

Ruff Notes

February 2026

Monterey Bay
Dog Training Club, Inc.



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February 2026 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We were very fortunate to host a presentation by Dr. Brenda Mills on the Care of the Aging Performance Dog.

Four Main Takeaways

Weight control
Gut care
Core strength
Nail care

If you were unable to attend and would like a copy of her slide presentation, let me know and I will send it to you. Dr. Mills only asks that if you quote her or forward her slides, acknowledge her as the author.

I have heard her presentation twice and both times I learned something new to care for my dogs at all ages. My dogs think I have lost my mind working on their core strength by curb walking – we always walk on the sidewalk not in the road.

I encourage our members to attend these meetings when we bring in a speaker with professional experience to share. It is a great opportunity to get your questions answered from knowledgeable professionals. If you have trouble connecting via Zoom, let us know and we will help!

If you have questions on this presentation, send them to me and I will put all our questions together and Dr. Mills will answer them for us.

The February Blast from the Past of MBDTC

This picture is from a MBDTC trial. I do not know the date. Check our the height this dog is jumping, 34"! In the 1930s, originally all dogs jumped a standard 42". Standards changed from requiring jumps at 1.5 times the dog's height at the withers to 1.25 times. Today there are breed specific exceptions, but generally the jump height is set equal to the dog's height at the withers, rounded to the nearest 2 inches.



Hug your dogs and cherish every minute you are privileged to have them with you!

Terri Gregson, President



Monterey Bay Dog Training Club, Inc.

**Our guest speaker will be Jill Kessler-Miller, M.S.,CPDT-KA
Expert Witness in Dogs**

Jill has trained, handled, and titled in Conformation, Obedience, Schutzhund, Agility, Rally, Barnhunt, Scentwork, and Nose work. She is an AKC Scentwork Judge and is knowledgeable in dog behavior, animal rescue work, dog aggression, and other animal related topics.

Bring your questions
to this great meeting

March 14, 2026
2:00 PM
Aptos Grange
2555 Mar Vista Drive
Aptos, CA.



www.free-power-point-templates.com

Monterey Bay Dog Training Club, Inc.

Gifts from the Heart Project from past years



2017
Club President Donna Gorman with Vet Client who had 2 older dogs and a cat that needed medications.



2018
Club President Luane Vidak, Amanda White with Jean the pup, Michelle Pressel, DVM, DACVIM, and Sarah Weagle



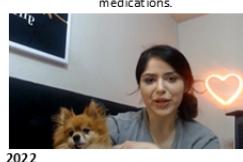
2019
Our Club collaborated with Birchbark and Dr. Judy Force to help pay for dental services.



2020
Dr. Stephen Kalff with June who had been hit by a car. The Birchbark Foundation also contributed to the surgery and medical attention June needed.



2021
Our partnership with Birchbark this year helped a small dog named Tuffy who was rushed to the Pacific and Santa Cruz Veterinary Specialist.



2022
Surgery for 10 year old Bear's broken leg and jaw was done by Pacific and Santa Cruz Veterinary Specialist. Birchbark contributed to the surgery too.



2023
Sunshine (far right) received surgery for a pyometra from Santa Cruz Veterinary Specialist



2024 Armiri, a 5-month French Bulldog had his broken leg repaired at the Pacific and Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital.



2025 Teddy was attacked on a beach and needed emergency treatment.

We need your help in determining where our donation will go this coming new year, 2026.

Do you know a Clinic or Veterinarian that can use our support? Let a board member know.

For the past 21 years in memory of Marilyn Runyan, a long-time member, the Monterey Bay Dog Training Club has made a monetary donation to a local Veterinarian Clinic or Foundation on behalf of a Recipient/Pet Owner as our "Gifts from the Heart Project". In the past our donations have paid for services, lab work, surgery, and medicines. **Our donation is usually presented around Valentine's Day.**

New Location for April Scent Work Trial

Due unforeseen circumstances at the Watsonville Elks, we are unable to return there for the April Scent Work Trial. The trial has been moved to the Santa Cruz Elks Lodge on Jewel Street in Santa Cruz.

