

THE LOST COAST HOWLER



EDITOR - LAUREN WENDT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone has had a moment to catch their collective breath after our wonderful Spring Scent Trial. What a weekend. What a crew. What a club. Now that we've refueled (or at least found our coffee cups again), it's time to gear up for the whirlwind of summer that's headed our way.

July is shaping up to be a blockbuster month for Lost Coast Kennel Club. We kick things off over Fourth of July weekend with our annual dog show cluster — Conformation, Rally, Obedience, and FAST CAT all packed into one festive, tailwagging celebration. And yes... the ice cream returns. I repeat: the ice cream returns.

Just two weeks later, we roll right into one of our most beloved weekends of the year: Agility, FAST CAT, and Barn Hunt. It's the trifecta of speed, skill, and joyful chaos that shows exactly why our dogs — and our people — are the heart of this club. These events highlight the versatility, enthusiasm, and pure dedication that make our summer cluster such a standout on the calendar.

And because we love a little extra fun, participants can also explore downtown Ferndale with our Passport game. Visit participating shops, collect stamps, enjoy the charm of town, and earn an entry for a prize drawing. Dogs, community, and a little treasure hunt — what's not to love?

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!
MAY 19, 2026
MEMBER MEETING 7:00PM
HELD VIA ZOOM

Of course, none of this magic happens without the hard work of our members and volunteers. From planning and setup to exhibitor support and cleanup, every single contribution matters. You are the reason our events run smoothly, feel welcoming, and keep people coming back year after year. Thank you for showing up, stepping in, lifting up, and making Lost Coast Kennel Club shine.

Here's to a summer full of wagging tails, good friends, and events we can all be proud of.

Deb Lake — President, Lost Coast Kennel Club



Letter from The Editor

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of teaching a 2 day workshop in Southern California. We focused on the fundamentals: how behavior works, using positive reinforcement to shape it, reward markers, trainer mechanics, building motivation, and more.

Throughout the weekend, I pushed participants to think more critically about their training. To see it from the dog's perspective. To consistently ask: Why does my dog do ...? Why did that method work? Why did that rep go better? Why isn't this working?

But an interesting and critical question came up: When should we step away?

You've likely reached moments where things feel overwhelming or unclear. Not because you're doing something wrong, but probably because you've realized there's more complexity than you initially expected.

At that point, typically one of two responses appear. Some handlers try to fix everything at once, which usually leads to frustration and burnout. Others avoid the challenge and stay in what feels comfortable, even if it isn't moving them forward.

Neither approach serves you or your dog very well.

When training starts to feel heavy or uninspiring, it may be a sign that it's time to adjust.

That doesn't mean stopping training altogether. Our dogs are always learning. Which means we are always training. But it may mean stepping away from a specific skill, expectation, or pressure point for a period of time.

For example, my spaniel puppy, Archie, is doing very well in her detection work—minus her formal alert behavior. The issue wasn't her. It was my expectation. I wanted a precise sit-and-stare, but at 7 months old, she simply wasn't ready for that, despite my training efforts.

So instead of forcing the behavior, I temporarily stepped back from that criterion. For the next few months we continued detection work, but I reinforced approximations; change of behavior, stand-and-stare behaviors, and other components that build toward the final picture. At the same time, we worked on other skills that required sustained focus and clarity.

And just the other day, low and behold, without any expectation from me, she offered a clean sit-and-stare on target odor!

And I rewarded the heck out of it! This skill was slowly being built up outside of our detection training and now the puzzle pieces could come together.

When you feel stuck, break things down. Choose one clear objective. Put real focus into it. Reinforce progress. Then move on to the next layer. Real progress comes from clarity and consistency—not from trying to fix everything at once.

And remember: every repetition should be purposeful. But it should also be enjoyable. If it isn't meaningful or engaging for both you and your dog, it's worth asking why you're doing it.

When something feels difficult, many of us default to what's comfortable. We stay with what we already know. That's human nature. But comfort can quietly limit reaching your goal.

So when you feel stagnant, ask yourself:

- What habits are keeping me where I am?
- What assumptions am I holding onto?
- What is keeping me from trying new ways of doing things?
- What small adjustment could create long-term improvement?

