



Vol. 21, No. 1

Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club

Winter, 2009



Joe Bezotsky vacations with Ellie & Montana.

Rescue Issue

In this Issue

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 🐾 Club Officers and Contact Persons | <u>2</u> | 🐾 Mission & Ad Rates | <u>3</u> |
| 🐾 President's Report | <u>4</u> | 🐾 2008 Membership Report | <u>5</u> |
| 🐾 Rescue Angels | <u>6</u> | 🐾 Remmy | <u>7</u> |
| 🐾 Membership Info. & Updates | <u>8</u> | 🐾 Annual Meeting Information | <u>9</u> |
| 🐾 Nominating Committee Report | <u>11</u> | 🐾 Penn-Dutch Winter Picnic | <u>12</u> |
| 🐾 48th Hatboro Holiday Parade | <u>13</u> | 🐾 Around Dutchland | <u>14</u> |
| 🐾 "B" and Me | <u>17</u> | 🐾 Our "Tiggeriffic" Boy | <u>20</u> |
| 🐾 Koda | <u>22</u> | 🐾 Lilah | <u>23</u> |
| 🐾 Commencement--a new <i>Scoop</i> | <u>25</u> | 🐾 Upcoming Events | <u>27</u> |



Club



Info.



Contacts



News



Events



Links



Breeders



Shop



Join



Rescue



Serving Pyrs and Pyr People in Southeastern Pennsylvania

Officers & Board of Directors

President (2006, 2010): Barbara Bowes, greatpyr@enter.net, 570-386-3017

Vice President (2007, 2009): Lorraine Garaguso, raineday@verizon.net, 856-662-2171

Secretary (2007, 2009): Marci Port, bmp53f100@msn.com, 215-322-5462

Treasurer (2006, 2010): Charlotte Powell, pyrmagic@comcast.net, 215-464-2309

Director (2008, 2010): David Fridling, david.fridling@comcast.net, 215-616-0575

Director (2008, 2010): Jeanne-Anne Polichetti, jaypollyhome@yahoo.com, 215-672-5928

Director (2007, 2009): Judy Skorup, jaskorup@hotmail.com

Director (2006, 2009): Fred Unger, fshairydog@aol.com, 610-767-7457

Committee Chairs

Educational Events Committee: Kathy Gress, kgress@entermail.net, 610-398-1363

Fun Events Committee: vacant

Fund Raising & Auctions Committee: Dianne Migas, bluepyrs@comcast.net, 732-477-8097

Match & Show Committee: Dianne Migas, bluepyrs@comcast.net, 732-477-8097

Nominating & Audit Committee: Judy Skorup, jaskorup@hotmail.com

Regional Specialty Committee: Dianne Migas, bluepyrs@comcast.net, 732-477-8097

Sunshine Committee Co-Chair: Charlotte Powell, pyrmagic@comcast.net, 215-464-2309

Sunshine Committee Co-Chair: Annette Manwiller, pyrjam@zdial.com, 610-987-3896

Contact Persons

GPCA Regional Representative: Dianne Migas, bluepyrs@comcast.net, 732-477-8097

Membership Database Manager: David Kintsfather, kintsfat@kutztown.edu, 610-682-2419

Newsletter Editor: David Kintsfather, kintsfat@kutztown.edu, 610-682-2419

Mission Statement

The PDGPC newsletter, *Pyr-A-Scoop*, will be published at least 4 times a year for the members of the Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club as a means of sharing information. Opinions reflected in articles and advertisements are those of the writer(s) and are not necessarily held by the editorial staff, PDGPC members or the Board of Directors. Any material in this publication may be reprinted (unless otherwise noted), as long as credit is given to both the author and source and no changes are made in the copy without permission.

Deadline for the next issue is: April 15, 2009

Advertising Rates:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Full Page | \$10.00 |
| Half Page | \$5.00 |
| Quarter Page | \$3.00 |
| Business Card for One Year (4 issues) | \$6.00 |
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It is wonderful. Not only is it beautiful photography,
they are such poignant pictures. They made me laugh,
go "aww", & brought tears to my eyes. A pure delight."
Judy Brown*

Index

President's Report

by Barb Bowes

It's hard to believe that our 20th year as a Club has come to a close!

In September we held our big 20th Anniversary Celebration. We had the tailgate lunch after judging at our Regional Specialty, held in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club dog show, and that night we had a hot buffet dinner at the Days Inn! We had a GREAT turnout for these two events! We had over 50 people at the tailgate and over 40 people at our buffet dinner! Everyone had a really good time at both! Considering the year we've had as a Club, it was really nice to see everything getting back to normal and the Penn-Dutch GPC coming together to celebrate such a prestigious milestone. We also thank our out-of-town guests for celebrating with us.

