2015 CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES ©

SUNDAY 7-9 PM

DRAFT SECRETARY SURVIVAL GUIDE
JENNIFER BRIGHTBILL

Hear it from the master! BMDCA Draft Committee Chairperson, Jennifer, will review paperwork and procedure and all the responsibilities of the draft test secretary. She will cover the application process, handling entries and 'draws' as well as all paper work before, during and after the test. By sharing handy tips and tricks to make the process easier and reviewing recent changes to the draft regulations, she will ensure you enjoy your volunteer efforts.

Jennifer saw her first Bernese Mountain Dog on Cycle Oregon, a 500-mile bike trip around the state, and a year later turned in her bike for her first Berner. Another year later a harness and cart were ordered and at the same time a request for a second dog was placed. Tank learned to cart, reluctantly, while Porter pulled his wagon around with great enthusiasm and Jennifer was hooked on the sport. Twelve years later, Jennifer has put over 80 draft titles on 7 of her dogs in both the US and Canada. In 2008, Porter passed the last of 20 draft tests and became the first to earn the Grand Master Draft Dog Award from the BMDCA. And then in October of 2012 Mia and Tilly became the first females to earn the Grand Master Draft Dog Award. Drafting is Jennifer's favorite dog sport. Wanting to promote it to more people, she has put on clinics in Oregon, Washington and Texas, and became a BMDCA judge in 2005.

In addition to draft, Jennifer also competes in conformation, agility and occasionally in obedience. Jennifer and her husband Tom, along with five Berners, live in Oregon City, OR. Their two legged kids are grown, having relinquished their bedrooms to visiting guests and dogs.

MONDAY 9 - 12 PM

ESSENTIAL SPECIALTY GUIDE
DEBORAH SAKS

You're finally at the Specialty, now what? So much to do, so little time! Come find out all about the "can't miss" events at the Specialty. We'll talk about a few things that may help you better understand the ins and outs of performance events and the conformation ring. Awed by agility skills and astonished by draft expertise? We'll explain how to get involved with your Berner in each of the dog sports you can observe. Don't miss the Health Fund Auction and make sure to buy a raffle ticket. Stop by the Media Center to see the displays and have a relaxing chat. Oh, and the Health Clinic, even if you didn't sign up beforehand. Yep, we'll talk about that! Come armed with all the questions you've wanted to ask, and you'll be all set to fully enjoy the Specialty.

Deb's interest in Berners has been life long, but her ownership of them began in 2004 with a rescue from the HMBMDC and has continued through two additional rescues as well as a purchase of a lovely, healthy boy (Starkenhund Humming Along with Mozart, "Mozzie) and a co-ownership of another healthy fluff ball (Hickory's All the Weight of the World, "Atlas"). She has had Berners as therapy dogs and investigated all kinds of Berner activities after her first Specialty in 2010. It was a bit intimidating at first, and she would like to encourage others and help them get more involved.

NEW CANCER THERAPIES
LISA PARSHLEY DVM

This presentation will discuss recent advances in cancer therapies and explore some that are in the pipeline. A major focus of this talk will be some of the less talked about cancers affecting Bernese Mountain Dogs; lymphoma, mast cell tumors, carcinomas, and osteosarcoma. Sharing the limelight in this presentation will be alternative or complementary medicine for cancer.

Dr. Parshley received a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Oregon Health Sciences University in 1994. After working for almost 5 years in basic biomedical research, she pursued a doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from Colorado State University. After receiving her DVM, she completed a small animal internship at Cornell University and an Oncology residency with Dr. Barbara Kitchell at Michigan State University. She has been awarded a specialty certification in oncology from the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Dr. Parshley also has extensive experience in emergency medicine (her other love), critical care, and palliative medicine. Lisa spent her summers growing up in the Puget Sound area and is delighted to have finally have achieved her dream: Olympia Veterinary Cancer Center in Olympia Washington.

