The BARC
BEACON
Shining the Light of Hope and Freedom

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VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3 WWW.BARCINC.NET SEPTEMBER 2009

FEATURED BARC BABY— GRACE HOLLOWAY


BARC's Grace Holloway

I got Grace just before Christmas, 2003. She was rescued by BARC at an auction on October 4, 2003, which happened to be my birthday. Grace was 1 ½ years old, from Hungary, and saddled with the name Diamond Roy's Histy. I changed her name to Amazing Grace, because it was Christmas, I love the song, and she was amazing, but I think I just told BARC it was Grace. Grace came to me shortly after the traumatic loss of my first BARC girl, Gypsy. Gypsy died of kidney failure at only 2 ½ years of age.


BARC's Grace Holloway

Grace was such a frightened girl when I got her, and it took several years of patience for her to come around. I got her soon after the auction, and while she was with Amy she escaped to crawl under the house to deliver a single stillborn puppy. After we brought her home, she shook and trembled, refused to go into the bedroom, refused to get on the sofa, wouldn't take treats from my hand at all, was terrified to stay outside more than a couple of minutes, and terrified of doors and doorways. She was a challenge, and early on I worried if I was the best home for her...that I wasn't doing enough for her. What it took was lots of patience and time. These rescued Berner adults carry baggage and often take much longer to adjust than most youngsters and small puppies.


BARC's Grace Holloway

It took Grace two - three years to overcome many of her fears. Now, at 7 ½ years of age, she beats me at sitting on the sofa first, she sleeps beside my bed, and when she is scared she is on the bed - a place I always told her she would be safe when she was frightened. She will now take treats from my hand, will shove my other two Berners, Agatha, 4 ½, and Eli, 1 ½, out of the way to be first to lick the empty ice cream bowl, and she watches closely to be first to get a piece of pizza crust. She smiles and wags her tail and barks in my face. Every now and again, one front leg will still tremble a bit when she meets new people when we are walking, but she has overcome so much. Her big Berner smile makes it all worthwhile.

—Jeri Holloway

Dogs are not our whole lives, but they do make our lives whole.
-Roger Caras

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Lisa with Bosley & Bernie

Welcome, all, to the fall 2009 edition of The BARC Beacon. I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well and enjoying your BARC babies and their siblings. As we leave the steamy days of summer and enter into the cooler, breezier days of fall, I hope you're taking advantage of the cooler temps and are getting yourselves and those pups of yours out and about on lovely long walks in the cool of the evenings (or mornings!), to the dog parks, or whatever it is you and your dog(s) enjoy doing together!

This newsletter contains a few new columns that we hope you'll find informative and enjoyable. The first one is called "Fundraiser FAQ's." We plan to visit each time with Joye Neff, our all-around Berner fundraiser lady, and have her give us insights into the current charitable fundraiser(s) that is going on in the Berner world. We hope that you'll learn a lot from this little column and will choose to become involved, if you are not already, with helping raise much needed funds for cancer research, rescue, and the various other causes that Joye champions throughout the year.

Another new column is called "BARCINC Buzz." This column focuses on highlighting one of our members' experiences on the BARCINC Yahoo! Group list each quarter. We hope that it will help those of you who've not chosen to join the BARCINC group better understand the role that this group plays in BARC's overall long-term care and follow-up program. We also hope you'll get a glimpse into the incredible relationships that have been built within this tight-knit community of BARC families. This list is for BARC families/fosters/special friends only, so it's a safe place to ask questions and share concerns that are unique to BARC dogs. If you'd like to join the BARCINC Yahoo! Group list, simply send an email to: BARCINC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Finally, we have a new "cover feature." We will, from time to time, feature a BARC dog as our cover story. While similar to the "Family Spotlight" column, it will not be about the entire family. It will, instead, be about that particular featured dog – his/her journey through life and how he/she has overcome obstacles to come to where he/she is now. We hope you'll enjoy these new additions to our newsletter.

Sadly, you'll find this issue contains more than the average number of BARC Memorials. There have been even more that have been lost to us than are represented in this issue. This summer has been a truly hard time for many BARC families, including my own. We suffered the devastating loss of our younger BARC baby, Bernie (bottom right in the above photo), in July, after a several month battle that spiraled downwards. So these Memorials are a way of paying honor to these amazing creatures for the way that they've touched our lives. We hope you'll shed a tear in their honor and that their stories will allow you to understand how these precious souls have impacted the lives of so many. They may be gone, but they'll never be forgotten.

As always, we have our usual articles and columns written by those we've come to love and trust, as well as, a special contest announcement you don't want to miss and a list of suggested reading if you're interested in furthering your knowledge about ways to help your canine companion(s) become all they can be.

Finally, as I always say (and I always mean it), I cannot express the gratitude that is in my heart for the individuals who faithfully write articles, proof articles, do layout/design and all of the other tedious tasks that go into the creation of this newsletter. Without you guys, we'd have no newsletter to look forward to each quarter. So know that you are appreciated more than you can ever know! Whether you've participated in this newsletter's creation or if you're just enjoying perusing the fruits of our labors, we wish you time to relax, curl up, and enjoy this issue while snuggling with your special BARC baby(s). We hope that it will touch your heart in some special way.

Happy reading!!

Lisa Hawes

Editor, with Bosley in Dallas, TX



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FEATURED BARC BABY	1
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK	2
BARC BUSINESS UPDATE	3
RECENT ADOPTIONS	3
BARC FAMILY SPOTLIGHT	4
BOSLEY'S CULINARY CORNER	6
THE LAST BARC—JUNE RESULTS	6
TO HAVE AND TO HOLD UNTIL DEATH DO US PART…	7
THE JOURNEY	8
IN MEMORIAM—A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WE'VE LOST	9
FUNDRAISER FAQ'S	14
BARCINC BUZZ	15
PROTECTING THAT BERNER SMILE	16
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?	17
RECOMMENDED READING—THE ALPENHORN	18
RECOMMENDED DOG BOOKS	19
ANNOUNCING…BARC CALENDAR CONTEST	20
THE LAST BARC	20

BERNESE AUCTION RESCUE COALITION

BARC, INC.