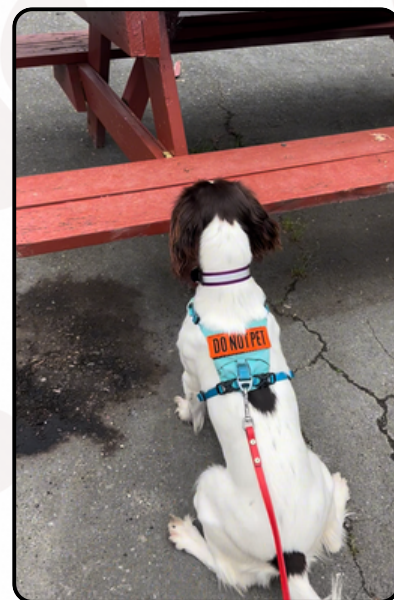
Notice that none of those questions start with the dog. Progress begins with us adjusting our own behavior and expectations.

Sometimes improvement requires space. Stepping back. Getting a different perspective. Then, when you return, focus on one element at a time. Be precise. Be patient. Build it deliberately. Move forward only when the foundation is solid. Happy training!

-Lauren Wendt

LCKC Newsletter Editor

P.S. Want to see Archie's search leading up to her alert? Click [HERE!](#)



Archie's first sit-and-stare alert
at 10 months old

NEXT GENERAL MEMBER MEETING TUESDAY MAY 19, 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!

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 .

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

HUMBOLDT DISC DOG 2026* PRACTICE AND TRIAL DATES

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

- 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



SPRING SCENT WORK TRIAL

Putting on Scent Work Trials is like putting together a complicated puzzle as a team – members of the team must work together to fit all the pieces together to create a working plan. Many details need to fall into place to have a successful trial that runs smoothly.

With a great deal of cooperation and effort, it happened! The Spring Scent Work Trials were a success!

Many thanks to the members of the Event Committee; wonderful Club Volunteers; and the staff at our school venue, Redwood Coast Montessori in Manila.

The weather for the most part was cooperative, and there were a lot of successful searches, qualifying ribbons, new title rosettes, and a few High in Trial rosettes. Everyone got to spend quality time with their canine best buddies and hopefully came away feeling successful about their searches, even if it was only because it was a good learning experience.

Special Congratulations to two new trialing teams for High in Trial Novice. On Saturday – Jeremy and Judd, and on Sunday Jeanne and Otis!!!

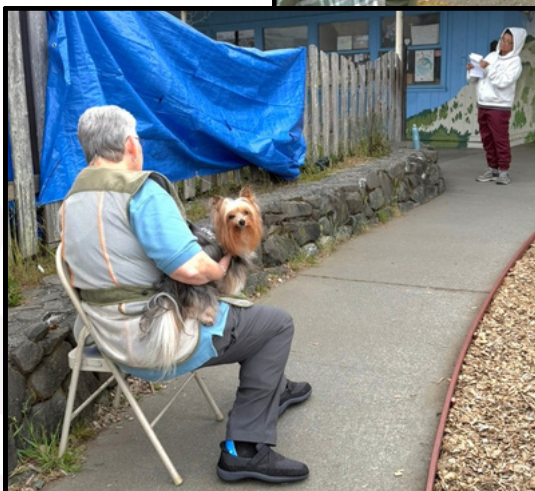
Thanks to all who participated in making our Spring Scent Work Weekend the friendly, successful event that is our trademark.

An out-of-town participant summed it up, "Just a note of appreciation to all the officials, volunteers and judges at last weekend's LCKC scent work trials. What a friendly and supportive crowd."

-Submitted by Cathy Wright



Morning Breifing



Jill & Tori waiting to search



Kim & Jax search containers



Stella is an agility gate guru!



Mike & Sparky exterior search



Michelle shows off new Novice Level Title rosette



A solemn agreement to be the best team ever!



