The BARC BEACON
Shining the Light of Hope and Freedom

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THE PEOPLE BEHIND BARC — CHERYL THORNTON


Cheryl with Mikki & Izzy

Greetings to all BARC families....As a new board member I have been asked to tell you all about our family. I know that many of you know me pretty well already and may remember some of the things I will be talking about, so please bear with me for the sake of the new families.

I became mesmerized with the Berner breed one day while watching Animal Planet's "Breed All About It" which was featuring the incredible Bernese Mountain Dog. I was hooked!!! We took a couple of vacations in Colorado where we were lucky enough to meet three BMD's in person. Well, that was all she wrote! I came back home and got on the internet and found BARC, Inc. That was 2001, and our lives changed forever at that point. BARC had just rescued several dogs from different auctions. Amy Kessler helped us narrow it down to three different Berners to look at for us to adopt. I was struggling because there were so many I couldn't make a choice. Of those three, we picked out BARC's Chewy, who we later named Mikki, as that was my late father's nickname. It was taken from my maiden name which is Mickelson. My dad's side of the family is Scandinavian so we just had to name him Mikki. Mikki was about 8 months old when we brought him home. In March 2010, we lost our beloved boy, yet he brought us so much joy during his time with us that we had decided we could not just have one Berner. Many of you know what I am talking about here, right?

So enters our little Izzy. In 2006, we had helped transport 6 puppies for BARC from SE Oklahoma and met Liz Caldwell in Wichita, KS so she could transport them on to Amy's. Well, it was quite a drive from where we were to Wichita, so we had named all 6 of the pups after the Grey's Anatomy characters by the time we reached our destination. Izzy was our favorite as she was in my lap or licking our ears the whole trip. All the pups got adopted including Izzy. I was happy, but sad at the same time. About 4 months later she was back on the website to be rehomed. She was now about 8 months old. I told Gary that Izzy was back, and he told me to email Amy and tell her we would take her. I said, "Okay, I will". Well, he didn't know at the time, that I had already emailed her that we would take her. He laughs about it now. Izzy and Gary have the same birthdate, April 27th....it was just meant to be. Izzy is now 5 years old and the "princess" of our family.

When we lost Mikki last year, I was devastated. He had not been eating for 5 weeks, so we had to help him to the Rainbow Bridge due to the two tumors he had, one of which was damaging the nerve that tells him to eat. Even if we had the vet remove the tumors, the nerve would not have been able to repair itself, so he would have starved to death. We made the best decision for Mikki, as painful as it was for us to let him go.

I knew that Amy had a litter of pups, so I emailed her to see who was left of the V litter. She told me to go on her website and take a look at the girls as she had one female left. She didn't tell me which one was left. I looked at the girls and Violet just melted my heart. I was so afraid she was not the one left but I was so happy to discover that she was, indeed, the one Amy had left. A mere coincidence?...I don't think so!!! Again, it was meant to be. We picked up Lionheart's Vision of Perfection aka Elin the first weekend in April, 2010. She is an amazing girl who is now 16 months old and is our little tomboy. Food and playing are what she lives for. Izzy played well with her until Elin got bigger than she was; that is when Izzy said, "No more; I am done!!!"

We would play with Elin, but it just wasn't the same as being able to run around the yard playing and chasing each other. Enter, BARC's Mr. T. Boone. Lisa Florin had been fostering Boone who had come from a puppy mill. He was very underweight when BARC rescued him, and Lisa


Izzy & Baby Elin

© The BARC Beacon 2011


Gary & Boone

did a superb job of helping fatten him up and making him the love that he is today. When we went to Dallas and picked up Boone, we had barely gotten inside the door and had taken the leash off of Elin when the two rubbed noses and off they went, running through the house. They have been BFF since that night. That was in November, 2010.

We also have an almost 13 year old black lab mix, Cheyenne. She has really come to like Boone herself. I actually caught them playing outside last evening. Cheyenne is old and has had surgery on one of her knees but that doesn't stop her from playing with him for a short period of time.

Like many of you, our dogs are our lives. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and have worked for Child Protective Services as a state employee for 27 years. I have also provided group treatment for sex offenders on a part-time basis for 6-7 years. I am currently the County Director for the Canadian County Dept. of Human Services office, and I supervise the child welfare program as well as the family support program. I have approximately 90 staff. Without Gary and my dogs, I clearly would not have lasted this long in this career. They help me regroup after a hard day at work and make me realize there is still so much good in the world, despite what I see on a daily basis.


Boone

Gary and I have been married for almost 24 years. I have been so blessed to have found him. He is retired from Tinker Air Force Base as a civilian employee and is also retired from the Air National Guard. He is currently employed at his old guard base as a state civilian employee and is back working with some of his old cronies from the guard. He loves our dogs like I do. For one of his birthdays, I had a big sign made for the front yard for him to see when he got home from work that read, "I love you more than the dogs, Dillard's, and OSU!!!" He still teases me about that, saying he knows he is below the dogs and OSU but he says he is convinced that I do love him more than Dillard's!!!!

When Gary and I married he had custody of his two children. Scott was 8 years old and Tammy was 12. Tammy did end up living with her mother on the east coast, but Scott stayed with us. I am happy to say that Scott has the same love for animals that his dad and I have. Now that he's all grown up, he lives in Colorado. I love him dearly.


Izzy

We attended one mill auction for BARC several years ago that was held in Oklahoma. We have done a couple of short term fosters, and we continue to help transport for BARC and for the regional Lone Star Bernese Mountain Dog Club, when needed. We are committed to trying to help this wonderful breed, and we will always help BARC in some capacity. I am grateful to be a board member for BARC and will strive to help BARC continue their efforts in rescuing these great dogs from the plight of puppy mills and getting them into wonderful, loving adoptive homes.