Lending a paw to those in need

BARC BUSINESS UPDATE

	2008	2009
Dogs Rescued	59	26
Adoptions Completed	52	19
Re-homes Completed	2	1
Donations/Adoption Fees	$67,373	$18,543
Expenses	$49,308	$24,559

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Karen Thompson at karenthompson@barcinc.net.

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RECENT ADOPTIONS



Maria Adriaans	Kensington, CA
Beth Baker	Dalton, PA
Nancy Gadd	Belmont, NC
Cathy Ginsberg	Pittsburgh, PA
Jessica LeFur	Nederland, CO
Claudine Lilien	Rye, NY
Adeline Maxim	Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Lauren Rogers	Rockton, IL
Jeannine Susko	Lake Ronkonkoma, NY
Mary Woodford	Abington, MA

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for submissions for the June issue of the BARC Beacon is Friday, November 13, 2009.

All submissions to be sent to the Editor, Lisa Hawes by email at lkhawes@yahoo.com.

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BARC FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

"THE SIMIDIAN FAMILY"



Lori with Jake in Camden, Maine

I can't, for the life of me, remember the first time I became aware of Bernese Mountain Dogs, I only know that I was smitten. It must have been while watching a dog show on television at least 20 years ago that I first laid eyes on one. Some people dream of owning a big house, a boat or a fancy car - for me it was a Berner. I looked at pictures and just drooled.

During that time I was busy raising my 2 children and we had a small mixed breed dog for 15 years. When she died my daughter was a senior in college, living at home and commuting, and my son was a freshman in upstate New York. The house was very quiet except for a kitten that adopted us. My daughter, Katie, was begging me to get another dog, so, thinking it would put her off, I told her I would only get a Bernese Mountain Dog. Just after Christmas 2002 we were in the mall, and she dragged me into a puppy store to look at the puppies. Lo and behold there was a Berner! Have you ever seen a 22 year old throw a tantrum in a store? It's not pretty! I held my ground and told her that under no circumstances would I buy from a puppy store. I would, however, contact some breeders and see if I could get a puppy.

After many phone calls I found a breeder who had a new litter as of the night before. We spoke at length and after telling her that I only wanted a female she said that she had a 5-week old litter, and someone had just backed out of taking one of the girls. I was going to make my dream come true in 3 weeks! My daughter, Katie, and I traveled to Syracuse, NY (the snow capital of the east) in January and brought baby Mallomar home.

Some people dream of owning a big house, a boat or a fancy car - for me it was a Berner.

Mally was quite full of herself, "Marge in charge," and really presented me with a challenge. She grew to be my Velcro dog - only had eyes for me. We did competition obedience and rally. She was the best trained, worst behaved dog ever. When we were "working" at obedience she was incredible, but she got into so much mischief at other times, I could have written a book. She was also the smartest dog ever born. I spoke to her as if I were speaking to another person, and she understood every word. We were truly connected, heart, mind, and spirit.



Mally and Jake

I really wanted a second Berner - you know, like potato chips, can't have just one - but I knew that another puppy would be too much with Mally's high energy and bad girl ways. One day the Berner-L was all abuzz with talk of the huge Berner pictured on the BARC website for adoption. I was curious so I took a look. There was Jake sitting on a sofa waiting for me to fall in love. That took all of about 10 seconds! I thought for sure my husband, Gary, would tell me I was crazy, but he was all for getting Jake, too. A few years prior to this Gary's only brother, also named Jake, had died so I think he felt that it was meant for us to have Jake.

Our application was approved and Jake came home on April 1, 2005. Poor Jake had been rescued at an auction after spending the first 4 ½ years of his life being shuffled from one puppy mill to another. He was terribly thin and so afraid

Continued on next page

BARC FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

of everything. But with his incredible spirit and Mallomar's confidence, he overcame most of his fears and is just the most loving, sweet mush on the planet.

My husband is a retired high school math teacher who now is an adjunct professor at the community college, and I work part time as a dental hygienist, so the dogs are rarely left alone for any length of time.



Dan with Sammy the beagle

My son, Dan, came home from senior year with an 8-week old beagle puppy to add to the fur mix in the house. Her name is Sammy, and she is every bit a hound. Follows her nose above all else. She is a cutie, though.

I would often look at Mally and Jake and think how incredibly lucky I was. We attended national specialties, did rally obedience, went to dog events and just enjoyed life together. Then, last year, the bottom dropped out. My beloved Mallomar succumbed to malignant histio at 5 years of age in September. I was completely shattered. Jake was my greatest source of comfort, and I know that I would not have made it through, mentally intact, if not for him.

For at least 6 months after losing Mally, I just went through the motions of life, normal on the outside, aching on the inside. Gradually the pain of Mally's loss lessened, and I was left with a huge void in my heart. Enter Karen Thompson. Karen and I met at the National Specialty in Louisville in 2007 and again in 2008 at nationals in Rhode Island. Out of the blue, Karen sent me an e-mail in March about a 1 year old BARC rescue being fostered in Pennsylvania that she thought would be a good fit for me. I hadn't been looking to adopt, but I was ready. I made arrangements to meet this rescue boy named Murphy and went with the idea of seeing if there was any reason I shouldn't take him. Jake went with me, and they got along fine - there was no reason at all not to make him mine. So on April 24, 2009, Murphy came home, and just like Billy Crystal in "City Slickers," I found my smile again. Murphy has healed my heart. He is just a big, goofy love bug and for a puppy (at this writing he is 17 mos. old) very obedient.



Murphy and Lori

I have to agree with Liz Caldwell, that each dog has something to teach us. Mallomar taught me patience, how to use positive training, and what it means to be completely and utterly devoted to someone. Jake has taught me the beauty of forgiveness and the magnificence of the canine spirit. And Murphy has already taught me that even a shattered heart can be mended. I am grateful also for the fact that these wonderful dogs have opened up a whole new world to me, filled with the most amazing, caring people on earth. I am forever changed for the better because of them.

