

THE LOST COAST HOWLER



EDITOR - LAUREN WENDT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am so thankful for the time and effort our club members have already poured into this year. Writing premiums after hours of gathering information is a heroic task, and keeping everything inside AKC's required timelines is its own Olympic sport. Gold medals all around.

Rallying volunteers and preparing them with the skills needed to shine always reminds our mentors just how much expertise it takes to put on the friendly, rave-reviewed shows we're known for. We saw a gorgeous preview of that this past weekend at the mock scent trial at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds. Our group work ethic is something to admire. I watched brand new folks jump in like they'd been doing this for years it was a delight.

And let's be honest: we have some characters among us who make every job easier, and thank goodness for them.

Coming right up is our May Spring Scent Trial. It filled within the first day or two (because of course it did), and there's already a waiting list. Everyone who entered should have received a confirmation email. If you are not able to show your entered dog, please let our trial secretary know ASAP so someone on the waitlist can do a happy dance.

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!
MARCH 17, 2026
MEMBER MEETING 7:00PM
HELD VIA ZOOM

Looking ahead, our July Show Cluster is on the horizon. This year it's dedicated to David Lindberg, marks the 24th Anniversary of LCKC Conformation, FASTCat, and Obedience/Rally Show, and just happens to coincide with the 250th Birthday of the United States. So yes — it's absolutely time for a giant celebration. Then, a mere two weeks later, we do it all again with our agility, FASTCat, and Barn Hunt event. Hydrate now.

Our momentum is strong, our community is mighty, and this year is shaping up to be one for the books — with a wink, of course.

Happy Spring,
Deb Lake
President LCKC



Letter from The Editor

Over the past month, I've been fortunate to spend a lot of time doing what I enjoy most—detection work. It's been great to work with many of you building your scent work skills and helping prepare for our upcoming trial. The progress across teams has been exciting to watch.

On my end, I've also been working with two of my own dogs as we prepare for a conservation detection dog project starting in May. (You can learn more about conservation dogs [HERE](#).)

This project will involve searching from a kayak—something completely new for both dogs. I genuinely enjoy these kinds of challenges, and I'm lucky to have dogs like Finn and Wren who are always ready to engage and try something new.

What this project has reinforced (and what I want to encourage all of you to think about) is the importance of being intentional in your training. No matter your goals, progress tends to stall when we move too quickly, combine too many new elements, or skip steps without realizing it. When we slow down and evaluate training from the dog's perspective, we set them up for much clearer understanding and more confident performance.

Here's an example of how I broke this skill down for Finn and Wren:

- Started with no kayak, no water, and no searching
- Built confidence on a moving surface using a plywood platform on a rolling creeper
- Practiced getting on and off the platform with reinforcement
- Gradually introduced controlled movement in different directions (no searching yet)
- Ensured they were comfortable staying on without attempting to jump off
- Introduced search work on a familiar scent wall with the platform stationary
- Progressed to searching while the platform was moving
- Transitioned to the kayak with same platform attached
- Reinforced confident entry and remaining on the kayak platform
- Repeated the same progression with the kayak:
 - Stationary → then moving
 - No search → then search
- All searches used a well known target odor to avoid adding additional difficulty

Next step is introducing the new odors in a controlled and familiar manner. Once they know the new odors then we will start to put all of the peices together agian.



The key takeaway is simple:

Change one variable at a time.

No matter what kind of training you do, this approach builds clarity, confidence, and resilience in your dog's performance—and it makes troubleshooting much easier if something doesn't go as planned.

I've also had an intern working alongside me this month, learning the foundations of detection training along with other aspects of dog training. It's been a great reminder that strong fundamentals and thoughtful progression benefit every level of handler, from brand new to highly experienced.

As you continue your own training, keep asking:

What specific skill am I addressing? AND What exactly is my dog learning?

These 2 questions alone can dramatically improve the quality and efficiency of your training.

Looking forward to seeing all of you—and your dogs—continue to grow.

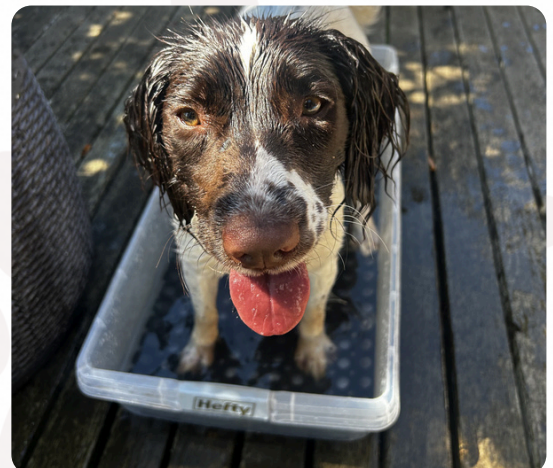
Lauren Wendt
-LCKC Newsletter Editor



P.S. Warmer weather is upon us, know the signs of heat related injury are and be prepared to act! This is my 9 month old spaniel, Archie, after a play session on a sunny day. I knew what to look for and how to get her cooled down safely.