50 SHADES OF BLACK, WHITE & RUST
SARA KARL & MADELINE KNOWLES

This presentation will be about the many ways of getting sperm from point A (The Stud Dog) to point B (the Uterus of the Bitch): natural ties, side-by-side Artificial Insemination, Chilled Semen and Frozen Semen breeding. Learn the vocabulary as well as the choices and how to determine which to choose and why. Particularly challenging is how to time a frozen semen breeding. We will cover methods of restraining a bitch for live breeding and how to collect a dog for side-by-side AI or chilled semen shipment. While the emphasis is on what breeders can do themselves, we will also discuss advanced reproductive technologies such as surgical and transcervical inseminations, performed by a specialty veterinarian.

Sara has been breeding and showing her Bernese under the prefix Nashem since 1988. She has managed her stud dogs and breeding bitches herself and learned how to do breedings safely and successfully. She is also an AKC judge approved to judge Bernese and several other working breeds.

Madeline has been showing and breeding Bernese under the kennel name "Swisskiss" (permanent reg. CKC and reg. AKC) since 1989. She has always owned stud dogs, loves the boys and can't imagine not having them in her life. Her very first Berner was a great stud dog, still breeding the girls naturally till he was 9 1/2 years old. Not a lot of breedings at that time were done artificially but on occasion it was required and when she saw how easy it was to do an AI, she learned the procedure herself. The success rate for fresh chilled and frozen semen breedings has greatly increased over the years so this seems like the answer, however, there can be a lot of trial and error, expense, and timing challenges. Finding a good, knowledgeable, experienced reproduction vet to do the insemination is most important. To save time and expense Madeline learned how to collect her males, package and ship the semen so it gets to the owners on time; it is relatively easy to do. She is very interested in the reproduction aspects of breeding dogs and loves working with other breeders that share the same interests and passion for the breed.

MONDAY 12 - 2 PM

BARN HUNTS
SYLVIA KATVALA

What is Barn Hunt? Barn Hunt is the sport for vermin hunting dogs of all sizes. The purpose of Barn Hunt is to demonstrate a dog's vermin hunting ability in finding and marking rats (safely contained in a breathable tube) in a "barn-like" setting, using straw/hay bales to introduce climbing and tunneling obstacles in the dog's path. Maximize your Berner's talents! Does your dog like to sniff, find things, hunt? Then this could be your next fun sport. I'll explain the history of the Barn Hunt Associatlon, the necessary training, event rules and different titles your dog can earn.

Sylvia Katvala fell in love with Berners in 1991, but it took until 1996 for the first one to join her family. With the arrival of Dude 3 years ago came clicker training and exploring Obedience, Rally, Carting, Tracking, Agility, Nose Work and Barn Hunt. They grew as a team since doing Barn Hunt. Dude is the first Berner with a RATO title.

DIGITAL DOGS - Taking Better Berner Photos
BOBBIE HEFNER & PAT LONG

This class will be a quick review of camera basics, with explanations and examples of the various aspects of knowledge needed to get the very best photos you possibly can. Bobbie will call on her vast experience to cover what she has found works best in various situations, travel, individual dogs, litters, and a variety of conditions and lighting. Pat will share her wisdom gleaned from years of taking gorgeous portraits at the Nationals. If you have a *Longshots* Berner portrait on your wall, you are familiar with her talent. What a talented team!

Bobbie has owned and bred Bernese Mountain Dogs under the top winning Swiss Stars kennel name for nearly 30 years (she was obviously only five when she started). Her photos have long been a staple of the National Photo contest, and her litter pictures are always a treat. She travels extensively, and many of us enjoy her vacations vicariously through her breathtaking photos. She works with Wildlife Rehab and Release and does photographs of the birds. She has also been one of the few people invited to a Navaho reservation preserve to do wildlife photography.

