

BELGIAN BEAT

A Monthly Publication of the American Belgian Malinois Club

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A NOTE FROM THE BOARD:

It is the most important time of the year for the ABMC, National Specialty time! Specialty Chair, Lisa Knock and her team have been working for the past year to put on a wonderful National Specialty for the ABMC Membership. We are excited to see the old friends, make new friends and spend a few days relishing in our wonderful breed.

While entries have closed and Welcome Reception and Banquet tickets have ended, there are still a few ways you can support the 2024 National Specialty. You can sponsor a trophy for either the Regional or National Specialty via the the National Specialty store (<https://malinoisclub.com/abmc2024/shop/>). There will be minimal 2024 merchandise available at the specialty, and of course please remember the ABMR Raffle, the ABMC Raffle and the always popular State Basket Auction that is held at the Banquet.

The Board is still working diligently to update the ABMC National Specialty Procedure Manual. In doing our due diligence to ensure that this revision is reflective of the membership, we would like to enlist the help of the membership. If there is anything in particular in the manual that you would like to comment on, please feel free to contact any Board member. The current National Specialty Procedure Manual can be viewed at <https://www.malinoisclub.com/abmc/about-abmc/abmc-policies-and-procedures/>.

Just a quick reminder to make plans to attend the the 2024 ABMC Annual Meeting which will be held May 22, 2024 at 3:30pm EST (or 15 minutes after the conclusion of Scent Work) at Horizons Edge on the turf field. We do hope that you will make plans to attend as we will need a quorum present in order to take action on any issues. National Specialty Chair Lisa Knock has a special 50/50 raffle planned for the Annual Meeting.

Finally, we are excited to see you in Harrisonburg, VA at the 2024 National Specialty. Many Board members will be around the Specialty throughout the week and we would love to meet you all in person. If you see us, please take a moment to introduce yourself and give us a chance to get to know you. The current ABMC Board has made it one of our goals to be kind, welcoming and accessible to the membership. Please help us achieve our goal by giving us just a moment to get to know you.

MEMBERSHIP INFO:

Individual Membership -- \$40
Family Membership -- \$65
Junior Membership (10y-17y) -- \$10

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

American Belgian Malinois Club

ABMC WEBSITE <https://www.malinoisclub.com/abmc>

NEW MEMBER APPLICANTS

None At This Time

SPECIAL NOTE:

PLEASE LOOK FOR THE 2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND BREEDER CODE OF ETHICS RENEWAL IN YOUR EMAIL. FOR THOSE THAT HAVE REQUESTED TO RECEIVE CLUB COMMUNICATION VIA USPS, PLEASE SEE THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PERFORMER FOR YOUR HARD COPIES.

*******UPCOMING EVENTS*******

**2024 ABMC National Specialty
May 17-26, 2024 in Harrisonburg, VA**

National Specialities require the help of many volunteers. If you can volunteer in any way, large or small, please contact National Specialty Chair Lisa Knock, cell (703) 424-5491 (call or text) or trisorsts.malinois@gmail.com

ABMC Herding Trials

June 1-2, 2024
Three Quarter Circle H Ranch
Gardnerville, NV
Closing Date: May 15, 2024

ABMC Regional Specialty & Supported Entry

August 31-September 1, 2024
Prarieland Belgian Malinois Club
Amana, IA
Closing Date: August 14, 2024

ABMC Regional Specialty & Supported Entry

September 27, 2024
Pacific Belgian Malinois Club
Carson City, NV
Closing Date: September 11, 2024

ABMC Regional Specialty & Supported Entry

November 7-9, 2024
Springfield, MO
Closing Date: October 30, 2024

ABMC Agility Trials

February 7-9, 2025
Pinnacle Dog Sports
Westlake, OH
Closing Date: January 29, 2025

ABMC Agility Trials

February 28- March 2, 2025
Pinnacle Dog Sports
Westlake, OH
Closing Date: February 9, 2025