— Lori Simidian



Jake and Murphy

BOSLEY'S CULINARY CORNER



SUSIE'S CHICKEN 'N' CHEESE PUFFS



FROM THE KITCHEN OF:

SHARI CURRAN—THERAPET FOUNDATION

WWW.THERAPET.ORG — WWW.PADSNPAWSTRAININGCENTER.COM

INGREDIENTS

1 cup chicken broth

1/2 cup butter, softened

4 eggs

1 cup wheat flour

4 oz canned chicken, drained (or shredded leftover roast chicken)

1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS

- Mix broth, butter, and eggs.
- Add flour and then mix in chicken and cheese.
- Grease and flour large cookie sheet. Drop batter into small rounds.
- Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes. When golden brown, turn heat off and leave in closed oven for another 10-15 minutes.
- Refrigerate leftovers.



**If you have a recipe that you'd like to share for yummy homemade dog treats, please send it to lkhawes@yahoo.com to be considered for inclusion in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

JUNE'S PHOTO CAPTION CHALLENGE RESULTS



Top 5 captions in order of votes

1. "And the best thing is you don't even need to switch it on." -Alan Armstrong from Scotland
2. "Prewashing brings on a whole new meaning." -Lori Jacobson
3. "I like it when dad loads the dishwasher. He never rinses." -Mary Ann Monte
4. "The dishwasher's been broken for a month, and they don't even know it! HA!!" -Bruce Whiteside
5. "They don't know about the Clean Plate Club. Lucky for me!!!!!" -Peggy Monahan

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD UNTIL DEATH DO US PART…



Helen & Paxil

Because of the recent and untimely passing of many of our loved ones, I thought it appropriate to abandon my article on behavior for this issue, and try to write about loving and losing a friend. I am finding this a difficult topic.

That we all must die is one of the verities of life. Everyone who has ever owned and loved a dog understands there will come a time when they must say good bye. Knowing this, however, does not make losing an old friend any easier or less painful. It always seems too soon. No matter how old your loved one is, their lives are just too short.

I have had dogs my entire life. Each one was special and each loss was as painful as the first. It never gets easier. The depression and grief can be crippling. It has been only 18 months since I said good bye to my beloved Romeo. It feels like yesterday. I still miss his face; I still miss burying my head in his beautiful fur. I miss his smell, and I miss his goofy ways. He will always be my heart dog against whom all others will be compared. Certainly he gifted me with more than I could ever have given him.

Many people wonder how a person can love an animal knowing that pet is going to die and take a piece of their heart along with them. How sad because they do not know what they are missing. There is no way to explain the human/dog relationship without experiencing it yourself. If you have never owned a dog, you can't imagine the joy. If you have never lost a dog, you can't imagine nor understand the agony. But despite it all, we do and have done it all over and over again.

We grieve, we mourn, and we find strength from friends who truly understand what it is like to lose a pet. I truly believe that with the loss of each dog, my heart has opened up more for the next, enabling me to love more deeply, making me more compassionate. What a gift.

There is a wonderful essay called "The Journey". The opening paragraph sums up the human/animal relationship perfectly. The entire essay is what loving and being loved by an animal is all about. I share it with you in hopes that for those of you who have recently lost a loved one, you will be able to relate to what is written and smile wistfully. For others, I hope you will read it, learn what your pet can teach you, and cherish each day, learning all you can from them. Make whatever time you have with your pet extra special; we are never guaranteed tomorrow.

~ Helen



HELEN HOLLANDER, CPDT—*Helen graduated from Hofstra University with a degree in Psychology and later worked in the field of Special Education. Canine Behavior and training has always been Helen's hobby. Upon her children's graduation from High School, Helen switched professions to that of working with dogs on a professional level and furthering her education in Canine Behavior.*

Helen is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer and member of the Certification Council of Pet Dog Trainers, a Professional member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT), a Certified Behavior Counselor through the Animal Behavior Center of New York. In addition, Helen serves as a Board member of the Nassau/Suffolk Owners Handlers Association and is a member of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America. In 2006, she became an AKC certified Evaluator for the CGC. Helen is a proactive advocate of dog-friendly, reward based training and is the owner of THE EDUCATED PUP, LLC, a private training and behavior counseling practice, located on Long Island, NY. In addition, Helen moderates an E-List that offers help for those people who own Shy/ Aggressive Bernese Mt. Dogs. Email BerneseAggressiveandShy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to join.

Helen presently shares her life with her well trained and understanding husband and two Bernese Mt. Dogs and one Iraqi rescue pup, Dusty. When not counseling other people's pets, you can find Helen ringside handling one of her Bernese in conformation.

~ THE JOURNEY ~

"When you bring a pet into your life, you begin a journey. A journey that will bring you more love and devotion than you have ever known, yet will also test your strength and courage.

If you allow, the journey will teach you many things, about life, about yourself, and most of all, about love. You will come away changed forever, for one soul cannot touch another without leaving its mark.

Along the way, you will learn much about savoring life's simple pleasures -- jumping in leaves, snoozing in the sun, the joys of puddles, and even the satisfaction of a good scratch behind the ears. If you spend much time outside, you will be taught how to truly experience every element, for no rock, leaf, or log will go unexamined, no rustling bush will be overlooked, and even the very air will be inhaled, pondered, and noted as being full of valuable information. Your pace may be slower, except when heading home to the food dish, but you will become a better naturalist, having been taught by an expert in the field. Too many times we hike on automatic pilot, our goal being to complete the trail rather than enjoy the journey. We miss the details; the colorful mushrooms on the rotting log, the honeycomb in the old maple snag, the hawk feather caught on a twig.

Once we walk as a dog does, we discover a whole new world. We stop; we browse the landscape, we kick over leaves, peek in tree holes, look up, down, all around. And we learn what any dog knows, that nature has created a marvelously complex world that is full of surprises, that each cycle of the seasons bring ever changing wonders, each day an essence all its own, each day a gift from God.



A pet's time on earth is far too short, especially for those that love them.

Even from indoors you will find yourself more attuned to the world around you. You will find yourself watching summer insects collecting on a screen; how bizarre they are; how many kinds there are or noting the flick and flash of fireflies through the dark. You will stop to observe the swirling dance of windblown leaves, or sniff the air after a rain. It does not matter that there is no objective in this; the point is in the doing, in not letting life's most important details slip by.

You will find yourself doing silly things that your pet-less friends might not understand: spending thirty minutes in the grocery aisle looking for the cat food brand your feline must have, buying dog birthday treats, or driving around the block an extra time because your pet enjoys the ride. You will roll in the snow, wrestle with chewy toys, bounce little rubber balls till your eyes cross, and even run around the house trailing your bathrobe tie with a cat in hot pursuit, all in the name of love.

