

THE LOST COAST HOWLER



EDITOR - LAUREN WENDT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm sitting at home in that strange little calmbutnotcalm eddy of energy between our two July show clusters — the eye of the dogshow hurricane, if you will. My coffee is still warm, my feet are still tired, and my heart is still full.

We really are gluttons for praise, aren't we? And honestly, we've earned every crumb of it. The sheer amount of dedication, sweat, laughter, and dog hair this club pours into making these events shine... it's something special. It's something *ours*.

By tomorrow, I'll be back in full "calm whirlwind" mode — floating around with smiles, gentle nudges, and the occasional smartaleck comment to remind everyone that, at the end of the day, this is a dog show. A glorious, chaotic, joyful dog show with our magnificent canines. And it will turn out beautifully whether we keep a stick up our butts or pull it out and enjoy the ride. (Highly recommend the latter.)

Our AllBreed Show was a resounding success — and yes, the Pee Trees have gone semiviral. I'm still laughing. Who knew our club would achieve internet fame via canine bathroom décor?

Rally and Obedience bravely marched into uncharted territory on the parking lot pavement, and guess what? It worked. It more than worked — it thrived.

FastCAT, as always, rocketed straight into the stratosphere. That event never fails to deliver pure joy at 100 miles per hour.

So congratulations to us. Truly. Pat yourselves on the back — gently, if you're still sore — for a job exceptionally well done.

Thank you, from your President. I am proud to be a member of Lost Coast Kennel Club. Proud of our people, proud of our dogs, proud of our spirit. And you should be too. See you at the next whirlwind.

-Deb Lake, LCKC President



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!
JULY 21, 2026
MEMBER MEETING 7:00PM
HELD VIA ZOOM

NEXT GENERAL MEMBER MEETING TUESDAY JULY 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!



HUMBOLDT DISC DOG 2026* PRACTICE AND TRIAL DATES

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

- 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

Recently I got the opportunity to attend a seminar with Michelle Doram, a long-time nosework competitor, teacher, NACSW CO and judge.

It's always such a privilege to be able to learn from those with more experience than you, especially when they offer a new perspective.

We talked a lot about handling, where to be in relation to your dog and how to position your body (hands, shoulders, feet) to best support their decisions. In short: practicing intentional handling.

I think one of the biggest differences between success at lower-level competition and higher-level competition is handler skill. Not to say completing lower levels isn't an accomplishment! Our dogs are just so amazing that I think they sometimes succeed in spite of us as handlers, not because of us. As we move into the upper levels, though, the challenges often require us to evolve and really bring our A-game when it comes to handling.

Our local nosework instructors do a great job establishing foundations for intentional handling. I first started doing a deep dive into the specifics of intentional handling through a class with nosework instructor Stacey Barnett. Many of the lessons Michelle was teaching connected with concepts I'd learned there, as well as things I'd learned from my in-person instructors, helping reinforce their importance.

I'm going to go on a bit of a side tangent now, but stay with me. A lot of the intentional handling concepts Michelle was outlining brought to mind a dog training topic I've rabbit-holed on before: proxemics and pragmatics.

Josefin (Canine Consilience) is a Swedish dog trainer who posts some amazing training content on social media. When I watch her working with dogs, it almost looks like magic.

So when she and Amy Cook offered a class together called The Social Approach, I jumped on it to learn more about what they had to say. From the class: "Pragmatics is the social use of language, including non-verbal signals like facial expressions and gestures, understanding the rhythm of conversation, and adapting to your conversational partner... Proxemics is the study of interpersonal space: the distance between you and your conversational partner."

If you think about it, dogs and the wolves they are descended from navigate all sorts of complex social situations using space and body language rather than spoken language. As dogs have co-evolved with us, they've become experts at gathering information from our gestures, body language, movement, tone of voice, and more. If we can learn to communicate more effectively in ways that make sense to them, that's incredibly powerful.

Simple adjustments to our bodies and the space we occupy - taking a step, shifting our weight, or turning to face a different direction, are all examples of proxemic adjustments that can increase or decrease tension.

If you're having trouble visualizing this, [check out some Canine Consilience videos](#).

Josefin has wonderful examples of these concepts in action across all sorts of situations.

This may sound a little woo-woo at first, but there is research supporting the importance of social space and nonverbal communication in both canine and human interactions. It becomes clear this is true when we watch dogs interact with each other through this lens, and I encourage you to try and keep an eye out for it when watching dogs interact with people too.