*******Welcome New ABMC Members*******

Linda Bransgrove
Sue Hathaway
Kate Leary

Adele & Matthew Collins
Bryan Johnson
Adria Witmer

*******BOARD MEETING MINUTES*********Minutes
ABMC BOD Meeting
April 16, 2024**

1. Meeting was called to order by President Paige Johnson at 7:31 pm CST.
 - 1.1 Paige Johnson
 - 1.2 Janet Lasater
 - 1.3 Sara Andersen
 - 1.4 Jeannine Daugherty
 - 1.5 Susie Williamson
 - 1.6 Suzanne Belger
 - 1.7 Miranda Genetti
 - 1.8 Tiffany HolleyAll members were present.
2. Approved minutes of March 19, 2024 BOD Meeting. Suzanne moved to accept the Minutes as revised; Janet seconded; approved.
3. Treasurer's report: Discussed. Detailed account located elsewhere in The Performer.
4. Committee Reports
 - 4.1 2024 – discussion regarding deadlines.
 - 4.2 2025 – No report
 - 4.3 Herding report from Monique Buzzarte; details in The Performer.
 - 4.4 ROM report from Carolyn Kaiser: the committee is streamlining the Register of Merit process; the digitizing of the records of all ROM dogs has begun.
5. Old Business
 - 5.1 New Member/Old Member "Spotlight": Sara will handle this venture!
 - 5.2 Time and location of Annual Meeting: Wednesday at Horizon at 3:30 EST or 15 minutes after the last Scent Work trial.
 - 5.3 Update: progress on revising Event Application form: Suzanne has revised the form and forwarded to the BOD for review. It is more user friendly and can be loaded as a Word document. The BOD will review and Suzanne will finalize it. Applications for National Specialties will NOT be done on this form.
6. New Business
 - 6.1 Vendor space for Miranda: There will be two tables for ABMC, one of which is for Miranda's store.
 - 6.2 Suzanne moved to formally appoint Tiffany Holley as ABMC Corresponding Secretary and to add her to the Chase bank account. Susie seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - 6.3 Suzanne moved to allow Tiffany to raffle off an ad for the National Specialty edition of The Performer with a design included at a reduced rate. Jeanine seconded. Approved unanimously.

- 6.4 Annual Meeting Agenda items: in addition to the “stock” agenda, members may request an item be added to the agenda by e-mailing Janet.
- 7. Next meeting: May 7, 2024
- 8. Announcements:
 - 8.1 Janet has agreed to be the trial chair for the February and March, 2025 and the February and March, 2026 Agility trials at Pinnacle Dog Sports in Westlake, Ohio. These trials are designated fund-raisers for the respective National Specialties. Event applications are being submitted in a timely manner.
- 9. New Members: Applications were received from Kathy Morrison, Deb Wigal and Connor Wooton. Tiffany moved to accept the membership applications; Suzanne seconded. Approved unanimously.
- 8. Next meeting: May 7, 2024.
- 9. Adjournment: Susie moved to adjourn at 9:05 pm CST. Jeanine seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Lasater
Recording Secretary

*******2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES*********Minutes
ABMC Annual Meeting
May 4, 2023**

1. The meeting was called to order by President Liz Aghbashian at 7:03 pm .
2. Attendance was secured via sign-in sheet. The following members were present: Elizabeth Aghbashian, Sara Andersen, Elizabeth Antos, Carol Aulick, Claudia Bailey, Bonnie Craig, Jeanine Daugherty, Christine Dentz, Lisa Dillman, Linda Friedow, Miranda Genetti, Pam Hoerster, Paige Johnson, Lisa Knock, Thomas Kulb, MD, Theresa Kulb, Janet Lasater, Dina Ledger, Ann MacKay, JoAnne McLellan, Tasha Mesina, Sue Olson, Charlotte “Pearl” Palermo, Bruce Perkins, Pat Perkins, Darrell Roll, Jane Rothert, Anastasia Swarthout, Susie Williamson. No Quorum. Guests: Mallory Eckstut, Connor Wooton, Claude Milton, Angie Mullaney, Scott Mullaney.
3. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting: No report
4. Report of the President: Liz introduced the members of the Board. There were also reminders to clean up after the dogs – at the venues and hotels!
5. Report of the Corresponding Secretary: No report.
6. Report of the Treasurer : No physical report. Complete reports are always published in The Performer.
7. Reports of Committees
 - 7.1 2023 National Specialty: Going great; Janet and Bonnie thanked all the Volunteers.
 - 7.2 2024 National Specialty: Lisa Knock is chair for the event to be held in Harrisonburg, VA. The tentative schedule includes 3 days of Agility; in addition to the Breed Specialties, Obedience, Rally, Herding, Scent work trials and possible tracking are planned. The Regional Specialty is scheduled for Wednesday; the National Specialty for Thursday and Agility on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. These will all be updated on the website. Members may volunteer as soon as the website is updated.
 - 7.3 ABMR: Carol Aulick presented the report. Suggestions were made to have information on the website to help people understand the Malinois breed and help avoid buying a dog that is too much for them. Suggestion was made to ask breeders what their criteria is for training; possibly send out questionnaires to breeders. As the breed continues to become more popular, the problems will probably continue for Rescue. The question is, “How can ABMC help ABMR?” ABMC can recommend breeders, trainers, etc. and encourage puppy buyers to fully research prior to purchase. Discussion was suspended. Entire report is scanned and included as an addendum.
 - 7.4 Herding report: Tasha Mesina presented. Entire report is scanned and included as an addendum.