Pat would take home the Gold if there were an Olympic Event for hard work, dedication, loyalty, common sense and kindness. She became a board member of BGF in 1998, and became the temporary file manager in 2003. She joined the BMDCA Health Committee in 1999. She has worked long hours in the educational efforts of the Berner-L Education Fund and has been the moderator of the Berner-L since 2000, reported on health issues of the breed, and helped to develop the website www.bmdinfo.org. She has been in Bernese for 26 years, and started doing portrait photos soon after. *Longshots* has been a fixture at every National since 1998, and she and her helpers have raised over $60,000 for the breed with her beautiful photos. She is almost as bad as Joye Neff when it comes to finding fundraising opportunities. And in her spare time, well, no doubt she doesn't have any!

FitPAWS® GYM CLASS FOR BERNERS
CAROL LYNN FOX

Explore how you can improve and condition your dog's body and mind with FitPAWS® equipment. This gym class has many benefits for family, show, service, therapy, senior, puppy dogs and dogs participating in competitive sports. In this fun and interactive workshop you and your dog will explore how to increase core strength, body awareness, self-confidence and to improve topline, increase range of motion, overall endurance strengthening and muscle tone. Dogs should be free from injury and have basic sit and down commands to participate and clicker use is encouraged. Limited space – register early.

Carol Lynn Fox is the owner of Blue Ribbon K9 Academy and is an advocate of positive, force free training methods. She has been involved with dogs since the age of 3 and training for more than 30 years. As a trainer, nothing has been more satisfying than getting students involved in Rally and Obedience, watching the dog/handler bond being built while helping the team earn titles and blue ribbons! Carol Lynn currently has 7 Berners and is the first BMDCA member to be awarded BOB and HIT at the same AKC show.

MONDAY 3 - 5 PM

ADDRESSING ARTHRITIS A New Paradigm for Arthritis Therapy
LISA PARSHLEY DVM

All dogs face osteoarthritis as they age. The pain associated with this disease is different than acute pain, its chronic or neurogenic pain. To successfully treat chronic pain it needs to be viewed as its own disease with its own therapies. Veterinary medicine has developed a new outlook and is in many ways leading the way in this disease. We will discuss this new multimodality paradigm in arthritis therapy; including acupuncture, stem cell therapy, massage, rehabilitation, and a variety of chronic pain therapies.

Dr. Parshley received a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Oregon Health Sciences University in 1994. After working for almost 5 years in basic biomedical research, she pursued a doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from Colorado State University. After receiving her DVM, she completed a small animal internship at Cornell University and an Oncology residency with Dr. Barbara Kitchell at Michigan State University. She has been awarded a specialty certification in oncology from the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Dr. Parshley also has extensive experience in emergency medicine (her other love), critical care, and palliative medicine. Lisa spent her summers growing up in the Puget Sound area and is delighted to have finally have achieved her dream: Olympia Veterinary Cancer Center in Olympia Washington.

NOVICE OBEDIENCE 101
LISA BALDWIN

You've trained your dog, but are YOU ring ready? The most beautiful performances in the Obedience ring happen when both dog & handler work together as a team. This class will cover common handler errors in Novice Obedience. Some of this also applies to Rally, so if you are doing Rally & considering Obedience, this class may be of interest. Partial Novice run-throughs will be available at the end of the class, time permitting.

Lisa has owned Bernese Mountain Dogs since 1988 and started obedience training with her first. Due to orthopedic issues, they didn't compete beyond his Novice title. Her current Bernese has multiple Obedience & Rally titles. She has taught obedience classes ranging from puppy kindergarten and basic pet manners through Open obedience. Her favorite classes are puppy and novice handling.

Lisa currently owns an 11 year-old Japanese Chin (URO1 Shire Dark Side of the Moon RA CGC TT), a 9-year-old Bernese Mountain Dog (UROG UCDX Maine's Jump Start CDX RAE CGC TT), and a 2-year-old Rottweiler (Von Marc's Angels Would Fall RN RAT-N)

MONDAY 7 - 9 PM *BREEDER SYMPOSIUM*

PUPPY POTENTIAL - USE IT OR LOSE IT!
IAN DUNBAR DVM

Without a doubt, the most important aspect of dog training comprises raising dogs to thoroughly enjoy the company and actions of people, especially children, men and strangers, i.e., raising "bomb-proof" dogs. All young puppies are friendly to people but if not adequately socialized *prior to three months*, they will start to become fearful at about five-and-a-half to eight months of age.