New element title brings a smile to Deb Lake



Great volunteer drawing organized by Sara Borok



Novice walkthrough

On May 10, several Club members enjoyed the presentation by Dr. Sarah Schroer, DVM, of Humboldt Veterinary Group. Dr. Schroer provided basic dog first aid information including suggested items for home and Club first aid kits; ways to restrain an injured dog for safe handling; performing CPR; dressing lacerations, stinting broken bones, common types of eye injuries, and when to induce vomiting for ingested toxins. She suggested having cheat sheets containing dosage per weight for any drugs in the first aid kit and to always have the number for Animal Poison Control handy: 1-888-426-4435. She also suggested the Veterinary Partner website (<https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/>) for helpful articles written by Veterinarians. Both Brasa and Otis were wonderful patients!

-Submitted by Debbie Tull



Another AKC scentwork trial weekend in the books!

We 8/8 Q's for the weekend, finished Advanced overall, and got legs towards Excellent.

We got to catch up with some local friends, always a good time.

Thanks to the Lost Coast Kennel club for putting it on, and all the volunteers and judges who make it all happen!

Thanks to my local instructors Sarah (My Nosey K9) and Lauren (Momentum K9) - what a blessing to have such amazing instructors and such an active dog community right here in Humboldt.

Congrats to all who participated this weekend - everyone did a great job!

-Submitted by Stella Moore



Penzi had a great time at the Spring Scent Work Trial! This is a brag, but it would not be possible without Lauren Wendt of Momentum K9! As many of you know, Penzi has been a handful and a challenge... I want to give a big shout out to Lauren for helping me on my journey with my "wild child". Lauren recognizes Penzi's issues and offers workable ways to channel her mind into acceptable and non-stress based behaviors - Scent Work being a great positive outlet for her.

During the two day trial Penzi got her final leg in Novice Interior so she will have her SWN title. Out of her one remaining Novice Interior and the Advanced classes she competed in, she qualified in six out of the eight classes she was entered in (and was in the top five placements in all of her qualifying classes).

She was on fire! Handler error - "blurt alerts" - was the reason for her two NQs. I learn valuable lessons with each NQ... Thank you to the LCKC Scent Work Committee, volunteers, Penzi and Lauren for this great brag-filled weekend!

-Submitted by Michelle Dostal



Baby Gryphon earned his STAR Puppy title on 5/4 out of Jill Otto's HumDOG class.

On to the next thing!

-Submitted by Beverly Morgan Lewis



This Spring, Otis B is enjoying both new and old activities. He participated in his first Scent work Trial May 2-3 and delighted his handler when he was awarded Novice High in Trial on Sunday. We thank our instructor, Lauren Wendt, for her guidance and insights into beginners scent work and in particular deciphering Otis' "scents of style."

Otis was happy to have a run at the first FastCAT practice of the season in April and is looking forward to trialing at the fairgrounds in July. As A Pet Partners team, he continues to soak up hugs on therapy dog visits to the Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods, PACE in Fortuna, Providence St. Joseph Hospital and our local colleges.

-Submitted by Jeanne Sapunor

Over the weekend of May 1st through 3rd Nick and I drove to Sonora to help Nichole, our handler's wife, with the RV parking. Adrian, our handler, was at a fishing tournament. A good thing we decided to go help as the night before Nichole had a dresser drop on her foot breaking it, so we were pretty busy. Since we were going we entered Missy, who was a single in breed. Then Lucas, Adrain's 4 year old son, decided, for the first time, that he wanted to enter the Pee Wees. After practicing with several dogs, we decided to let him take Missy in the ring. With a little practice Missy took him in the ring and did a wonderful job showing him how it's done! We were so proud of her and it was so cute to watch him and the other Pee Wees! Since we needed to stay late we decided to go ahead and enter Missy in the group. Taffy McFadden was gracious enough to take her in the ring for us resulting in a group 4 in a very strong terrier group!

-Submitted by Patty Mendes



Judge Mrs. Chirstine Calcinarl, Taffy McFadden and our little Missy. Grand CH RIV Mischievous Wife

This weekend was Jax's first Scentwork trial he is 10 months. He was such a good boy showing me where the hide was and sitting when he found it. He earned 6 Qualifying runs in Novice (2 Exterior, 2 Interior, and 2 in containers). We need to work on his buried searches but he definitely amazed me. He placed (time) 4 times this weekend two 3rds and two 4ths



Jax earned his Trick Dog Intermediate title! He also did amazingly well at the LCKC Spring Scent work trial.

