

# THE LOST COAST HOWLER



EDITOR - LAUREN WENDT

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We survived the July Show Cluster — and we did it despite the trials that came at us from every direction. The showgrounds situation, the sharply increased rental, the uncertainty about access and logistics... none of it made things easy. But this club showed, once again, that grit and teamwork beat obstacles every time.

A huge part of that success belongs to our **Show Chairs**. Their leadership carried us through months of planning, negotiating, adjusting, and re-adjusting. Most members only see the weekend of the event — but our chairs were working long before that: securing judges, coordinating equipment, wrangling paperwork, solving problems quietly, and keeping the entire operation moving forward. Their countless hours behind the scenes made the cluster possible, and they deserve every bit of recognition we can give.

Now we turn our attention to the **Labor Day Scent Work Trial**, and I'm looking forward to seeing our dogs do what they love most: work the air, solve the puzzles, and remind us why we put in all this effort. It's one of our most joyful events, and I know our volunteers will bring the same steady reliability they always do.

After that comes one of my favorite traditions — our **Membership Appreciation Picnic**. I want to shine light on the special volunteers who make this event what it is. They invent the games, gather the

### 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!**  
**AUGUST 18, 2026**  
**MEMBER MEETING 7:00PM**  
**HELD VIA ZOOM**

supplies, plan the flow, and quietly work behind the scenes to make sure every member feels seen and valued. Their creativity and effort turn a simple picnic into a celebration of who we are as a club. The mirror needs to reflect our collective appreciation right back at them — their hard work is a gift to all of us.

We'll finish the year with **Elections** and our **Holiday Party**, closing out 2026 — a year full of hard work, unexpected challenges, and moments that tested our patience and creativity. But we made it through because of *you*.

Every person who lifted a pinky this year contributed to our success. If you set a ring gate, you mattered. If you hauled a crate, you mattered. If you judged, stewarded, scribed, or checked in exhibitors, you mattered. If you cooked, cleaned, organized, emailed, or simply showed up with a smile when things were stressful — you mattered. If you volunteered once or volunteered all year — you mattered.

This club is not powered by a few people doing everything. It is powered by **many people doing what they can**, when they can. And every bit of it counts toward our unified success.

Thank you for standing strong through a complicated year. Thank you for showing up for the dogs, for each other, and for Lost Coast Kennel Club.



With appreciation,

Deb Lake  
President, Lost Coast Kennel Club

## Effort Creates Understanding

Think about something you know how to do really well. Maybe it's a skill you've developed through years of experience, a dog sport you've practiced, or simply something you do every day without giving it much thought.

Did you learn it the first time someone showed you how? Probably not.

Most of the things we become good at require some combination of trying, making mistakes, figuring out what went wrong, trying again, and gradually getting better. That effort is not just something we tolerate on the way to learning. The effort itself is a critical part of how we learn.

And this is also true for our dogs.

When our dogs are struggling with something, our first instinct is often to help. We give another cue, point them in the right direction, guide them toward the answer, or make the exercise easier. Sometimes that is exactly what they need. But sometimes, stepping in too quickly means we solve the problem for them. What happens when we give our dogs a little room to figure things out for themselves?

They have an opportunity to experiment. They can try one behavior, discover that it doesn't work, and try something different. They begin to recognize patterns and make choices. Over time, they aren't simply learning what behavior earns a reward. They are learning how to solve problems.

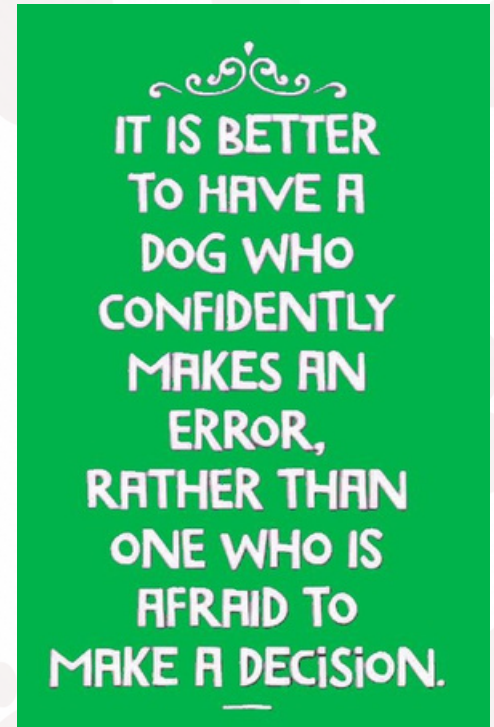
A dog that believes they can solve a problem is a confident dog.