Your house will become muddier and hairier. You will wear less dark clothing and buy more lint rollers. You may find dog biscuits in your pocket or purse, and feel the need to explain that an old plastic shopping bag adorns your living room rug because your cat loves the crinkly sound.

You will learn the true measure of love. The steadfast, undying kind that says, "It doesn't matter where we are or what we do, or how life treats us as long as we are together." Respect this always; It is the most precious gift any living soul can give another. You will not find it often among the human race.

And you will learn humility. The look in my dog's eyes often made me feel ashamed. Such joy and love at my presence. She saw not some flawed human who could be cross and stubborn, moody or rude, but only her wonderful companion. Or, maybe she saw those things and dismissed them as mere human foibles, not worth considering, and so chose to love me anyway. If you pay attention and learn well, when the journey is done, you will be not just a better person, but the person your pet always knew you to be. The one they were proud to call beloved friend.

I must caution you that this journey is not without pain. Like all paths of true love, the pain is part of loving. For as surely as the sun sets, one day your dear animal companion will follow a trail you cannot yet go down. And, you will have to find the strength and love to let them go. A pet's time on earth is far too short, especially for those that love them. We borrow them, really, just for a while, and during these brief years they are generous enough to give us all their love, every inch of their spirit and heart, until one day there is nothing left.

The cat that only yesterday was a kitten is all too soon old and frail and sleeping in the sun. The young pup of boundless energy now wakes up stiff and lame, the muzzle gone to gray.

Deep down, we somehow, always knew that this journey would end. We knew that if we gave our hearts they would be broken. But give them we must, for it is all they ask in return. When the time comes, and the road curves ahead to a place we cannot see, we give one final gift and let them run on ahead, young and whole once more. "God speed, good friend," we say, until our journey comes full circle and our paths cross again.

And bless their souls for sharing their lives with us... and adding so much to our very existence."

~ Author Unknown

IN MEMORIAM—A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WE'VE LOST

Quaker Prayer

We give them back to you, dear Lord,
who gave them to us.

Yet as you did not lose them in giving,
so we have not lost them by their return.

For what is yours is ours always if we are yours.

And life is eternal and love is immortal,
and death is only a horizon;

And a horizon is nothing more than the limit of our sight.

IN MEMORIAM—CODY McCUSKER

BARC'S CODY

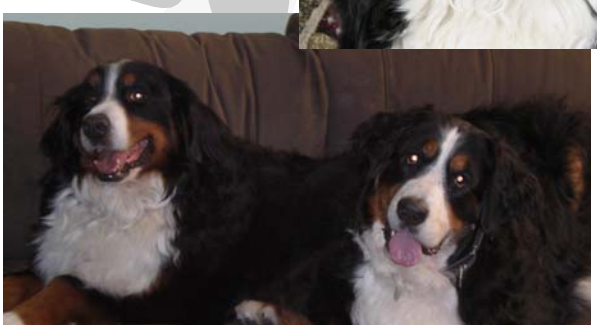
Dixieland's Cezar
04/24/2001 — 07/08/2009

My Cody Bear taught me more in 3 short years about unconditional love, forgiveness, and trust than I have learned all my life. Shelby and I miss him terribly, and he will live forever in my heart.

Mare McCusker and Shelby

Wilmington, DE





IN MEMORIAM—BERNIE HAWES



BERNIE

BARC's I'm No Saint, CGC
Berner-Garde #25308
11-7-04 to 7-25-09

In life we loved you dearly,
In death we love you still;
In our hearts you hold a place
No one could ever fill.

"Daddy's Boy"

Taken from us way too soon due to a horrible neurological disease that caused his beautiful body to completely betray him.

"You stole our hearts, my lil' man, and they are yours forever. We love you to the moon and back, baby doll!"

Love Always....Rick, Lisa, and Bosley

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDlDlvN75AA

What is there to write
That encompasses fully
This character who is
Our BernieBear so silly?

We call him Silly Sam,
BernieBubbles and Goofus;
Yet this only begins to describe
Our wild boy kangaroofus!

He is our bouncing berner
With springs in his feet;
He leaps and bounds like Tigger does
Full of joy for all he meets.

His eyes one moment somber and sad
And the next just sparkling with delight;
He is both impulsive yet needy
But he fits into our family just right.

He saunters instead of walking
Our somewhat clumsy club-footed clown,
That's why we call him BernieBob
And can seldom wear a frown.

This goober pup who makes us laugh
And brings our hearts pure joy,
Is also the completion
Of our family and more....

He is our silly sweetheart
A "daddy's boy" to the end;
He is Beau's giant baby brother
And Bosley's bestest friend.

We're so grateful that he came
Into our lives that warm spring day,
As he completes our family
And has stolen our hearts away.

-Lisa Hawes, Dec. '05





IN MEMORIAM—LULU FOWLER



Lulu Fowler

Berner-Garde #22051
1/24/2001 to 7/11/2009

Lulu came to us when she was 4 ½ years old as a BARC re-home. Her previous family just dropped her off with Amy Kessler and left. We already had two Berners at the time and our third child was on the way, but something about her tugged at our hearts so we brought her home to join the crew! She was very nervous for the first few months and drooled constantly. But over time, she began to realize she was home. We had a six foot fence around our yard that she could easily climb over to visit the neighbors. She would never leave the cul-de-sac where we lived, but I hate to think about how many times our neighbors brought her home because she was out visiting; although often she would simply wait to be let in at the front door.

As she became more comfortable, she also became our protector. She would defend Lewis whenever another dog came around. She would keep watch over the kids. She loved to run with Jeremy in the early mornings and play with Lewis and Junie. When she was tired of the activity, she would go where the other dogs couldn't follow . . . on our bed to sleep. She was always the first to greet you at the door and the first to want to come inside. We miss her happy, silly disposition in our home.

We miss you, our dear Lulu Bear!!

