

THE MAGS AZINE



Mid-Atlantic Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club Newsletter

January 2019

This edition is dedicated to Tonia Adams & her beloved Oliver who recently crossed the rainbow bridge due to complications from epilepsy.

Gone for now ... But never forgotten

Oliver

Cherished Snuggly Duckling Has James Oliver

September 21, 2016 - November 23, 2018

Until we are together again ...

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mary Margaret Soderquist and Eric Bauer and their Swissy Fulton

Tara and Bobby Lloyd and their Swissy Yeti



*Smile,
Open Your Heart,
Love,
and Go On*

Oliver

*You can shed tears because they are gone,
or you can smile because they lived.*

*You can close your eyes and
pray they will come back,
or you can open your eyes and
see all that they left for you.*

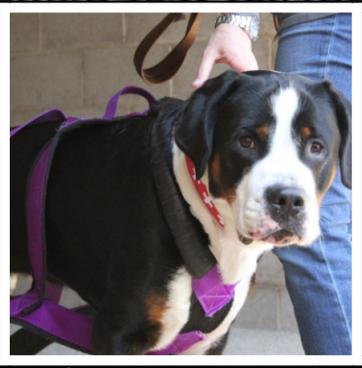
*Your heart can be empty because
you can't see them, or you can be
full of the love you shared.*

*You can turn your back on tomorrow
and live yesterday, or you can be happy
for tomorrow because of yesterday.*

*You can remember only that they are gone,
or you can cherish their memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind and feel empty,
or you can do what they would want.*

Smile, Open Your Heart, Love and Go On.

- Elizabeth Ammons



Best Wishes for 2019



In just a few more days, another year will come to an end. So I was thinking today about the march of time. We had a wired mouse for our main computer that was not functioning properly so I purchased a wireless mouse to replace it. I chuckled to myself that as a child, I did not foresee a time when I would go to the store to buy a "mouse". Of course, I never envisioned personal computers either. Let me tell you, because I know firsthand that computers are a massive improvement over the typewriter. I remember being thrilled when they made erasable typing paper and even happier when I purchased a typewriters that processed a few lines before you printed them to paper. I could never sit at a typewriter and compose a story let alone a term paper. It was pen to paper and then type the whole thing.

Until I was in my 40's, the only telephone was connected by wires in the house. We had only one phone when I was a child. As an adult, the number of phones in our home multiplied. Now, we are back to one phone but it goes wherever you go, virtually anywhere in the world. Let's not even mention that it is a miniature computer. When I was a teenager, I loved watching the original Star Trek and over time, many of the futuristic ideas became part of my life..

When my family moved to a new home in 1961, my older brother purchased a pure bred German Shepherd. Caesar was a beautiful, intelligent dog with a wonderful temperament but my dad would not let the dog come into the house. He had to stay in the garage or basement. He perceived the dog as livestock, not a family pet. Over time there has been a real change in our culture regarding pets. Very few would think of treating a cherished dog like that today. Toby, Klara and T.J. pretty much have the run of the house. They are definitely family members.

One thing that does not change is the mix of joys and challenges that is everyday life. We knew the joy of the birth of my first grandchild, a baby boy, named Colton, who came into the world last January. A breeding of our Toby and Klara resulted in the July birth of 14 puppies with 13 of them healthy and running around today. Of course, we kept one, a boy who is named T.J. (Toby Jr.). Lots of joy comes with a puppy in the house. However, the last four months have been filled with challenges. The dishwasher quit in September, which did not upset me because it gave many years of good service. But when the clothes washer quit in early December, I was very upset because it was not even four years old and it was top of the line. Maybe all the laundry from the puppies did it in. Last week our heating system went down and parts needed to be replaced. We took care of those three issues so hopefully we are starting the new year in good shape.

I was always told that as you get older you gained wisdom. I believe that wisdom is not information that you gather as the years go by but the experiences you accumulate. Let me take this opportunity to wish all my fellow Swissie lovers a happy new year! 2019 is on the doorstep, and whether you had a great 2018 and hate to see it end or 2018 was a dud and you are glad to see it go, we all enter the New Year with hope. That is the lure of this new beginning. The slate is clean. We have a new chance to make our dreams become a reality.

