

THE LOST COAST HOWLER



EDITOR - LAUREN WENDT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Journey We Share

As dog owners and trainers, we walk a path filled with both triumphs and trials. We know the thrill of success when months of practice shine in a single perfect run, and we know the sting of failure when things don't go as planned. Through it all, our dogs remind us of the true lesson: patience. Progress is rarely a straight line, and sometimes the greatest growth comes when we pause, breathe, and return to the basics—rebuilding trust, refining skills, and rediscovering joy in the simple connection between handler and dog.

As this year comes to a close, we carry with us the memories of victories celebrated and challenges overcome. Each high and low has shaped us, strengthened our bonds, and deepened our appreciation for the journey. And now, with a new year ahead, we are offered fresh opportunities—new goals to chase, new lessons to learn, and new moments of joy to share with our dogs and with each other.

Here's to patience, resilience, and the promise of another year filled with growth, laughter, and the enduring companionship of our four-legged partners. 🐶🌟

Love to you all,

Deb Lake
President, LCKC



Board of Director Officers

Deb Lake
President

Patty Mendes
Vice President

Kris Smith
Secretary

Jill Otto
Treasurer

Members of the Board

Michelle Dostal
Debbie Tull
Kurt Pires

JOINS US!
NOVEMBER 18, 2025
MEMBER MEETING 7:00PM
HELD VIA ZOOM

Well it's the last newsletter of 2025! I wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season. I would like to encourage anyone with interest to consider writing articles about your favorite dog sport, an impactful trial, event or training experience you had with your dog(s) that we can share in the newsletter in 2026. On that note...

I recently spent 2 days with my former Disaster Search and Rescue team from Washington at training weekend they held in Santa Paula, CA. These are the types of dogs that respond to disastrous events like 9/11, the fires in Maui, hurricane Katrina, the floods in Texas, etc. So it is an absolute privilege and honor to work with these dedicated dogs and handlers to make sure they are as prepared as possible when they get the call out to go saves lives or recover those lives lost.

And while the work they do is very serious and lives are at stake, there are many similarities to how these dogs are trained and the training for the sports that many of us do with our pet dogs.

Understanding what motivates your dogs, understanding the things your dogs inherently likes to do (which is often significantly influenced by their breed), how they best learn, and most importantly how to reinforce the behaviors you want and knowing what types of rewards they like.

Even with the disaster SAR dog teams I was working with recently, knowing and understanding how to use a reward to reinforce a behavior is critical to getting the most out of training. And often owners are "rewarding" their dog but that reward might not be actually reinforcing the behavior they are intending.

So if you are training your dog and you are giving them a "reward" but you are not seeing an improvement in their behavior, your reward is likely actually not rewarding, and hence not reinforcing the behavior. Or there is not a clear path for the dog to understand what specifically they are being given a reward for.

So I encourage you all to routinely reevaluate just how motivated your dog is for the reward you have and how clear you are in communicating to your dog what they are being rewarded for. There are often small adjustments that can be made to increase the value of the reward without actually changing the reward itself. If you are using treats, what if you let your dog chase you to get the treat, what if you tossed the treat in the air for your dog to catch, what if you threw the treat for them to chase?

Play with your dog and experiment with a few of these things and see what gets them the most excited and motivated to work for the reward that you have. Happy training!

Lauren Wendt
LCKC Newsletter Editor



Getting ready to reward a SAR K9 with his favorite tug toy!

**NEXT GENERAL MEMBER MEETING
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

Reminder no club meeting in December

General member meeting will begin at 7:00pm

Meeting will be held via zoom.
Link will be sent out via the io group.

All members are welcome and encouraged to join!



\$15 individual and \$25 household/family

Checks can be mailed to:

Lost Coast Kennel Club
PO Box 6808
Eureka CA 95502

ANNUAL CLUB DUES

Check it off you to do list now before the busy holiday season!

Details and payments <https://lostcoastkc.org/members-only.html>



SAVE THE DATE

- Friday: Intro to NASDA Workshop
- 3 Trials Saturday
- 3 Trials Sunday
- Urban Locating
- Shed Dog
- Lost Item Recovery
- Trailing & Locating



**NOVEMBER
28, 29, 30TH**

Location TBA
Follow My Nosey K9 on Facebook for Updates

Contact Us:
707-845-3790
noseyk9@gmail.com

Seika and Hutch successfully passed and earned their AKC Novice Tricks Title on October 14th at 6 months of age by performing 10 tricks for AKC Evaluator, Tricia Morgan. Now onward to the next level. Submitted by Susan Hutchinson



Missy finally had some competition showing at the Central Point shows. She took best of breed at all three of the breed shows and also at the terrier specialty earning 8 Grand Champion points and 8 breed points. There were several ringside photos taken of her but they haven't been posted yet. I will share if there are some good ones. We are looking forward to bringing her home for the Holidays after the Woodland shows. Submitted by Patty Mendes



Southern Oregon show, Nara surprised me by turning " on" in the Rally ring getting a 98 and 95 for her very first two legs.