Pyrtoberfest was a blast and the weather was Pyrfect! We had 25 or so attendees and the food was spectacular. Bea and Chic once again did a wonderful job with coordinating and cooking the hot foods, as well as decorating the tables for our dining pleasure.

This is our traditional Rescue issue of the *Pyr-A-Scoop*, but we still have some things that need to be done.

We still need a Fun Events Committee Chairperson. And speaking of Committees, even if you do not want to Chair a Committee, if you'd like to help out the Chairperson for a Committee, I'm sure that person would just love to have your help!

Our events do not organize themselves. We need people to organize and help out with each event. In order to continue to offer the amount of events we currently have slated we need more help! Burn out occurs when too few do too much, so the more help we have the easier it is for everyone involved.

We also need a Fundraising Chairperson. Dianne Migas agreed to fill the void when Fred decided to step down from this position after many long years of serving, but she'd rather not continue as Chair. Or at the very least we need to get her some help in the interim. We have a varied and talented membership in PDGPC, so I'm sure someone out there would do a wonderful job at it! You'll never know if you don't give it a try!

As far as the events go, we need you to contact Bea, as she coordinates the food. Not contacting Bea makes her job much more difficult. Chic and Bea put heart and soul into coordinating the food and decorations and they do a bang-up job!

Without Board Members, Officers and Committee Chairs we cannot run this Club. So, to borrow a slogan and change it a bit, "Aunt Barb wants YOU!"

Get involved and help make 2009 the best year ever!

Index

2008 Membership Report

by David Kintsfather

As of December 31, 2008 the Club's membership was as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Full Members | 73 |
| Associate Members | 24 |
| Honorary Members | 4 |
| Junior Associate Members | 1 |
| TOTAL MEMBERS | 102 |

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Index

Rescue Angels

by David Kintsfather

We are pleased to recognize the many Penn-Dutch members and friends who made monetary contributions to our sister organization, East Penn Pyr Rescue, Inc. during 2008. Thank you for helping Pyrs in need.

Rosemarie Belan
Robertson Blackwell
Jane & Jim Boyle
Joanne Boyle
Shelby Brett
Bart Buckwalter
Janet Bumb
Concourse Club
Mike Connor
Jack Dedecko
Doug & Kathy Edwards
Shelley Evans
David Fridling
Debbie & John Gettle
John D. Haas
Judy & David Heffelfinger
Jack Higgins
Nancy & Charley Huggard
Debra & Arthur Klotz
Kathryn Lane
Francis Meehan
Linda Miller
Richard A. Musser
James M. Norcross
Harry Nordstrom
Sharon Penny
Charlotte & Dick Powell
Joyce E. Ross
Linda Ryesky
Jim Sandford
Robert C. Snell
Spring Mountain Natural Foods
Tidy Up
Lorraine Danck Tirpak
Valerie & John Warmuth

Remmy

by Rose and Jennifer Belan

Hi. We (my mom and I) recently got Remington, aka "Remmy," from Barb Bowes and her wonderful Rescue. We have always had Pyrs in our family, and lost our last Rescue Pyr Vinnie back in May.

After a couple of months had passed, I did a bad thing. I went online and just "looked up" Pyrs that were available for adoption. All I had intended to do was volunteer, but lo and behold, we were on our way to see the Pyrs at the East Penn Pyr Rescue. We looked at several of the dogs, then met Remmy. Almost immediately, he flopped on his belly, and we were hooked. A month later and he's here! He is extremely affectionate. He has a "small man" issue with our horses, but we are working with him, and he's doing much better. He loves long walks, and lying on our patio, especially now with the nice, cool Pyr weather. We are feeling more like a "complete" family again!

photo by Rose and Jennifer Belan



Remmy relaxes on the patio.

[Index](#)

Membership Information

Key to Abbreviations: A=Associate Member, F=Full Member, H=Honorary Member, J=Junior Associate Member. G=GPCA Member. B=Breeder. (After Pyr's call name: D=Dog, B=Bitch)



Applicants for Membership



Membership List Additions & Updates

CORSON, Charles (A). 170 N. Main St., Mullica Hill, NJ 08062. 856-223-1646
E-Mail: chipcorson@yahoo.com. **Pyr:** Bear-D

HEFFELFINGER, David (A) & **Judy** (A). 368 Pinewood Rd., Lehighton, PA 18235. 610-377-1559
E-Mail: heyjude8@ptd.net. **Pyr:** Isabella-B

MERKEL, Mark (F) & **Sharon** (F). 32 Old Company Rd., Barto, PA 19504. 215-541-4353
E-Mail: skmerkel@verizon.net. **Pyr:** Tanzy-B

OLDHAM, Catherine (F, G). P.O. Box 1660, North Adams, MA 01247. 802-423-5406
E-Mail: vtaussie@surfglobal.net. **Pyr:** Gabe-D

SCARBOROUGH, Dolly (F) & **Ted** (F). 1400 Forrest Rd, Wilmington, DE 19810. 302-529-7464
E-Mail: imscarborough@comcast.net. **Pyr:** Winnie-B

Please welcome our new members whose names appear in red. Updated information is printed in blue.