With the greatest of Bernerly love,

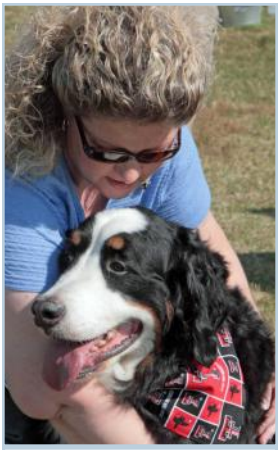

A more grown up Elin

Cheryl & Gary Thornton
in OK City, OK ~with BARC's Izzy, BARC's T. Boone, Lionheart's Vision of Perfection (Elin), and Cheyenne, the lab mix

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Lisa with Bosley

Greetings, all, and welcome to another summer edition of The BARC Beacon. As we are in our fifth year of publication, we find ourselves once again celebrating the highlights from the annual BMDCA National Specialty for 2011. This year it was held in Del Mar, California – April 4th-9th – and was quite a treat for those who don't often get a National Specialty held in their neck of the woods! Each year at Nationals, the best-of-the-best of our breed compete not only in conformation, but also in drafting, obedience, agility, herding, and rally, while some of the humans seem to excel in SHOPPING!!

Many BARC families might think, "Well, I just have a rescue, so why would I want to go to a National Specialty?" Well, the answers are many and varied, but believe me, if you haven't been to Specialty, you've missed a truly FUN and exciting week of all kinds of activities. And don't forget, if you do any of the aforementioned activities with your rescued BMD, YOU could enter at Nationals even though your pet has been altered and, therefore, could not compete in conformation.

Each year, our newsletter staff has tried to cover Specialty with a little different twist, hoping to inspire those nay-sayers into giving it a try! This year, staying true to form, we have a "Veteran's Perspective on Specialty" written by the amazing Pat Long. She gives you the perspective of one who is such an integral part of making Specialty happen, that it most likely wouldn't if she weren't able attend!! ;o) We also have several "Specialty Snippets" which are simply very short, condensed versions of some of the highlights offered at Nationals each year. If you find these articles to be tempting but need a bit more convincing before you'd be willing to reserve your hotel room for the 2012 Specialty - which, by the way, will be held in Gettysburg, PA – feel free to go to the Specialty/ Summer back issues of our newsletter, stored on the BARC website (www.barcinc.net) and read all the previous years' articles as well...and don't forget to look at the photos and collages!

We also have some very serious (and sad) topics to cover as we're in the throes of the spring rainy season and the summer heat season is bearing down upon us. You'll find the heart-wrenching story of a lil' Berner boy named Donato and how his mommy learned the hard way about poisonous mushrooms. His mommy, Diana Gerba, a long time part of the Berner community, has now made it her mission to educate Berner owners everywhere on this danger and has graciously allowed us to use her story about Donato. She has even given us a reproducible flier about this important topic that you can reproduce to spread the word to others who might not know about this danger. Andrea Brin also covers an important summertime topic – PESTS and how to rid our beloved Berners of them using alternative methods. Thank you, ladies, for your valuable input and for helping to ensure that ALL BARC families get the latest and best information in order to take the very best care of their beloved furry friends.

As you peruse this issue, you'll find many of the articles you've come to expect as well as the return of the "BARC Board Member's Article" that helps us get to know the board members who work tirelessly on behalf of BARC and these precious, needy souls. BARC named several new board members to their roster recently, so we're asking those families to do articles over the next few issues to help us learn all about them.

Please pay special attention to the full page ad about the current BARC Fundraiser that is only running for a limited time—notice the closing date!!! Be sure to get your orders in promptly for the apparel you'd like to have. These items make great gifts too...so order a few extra for giving!! I have one of the decals proudly displayed on the back window of my new crossover! Let's spread the word about what a great organization BARC is!!

As always, we hope you'll enjoy reading this issue and that you'll find the information within its pages to be educational and heart-touching. We try to incorporate articles/ information that will take you from laughter to tears and back again. Without the help of some truly AMAZING folks, this newsletter would not be possible; to them, I will always owe my undying gratitude.

Stay cool and keep those puppers comfy in this heat!!



Tonka

Hugs,

Lisa Hawes, editor
~with BARC's Bosley and Lionheart's Tonka
~holding our beloved BARC's BernieBob forever close in heart...

BARC BUSINESS UPDATE

	2010	2011
Dogs Rescued	31	8
Adoptions Completed	19	14
Re-homes Completed	3	0
Donations/Adoption Fees	30,050	12,834
Expenses	33,855	17,445

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

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RECENT ADOPTIONS



Todd Cameron & Heather La Montagne	Englewood, CO	Rim
Kathleen Galbraith	Los Ojos, NM	Bubba
Beverly Hipolito	Nanaimo, British Columbia	Holly
Carolle & Paul Hoose	Lisbon, CT	Bailey
Robert Joyce	Allentown, NJ	Gretchen
Lori Roczkowsky	Calgary, Alberta	Molly



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for submissions for the September issue of the BARC Beacon is August 15, 2011.

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

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BOSLEY'S CULINARY CORNER



PEANUT BUTTER-HONEY NUT CHEERIOS BALLS

These cookies are soft and slightly crumbly, and they smell wonderfully pea-nutty! The Cheerios add a unique texture and taste to these cookies.

INGREDIENTS

¼ c. natural peanut butter (creamy or chunky)
2 c. Honey Nut Cheerios
1 c. flour (we recommend oat or millet)
½ c. vegetable oil
2 large eggs

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Warm peanut butter in the microwave for about 1 minute, until its soft enough to mix with the other ingredients.
Add the rest of the ingredients to the peanut butter, mixing gently but thoroughly.
Form rounded teaspoons of the dough into balls, squeezing each ball in your hand to press it all together. This will reduce some of the crumbling during baking.
Place on greased cookie sheets.
Bake for 8-10 minutes or until the bottoms are golden brown.
Remove from the over, let cool thoroughly, and store in an airtight container.

**If you have a recipe that you'd like to share for yummy homemade dog treats, please send it to lkhawes@yahoo.com.



MARCH'S PHOTO CAPTION CHALLENGE RESULTS



Top 5 captions in order of votes

(1) "Shhhhhhhhhh, don't say anything to the ducks; I'm on a stake out!" — *Pat Tackett*
(2) "Really?! You're gonna take a picture BEFORE you help me outta here?!" — *Misha Rice*
(3) "Pay no attention to the dog behind the grass!" — *Kiegan Rice*
(4) "Ummm...a little help here?!" — *Misha Rice*
(5) "Can you see me now?" — *both Alexis Smith & Kim Clark sent this one!*

A VETERAN'S PERSPECTIVE ON SPECIALTY…



Joye Neff and I arrived Saturday, and took some time to relax. We had dinner with the Heath Auction Chair, Amy Baklund – her deck overlooked the ocean and we enjoyed watching pelicans fly by. Picking lemons to use for dinner was a treat, who knew they actually grew on a tree!?! Here all this time I thought they just magically appeared in grocery produce bins! Late into the night I helped punch holes in the specially made Do Not Disturb signs. OK, so the assistant chairs bribed me with wine, but it was GOOD wine!

