three Berners a year. Since taking over a month ago there has been 6 Berners in need. Most of these Berners are surrendered because of two reasons, 1) owners declining health or 2) behavior or temperament issues.

The first case involved a 4 year-old male Berner. The owner was no longer able to take care of Buster because of declining health. Working with the owner's sister I soon realized that this was a case of mistaken identity. The 130 pound Berner was actually a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog. Contacting the GSMD National Club we were able to refer him to the appropriate rehome services

Darby a 3 year-old female Berner was intended for a Bernerdoodle operation. Even though she had a limited AKC registration she was breed unsuccessfully twice. Working with her owner, Darby was successfully placed with an experienced Berner family. Today, she is enjoying her new family and sister Coco. Oakley a 9 month male Berner was food aggressive with his multi-breed pack of 6. Working with his foster family we found an experienced Berner family that will provide the training and one on one attention he greatly needs.

Maverick a 4 year old male Berner found in an abandoned apartment was transferred to the WV Parkersburg Humane Society Shelter. He was adopted out and then returned due to food and dog aggression. An outside rescue organization rapidly acquired him with a foster family and hopefully a future placement. Maverick can be found on Roscoe's Rescues.

These are some of the recent rescue/rehome cases. Most of these situations can be avoided with proper training and family emergency planning. If something happens to you what will happen to your beloved companion? Plan accordingly.

~Katherine Skerl, Rescue Chair



Buster – The misidentified
BMD, AKA GSMD



Darby & her new sister
Coco



Oakley – Ready for
Training Class

Carl McKnight Update

For those who may know Carl McKnight – Mary (his wife, and our recently retired rescue and raffle chair) has provided us with an update on his health:

“Carl got transported yesterday to Kindred Hospital in Havertown, Pa. Steph was here to greet him, and said all went well. He said the ride was really bumpy but he made it up here unharmed, LOL. Tomorrow he will start PT and speech therapy. If anyone would like to send him a card, the address is:”

Carl McKnight
2000 Old W Chester Pike
Havertown, PA 19083

Mary & Carl have been an integral part of the club, and our events, for many years. We miss them both and wish Carl all the best as he continues his journey to recovery!

Memorial

After Brett's recent cancer scare, and recovery from surgery, he was the one I was closely monitoring. Bogie was developing some arthritis, but was otherwise fine - or so I thought. The last thing I expected was to come home from work on his 8th birthday to find him sick and miserable. After discussions with the emergency clinic - who could not get him in for hours, and with a veterinarian friend, he seemed to be resting comfortably, so we decided to monitor him at home until morning - when he could go to his regular vet. They had no open appointments, so I dropped him off on my way to work - with a kiss on the top of his head, I told him I loved him and promised to come back and get him.

The blood work was not good. X-rays revealed an abdominal mass. He was not a surgical candidate. Shortly after the tests were completed, Bogie crashed. Uncontrollable vomiting and now in extreme pain. The vet sedated him and called me to come in as quickly as possible to say goodbye.

Never crazy about strangers, Bogie trusted me implicitly to keep him safe. Heavily sedated, it broke my heart to think that he probably had no idea that I was even there – or that I had kept my promise to come back. I hugged him as best I could, held his big, floppy paws, and kissed his soft muzzle. I thanked him for the gift of his love and trust. I told him to go find his half brother Merlin, who would comfort him and keep him from being afraid without me. I told him I'd see him again one day - and I let him go.

My big, shy, teddy bear love bug was gone. Never again would I see his eyes light up, or watch him dance around, when he knew it was time to go to dog school. He would excitedly jump into the car, but only with his front end. For his whole life, it was my job to pick up his back end and “help” him the rest of the way in. Never again would I laugh as he flopped over on his side to “play dead” (with his tail wagging the whole time) - a trick he somehow taught himself. Never again would he come in from outside with a big string of drool across the top of his muzzle - or frozen to the top of his head if it was cold outside. You were a handsome gentleman, but also a clown. I'll never forget you Boge Man!





Potomac Valley Bernese Mountain Dog Club Contacts

Board of Directors Officers

President – Georgeann Reeve – geebryteh20@gmail.com

Vice President – Joanne Walser – walserj@icloud.com

Treasurer - Kara MacWilliams – kmacwill@gmail.com

Secretary – Johanna Appel - bmdmomx3@gmail.com

8889 Oxford Circle

Waynesboro, PA 17268

Directors

Sandy Novocin – santeraken@comcast.net

Laura Verdun - lpverdun@yahoo.com

Tara Stull – tarah896@hotmail.com

Katherine Skerl – kskerl@focus-corp.com

Committee Chairs

Berner-Garde Liaison - Maria Crifasi – maria4bern timers@gmail.com

BMDCA Health Committee Liasion – Georgeann Reeve - geebryteh20@gmail.com

BMDCA Regional Club Council representative – Sandy Novocin – santeraken@comcast.net

Breeder Referral – Vacant

Draft - Jack Crifasi – jack4bern timers@gmail.com

Facebook – Laura Verdun - lpverdun@yahoo.com

Membership – Vacant

Newsletter – Johanna Appel - bmdmomx3@gmail.com

Website & PVBARKS! – Bob Reeve – bernerbob49@gmail.com

Rescue – Katherine Skerl - kskerl@focus-corp.com

Sunshine – Dotty Foellmer – newlyn otley@verizon.net

Supported Entry Liaison – Sandy Novocin - santeraken@comcast.net

2023 Independent Specialty Show Chair – Joanne Walser - walserj@icloud.com

Club Dog Walks/Meet Ups – Laura Verdun – lpverdun@yahoo.com