Index

Annual Meeting Information

by Judy Skorup

The 2009 Annual Membership Meeting of the Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club will be held on Saturday, March 14th at the home of Judy and Dianne Skorup in Telford, PA. The snow date will be March 29th.

At the Annual Meeting we elect officers, plan activities for the entire Club year and get to know one another.

The Agenda will include:

11:00 am: Board Meeting
Noon: Membership Meeting
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm: Pot-luck and socializing

Please bring a covered dish to share and note that this is a **PEOPLE-ONLY** event.

Directions to the Skorup Residence, 237 N. Hamilton Street, Telford, PA (215-721-8521).

From the North:

Take I 78 East/West to Rt. 309 South. Stay on Rt. 309 South through Allentown, Coopersburg (watch your speed!), and Quakertown. Pass Perkasio Exit on Rt. 309. Get off Rt. 309 at Telford Exit. At end of exit ramp, turn right onto Church Rd. Go 1.4 miles on Church Rd. (Pass trailer park and construction of small ranch homes and apartment complex on right.) Slow down to 25 mph. Look for Indian Valley Public Library on right and prepare to turn left. Turn left onto North Hamilton Street/Avenue. Go 1¼ blocks. The house is a tan colonial with dark green shutters on the left. #237 is on the white storm door.

From the South (three options):

1) Take Rt. 309 North through Montgomeryville, Colmar, Line Lexington, past Hilltown Shopping Center on right, past Peruzzi Toyota on right and Souderton Exit. Get off Rt. 309 at the Telford Exit. At end of exit ramp, turn left onto Church Rd. (Follow directions in italics under "From the North" to the house.)

2) Or, take Rt. 202 North to the PA Turnpike at King of Prussia Exit. Get on Turnpike and go East. Take the Northeast Extension (formerly Rt. 9, now Rt. 476) North to the Lansdale Exit and get off. At end of exit ramp, turn right onto Rt. 63. (Follow directions at #4 to the house.)

3) Or, take the Blue Route/Rt. 476 to the PA Turnpike at Norristown Exit and get on Turnpike. Go East and take the Northeast Extension (formerly Rt. 9, now Rt. 476) North to the Lansdale Exit and get off. At end of exit ramp, turn right onto Rt. 63. (Follow directions at #4 to the house.)

4) Stay on Rt. 63 for 4 miles, passing through Mainland and Harleysville. At intersection of Rt. 63 and Rt. 113 (Exxon Gas on left), turn right. Go through traffic lights at Schoolhouse Lane, Allentown Rd. and Godshall Rd. Look for Getty Gas on left. Bear left at Getty Gas and stay on this road until it ends at the "Bier Garten" Bar. Turn left onto Broad/Main St., then quickly turn right onto Fulton Avenue. Go

one block, then turn left onto North Hamilton Street. #237 is the second tan house with dark green shutters on your right. There is a silver fire hydrant at the curb.

From the East or West:

Take the PA Turnpike East/West to the Northeast Extension (formerly Rt. 9, now Rt. 476). Go north on the Northeast Extension to the Lansdale Exit. Get off at the Lansdale Exit. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Rt. 63.

(Follow the instructions in #4 of the "From the South instructions" to get to our house.)

[Index](#)

Nominating Committee Report

by Barb Bowes

The following members have been nominated for the positions indicated:

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Lorraine Garaguso | Vice President |
| Marci Port | Secretary |
| Judy Skorup | Board Member |
| Dorene Choffel | Board Member |

Nominations for any office may be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting, however, nominees must either be present, or have agreed in writing to be nominated for the specific position.

Index

Penn-Dutch Winter Picnic

by Emily Rievaulx

You are invited to a Winter Picnic at my home in the woods. This will be held on Saturday, February 28th from 10 am - 4 pm. There's room indoors for all people and dogs, with crates, etc. Outside are paths through the woods, including Horse Shoe Trail and one along a stream. You may also like to walk up the tree-lined road and back, as we often do.

I will have dog and people snacks. Please bring your own sandwich or whatever you prefer for lunch. If you forget your lunch or prefer to pick it up on the way, there is a Weaver's Market nearby (and on your way), which has a cafe selling hot, to-go lunches and other picnic fare. It is at the corner of Rts 897 and 272.

