

# Checkerboard Times

Post-show Edition



**“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”  
-A. A. Milne**

## That’s a Wrap!

We delayed this last newsletter to be able to include results — and get home! Let’s start with Friday...

Draft Test #4 had the best weather of the week — it was beautiful! The test ran smoothly, as usual with Gina Craig in charge. Fun Fact: Gina will be managing the draft tests at next year’s Specialty as well. All draft test results can be found [HERE](#).

In the Event Center it was Pink Day on Friday as the bitches showed and we remembered all the human friends we have lost to cancer. May their memories be for blessings.

Two beautiful puppy bitches were selected as Winners (#58) and Reserve Winners (#56).

The PeeWee Event was a Big Hit! It happened on Friday during the lunch break.



Andrea Stefanac 2024

The Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet happened on Friday evening — look for a report on that in this edition of the newsletter.

Saturday was another lovely day but all the attention was indoors. Judge Satu Ylä-Mononen worked steadily through group after group of beautiful dogs and bitches in the Best of Breed ring. In the end, she selected Fennel (#267) as Best of Breed.

Fennel is always owner-handled, has multiple performance titles, and he is a first show dog for his humans. Team Fennel also earned the Specialty Triathlete award! Wow. Versatility in action. Congratulations to Team Fennel.

Best of Opposite and Select are mother-daughter. How is that for consistency?!

Congratulations to all.

The Alpenhorn will carry articles from the judges but I want to mention a few things from the Judges' Dinner, and specifically from those who judged conformation classes. Many of us were very grateful to hear the judges talk about how much progress we have made on fronts. One judge in particular talked about how much of a change he observed since the last time he judged in the USA. A bad front is now the exception — well done, Breeders!

A couple of things that were mentioned as worth watching — judges mentioned that we need to pay attention to eyes because of their importance to expression, and one judge mentioned seeing some long ears. Tails, it was mentioned, can be set both too high and too low.

Overall, the comments from the judges were quite positive and reflected support for the efforts of our Breeders. Keep up the good work, Team, and look for a full accounting of the judges' comments in The Alpenhorn.

Purina Farms was an incredible venue with great staff. The many, many volunteers from the various regional clubs were here, there, and everywhere making the event run smoothly. Question: Is there really only one Chan Keith?!

The judges in every event were fantastic as were the many stewards. Show Chair Dottie somehow stayed cool, calm, and cheerful! The only thing that one could say was unsettling about the week was the weather, and that just added some spiciness to things.

The gratitude is pouring in on the Facebook page and we amplify it here. Thank you to everyone for a fantastic week.

Let's meet in Gettysburg next year and do it all again!

## FENNEL!!!



Best of Breed!  
Best Owner-Handled!

### Results from Saturday's Best of Breed

BOB (267) GCH CH Riverwood's  
The Fennel Countdown CD FDC  
CGC ANDD DD

BOW (58) When the Stars Align  
van de Klaverhoeve

BOS (466) GCH CH Bernergardens  
Buttercup Bayley

SD (253) GCHB CH Karma Que  
N Tristevan's Fearless Redneck  
BCAT CGC TKN

SB (458) GCHB CH Bernergarden's  
Point Break TD PT

BOB/OH (267) GCH CH  
Riverwood's The Fennel  
Countdown CD FDC CGC ANDD DD

Best Puppy (58) When the Stars  
Align van de Klaverhoeve

Best Veteran (201) CH Casanova  
Hard River

BBE (170) Vida's Bet Your Bottom  
Dollar

### Awards of Merit

237 Oskar

239 Banger

243 Bliss

261 Alex

311 Cody

321 Midas

323 Jack

333 Ragnar

345 Hatch

370 Nikki

372 Capella

375 Schooner

387 Emmett

406 Avox

410 Salem

## The 2024 Specialty Triathletes!



Julia Airgood & Margo

Julie Bacon & Moxie

Bill Baron & Buster

Valerie Biehl & Pipa

Valerie Biehl & Tug

Brenda Calvelage & Hozay

Maggie Dalzell & Eminem

Margie Geiger & James

Angie Hanson & Lexie

Bobbi Kinley-Blewett & Baker

Debra Marty & Peter Hanson &  
Pinky

Renee Meriaux & Mosley

Renee Meriaux & Zuko

Russell & Bonnie Ann Motz & Luna

Ruth Nielsen & Hazy

Valerie Normandin & Roy

Melissa Olson & Roy

Kris Osojnicki & Allie

Marti Simons & Moët

Sam Sirico & Fennel - Specialty  
Best of Breed Winner!