When we are learning a new skill with our dogs, it can be tempting to look for the perfect answer. We want someone to tell us exactly what to do, where to stand, what to say, and how to fix the problem. Instruction is valuable, but there is something different about working through a problem ourselves with curiosity. When we have to observe our dog, form a hypothesis, try something, evaluate the result, and make an adjustment, we are developing skills that go beyond that particular exercise. We are becoming better at thinking with our dogs.

Which is why mistakes are so valuable!

A mistake gives us information. Maybe our timing was off. Maybe we gave our dog too much help. Maybe the environment was too distracting. Maybe we misunderstood what our dog was telling us. When we take the time to investigate rather than simply trying to avoid the mistake next time, we gain an understanding that can be applied to future situations.

The goal isn't to make training harder just for the sake of making it harder. The goal is to create opportunities for both ends of the leash to learn.



So the next time you are training and something isn't going quite right, consider pausing before immediately looking for the answer. Ask yourself:

- What is my dog experiencing right now?
- What information is this mistake giving me?
- And what could I change that would give my dog a better opportunity to figure it out?

Then give yourself the same opportunity.

Learning to work with our dogs is a lifelong process. There will always be something new to learn, another problem to solve, and another skill to develop.

That's part of what makes living and working with dogs so rewarding.

Happy training!

-Lauren Wendt

LCKC Newsletter Editor



## NEXT GENERAL MEMBER MEETING TUESDAY AUGUST 18, 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

- 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

### Generous Donation by a Rally Obedience Exhibitor

As the Rally and Obedience Chairperson at our recent Breed/Obedience Show, I would like to let everyone know about a very generous donation an out of the area exhibitor gave our club. This was particularly heartwarming to me since Rally and Obedience tend to be overshadowed by the Conformation Show and their much larger entry.

Friday morning my stewards and I were busy getting organized for the first day and it was a little chaotic... Rick Anderson, a competitor in Rally who has come to our show for many years, stepped forward to help us out. He jumped in before, during and after the shows for all four shows. He was awesome! On Sunday I approached him to thank him again for being so proactive and helpful the whole weekend. He gave me an envelope and said it was a donation for our club. He said he knew how hard it was for small clubs like ours to make ends meet to put on shows. He really appreciated our show and wanted help us out. That donation was \$400 (\$100 for each show)!!!!

I just wanted to publicly express my gratitude to Rick for his incredible generosity.

-Submitted by Michelle Dostal

The 24th Annual All Breed Shows, Rally/Obedience, Best Puppy, Best Veteran, Open Shows and Fast CAT are a wrap!!!!

What a fantastic club we have. Once again, we had a huge number of members come out to help set up and break down our events (not to mention the CCS crew who came for set up and the CCC crew who showed up for breakdown!), plus all those who ran their heads off with various responsibilities each show day. The remarkable thing about our club is that everyone pitches in, regardless of their particular area of interest – not every club is that lucky! Every year I learn a bit more and hope to make it even better. While those of us in the background were pulling out our hair over one thing or another, we received nothing but compliments from judges and exhibitors and MB-F. We were told over and over how well run everything was, how friendly we all are, and how great everything looked.

I am not going to try to list names here, just note that there were MANY HEROES helping to make our show such a success.

The two shows on Friday made for a long day, but we had happy exhibitors and it worked out. The lunches for our volunteers, stewards, and judges were amazing each day.

If you are not able to attend one of the debriefing sessions and have feedback or suggestions for next year, please send an email to [showchair.lckc@gmail.com](mailto:showchair.lckc@gmail.com).

Already planning for 2027! Our 25th Anniversary ❤️.

Save the dates – JULY 9-11, 2027!!!!

Again – that you all so much!