Weaver's is inexpensive. The idea is: minimal work and expense for you--maximum relaxation and freedom to come, play, eat, and leave at your discretion. There will be no weather cancellation.

Directions:

Use the Turnpike or 222. All corners have lights until Mohns Hill Rd.

From east, the Turnpike exit says "to Rte 30, Lancaster." Take the access road "to Rte 272 N", turn rt. onto 272 N and go 1 mile to rte 897 N, turn left, go 1 mile to Mohns Hill Rd (only on the right, with a small black and white sign). Turn right and go 1 more mile to 420 Mohns Hill Rd. which is on the left.

From East on 222: the exit sign says "Adamstown, Rte 272 S." Go 3 miles and turn right onto 897 N, 1 mile to Mohns Hill Rd. on the right, and 1 mile to 420 Mohns Hill Rd., on the left.

From West: 222 and the Turnpike use the same access road. Signs say "Adamstown, Denver, Reamstown, Rte 272." Take the access road to 272N, turn rt. onto it, go 1 mile to 897 N, turn left onto it, go 1 mile to Mohns Hill Rd (on the right), and go 1 mile to 420 Mohns Hill Rd. on the left.

Note: No matter what Mapquest or your map says, Mohns Hill Rd is paved, has a large turn-around 1.5 miles in, ends in trees, and is only accessible by Rte 897. If "420" doesn't work, try "422" for the address for computer directions. It is a Reinholds address.

I look forward to having you all as guests at our Winter Picnic. FMI phone me at 717-484-0909.

Index

48th Annual Hatboro Holiday Parade

by Chic Gottesman

The Penn-Dutch Pyrs and their people made a great impression on the more than 50,000 spectators at the Hatboro Holiday Parade, on Sunday, November 23. Braving the cold were: Dorene Choffel with Zorro, Lorraine and Al Garaguso with Po, Bea and Chic Gottesman with Kane, Kathy Gress and helper Julia with Rocky and Kayla, Marian and Carl Polichetti with Blitz and Lacey, Marci and Bill Port with Cloud, Dick Powell with Maddie, and Dianne and Judy Skorup with Bonnie. Special thanks go to the Polichettis for subbing for Jeanne-Anne who was enjoying Hawaii (Nice going, Jeanne-Anne!) Thank you to all the hardy folks who participated.

photo by Marci Port



Penn-Dutch Pyrs prepare for Parade.

Our group was led by the Gottesman's decorated van which identified Penn Dutch Great Pyrenees Club and East Penn Pyr Rescue. It had a "Reinpyr" on the roof, along with the speakers which provided the soundtrack that put both spectators and participants in a holiday mood! Following were our Casey Kerrigan, dressed in a full Pyr suit, and her brother, Greg, who waved to the crowd with his bell-ringing Phillies Pyr puppet! Our thanks to Chuck Gottesman, and Casey and Greg for a good job done well. Our intrepid marchers and their Pyrs followed, wowing the crowd as they mingled along the sidelines, making friends with everyone. Our Pyrs looked like giant stuffed animals in their festive ruffled and belled collars, in keeping with the parade's theme: "Fantasy in Toyland."

The crowd loved the entire presentation and we were interviewed by the local radio station where we were briefly able to identify ourselves and push East Penn Pyr Rescue. We also were seen on the Philadelphia television news.

A good time was had by all, Pyrs and people. Hopefully, we can do this again next year and have an even greater showing. It was fun!

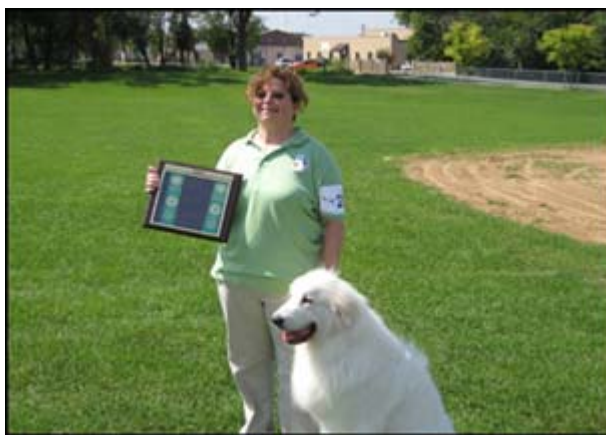
Index



by Penny Pyrbred

It has been so long since the last newsletter that Penny has misplaced her notebook with all the latest gossip. So she will try to fill her readers in with some of the outstanding items from memory.