Vinnie was as up against Harry again so we were happy with our selects and NOHS points.

And a fun time was had by all on Halloween!!!

Before we left town we got to go hunt in a planted trufflery. Nothing there yet...

Submitted by Sara Borok

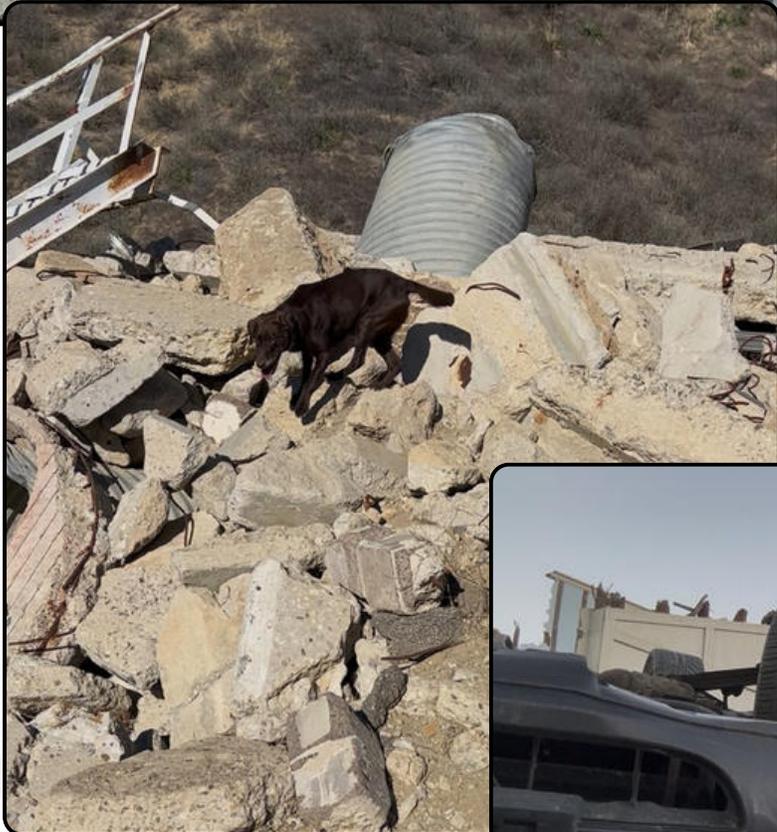
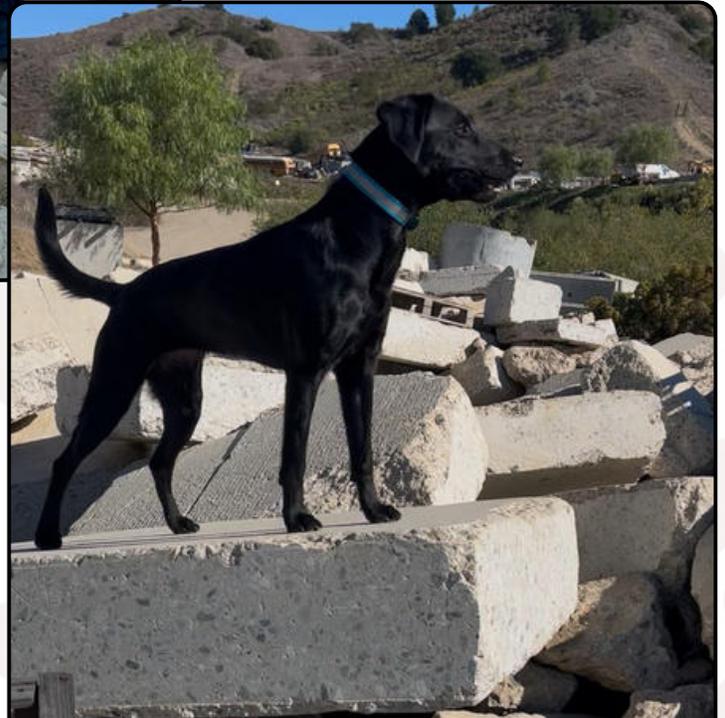
Zinnia and Phig attended the Harvest Moon Classic in October to trial in AKC Scent Work. Zinnia (who just turned 4) received 4 Novice Qs and 4 Advanced Qs including a 1st and a 2nd placement out of 16 attempts earning Novice Element titles in Exteriors and Buried, and completing her Novice Level title! Phig received 3 Novice Qs, 8 Advanced Qs and 2 Excellent Qs including two 1st, two 2nd and two 3rd placements out of 16 attempts earning Novice Element titles in Interiors and Buried, completing her Novice Level title, and Advanced Element titles in Containers and Exteriors! These collie girls also took home six additional Qs each in Fast CAT with Zinnia logging her fastest time ever on her first run!

