



**Blassi-News**

**Jan 2016**

## *President's Message*

Happy Winter! A great time to share activities with our cold weather-loving Berner buddies!

During our mid-winter hiatus from meetings, our club members have been busy. Please see the notice in this newsletter and send your dues to Treasurer Meagan LaMendola.

Please take a moment to consider a donation for the basket for the 2016 BMDCA National Specialty (to be held in Michigan in May) or to make a contribution to this cause. Each regional club is asked to provide a basket as a fundraiser. Ideally, it will include our area's delicacies as well as items sure to tempt a Berner fancier. Pam Wehle has kindly offered to pull together this basket again ([pwehle1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:pwehle1@rochester.rr.com)).

Bernerly,

Sue Brightman

[ArundelBerners@gmail.com](mailto:ArundelBerners@gmail.com)  
585-768-2095

## **Brag**

Sue Brightman and Cheryl Sams are pleased to announce:

Sophie is now Ch. Arundel's Starlight Serenade

She finished her championship at the Cleveland Classic Cluster on Friday, December 4th at the Medina KC Show, and then went on to get Select Bitch on the following day at the North Coast BMDC Specialty held in conjunction with the Richland County KC Show.

# Meeting Minutes

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Finger Lakes meeting was held on Saturday, November 14, 2015 at the Toyota Exhibit Center, NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse, New York in conjunction with the Chenango Valley Kennel Club show. The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by President Sue Brightman.

Members in attendance: Susan Brightman, Joan LaMendola, Tom Herman, Pam Wehle, Ellen Lechner, Galen Zimmer, Sally Gridley, Kim Barber.

The Secretary's minutes were approved by as presented in the newsletter. Motion to accept was made by Ellen Lechner, seconded by Galen Zimmer and passed.

Treasurer's report was given by Joan LaMendola, on behalf of Meagan LaMendola, Treasurer. We have \$6,922.72 (\$2110 of that total is for Rescue). Joan reported that the membership list is being updated by Lori Krebs and Meagan. Dues are due as of 12/31/15 (\$10 individual membership; \$15 family). Those member breeders who desire to list on the club website should submit \$25.

## Old Business

Committee Reports:

**Supported Entry** – Joan reported the Supported Entry will be held in conjunction with the Wine Country shows at the end of September. She distributed a trophy list for the Supported Entry for members to sign up to donate trophies. Discussion ensued about the spay bottles arranged for last year by Lynn Nelson. It was agreed that Rally, Agility and Highest Scoring Bernese trophies will be offered this year.

**BMDCA National Specialty** – Specialty is in Michigan in May. Pam Wehle volunteered to put together a basket, as is requested of each regional club. Pam asked that donations of items from NYS and/or representing Bernese be sent to her along with funds to purchase such items. A few items were provided by club members at the meeting.

**Rescue** – Galen Zimmer reported a 4-year-old male in Watkins Glen became available due to problems with the other 2 dogs in the household. He was from a pet store and had a history of biting, but a wonderful Rhode Island couple took him. The article on Benny and Glenn Thornhill will appear the BMDCA's publication, the Alpenhorn. This article will be sent to Joan LaMendola for the club newsletter.

**BernerFest** – Galen announced the theme for the BernerFest, to be held in June in the N. Lansing, will be "Looking Back as We Go Forward". She called for raffle items to be donated. Sally Gridley offered to assist with games. Ellen Lechner offered her assistance.

**Winter Bash** – The question of offering a Winter Bash was raised. Sue Brightman said no one has come forward to coordinate this event. While Sue is willing to help, she does not want to coordinate the event.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ellen, seconded by Pam and passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Brightman  
President

If you missed the Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 deadline, Please return this sign-up sheet with dues as soon as possible to:

**Meagan LaMendola  
BMD CFL Treasurer  
6365 E Bethany LeRoy Rd  
Stafford, NY 14143**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Single membership: \_\_\_\_\_  
Or Family membership: \_\_\_\_\_



**Please select one of the following:**

1 Year Single Dues \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
(2015)

2 Years Single Dues \$20 \_\_\_\_\_  
(2015-2016)

1 Year Family Dues \$15 \_\_\_\_\_  
(2015)

2 Year Family Dues \$30 \_\_\_\_\_  
(2015-2016)

**Misc. Donations:**

Donation to Rescue: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to the Club Treasury:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Website Breeder Referral (\$25/year):  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

2016 Trophy Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Class sponsored: \_\_\_\_\_

## Our trophies were a hit last September and we will be offering them again this year at our Supported Entry!

Supported Entry trophies will be painted wine glasses by "MY DOG ART BY JENNY". Jenny's creative Bernese are fun and festive, guaranteed to bring even bigger smiles to the winners of our supported entry. The glasses will feature Berners holding their winning ribbons!