September 13th brought our 20th Anniversary Regional Specialty in Macungie. We had good weather and an impressive turnout, including Penn-Dutchies and lots of out-of-town guests. Penny is virtually certain Blitz Polichetti took High in Trial in obedience, and he has racked up an impressive list of other titles and awards.



Jeanne-Anne and Blitz Polichetti.

The Pyrs were judged by Penn-Dutch founding member, Whit Coombs. Back at the pavilion Whit checked out the form of some of the 2-D Pyr lawn ornaments.



Whit Coombs checks out Pyr ornaments.

On October 18th Penn-Dutchies participated in the first annual "Pytoberfest" (formerly the fall Walk-in-the-Woods) at Beltzville State Park. There was lots of food, scenic walks, and time to relax and socialize.



Penn-Dutchies enjoy Pytoberfest.

On November 23rd, Penn-Dutch people and their Pyrs wowed the crowd at the Hatboro Holiday Parade (see article in this issue).

December brought the always-popular Holiday Party at the Kiwanis Lodge in Lancaster Central Park. People and Pyrs had a great time, with lots of Holiday goodies finding their way into us Pyrs.



Emily, Fifi & Gigi Rievaulx join Chic & Kane Gottesman by the fire.



Kathy Gress helps Kayla model her holiday finery.

Penny missed the Canine Learning Experience in January, but she understands that the Penn-Dutch Pyrs and their people dazzled the crowd as usual.

Sadly with this issue we must say goodbye to some Penn-Dutch Pyrs. Since the last issue, the Bechtels have lost Chip, Lacey and Malachi. We extend our sympathy to the Bechtel family for their loss. These wonderful animals will be missed by Pyrs and people alike.

The Skorups have experienced a bitter-sweet time since our last issue. Bonnie Skorup earned her CD title and Merlin achieved an advanced Rally title and placed in his class at the Regional Specialty (see photo below). Unfortunately, Merlin suddenly developed health problems and had to make the trip to the Rainbow Bridge in December. Merlin was a special friend and sometimes escort for Penny, and she will miss this lovable guy more than most. Our sympathy to Judy, Dianne and Bonnie.



Judy (R) and Merlin Skorup in happier times at the Regional.

Coming up at the end of February, we will have a very informal picnic at the home of Emily Rievaulx (see details elsewhere in this issue). Penny hopes to see lots of her friends at this laid-back event.

Then on March 14th we have the Club's Annual Meeting at the home of the Skorups. Please note that this is a rare **people-only** event (Penny will get the scoop from Bonnie Skorup later). It is very important for members to come out and help plan the Club schedule for 2009.

See you soon.

[Index](#)

"B" and me--The Story of a Man and his Dog

by Jim Norcross

It's hard for me to remember a time when I didn't want a Great Pyrenees. At 5 years old I was introduced to the breed, so to speak, by a cartoon entitled *Belle and Sebastian*. The show followed a boy and his Pyrenees on the search for his missing mother. One day, after watching the show, I asked my mother if I could have a "dog like Belle." A couple of years later, my mother did get me a dog – not one like Belle, rather it was a poodle/terrier mix. A Pyr was "too big" as far as my mother was concerned.

I grew up with several dogs--all of them great animals, but none of them the breed I always wanted. This past April, I bought my first home. This meant that the time had come for me to live a dream. I could now get the dog I wanted. I could finally have a Great Pyrenees.

I was never one for "puppy mills." Puppy mills have a real negative connotation, particularly in Pennsylvania. After doing some searching on the internet, I discovered East Penn Pyr Rescue. I contacted the President, Barbara, and my quest began.

It took me a couple of months to get moved in and situated so that I was ready for a dog. I kept in contact with Rescue and when the time came I took a short road trip to meet a few of the dogs. It was there that I met Barton.

Barton had come into Rescue by way of a shelter after he'd been found as a stray. When I met him, I was taken by two things: first, how gentle he was; second, his grand size. I walked Barton for awhile and spoke with his handler, Greta. After some conversation, I was convinced Barton was the dog for me. Two weeks later, after a home visit from Greta, I adopted Barton and welcomed him to his "forever home."

Life with "B"

Barton, or simply "B" as I call him, has been a joy to have. I always say the joy of having an animal is seeing their personality at work. I'm pleased to say that "B" has one of the most pleasant and peaceful personalities I've ever seen. Our frequent walks have caused a great deal of stir in the neighborhood, ranging from kids swarming us for a chance to pet the "big white dog," to one driver rear-ending the other because he's distracted by Bart taking a stroll with me. Bart's a welcome guest at all the pet stores in the area and has been given the title of "Grand-Dog" by my parents. I'm sure that's a less-than-subtle hint to get married and start producing grandchildren, but I digress.