This [FREE WEBINAR](#) is a great resource to educate yourself.

And Archie was no worse for the wear and ready for more after she cooled down!



Temp of 107.4 degrees F!

NEXT GENERAL MEMBER MEETING TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2026

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!

Board Meetings are now being held the second Tuesday of the Month at 7pm.
All members are welcome to attend but only board members can vote.

A list of dog-related sports organizations and trainers in Humboldt County can be found [HERE](#).

A list of dog related public events in Humboldt County can be found [HERE](#).

Thanks to Kurt Pires for these wonderful resources!



Our Spring Scent Work Trial Is Coming Up!

May 2-3, 2026

Redwood Coast Montessori School
1611 Peninsula Dr., Arcata (Manila), CA

We are excited to offer all levels and elements of Odor and Detective classes at this trial. Our goal is to provide local scent work teams with more opportunities to earn titles, especially for those who prefer not to travel or for whom travel is not always affordable.

This year's trial will be held at a new venue, Redwood Coast Montessori in Manila. We are partnering with the school to support Friends of Redwood Coast Montessori, their fundraising group. Students will be offering a hot lunch as part of the fundraiser.

We are also pleased to welcome judges Liz Carter and Kelly Boyer, whose course designs will bring a fresh and engaging challenge to the searches.

As with any scent work trial, we rely on volunteers for set-up, tear-down, and throughout the event. **Volunteering is a great learning opportunity—especially for anyone new to scent work**—and a fun way to support the club and spend time with fellow Lost Coast KC members.

To volunteer or learn more, please contact Marilyn Cottrell at m81cottrell@gmail.com.

PRACTICE DATES 2026 – TENTATIVE*

Held at Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Ferndale

Practices are open to non-members, there is no official fee. Donations are accepted, suggestion is \$5 per dog which that covers everything the dog practices that day. Participants must sign a yearly liability waiver, and sign in on the daily sign-in sheet .

April 26, 11am Track – Fast CAT*

April 26, 1pm Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

May 10, 1pm (Mother's Day) Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work
Alternate if FCAT gets rained out on Apr 26.

May 17, 11am Track – Fast CAT

May 17, 1pm Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

(May 24 – could be alternate for May 10 to avoid Mother's Day)

June 7 – Practices TBA (Woofstock weekend)

June 14 11am Track – FCAT

June 14, 1pm Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

June 21, 1pm (Father's Day) Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

CAT – TBA

*Needs to be approved by the Fairgrounds

This avoids May 31 – Memorial Day weekend

There are only three weekends in June this year

Updates will be made monthly as needed. Please check lo group for additional updates.

HUMBOLDT DISC DOG 2026* PRACTICE AND TRIAL DATES

Rio Dell Fire Department, 50 W Center St, Rio Dell
CA 95562

- April 25 practice
- May 9 practice
- May 30-31 trial
- June 13 practice
- June 27-28 trial Crossover Crown
- August 15 practice
- August 29-30 trial
- September 19-20 Triple Crown
- October 3 practice
- October 10-11 trial – Monster Mash

*Upon approval of Rio Dell Fire BOD

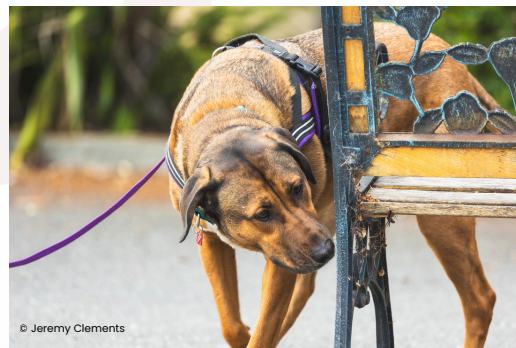


Member Brags, Accomplishment & Highlights

APRIL 2026

LCKC Member Jeremy Clements recently took some great photos at Momentum K9 Scent Work classes. Dogs pictured are owned by LCKC members.

