



# YODELS

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Southeastern Wisconsin Newsletter

December 2025  
Volume 3, Issue 5

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Congratulations to: Peggy Granger! Stonehill's Stars In Her Eyes "Iris" BG #: 71167  
"This tastes a lot like the ornaments on the indoor tree."

Photo contest pictures can be submitted at any time by emailing them to PHHessCo@aol.com

## BMDCSEW EVENTS

### Next Up

**Awards Banquet**  
February 8  
location T.B.D.

**Back2Back Winter**  
**Specialties West Bend,**  
**WI February 27 and**  
**28<sup>th</sup>**

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> Membership**  
**Meeting location TBD**

## Bernerfest 2025

Bernerfest was held on Sunday, September 28, 2025. The weather was absolutely beautiful. The turnout was beyond my expectations. We posted Bernerfest on several social media accounts, which in turn brought people from many different areas of Wisconsin. I know we handed out over 65 name tags with the majority of the people being visitors. The Berners were so well behaved and represented our breed very well.

I want to give special recognition and BIG THANKS to the members that stepped up to volunteer. Without my volunteers, this event would not have been as great as it was.

Upon arriving, guests were directed to the "Welcome" table manned by Krista Dahl-Koehler and Denali. Krista had a great

display on Berners and Berner activities. Krista made everyone feel

welcome. She also offered a scavenger hunt game so visitors could get to know each other with a chance to win some Berner prizes.

Kevin Gasper volunteered to run "Musical Berner". This game was a big hit with all ages of both Berners and humans. The challenge was getting your dog to sit first. Kevins fun personality helped to make this game great fun.

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## Annual Rescue Report

-- Wendy Kerr Rescue Chair --

The annual rescue report prepared by Wendy is attached to this issue. Wendy assisted with 15 dogs during the reporting period. If you are interested in becoming a foster home or getting involved with club rescue please reach out to Wendy. Wendy has been quietly doing amazing work helping dogs in need. Thank you Wendy for all your hard work!

Wendy Kerr [wisconsinbmd@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinbmd@gmail.com)

## 2025 Draft Tests Recap

On September 26 & 27, 2025, our club, BMD CSEW, hosted our annual BMDCA Draft Tests. They were held at Nashotah Park. It is a perfect place to hold draft tests...spacious and plenty of shade ring side, in the ring and on the freight hauls. The weather was wonderful...50 - mid 70s both days with a few clouds.

Our judges were Eden Jonas from North Carolina and Jill Shaeffer from Pennsylvania.

Paige Hess was our secretary. Her organizational skills and attention to detail made for well run tests.

Many volunteered to help steward. Their help included setting up the ring and taking down at the end of each day, setting the narrows for each team, doing the visual and audible distractions, handing the load to the entrant and accepting the load back from the entrant, getting each cart to the ring entrance in the proper order and place, and leading each freight haul. Our stewards were Carri Lindblom-Borisch, Cindy Falk, Karen Borre, Kathy Koehler, Joanne Brault, Lynne Mueller, Krista Dahl-Koehler, Kerry Luderus, Kay Wendorf, and Mary Alice Eschweiler. The judges commented on how smoothly the tests ran. That is due to these stewards being in position consistently on time. Thank you! Thank you!! The stewards are the backbone of the tests.

Mary Alice Eschweiler also housed, fed, and transported the judges. On Friday, we had 22 entries which is a full test! One entrant withdrew, so 21 teams ran. Of those, we had 15 passes.

On Saturday, we had 18 entrants. Seven entrants withdrew because of passing and completing their titles on Friday, so 11 teams ran. Of those, we had 6 passes.

All in all, it was a wonderful two days of perfect drafting camaraderie!

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Granger  
Draft Test Chair



## BernerGarde Updates

If you haven't checked recently, it is a good time to check that your BMD's health information and titles are up to date in the Berner-Garde Database. If you need any help in submitting health information, title certificates, or last date known alive, please reach out to one of our wonderful Database Operators so that they may assist you. Their contact information is located on the Berner-Garde website homepage under 'Meet Our Team' at this link: <https://bernergarde.org/home/OurTeam>

Link to BG newsletters

<https://bernergarde.org/home/Newsletters>



## Save the Date for the Parade!

The Oconomowoc Christmas Parade presented by Oconomowoc KIWANIS is scheduled for Sunday December 7, 2025 with a 5:00pm start time.

"I'll be home for Christmas" is the theme according to the Oconomowoc ROTARY Facebook page.

## Ode to Opal

Submitted by Wendy Kerr

Too small for the ring so it was said  
But not too small to sleep in my bed

Car rides to you were not a gas  
On that activity you would take a pass

"Monkey" was the nickname I gave you  
My love for you stretched and grew

The outdoors was where you loved to be  
You would reluctantly come in to be with me

My partner, my companion, my bundle of fur  
What a good girl you always were

Our bond was not one I would sever  
I wish you could have lived forever



GO AHEAD  
**BRAG**  
A LITTLE



### Matti -BARC's Matilda

October was a good month for Matti. We went to Octoberfest on the square in Elkhorn and spent about 45 min there with people and dogs and vendors and she walked nicely on leash and had no panic attacks.