Venus Slater & Kibo

Nancy Stewart & Bob

Tim Thompson & Ziva

Laura Wagner & Tanner

Congratulations to all and thanks  
to Ruth Nielsen, her wonderful  
technical support person, Tim  
Thompson, and all those who  
donate for making this fun award  
possible.

## Report from the Mug Dinner! (aka Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet)



The 2024 Fan Award Recipients.

Oldest Boy at 12 Years, 3 Months, 5 Days: Brut (Loyal Bouaoun)

Oldest Girl at 13 Years, 2 Months, 13 Days: Zenna (Kris Osojnicki)

Brut was home on the couch but Zenna was in attendance and made lots of new friends.



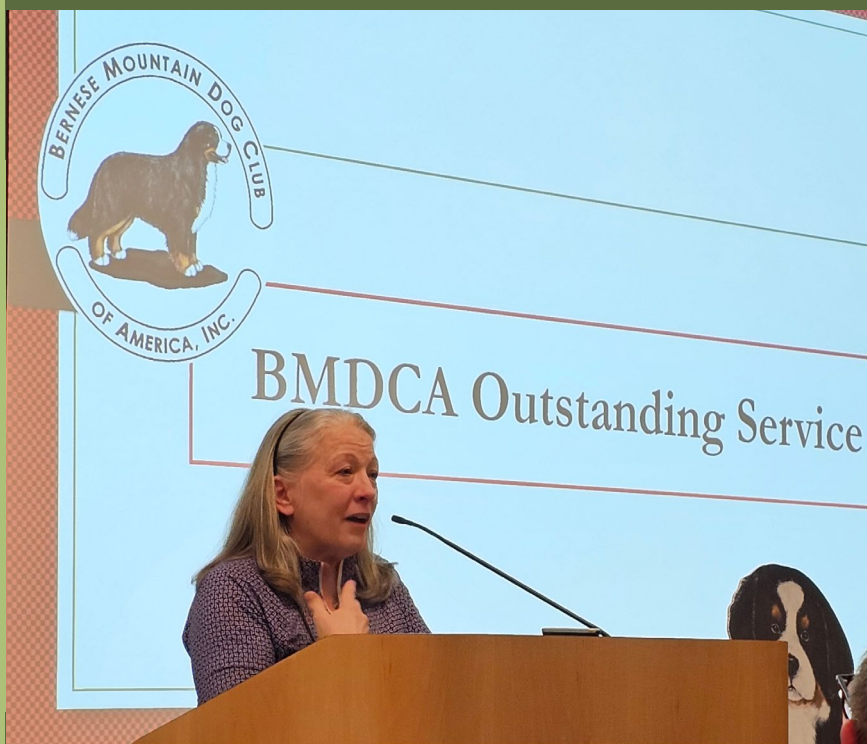
The Berner-Garde Board honored Gary Galunas with a special and well-deserved award to recognize his many years of service.



Dianne Jones received the AKC Outstanding Sportspersonship Award – also a much-deserved honor.



Georgeann Reeve was recognized for the many ways she has served the BMDCA with the Outstanding Service award.



Congratulations to Gary, Dianne, and Georgeann!

The Photo Contest Best in Show was also the People's Choice winner – Congratulations to Becky Johnson on that lovely photo.

Raini Johnson, the BMDCA's Top Junior in 2023 was recognized – well done, Raini!



Over 60 teams vied for the Triathlete Award this year – kudos to the 24 teams that were successful! Special Shout Out to Melissa Olsen for doing this with Sugar on her birthday and Bobbi Kinley for coming on over to the performance side of the house this week with Baker!

Congratulations to all the Top Dogs and plaque recipients!



## THE ALPENHORN

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF AMERICA

### *Best of luck at the 2024 National Specialty Show*

Don't forget to celebrate and commemorate your time in St. Louis with an ad in The Alpenhorn

#### **SPECIAL RATES**

Full Color Page - \$150 (~~\$200~~)

Half Color Page - \$100 (~~\$150~~)

#### **NEW FEATURE**

Be the first to see your ad featured online at [bmdca.org](http://bmdca.org) in the new online ad gallery.



Scan the QR code to place your reservation. Store closes June 1, 2024



SCAN ME

### **Photographs!**

You never know when that photo is the last one. Grab those memories while you can

Chris & Andrea Stefanac ✂ [www.csphotoonline.com](http://www.csphotoonline.com)

Annie McDannold ✂ [www.clickingtocapture.com](http://www.clickingtocapture.com)

Alyssa Janiszak ✂ [alyssajaniszak.shootproof.com](http://alyssajaniszak.shootproof.com)

Thanks again to Lisa Kaufman for helping out with newsletter photos.

The countdown to 2025 has already started. Click [HERE](#) to be taken to the 2025 National Specialty page.