Jeremy, Judy, Delia, Roni, Ryan and Tessa Fowler along with BARC's Lewis and Junie (with BARC's Lulu and Marran forever in our hearts)

IN MEMORIAM—HARLEY HARTUNG

HARLEY

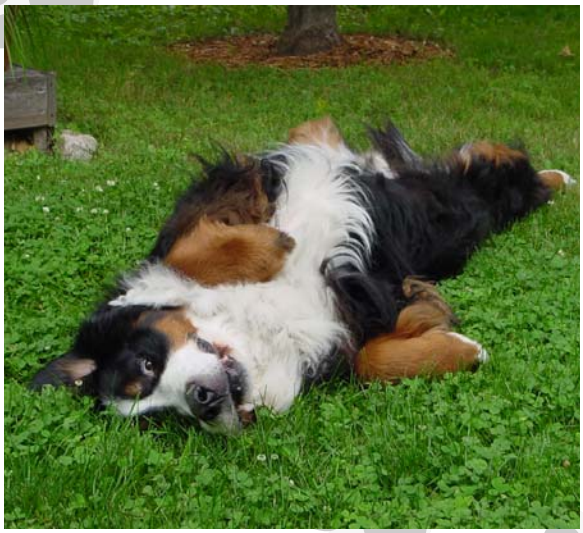
Stargazer Cedarhills Brodi, CGN, TT
Berner-Garde #36574
March 24, 2000 - August 27, 2009

Oh, Harley Man, your time with us was way too short, but during that time you gave us so much.

You lived for food and belly rubs, and were so blissfully happy rolling around on your back in the soft grass and clover. That must have been heaven on earth for you. May you find that soft patch of grass and clover at The Bridge so you can continue to enjoy rolling around on your back with your feet kicking in the air.

Words cannot describe how much we love you and how much we already miss you. The house is just too quiet without your thundering barks and snoring. We will always treasure every single moment we were gratefully blessed with you.

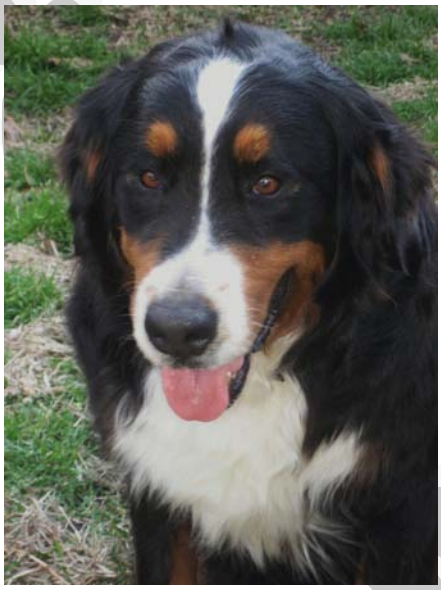
Rob & Sherry Hartung and
Joye, Griffin & cats, Annabelle, Bobo & Trevor
and Grandma Betty, who adored you too.



IN MEMORIAM- RAVEN FLORIN

Raven Florin

2002 to 7/17/09



Raven was rescued from an auction in Oklahoma with seven other Berners on March 15, 2008. An eighth one died before BARC could rescue her. Before the auction took place, my sister, Lisa, asked me if I would be interested in fostering. I gladly accepted this honor. For the short time Raven spent at my sister's house, she seemed confident and well adjusted. Perhaps that was because she felt safe with Sophie another rescue from the same mill.

She took a few steps backwards when she arrived at my house in Houston. She was timid and shy with strangers, but seemed confident and relaxed around me when others weren't around. She was always a little timid around men, especially those with deep voices, but once she got to know them, she relaxed and adored those she knew well. Two weeks after she arrived here, I got notification that there was someone interested in adopting Raven. It was my feeling that she needed a little more time to adjust, but in my heart I think I knew Raven had already found her forever home. A week later I filled out an application to adopt my sweet girl. A short time later it was official, I was a "failed foster" - my application was approved, and Raven was mine! Sadie, my Lab, and Sable, my Australian shepherd mix, seemed to know Raven needed some reassurance that she was in her forever home and so very much loved. Sadie would no longer come back to my room to sleep at night, but instead would sleep next to Raven on the tile in the entryway. They became inseparable. Eventually, all three girls would come back to my room to go night-night, but if I woke up in the night, I would always find Sadie and Raven together on the entryway tile. I believe Raven liked the coolness of the tile, and Sadie just didn't want her to sleep alone. I awoke each morning to find Raven at the side of my bed pawing me for pets. Raven's favorite place was next to me. If I was sitting down, her paw or head was always in my lap begging for pets.

Raven preferred the inside over outside. Perhaps that was because she spent her first six years in a cage outside and was left to live in the elements. That was OK though, if my baby wanted to stay inside, her wish was granted. I think she just enjoyed the comforts of indoors. That was her safe place. Raven always greeted me at the door with her Berner smile and wagging tail. She loved her cookies. I never heard her bark in the 14 months she was with me. I sure hope this wasn't because she was debarked at the puppy mill. She seemed to enjoy her baths and loved to be brushed. Raven loved to go bye-bye in the car. A far cry from having to lift 95 lbs into a car when she was first rescued.

The last week or so of Raven's life she took to spending much of her time in my computer room. Sable, my Aussie mix was always back there with her. I called Lisa to express concern, but Raven was still eating well and was otherwise acting like her normal self, so she advised me to watch her very closely. A short time later Raven started showing signs that something was not right. I took her to my vet, and the next day when her blood work came back, my fears were confirmed. Despite our efforts to save Raven, I had to make the difficult decision to help her over the Rainbow Bridge July 17, 2009, the same day as my father's memorial service. I know my father met her in Heaven, and they are together now. Raven's time with me was way too short, but I would not trade those 14 months for anything in the world. We were brought together for a reason, and I thank God everyday for allowing that to happen. Rest in peace my sweet girl. I'll be seeing you. Until then, you hold on to that missing piece of my heart.

-Lorrie Florin

IN MEMORIAM—A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WE'VE LOST

THE DANCE

Looking back on the memory of
The dance we shared 'neath the stars above;
For a moment all the world was right;
How could I have known that you'd ever say goodbye?

And now I'm glad I didn't know
The way it all would end, the way it all would go;
Our lives are better left to chance;
I could have missed the pain,
But I'd have had to miss the dance.

Holding you, I held everything;
For a moment wasn't I a king?
But if I'd only known how the king would fall
Hey who's to say--you know I might have changed it all!