With four judges and offering all four classes over two days, we need volunteers. Spots are open for timers and stewards.

That's April 25 - 26.

To volunteer, send an email to Michael Bashista at michael@bashista.com

*Michael Bashista
Dir. of Matches and Trials*

Ruff Notes Beginnings

From Terri Gregson

Where did Ruff Notes and Ruff himself come from?

I asked founder Luane Vidak.

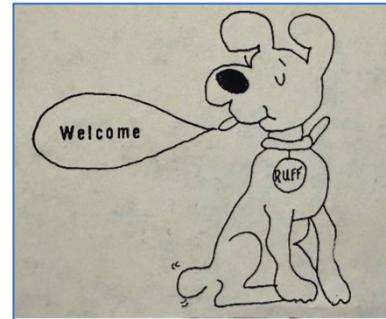
"Ruff came from a newspaper service my dad used for making his weekly ads for BiRite markets in Watsonville. He got a type set of the original for us from the newspaper which I still have."

Nancy Lewis named the image Ruff and called the newsletter Ruff Notes. She was the first editor.

Dale Kodis took on Ruff Notes next.

Most editors took on the job for years long.

Ruff was hand copied for a long time causing minor deviations. His Collar Tag with his initial was added later. Once computers came along the image was finalized as we use it today.



The image was Registered in the club's name protecting it from use by others and should be marked by the Registered symbol. (First time I've seen it marked was on auction tags at this yr's awards luncheon that Candice prepared.)

From Linda Coleman: The Ruff trademark application was submitted on 8/2/2019 and registration completed on 2/25/2020. #88565006

We submitted the 5-year declaration of use on 2/25/2025 which was accepted on 6/9/2025.



BRAGS and CONGRATULATIONS!



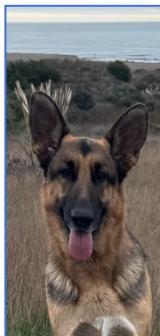
2026 is off to a great start. On Jan 1, the girls and I headed to York school for a scent work trial put on by our very amazing local club, Monterey Bay Area SWC. A well-run trial, as always. Thank you. Soleil came away with a detective Q and Rhyme earned 3 out 4 Qs and finished her Excellent Buried Elite title and sniffed her way to 1st place in Excellent Exterior.



Then Jan 2, Soleil had her "official" debut in a new game for us at another local club that also has friendly well-run trials. Barn Hunt. In true Soleil fashion, she knocked it out of the park with a 12 second novice run and another run that would have been just as fast, if only her handler had called RAT when she first alerted. But it was still good enough for a shiny new title, 2 placements and High in Class overall..... (Michelle Pressel)



Trane completed his NACSW ORT (Odor Recognition Test) on January 19th at the CalCoastal Dog ORT Test in Corralitos..... (Marion & Michael Bashista)



Jewel earned her ORT on Jan 19..... (Laureen Yungmeyer)

Eddie was entered in the NACSW Odor Recognition Test in Corralitos on Jan. 19 and passed all 3 odors!!!..... (Linda Lang)



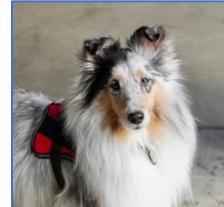


More BRAGS and CONGRATULATIONS!



Lacie and I completed our overall Excellent AKC scent work title with our 3rd Q in Excellent Interiors. We also got a 2nd Excellent Handler Discrimination Q on New Years Day at York School at MBASWC trial. On to Masters level! So, we completed my goal of getting Our Rally Advanced title and Excellent scent work titles.

..... (Reena Walton)



At the MBASWC New Year's trial at York School, Holly earned 4 Qs total. She competed in Advanced Interior and Exterior, qualifying in both, and Q'd in Excellent Container and Exterior, with NQs in the other 3 elements. Overall, the results were not as good as I had hoped, mainly due to the handler, but I was pleased with the way Holly was thorough and methodical in her searches. Holly is 1 Interior Q short of her overall Excellent title, and 2 Qs shy of an overall Advanced Elite title. (Denise Weatherwax)



Qt finished novice containers and got an advanced exterior leg at the Biewer Terrier trial. He also earned 2 premier JWW legs the same weekend.