- 7.5 Agility – Teresa Kulb: suggested that in each Performer a reminder be included to encourage participants to volunteer at all agility trials. Theresa also wanted to clear up a misunderstanding regarding the awarding of the Agility HOF plaques. They are distributed at the annual banquet the year FOLLOWING the actual completion of requirements.
- 7.6 Register of Merit (ROM): It was decided in 2021 that paper copies will be eliminated and all information will be available online. Linda Friedow volunteered to scan those documents. The ROM books will be forwarded to Linda for scanning.
8. Unfinished Business
 - 8.1 The Performer: Theresa Kulb suggested that only Championships be published rather than publishing each title earned. She also suggested that donations be printed in the hopes that each would be a catalyst for more donations. There was also discussion regarding the on-line version of The Performer. Some cannot download it. Sara Andersen gave instructions on how to open and save the editions. If the website continues to have issues, Darrell Roll will provide the name of an individual who may be able to handle those issues for a fee.
9. New Business
 - 9.1 AWMA: AKC still doesn't approve their titles. Liz Aghbashian suggested that Liz Antos write a letter to AKC with her concerns and suggestions.
 - 9.2 ZOOM meeting: Liz Antos suggested that we include a web-based ZOOM meeting for our Annual Meeting. This will be added to the agenda of a regular meeting of the BOD.
10. Announcements: Judges' Education is tomorrow 8:00 – 9:30 am; the National Specialty begins at 9:30 am [Class Dogs, Class Bitches, Junior Showmanship, Veterans, 4 – 6 month Puppy (BPUP)]; 1:00 pm (BOB Stud Dog, Brood Bitch and Generations). Banquet is at 6:00 pm.
11. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Lasater
Recording Secretary

ADDENDUM - ABMR REPORT

ABMR Report to ABMC 2023 National Specialty Wilmington, OH

Hi, My name is Carol Aulick and I am currently serving as President for ABMR. The ABMR BOD would like to give you an update on ABMR activity in 2022.

As I think you all are aware, rescue had a devastating loss last October when our Marcia passed away suddenly. Marcia WAS rescue so her loss left us with a gaping hole that felt impossible to fill. At first, I think several of us were not sure we could go on without her but we all knew that she would want us to move ahead and carry on and in honor of all she has done for rescue, we wouldn't want to let her down.

So to start, I'd like to share how the board membership has changed.

President: Carol Aulick

Vice President: Jeanine Daugherty

Secretary: Hedy Barton

Treasurer: Linda Redfield

Directors: Julie Bear, Bonnie Bigelow, Bonnie Craig, and Lin Karrels

In addition to that organizational change, we implemented some changes in operational management by appointing several board members to be Regional Coordinator Liaisons. These liaisons are the first line of support for the coordinators in that region. Jeanine is managing the midwest region, Bonnie Craig has responsibility for the southwest, Bonnie Bigelow has the southeast, and I have the northeast.

As I'm sure you all are aware, the AKC reported that the Malinois had moved up in the popularity rankings to 32 in 2022 versus being 60th in 2014.

What we are observing is that there is an increase in the number of backyard breeders selling puppies and many are selling to families that are not aware of what they are signing up for when getting a Malinois. Education and support is generally not a part of this distribution channel. So the rise in popularity has resulted in a steady increase in owner surrenders requests and shelter requests and has pushed our rescue resources to the limit.

As in the past, our first step is to try to help with training and behavior issues. But, people have to be willing to put in the work.

We will also consider assisting with owner placement of a dog that is spayed/neutered by doing a courtesy post.

We continue to be contacted about litters almost every two weeks - pregnant dogs in shelters and back yard breeders contacting us because they cannot sell their puppies. We've also been contacted about and helped with several hoarding cases.

*****ADDENDUM - HERDING REPORT*****

The Herding Committee thanks the Board for their approval of a monthly subscription for the AKC's Herding Report for Belgian Malinois. This report lists every qualifying Malinois in the trial classees, dramatically reducing the time formerly required to extract that data from the results posted on the AKC's Event Search page. Some manual extraction from the AKC's Event Search page still remains (checking trials with 1st place Malinois to see if any were awarded HIT or RHIT, and if so, the number of competitors in the trial) and hopefully at some point the AKC's software will be reprogrammed to include that information in their herding reports. We are exploring the most efficient way to work collaboratively on the AKC Herding Rankings so that compiling this can be a shared task.

In January and February there were 57 AKC Herding trials; Malinois qualified in 10 of those trials at 4 farms in 2 states (1 in Virginia and 3 in Florida). The January – February 2023 AKC rankings have been submitted to the Performer editor and will appear in the next issue. One Malinois will be inducted tomorrow into the ABMC Herding Hall of Fame as the 25th member. An AKC Herding championship (HC) is required and the owner of the dog must be a member or have been a member of ABMC during the time the dog was being exhibited. Application for induction into the Halls of Fame can be made retroactively.

Respectfully submitted,
Monique Buzzarté, Chair
Carolyn Kaiser
Tasha Mesina
Sara Michelin
Lisa Dillman