–Subitted by Tina Moulton

"Emma" – Is now Rovente's Busy Busy Emma CGC DCAT FDC after earning her DCAT at our performance Cluster last month! Her fastest time was a tad over 26mph! We also dipped our toes into the Barn Hunt scene – she qualified for her RATI and has 2 legs towards her Novice title. Hopefully we will finish that up next month. We are also waiting on AKC confirmation of her Fit Dog Bronze level. She now has enough points to qualify for the Italian Greyhound Club of America Versatility title.

I hit the jackpot with this amazing girl and I love her to bits.

–Thanks, Tina Moulton



It's bittersweet to see them go! Archie is off to her working role as a firearms detection dog. She was my first (but won't be my last) spaniel puppy and it was so much for to raise, train and lover her for almost 11 months! She is a super resilient dog, tackled everything we did with gusto and in typical spaniel fashion loved to search no matter what!

-Submitted by Lauren Wendt



Another successful agility trial is in the books. What a fantastic organization we have. People were so positive about this weekend. It just made my heart sore when I heard all the positive remarks. We couldn't have done it without the tremendous contributions of our members who showed up to work and play. While I would love to single out every individual who made a contribution, if I start down that road, I'm sure I'll forget someone. So let me just say that I saw you. I know who you are. And I know that you made a difference. I think this year went more smoothly for me than any previous year. Makes me tempted to say, maybe I'll do it again next year? Be sure to put it on your calendars for next year, July 21 (set up day) through July 25 for our 4-day agility trial with judges Tracy Mazur and Dave Sliger, always crowd favorites.

-Submitted by Beverly Morgan Lewis

The LCKC Performance Cluster was a successful event for my 3 dogs (Seika, Hutch and Jenna). Seika (Goldensplash Seeking A Memory in Time) earned her Novice Barn Hunt Title with 2 second places and 1 sixth; Hutch (Goldensplash Hutch at Hutch's Hut) earned his Novice Barn Hunt Title with 2 firsts and 1 second place; and Jenna (Brassfire's When Calls The Heart to Jenna) earned her second qualifying score in Seniors.

Then at the Annie and Mary Parade on 8-9-26, Seika (Goldensplash Seeking A Memory in Time) earned her Bronze Fit Dog Title (Pending AKC approval). I was so proud of this little girl as she greeted the public along the parade route. She showed interest in meeting people and did not jump on anyone! So so pleased!

Susan A. Hutchison



Avalon's Chuffed to Bitz earned her Barn Hunt Novice title at LCKC's July performance cluster. It was our first trial of any kind. I shared the news segment with family and we are all so proud of our little firecracker! - Cassie Lock



Bernie earned his 7th invitation to the 2026 AKC Invitational held in Orlando Florida in December 2026.  
-Submitted by Vicke Casey



Jax and I have been busy in the last few months working on his Versatility Novice Entlebucher which is awarded by his National Club (NEMDA).

AKC recently got his Rally scores posted so that was the 3rd Title needed for him to qualify for this. The photos are from his qualifying Novice Rally title and his Novice Barn Hunt Title.





Nara pulled off her Novice jumpers title at her very first agility trial.

Vinnie, well he was entertaining 🤪

-Sara Borok



We are wrapping up our summer survey season. We shifted from searching for bullfrog egg masses to training Finn to also search for live bullfrogs. And yes this is very challenging! But luckily Finn is up for it.

This also means we are going out at night for searches, which she doesn't seem to be bothered by. This project has solidified for me (even more than before) the importance of developing and understanding how to read your dog's change of behavior and cooperating as a team!

-Submitted by Lauren Wendt



This meeting is being recorded by Fathom.

The Board meeting was called to order by Vice-President Patty Mendes at 7:05 p.m.

Present:

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

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

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from the June 9, 2026, Board meeting were approved as published. (Jill/Debbie T)

Report of the Treasurer: Jill said we don't have the financial reports from Andrea because she is changing from Quickbooks to Digits, and QB crashed and her computer is currently being fixed. Jill reported on current balances in checking, savings, and PayPal, and then the figures she has so for the Breed shows. Income: Club table - \$4635, Raffle - \$1290 (lowest yet), parking \$1156, RVs estimated \$3486, donation \$400, MB-F \$32,546 with another small check expected, trophies broke even, FastCAT - \$2531 (doesn't include pre-entries), total approximately \$46,044. Expenses: Judges - \$16,163, Fairgrounds share of RVs - \$10,027, Hospitality (includes catering) - \$2913, fairgrounds rental (paid previously) - \$6000, total approximately \$16,163. Net profit about \$10,843. We incurred \$66 in PayPal fees, so we should consider a surcharge in the future. The Treasurer's Report was accepted (Kris/Kurt).