Best wishes to each of you, and all members of your human and animal family.

Janie Hecker

Spotlight on Members!

The DeWitt Family

Dr. Barry DeWitt and his family live in Pottstown, PA. with their 4-year-old daughter, Harper, and their 2-year-old son, Barry III (Trey).



Barry works for the Pennsylvania State Education Association. Ashley practices as a speech-language pathologist in both educational and acute care settings, with her treatment focused largely on early intervention and school-age pediatrics. Ashley is currently a doctoral candidate at Neumann University just outside of Philadelphia.



Spotlight on Members!

The DeWitt Family

When Barry and Ashley bought their home together in 2007,

one of the first things they did as a couple was get a puppy. They were attracted to large breeds, and ended up with a beautiful and loving Saint Bernard named Hans. Hans was part of their family for nearly ten years; in fact he was there to welcome Harper home from the hospital in 2014. Harper spent her first two years snuggling with Hans and using him as a giant pillow. Sadly, Hans passed away just before Thanksgiving in 2016. He is missed everyday—except for all the drooling.



After nearly a year of mourning,

Barry and Ashley decided to search for their next canine companion. While they loved the Saint Bernard breed, they sat down and made a list of the traits they admired about the Saints and the traits they would rather live without. After spending about eight months looking at every large breed imaginable, they landed on the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog. Truth be told, it happened quite by accident. While driving home one evening from a Giant Schnauzer breeder, they felt like they were running out of breeds to explore. No breed “clicked” for them. They had the opportunity to look at nearly a dozen beautiful and amazing breeds, but none of them felt like it was the right fit. Barry was driving, and Ashley was doing what all academics do: researching things on Google. After quietly reading a few articles, she turned to Barry and said, “How about a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog?” Barry bluntly replied, “Never heard of that breed.” The rest, as they say, is history.



TWINPEAKS

ZURICH

DAPHNE

DEWITT



Spotlight on Members!

The DeWitt Family



Now rather than Harper *having* a pillow ...

Harper has *become* the pillow. But she does not mind!

15-month-old Twinpeaks Zurich Daphne DeWitt,

recently finished her Champion title at the Ludwig's Corner show late this summer. Daphne was sired by GCHS CH Gideon Des Joyeuses Gambades; the dam is Twinpeaks Touching the Clouds. She was bred by Erin McWilliams and Kim Rasmussen-Scholter, and was whelped by Chris Gisewhite in Lewistown, PA. Daphne has been beautifully handled in the ring by Jaime Scott.



Spotlight on Members!

The DeWitt Family

Daphne is not the only canine in the DeWitt household.

About eight years ago Ashley (much to the initial dismay of Scrooge Barry) came home with a rescue from the humane society. Coco is some variant of a Pomeranian and came out of a horrible neglect situation. When Coco arrived home she casts on both of her front limbs and both of her eyes had been badly scratched. After a month of TLC she settled in and has become a staple in the DeWitt family.



The DeWitt love of animals does not end with canines.

Barry is an avid equestrian and while his hectic work schedule no longer allows him to ride as frequently as he would like, Barry and Ashley have had the opportunity to import several hunter/jumper horses into the United States. Harper has also taken to the horses. She enjoys riding ponies and much like her father, she enjoys being competitive in the show ring.