### **Wine Country Supported entry Trophy Donation**

If you would like to sponsor a specific class please indicate your first, second and third choice, preference will be giving to early birds who get their dues and donations in first.

**Best of Breed trophy** will include 2 wine glasses with a Berner holding a Best of Breed ribbon in it's mouth, plus a bottle of Sparkling wine from a local winery.

**Best of Opposite Sex trophy** will be 2 wine glasses, a Bernese holding a BOS ribbon.

**Best of Winners, Select Dog and Select Bitch trophies**, also 2 wine glasses with their winning ribbons.

**Winners of each class** will receive one wine glass, a Berner holding a blue ribbon. Winners dog and winners bitch, purple ribbons.

If you have any questions regarding trophies or the supported entry, please contact:

Joan LaMendola [JGLAMEN@yahoo.com](mailto:JGLAMEN@yahoo.com)

Or if you would like to order wine glasses from "My Dog Art By Jenny" for yourself, please let me know. -Joan

**BMDCFL**

**Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Fingerlakes**

**Supported Entry Trophy Sponsor List for the 2016 Wine Country Circuit Dog Show October 1, 2016**

Please indicate your first, second and third choices:

Best Puppy in Sweepstakes \$25 gift basket \_\_\_\_\_

Best of Breed \$45 Linda Carney

Bred By Bitch \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Best of Winners \$25 Sue Brightman, Arundel

Open Dog \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Best of Opposite Sex \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Open Bitch \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Select Dog \$25 Joan LaMendola

12-18 mo. Dog \$15 Tom Herman & Pam Wehle

Select Bitch \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

12-18 mo. Bitch \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Winners Dog \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

9-12 mo. Dog \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Winners Bitch \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

9-12 mo. Bitch \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Open Dog \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

6-9 mo. Dog \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Open Bitch \$15 Ellen Lechner

6-9 mo. Bitch \$15 Ellen Lechner

Bred By Dog \$15 Kim Barber

Veteran Dog \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

High In Trial \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran Bitch \$15 Galen Zimmer

Highest Scoring Dog in Rally \$15 Sally Gridley

Highest Scoring Dog in Agility \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

General Trophy Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

In the show premium list, all trophies and the members who sponsored them will be listed.

Dues amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Misc. Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Trophy donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Grand Championship levels become titles

Effective April 1, 2016 the Grand Championship levels will become titles. The change will be retroactive to the beginning of the program. Dogs that earned an achievement level (Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum) in the past, will have it officially added on their record. Going forward, title certificates will be issued when a dog achieves the required points needed. Additionally, dogs can earn multiple levels of the Grand Champion Platinum title for every 800 GCH points earned. This will be displayed by a multiplier such as GCHP2. Below is a simple table of the new title abbreviations and the number of points needed for the title.

Title	Abbreviation	Points Needed
Grand Champion	GCH	25
Grand Champion Bronze	GCHB	100
Grand Champion Silver	GCHS	200
Grand Champion Gold	GCHG	400
Grand Champion Platinum	GCHP	800





# Companion Events

The AKC Agility Department is excited to announce the launch of a new, beginning level agility program called ACT (Agility Course Test). The ACT program officially launches on March 1, 2016.

This program is designed to introduce beginning dogs and handlers to the sport of agility. There are two classes – ACT 1 and ACT2. Clubs and trainers can adopt the ACT classes as the graduation exercise for their training classes to be held at their facility thus providing their students a familiar and comfortable setting. The ring size requirements are small enough that ACT classes can be held in many training facilities across the country. In addition to preparing for these introductory classes, exhibitors will learn to do things such as to enter an AKC event, check-in at the ring, prepare for their run, and handle their dog while under judgment. We hope that clubs and trainers will use these classes as learning experiences.

There are several elements of the ACT program that are different from AKC Agility Trials.