Sunday the real work started, helping to put together the Welcome Bags then opening the registration table. If I remember correctly, we registered well over 200 people that first day, and it was only the afternoon! That night Joye and I had dinner with the BMDCA Heath Committee; it was a good meeting.

Monday we worked the registration desk all day. That's one of my favorite jobs. I get to put names and faces together, greet old friends, and meet email friends for the first time. We kept busy all day! Then that evening was the presentation by Dr. Jean Dodds. For anyone who is unfamiliar with Berner-U, Monday and Tuesday are jam-packed with opportunities to take short classes on a variety of topics. Rescue people usually hold a round table discussion, Marge Reho's class on movement is a must-see, and there is a long list of other excellent topics as well. Kudos to Linda Seaver and Andrea Brin for all their work on this year after year!



Longshots at Specialty
BARC girl Emma Davis

Tuesday Joye and I set up for Longshots. We had a great spot this year, right next to the conformation ring. I was convinced that some young, overly exuberant Berner was going to escape Longshots and run right into the ring! It never happened, but we were always vigilant. I also had a Berner-U class that day; Robin Hamme, Ruth Nielsen, and I held a discussion on effective communication. No one left early, so I assume it went all right. Back to Longshots, and we stayed late to do some photos for special friends.

Wednesday was Longshots all day, and we saw plenty of BARC dogs! (Please don't tell anyone, but I insist that people get photos whether they can afford them or not! They can make donations later when they are able, but do NOT pass up this chance for photos! I just wouldn't want that to get around!) I forget what we did that evening, I don't think we had anything planned! Down time is rare during Specialty week, but I always love the Specialties that allow for it. We get to meet with friends and enjoy dinner without rushing back for another event! Oh, and Team Obedience! Every year I look forward to that event; it's a not-to-be-missed event! This year was NO exception! If you haven't seen the You Tube videos, the Marilyns, the Elvises, the Bathing Beauties, and the Jungle Crew were all just too much fun! We Berner people know how to not take ourselves too seriously!!



Team Obedience- at Specialty
The Marilyns & the Elvises

Thursday we did Longshots again. The first three days were slow, and we only did a total of 34 sessions. We ended at 4:00 that afternoon so we could go help with the Auction setup. Amy Baklund had plenty of helpers, and the display of items looked just fantastic! Lynn Alvarez did numbers for each item; she's a wiz with some paper and glitter! The wine tasting that preceded the auction was a first. We got to sample a variety of California wines, and there was just enough



Health Fund Auction at Specialty

Continued



Nell Ward

food to go with them. The auction was a tremendous amount of fun; it always is! $30,755 was raised, thanks to a great many very generous donors and bidders!

Friday was the last day of Longshots and, as always, the busiest day of the week! We did 34 sessions that one day alone…exactly the same number that we had done the first three days combined! We raised $4,100 for Berner-Garde and education/research; it was a very good week for Longshots!

Friday night was the Awards Dinner followed by the BMDCA General Meeting. Anyone is welcomed to attend, and it's well worth doing so. The BMDCA Outstanding Service Award went to Gary Galunas, one of those quiet, hard-working types with trouble pronouncing the word "NO!" We seem to have quite a few people like that! Then the Berner-Garde's Winston Neff Award went to Nell Ward this year. She's been a supporter of the breed, of Berner-Garde, and of rescue. Her Rescue Gallery has become a fixture at each year's Specialty. Thank you, Nell, for all your hard work!

Saturday, Joye and I were hard at work again, helping the ring announcer, Randal Dowler, keep track of what dogs were in the ring…which ones were absent, which ones made the cut, which ones were placed and in what order! Hey! Its hard work, but Joye and I never flinched! Seeing that final lineup for the selection of Best in Show is always such a thrill, and there were a number of dogs that I would have been happy to see take the prize. I don't envy the judge who has to make that choice! That night was the Judge's Dinner, the last event of the week. Each year it seems that the Specialty week will never come…but then that week simply flies by so quickly!

If you've never been to a Specialty, it's always well worth going. From Berner-U, to meeting old and new friends, to obedience, agility, drafting, herding, tracking, conformation, to discussions and sharing ideas, I must admit – I'm hooked!!

—Pat Long



Pat Long with Brew



Observation, Conformation, and Drafting at Specialty

Pat Long got her first Berner in 1988, and began to get active in the breed when she discovered the Berner-L in 1996. She is the co-owner of the Berner-L, file manager and trustee of Berner-Garde, a member of the BMDCA Health Committee, fundraiser with her Longshots portrait photos, and is one of the Vannas each year at the National Specialty Health Fund Auction – an event not to be missed! It's the one time each year she actually wears a dress!

Specialty Snippets:

Shopping at the BMDCA Specialty 2011

Every year since 1999, when I return from Specialty, I do a series called "Shopping at Specialty." It was a project that Pat Long started in 1998 and passed on to me the following year. During the Specialty, I distribute a Shopping Vendor Form to each vendor there. I then photograph the items at their booths and get additional information from them about the items they carry. It is so much fun to visit each booth and see the wonderful Berner things they have to sell, and, of course, I do purchase items as I visit! I know that the majority of you don't get the chance to experience the Specialty for various reasons, so this is a way for each of you to see the Berner treasures, and if you feel the urge, to buy something right there from home! Jean Cheesman does the website each year with the articles and many photos of each of the vendors. Visit the website so you can see the photos of Berner items and all the vendor articles (like those shown here): http://bernese.biz/2011bernershopping.htm