She also ran to the fence to bark at the neighbor with Hiker. (In the past she would stay on the safety of the deck or run into the house after a few barks.

She jumped on me; I did gently tell her no but the fact that she was brave enough to do it was a win. To those of you who have rescue dogs you will know why these little things are a big deal. Love her more every day.

Karen Borre

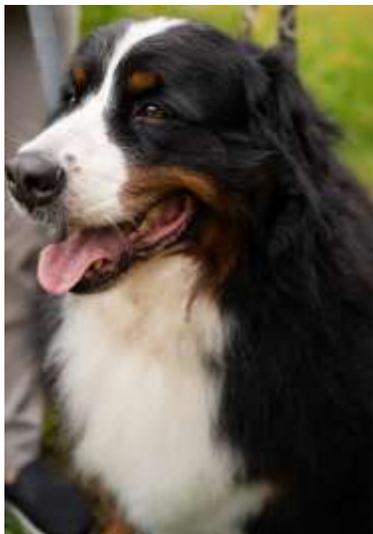


Stone Hill For Auld Lang Syne, Zoli has added 2 new titles to his list. On September 30 he got his CGCU and on October 14 he got his CGCA. He is still willing to try anything for me! Thank you Kerry Waltersdorf for this boy!  
Cindy Falk

## MSU Liquid Blood Biopsy Early Detection Test Research Study

For those club members, whose Berners participated last spring in this research study by donating blood at either the Omro Animal Hospital or the Veterinary Village Clinic, please let us know if your dog has any major health changes, especially if diagnosed with cancer. I will be happy to add the information into the database for you and then also notify the Repository of the health issue.

Thank you again for your participation in this important research project!  
Brycie Marine  
Bernese Garde Trustee  
Co-Liaison to the BMD Repository at MSU.



Wishing "Nessie" Lionhearts Nestled Under The Oaks a happy 9th birthday on December 14th.

Her BG # is 139620

Kathy Bohm



## Sunshine Committee

What's that? -- In case you don't know the BMDCSEW has a sunshine committee. Chaired by Lyn Steffens, she will send out a card on behalf of the club for members who need a little sunshine. So if you know that a club member is in need of a little joy please contact Lyn. She has a new email address and can be reached at [lsteffens124@gmail.com](mailto:lsteffens124@gmail.com). Whether it is a loss of a beloved pet, family member or a health concern, let them know we are thinking of them. Send Lyn the name of the club member and the reason for the card.



## ... Moments from Bernerfest! ...





# Bernerfest 2025

Karen Borre offered a “Rally” course. Our goal was to have fun but also introduce people to Rally Obedience in hopes they may want to try a new activity with their dogs. Karen gave guidance and information on the sport.

Mary Alice Eschweiler offered an area where puppies could have some fun as well as ask questions about raising our special puppies.

Barb Waltenberry held a “Carting Clinic”. Several visitors were very interested in Barb’s clinic, which went through the basics of carting. Barb and Sparkle proved to all that you can do Draft work with any size dog. We also had “Berner” size harnesses available for big dogs to give it a try. Thanks to Cindy Falk for bringing big dog equipment.

We had a basic obstacle course for dogs with a “Sniff Pool” full of balls and treats at the end. Each dog had to use their noses to find treats. I want to thank my brother Jerry for making the obstacle course for me. He said he made it in memory of my Caesar.

Kerry Waltersdorf offered “CGC” testing. 3 people took advantage of this test with two passes. Hopefully, we can build on this for future Bernerfests. It was a challenge for the dogs taking this test with so much activity going on, but it proved they were in fact Canine Good Citizens.

Robin Krumnow offered “Grooming 101”. Robin was available to trim nails and ears as well as answer questions. Several visitors loved this service being offered. Robin was a great Berner Ambassador.

Deanna Scott and her kids provided us with a wonderful lunch of Smoked Turkey Sandwiches, Chips, Homemade Cobblers and water. I would like to give special thanks to Deanna as she donated all the costs for lunch and the supplies. It was delicious.

We also had the famous “Berner Cookies” donated by our club member. Holly. The sale of cookies generated funds towards the expense of Bernerfest.

Jessica Binversie stepped up to run our “Pick a Sucker” game of chance. This was a good fundraiser for the club. Jessica was a huge help in running this event so I could keep talking to visitors and just watch how the day was going. I also want to send out a big shout out and thank you to all the club members that donated baskets and items to be given as prizes. Visitors loved this game, and they were amazed at the quality of the prizes.

Another big hit with the visitors and the Berners were “Pup Cups” and “Photos”. These two events were manned by Penni and Ed Laben. Some dogs had never had a pup cup. It was so fun watching them enjoy this special treat. Many visitors went home with a great photo as a memory of their Bernerfest experience.

If I forgot anyone, I apologize.

In closing, I will be the first to say Bernerfest is a lot of work and cannot be run by one person. It can only be successful if our club members step up to take on a task for the day. It is also very important to take a moment to make the visitors feel welcome. It is our job as a club to educate our puppy buyers so we keep our wonderful breed out of puppy mills, rescues and shelters.