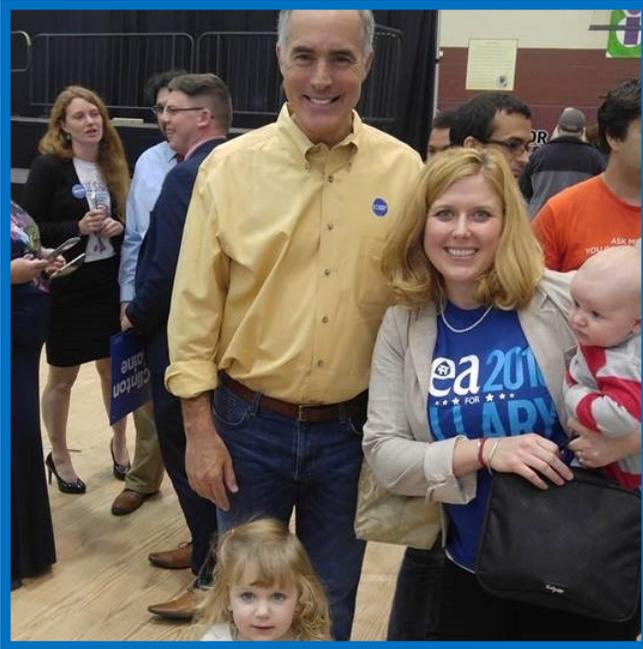


Spotlight on Members!

The DeWitt Family

Barry and Ashley also enjoys volunteering for various causes and campaigns in order to help champion progressive policies.

Ashley spent the summer and fall this year campaigning for Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf. The appropriate funding of public education and the expansion of early intervention academic programs in Pennsylvania are two of her primary humanitarian endeavors. Likewise, the creation of sustainable energy sources and the national and international crisis of income inequality are issues important to Barry. Helping to organize employees to fortify workers' collective bargaining strength is something that the DeWitt family is passionate about.



Barry and Ashley are proud and honored to be part of the Mid-Atlantic Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club.

Through this group they have had the chance to meet and learn from many great people. They look forward to meeting more life-long friends, and are excited for the opportunity to do their part to help support the Greater Swiss breed.



The 4th Annual Star of Bethlehem MAGS Specialty was held on Saturday, December 15th in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club show in Allentown, PA. There were nearly 50 Swissys present from the mid-Atlantic region. Congratulations to all the winners!



Janie Hecker



Greg Golding & Tonia Adams



Denise Mitterando



Santa & Klara



Sharon Gardner & Tillie



Azlynn Swartz & Chumley



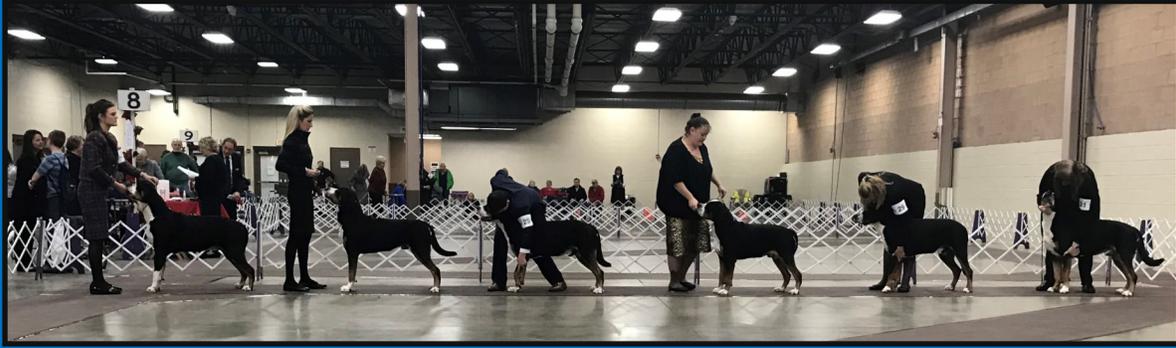
Jim Hauptly & Tauzi
Gene Grace & Finn



The Diehl Family



Zander Diehl
Gettin' Some Lovin'



Jaime Taylor & Ellie



Has Anybody Seen My Dad?



Tara Lloyd



Laurie Grace & Finn



Gideon Mitterando



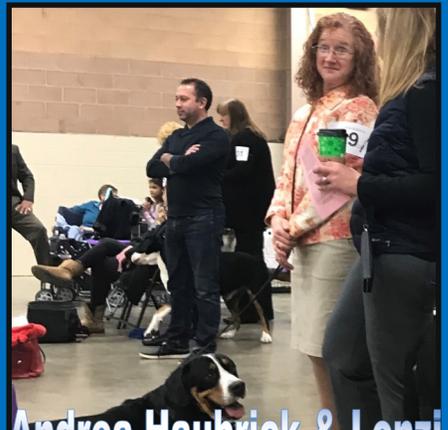
Chris Gisewhite



Carol Gehret & Tessa



Katie Schomp & Tugger



Andrea Haubrick & Lonzi

MAGS BRAGS

Cutest Pet Contest



Lincoln

Photo Contest Winner

Congratulations to newer MAGS member Lincoln owned by Lindsey Robel and Rob Kudenchak for winning the 2018 Drexel Alumni Association's 'Dog Days of Summer' photo contest. The contest was open to all Drexel University Alumni pets and included dogs, cats and birds. Lincoln received a Drexel University dog tag for him to wear proudly for his big win.