- Eligibility to enter: This program is for dogs that do not have an AKC Agility title at the Novice level or higher. Dogs may enter ACT2 without having an ACT1 title. Dogs that are not registered/listed with the AKC may participate and their performance will be recorded under a temporary recording number. Owners will receive a letter from the AKC explaining how they can register their dogs. Application to be listed as a Canine Partner may be accepted at the test and submitted with the results.
- Judges/Evaluators: All AKC agility judges may judge the ACT classes. In addition we will be setting up a system for trainers and experienced participants to become ACT evaluators. Evaluators may judge ACT classes. There will be an application, online test and nominal fee to become an evaluator. More information about becoming an ACT evaluator will be available within the next couple of weeks.
- Holding ACT events: Any AKC agility judge/ACT evaluator may hold a stand-alone ACT event. The event does not have to be held by an AKC licensed club. AKC agility clubs may hold ACT events in conjunction with their trials if they desire.
- Jump Heights: No jump height card is required to enter an ACT class. Handlers are encouraged to have their dogs jump at the appropriate height that will help them prepare for AKC Agility trials.
- Event Applications: Clubs or judges/evaluators do not need to file an application for ACT events; there will be no application fee. A \$5.00 per entry recording fee for all dogs entered will be submitted with the results.
- Courses: Evaluators and judges will need to submit their courses for review; however, courses may be reused, which we encourage for ease of administration.
- Titles: Dogs must receive two passing scores to earn each of the ACT titles. Dogs are required to be fully registered/listed in order to be awarded a title.

There will be an ACT page on the AKC website where forms and information can be accessed. We have also set up a mailbox for the ACT program [act@akc.org](mailto:act@akc.org). ACT related questions can be sent to this mailbox. Please see the regulations and other information as it becomes available on the ACT web page that can be accessed through the [Agility Home Page](#).

We are looking forward to working with clubs, trainers and evaluators to introduce new exhibitors to the sport of agility.

The AKC Agility Department

## **BMCFL RESCUE AND REHOMING UPDATE** **(also appearing in the BMDCA's Alpenhorn)**

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Finger Lakes (BMDCFL), covering Upstate NY outside of Albany and NYC and northern Pennsylvania, is small in number but has the distinction of being the second regional club in the country, established in 1979. We are proud to have always had as our mission the Rescue and Rehoming of our beautiful breed.

We expect breeders to take life-time responsibility for their puppies through communication with the owners and sharing all the highs and lows. We also expect all breeders and members to take an active role in Rescue. As a result, with few exceptions, our "dogs in need" have originated from puppy mills, pet shops, and backyard breeders. We don't have a lot of dogs in our region available for Rescue or Rehoming, though the number is increasing. When a Bernese is available through Rescue or Rehoming, the dog is usually placed very quickly, since demand is high. Sometimes, we are contacted and then the dog is placed by its family within hours or a day, well before we can visit the dog to assess its character and health. When a dog does become known to us and is assessed, we attempt to match the dog with a suitable family interested in adopting a dog in need. We provide long-term support to the family.

"Benny's" story and pictures are a wonderful testament to his family and their commitment. To fill out this story a bit, I call this adoption "Benny and the Jets". The match between dog and family was one of the best. "Benny" was rescued by a dog warden. He had only three working legs. His left rear leg was carried high and never touched the ground. The dog warden called and reported that "he swims and runs faster and with more agility than most dogs with four legs." I also know he was another "Eddy". What Glenn did not mention is that Benny now uses four legs, thanks to Glenn and his wonderful family and the great care and treatment they have provided. Benny now has the forever home he deserves.

While this issue of the Alpenhorn features many success stories, it's important to address the heartbreak that Rescue and Rehoming work can bring. When we lose a dog after a placement, we share the grief with the family who took the risk and gave the best love and care for a precious brief period of time. It's difficult for us to foster dogs with extreme medical, structural and behavioral problems. We do have access to club members with some expertise in these situations, which is very helpful. It does appear that the number of dogs with behavioral issues, particularly aggression, is growing. Some of these dogs simply cannot be placed in other homes and have few options. We also have an "angel" who has adopted two of our "special needs" dogs.

As the Rescue/Rehoming Chair of our club for many years, I appreciate the networking opportunities and support provided by others with the same mission as ours, not only by Kathy Deyo and the BMDCA's Rescue program but also the many regional clubs with their tireless volunteers.

Sincerely,  
Galen Zimmer  
Rescue/Rehoming Chair  
BMDCFL



### Update on Benny the Rescue Dog!

We celebrated our first year with Benny this weekend.