I think it's worth making an effort to become at least somewhat familiar with a dog's native language rather than simply expecting them to adapt to ours.

To bring this back to nosework handling: we have a massive influence on our dogs through our use of space and physical cues. If we don't learn how to use those tools intentionally, we'll almost certainly end up using them unintentionally, and often to our disadvantage.

-By Stella Moore



Thanks to Jeremy Clements for some of these great photos!

Emma (Rovente's Busy Busy Emma BCAT, CGC, FDC) was such a good girl at the Lost Coast Kennel Club shows last weekend! Being the dog belonging to the Show Chair (and not a show dog herself), she had to do a lot of waiting by the club table. She loves all dogs and made some new friends, and handled being in the RV park for 5 days just fine. She learned to ride in a golf cart and trot alongside a scooter. She ran 6 Fast CATs with speed ranges from 24.29 mph to 25.79 mph. I think she can be even faster. She earned 224.72 points and now only needs about 120 more points to earn her DCAT title! By far, her favorite thing was the end of the day zoomies she got to share with her friends Phig and Zinnia.

-Submitted by Tina Moulton



Finn, Wren and I are still hard at work searching for bull frog egg masses on Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Washington. They are being such great search dogs ignoring all of the birds, dead floating fish, elk poop and all sort of other distractions, all while searching from a paddleboard.

Additionally I have earned my Canine Strength and Conditioning Coach Certification. Thanks to LCKC members, Terri Vroman Little, Beth Rogers and Jane Patterson for volunteering to be part of my case studies!

-Submitted by Lauren Wendt





Wizard, the most joy filled soul I have ever known, has moved on to the light. I was so honored to share my life with this amazing dog. I love you sweet boy, forever. Run free now, with eyes that see brightly once more.

-Submitted by Robin Garber



Here's Zuzu's winning picture from Woofstock shows where she finished with a 5 point Major and Best of Winners defeating 22 dogs.

We are very pleased with Taffe McFadden who finished our ZuZu. We are so happy to have her back home to continue on our Agility and ScentWork ventures.

-Submitted by Deb St.Meyers



Misha, the collie, and Kiyomi had a great time at the LCKC Rally-O trial. On day one she completed her rally advanced title, then on Sunday she completed her rally excellent title and moved up to the Masters level. Out of four trials she finished 1st, two times. Looking forward to the agility trial in a couple weeks. Thanks to the club for putting on an excellent 3 day event! It was great to have two rally trials on Friday!

-Kiyomi Bird



Vinnie and Nara had a great June and early July! Vinnie finished his Grand Championship at Woofstock in June! Nara knocked it out if the park at our July lckc show. Not only did she finish her Rally advanced title, but she also finished her Rally Excellent title!! That's four rally titles in 8 months. She only had one NQ for all four titles. It's not the best scores but she impressed me.

-Submitted by Sara Borok



Our Rhona (CH Drudwyn Rhona at Jeffcain SC DCAT FITS) and Teagan (GCH Drudwyn Teagan at Jeffcain DCAT FITS) had a successful weekend at the LCKC shows in an unusually big Deerhound entry. Rhona brought home a Best of Breed and Owner Handled BOB, a Best Opposite, a Best Veteran Bitch in the Special Attraction event, and a Select Bitch. Teagan was awarded Select Bitch one day.



The Deerhound entry was bigger than usual partly because it was a family reunion. Seven years ago we brought six littermate puppies to the West Coast from Michigan. All six are now Veterans, and were on the grounds over the weekend. It was such fun to see the others and reminisce with their owners.

-Submitted by Kris Smith

Minutes of the LCKC Monthly Board Meeting
June 9, 2026 (held via zoom)

JULY 2026

This meeting is being recorded by Fathom.

The Board meeting was called to order by President Debra Lake at 7:01 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, Cathy Wright.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from the May 12, 2026, Board meeting were approved as published.
(Jill/Debbie T)

Report of the Treasurer: Jill reported on the attached financial reports from Andrea. Jill's Scent Work trial report shows slightly more income than Andrea's because Jill calculates the cost of ribbons more specifically to each event. P & L for the year to date shows large loss due to expenses for upcoming events. The X-Box fraud withdrawal issue has been resolved; we got most of it back but not all because it goes back so far. No luck yet in finding out why Recology "refunded" us \$1800, despite many attempts at contacting them. The Treasurer's Report was accepted (Debbie/Kurt).