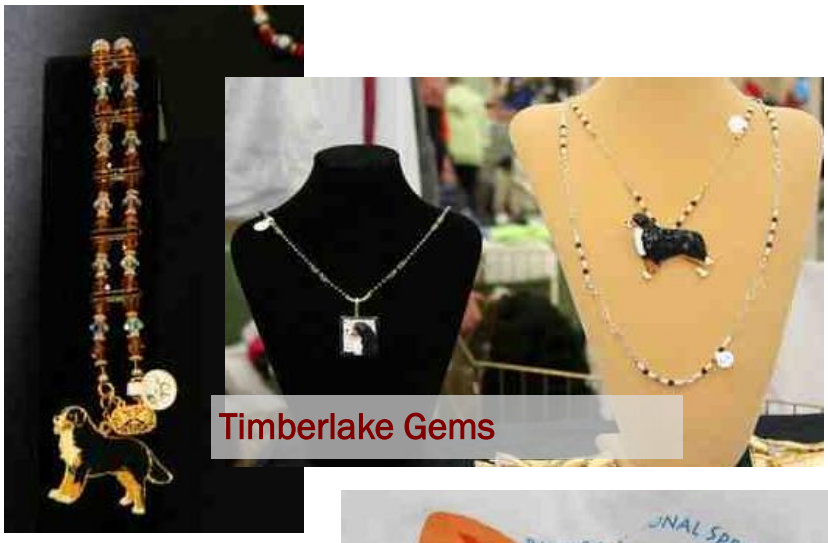
—Joye Neff



Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Northern California



Gone Doggin



Timberlake Gems



BMDCA & 2011 Specialty



Monet's Gallery

Specialty Snippets:
Winston Neff Award & Rescue Gallery



The Winston Neff Award was created by Berner-Garde to honor an individual who makes an extraordinary difference in either rescue or health. This year we were privileged to honor a very special woman who has been working hard behind the scenes for several years to honor the rescues within our breed.

One of the effects of the popularity of our beloved breed is, of course, the increasing number of dogs needing rescue. While all of our dogs have a story, some, in increasing numbers, are not the kind of stories we'd wish for our dogs.



Several years ago, the club initiated a Rescue Parade at Nationals, but it quickly became evident that there simply wasn't enough time in a parade to tell the truly unique stories of these special dogs and how they have impacted the lives of the families in their new forever homes.



Nell Ward, our 2011 Winston Neff Award recipient, selflessly stepped up to offer a wonderful alternative called "The Rescue Gallery", that better facilitates these rescued Berners and their families – offering them the opportunity to really share their unique stories with others in the Bernese community. If you've been to Specialty in the last 5 years of so, you've seen dogs walking around wearing bright yellow collar covers or bandanas, identifying them as rescues, and their families sporting lovely clay pins in the shape of a Berner holding a star with the name of their rescued BMD on the star. These are the handiwork of Nell Ward. You'll also have seen the boards – The Rescue Gallery - prominently displayed with the stories and photos of many rescued Bernese for all to see. Thanks to Nell, what might have been a "wall of shame" for the breed has been turned into an entire room detailing stories of resiliency, courage, and enduring love.





Knowing how important these stories are, Nell also found a way to create a booklet, both online and in paper form, so that we now have a permanent and lasting recorded legacy of these special dogs and their families. Thanks to Nell Ward, these special rescued Bernese's stories will be recorded for the ages. Nell is a very special lady and friend of the breed, and we were proud to have the opportunity to present her with the Winston Neff Award this year at Nationals in Del Mar.

http://www.berner.org/rescue/rescue.php

Specialty Snippets — Longshots

Longshots is the name of Pat Long's photography booth at Nationals. She/it is an institution at each year's Specialty. Manned by a small group of dedicated volunteers and, of course, Pat herself, they tirelessly photograph Berners and Berners & their families all week long. They do this for a small fee which is then donated, in its entirety, to Berner-Garde to support breed education & research. This is one of many popular fundraisers going on during Nationals. Others include things like the Health Fund Auction that Pat mentions in her article "A Veteran's Perspective on Specialty."



The Long Shots Crew
Joye, Pat, Liz & Lori



2012 BARC Calendar Contest!

Get your cameras ready for the 2012 BARC calendar!

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. If you have those great shots, then please send them electronically *in jpg format only* to Beth McNeal at smedette13@yahoo.com to be entered in the contest.









DONATO'S DEATH CAP MUSHROOM



On August 17th, I lost my sweet little Bernese Mountain Dog puppy, Donato. To this day, I still have moments of disbelief and will forever ask the unanswerable question, "Why?" We had been celebrating a warm summer day at a friend's house in Carmel Valley and unbeknownst to us he ate a Death Cap mushroom (Amanita Phalloides). Within 12 hours he was violently ill, in 24 hours he was failing, in 48 hours I knew I was losing him. Even with the valiant efforts of a team of incredible vets and vet techs at Adobe Animal Hospital, his spirit left us 60 hours after he ingested the deadly Amanita Phalloides.

Donato's name means gift in Italian. He was barely six months old and yet we packed in what will have to be a lifetime of memories. He ran on the beach, saw the Sierras, shopped at Bloomingdales and rode a gondola to the top of Mammoth Mountain to see the snow. With his tail always wagging, he had a boundless enthusiasm for life. He loved me and I him. We were a team ordained by the stars and had plans on going oh, so very far. I always told him he would be a very important dog. Little did I know what that would come to mean.

Since that dreadful day I have learned so much about this deadly mushroom. One of the best descriptions that I've found was on the Bay Area Mycological Society's website.

> The Amanita phalloides is a strikingly beautiful mushroom and the number one cause of fatal mushroom poisonings worldwide. Originally found in Europe, it has proved to be highly adaptable to new lands and new mycorrhizal hosts. Death caps now occur around the world, from Australia to South America, but nowhere have they found a place more to their liking than in the oak strewn State of California.
>
> In the San Francisco Bay Area, Amanita phalloides can be found at all times of the year. Death Caps are most abundant during the heart of our fall and early winter rainy season, but they can also appear through late spring, and even during rainless summers, in areas of coastal fog drip or in stands of irrigated oaks.
>
> Like all amanitas, young Amanita phalloides are completely covered by a tissue called a universal veil. This tissue is tough and membranous. As the young mushroom expands, the veil tears cleanly. This normally results in the mature mushroom having a bald cap. Color in many amanita species can be quite variable, but a classic phalloides will have a greenish-yellow cap. Death Caps can also be green, yellow, brown or tan or rarely white, and often take on a metallic sheen with age and drying. The veil drops as the cap expands, to form a delicate skirt or annulus around the stipe. The scent of a Death Cap can be pleasant and sweet in youth, or foul and fishy as it decays.
>
> *—from the page "Amanita phalloides: Invasion of the Death Cap"*
>
> http://bayareamushrooms.org/mushroommonth/amanita_phalloides.html



What puppy wouldn't give a sniff to that? Though the highest density of occurrences of Death Caps is around the San Francisco Bay Area, there are two distinct ranges in the United States. One is along the west coast (as far south as Los Angeles County and north to Vancouver Island,

Continued



Canada) and the second is on the East Coast (from the Atlantic Coastal Plain of Maryland northward to the White Mountains of New Hampshire and east to the coastal islands of Maine). In California, Death Caps are associated with Coast Live Oak trees, in Oregon with chestnut or filbert trees and on the East Coast with pines.