Kris suggested that the \$400 donation could be applied to raffles, to bring 2026 up to what it needs to be for filing, and the bulk going toward 2027 to be able to buy some bigger items. MSAC (Kurt/Debbie) to earmark the \$400 exhibitor donation to bring this year's raffle income up to the necessary amount, and use the remainder to fund next year's raffle.

President Debra Lake took over chairing the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Sherry said the caterer (Sandra Close) didn't make any money because of having to hire help and go overtime. Can we give her a tip? Would encourage her to come back next year. Discussion of her expenses and effort. We should make sure she makes something next year. MSAC (Patty/Jill) to give Sandra Close a \$250 appreciation bonus for show catering. Kris will send a thank-you card and check.

#### Unfinished Business

- Agility trailer storage at Nilsen's – Pam from Nilsen's called to say we have to move the trailer by two weeks from now when escrow closes. We have to find another place to take it after the Agility trials. Mike will get a hitch lock on it. Default – leave it at the fairgrounds.
- School programs – Deferred until after the July shows.
- Files retention policy development – tabled.
- Bayshore Mall possible winter event location – Deferred until new ownership is established.

#### New Business:

- Additional insureds for general liability insurance renewal - Kris said our policy renewal has come and we need to decide if we want to keep all the additional insureds, suggested dropping Redwood Acres and keeping HCFA, Cutten School District, Hutchisons, City of Fortuna, and Manila CSD. The Board agreed. She will send in the renewal with a check.

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

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AUGUST 2026

- Beverly ML said agility weekend will need bug repellent – Mike will pick it up with the hitch lock. She said an article may be in the Times Standard through AKC promotion – she didn't have a photo at the ready so submitted one of hers.
- Reminder to check in with event chairs about needing anything from the Board re finances.
- Fast CAT has bought additional short fencing with small holes to keep smaller dogs from going under or through the fence.,
- Jill said Deb St Myers is not back yet from a medical trip so Jill is doing the volunteer drawings. Tickets – 10 or 12 for each volunteer who works all day. Food vouchers - Up to \$12 if working all day, others dependent on number of classes worked.

Announcements:

- The next Board meeting will be August 11, 2026.

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

Respectively submitted by Kris Smith, LCKC Secretary

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

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The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Patty Mendes at 7:06 pm.

This meeting is being recorded by Fathom.

Present: Teresa Chase, Marilyn Cottrell, Michelle Dostal, Kim Gradin, Debra Lake (briefly from Africa), Mike Lake, Beverly Morgan Lewis (later), Tom Levy, Suzi Martin, Patty Mendes, Tina Moulton, Jill Otto, Sherry Pavlich, Kurt Pires, Beth Rogers, Kris Smith, Deb St Myers, Debbie Tull, Cathy Wright.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from the June 16, 2026, General meeting were approved as published. (Jill/Mike).

Report of the Vice-President: Patty said “shout-outs” to Tina Moulton and Beverly Morgan Lewis, who worked all year in preparation for the July events, and to the committee chairs, and to the club members who stepped up to help.

Report of the Secretary: Kris read thank-you notes received from judges Marcie Dobkin and Kathy Brock, who complimented the club on our friendliness, organization and, especially, hospitality food. She sent in the Sportsmen's general liability insurance policy renewal, a thank-you card to Richard Anderson for his \$400 donation, a thank-you card and \$250 bonus to caterer Sandra Close, and a thank-you card to the Jurkovichs for providing a place to park the agility trailer until the CPE trial. Jill read a thank-you note from judge Sheila Paske that came to the PO box.

Report of the Treasurer: Jill said there were no reports from Andrea, who is fixing a computer problem. She reported on our bank accounts, and said she sent in the HCF sponsorship. Her figures from the show weekend say that we made roughly \$10,000 overall. Not enough is in yet for the performance cluster. The Board has approved using the \$400 donation from an exhibitor for raffles – to balance this year's budget and the rest toward 2027.