Few breeders or puppy owners appreciate the ease, importance and urgency of errorlessly housetraining and chewtoy-training puppies and many fail to see the necessity of early socialization because young puppies appear to be confident and friendly. Of course they are confident and friendly, they're puppies! All young pups should be universally outgoing towards people. However, in normal development, anxieties, fears and phobias do not develop until later in life, i.e., during adolescence. Early socialization with numerous people prevents puppies from becoming fearful and aggressive later in life. In fact, nine of the twelve most common subliminal bite stimuli maybe be desensitized by neonatal handling alone. Yes, what we need is Super Mega - Early Neurological Stimulation on steroids!

Veterinarian, animal behaviorist, and dog trainer, Dr. Ian Dunbar received his veterinary degree and a Special Honors degree in Physiology & Biochemistry from the Royal Veterinary College (London University) plus a doctorate in animal behavior from the Psychology Department at UC Berkeley, where he researched the development of social hierarchies and aggression in domestic dogs.

He has authored numerous books and DVDs about puppy/dog behavior and training, including BEFORE You Get Your Puppy, AFTER You Get Your Puppy, How To Teach A New Dog Old Tricks and the SIRIUS® Puppy Training video.

TUESDAY 9 - 11 AM

INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE, WELLNESS CARE & DISEASE PREVENTION
GARY RICHTER DVM

Learn how integrative medicine can make a difference in your Berner's life. Determine when to seek an alternative approach to care in order to compliment your current veterinary care or how to utilize an integrative approach as your basic method of care. In addition to cutting edge Western medical care, Dr. Richter will discuss complementary and alternative medical options to aid in the prevention and treatment of disease. Some of the modalities he will cover include acupuncture, chiropractic, rehab therapy, hyperbaric medicine, stem cell therapy, and herbal/ nutritional therapy. This will be a rich and varied presentation that will benefit all Berner owners.

Dr. Richter, MS, DVM, CVA, CVC is a certified veterinary acupuncturist and certified veterinary chiropractor. As owner and medical director of Montclair Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Richter understands the benefits of both conventional and holistic treatment methods. His professional goal is to provide a center where pets can receive effective holistic therapies in conjunction with

the treatment and care from their general practice veterinarian. He also places great emphasis on the well being of the pet owner, knowing that a sick pet can cause great strain and strong emotions. He instills this understanding in his staff and works to ensure that both pet and owner are treated with the utmost care and respect.

AKC BMD STANDARD
MARY ALICE ESCHWEILER

"First things first" at Berner U means "Know the Standard". This seminar will cover the basic information about Bernese using the AKC BMD Standard, as well as many of the finer points that only the experienced eyes of a longtime breeder and judge might notice. Mary Alice will share the presentation given to provisional judges and will use live examples to demonstrate what makes a truly spectacular conformation Berner.

Mary Alice has owned Bernese Mountain Dogs since 1959, trained and showed her first AKC Berner to a title as well as the first Berner to get a Utility Dog title. She has bred sixteen litters, trained, shown, and enjoyed the sport of conformation, tracking, obedience and drafting. She served as Board Member and President of BMDCA, on many Specialty Committees, Records Chairman, Judges' Education Chair and member Draft Working Committee and Regional Club Council. Currently approved as an AKC judge of Bernese, Junior Showmanship and BMDCA draft tests and has permit status to judge Alaskan Malamutes. Mary Alice appears in the educational DVD Breed Panel & Discussion filmed in Seattle, Washington.