MAGS BRAGS



Rollingh's Pilgrim's Salute to Alpha Lonzie

New Champion Coming Soon!

Lonzi and I finished the year with 10 points, including one major, in our quest for his championship. Now I realize that most of you have already experienced this accomplishment, and not just once, but many times over! This is the first dog I have ever shown so every nod we get from a judge is like winning Westminster—we're having fun!

I have to take a moment to thank a few people. First, my husband Bob for his support—while he's on the road for work I get to stay home and take care of all the animals. Next, Chris Gisewhite, Janie Hecker, and Carol Gehret for setting up the breeding of Gertie and Toby. Then Brian, Jaime, and other professional handlers who have given me ring side help, or pointed me in the right direction—I appreciate all your help.

We are looking forward to 2019 and hopefully getting Lonzi finished.

We trust you all had a Merry Christmas and wish you all a very Happy, healthy, New Year!

Andrea and Bob Haubrick



MAGS BRAGS



Kismet's Pisces Lady by Avery's Son Bore Toby JR AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy

Janie & Wayne Hecker's T.J. successfully completed Puppy Kindergarten and passed his AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy evaluation on November 8th administered by the Allentown Dog Training Club.



MAGS BRAGS



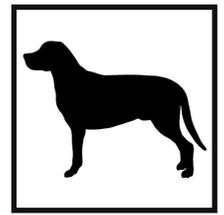
GCH Kismet's Blazing Fire On The Mountain Lady Klara

GSMDCA Owner-Handled Recognition

Janie Hecker and Klara were recognized at the 2018 Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America National Specialty show for being owner-handled while achieving Klara's Grand Champion title.



MAGS BRAGS



GCH Kismet's Blazing Fire On The Mountain Lady Klara

Select Bitch and Best of Opposite

Klara was awarded Select Bitch at the November 15th Penn Treaty Kennel Club show, and also at the Kennel Club of Philadelphia show (The National Dog Show), on Saturday, November 17th. She also went Best of Opposite at the Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers Association on Friday, November 16th. Her brother, Skye, went Best of Breed and appeared on the National Dog Show on Thanksgiving Day.



Fun Photos



Finn Grace



Fun Photos



Fun Photos



Caboo, Gideon and friend Maggie visited 'Dog Daze on Main' for a little fun time!
Zander was head-over-heels in love with Caboo!!



Fun Photos



Lonzi and Gertie believe...
Bob and Andrea

Fun Photos



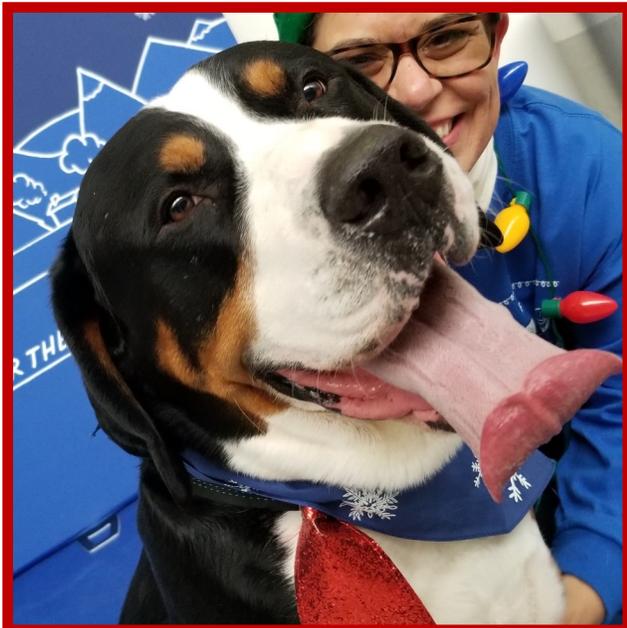
Ask Caboo what happens when you are naughty!