Given the destination that this article is headed to, I'm left to assume that most folks reading this will already have a Pyr, and as a result will likely start nodding their heads as they read some of my discoveries regarding the more idiosyncratic behaviors of "B." From barking at everything such as folks walking down "his" alley or a breeze that makes too much noise in his estimation, to spreading out--all five feet of him--right in the main "traffic area" of the house, "B" has certainly made his presence known and staked his claim to his favorite area of carpet in the house. Though I don't give him table scraps, he still begs (and drools) right beside me every night on the off chance I might drop something. Anybody that has seen the ample belly I sport knows I don't miss too many forkfuls, much to "B's" consternation. Folks love watching "B" express himself and marvel at how clear and obvious his facial expressions are. Oh, he's a little quirky, and he's a little loud, and he occasionally leaves a drool puddle in his wake, but those are the little things that make him funny.

photo by Jim Norcross



Barton and Jim Norcross.

Due to his gentle nature, I was convinced within a few weeks of getting him that I had the most calm and tranquil Pyr in existence. "Guard dog tendencies," my foot! I'm convinced the fur-ball could sleep through World War III. At least, I was convinced of that.

Until...

One night I sat on the couch watching TV. "B" was lying on the floor beside me as close to comatose as one can be without requiring hospital care. All of a sudden, my roommate Royce decided to amble in through the back door without making any announcement regarding his presence. I never heard a thing. "B," conversely, did....and responded. My sweet, gentle Pyr became "Barton, Warrior Dog" in 2.3 seconds and made a mad dash towards the shadowy figure in the kitchen, teeth bared, growling and snarling all the way. By the time I realized what was going on, I heard Royce squealing (yes...it was a squeal, no matter how much he denies it now) "Bart, it's me...it's me!" Bart, upon hearing Royce's voice, albeit several octaves higher than usual and in great distress, put on the breaks and slid to a stop on the kitchen floor and began wagging his tail.

After Royce walked into the living room with wide eyes and sweated brow, I turned and glibly said "You peed...didn't you?" Royce admitted that he quite possibly did come close to soiling himself in fear, though today he vehemently denies any such admission took place. "B" and I know the truth!

For you, the reader, a brief bit of information about me: When not at my day job, I'm the CEO of an independent film production company that I co-own with some friends. Currently, one of the projects I'm working on is a documentary on a murder case local to my area. Since I began work on the project in January, I have made it a habit to pay my respects at the cemetery whenever I am able. On one such occasion, I took Barton with me.

It happened to be raining that day. Raining harder than I'd seen it come down in a long time. Normally, I avoid standing in the rain whenever possible, but I was already pulling in to the cemetery when the sky opened up and I had no intention of turning around at that point. I've discovered that "B" doesn't particularly care for being out in the rain, but he got out of the car with me and, without complaint, walked to the grave site with me. As I stood there looking down at the marker, I heard "B" let out a small whimper. I looked at him. He looked at me. There, in the pouring rain, looking in to his big brown eyes, I came to the realization that he would follow me anywhere. Not as my pet, but rather as my friend and partner.

I'm proud to have "B" in my home and in my life. Adopting him ranks as one of the better decisions I've ever made. I wanted a Pyr from the time I was 5. At 32, I finally have one.

....It was worth the wait.

About The Author

Jim Norcross is the CEO of Rising Phoenix Productions (RPP). Currently, he is working on several different films in a multitude of capacities, including writing and directing for the company's *Dark Operations* franchise, directing the documentary *Jane Doe 24-275*, and producing and starring in the horror film *Pain Management*.

About The Subject

Barton Norcross holds the position of "Set Guardian" for RPP and can currently be seen napping in various rooms of the house or on the set during production.

[**Index**](#)

Our "Tiggeriffic" Boy

by Pam O'Connor

It's hard to believe that some people can be so cruel to sweet innocent animals but in Rescue you see it all. Unfortunately, we would see the results of heartless people. We received a call about a Pyr whose previous owners left him behind when they skipped out of their rented home. He was left out in the summer heat with no food, water or shelter.

When animal control picked him up he was emaciated, loaded with worms, badly matted, filthy, ears loaded with wax and dirt and infected. He had a large laceration on his neck that also had layers of scar tissue from his collar causing repeated injury to his neck. There were also two cysts on his neck. His collar was so rusty and tight it had to be cut off. The odor from the wound on his neck was horrendous. I told Barb he was a "creampuff," a term I reserve for the sweetest, most laid back dogs. Affectionately she nicknamed him "stinky creampuff."

