



Mason-Dixon Bernese Mountain Dog Club

Berner Tales

Spring 2012

Spring Calendar 2012

March 14-18 *Celtic Classic*

York Exposition Center, Rt 74, York PA; Berners in Memorial Hall

- **Supported Entry and Plan B Match and Reception Friday BMDCA Regional Specialty with sweepstakes Saturday,**

Go to www.raudogshows.com 5 days before the show for judging schedules; Match starts $\frac{1}{2}$ hr after Best in Show Friday

April 14 and 15 *Back to Back*

Draft Tests John Rudy Co Park, York PA BMDCW Saturday, MDBMDC Sunday **volunteers needed** Jill at JillsBerner33@aol.com

May 7-12 *BMDCA National Specialty*

Eisenhower Conference Center, Gettysburg, PA www.bmdca.org for schedule and information

MDBMDC **volunteers needed to help with morning hospitality, Rally and other events** cox215@comcast.net
Rally Stewards vchase529@att.net

Celtic Classic March 14-18

BMDCA MDBMDC Regional Specialty with Sweepstakes Saturday March 17

Judge: Christine Mann, Boulder CO

Sweeps Judge: Roseann Deutsch, Mechanicsburg PA

This is an opportunity to see many of the top dogs from the mid-Atlantic and beyond. There will be a brief general meeting after judging with snacks and a chance to visit.

MDBMDC Supported Entry Friday March 16

Judge Terry Depietro, Howell NJ

AKC Sanctioned Plan B Match and

Reception Friday March 16 1/2hr after Best in Show judging; entries at ringside \$5; Reception during and after the Match (usually about 6 pm)

Judge: Georgeann Reeve, Leesburg VA

4-6, 6-9, 9-12, 12-18 and open and junior showmanship; no professional handlers except on dogs they own or co-own; no champions, **limited registration dogs WELCOME**

Three days of Obedience and Rally Trials at these shows - Thursday thru Saturday - in Old Main, and extensive shopping for dog related items in the All Breed Show area in the Toyota Arena.

Back to Back Draft Tests

April 14 and 15

Mason Dixon BMDC and the BMDC of Watchung are holding their annual back to back tests in York PA this year at John Rudy Co Park - a dog park! This is an opportunity to watch draft for anyone who has ever thought it would be neat to try it or even to just see our dogs working in a traditional way. This year's theme is a day at the beach so bring your beach chair.



Information on entering the draft test as well as how to get to John Rudy Park (400 Mundis Race Rd, York PA) is in the premium list at www.mdbmdc.org under events. The best way to learn about draft is to be a steward and just help. You can be an essential part of a draft test without ever having done draft, serving as a visual or audio distraction, helping with food, or moving carts into the ring. To volunteer contact Dawn Cox cox215@comcast.net or Jill Shaeffer at JillsBerners33@aol.com

Your Berner is welcome to come with you but needs to be on a leash or in a crate in order for the draft dogs to work. There will be other dog events that day as well from the York Kennel Club. Watch your MDBMDC members email FMI closer to the date.

The BMDCA National Specialty in our "backyard"

Every year BMDCA members travel many miles to the National specialty. May 7-12 it is coming to us in Gettysburg, PA. Dawn Cox is assistant chair so MDBMDC is involved in working on the specialty. One task is helping everyone get fed and going early each morning. The club needs volunteers to manage the morning hospitality room where a continental breakfast is available to everyone Tuesday through Saturday mornings. If you can work a 6-8 am or 8-10 am shift on one of these days, it would be a huge help to the club. It is a great way to meet Berner folks from all over the US and Canada plus foreign visitors as well. Email Dawn at cox215@comcast.net

Valerie Chase is Rally chair and is looking for Rally stewards to work on Wednesday May 9. No experience is necessary for you to do a great job as a Rally steward with a bit of on the job training. Watching as a steward you will learn a lot about AKC Rally. Half or whole day help would be most appreciated. Contact Valerie at vchase529@att.net.

Access the Specialty website thru WWW.bmdca.org. The Specialty Ways and Means items are at the BMDCA Store. Select the National specialty website from the BMDCA menu.

There are GREAT health clinics at the Specialty for all our dogs with discounts and amazing Berner shopping and raffles as well as hundreds of lovely and talented dogs!

Rescue update

Rescue has had a busy start to 2012. So far we have fostered and placed 4 dogs. All 4 were owner relinquished for various reasons. **Holly**, a 5yo female, was fostered and later adopted by Marisa and Nate Porter in Mechanicsburg, PA where she lives with her new sister Lucy the Cocker. **Gypsy** and **Thunder** were surrendered together and were fostered by the Thibeaults. **Thunder**, a 3yo male, was adopted by Ginny Niebuhr in Glenmoore, PA where he has a new Berner sister. **Gypsy**, a 7yo female, was later adopted by Michelle and Brett Fye in Altoona, PA where she has two new brothers - Rowdy the Berner and Apollo the golden mix. **Lily**, a 3yo female, was fostered by the Winicurs and was recently adopted by the Rogers family from Sparks, MD where she is getting the love and attention she deserves from the Rogers children.

Rescue had a very successful fundraiser at the health clinic this year by doing pet photos. Angela from Pooch Smooch photography donated all of the proceeds to rescue. Thanks to everyone that supported us at the health clinic. Please come out and visit the rescue table on 3/17 at the Celtic Classic and on 4/15 at our draft test in York. Rescue will also have a table set up at the National Specialty and are looking for volunteers that can help man our table for a few hours during that week. For more information on any future rescue events or how to help rescue, please contact April Clark @ jabbclark@comcast.net. Please visit our club's website to see information on current rescues and rescue events.

Thanks - April

Club News

The **Constitution and By-Laws** revisions went smoothly thanks to all of you who returned ballots and they were sent to the AKC in early November.

The **Halloween picnic** had great weather and good food and costumes, but we are going to organize it differently next year. We will start with appetizers and the general meeting, then eat lunch followed by the costumes and raffle. Valerie is already collecting raffle items.

The **Health Clinic** in January was the usual amazingly successful and busy event with many breeds of dogs, not just Berners. Thanks to everyone who came, did work on their Berners, and made sure information got into Berner-Garde. Blood draws and DNA swabs added to the permanent frozen collection at MSU vet school - a joint BMDCA and B-G project. Researchers request materials from the collection for canine health research and have access to the B-G pedigree database wheretied to the dogs' B-G number. Please make sure your dogs are ALL in the Berner-Garde database. The entire MDBMDC Board works this event along with many members.

Each year many of us say goodbye to our beloved dogs. **Tart**, the countersurfing queen at Valerie and Bill's house, died of a ruptured hemangiosarcoma on her heart in September. Jill Shaeffer lost her wonderful and talented boy **Grendal** very recently to histiocytosis. He was a CH, doing draft and working on his versatility title. Jill does an amazing amount of work for MDBMDC. Give her a hug when you see her at our up coming events to let her know how much she is appreciated.