Death Caps contain acutely toxic amatoxins, which can result in liver failure or death. The most promising treatment is intravenous Silibinin, a derivative of milk thistle, however, even this did not help my sweet Donato. More research needs to be done and more grant money needs to be allocated. Experts say that the range of the Death Cap is spreading and they are becoming more prolific. Dog owners need to take heed.

If you see Death Caps in your yard or dog park, pick them and bag them. But as a local ranger said….err on the side of caution… pick everything, bag it all and throw them out. There are other mushrooms out there that can kill. (i.e. , Amanita ocreata, The Death Angels and Galerina marginata, the Deadly Galerina)

If a Death Cap is ingested SEEK MEDICAL HELP IMMEDIATELY. Now, I'm sure to carry Hydrogen peroxide in my first aid kit. If I'm on a hike and my dog has ingested a mushroom, I'm prepared and can induce vomiting if necessary.

It has become Donato's legacy and my mission to spread a warning about the danger of mushroom toxicity. With the help of friends I created a flyer to raise the awareness about Death Caps. Donato's flyer has rapidly spread throughout the dog community and via the internet. It has been posted in pet shops, veterinarian offices, dog parks, grooming salons, published in dog club newsletters, linked to websites and has been in local newspapers. Let Donato help keep our loved ones safe. So far my little pup's story has saved the lives of three dogs. In the spirit of paying it forward I'm happy to say their owners are making flyers and continuing to spread the word.

Today, as I look at our beautiful California Oaks, I pause and search the ground for mushrooms before I let my new pup, Tesoro, run and play. Let what happened to Donato and I not happen to another. This is Donato's final gift. My sweet Donato, you really have become a very important dog.

IMPORTANT LINKS

http://bayareamushrooms.org/poisonings/index.html or http://bayareamushrooms.org/mushroommonth/amanita_phalloides.html

—Diana Gerba




Color can be yellow-green to tawny brown
Death Cap Mushrooms
Cap can be 2 - 6 inches in diameter
They are growing NOW! These were photographed in a lawn in Woodside, CA on 10/4/2010.
Mature - Veil hangs down on stalk
Donato, a young healthy pup in our area died of Mushroom Toxicity on Aug. 17, 2010.
Do NOT eat these mushrooms. Dogs, children, adults, even horses can die from their toxicity. Keep your loved ones safe.
Pick Death Caps, bag them and throw them away. If ingested take mushroom remains and get medical help immediately!
Immature - Veil attached hiding gills
Bulb (volva) attached below ground.
For more info go to www.tinyurl.com/MushroomPoisoning
©2010 D.Gerba



Our newest feature called "Funny Bones," is an opportunity to share those hilarious moments that most all Berners, but especially our BARC babies, seem to create. Have a story, but don't consider yourself to be a writer?.... I will happily help you. I am also collecting short anecdotes for a future column compilation. So start sending those stories to me j.parky@comcast.net. and let's get the side splitting laughter going!!

—Bernerly, Janice Parky (editor of all things humorous)

HAGAR AND THE APPLES

Hagar has discovered the apple tree. That's the bad news.

On the other hand, watching him "steal" an apple (sometimes with its branch still attached) and come tearing across the yard with it in his mouth to plop into the grass ten feet from me , can't help but make me laugh.

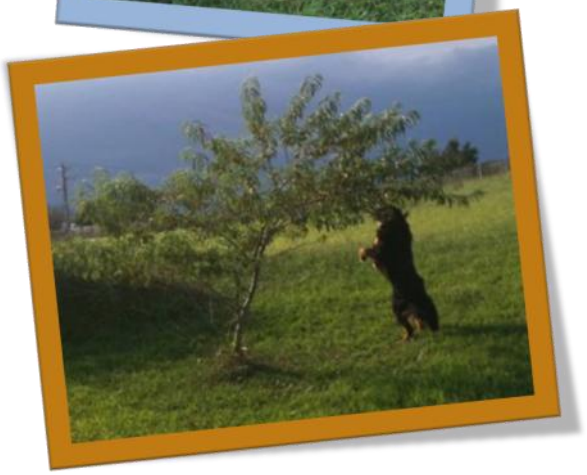
And he has so much fun!! He will fling the apple in the air and go pouncing after it, grab it mid bounce and run thirty feet with it. Then fling it to one side or the other, chase it, pounce, grab, and fling; pounce, bat it around, grab it, race forty yards in another direction, fling it, and "catch" it...hold it in his mouth and shake it! All of this goes on ten minutes or so before he plops himself down in the grass to chew on it for a while.

Someday, I hope to get this on video. The problem is that I will be laughing so hard that the video will be shaking all over the place.

An important update: I have a peach tree that is well apart from the area where the apple tree is, but Hagar has found it, too. His determination knows no bounds. I've seen a Berner stand to hug a person before, but I had not, until now, seen a Berner stand to pick fruit.

Liz Caldwell, in Kansas, with BARC's Hagar





HOLISTIC ALTERNATIVES FOR SUMMER PEST PROBLEMS



Andrea with Chi
Photo by John Moriarty.

These questions often come up each spring: "What flea and tick product should I be using? Is there one that works for mosquitoes too? And what do I do about heartworm?

For most pet owners, these questions are answered by their veterinarian. In recent years, though, there have been numerous reported reactions to the "traditional products" that have many of us now questioning their safety. Should applying harsh, toxic chemicals to your dog/cat to rid them of annoying pests be your only option? I don't believe so, yet for many of you, it has been.