We didn't know his name but that was OK. Our dear "stinky creampuff" was starting a new and better life so he should have a new name. He likes to bounce straight up in the air. Just play bow or jump and he starts bouncing. So the kids thought he should be named Tigger. He took to the name right away and by the end of the week he knew he was Tigger. He can bounce all over yet never knocks the kids down.

It was a long road to helping him recover from intestinal parasites. It was a few months of loose bloody stools. Once that was under control he began to gain weight. Meanwhile I tackled the mats. After many hours of brushing and careful scissoring I was able to remove the mats without ruining his coat. The mats around his neck had a black oily substance on them. The mats that went from his withers to his hind end were connected so when they were held up it looked like he had a Mohawk. Through all of this Tigger lay in my lap, happy for the companionship.

photo by the O'Connor Family



Tigger and Pam O'Connor

Tigger blended with the rest of our dogs, preferring to play and had no intentions of trying to take over. He towers over everyone yet he is the most submissive. He has been wonderful with the never ending stream of foster dogs. He is particularly tolerant of the young, exuberant Siberian Husky fosters. When the Siberians have worn out everyone else's patience, Tigger is still ready for another round of play. He even plays with the cats.

Tigger is a lover and wonderfully gentle with children. He enjoys snuggling and is happy to do whatever you want him to do. He came here as a foster and one day I realized I couldn't let him go. But how does one approach the subject of adopting a seventh dog with one's spouse? Luckily my birthday was coming up and when my husband asked what I wanted, I pointed to Tigger. Fortunately I have a wonderful husband!

Tigger has begun obedience class. We are working toward earning CGC and Therapy Dog certifications. We are also looking forward to working on a Versatility Title.

Someone carelessly cast aside a sweet, gentle, well-behaved dog. I saw him and knew he is a treasure.

Index

Koda

by Lorraine Danek

Koda (formerly Falkor) became a part of our family in March of 2008. We decided he looked more like a giant, silly, bear. So we named him after the playful bear Koda in the movie *Brother Bear*. We were looking for a new member to join our family of two dogs and three cats, which were all rescues. Our one dog, Summer, was slowing down considerably and we wanted to prepare for her eventually passing. We knew our other dog, Clover, would miss her terribly, as Summer had been Clover's surrogate mother for the last six years.

Then along came Koda! He was described to us as a "goofball" and sure enough today, six months later, he is just as goofy! Koda bonded with Clover quickly. They spend their days running around the back yard chasing each other, playing tug of war with a stick, or lounging in the shade. His favorite activity (besides being silly) is playing in WATER! What a unique trait for a large guardian mountain dog.

photo by Lorraine Danek



Koda Danek

Koda came into our lives just in the nick of time, as Summer passed away from lung cancer in July. We all mourned her passing, especially Clover. But having Koda around certainly helped Clover and all of us look ahead to the future. Koda is starting to come into his own. He has lost his puppy fluff, his bark is a big booming roar that lets everyone know he is around, and he is the sweetest, smartest "Goofball" we know and love. Our three cats still haven't gotten used to having a one hundred pound giant chase them around. They are slowly and cautiously trying to discover who this giant white fluff is, but in time we know they will grow to love him just as we do. We are so grateful this loveable teddy bear is a part of our family. He has brought so much light in darkness and extra joy in our lives. He is very special and for that we are more than thankful.

Lilah

by Linda Ryesky

In October, 2006, my husband Matt and I were looking for the right dog to adopt . We wanted a dog from Rescue, and my husband wanted a large dog. I wanted a dog with a mild temperament. One day, I came across a Pyrenees Rescue. I looked at the website on the internet and did a few days of research to find out what I could about the breed. After I showed my husband the website and saw the dogs in Rescue, and the stories attached, we decided to contact Barb Bowes. We filled out an application and Barb contacted us and invited us to come visit that morning. When we got there, another woman came out and said, "Ohhh would you like to see the puppies?" Who can resist that? I was thinking I was going to look at a grown dog but I had to see the puppies.... They were adorable!!! Just a few months old.... We chose one, TASHA ...one of the smallest of the litter. Fuzzy and dark brown and sweet as can be.

Then we had to wait to be approved and for the puppies to be old enough to be spayed and adopted. We didn't think the day was ever going to come... of course it did. I took a half day from work and we drove to pick up our puppy... and drove... and drove...and drove. We met Pam O'Connor in her driveway and she introduced us to her family, both human and canine. What an amazing woman!!! What a surprise to see our puppy again... how she had changed... she was now a light butterscotch and white, with a bit of brown. My daughter calls it peanutbutter and fluff color. I rode home with our puppy in my lap. She cried all the way down Pam's driveway, then slept the whole way home.