And now I'm glad I didn't know
The way it all would end, the way it all would go;
Our lives are better left to chance;
I could have missed the pain,
But I'd have had to miss the dance.

Yes my life, it's better left to chance;
I could have missed the pain,
But I'd have had to miss the dance.

Garth Brooks

The Dance lyrics by Garth Brooks are the property of the respective authors, artists, and labels.

FUNDRAISER FAQ'S

Q: Joye, which fundraiser is currently running or will run during this quarter, and where do I go to find it?

A: The current fundraiser is for Berner-Garde Foundation. It is different from all the other fundraisers, because I simply ask people to send me donations.

Then, running concurrently as a big "thank you" to all Berner people, I hold the Berner-Garde Gift Bonanza! Beth Nelson has prepared a website with over 100 prizes for this Bonanza, and the tickets are FREE!! Yes, that's right – you cannot buy the tickets to try to win the prizes!! You just have to send me an e-mail asking me to give you FREE tickets, and they are yours! Simply send me an e-mail telling me how many tickets you would like to have, and tell me into which envelopes for which items you'd like your tickets placed. This is the ONLY fundraiser like this where tickets for prizes are FREE! I look forward to having a lot of requests for tickets. You may also ask me to "gift" tickets to your friends, so if you have a special Berner person or two in your life who have helped you along the way, this is the perfect opportunity to say "thank you" by gifting them some tickets. Be sure to send me e-mail instructions about how to place those tickets into the envelopes for your friends, or you may allow them to choose. I will need your friends' e-mail address(es) so that I can let them know you've gifted tickets to them. The website for the Berner-Garde Gift Bonanza is: http://www.bernese.biz/BGF2009/index.html

Q: Why should I, as a BMD owner, participate, and how does it benefit our breed?

A: The Berner-Garde foundation was established to develop and maintain a large computerized database with the goal of helping reduce genetic disease in BMDs. Berner-Garde maintains the database of disease incidence, as well as a DNA Bank, in conjunction with Michigan State University and the BMDCA. It is a voluntary database, but the more who participate, the clearer picture we will have of the true disease incidence in Bernese. So your participation is important in two ways: 1) making donations to support the ongoing costs of maintaining this database for use in scientific research, and 2) ensuring that your own BMDs are entered and their information is kept up-to-date in the database as you never know if/when your dog's information might hold a key component in unlocking the mystery of one of the dreaded diseases/health issues being researched. Every Berner is important…rescue or not!!

Q: Joye, is there a website that tells me more about this cause?

A: Learn more about Berner-Garde Foundation or enter your BMD into the database at: www.bernergarde.org.

Q: How does this fundraiser(s) work—how do I participate to donate items?

A: I am always collecting items for the fundraisers, and people are very generous and send me Berner items year-round which I use for prizes in the various fundraisers. If you send items, you may stipulate which fundraiser you'd like the items to go in.

We also hold a live auction each year at the BMDCA National Specialty to raise money for cancer and health research. We are always looking for high-end items for this fundraiser and appreciate donations for that as well.

So feel free to contact me at joye.neff@gmail.com for any information regarding this fundraiser.

Q: How does this fundraiser(s) work—how do I participate to win items?

A: It is very easy to participate – just go to the website listed in question #1, and read the directions for entering the fundraiser. For the Berner-Garde Fundraiser, just send me a donation made out to Berner-Garde along with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. My address is on the fundraiser's website.

Then email me with the FREE tickets information as outlined in question #1 for how you'd like your tickets distributed for chances to win prizes in the Berner-Garde Gift Bonanza!



You may also see www.BMDfundraiser.org for information on all Berner charities and fundraising links.

BARCINC BUZZ



Why Join The BARC List?

One of the best decisions I made three years ago was to join the BARC list on Yahoo. I'm normally not much of a list person, and I'm not one for spending a lot of time on the computer as life offers so many other fascinating things to do. Ask our dogs and they will tell you that even though they are very high on my priority list, they would not mind being even higher. That being said, this is what the BARCINC list means to me.

In January 2006 we adopted Demi, our third BMD and first BARC baby. Then, in May, we adopted Sam from BARC as well. When Louis picked him up, he was accompanied by a New Owner Packet. In that packet was an invitation to join the BARCINC list. I dithered for a bit and then joined. Since that day I have come to know some truly wonderful people - people who love their rescued Bernese Mountain Dogs and are not afraid to show it. These are people who adopt dogs knowing that their dogs could have serious behavioral problems and unknown health problems. These are individuals who possess the patience to allow a terrified dog to slowly adapt to its new environment and learn to trust for the first time in its life. These people will take years, if necessary, to teach their dog basic obedience and life skills. They are willing to deal with bad joints and bones, poor digestive systems, allergies of all kinds, cancer, and all the other diseases that a dog who received no medical care prior to being rescued might face. These heroic people are willing to spend fortunes trying to help their dogs become and remain as healthy as possible - treating each disease as it appears. The people on this list are remarkable human beings. Our third BARC boy, Sig, came to us because of our participation on the BARCINC list. His foster mom was a list member and posted regular updates on his progress as well as photos in the list's PhotoBucket account. We heard all about him and saw his photos online before ever meeting him in person, and we fell in love.

This list has provided me with medical advice, behavioral advice, training advice, and advice on products, which have been invaluable in caring for our three BARC rescues; Demi, Sam, and Sig. I've received emotional support when I needed it, congratulations upon happy occasions, and been joined in tears when I lost a precious dog. Berners are sensitive to begin with, and we face challenges which "normal" dog owners can't begin to comprehend. The people on this list understand what we are facing, and their advice is based on personal experience, not theory, and is therefore invaluable. I now have friends whom I will most likely never meet, but with whom I feel a deep bond of affection. I love these words of Diana Cortes, "There is magic in long-distance friendships. They let you relate to other human beings in a way that goes beyond being physically together and is often more profound."

For those of you who receive this newsletter, but have not yet joined the BARCINC list, I encourage you to join. The rewards are immense.