TUESDAY 12-2 PM

HOSPICE COMPANIONS Sharing Your Berner with Your Community
BARBIE WILCZEK

Of all the things Barbie does with her dogs, which include conformation, obedience, carting, rally, agility and occasionally breeding, therapy dog work is the most rewarding. Fifteen years and six Berners, covering three generations, have presented many unique and unforgettable experiences of sharing therapy dogs with others. They include nursing homes, post 911 Family Assist Center, pet assisted therapy at a children's hospital, assisted living, hospital and hospice volunteer experiences. The work has not only increased the bond Barbie has with her dogs but also has allowed her to personally grow and learn how to deal with people who have suffered terrible tragedy, illness, dying, and ultimately death. She has also learned from others how to appreciate life and find joy and happiness despite hardships and losses.

Barbie and her husband Bill have enjoyed sharing their lives with a total of ten Berners since 1997. Activities with them include conformation, obedience, carting, agility, rally, therapy dog work and occasionally breeding under the kennel name "Tennescott White Mtns". They have had five BMDCA Versatility Dogs including a mother and daughter team who are both BMDCA Versatility Excellent and BMDCC Versatility Dogs. Since retiring from a career in environmental work for an electric utility company, her hobbies, besides dog activities, include rug hooking, kayaking, hiking, gardening and hospice volunteer work.

COMPETE WITH CONFIDENCE! Mastering the Mental Art of Showing Dogs
MARY-ANN SONTAG BOWMAN PHD LCSW

Learning and implementing techniques for training a dog is just one component of preparing for competition – we also need to manage the human experiences that interfere with success in competition. “Ring Nerves” describes the negative experience most exhibitors (75% in one study!) reported feeling prior to and during a dog event. But what many do not understand is that once this negative emotional/physical response has been triggered at a dog event, the negative influence to both handler and dog has already happened and “calm down” techniques are essentially useless. This presentation will provide exhibitors with the understanding and tools needed to approach dog events without the negative response known as “Ring Nerves.” Further, this presentation will educate and support exhibitors in the art of the maintaining both confidence and joy when participating in any type of dog event – or stressful life event!

Dr. Mary-Ann Sontag Bowman is a successful and versatile trainer of Bernese Mountain Dogs, having earned over 100 titles on her dogs (and counting). Mary-Ann and her dogs have titled in conformation, obedience, agility, draft, rally, and tracking, earning many BMDCA awards along the way. She trained and handled the breed’s first bitch to earn Versatility Dog Excellent (Zoey) and another of her talented Kaibab girls (Asia) was the first bitch in the breed to earn the Champion Tracker title and become a Dual Champion. Mary-Ann is an author, a Berkeley-educated university professor, and a compassionate, enthusiastic trainer of both people and dogs – and she has nerves of steel, which she attributes to having been educated by nuns in her formative years.

BREEDER ROUND TABLE
LINDA SEAVER

Breeders and novice breeders alike, what do you want/need to learn? How can we, the BMDCA community, best ‘steward’ and preserve the breed we love? Where is your knowledge base coming up short? What are the topics you honestly feel we need to address? And how might we convey that information: Online classes? Book groups to discuss useful texts? Short videos available on the BMDCA site? Regional in-person seminars? This class intends to listen to Berner breeders to focus efforts and find consensus through brainstorming about how we can all become more informed and become the breeders our dogs deserve. Come prepared with your ideas and opinions.

Linda has enjoyed the company of Berners since 1980. Her involvement with the BMDCA began as special features editor for the Alpenhorn and as an early Specialty Coordinator. Passionate about education in all aspects of the breed, she recently celebrated over a decade of presenting Berner University with Andrea Brin. Linda strives to breed better Bernese, has shown in conformation and obedience but currently competes in draft and agility. Belline, her first Versatility Dog, and now Jam have assisted in her family therapy practice. She answers queries as a Breed Ambassador and currently chairs the Breeder Education Committee. Linda’s husband, Bob, pens charming and humorous Berner cartoons that occaisionally appear in The Alpenhorn.