Report of Committees:

PRACTICES

- Kris said there are no regular ring practices scheduled. Fast CAT maybe in October. Cathy said Scent Work practice will be in the form of a Mock Trial at Redwood Coast Montessori School August 2 – volunteers should come to practice. So far 22 dogs have signed up. Barn Hunt practices continue at Hutchisons’.

B-OB SHOWS/RALLY/Fast CAT 2026:

- Shows: Tina said everything went well, didn’t get any complaints, people liked the weather and venue. Our show consistently ranks second in a west coast popularity poll behind Palm Springs. Next year is our 25th anniversary show – think of special things we can do. She had two good online debriefing meetings, will consolidate notes into a document. Deb St Myers transported the judges and got lots of compliments. (Tom said the club is so welcoming.) Some locals came to watch – news coverage helped. Marilyn said we need some new walkie-talkies before the SW trials – she will contact Jill about what to order. Tom said veterans can order from Lowe’s and get a discount. Discussion about grandstands – we should request at least some next year.
- Rally/Obedience: Michelle said it went well. She polled exhibitors about grass vs pavement footing, and they prefer grass. HCFA tentatively plans to till, roll, and seed the carnival lot and maybe the midway lawns, depending on volunteers and donations. She said at the second show on Friday nobody qualified and many didn’t show up, so two shows in one day may be too much for some dogs. Stewards were great. After the shows, CalTrans parked their equipment in the parking lot, then repaved it after their road paving was done.
- Fast CAT: Debbie T said it went well, she appreciated the crew, and the exhibitors were very understanding about the powdery dirt on the track. Numbers were a little down. Beth emailed the results to the AKC and they were uploaded immediately, but there was a problem with one of the tests uploading. Cathy said her personal thanks to the FastCAT team.

AGILITY/BARN HUNT/FASTCAT

- Agility – Beverly ML said she was thrilled with how everything worked, everybody was pleased and loved the judges, Lori had good people working for her. We need to control vehicle traffic on the track better on Wednesday set-up. Will plan for minimizing traffic around the in and out gates. We need to get the new teeter soon. Some last minute offers came in to store the trailer until the CPE trial. Will need to store it afterwards someplace until after the Fair. Kurt will ask the Fair for a date. We can’t leave it at Redwood Fields because of safety. Possibilities – Susan B’s, Sara’s, Pires’. Entry numbers for the trials were down, but up for the match. Jill thanked people who brought items for the volunteer drawing.
- Barn Hunt – Mike said Krystal said we had the best numbers yet. Great help, everything went really well.
- Fast CAT – Debbie said there were lots of fun runs, and many locals who we hope will come back.

SCENT WORK TRIALS 2026

- Fall (Sep 5-7) – Marilyn reported for Susan, saying everything is going well, Humboldt Fencing is donating the use of fencing. The committee is currently scoping out the site, there will be a meeting next week.

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PICNIC 2026 (Sept 27, Rohner Park, Fortuna) On the back burner for now. Mike said the food will be the same as last year.

FIT DOG – See new business.

NEWSLETTER: Nothing new.

WEBSITE: Kurt will update now that the July events are over.

IO CHAT GROUP: Nothing new.

MEMBERSHIP: Beth said the list will be updated soon.

BYLAWS: Nothing new.

Election of New Members: Lisa Nedlam and Bill Connors of Eureka were elected to a family membership. Cathy said they were active in the club early on. (Jill/Cathy)

Unfinished business

- Youth education programs (School programs) – Cathy said she and Kurt had worked on some ideas in the spring. Cathy has become a Canine Ambassador, and she did the Kids Activities at the shows. It would be good to have mentorships for targeted groups. Redwood Montessori would like us to present a program. Kurt suggested moving forward after the Scent Work trials.

New Business

- Fit Dog Blue Lake parade/Humboldt Marathon – Kurt said there is a conflict of dates with the Fit Dog walk being with the Annie and Mary Day Parade, and the Humboldt Marathon both on August 9. The club has committed to help with the Marathon, with drinks and other tasks, and will get a donation. The Fit Dog walk is paired with the Annie and Mary Days parade, which HumDOG participates in, so many of our members will be there. He will put it out on the list and see what members want to do.

Announcements:

- Kurt said there will be an informal scent work practice at his and Bobbie's house this coming weekend, details are on the email list.
- Next meetings will be August 18 (General) and August 11 (Board).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Smith, LCKC Secretary