Booyah got his 1st advanced interior leg and his first Excellent JWW leg
..... (Pam Fugitt-Hetrick)



Frannie passed Clove at the NACSW ORT last week!..... (Wendy Hess)



At the Santa Clara Dog Training Club trial, Finn earned his second UDX leg!..... (Barbara Skaggs)



Happy Birthday Wishes



2/5/2022	4	Jaxon	Aussie Mix	Janet Wolverton
2/8/2019	7	Flash	Pembroke Welsh Corgi	Gail Mahood
2/10/2016	10	Zana	Vizsla	Diana Galvan
2/14/2019	7	Leo the Lion	Mini Poodle	Lynda Rogers

** If we've missed someone or your information needs to be updated, please contact Marion Bashista at marionb@bashista.com with your changes. Thanks!

2/1	Candice McLaren
2/4	Linda Lang
2/9	Karen Schwindt
2/11	Rich Torres
2/14	Cathy Vanderbilt





Obedience and Rally Workshop

Saturday and Sunday, Feb 28 & March 1, 2026

In conjunction with the Bay Area Rhodesian Ridgeback Club All-Breed Agility Trial and FAST CAT Trial

Dogs may be shown in any class regardless of titles. Mixed and rare breeds welcome! Pre-Entries judged in pre-entry order. Please be ready ringside. Reasonable corrections allowed. No severe disciplining allowed in the ring or on the grounds. Exercises may be repeated at judge's discretion. Reasonable training aids allowed at judge's discretion. This is a workshop only, no awards.

Please submit one entry form per dog entered.

Owner Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

EMAIL: _____

NOTE: Confirmation will be sent via Email

Dog Call Name: _____

Breed: _____ Sex: _____

Pre-Entries close – Monday, February 23, 2026

Total Entry Fee: _____ Make Checks Payable to: BARRC

Sat, March 1

Utility; Jump Ht _____
 Open; Jump Ht _____

Sun, March 2

_____ Novice
 _____ Beg Novice
 _____ Rally

Rally Level(s): _____

BARRC Obedience Workshop: I agree to hold the Bay Area Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, its members, officers, and helpers, and Thorsen's Arena harmless from loss or injury to any person or things caused by any act at this function. I assume full responsibility and liability of the dog(s) I enter and certify that they are current on all vaccination shots. \$10 service fee for returned checks.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thorsen's Arena
2005 Hayes Lane
GPS: Watsonville Court
San Martin, CA

Saturday and Sunday
Feb 28 and March 1, 2026
Under cover – on dirt

Judging starts at 9 am

Pre-Entries
\$20 per entry / per dog
Pre-Entries close – Mon, Feb, 23, 2026

Day of Match Entries
Limited to Space Available
\$25 per entry / per dog

Directions:
From US 101 take the Tennant Ave exit.
Turn west.
Turn left onto Butterfield Blvd. Butterfield becomes Watsonville Rd.
Travel approximately 3 miles.
Turn left onto Watsonville Ct.
Entrance to arena is on Watsonville Ct.

Mail entries to:
BARRC – Workshop
Sue McNeill
5555 Montgomery Drive #29
Santa Rosa, CA 95409
smcneill@mcn.org

For club use only

Amt paid: _____

Check/cash: _____



San Lorenzo Dog Training Club, Inc.
Sunday, March 29, 2026
All-Breed Obedience “OC” & Rally “RC” Matches

LOCATION: CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY EAST BAY, Music-Business Peristyle Lawn - 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd, Hayward. From Hwy 880 in Hayward, take the Jackson Street exit eastbound. Turn right at first stop light onto Santa Clara which becomes Harder Rd. Follow to Cal State campus. Left on Old Hilary Road, park in Lot K (Theatre) at the rear of the campus. **PARKING** is free on weekends. NO DRIVING ONTO THE GROUNDS ALLOWED AT ANY TIME. Be prepared to haul your equipment between the parking lot and the match site. Match will be held rain or shine. Shade is limited – please bring your own if possible.