In April of last year, the EPA issued an advisory about "spot-on" chemical pesticide products. These are products applied to the neck or back of dogs/cats as flea and tick preventatives. The advisory was issued due to a significant increase in reported adverse reactions – everything from mild skin irritations to seizures and death. In 2008, over 44,000 reactions, presumed to be tied to spot-on products, were reported by pet owners, veterinarians, and other animal caretakers.

According to Karen Becker DVM, pets still get fleas and ticks even when owners use some of the harshest spot-on treatments. It's also not out of the question that pests may be building up their resistance to some of these chemicals as well.

There are alternatives, and they DO work! A few years ago, you had to search for the products to use. Now, there are many to choose from.

The regimen I use with my own dogs begins with a flea product used daily throughout the year. It's called Flea Fighter. It makes the blood bitter and the dog an unfavorable host to fleas. It keeps the blood bitter, well-nourished, alkalized, clean and healthy as the best natural defense.



As the weather starts to warm up, I add Tick Response (both found at www.crystalgardenherbs.com). It is similar to Flea Fighter, but in addition, it is traditionally used to help ward off ticks, and it addresses the symptoms associated with tick bites.

At the same time, I use a product called Purification by Young Living, applied daily, and Flea Flicker spray that can be found at www.aromadog.com/products/flea-flicker.php or many other online pet supply sources. This product also works with ticks. I spray the dogs daily with this, but I also keep some on hand if there are bugs on a walk or in a park when we have an outing. The aromatic blend of key essential oils makes those pesky critters flee! The strong camphoric scent of leleshwa, peppermint, and citronella combine to make a refreshing repellent that naturally blends with your dog's own oils. Because pests are repelled by the scent, it is necessary to reapply frequently, as needed. You will find it to be worth your time as the amazing benefits of the rare and precious oil of the leleshwa are many.



Animals discovered leleshwa instinctively. They were observed to be rubbing up against a leleshwa shrub in Kenya. Upon closer inspection, they were found to be free of fleas, ticks, and biting tse tse flies. Leleshwa is also extremely effective in healing minor sores and cuts. Lastly, it is a relaxing oil that promotes sleep and calms anxieties.



If a dog should be bitten, I immediately use Lyme Blaster (www.aromadog.com/products/lyme-blaster.php). Having a tick twister is handy as well. In addition, the dogs get Para Outta Site daily. This is an herbal essence that can be found at www.spiritessences.com/products/ParaOuttaSite.html . Healthy, stress-free animals tend to be resistant to parasitic infections. Para Outta Site helps detoxify and remove the energetic blockages and imbalances that make the animal more susceptible to parasites of all types, including external (fleas, ticks, lice, ear mites, mange) and internal (worms, Giardia, bacteria) pests.





My dogs also wear collars from www.holisticfamilyandpets.com/productcatalog.htm which are impregnated with Calendula, Silica, Cayenne, Fleabane, Cinnamon, Red Cedar, White Pine, Aloe, Vitamin E, Graphites, Berberis, Echinacia, Golden Seal, Ginseng, and Astralagus to further boost the immune system.

We then do three household protective measures. We have a Skeeter Vac by Blue Rhino (www.fleabuster.com) which is similar to the mosquito magnet but less expensive and more reliable for us.

Continued



We also use Flea Busters once a year (see previous link given), and we release beneficial insects (nematodes) into our yard. Gardens Alive is the best source (www.gardensalive.com), but a less expensive, yet less effective version can be found at www.arbico-orgnaics.com/category/beneficial-nematodes . Nematodes help rid yards of pesky pests. After application, the nematodes immediately go to work. Upon finding a pest, they can enter it through various body openings or directly through the body wall. Once inside, it is not the nematode that actually kills the pest, but the toxic bacteria inside the nematode's gut that is the real weapon – symbiotic bacteria that, when released inside the insect, kills it within 24-48 hours by causing blood poisoning. Beneficial nematodes release the bacteria in order to create food and a hospitable environment for their own reproduction. As the food resources within the dead pest become scarce, the nematodes exit and immediately begin searching for a new host. As long as there is a suitable host, they will continue to survive and parasitize.

This year I will be adding an additional component to my regimen. Only Natural Pet www.onlynaturalpet.com) has formulated a new heartworm product. It is called Heartworm Protect. Prior to this, I had used a nosode. This new product is similar to the flea and tick herbals I already use but synergistically should prevent heartworm infestation.



Use of alternative products is a personal choice. There is no guarantee with ANY product – alternative or traditional. Hopefully, knowing that there are alternatives you can use will help you make an informed and educated decision for your pet(s).

— Andrea

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. Photo © John L. Moriarty

Every Berner can make a difference



Every dog has a story to tell. Have you shared your dog's story?

With the Berner-Garde Foundation, sharing your dog's story has never been easier. Throughout your dog's life, you can add and update health records and other important information to ensure that your dog's legacy lives on and impacts the future of the breed. Berner-Garde will be happy to assist you with getting started. Please visit our website at www.BernerGarde.org for more information.

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IN MEMORIAM– GRACE HOLLOWAY

BARC's Grace Holloway

3/26/02 ~ 3/15/11



Our story began on Dec. 21, 2003, when John and I drove to Arkansas to pick up Grace. She was one scared little girl! She was from Budapest and was bought when she was about a year old and landed in Missouri, destined to be auctioned off for puppy mills.

She was bred so they could say she was pregnant when being auctioned in October 2003. BARC representatives acquired her on the 4th, my birthday and the same day I learned that my BARC girl, Gypsy, was dying of kidney failure. Later, when I learned the date Grace was acquired, I knew she was meant to be mine.

Amy Kessler kept Grace at her home where she escaped and was later found under the house, having given birth to one dead puppy. Gypsy died days before her 3rd birthday in November, and I called Amy, completely devastated. Thanks to her and some folks who donated funds for me to get another BARC girl, I added Grace to my little family. Having worked in rescue for years, I knew everyone wanted puppies or kittens, so I was happy to take an adult Berner in need. They're so much harder to place.

Grace's name was Diamond Roys Histy, but I called her Grace, thinking of Christmas and the song "Amazing Grace". Grace took lots of time to adjust; she was terrified of doors and doorways just to name one issue. To get her to go in and out to potty, I had to stand outside and hold the screen door all the way open. When it rained, I put a plastic bag on my head because the umbrella scared her too much. And so it went for over a year until the day I was actually able to prop the door open from inside, and she would go in and out. What a victory it was for her!