-Submitted by Kimber Gradin

Pending AKC approval, Gryphon earned his Novice Trick Dog title on April 20 at the age of 5 1/2 months. Thank you, Susan Hutchison, for making time for his evaluation. And, no. Sitting on top of his toy box was not one of his trick for the test. He made that one up on his own.

-Submitted by Beverly Morgan Lewis



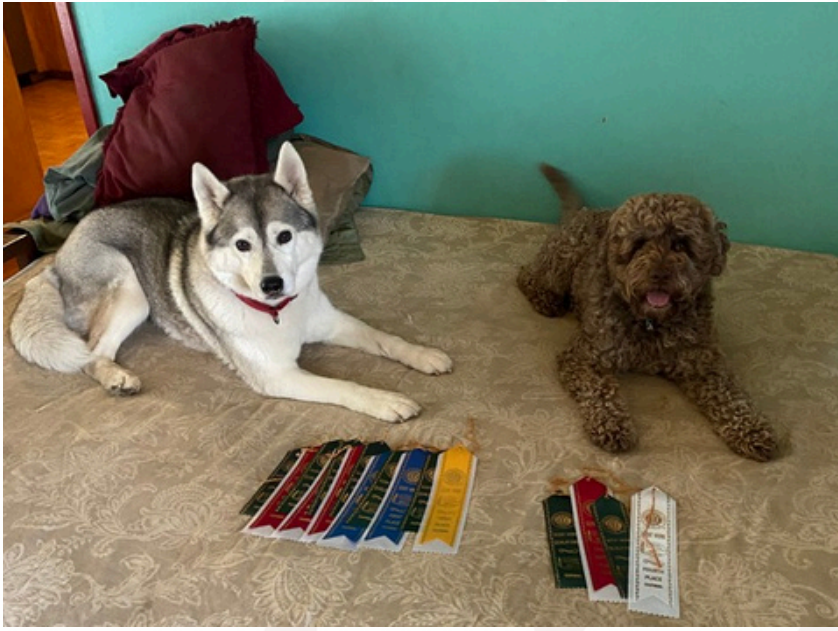
Where do I begin? Let's start my brag with Judd. He put on an amazing performance at the Spring Scent Work Trial. This trial was our very first introduction to dog sports, and Judd far outperformed any expectations I might have had. He earned High In Trial for Novice on Saturday, placed in the top three in 7 of 8 elements we entered for the weekend, and only had one NQ. His drive and focus to do the work in a brand-new environment was impressive, and it was incredibly encouraging to see. Overall, I'm beyond proud of what we accomplished at this trial.

None of this would have been possible without Lauren Wendt and Momentum K9. We have spent countless hours training with Lauren in various scent work classes, and she has helped us take a highly driven dog and give him a job and a skill that channels his energy in the best way. Lauren's ability as a trainer, teacher, and friend has been truly invaluable. Thank you Lauren!

I'd also like to give a big shout-out to the Lost Coast Kennel Club members and volunteers. As I mentioned earlier, this is our first dip into dog sports, and everyone from the kennel club has been so kind, welcoming, and encouraging. People have been more than willing to answer questions about everything—from entry forms and etiquette, to explaining new sports, to even making funny noises so your dog will look at the camera for a picture. Everyone has been awesome, and we're grateful to be a part of such a supportive group.