Unfinished Business

- Condition of Fairgrounds for All Breed show – Michelle reported for Tina that she checked the grounds last week, and they are watering and mowing but have not filled the ruts and holes with sand as promised. Deb L is concerned that if we do any work, like filling depressions, we may be in danger of liability problems later. The Board agreed that we should not do any work; it's the Fair's responsibility. Michelle said an obedience exhibitor complained about the grass and now is complaining about it being on pavement – there will always be some complaints. Deb L reported that the fire volunteer that came through the show unsafely and rudely last year got suspended for 3 months. "Turbo" will be the EMT for the shows again this year.
- Agility trailer storage at Nilsen's – No possibilities have come up yet. It should be in Ferndale. We need to push for the fairgrounds, maybe offer to pay. MSAC (Patty/Jill) to offer the HCFA the same yearly fee as we pay for shed rental to park the agility trailer next to the shed.
- School programs – Deferred until after the July shows.
- Bayshore Mall possible winter event location – Deferred until new ownership is established.
- Dumpster for shows – Deb L arranged for a 20 yard dumpster for the show to be delivered on Wednesday.
- Straw for Barn Hunt – Eel River Hay in Fernbridge will provide straw for Barn Hunt. 100 bales, \$300 for loading and unloading, which is very reasonable. Deb L said if Barn Hunt entries are good, we could give them more for labor.

New Business:

- Budget for raffle – We can only spend 10% of what we make on raffle expenses, including tickets, etc. Discussion of what the raffle income might be this year. Sara introduced a new type of ticket at the SW trials, which seemed to work and was more streamlined. Some reservations were expressed about changing. Deb L suggested we let our volunteers do their jobs as they see fit. MSAC (Deb L/Kurt) to budget \$150 for raffle expenses, based on 10% of projected raffle income. Kurt will tell Sara.

Announcements:

- The next Board meeting will be July 2, 2026.
- Cathy announced that Redwood News is coming to film our next practice, as part of the PR for our events and related children's activities. Cathy and Beverly ML will do an in-studio interview the following week.
- The show will be dedicated to David Lindberg. Family should be notified and a catalog saved.
- Beverly ML asked about getting approval for hiring help (through the donation procedure) for agility set-up and take-down. CCC may not be available. Teen Challenge perhaps? The Board approved arranging for workers, estimated cost of \$200 per person.
- Beverly asked about getting a new teeter for agility – smoother operation, easier on dogs. Some people won't come here because we have the old kind. They are backordered, so it would have to be for the 2027 trials. The Board

Minutes of the LCKC Monthly Board Meeting
June 9, 2026 (held via zoom)

JULY 2026

approved spending up to \$1500 to purchase a new "Clip and Go" teeter for agility.

- Kurt said the Humboldt Event Calendar has been updated so that you can select a club and see all the events for just that club.
- Discussion of warning people not to use Hwy 36 to get here from the Central Valley.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Kris Smith, LCKC Secretary

Minutes of the LCKC Monthly Regular Meeting
June 16, 2026 (held via zoom)

The meeting was called to order by President Debra Lake at 7:02 pm.

This meeting is being recorded by Fathom.

Present: Sara Borok, Teresa Chase, Marilyn Cottrell, Michelle Dostal, Kim Gradin, Susan Hutchison, Debra Lake, Mike Lake, Beverly Morgan Lewis, Cassie Locke, Suzi Martin, Irina Marsant, Patty Mendes, Tina Moulton, Jill Otto, Bobbie Pires, Kurt Pires, Beth Rogers, Kris Smith, Deb St Myers, Tom Levy, Debbie Tull, Dan Wake, Cathy Wright.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from the May 19, 2026, Regular meeting were approved as published. (Jill/Susan).

Report of the President: Deb Lake said we are on the countdown to the July events, and she is seeing people online planning to enter. She is looking forward to it, and will be there on Wednesday to get things started.

Report of the Secretary: Kris said she sent a thank-you card to Dr Schroer for her presentation.

Report of the Treasurer: Jill presented the financial reports from Andrea, discussed at the Board meeting. Jill's report on the Scent Wrk trial varies a little from Andrea's because she divides the cost of ribbons between the actual events and Andrea logs the whole order. If you have receipts, send them to Andrea via email and CC Jill.

Report of Committees:

PRACTICES

Kris said there was good attendance at the June 14 practices. Conformation was on the pavement in the shade and rally was on the grass by the picnic benches to keep the signs from blowing over. A few agility obstacles were available in the field next to Fast CAT, and some SW hides were put out. Redwood News filmed some of the practices, should air tonight. The last practice is June 21, no Fast CAT, agility on the baseball field at 9, no Scent Work. Barn Hunt practices continue at Hutchisons' Monday and Wednesday.

