



# Mason-Dixon Bernese Mountain Dog Club

## Berner Tales

Summer 2009

### 2009 Calendar

August 8 - Supported Entry and Tailgate Potluck - at Penn Ridge Kennel Club Show at Farm Show and Fairgrounds, Harrisburg, PA - general meeting to follow

September 19 Bark for Life Relay to raise funds for cancer research, John Rudy Park's Canine Meadows, York PA;  
[cox215@comcast.net](mailto:cox215@comcast.net) FMI

October 12 - Board Meeting

October 18 - Halloween Picnic - at Valerie and Bill's small farm, Parkton, MD - Costumes for dogs and kids earn a free raffle ticket; general meeting to follow  
[vchase529@att.net](mailto:vchase529@att.net) FMI

December 5 or 6 - Holiday Party - not sure yet

December 14 - Board Meeting

January 10, 2010 Health Clinic

### Note from the Editor

Sorry this is SOOOOO late, My computer got sick and slowly died. I have a new one. Finally.  
Valerie

### Remembering Mary Merrell

*"It came to me that every time I lose a dog, they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog who comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are."*

This was one of the quotes that Mary Merrell loved, and we know she had lived long enough to become as generous and loving as dogs are, but she left us for the Bridge much too early. Mary's gifts to humans and to dogs were many, including her therapy work with KPETS ([www.kpets.org](http://www.kpets.org)) and the dozens of Bernese mountain dogs she helped find forever homes for the Mason Dixon BMDC rescue program. Mary died of cancer May 7, 2009.

Among the dozens of ways Mary worked for Rescue was the leadership of her and Ed's big red wildly decorated truck as a dozen members or more of the club marched for Rescue in the Westminster Holiday Parade. Her service was held May 11. Her casket was attended by a number of the dogs she helped rescue and their owners. Those of us in MDBMDC learned of Mary's respiratory therapy career and her use of therapy dogs in her work and with KPETS at the service in her beautiful country Lutheran church. The following letter shows how Berner rescue affected one family.

## A Rescue Story

Julie is a wonderful story. She is our 9-year old that we couldn't find a home for. She lived her entire life outdoors in an invisible fenced yard, sleeping under the porch. Her family had to move and left her behind because they didn't have a yard for her at their new house. Babs & Dan Winacur fostered her for several months, eventually getting her to feel safe inside a house. Babs brought Julie to Mary's memorial service. At the reception, there were 2 ladies that just fell in love with Julie. As it turns out, they worked with Mary at KPETS (Wendy spoke about Mary's contribution to KPETS at the service), and Wendy is a vet tech at Landisville Animal Hospital - the place Mary took our orthopedic rescues. After hearing Julie's story and finding out she was looking for a home, the ladies asked if Babs would mind bringing Julie by their house on their way home to see how she fit into their home and with their animals. Babs said it was a match made in heaven and that they had a perfect dog friendly house. We all feel that this was Mary's last placement, since she brought us all together for us to meet. I saw Adella, Wendy, and Julie last weekend at Dog's Day in the Park. They were all beaming - it was definitely a great match. Sent by April Clark, PA rescue coordinator

## Honoring Mary

On September 19, 2009 from 9 am to 1 pm the York Kennel Club is sponsoring **Bark for Life** at Canine Meadows in the John Rudy County Park, York PA a part of the American cancer Society's bark for Life walks. Mary's husband will be with the club members to walk a lap in Mary's memory and honor. The club is hoping that many of the rescue dogs she helped find forever homes for will be able to join the club in walking that lap.

## Bark for Life

Dawn Cox's team is **Bernese for Life**. You can add your name to her team by signing up with the Bark for Life of York relay. Go to [www.relayforlife.org/payork](http://www.relayforlife.org/payork) and print out the Bark for Life Entry form. Fill it out and send it in. For the team name, select Bernese for Life.

See the Bark for Life flyer enclosed. There will be many exciting vendors as well as things like CGC testing.

## Recent and Belated Brags

It would be hard to list all of Dawn Cox and Georgeann Reeve's possible brags for Tanner since he has been racking up breed and all breed points with group wins. He is # 4 in the US right now and just took one weekend in Canada to bring home a Canadian championship. With only 8 shows he had 4 Group 1, 1 Group 2, 1 Group 3, 2 Group 4.

Donna Coffin's M&M Mtns Not Ur Ordinary Smith was WD/BOW at Spartanburg KC for a 3 point major to earn his Championship and at the Greenville KC show, his first time out as a special, he was Best of Breed. Smith is handled by Wendi Cowell.

Robin Greenwood writes: we did have a couple of brags from the Spring. Presley took a Best of Breed at the Piedmont KC. Montana got his RN while Shasta got 3 RAE legs. Shasta and Montana got their CDs. While doing so, Montana got High in Trial BMD one day at the Celtic Cluster.