-Submitted by Jeremy Clements



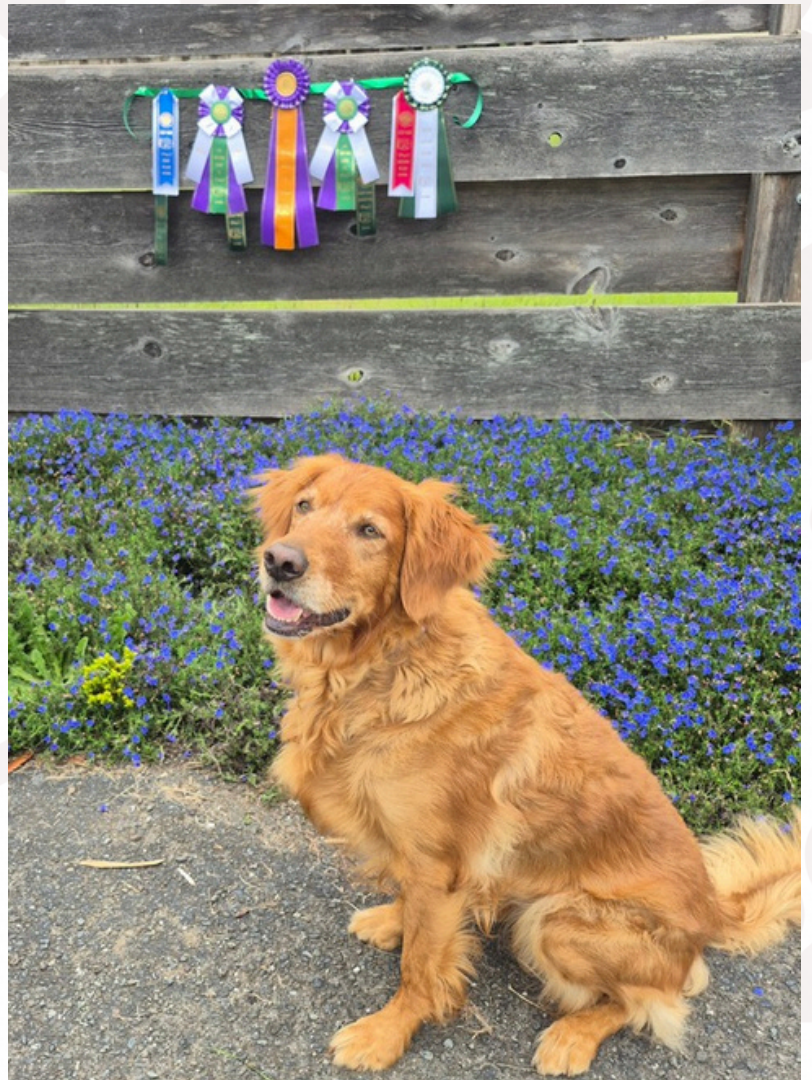


Vinnie and Nara had another good weekend at our scentwork trial. This was Nara's very first scentwork trial. Not bad for only starting scent work in November. She Q'ed in 6 of her 8 runs all with placements. Vinnie got 2 out of 4. All mistakes were mine 🤪.

-Submitted by Sara Borok

At the LCKC May Scentwork Trial, Jenna completed her Excellent Exterior and Excellent Buried to complete her overall title in EXCELLENT. She also earned a 1st place in Master Containers. The big thrill of the weekend was when she participated in her first Detective level search and got her first Q in it with a second place finish!!! I was sure jazzed! Jenna was excited too!

-Submitted by Susan Hutchison



This meeting is being recorded by Fathom.

The Board meeting was called to order by President Debra Lake at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Non-Board members: Beverly Morgan Lewis, Tina Moulton, Beth Rogers.

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

Report of the Treasurer: Jill said Andrea did not send a financial report due to tomorrow being tax day. Jill will talk with her before the regular meeting next week and hopefully have a report by then. She will also check to see that Andrea has filed the 2025 raffle report so the 2026 raffle can be submitted. She reported on the Chase statement, noting that the restored fraud withdrawal from savings has been taken away again because the bank thinks we authorized the withdrawal – not possible – it's to an energy company back east. Jill had a long meeting with bank officials and they are looking at it again. The savings account number has been changed; the old one will stay open for 90 days to receive any recovered funds. The checking account now has ACH debit blocking and transaction notifications that go to Jill. Those are not available for savings accounts. The bank wants us to have \$1000 in the savings account. Jill said that the mock Scent Work trial brought in \$177 and the rental of the Jockey Quarters cost \$100. The difference will go to volunteer drawing prizes. The Treasurer's Report was accepted (Debbie T/Kurt)