He is doing great - he uses his left rear leg somewhat and has gained about 25lbs since we got him (he was only 73lbs when we got him). Our vet feels he may now be a few pounds overweight but this weekend he got special food to celebrate his birthday.

We love him very much and can't imagine our family without him.



## NY Assembly Passes Debarking Ban, Contact the Senate

cqrcengage.com

NY Assembly Passes Debarking Ban, Contact the Senate

January 27, 2016

[www.akc.org/government-relations/legislative-alerts/NY-Assembly-Passes-Debarking-Ban](http://www.akc.org/government-relations/legislative-alerts/NY-Assembly-Passes-Debarking-Ban)

The NY Assembly has passed a ban on “debarking” and now the bill goes to the Senate Agriculture Committee. The AKC opposes A1679, which would restrict the rights of responsible dog owners to make viable, safe decisions on behalf of their pets in conjunction with their veterinarians. Last year, the bill never received a hearing in the Senate Agriculture Committee. Those who reside or participate in events in New York are encouraged to contact the Senate Agriculture Committee and ask them to once again oppose Assembly Bill 1679 and not schedule it for a hearing. To contact the committee, visit <http://www.nysenate.gov/senators-committees> and select “Agriculture” from the drop-down menu.

### Talking Points:

There is much misinformation about the veterinary surgical procedure of debarking. **Debarking actually saves dogs’ lives.** It is a viable veterinary procedure that may allow a dog owner to keep a dog in its loving home rather than to be forced to euthanize or surrender it to a shelter when the pet’s noisy behavior continually disrupts the community.

Debarking should only be performed under anesthesia by a qualified veterinarian after behavioral medication efforts to correct a dog’s excessive barking have failed. As with other veterinary medical decisions, the decision to debark a dog is best left to individual owners and their veterinarian, and should not be arbitrarily banned by law.

Visit the [AKC Government Relations Legislative Action Center](#) for AKC’s official position on this issue, as well as other talking points.

AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) will continue to closely monitor this legislation and provide updates as they become available. For questions or more information, contact AKC GR at (919) 816-3720 or [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org).

### Westminster Dog Show

The Westminster Judging Program has been released.

[http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org/2016/show/WKC\\_2016\\_judging\\_program.pdf](http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org/2016/show/WKC_2016_judging_program.pdf)

There are 27 Bernese Mountain Dogs entered with a breakdown of 1-3(15-8).

They will be in Ring 8 at Pier 94 on Tuesday, February 16, 10:30 AM.

Check on line for live streaming at the Westminster Kennel Club website

### A Berner at work, providing love and support

“Haze”

Puppy to Provide Emotional Support at Funeral Home “Haze” will be an option for families at Loess Hills, available to provide comfort and walk alongside them as they view a casket, or just to serve as a listening ear.

[http://www.wowt.com/home/headlines/Puppy-Undergoing-Training-to-Work-at-a-Funeral-Home-364517241.html#.Vo\\_Euk57bbE.email](http://www.wowt.com/home/headlines/Puppy-Undergoing-Training-to-Work-at-a-Funeral-Home-364517241.html#.Vo_Euk57bbE.email)

## Healthy Dogs, Sick Dogs - Does Breed Type Make A Difference?

www.akc.org

Dr. Klein weighs in on an important study conducted about the association between inherited canine illnesses, and whether or not a dog is a mixed-breed or purebred.

For more than 30 years, I have served as a veterinarian at one of the largest veterinary emergency hospitals in the country. Each year, our hospital treats more than 11,000 cats and dogs in our emergency room. Thousands more see our veterinary specialists. As you might guess, I've taken care of a lot of dogs and have likely seen just about every type of canine illness you can imagine. I am also a longtime owner and breeder of [Afghan Hounds](#). One thing I've learned through my experience is that when it comes to illness, pretty much any dog can get sick. Despite articles claiming that mixed-breed dogs are healthier than purebred dogs, my extensive first-hand experience, and [an important study conducted by the University of California-Davis](#), tells us otherwise.

For the whole article please look up the link:

This is a link to an article written by Dr. Klein, AKC CVO. The article "HEALTHY DOGS, SICK DOGS - DOES BREED TYPE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?" addresses recent articles questioning the relative health of Purebred dogs.