Mary Ann Monte, mom to BARC's Demi, Sam, and Sig
Louisiana

YAHOO! GROUPS

**To join the BARCINC Yahoo! group list, simply send an email to: *BARCINC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com* telling us a bit about you and your BARC baby.

photobucket See great BARC baby photos!

http://s87.photobucket.com/albums/k129/BARCINC/

You can also find BARC on Facebook Causes

http://apps.facebook.com/causes/199903

PROTECTING THAT BERNER SMILE



Andrea with Woofit

Dental health is vital to the over all health of our dogs. Poor dental hygiene can lead to disease and serious health issues. Dogs fed a raw diet tend to have better looking teeth, yet even raw fed dogs, who are touted to have better teeth, develop tartar and plaque as they age. Sometimes, two dogs can be fed exactly the same diet and one can have plaque and the other not. Often we are looking at individual enzymes the body manufactures and the ph of the mouth as the determining factor.

Yearly dental cleanings work for some, but they are expensive and require local anesthesia. Anesthesia-free dental cleanings are available from a travelling service out of California. If you are interested, check with them and see if they come near your area. www.houndstoothdental.com

Brushing is not as simple as it sounds. You need a cooperative dog, the right toothpaste, a toothbrush that works for your dog, (there are several different kinds out there), and patience. Often you will see some plaque and tartar anyway.

Some feel that eating raw bones helps. Although chewing on marrow and knuckle bones do clean teeth, they come with the risk of creating a slab fracture of the molars. This then requires extensive dental work. Nylabone type bones can be equally hard on the mouth.

Non weight bearing bones that require wide opening of the mouth and pliable bones, like neck bones, are a better alternative. Pulling meat off a bone is often far more effective than chewing on the bone itself.

Bully sticks seem to work as well. Zukes makes a natural cleaning bone as does Tetrabone. Greenies have a poor track record in terms of all over health.

So what do you do to make sure you are creating an environment for good dental health?

Add a rinse to the water, Healthy Mouth makes one that is quite costly; Ark has one as well.

Use a spray in your dog's mouth daily. Leba III and Petz Life have excellent track records. Pet's Alive also has a similar product. Watch out for sea vegetables in the product you choose as they can throw off the iodine levels in the body.

The homeopathic remedy fracaria vesca is another alternative.

Even when using these products you may have to work on areas of the mouth that collect tartar. Often putting toothpaste on a piece of gauze works better than a tooth brush.

For general mouth freshness and prevention of infection, Aromadog makes a dental formula called Bluto's Yummy Gum brush. This can be used for any kind of mouth sores as well.

Don't wait for a dog's mouth to need work. Incorporate some of these ideas in your daily regime and you will hopefully avoid the need for extensive dental work. Should you need to have your dog's teeth examined for any reason, seek out a canine dentist. They will often be more conservative and give you more options than your regular vet.



Andrea is skilled in canine massage and has completed course work in acupressure for dogs. Animal wellness comes naturally to Andrea, who has spent the last six years on a quest to create a holistic health environment for her two Bernese Mountain Dogs, Chi and Karma. Andrea also works as a nutritionist and wellness consultant. Her journey with her own dogs led her to bring services to the canine community that had previously only been available to their owners. She has chosen to step out of the box, think critically about their care and listen to their needs. She was instrumental in the development of Berner University and presents at the BMDCA National Specialty each year. Currently, Andrea is working with The Rabies Challenge Fund and other wellness projects.

What's Your Name?

BARC's Bosley & BARC's Bernie



Well, prior to Bosley and Bernie, we'd had Brittany, Buster and Beau...so I'm not sure how/when it happened, but it appeared we were kinda "stuck" on "B" names. So since Beau was still alive, I felt like we should try to find a nice "B" name for our first BARC baby as well. I made my list of every one I could think of, but wasn't satisfied. Then when we met Bosley for the first time, I KNEW none of the names on my list were right. So the whole way home I stewed over it (like 10 hours!). Upon arriving home at like 2:00 a.m., Rick headed for the shower and, in desperation, I said, "While you're in there, try to come up with a good B-name for our sweet boy." Well, when he came back out, he stuck his head around the corner and said, "What do you think about BOSLEY?" Well, I knew instantly that THIS WAS IT!! He WAS a Bosley!! Just look at him and you know it!

Then with Bernie, his name was Ernie in his foster home. Well, I HATE Ernie and really wanted a B-name for him too, but I knew he already was accustomed to the name his foster family had bestowed upon him. So I was in a quandry! What to do--confuse him by changing it or leave him with a name I didn't like?? So again, I consulted w/ Rick on it, and he very calmly replied, "Why don't we call him BERNIE since it sounds like Ernie, yet begins with a 'B'?" Well, once again, I was stunned! THAT WAS IT! While I don't like the name Bernie a whole lot either, I immediately thought of the perfect registered name to go with it: BARC's I'm No Saint (as in Bernard...or Bernie, for short)!! And I'll admit that "Bernie" does seem to fit our big goofball, so it's all worked out just fine.

So my DH has named both our berners! I have ALWAYS named my dogs, so this was quite a change for me...but I feel like Rick must have had some divine inspiration or something as he did a fabulous job!!

Lisa Hawes in Dallas, TX

BARC's Arthur & Gold

Well Arthur was BARC's Justin. After about 2 weeks of him being terrified and Marco being certain he would never stop being terrified of him I knew we needed a new name. I quipped; "He really isn't a-Justin," which got only a small laugh. I started thinking of a name that Marco would connect to. And then it came to me Marco had a dear friend from college with whom he went on to NYC as young actors.

This young man did really well, got a job at Yale Drama Department. Success. Steady income. Got married. Did well. Until he dove into his parents swimming pool, and it all changed. C spine quadriplegia. Lost it all? No. The marriage didn't hold, he did not get back on stage, but Yale held a job where he became an assistant dean of the drama school. And New Haven Connecticut gained one of the greatest disability rights activists in the country -the amazing Arthur Pepine. He became a dear friend to both of us.



When he turned 50 my first Berner, Fluvie, was invited to the party and shortly after that Arthur got a dog. His wife (a wonderful second wife)told us how much that dog changed his life and how grateful he was to Fluvie, his inspiration. Arthur died of colon cancer just before we moved back out to California. But his life was rich. He got a bad, bad break, but he came out of it and became so magnificent. We wanted our Arthur to have the same chance. And that name really did help Marco to love him when it was really hard. Good thing too, is that a lot of friends come from those days. They all knew Arthur and once they meet our boy they don't have to be told who he was named for and Gold is becoming Mrs. Gold because she is so bustley and frumpy and pushy and funny.