-Submitted by Lauren Wendt



It's been a busy 2 months for Vinnie and Nara. At the Anderson on show in March Nara finished her rally novice title and BCAt and then in April in Albany she finished her rally intermediate and first 2 legs of her advanced title. Vinnie picked up nohs points in Anderson and a couple more breed points toward his Gch and nohs g 4 (twice) in Albany!! Agility..... well... let's just say he had way too much fun again! Submitted by Sara Borok



We traveled to Lake Folsom to run Total Body Fitness's Mighty Dog Mile, 5K, 10K dog-friendly trail races. Bryan and Karhu ran the 5K finishing 9th of 84 overall and 3rd of Canicross teams. This was their first race together. They rocked it! Vixen and I ran the 10K finishing 12th of 29 overall and 2nd of Canicross teams.

I love traveling to races because it means we got to visit some Bay Area Urban Mushing friends and my formerly-local friend Tasha Souza too. Tasha and Penelope took 2nd of Small Dogs in the 5K.

It was a fun and beautiful, mostly singletrack trail race with excellent aid stations and finish area support. That included lots of kiddie pools to cool the dogs and plenty of snacks for the humans and dogs alike.

TBF hosts two dog-friendly events at Lake Folsom each year. The next is in late August: Good Dog - Dirty Dog

'Run your dogs, not your mouth.'
-Submitted by Terri Vroman Little



Bayley Cottrell recently received her 3 year Volunteer Appreciation Certificate, and 2 dog cookies, from the Providence St Joseph Hospital management. Bayley's hours of generous service totalled over 1,000 contacts and she brought me along each time! It was a nice luncheon celebration, and she got to see some of her canine therapy dog team friends. Marilyn Cottrell and Bayley Cottrell are registered for therapy dog service through Pet Partners.



On a two-month-long RV journey, we tried to hit a variety of dog-related activities. During that time, Phig earned her AKC Agility Course Test ACTI and ACTII Titles, and has managed to snag her position as the fastest collie in AKC Fast CAT so far this year while finishing her FCAT! Zinnia and Phig not only ran Fast CAT in Elk Grove, Acton and Anderson, but they also attended two weekends of Scent Work trials in Lodi and Phig competed in Barn Hunt in Anderson. Additionally, both Zinnia and Phig attended the first Dog Day at The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens in Palm Desert where they saw a large number of desert wildlife; it was a wonderful experience and perhaps we might convince Sequoia Park Zoo to host a Dog Day!

-submitted by Kurt Pires





Finn humored me at the Anderson show while I had a great experience competing in Obedience and Rally for the first time. Although she could not see the point in doing "boring" things in the ring, we did get 2 Q's in novice rally and 1 Q in novice obedience. She however was very happy to get to show off her real skills during a scent work demo for some exhibitors. And she was happy with the stuffy toy she won...way better than the ribbons from her perspective!

-submitted by Lauren Wendt

Emma Emma Emma was Busy Busy Busy over the March 27-29th weekend! We went to the Performance Pawlooza event hosted by Butte County Kennel Club at the Gridley fairgrounds. Kudos to the club for putting on a fun event with so many options!

Emma had 6 Fast CAT runs over 3 days and got qualifying scores in 5 (she stopped at the lure machine the first run - which was literally her first time doing Fast CAT!). She collected enough points to earn her BCAT title :-)) I sure wasn't expecting that! Thank you Debbie Tull for releasing her all 3 days!

Then on Saturday she earned her Farm Dog certification with two perfect tests. Then we went on to CGC and she was perfect until the very last task which required her to wait patiently with a stranger while I was out of sight for 1 minute. She didn't freak out, but she did tug on the lead. We repeated the test on Sunday and she was perfect that time, earning her CGC!

On Saturday afternoon we attended a Barn Hunt Workshop and she did great, though her alerts are subtle, lol. On Sunday we did two Barn Hunt novice fun runs and she was great! We will definitely be doing more Barn Hunt.

When I signed her up for all this stuff, I never expected this level of success right out of the gate. She is one smart pup!

Pending AKC confirmation, she is now Rovente's Busy Busy Emma FDC, CGC, BCAT



-Submitted by Tina Moulton

This meeting is being recorded by Fathom.

The Board meeting was called to order by President Debra Lake at 7:06 p.m.

Present:

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

Non-Board members: Jesse Chiaudano, Tina Moulton.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from the February 10, 2026, Board meeting were approved as published. (Jill/Debbie T)

Report of the Treasurer: Jill presented the financial reports from our bookkeeper. The “suspense” line item refers to an ongoing bank fraud. In February there were three fraudulent ACH withdrawals (not checks or debit card charges) and one more in March, all to different names, totaling over \$7000. She has made a fraud report to Chase Bank. After filling out a report, the money should be refunded. She has now noticed missing funds from our savings account, and will file a report on that. Debbie T said we need to at least change account numbers. Jill said we have talked about changing banks entirely, maybe now is the time.