Submitted by Kurt Pires



Jenna and I participated in the Pacific North West (PNW) Scent Work Trial in McMinnville, OR, over the weekend of November 8 and 9. Jenna achieved four qualifying scores, securing two in Excellent Buried, one in Master Containers, and one in Handler Discrimination Advance, where she earned her title in that element, accompanied by a first-place ribbon. Submitted by Susan Hutchinson

Finn, Wren and Archie traveled to Santa Paula, CA for a weekend of training at the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation (AKA Disneyland for working dogs). While these 3 are not disaster SAR K9s (Finn was as a youngster) Lauren was invited by her former SAR team to come assist with training. Rubbles piles, train cars on their sides, houses designed to replicate an earthquake...lots of fun things for these dogs to search! And for Archie as a 17 week old puppy this was a wonderful experience and she took on everything with confidence.



Submitted by Lauren Wendt

BOARD MEETING

The Board meeting was called to order by President Debra Lake at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Board members: Michelle Dostal, Debra Lake, Patty Mendes, Jill Otto, Kurt Pires, Kris Smith, Debbie Tull.

Non-Board members: Tina Moulton, Beth Rogers, Deb St Myers.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from the September 16, 2025, Board meeting were approved as published. (Patty/Jill)

Report of the Treasurer: Jill said that Andrea just sent the attached Treasurer's Report, so nobody has had time to go over it, and there may be corrections necessary. She presented the attached report. All our events had a net income this year. Kurt is not getting the TR from Andrea – need to add him. Kurt suggested postponing approval of the TR until next meeting pending corrections, but it seems there are always corrections. Patty pointed out that equipment for one type of event was entered under Club Equipment instead of in the category of that particular event. Kris remembered a discussion in the past about this, when it was thought that all equipment should go in one separate category instead of with the event financial report because purchases could skew the profit/loss report on that event for that year, and then it wouldn't be accurate for looking back at the cost of putting on the event. Kurt suggested equipment should be amortized as capital expenses and be charged to the specific event. Suggestion to have equipment be a line item in the event report so it can be identified as not part of the expense of running the event. Suggestion to have equipment used only for one type of event charged to that event, and only equipment that can be used for multiple functions (like canopies) be categorized as club equipment. Michelle pointed out that if equipment purchases cause an event to lose money on paper, that could jeopardize the club wanting to offer that event in the future. No decision was made due to time constraints.

MSAC to accept the Report of the Treasurer as presented (Kris/Patty).

Unfinished Business:

- ☑ Meeting with Humboldt County Fair Assoc to discuss 2026 event contracts – Kris said she is waiting for Moira to respond with a date, and will call later in the week if she doesn't hear.
- ☑ Holiday Party – moved to the Regular meeting.
- ☑ Annual donations – Moved to the Regular meeting.

New Business:

- ☑ Consideration of adjusting times for the Board Meeting – Deb L and Kurt attended a Ferndale Chamber of Commerce meeting, and were impressed by how much is decided by the Board and how much more time efficient it is than the way we do it. The

Board is the financial driver, and its job is to keep the club running. We don't have time to do it all in the half hour preceding a regular meeting, and we always run overtime into the regular meeting. We need more time or to meet at a different time. We could try the week before. Motion made by Kurt and seconded by Patty to do a trial run

next month and have the Board meeting at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Motion passed with six ayes and one abstention. Will need to ask Andrea for the Treasurer's Report by 2 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Jill will do so.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING:

The Regular meeting was called to order by President Debra Lake at 7:15 pm.

Present: All of the above plus Sara Borok, Marilyn Cottrell, Janeann Erickson, Kim Gradin, Gail Hovorka, Suzi Martin, Lauren Wendt.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from the September 16, 2025, Regular meeting were approved as published (Michelle/Tina).

Report of the President: Deb Lake said she is grateful to Patty for running the last meeting, and she is appreciative of everybody's effort. The Club is her family of choice in addition to her family of blood. She feels it will be an amazing year next year.

Report of the Secretary: Kris had no correspondence to report. She will pay the Board of Directors insurance online.

Report of the Treasurer: Jill presented the attached Treasurer's Report. All our events had a net income this year.