Fun Photos



Mr. Gideon was so excited to participated in #unitedpaws at Liberty Newark Airport for 2 days to destress the passengers with our pet therapy group Creature Comfort Pet Therapy. This was his first time and he was wonderful. Nothing like walking through an airport with a BIG dog, going through security and just being loved upon by everyone that misses their dogs.



Fun Photos



Paws on the Parkway

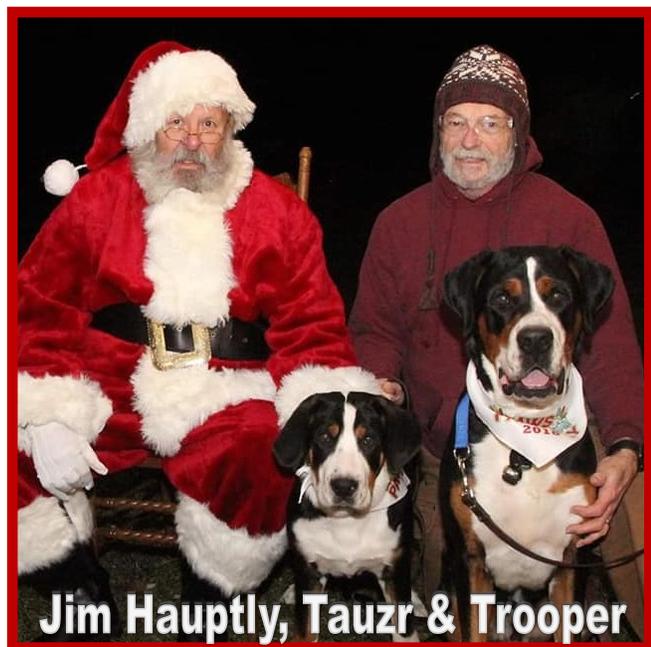
A bunch of MAGS members participated in the Paws in the Parkway hosted by Run Lehigh Valley and Lights on the Parkway. It was a sold out event where walkers and runners strolled or sprinted a little over 2 miles through the beautiful lights display. Everyone was in the holiday spirit with their Christmas lights, Santa picture and a Paws in the Parkway bandana! *Not pictured—Lloyd family & Yeti, Karen Gross & Truffle, Jeff Bonner*



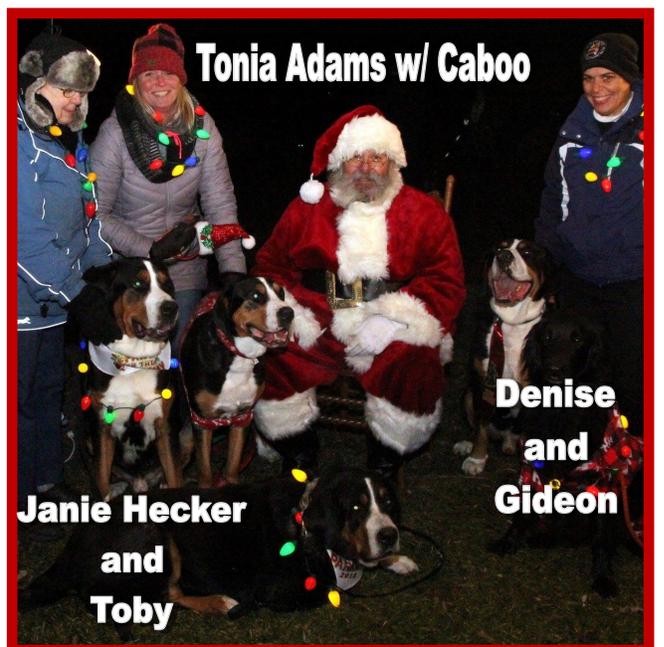
Denise Mitterando, Caboo & Gideon



Marianne Bonner & Ellie



Jim Hauptly, Taur & Trooper



Tonia Adams w/ Caboo

**Janie Hecker
and
Toby**

**Denise
and
Gideon**

Fun Photos



Ugly Sweater Party

It was the weekend before Christmas, but it was a fun time! While Caboo and Gideon were the "house" dogs providing love the rest of the crew came dressed in their ugly sweaters or costumes and played a gift exchange game. The "Ho Ho Ho Santa" was the signature drink and there were cookies galore for the cookie exchange!!