We named her Delilah. That is the beginning of Lilah joining our family!!! She is a wonderful girl. She has completed puppy kindergarten, intermediate, advanced class and passed her canine good citizenship test. She is active and loves to run and jump and play and BARK and BARK. She loves to go for walks and play with her dog friends in our neighborhood. She is so very good natured. Although since she inherited a furry kind of PYR coat, she needs daily brushing. She does not love it, but tolerates it.

She is gentle with our 5 year-old grandson. She gently pushes him down when he is getting too wild. She then carefully stands over him and guards him until his mother comes over and removes him.

photo by Linda Ryesky



Lilah Ryesky

She has an amazing way of sensing when people need her near them. Time and again we have noticed that she senses when people are sad, scared, sick or just in need of some Lilah love. My husband has non-Hodgkins lymphoma and when he is not feeling well we have noticed that Lilah stays right by him. She is just an incredibly wonderful girl! Of course we could be a little prejudiced. We do love her so!!

Index

Commencement--A new Scoop

by David Kintsfather

As a college professor I have entitled this article "Commencement," using the term in the academic sense where it marks the end of one period of life which one leaves with a certain nostalgia, and the beginning of a new period which students are encouraged to embrace with enthusiasm and excitement.

As will be immediately apparent, this issue marks the evolution of the *Pyr-A-Scoop* from a primarily paper-based publication which we have attempted to distribute electronically, to a web-based publication, which has been formatted in HTML for convenient use by our members who have access to the internet. The front page begins with the familiar masthead, and then progresses to an index of articles, ads, etc., each of which is a separate web page. These can be selected for viewing by clicking on either the small paw print to the left of the title, or the page number to the right. Printing an item you want to keep is as simple as clicking the "Print" button on your browser's toolbar.

The genesis of this transformation came in November, when it became clear that I was not going to be able to produce a newsletter in time to promote the Club's Holiday Party. I volunteered to produce an electronic "flyer" and send it to all members with e-mail. I also printed the "flyer" and mailed it to the 10 households which lacked a viable e-mail address.

When I realized that I was spending approximately 40 hours to format each issue of the *Pyr-A-Scoop* in *MS Publisher* (that adds up to one complete month of full-time work to format 4 issues), I wondered if there wasn't a better way.

I proposed to the Board reformatting the *Scoop* as a web-based publication, hoping I could get it out more quickly and that it would be more user-friendly for the 65 of our 75 households which have web access. The Board supported this transition, and Barbara Bowes facilitated it by obtaining a web account and domain name for the Club (something I have recommended for 10 years). Now members can access all things Penn-Dutch simply by typing "www.penndutch.org" into the address window of ANY web browser anywhere in the world. Please note that this is lower case with no hyphen between penn and dutch.

The model for the new format was inspired by the Alumni newsletter of the College of William and Mary (Nancy and I are both alums). About six months ago W&M changed their basic class news publication from paper to a web-oriented design which I have emulated. I find that I am actually reading more of the alumni news in this web-friendly format. It should be noted that William and Mary was founded in 1693, and the College doesn't jump at every new fad.

Now that the templates have been created (a very tedious job), my hope is to get articles and photos from Club events posted in nearly real-time. The full "issue" will still be promoted by e-mail and distributed on paper to our households without web access. I have adopted a seasonal timetable with issues planned for February, May, August and November.

I realize that the *Scoop* will look somewhat different on different browsers. That said, it has been tested on Internet Explorer 6 and 7, Netscape Navigator 3 and 7, and the latest version of Safari on a Mac. It was very user-friendly in all of these browsers, with articles downloading in seconds, even on a dial-up connection.

Members desiring to print a complete newsletter can maintain the pagination by setting the "Page Setup" usually found under the "File" menu on most browsers, to .5 inch margins left and right, and top and bottom.

So, welcome to the 21st Century and bear with us as we attempt to produce a more timely and relevant *Pyr-A-Scoop*.

[Index](#)



Upcoming Events

*Denotes **Penn-Dutch** events

§Denotes other **Pyr-related** events

***February 28-** Penn-Dutch Winter Picnic from 10 am to 4 pm at the home of Emily Rievaulx near Reinholds, PA. FMI and directions, [click here](#).

***March 14-** Penn-Dutch Annual Meeting at the home of Judy and Dianne Skorup in Telford, PA. There is a Board Meeting at 11 am and Membership Meeting at noon. At 1:30 pm there will be a pot-luck luncheon and socializing. This is a **PEOPLE-ONLY** event! FMI and directions, [click here](#).

§**March 24-28-** GPCA National Specialty, Santa Barbara, CA. FMI, [click here](#).

Index

Pur-A-Scoop

Editorial Staff

239 E. Weiss St.

Topton, PA 19562