Report of Committees:

PRACTICES

Kris said the October 12 practices were a success. We set up a Coursing Ability Test course in the outfield of the baseball field but inside the horse track, so it was tight. It took longer than expected to be ready, but a number of dogs got to run and we learned a lot. Sara set up a rally course next to the track so people could practice while waiting for the CAT. Conformation and scent work practiced at the midway lawn area. No practices scheduled for the rest of the year.

B-OB SHOWS/RALLY/Fast CAT/CAT 2026:

Shows: Tina reported that both sets of shows on Friday (conformation, obedience, rally) are now listed on the AKC website, still need to pay. Best Puppy and Open will not be on Friday. We will have a 6th ring in the old vendor area, Tina is notifying the stewards. The MB-F contract has arrived and it looks like the extra show on Friday won't cost extra. Tina is checking on details. The Board has approved an entry fee increase to \$37, due to venue cost rising and AKC fees increasing.

Rally/Obedience: Michelle said she has gotten another judge (Lora Seale). Both judges are willing to do both shows on Friday. We need to have something in their contracts about overtime. Should limit entries on Friday to 25 obedience and 50 rally.

Fast CAT/CAT: Beth said nothing new for Fast CAT. Thanks to everyone for setting up the CAT course. We need everybody's help in locating a large field suitable for a CAT course – prefer no cattle. Doesn't have to be totally flat. Bigger than 5 acres.

AGILITY, BARN HUNT, Fast CAT 2026:

Agility: Beverly ML was not present.

Fast CAT: Same as above.

Barn Hunt: Mike said he is happy we made money this year. Sunnyside is open to suggestions for judges for next year.

SCENT WORK TRIALS 2026

Spring Trials May 2,3 – Cathy said plans are moving along, had a meeting with the administration of the Manila Montessori School. Will have 2 judges.

Labor Day Trials – Marilyn says we have a Secretary (Jeanette) and two judges. The Monterey Scent Work trials are the same weekend. They usually come here so we will probably lose some entries. Will probably be at Cutten School again.

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PICNIC: 2025 – Beth said it was a fun day for all. Lots of volunteers and lots of work. Kurt said his guests enjoyed it a lot.

FIT DOG – Kimber said there is nothing planned for October. Maybe Thanksgiving weekend? The new Bayfront trail, meet at Target and walk north or south? Send trail and lunch ideas to Kim.

NEWSLETTER: Lauren was thanked for another great newsletter. Send news to lckcnews75@gmail.com.

WEBSITE: Tina said Kurt will be taking over the website. Thank you!

CHAT GROUP: Nothing new.

MEMBERSHIP: Beth said the roster is up to date. If you want a new one, ask her. Jill said dues are due from now until the first of the year. There is a notice in the newsletter. If you need to reach Jill, use her mobile – she is getting rid of her land line. Question of how to change membership from associate to regular – submit a new application.

BYLAWS: Kris said there is nothing new, but it's time to get back to work on it.

Election of New Members: Nanette Nickerson of McKinleyville was unanimously elected to associate membership.

Unfinished Business:

☒ Nominations for 2026 Board of Directors – The Nominating Committee (Marilyn, Jesse, Kurt) met and determined that all current members of the Board are willing to serve in 2026. No additional nominations were received before the meeting. Each position was opened for nomination, the current officer was nominated, and, hearing no others, nominations were closed for that position. The slate that will be presented for approval at the November meeting will be:

President – Debra Lake

Vice-President – Patty Mendes

Secretary – Kris Smith

Treasurer – Jill Otto

Board members – Michelle Dostal, Kurt Pires, Debra Tull

☒ Holiday Party – Berti has reserved the Unitarian Fellowship Hall for January 10, 12 – 6 pm. Jill would like someone to take over making arrangements. We should make a reservation in January for December 2026. Deb SM will help where Cathy has before with ham, shopping. Bobbie, Tina, Deb L will do games, Jill will help.

☒ 2025 Charitable Donations – **MSAC (Patty/Cathy) to approve spending \$5000 on donations, \$4000 of that to go to the listed organizations, and \$1000 reserved for further possible donations to be approved by the club:**

Hum DOG spay neuter fund: \$1000

Hospice of Humboldt: \$500

Guide Dogs for the Blind (Humboldt puppy raisers) - \$500

Friends for Life (medical fund feeding into various shelters): \$500

AKC Reunite: \$500

Redwood Pals Rescue: \$500

Humboldt County Fair (to be paid in 2026 for Fair sponsorship): \$500

We might consider the AKC Humane Fund, but it doesn't seem like something that would have local impact.

New Business: none

Announcements:

☒ Kurt and Deb L said they have been invited back to the Ferndale CoC in the spring to talk about our events. Deb encouraged people to consider working to become Canine Ambassadors. Discussion of how to engage Ferndale in the show weekends.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Smith, LCKC Secretary