Unfinished Business

- Agility trailer storage at Nilsen's – We are running out of time before we have to move the trailer. At the Ferndale C of C meeting, the HCFA event coordinator encouraged us to keep trying for a spot on the fairgrounds, and said we should meet with Moira. Kurt and Deb L will be going to the shed for SW supplies on Thursday, and will go by the office, and maybe get photos of the suggested parking spot.
- School programs – A few people are interested in participating. Kurt will pursue it after the SW trials. Nothing will be in place until Fall.
- File retention policy – Kurt suggested we establish a policy for how long video/audio recordings of meeting are kept. Discussion of privacy and potential legal concerns with records archived online. Discussion of official meeting minutes (Regular and Board) vs notes taken at committee meetings. Method and saving of committee notes should be up to committee chair. **MSAC (Kurt/Jill) Recordings of Board and Regular (General) meetings will be deleted once minutes for those meetings have been approved.** Side discussion on need for handbooks for putting on our various events.
- Bayshore Mall possible winter event location – Parts of the Mall are going up for auction so it's impossible to make plans. Will revisit once ownership is settled.
- Develop policy for loaning LCKC equipment. Basics from discussion at the last meeting: A club member should transport both ways; should be a black-out period of no loans before our events; a deposit should be required to cover damage or replacement; designation of "durable" or "non-durable" goods, or one-of-a-kind items (lure machine could only go with one of our approved lure operators, who would be paid); all loans to be approved by the Board, case by case. Kris will write up a draft.

Minutes of the LCKC Monthly Board Meeting
April 14, 2026 (held via zoom)

MAY 2026

New Business

- Food Budget for Member Appreciation Picnic – Mike is working on a menu that will fill our needs and be reasonable in cost. Informal approval of \$350, to be revisited if food costs have risen by then.
- Patty suggested that the Lions Club needs to be notified that we will be having two shows on Friday, so they need to stay longer. Also, the Ferndale Pizza Company is selling, so we need to look for another source for our volunteer lunches. It's possible the buyers will keep it as it is. Alternatives could be Mt Mike's in Fortuna, Costco for sandwiches, supermarkets.
- Rental of Jockey Quarters for Dr Schroer's presentation on Canine CPR May 10 – It was \$25/hour for the mock SW trial. Beth asked if we could rent it for the CPR presentation. MSAC (Jill/Deb L) to spend \$50 or a reasonable amount to rent the Jockey Quarters for 2 hours for Dr Schroer's CPR presentation. May 10, 11 am. Free for club members, who may invite friends.
- Clarification of upcoming practice days – April 26 ring and FCAT; May 10 (Mother's day) ring, following CPR presentation; May 17 ring and FCAT (May 24 alternate if May 17 gets rained out); June 7 ring TBA; June 14 ring and FCAT; June 21 ring.

Announcements:

- The next Board meeting will be May 12, 2026. (Michelle will not be able to attend.)

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

Respectively submitted by Kris Smith, LCKC Secretary

Minutes of the LCKC Regular Monthly Meeting
April 21, 2026 (held via zoom)

The meeting was called to order by President Debra Lake at 7:00 pm.

This meeting is being recorded by Fathom.

Present: Sara Borok, Teresa Chase, Jessi Chiaudano, Marilyn Cottrell, Michelle Dostal, Kim Gradin, Debra Lake, Mike Lake, Beverly Morgan Lewis (later), Sarah Lindgren-Akana, Suzi Martin, Patty Mendes, Stella Moore, Trisha Morgan, Tina Moulton, Jill Otto, Bobbie Pires, Kurt Pires, Beth Rogers, Kris Smith, Deb St Myers, Lauren Wendt, Cathy Wright.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from the March 17, 2026, Regular meeting were approved as published. (Jill/Patty).

Report of the President: Deb Lake summarized the April 14, 2026, Board meeting, describing her and Kurt's presentation at the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce meeting, saying they are appreciative of what we do. They handed out our new brochure and AKC's printout showing the financial benefits of having a show in town, plus our July activities flier. The Board discussed what should be in the equipment loaning policy. Deb welcomed everyone to Spring, and the upcoming Scent Work Trial. Our finances look good, and Jill has been working very hard to get the fraud situation straightened out with the bank.

Report of the Secretary: Kris said she has received no pertinent mail.

Report of the Treasurer: Jill reported that there were no financial reports, due to Tax Day. She has been working on getting back the fraudulent withdrawals from our savings, and it appears that the money has been restored. The Scent Work trial took in enough in fees to cover the venue, plus a little, which will go toward volunteer drawing prizes. Jill will be talking to Andrea to find out if she has taken

care of reporting the 2025 raffle so Jill can register for the 2026 raffle. She still has some checks to deposit.