Sheira Freedman in CA

Does your BARC baby have a special name? If so, email your story to our Editor, Lisa Hawes

RECOMMENDED READING

THE ALPENHORN

The Official Publication of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.



The Alpenhorn Non-BMDCA Member Subscription Order Form

Name _____

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Make check payable (US $) in the amount of $45 (per non-member subscription) to:
The BMDCA

Mail Completed Form and Check to:

Keri Jackson, *Alpenhorn* Subscription Manager *(kerijackson@msn.com)*
420 Celebration Road
Knoxville, TN 37934

RECOMMENDED DOG BOOKS

Carol Duncan from our local training club (Dallas Obedience Training Club) created a recommended reading list on DogWise for our members. Most of the books on it are about canine behavior, learning theory, positive training methods, and behavior modification. Pam Denison's book gives a painstaking account of the behavior modification protocol that she went through with her aggressive BC, upon whom she finally got a CGC and several Rally titles. Hopefully you will find these valuable tools in helping create the right environment for you and your BARC baby(s). Prices were current when list was printed, but subject to change (they are just for reference.) This is half of the list, more will follow in the next issue.

AN OWNER'S GUIDE TO DOG BEHAVIOR
by Ian Dunbar, HBK $12.95

DOG-FRIENDLY DOG TRAINING
by Andrea Arden, PBK $17.95

BRINGING LIGHT TO SHADOW - A DOG TRAINER'S DIARY
by Pamela Dennison, PBK $19.95

THE OTHER END OF THE LEASH
by Patricia McConnell, PBK $13.95

FEISTY FIDO: HELP FOR THE LEASH AGGRESSIVE DOG
by Patricia McConnell BKLT $7.95

CAUTIOUS CANINE
by Patricia McConnell, PBK $6.95

I'LL BE HOME SOON!
by Patricia McConnell, PBK $6.95

FEELING OUTNUMBERED? HOW TO MANAGE and ENJOY A MULTI-DOG HOUSEHOLD
by Karen London & Patricia McConnell, BKLT $7.95

WAY TO GO! HOW TO HOUSETRAIN A DOG OF ANY AGE
by Karen London & Patricia McConnell, BKLT $3.95

HOW TO BE THE LEADER OF THE PACK
by Patricia McConnell, PBK $4.95

BEGINNING FAMILY DOG TRAINING
by Patricia McConnell, PBK $11.95

POWER OF POSITIVE DOG TRAINING
by Pat Miller, PBK $18.99

POSITIVE PUPPY TRAINING WORKS
by Joel Walton, PBK $12.95

A CLICKER COOKBOOK WITH TRAINING SCHEDULE - SET
by M. Shirley Chong, SPL $24.95

YOUR OUTTA CONTROL PUPPY
by Teoti Anderson, PBK $12.95

CLINICAL BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE FOR SMALL ANIMALS
by Karen Overall, PBK $64.95

DOG WHO LOVED TOO MUCH
by Nicholas Dodman, PBK $14.95

DOGS BEHAVING BADLY
by Nicholas Dodman, PBK $13.95

CLICKER TRAINING FOR DOGS
by Karen Pryor, PBK $14.95

LADS BEFORE THE WIND
by Karen Pryor, PBK $21.95

DON'T SHOOT THE DOG
by Karen Pryor, PBK $14.95

CLICKING WITH YOUR DOG: STEP-BY-STEP IN PICTURES
by Peggy Tillman, PBK $24.95

QUICK CLICKS: 40 FAST AND FUN BEHAVIORS TO TRAIN WITH A CLICKER
by Mandy Book & Cheryl Smith, PBK $19.95

TAKE A BOW ... WOW! FUN AND FUNCTIONAL DOG TRICKS VIDEO
by Virginia Broitman & Sherri Lippman, VID $29.95



ANNOUNCING….BARC CALENDAR CONTEST

Hey, all you shutterbugs out there - those who have this insatiable desire to continually snap pictures of your wonderful BARC kids and their siblings - this announcement is for *YOU*!

We are planning to offer a BARC calendar for sale to benefit BARC for 2010. Now, while we all know that ALL photos of our dogs are beautiful, what we're really looking for is those particularly high resolution (minimum 200-300 dpi), once-in-a-lifetime shots - the crème de la crème, if you will - those shots that *belong* on a calendar. The theme for this calendar is ***"The Four Seasons"***.



So look through your photos and see if you have any that fit the bill (fall leaves, winter snow scenes, spring flowers, summer beach scenes…you get the idea). If you do, then please send them electronically *in jpg format only* to Debby Fitch at thetrumancollar@yahoo.com to be entered in the contest. Please be choosey and hurry as there isn't much time!! The 11 winning photos (January's page will be a tribute collage of as many of the BARC babies that we have lost this last year as we can get) will be selected by the newsletter staff and new ways-n-means coordinators – Debby Fitch and Beth McNeal. All the other photos will be kept to perhaps be used in smaller spaces throughout the calendar and/or to possibly produce other ways-n-means items to raise money for BARC. So by sending in your photo(s) for this contest, you are giving us permission and rights to use the photos however we deem fitting on BARC-related items for sale/fundraising.

Please have your photos submitted by October 15th for consideration as we must have time to get the calendars designed and printed in time for sale around Christmas. So get busy digging up or taking those exceptional, seasonal photos and sending them in! The more dogs we have represented, the better!

****Also, keep watching as we'll soon be unveiling the new and improved ways-n-means website for BARC that will contain lots of great merchandise for whatever your needs/wants are. We will even be open to suggestions of other items you'd like to see in our online "store."**

THE LAST BARC — SEPTEMBER PHOTO CAPTION CHALLENGE



A new Photo Caption Challenge for March! The picture is randomly chosen out of the BARC Photobucket.

So all you creative, witty people out there, here's your chance to have some fun.

Email your photo caption to Lisa Hawes, Newsletter Editor (lkhawes@yahoo.com) by November 13, 2009.

The top 5 captions as chosen by the Newsletter Staff will be published in the next issue, along with a new challenge.

Enjoy!! Have fun!!