She wouldn't take treats from my hand, and instead, always put her head down. I tried and tried to get her to come to my bedroom and get on the bed, but she'd cower in fear and run back out when given any opportunity. I tried to get her to come up on the sofa with me, but she'd sit there and shake, then jump back down at first opportunity. It took several years of patience - even wondering if I was the wrong home for her after all - wondering if I just could not do/be everything she needed. Then came the time, she took a treat from my hand, then she got onto the sofa next to me. And most amazing of all, one morning after a storm, I awoke to find her sleeping on the floor by the bed. Not too long after that, she learned the art of getting onto the bed, especially if she was scared.

John and I took her to the 2004 BMDCA National Specialty near Dallas, and it was like a dream come true. She saw all those Berners and felt right at home. I couldn't believe how many there were and how big some of them were! We were there two nights and had a wonderful time that included marching in the Parade of Rescue Dogs (no longer done at the shows) while someone on a loudspeaker told who we were and read what I had written about her. We also participated in a Parade of the States, and Grace wore Mardi Gras beads around her neck while representing Louisiana. We met Amy, Courtney, and others of the BARC and Berner community I had often corresponded with. I had dreamed for years, since the mid-1970's, of going to a Specialty, but they were never close to me.



When I got Agatha, a Berner from the local kill shelter spring of 2006, Grace suddenly had a Berner buddy, and she began to improve much more rapidly. In her later years she was known to shove Agatha and Gabriel, my Aussie, aside to get a piece of pizza crust, or to lick the bowl that still had a little ice cream in it...and she was smaller than both of

Continued

them! In the winter she slept on the bed, and in the summer she lounged on a special bed just for her next to my bed. She never liked being in the yard, even when Gabriel, Agatha, and I were with her. We took both Agatha and Grace to a BARC Bash in Dallas, TX in November 2006 where Grace again got to be among many of her own kind, and she amazed me with how relaxed and comfortable she was. Her true Berner-essence shown through and we had a great time.



Agatha & Grace Holloway

As Grace aged, in 2011 I noticed she had trouble on the floor, walking on tile, and she developed a limp, so I took her to the vet. They said it was a pulled ligament in her rear leg, so we got meds and came home. But she had also not been eating normally and that was overlooked by the vet. I bought small rugs with rubber backing and made a trail all through the house so she could walk and not fall. The limp went away quickly. When she would fall, I would quickly lift her rear up to balance her.

Then she went down one weekend, late at night. I was alone, having lost John to a sudden death in 2007, and my neighbor was not home for me to call for help. I was unable to lift her up at all. She stayed in the living room as did I until daylight. We both finally slept fitfully, but when I awoke, I found her collapsed in the kitchen, having gone in for water. By then I was able to call my neighbor and the vet. Diane and I put her on a large piece of canvas and carried her to the van and on to the vet. They saw her immediately. The sonogram indicated she had a large abdominal mass. They let me go back and I put my arms around her neck, she was in terrible pain and they were giving her fluids and pain meds. Her gums were pale, as it turned out, she did have a growth, it had ruptured and she was bleeding internally. I had to fill out paperwork but went back to see her twice more before I left. By the last time the pain meds were working, she held her head up and smiled at me when I hugged her goodbye. The plan was to stabilize her and operate the next morning, then go from there. But at 6:30 a.m. that next morning, the vet called me that Grace had died. From some things the vet said, apparently her heart gave out. If she died during the night or just before he called me, I am not sure.

I miss her terribly. Grace was the sweetest Berner I have ever had. She was my 5th BMD, and when she passed away, she left me with Agatha and Eli, my male pup, to try to gain comfort from. But I still fight feelings of guilt as I was always able to be with all my other Berners when they died. I feel like I let her down, but there was nothing else I could do. I can only pray she died as peacefully as possible under the circumstances she was in. She was very weak from the internal bleeding. If her heart did give out, like with John, it was sudden.

I will always love my sweet Grace, and know the pain of her loss will eventually become more bearable. But she will always be in my heart, and the wonderful memories of her are entwined with memories of life with John. She had a soul so pure and kind. She died 10 days before her 9th birthday. I hope I was able to give her as good a life as she deserved.

—Jeri Holloway



Agatha, Jeri & Grace



A rose bush to remember Grace

BARC APPAREL

CHECK SIZES BEFORE ORDERING

View Measurements http://www.boomerts.com/yourstore.html



#101 T-SHIRT WHITE $15 GREY/BLACK $18

100% Cotton Heavyweight Unisex

COLOR: WHITE, BLACK, GREY

YOUTH: YS(6/8), YM(10/12), YL(14/16)

ADULT: S, M, L, XL, (XX+$2)



#103 HOODIE $ 28.00

Gildan 18500 Heavyweight Unisex
Check sizing(youth runs Small)

COLOR: WHITE, BLACK, GREY

YOUTH: YM(10/12), YL(14/16)

ADULT: S, M, L, XL, (XX+$2)



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101	T-shirt EXAMPLE	2	White	Youth	YM	$20	$40

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LEAVE IT!

Clicker Training Lessons

gentle & effective obedience training for your dog

Leave It!

This is not a competition exercise - this is for when you are going for a walk, and realize that your dog is making a bee-line for something truly disgusting. You tell him "Leave it!" and he does so. This works for telling your dog to get away from something else, such as a plate of food on the table, or for when you drop something on the ground you really don't want him to have. I even know a dog that will respond to "Leave it" when his owner wants him to move away from another dog! This is an essential behavior for any dogs who will be doing therapy work.

Okay - get yourself ready. Have a bunch of little treats - some really tasty ones and some so-so ones (I'll use hot dog slices and Cheerios as an example).

Have a couple of Cheerios in one hand which will be the "Leave it" hand (to begin with, anyway) and a hot dog slice in your other hand (your "Get it" hand). Hold out your first hand, open to show the Cheerios. Your dog will, of course, start to reach for them. Say "Leave it!" and close your hand. However, keep the hand down at his level - don't yank it away, just close it into a soft fist. He will probably lick and nibble at your hand, trying to get the Cheerios. When he gives up and pulls his head back you need to immediately C&T, giving the much tastier hot dog from your other hand.