Report of Committees:

PRACTICES

Scent Work practice on April 12 was in the form of a mock trial at the fairgrounds. It started drizzling afterwards, so nobody came to the ring practices. April 26 will be the first Fast CAT practice, on the track, with ring practices in the afternoon. The next practice day is May 10 (Mother's Day). At 11 in the Art Building, Dr Schroer will present a canine CPR demonstration. Bring your own chair, open to members and guests. Ring practices at 1 after the demo.

B-OB SHOWS/RALLY/Fast CAT 2026:

Shows: Cathy said it's the last chance to pay for trophy sponsorships; she put out a list of those who still need to pay. Beth said you can pay via the club website. The premium list is sent in. She is concerned about the condition of the grass and grounds. She will order Jersey Scoops ice cream for Saturday. Deb L suggested they might make an ice cream that's red, white, and blue to go with the 250th US birthday theme. Patty said members needing RV spaces should get their reservations in as soon as the premium list comes out (members just pay what the fairgrounds charges). The Pires' RV will be parked at the Fast CAT track for security. Tina said the "pee trees" were popular and used last year, so Mike will make more for this year. The final premium list should come back this week. We will have the usual caterer, who is very reasonable. A roller was seen working on the obedience/rally field. There is still some last minute work to be done on Judge hospitality depending on their itineraries. Volunteers will be needed for set-up on Thursday and take-down after BIS on Sunday. We might need work parties to fix the lawns.

Rally/Obedience: Michelle said everything is good.

Fast CAT: Beth said they have found a photographer for the show weekend. (Terry Tuttle is coming for the agility weekend).

SCENT WORK TRIALS 2026

Spring (May 2-3) – Cathy thanked Marilyn for all her work. Entries are full with a wait list. Containers are ready. They are finalizing the run order. Volunteers will get paid lunches (68 so far). Friday set-up will have pizza. Trailer and set-up crew should arrive at 5 pm. Marilyn said they still need more volunteers. Tina will pick up the pizza.

Fall (Sep 4-6) – Marilyn said that Susan said that everything is in place. Entries open June 3 – get your entries in right away.

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PICNIC 2026 (Sept 27, Rohner Park, Fortuna) – Beth said the food budget has been approved, and committee members are ready to start planning after the July events. Cathy suggested that the Team Challenge include some ADA opportunities.

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

NEWSLETTER: Lauren would like to have more articles written by members, especially about the different events that we do. Kurt suggested an article or interview about mobility issues in dog sports.

WEBSITE: Nothing new.

IO CHAT GROUP: Nothing new.

MEMBERSHIP: Beth asked about a potential new member who has paid but has not filled out an application. They will email one to Kris.

BYLAWS: Kris said there is no new progress.

AGILITY, BARN HUNT, fast CAT 2026

Agility: Beverly ML said everything is on track.

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

Fast CAT: Nothing new.

Election of New Members: Natalie Herman of McKinleyville was elected to Regular membership.

Unfinished business

- Shed clean-up and reorganization – Deb L said it needs to dry up a little more before we do this, but it should be soon. Kurt said there might be termites. He will send photos to Deb L for ID.
- Agility Trailer Relocation – Deb L said people seemed interested at the Ferndale C of C meeting, but nothing has evolved. She will check back with the Fairgrounds.
- Show poster – The poster for our July events is attached to the agenda – please print and distribute.
- New Swag available – Nothing new.
- New information packet. Beth is still working on the letter.

New Business:

- Policy on loaning LCKC equipment – Deb L presented a draft of the proposed policy. Discussion of why the policy is needed, and where HumDOG fits in. Suggestions made which will soften the wording and make it more flexible. “Guideline” rather than “Policy”. For emergency use only. Kris will rewrite it.

Announcements:

- Dan said the Redwood Coast Schutzhund Club needs a 20-100 acre property to use for tracking fields for their trials in the summer, for free or a reasonable cost. Probably not more than 3 or 4 dogs.
- Next meetings will be May 19 (Regular) and May 12 (Board).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Smith, LCKC Secretary