

Barn Berner Draft Test in Steamboat Springs, Colorado

October 5 & 6, 2013

Barn-Bern-er (_bärn·bûr·n_r) n.

Informal. An Extremely Impressive Event or Successful Outcome:

*"The October Back-to-Back Draft Tests in Steamboat Springs are going to be a real **Barn Berner!**"*

Truer words have never been said according to the participants attending the first ever BMDCR Draft Test held in Steamboat Springs, Colorado this past October 5th & 6th. The historic Heritage Barn & Cabin site on the shores of Lake Catamount offered beautiful views in every direction. Those that braved the "Severe Winter Storm Warning" centered around Steamboat Springs on Thursday and Friday were rewarded with gorgeous fall foliage colors accented by the foot of newly fallen snow. Our Rough Rider Judges, Ruth Nielsen and Larry Bohlig were not afraid of the conditions, leading the snow shoveling brigade to clear portions of the ring. Many thanks to Jerry McDanal, head shoveler, and everyone who came out to the site on Friday to help!

In true Wild West fashion, the new snow did not tamp the weekend spirit. Our hardy Berners had a ball jumping, rolling and running in the open snowfields. Their owners were all well prepared with layers of clothing, peeled off throughout the day as we worked on avoiding sunburned noses.

Participants as well as the many spectators enjoyed the abundant photo opportunities, even the judges were snapping pics!

We had a lot of very close runs, dog/handler teams who came SOOO close to qualifying! We hope to see you try again at the spring test.

Congratulations to those who did earn a lovely green rosette and trophy; especially to our new Novice Draft Dogs: Daisy (handled and loved by Cathy Davis) and Rose (handled and loved by Nancy Winegar).

Other notable successes are: Watson (handled and loved by Barry Solomon) earning his Advanced Novice Draft Dog title; Narsil (handled and loved by Kim Giannone) earning his Master Draft Dog title; Carly (handled by Alice Clark and loved by Elaine Witulski) teamed up with Dash to earn her Brace Novice Draft Dog title.

We had a few Advanced Brace Novice Draft Dog titles earned as well: both Murrey & Graci (handled as a team and loved by Lori Kennedy) and Dash (teamed up with Carly, handled and loved by Alice Clark).

Many thanks to Barb Clark our SUPER Secretary; to Lynette Weaver who recruited a bevy of wonderful stewards and kept us fueled up with the best vittles out there; to Dottie Schulte who was our secretary at the beginning of this journey, our fabulous Trophy Chair and who also volunteered to steward too. And, hats off to all who came out to play in the snow in DogTown™ USA, Steamboat Springs, Colorado!

Beth Dennehy, Barn Berner Draft Test Chair
Steamboat Springs, CO