B-OB SHOWS/RALLY/Fast CAT 2026:

Shows: Tina asked if we have the AKC Compete Dog Book or book of standards – she will ask M-BF what they bring. Jill prints out the Standards for the Open Shows. Event Committee (deals with complaints) consists of event chairs and all Board members – be prepared. Eight judges are driving, seven are flying in on July 2; we could use a second driver. We need heavy lifter volunteers for set-up and take-down. The Cooks (maybe just Warren) will be the photographers. Cathy said the CCC is off on Thursday but some may come anyway. Should be a good CCC crew for both events for take-down, unless they get called for a fire. Cathy talked to Sandra Close, the caterer, and ordered hospitality food for 50. Probably set up in Belotti Hall. Discussion of how to arrange access and tables. Need signage on Gate C saying show staff only. Cathy wants to encourage local families to come for the Kid events – that was the main focus of the TV video at practice. She and Beverly will have an interview on Redwood News on the 23 rd. She needs a partner to help with the "Dog Shows for Kids" program – safety talk, grounds tour, scavenger hunt. Tina said we need some ice cream servers Saturday afternoon. Irina will bring breakfast foods. Sherry and Emily will shop. Sara will have a free book table at the raffle. Needs help putting together raffle baskets on Thursday and selling tickets on Friday. No volunteer tickets for the raffle, just food.

Rally/Obedience: Michelle said she lost a judge, but found a new one quickly. Marilyn's son David will power wash the pavement and lattice fencing on Wednesday. We need to make the best of being on asphalt instead of grass. Will need lots of weights on the lattice fencing, will use water weights and water filled buckets. Hose will be available to cool asphalt if necessary. Sara will bring weights for the rally signs. Most of last year's volunteers are coming back.

Fast CAT: Debbie T said the track is in OK shape but the filled area for stages is rough, so the gate at the west end of the grandstands will have to be locked. Access will be through the gates at the east side of the grandstands. Tina will ask the fairgrounds tomorrow about when they will mow for both weekends.

SCENT WORK TRIALS 2026

Fall (Sep 4-6) – Kurt said they will be doing a walk-through at Cutten next week. No location yet for a mock trial. Susan messaged that registration is going well, and the judges are in place.

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PICNIC 2026 (Sept 27, Rohner Park, Fortuna) On the back burner for now.

FIT DOG – Kim said the next date is probably August 1, place to be determined.

NEWSLETTER: Nice June issue.

WEBSITE: Nothing new.

IO CHAT GROUP: Updated with new members.

MEMBERSHIP: Beth said the list will be updated soon.

BYLAWS: Nothing new.

AGILITY, BARN HUNT, fast CAT 2026

Agility: Beverly ML needs a co-ordinator for take-down. She emphasized that the club needs to find a new agility chair because she will be retiring. Jill asked people to save some donations for the volunteer drawing, and she will need some help for that.

Barn Hunt: Mike said the straw is ordered, and everything looks good.

Fast CAT: Same as above.

Election of New Members: Amy Carrington of Fortuna was elected to regular membership, Cheri Laviletta of Ukiah was elected to associate membership, and Kathy Sobilo of Eureka was re-elected to associate membership. Cathy/Dan.

Unfinished business

- Agility Trailer Relocation – Nilson's has been sold to someone who is going to put in an Ace hardware. They hand over the property at the end of July. Maybe the new owner will let us put it back there. We could offer the fairgrounds \$200/year to park it next to our shed.

- Youth education programs (School programs) – Cathy suggested this topic be moved from the Board agenda to the regular meeting because she is interested in school programs we can use. Will explore after July events.

New Business:

- New teeter for Agility - Next year we will need a new Agility teeter, as ours is outdated and the new ones move more smoothly. Exhibitors want the new kind. MSAC (Beverly/Patty) to approve up to \$2000 to purchase of a "Clip N Go" agility teeter and requisite accessories.

Announcements:

- Lakes' last Barn Hunt practice will be June 24. The Chases are doing some BH practices.
- Kurt's event calendar has been updated and you can select a club and see all the events for that club.
- Deb L said June 27 and 28 is the Disc Dog/Agility Crossover event. Entries are open until June 22.
- Cathy said the footage about our practices will be aired on Redwood News tonight.
- Teresa said Dock Diving is open this weekend at the Lucas Center in Fortuna.
- Next meetings will be July 21 (Regular) and July 14 (Board).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Smith, LCKC Secretary