Discussion of changing banks. Kurt said first we need to interview options and find out what each offers. If we don't change, we will have to open another checking account at Chase. Regardless, we will have to run parallel accounts for awhile. Kurt wondered if they offer “Advance Positive Pay” where purchases have to be authorized, or if they will limit ACH withdrawals. The bank suggests all new accounts. Jill and Kurt will meet with Chase and ask about options, and maybe open a new checking account. Jill said she sent in the 2025 raffle report and the 2026 raffle filing from Andrea's computer, since hers was down. The 2026 request got there before they logged the 2025 report, so it was denied and check returned. She will start over.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted (Debbi T/Kurt)

Unfinished Business

- Agility trailer storage at Nilsen's – Since Deb L talked to Moira about a possible site next to the barns, she has not heard back. She will check again. Agreement that it should stay in the Ferndale area. Suggestion to ask attendees at the Ferndale C of C meeting coming up. We are willing to pay for a space in Ferndale. Deb L will check with Nilsen's about their timeline. Very temporary storage was offered by Kurt and Kris if necessary to get it out of Nilsen's.
- Create Board member email list – Kurt made “alias” emails for Board members. Emails to each member will be forwarded to their personal account, and that can be changed as members change.
- School programs – deferred until next month due to time restraints.

New Business

- Files retention policy development – deferred until next month.
- Presentation at Ferndale Chamber of Commerce meeting April 6 – Debbie T asked what will be needed regarding media such as videos. Deb L will ask what resources are available to use.
- Bayshore Mall possible winter event location – deferred until next month.

· Develop a policy for loaning equipment – After we agreed to loan an obedience jump to Shasta KC, other clubs have asked for our equipment. Suggestions: Keep it local (HumDOG, Shasta KC depending on what, etc.), require a check that we hold that covers replacement cost, a “black-out” period before we need it that covers time needed to replace it if necessary, a Club (or Board) member has to transport it back and forth, include wording that applies to loaning our equipment and borrowing somebody else’s equipment. “Good Will Lending and Borrowing Policy.” Would only apply to non-specialized durable goods like jumps, not custom items like mats and fast CAT equipment. Michelle will research lead times for ordering new equipment.

Announcements:

· The next Board meeting will be April 14, 2026.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Kris Smith, LCKC Secretary

Minutes of the LCKC Regular Monthly Meeting
March 17, 2026 (held via zoom)

The meeting was called to order by President Debra Lake at 7:04 pm.

This meeting is being recorded by Fathom.

Present: Sara Borok, Teresa Chase, Marilyn Cottrell, Michelle Dostal, Susan Hutchison, Debra Lake, Mike Lake, Beverly Morgan Lewis (later), Patty Mendes, Tina Moulton, Jill Otto, Bobbie Pires, Kurt Pires, Beth Rogers, Kris Smith, Deb St Myers, Debbie Tull, Cathy Wright, and applicant Catarina Kein.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from the February 17, 2026, Regular meeting were approved as corrected (Scent Work judge is Edholm). (Patty/Jill).

Report of the President: Deb Lake summarized the March 10 Board meeting: Discussion of the Chase Bank accounts and unauthorized withdrawals, and potential security measures. Update on agility trailer storage, worked on goodwill policy for lending and borrowing equipment between clubs, introduction of new emails for Board members through the website. Deb wished everybody a Happy St. Patrick’s Day.

Report of the Secretary: Kris said she has received no pertinent mail. Jill said the DMV registration renewal came for one of the trailers.

Report of the Treasurer: Jill reported on our bank balance and assets, income and expenses. The “Suspense” line item is an ongoing fraud situation where there were unauthorized electronic withdrawals from checking and savings accounts. All fraud forms have been filed and the money has been refunded. Jill and Kurt are going to Chase to discuss security options. The 2026 raffle request from the state was denied because they had not received the 2025 report which was sent at the same time. Andrea is taking care of it.

Report of Committees:

PRACTICES

Kris said the first club ring practices are scheduled for April 12 at the fairgrounds, and the first Fast CAT practice on April 26 on the track (in addition to ring practices). The barn hunt practices at the Hutchison's will start mid-April, as well as the Lakes' non-club barn hunt practices. Kris will email the Fair to see if we can park on the track for Fast CAT practice. Cathy said the venue for the mock Scent Work trial fell through so she will ask about the office area behind the Turf club at the Fairgrounds. Marilyn suggested there might not be time in the schedule, with so many other dog events happening. Cathy will post in the group when she knows more. Kurt will put practice dates on the website.