OBEDIENCE CLASSES: ● BEGINNER NOVICE (1 ring) ● NOVICE (2 rings) ● OPEN (2 rings) ● UTILITY (2 rings)

RALLY CLASSES: ● RALLY NOVICE ● INTERMEDIATE ● ADVANCED ● EXCELLENT ● MASTER ● CHOICE
There will be two rally rings, with Novice/Int/Adv in one ring, Exc/Expert/Master/Choice in second ring, subject to change after close of pre-entries. Rally jump height divisions are 4' 8" 12' 16". See AKC Rally Regulations

Obedience & Rally Rules: Mixed and rare breeds welcome. Entries may be limited if necessary. Judges: To be announced. Toys and food are permitted. Collars should comply with AKC regulations. No prong or electric collars allowed. Corrections limited to verbal corrections or gently guiding the dog. Exercises may be repeated at Judge's discretion.

PRE-ENTRY FEES: Fees for entries received by **TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026** are **\$18.00** for first entry of a dog and **\$12.00** for each additional entry for same dog. NO REFUNDS will be made after March 11.

LATE AND DAY-OF-MATCH ENTRY: Entries received after March 11 are \$20.00 first entry and \$15.00 each additional class same dog. Limited day-of-match entries will be allowed only if SPACE IS AVAILABLE. Sign up between 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Day-of-match entries to run after pre-entries.

MAIL ENTRIES TO: Steve Stern, SLDTC Match Secretary, PO Box 3522, San Leandro, CA 94578-0522. Make checks payable to "SLDTC." For more information, contact Steve at (510) 483-4546 (leave a message) or email steve_stern@hotmail.com.

JUDGING SCHEDULES with armband number will be emailed approximately March 25th to all entrants specifying an email address on their entry form. You may log onto www.sanlorenzodogtraining.org to download the schedule, however, entry lists will NOT be published online for protection of your privacy. You may also request a printed copy to be mailed to you by including a #10 SSAE (stamped, self-addressed envelope) and checking the box on bottom of the entry form. Judging time will be announced in judging schedule.

STEWARDS: Half-day stewards will receive one free entry. Full-day stewards will receive two free entries. All stewards will be given time to work their dogs. If you are interested in stewarding, please contact Jackie Phillips via email Jackie@thesocialpet.com. Deadline is February 27, 2026 for steward volunteers to receive free entry.

PRE-ENTRIES should be received by **Thursday, March 11, 2026**. Please mail to Steve Stern, PO Box 3522, San Leandro, CA 94578-0522. Make checks payable to SLDT. Please print legibly. Entries received after March 11 should include day-of-match fees.

Raffle!

Lots of great prizes
will be available on our
raffle table.

MAILED JUDGING SCHEDULE – Check box and include #10 size Stamped, Self-Addressed envelope with entry form to receive judging schedule in mail.

SAN LORENZO DOG TRAINING CLUB, INC. - OBEDIENCE & HALLY MATCH - SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026. I agree to hold the San Lorenzo Dog Training Club, its members, officers, match secretary and helpers, and Cal State University East Bay, blameless from loss or injury to any person or things caused by any act at this function. I assume full responsibility and liability of the dog(s) I enter and certify that they are current on all vaccination shots.

■ Signature _____ Date _____ Amt Enclosed \$_____

For Club use only: Received Date: _____ Check # _____ Armband # _____

For Club use only. Reserved Date: _____ Check #: _____ Armband #: _____



WANT A GOOD DOG?
WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

PH: 831.724.6657
E:luanemv@sbcglobal.net

LUANE VIDAK
OBEDIENCE INSTRUCTOR:
Monterey Bay Dog Training Club, Inc.
AKC Obedience Judge Emeritus

Kari-On
Trainer/Instructor



Dorothy Mash
408-710-8405



SHADOWLEND\$
Obedience - Rally - Conformation
Trainer

Carol S. T. Davis
831-722-0267