## News from Our Neighbors

### Potomac Valley BMDC

Sept 12, Plan B Match; Sept. 13 draft workshop with Judge Barbara Gibson. Both at Walkersville, MD just north of Frederick, MD; FMI and registration form for the draft workshop [www.pvbmhc.org](http://www.pvbmhc.org)

## Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Watchung

Saturday Oct. 3 Fall draft Test; Sunday and Monday Oct 4 and 5 Regional Specialty - sweeps, conformation, obedience and rally; all in Allentown, PA Go to [www.bmdcw.org](http://www.bmdcw.org) for draft premium and more information A little bird tells me Watchung will host the 2012 BMDCA Specialty and MDBMDC's Dawn Cox and Cathie Shipe among others will be involved

## 4 Paws Spa's new owners!

4 Paws Spa and training facility in Forest Hill, MD was started by former MDBMDC member, Jane Sweetman. It got sold and then resold and low and behold, the Greenwoods now own it.

You can wash your dog in their big walk around tubs, dry them with fluffy white towels and groom them and go to dog classes in the huge agility size matted ring. You can also rent their ring for training. Dude learned to pull his cart in the 4 Paws ring which Valerie rented on a cold winter day. Robin writes: Thanks for mentioning 4 Paws. Our new website is [www.4pawsspaonline.com](http://www.4pawsspaonline.com). We have an obedience Show 'N Go Sept. 6th.

## Rescue Update and Happenings

Please join rescue at their fall/winter educational events (for more information, please contact April Clark @ [jabbclark@comcast.net](mailto:jabbclark@comcast.net)):

Saturday, September 19 - Bark for Life, John Rudy Park, York, PA from 9am - 1pm. This is an American Cancer Society event to raise funds for cancer research. We are putting together a team in memory of Mary (Mary's Tails) for this 1 mile walk. The grand marshal of this event is our very own Ed Merrell. There will be other themed laps, including a rescue lap. Please check out our team's website at <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/marystails>. If you want to join us, registration is \$10/dog. The teams are to be 8-15 dogs, so if you see our team is filling up, please let me know so I can create another team for Mary's Tails. If you can't join us, please consider making a donation to our team.

Sunday, September 20 - Woofstock, Riverfront Park, Harrisburg, PA from 11am - 5pm. This is a huge event put together by Central PA Animal Alliance. You will see a TON of dogs here. Featured guests are Victoria Stilwell from It's Me or the Dog and Rescue Ink Unleashed. See their website for more details - <http://www.cpaawoofstock.com/>

Saturday, October 3 - Bark in the Park, Nottingham County Park, Nottingham, PA from 11am - 3pm. This is a new event put on by the county park service. There is a rain date - Sunday, October 4th.

Saturday, October 10 - Dog Fest 2009, Shawan Downs, Cockeysville, MD from 10am - 4:30pm. This is put on by the Baltimore Humane Society and is for all animals, including horse rescue. See their website for more details - <http://www.baltimorehumane.org/dogfest-welcome>

Saturday, November 28 - Westminster Holiday Parade, Westminster, MD. Sue will give us more information about this event as it gets closer. Everybody loves to see our Berners in this holiday parade. In the past we have won a prize for our entry.

**Rescue update:** So far rescue has taken in 6 dogs in 2009, all of which have found wonderful adoptive families. They included a mother/daughter team, Abby and Kendel; Daisy, a stray with mange that we got from York SPCA; Sammy, from Mary's hometown of East Berlin, who was left alone at his house while his family lived with relatives; Tyson, that has found a great home where he is the only dog; and our favorite rescue story, Julie which was included elsewhere in this newsletter.

## York Kennel Club Hosts Bark for Life Event

American Kennel Club Responsible Dog Ownership Day

September 19, 2009



**To start or join a team:**  
[www.relayforlife.org/payork](http://www.relayforlife.org/payork)  
(between May 15-August 31, 2009)  
or  
American Cancer Society  
Contact: Ann Mummert  
Ann.mummert@cancer.org  
717-846-2561

*There is no finish line until we find a CURE!*

American Cancer Society  
**Bark For Life of York**  
HOSTED BY THE YORK KENNEL CLUB

**Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009**  
**9 AM—1 PM**  
at  
**Canine Meadows at John Rudy County Park**

- A Celebration of AKC Responsible Dog Ownership including 1 mile dog walk, canine demonstrations, and educational opportunities.

**Be a responsible owner:**

- All dogs must be leashed.
- Please no flexible leashes.
- Make sure your pet has current vaccinations
- Dogs must be under owner's control at all times.



Bark for Life is a special fundraising event in collaboration with the American Cancer Society to support cancer care in our local community. The event will also be a celebration of American Kennel Club's Responsible Dog Ownership month.

AKC Canine Good Citizen testing, microchipping, dog walk, demonstrations and more are planned! All dogs must be registered to participate in the event.

September 19, 2009  
9-1 (Registration at 8 am)  
John Rudy County Park 400 Mundis Race Road York, PA 17406

PRE-REGISTER ~ SUPPORT AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY  
[www.relayforlife.org/payork](http://www.relayforlife.org/payork)

Pre-registration is recommended and is \$10 per dog.

On-site registration is \$25 per dog (\$10/addtl dog/family).

Join a Team or Form a Team! [www.relayforlife.org/payork](http://www.relayforlife.org/payork)

For More Information call

Ann Mummert 717-846-2561 or Dawn Cox 717-637-1679