Keep doing this until he is no longer trying for the treat from your Leave it hand. Then... switch hands! Expect to him to about start over at first, but then quickly figure out what is going on. (Ahhh... it's not which hand it's in, it's what she's saying first! Eureka!")

Now, see if he's really getting it. Show the hand with the treat, and this time leave the hand open as you present it and say "Leave It." The odds are quite high that he will try for the treat, so be prepared to shut your hand quickly! Then just wait for him to pull back as before. Eventually you will be able to leave your hand open and your dog won't even try for it. Smart puppy!

At this point, you want to start requiring that your dog not only "leave it," but look up at you before you say "Yes!" and "Get it." To do that, just do what you have been, but after your dog moves away from the leave it hand, just wait.... until he looks up at you, then immediately say "Yes!" and "Get it." If he takes too long to look up, then say his name to get his attention, and reward that.

Next progression would be to set a treat onto the floor and say "Leave it." Reward with a jackpot if he does! Be prepared to step on it (use a dry treat here so it doesn't get smooshed!) to cover it if he doesn't. In that case, just try again. When that is going well, actually drop a treat on the ground, at first just from a few inches off of the ground, then gradually higher.

Note - Try to usually have much better treat in your "get it" hand than what you are making him "leave it." However, make sure to practice this with some pretty high level treats as the Leave it treats as well! When the time comes when you are out in the park and he discovers a rotten frog carcass and starts drooling, you want him to respond to your "Leave it" command. He'll be amazed, thinking you actually have a treat better than rotten frog! Of course you won't (I hope!), but by then it'll be too late for your dog - you'll be past where the frog was. He'll be disappointed, but will survive. And certainly, you would lavish affection on him at that point, and give up any treats you might have on you.

Happy "leaving it"!





Mary Woodward & Susan Greenholt

Greenwood Dog Training School

Wilmington, DE

*using positive methods to teach



BARC SPECIAL DAYS



6/1/2004	Willi Nelson	Birthday
6/3/2003	Charlie McLane	Birthday
6/3/2008	Largo Adriaans	Birthday
6/3/2008	Avril Cassidy	Anniversary
6/3/2008	Bailey Fowler	Birthday
6/3/2008	Oli Kunnick	Birthday
6/3/2008	Blake Kunnick	Birthday
6/3/2008	Moxie Simmons	Birthday
6/5/2003	Maggie Minardi	Birthday
6/7/2008	Sophie Krocesky	Anniversary
6/8/2002	Cecila Terpstra	Birthday
6/8/2009	Callie Lilien	Anniversary
6/12/2006	Romeo Florin	Birthday
6/12/2006	Eddie Johnson	Birthday
6/15/2006	Shirley Greco	Birthday
6/18/2005	Isabelle Forester	Birthday
6/19/2002	Sherman Greco	Birthday
6/19/2004	Patience Hoefinger	Birthday
6/21/2003	Oslo McLane	Birthday
6/21/2008	Junie B Fowler	Anniversary
6/22/2005	Anne Korschoreck	Birthday
6/22/2006	Gretchen Joyce	Birthday
6/22/2009	Brie Susko	Anniversary
6/23/2005	Charlie Fagan	Birthday
6/24/2003	Cricket Pelletier	Birthday
6/24/2010	Sam Borgstadt	Anniversary
6/25/2008	Maggie Minardi	Anniversary
6/27/2008	Riley Christen	Anniversary
6/30/2003	Lilly Schlabach	Birthday

7/1/2007	Reggie Mathews	Birthday
7/2/2009	Teddy Rhodes	Birthday
7/2/2009	Bode Rogers	Birthday
7/2/2009	Dillon Wheeler	Birthday
7/8/2003	Sophie Krocesky	Birthday
7/10/2008	Daisy Wilker	Anniversary
7/10/2008	Maisy Wilker	Anniversary
7/13/2005	Bear Suydam	Birthday
7/13/2007	Degan Fitch	Birthday
7/13/2008	Willi Nelson	Anniversary
7/14/2008	Jasmine Grijalva	Anniversary
7/17/2008	Drake Odjik	Anniversary
7/18/2002	Heidi Reeves	Birthday
7/21/2002	Samson Tackett	Birthday
7/21/2008	Graci Kennedy	Anniversary
7/21/2009	Barbie Woodford	Anniversary
7/22/2008	Dani Johnson	Anniversary
7/27/2001	Santee Decker	Birthday
7/28/2008	Katie Godar	Anniversary
7/29/2008	Bruiser Bradley	Anniversary
7/30/2005	Sherman Greco	Anniversary
7/30/2008	Moxie Simmons	Anniversary
7/31/2008	Chief Minor	Anniversary



We would like to commemorate your BARC dog's special dates! Please help us start the BARC Database by sending information about your dogs. Send your information to: maryannmonte@bellsouth.net.

BARC SPECIAL DAYS



8/1/2005	Zoe Monte	Birthday
8/1/2009	Jade Ehrich	Birthday
8/2/2008	Largo Adriaans	Anniversary
8/2/2008	Bailey Fowler	Anniversary
8/2/2008	Gracie Kennedy	Anniversary
8/2/2008	Oli Kunnick	Anniversary
8/4/2003	Rosie Webb	Birthday
8/4/2004	Gracie Hutchins	Birthday
8/5/2005	Howard Greco	Birthday
8/6/2008	Isabelle Forester	Birthday
8/13/2008	Bruno Hughes	Anniversary
8/14/2005	Zoe Lightner	Birthday
8/20/2004	Hope Barr	Birthday
8/22/2009	Ruby Baker	Anniversary
8/22/2009	Storm Adriaans	Anniversary
8/22/2009	Mason LeFur	Anniversary
8/24/2009	Lacey Gadd	Anniversary
8/25/2004	Tyson Bledsoe	Birthday
8/28/2008	Maisey Putnam	Anniversary
8/29/2003	Maisey Putnam	Birthday
8/31/2008	Peaches Pavlicek	Anniversary
8/31/2009	Keeper Ricci	Anniversary
8/31/2009	Teddy Rhodes	Anniversary
8/31/2009	Bode Rogers	Anniversary
8/31/2009	Dillon Wheeler	Anniversary

THE LAST BARC — SUMMER 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 August 15, 2011.

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!!