<http://www.akc.org/news/healthy-dogs-sick-dogs-does-breed-type-make-a-difference/>

## Rescue and Rehoming Report:

Galen Zimmer

BMDCFL'S Rescue/Rehoming Chairperson

August 2015: "Katie", a 5 year old spayed female with special needs was placed with Cindy Gersterzubrick from Rensselaer, New York. "Katie's" owner died and her son asked for our help in rehoming. This is the second "special needs" berner that Cindy had adopted from our program. Patty Smith fostered "Katie" for a brief time before her placement.

October 2015: "Leo", renamed "Milo", a 4 year old neutered male was adopted by Ric Champagne. Ric and his partner, Mark, traveled 6 hours from Providence, Rhode Island to pick up "Leo/Milo" from a family in Watkins Glen who felt they could no longer keep him for a variety of reasons.

January 2016: "Kaiser", a nine month old neutered male was adopted by Sherri Lewis and her husband. Sherri and Peter have had berners in the past and recently lost their ten year old. The family requesting help in placing "Kai" was faced with an uncertain employment future and felt that "Kai" would not do well in a small apartment. Sherri and Peter say "he's perfect" and can't wait to show him off at Bernerfest.

## Hello all!

Hope you are having a great Berner winter!! Hope some of you got some snow for your Berner boys & girls!!

Nationals will be here before we know it and they have asked that our basket gets to them by Tuesday, May 3rd. They ask us to send a picture the week before and send it along for table planning. Tom and I will be going so we will take it. Two years ago our basket was **bid on the most** and we would love to repeat that!! It got tons of attention so we need your help.

Our theme is NYS items and I'd be glad to pick any thing up or you can send it to me at:

Pam Wehle  
1 Carters Grove  
Pittsford, NY 14534  
Or you can call me at: 585-734-7260

We really need everyone's help to make this a great basket and the most bid on again!!

Thank you in advance for anything you can donate!!!

My best  
Pam Wehle

***As a reminder, this was our 2014 basket***





**From: Lynn Nelson**

**BMDCA Ways and Means**

[bernermom585@aol.com](mailto:bernermom585@aol.com)

Old Yearbooks

I recently discovered that there are a number of older yearbooks that people did not realize were available. These go all the way back to 2000 and possibly even late 1990's. Breeders and owners might want them as historical records of their pedigrees, or to give to their new puppy families the yearbooks where the dam or sire or grandam/grandsire received their titles, or perhaps your club historian would be interested in these for your club.

Frankenmuth

Yes, the all exciting National Specialty is coming up quickly. I am hoping BMDCFL members could email me if you are interested in volunteering for a shift or 2 at the National Ways and Means booth and which day(s) and hours they could help. The Ways and Means table will be located in a spot where everyone can see what is happening in the ring, so no one has to miss out on the action. The booth is open Mon-Friday 9am-4pm and Sat 9am-12pm. My hope is to get enough volunteers so that they would only work one 2 hour shift.

Thank you so much for your help. It is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

# BernerFest 2016

Will be held June 12<sup>th</sup>

The Theme this year is:

**"Looking Back as We Move Forward"**

BernerFest 2016 wishes to honor our Club's History as we move forward in a direction that benefits our beautiful dogs and their caretakers.

One of the ideas that I have is to set up a table displaying photos and mementoes from the past and present and another table offering Berner Treasures from those of us how are "downsizing" to those who are collecting.

Your ideas and help would be much appreciated.

Thank you in advance,

Galen Zimmer  
485 North Road  
Freeville, New York 13068  
(607)844-4168



**Sunday, April 24, 2016**

***Tioga County Kennel Club's***

**~Spring~**



# **EYE & CARDIAC CLINIC**

*Eye testing to be done by:*

**Dr. Thomas Kern of Cornell University.**

*Cardiac testing to be done by:*

**Dr. Bruce Kornreich of Cornell University.**

*We need at least 30 Cardiac appointments for Dr. Bruce to come!*

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**Place – Owego Veterinary Hospital  
Southside Drive, Owego, NY**

**Times – starting at 9 am until finished**

**~ Prices ~**

Eyes - \$35 for 1-2 dogs, \$33 for 3-4 dogs, \$32 for 5+ dogs  
Cardiac - \$40 per dog *Cash or Checks only!*

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***Appointments by registration only!***

Contact by Email preferably:

Vicki Kubic – [VickiKubic@aol.com](mailto:VickiKubic@aol.com)

or by cell - 607-725-3662 - call anytime - leave a  
detailed voice message if no answer