Tonia Adams

Loretta Golding



Greg Golding



Sharon Gardner

Denise Mitterando

Timothy Vanderhey



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming Event



Mid Atlantic Greater Swiss Club Canine Learning Experience

When: February 2nd and 3rd, 2019

Where: Allentown Fairgrounds
1826 West Liberty Street
Allentown, PA 18104

Sponsored by: Lehigh Valley Kennel Club

The Mid Atlantic Greater Swiss Club Theme
Top 10 things a responsible dog owner
should know about Greater Swiss Mountain
Dogs

CLE for dog lovers, exhibitors, canine
educators, vendors, health clinics, breed
booths & more

For More Info Contact:
Carol Gerhet
cabro53@windstream.net
Cell & text 610 462 6027



Welcome
CANINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE
Lehigh Valley Kennel Club

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming Event



Mid Atlantic Greater Swiss Club Drafting Clinic with Judy Skorup

When: Saturday, March 30th

Rain Date Sunday: March 31st

Time: 10 AM - 4 PM

Where: Cubby's Canine Castle, 1265
DeKalb Pike (Route 202), Blue Bell, PA
(Behind Duke's Car Wash)

Cost: A \$25 deposit to hold your place due
by 1/1/19 will be collected with a final
cost determined by location

For more info contact:

Sharon Gardner

sharongardner@mac.com

516-428-4938 (cell)

Sometimes referred to as “the poor Swiss farmer’s horse,” the Grosser Schweizer Sennenhund would be hitched to a wagon or cart for the trip to market. Today, we celebrate the history of our breed through draft tests designed to mimic the types of obstacles a working Swissy may have had to negotiate while pulling a cart. Standing calm in harness and working steadily, dog and handler demonstrate their proficiency to work as a team to navigate a set course and earn various levels of draft titles. Draft Swissies are also useful in yard work; hauling debris, rocks, sand, etc. and have been seen providing rides to small children in neighborhoods and parades.

Judy Skorup began her drafting activities in 2006 when she chaired the Draft Test at the Great Pyrenees Club of America National Specialty in Lancaster, PA. Since then she has worked all of the stewarding jobs at Bernese Mt. Dog and Greater Swiss Mt. Dog Draft tests. With Draft titles on two Great Pyrenees, Judy completed her Greater Swiss Mt. Dog Draft Judge apprenticeship. She has judged Draft tests for Swissies, Pyrs, Saint Bernards and Leonbergers.

Join in this event to learn the basics for competitive competition or just for fun! Carts will be available to give it a try.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming Event



Mid Atlantic Greater Swiss Club Barn Hunt Seminar

When: To Be Determined!!!

**Where: Tail Waggin' Events
138 Windsor Rd.
Robbinsville, New Jersey**

**For more info contact:
Denise Mitterando
fotodoc@optonline.net
908-294-1952 (cell)**



Barn Hunt is the new and quickly growing dog sport catching fire across the country! Barn Hunt is based on the traditional roles of many breeds in ridding farms, barns, crop storage areas, and homes of destructive vermin. Some breeds were specifically created to fill this role, and for many of those breeds, Barn Hunt provides their first true opportunity for responsible breeders to test proper working traits in their dogs. Barn Hunt is also open to any dog of any breed or mix who wishes to play the game and can fit through an 18" wide by bale-height tall tunnel. Barn Hunt has titles, levels of increasing difficulty, and championships.

Barn Hunt is committed to creating a safe and fun sport for dogs, that also holds rat care at the highest level of consideration. The rats used in Barn Hunt are beloved family pets. They jump eagerly into their safe, comfortable aerated tubes and truly enjoy interacting with the dogs.

We're a great sport for older dogs, and older people too! Tripod dogs can compete, and so can deaf dogs.