From one Berner Lover to Another,

Kathy Bohm, Bernerfest Chair

**“I want to give special recognition and BIG THANKS to the members that stepped up to volunteer. Without my volunteers, this event would not have been as great as it was.” Kathy Bohm**





# BernerGarde Research Request

\*\*\*\*\*BMD Participants Needed!\*\*\*\*\*

~~Cancer Detection Test Research for Bernese Mountain Dogs~~

If you have a Berner suspected or diagnosed with cancer, would you be willing to participate in a research project by sending a sample(s) of urine? If so, a urine collection kit with supplies and prepaid return shipping included, will be provided at no cost. This collection does not require a

vet and can easily be done at home.

Berner-Garde in partnership with the BMDCA have funded a research project with Rametrix® Technologies Inc. (RTI) , a medical analytics company studying detection of many diseases in humans and dogs including cancer, diabetes, kidney disease and even infectious disease such as Lyme and Covid 19.

The purpose of this research is to develop a urine based test for the earliest and easiest detection of

cancer, thereby improving treatment outcomes.

If you have a Berner with a suspected or confirmed cancer diagnosis, please consider contributing your dog’s urine sample(s) to help future generations.

Please contact:

Brycie Marine at [bryciemarine@gmail.com](mailto:bryciemarine@gmail.com)

Please share this message if you know an owner with a BMD with suspected or diagnosed cancer. We are looking for 250 participants!

For more info go to

<https://rametrixtech.com/>  
[#fortheLoveofaBerner](https://twitter.com/fortheLoveofaBerner)



## Book Review

**Spirit The Dream Chaser**

**Written by Robin & Spirit Hamme**

Book Review by Jane Haefner

At first when I was told about this book, I thought kids book. Do I really want a kid’s book? I have known the Hamme’s for years meeting them at a BMDCA National and thought well I would support them and buy a copy. I was totally wrong about this book; it is a valuable tool for life in general for all ages!

This book centers around Spirit’s life from puppyhood to adulthood and accomplishments, earning titles both conformation and working. But his biggest accomplishment is his draft title earned with his owner, Robin who has disabilities, physically (can’t stand long) and very limited vision. Describes in detail how she felt her way along the dog when harnessing Spirit for a draft test when his handler had to leave before the test. Robin’s biggest hurdle was the freight haul, with very limited vision, how could she navigate a trail with tree roots, different surfaces with limited site and a fear of falling? And then add a very enthusiastic dog who had failed before!

In the back of this book are Appendixes 1-3 that discuss feeling & emotions, activity ideas and thoughts and starters for chasing your own dreams.

This book is beautifully illustrated by Pen Pfisterer Clark and can be purchased on Amazon.

The life lessons I learned in this book will make me go back to it time and time again. As we all know life is difficult and when I get down, I will go back to this book and find my Spirit!

Thanks Spirit and Robin!



Submissions can be sent to  
Paige Hess, Editor  
[pjhessco@aol.com](mailto:pjhessco@aol.com)



*Articles written by members of the BMDCEW on any topic/subject that may be of interest to Bernese members are welcome. Non copyrighted articles or those that can be reprinted with permission are welcome as well*

We're on the Web!  
[www.bmdcsew.org](http://www.bmdcsew.org)

The contents of the Yodels represent the views and opinions of the authors, and not necessarily those of the BMDCEW or it's members, nor does publication constitute endorsement.

The Yodels is published five times a year to coincide with the events

2026 Publish dates Feb. 1 \* May 1 \* July 1 \* Sept 1 \* Dec 1

Deadlines for contributions are 10 days before publish date.

BOARD MEETINGS 2026	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2026
Sat, Jan 17 <sup>th</sup> Zoom Meeting 9:00 am	Sun Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> T.B.D. 1:00 pm
Sun, Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> T.B.D. 10:00 am	Sat, May 2 <sup>nd</sup> T. B. D. 12:30 pm
Sat, March 21 <sup>st</sup> Zoom Meeting 9 am	Sat, July 25 <sup>th</sup> Waukesha Kennel Club Dog Show Waukesha County Expo 1000 Northview Road, Waukesha, WI 53188 1 hour after Bernese judging
Sat. May 2 <sup>nd</sup> T.B.D. 10:00 am	Sunday, September 27 <sup>th</sup> Nashotah Park W33N5113 County Road C Nashotah, WI 53058 10:00 am
Sun, Sept 27 <sup>th</sup> Nashotah Park 9:00 am	Sun, Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> St Mary's Church Dousman, WI 12:30 pm
Sun, Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> St Mary's Church 10 am	

## Club Contacts

### BMDCEW Officers and Directors

- President**  
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- Secretary**  
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### Committees

- Breeder Referral**  
Lisa Patrenets
- Carting / Drafting**  
Kay Wendorf
- Education**  
Kerry Waltersdorf
- Membership Chair**  
Sue Wellenstein
- RCC Representative**  
Paige Hess
- Records/Club Historian**  
Karen Borre

### Rescue Chair

Wendy Kerr  
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### Sunshine

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### Website

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We are on Facebook

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