B-OB SHOWS/RALLY/Fast CAT 2026:

Shows: Tina said we are still waiting for the AKC to approve the shows; we have done everything we are supposed to do. She will be generating a volunteer job list in April.

Rally/Obedience: Michelle she is also waiting for AKC approval of Obedience (comes with show approval), but Rally is approved. She will be sending a notice asking for volunteers. The jumps we loaned to Shasta KC are back.

Fast CAT: Debbie T said premium lists for both weekends are out and entries are open. The link is on the website.

SCENT WORK TRIALS 2026

Spring (May 2-3) – Cathy said the committee will meet soon. Both days are full and there is a wait list. Lots of novice entries, fewer detective. People will pick up items from the shed on one of the April practice days.

Fall (Sep 4-6) – Susan said the AKC website issues are sorted out and approval has been received. She tried to post the premium lists, but more AKC website problems prevented it. The judges will be lodged at the Clarion. There will be a meeting of the committee in April.

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PICNIC 2026 (Sept 27, Rohner Park, Fortuna) – Beth said there will be a Zoom meeting for the committee on March 31.

FIT DOG – Beth said maybe April 4, but there may be conflicts.

NEWSLETTER: Good February newsletter, with good submissions. Consider submitting an article. Kurt will be asking for old newsletters to put on the website.

WEBSITE: Kurt said he is still working on the revamp. There will not be any major changes before the shows.

IO CHAT GROUP: Beth said she send invitations to new members.

MEMBERSHIP: Beth said old members who have not renewed will now have to fill out a new application, and will be taken off the membership list next week. She ordered the brochures today, should be here by end of March. She encouraged everyone to update their Zoom app because some sound features are not working on old ones.

BYLAWS: Kris said there is no new progress.

Minutes of the LCKC Regular Monthly Meeting
March 17, 2026 (held via zoom)

APRIL 2026

AGILITY, BARN HUNT, fast CAT 2026

Agility: Beverly ML said everything is up to date. Next will be ordering ribbons. The premium list is coming in April.

Barn Hunt: Mike said there is nothing new to report.

Fast CAT: Debbie said she has confirmed Terry Tuttle for photographer.

Election of New Members: Susan Bennett of Eureka was elected to associate membership, and Jennifer Liu of Eureka was elected to regular membership. Michael, Catarina, and Naoma Kein of Fortuna; and Tom and Chris Levy of Salem, OR were elected to family memberships. Dave and Debbi Sholes of Carlotta were re-elected to family membership.

Unfinished business

- Shed clean-up and reorganization – Deb L said the large water containers are still in front of the shed. We can get in, but there isn't room to empty it. The trenches are working; it's totally dry inside. Could use more shelving. Discussion of types and sizes of shelving. MSAC (Jill/Kurt) to buy two shelving units from Costco, spending up to \$250.
- Agility Trailer Relocation – Deb L said Nilsen's told her they will be there for two more months, so we have to find a new place soon. Moira was not available to discuss the potential site at the Fair. She and Kurt will ask at the Ferndale C of C meeting April 6 (Deb will ask if they can bring a dog to the meeting). Beverly ML said she has a friend on a Ferndale Community Facebook page who she will ask to post about a possible site if nothing comes from the C of C meeting.
- Show poster/show theme – the committee will have a report next month.
- New Swag available – Tina is working on the Fast CAT clothing transfers. She got caps, visors, beanies, bucket hats from Queensboro. Also blank visors to put transfers on. Embroidered visors will be \$20. She will bring boxes of merch to practices. There is a flat rate shipping from Queensboro so people should get together to order other items. Kurt will make a "Swag Page" with a QR code on the website, and we can post the QR code at the shows.

New Business:

- New member information packet – Beth is creating a digital packet with the membership list, the new brochure, newsletter, code of ethics, for new members. Part of mentoring is reaching out to new members, so do your part by inviting them to dog walking and practices. If you have ideas about a packet, contact Beth.

Announcements:

- Barn Hunt practice at the Lake's house – April 11, 9-12, can do your level for your dog. Contact Deb L for more information.
- Jill has a new email and will post it on the members list. The old one forwards for now, but please change it soon.
- Next meetings will be April 21 (Regular) and April 14 (Board).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Smith, LCKC Secretary