TUESDAY 3 - 5 PM

RESCUE 101 & RESCUE ROUND TABLE
KATHY DEYO

RESCUE 101, the first hour of this seminar, will be a presentation of how Bernese rescue works on both the regional club level and national level. The discussion will enable you to you become more aware of the process and perhaps find a way to participate. We'll review all aspects of running a Bernese rescue committee: working with shelters, finding evaluators we can trust, identifying strategies for both supporting owners and for removing the dogs, attending to legal concerns, evaluating behavioral issues, finding foster homes, finding volunteer transporters, funding the program, using the web to locate and interview potential families - all with the goal of finding forever homes for dogs in need. Anyone curious about rescue is welcome to come.

The RESCUE ROUND TABLE, the second hour of this seminar, offers an opportunity for BMDCA recognized regional clubs, BARC, and people who individually rescue Bernese to share problems, concerns and solutions. We find that when online friends meet face-to-face it allows us to support each other and create an even stronger network for the next time we need to rescue a Berner. Newcomers are welcome to join us for one or both hours as we always appreciate fresh perspectives.

Dogs have been part of *Kathy Deyo's* life since she was a little girl but she was blessed with her first Bernese in 1986 and will never be without them. Since Hapi Mtn Kennel began, she has been a part of the Bernese community, becoming a BMDCA member in 1987, helping form the Inland Northwest regional club, being active in conformation, obedience, clinics and workshops, helping with National Specialties, and taking in her first rescue Bernese in 1995. Kathy teaches obedience classes locally, gives clinics, and has been a dog 4-H leader for 19 years. In 2001, she took over as BMDCA Rescue & Rehome Coordinator. She has also been elected a BMDCA Board Member on three different occasions. Kathy's mantra is, "If you breed, you are responsible for your dogs throughout their lifetime."

BREEDER ETHICS
DEBORAH WILKINS

This promises to be a most important seminar and discussion session for all Bernese Mountain Dog breeders, especially prospective breeders. With the increasing popularity of the breed, what is our BMDCA Member/Breeder responsibility for breed preservation? What differentiates us from the "backyard breeder" and the "puppy mill"? Frequency of litters? Scrutiny of prospective owners? Willingness to take the puppy back? The price of a puppy? Come and join this discussion where ethics, ideals and reality cross paths.

Debby has been raising, training, and showing Bernese Mountain Dogs since 1988. Throughout that time, she has come across many breed mentors who have aided her in the accumulation of knowledge regarding the ethics of breeding Bernese in the ever-changing dog fancy. Because of her passion for the breed, she is an advocate for responsible pet ownership as well as responsible breeding practices.

EUROPEAN-STYLE SIEGER EVALUATIONS
Celia Cuellar

Celia, a respected and experienced Berner breeder judge, has offered to evaluate your Berner in the European manner. She will closely observe and evaluate over 30 different conformation characteristics while the dog stands in a relaxed, natural pose and then is gaited down and back. She will then give an oral critique of the dog to you and the observing Berner U students. You will also receive a written, signed evaluation of conformation, and a Sieger certificate if your dog receives an "Excellent" rating. Everyone is welcome to come and observe without prior registration.

Celia and her husband Dan, both AKC licensed judges, live with Bernese Mountain Dogs, a Fox Terrier, three goats, and their youngest son in Northern California. Breeding Bernese Mountain Dogs since 1992, she has bred over 30 champions winning multiple group placements, multiple specialties and a Best in Show with her homebred boy, Dakota. Her dogs have been top producers of Champions and Working Dogs throughout the country for many years. She and Dan have imported dogs for their breeding program from Canada, Belgium, and Norway.

Celia is an active, lifetime member in the Shasta Kennel Club and the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America. She taught conformation classes and puppy training classes for 10 years. Her mission is to breed healthy Bernese with a sweet loving temperament. Breeding dogs are evaluated and cleared of genetic diseases or they are not bred. All puppies are raised in the house as part of her family.

WELL BEHAVED DOGS ARE WELCOME IN ALL CLASSES 9 AM - 5 PM

Information on this site is intended to aid Berner University students in selecting their classes. Please contact faculty directly for any other use.