

# ABDA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

16 JAN 2020, 6:30 PM to 8 PM

Cabela's Conference Room, Anchorage, AK

**Introductions:** President Tim Gallagher opened the meeting with introductions around the room. Each attendee gave their name, breeds of dogs, and how many years they had been with the club. Longest term member is Hilde Stappgens, who helped form the club in the 1980s. Several members have belonged for over 20 years, and there are several new or recent members. 21 people attended, including all Board members and our speaker Dr. Priddy.

**GM Minutes:** The last GM meeting minutes were not available for review and approval.

## **Membership Status:**

75 members: 28 family, 45 individual, and 2 corporations. We need to check on the status of corporate members Residential Mortgage and HDR, which should have paid, bringing the corporate membership to 4.

## **Budget Status:**

Treasurer Gretchen Clark reports about \$24,000 in the club account. We have made the first deposit on bird order for next season and need yet to pay Training Field rentals, land and space rentals for the novice classes at ACT and Eagle River Fields. Bird pen rental with Gary Thompson needs to be payed too. Mike Kasterin asked if the club could afford importing judges from outside. Gallagher thought we had adequate funds to do so. Other members noted the advantages of bringing in outside expertise to help club members improve their testing abilities. Stappgens noted the pointers had a good sessions with Oregon judge Wayne Yamashita last summer before and after the hunt test.

## **2020 Calendar** (Gallagher & Stappgens):

Gallagher covered the outreach events, and Stappgens covered the Training and Events Calendar. Stacey Dean and Tim Gallagher will cover 2 outreach events at Sportsman's Warehouse and Cabela's, respectively. The calendar will be updated and posted soon after this GM meeting.

Pointing dog novice class starts Monday April 13 to May 18 and Flushing dog novice class starts Thursday April 16. Both classes go for 6 weeks with 4 meetings in the Eagle River area Fields.

Derek Tomlinson will mentor new member Jason Croft with the Family Fun Day on June 13.

Bud Rice will organize 2 days of Chukar Challenge on June 20 and 21. The first day will be the Classic Chukar Challenge at Training Fields, and Day 2 will feature a new Master Class with braces of dogs. Master dogs need to know to honor their running mate. Rice, Dan Branvold, and Dale Sweetsir will form a committee to make rules for the master level pointing dog event. Mike Kasterin and Derek Tomlinson will assist James Ohlinger in developing rules for the flushing dog master challenge. The second day will move to larger more open fields. The current plan has pointing dogs moving to the Robinson Field, and flushers will go to the BDA Horseshoe Field.

Note: we switched the Flushing/Spaniel hunt test from 25-26 July to August 1-2 and moved the training day from August 1 to July 25. This was done to avoid a conflict with an AKC show dog event on July 25, which would have reduced the flushing dog attendance. Also, holding a training day before the test dates is beneficial. Jeff Lipscomb will again direct the spaniel/flushing dog test in Delta Junction on August 22-23. We need a hunt test secretary for the spaniel/flushing dog hunt tests. Rose Manufo will be hunt test secretary for pointing dog tests. We also need a captain of the guns for pointing dog events, and Tom Doolittle offered to fill this position. Mike Kasterin will be Captain of the Guns for spaniel tests. Mike will organize another team-building day a Birchwood Shooting range for event gunners this spring.

#### **Training Bird Status:**

Hilde Stagens ordered 1200 birds from Western Wings LLC of Reno, NV this year, up from 1,000 birds last year. She held 600 birds for events because of the extra day for the Chukar Challenge, and members bought 600 in the first 6 days of availability. She was unable to order more birds because the company was sold out. We may order up 1400 birds next year. If the club does not appear to use all 600 of its birds, then some of those could become available for members on a wait list for chukar.

#### **Elections:**

Tim Gallagher was nominated and elected for President, and he offered to serve as President for one more year after the past 6 years, meaning he will not serve the entire 2-year term coming up. Bud Rice was nominated and elected as Secretary. He asked for help with the web page, Facebook, and emails. Chuck Stielstra was nominated and elected as Member at Large. He asked how many meetings per year (4) and about responsibilities. We mainly want his thoughts and opinions at Board meetings and any other help he can render.

#### **Board of Game Proposal:**

Rice described proposal 91, which affects grouse harvest in the Delta Junction area. This proposal was submitted by the DJ Area Advisory Committee, and calls for the reduction in bag limits for grouse in the area. This proposal was submitted because the Delta Junction area has become a popular fall destination for 3 species of Interior Alaska grouse species, and these birds are hit hard early in the season so that resident hunters showing later in the season have

few chances to harvest birds. This proposal would reduce the daily bag limit of grouse from 15 to 5 per day, and possession limit down from 30 to 15 total, with not more than 10 in possession may be ruffed or sharp-tailed grouse. We do not yet have the ADFG Biological report to determine if this proposal has a conservation need; however, several association members verbalized support for this proposal. One member is on the AAC that submitted this proposal. Pending ADFG biological reviews, ABDA is leaning towards supporting this proposal.

### **Featured Speaker:**

Dr. Nelson H. Priddy II, DVM gave the talk. He is owner of Alaska Mobile Veterinary Surgery, and treats injured dogs all over Alaska. He likes hunting and hunting over dogs, but does not own or train one. He mostly sees dogs with lameness or tumors, and addresses joint injuries, neurosurgery, pain management, hepatic surgery, and airway issues.

As for bird dogs, he mostly encounters lameness due to cranial cruciate ligament instability. This has to do with injury to knees and rear legs. Most dogs have minor injuries to the cruciate ligament before the limb gives out. He suspects many injuries have to do with poor confirmation, usually due to improper tibia pitch. Racing greyhounds rarely have this issue because only the best have been bred over many generations to withhold hard fast running. Most hunting dogs in the early 1900s with cruciate ligament issues got injuries in the field. Now less than 10% of these injuries are thought to be field-caused. Most of these are chronic injuries that develop slowly over time. If one leg is ruptured, then 70-80 % of those dogs will rupture the other leg. Tibia pitches steeper than 15 degrees often result in cruciate ligament ruptures. Usually dogs do not damage other hind leg ligaments, such as hip or knee. Two thirds of dogs with hip dysplasia appear clinically normal, but 90% of dogs with a bad cruciate ligament are not clinically normal. His famous quote about this is, "Don't treat the X-Ray, treat the dog!"

We asked about elbow and shoulder injuries. There are 3 bones in the elbow area: humerus, radius, and ulna. The elbow is a tight, durable joint, like the knee. It is not often dislocated. Usually in both elbows subtle lesions can cause lameness. Not many surgeons in the world can be trusted to address elbow replacement/repair. Another member asked what method is best to identify elbow dysplasia, cat scan or MRI. OFA standards for normalcy use X-Rays, but other methods are better for identifications. The problem is that CT scans cost about \$1,500 and MRIs cost about \$3,000. Dr. Priddy did not recommend elbow surgery on an older dog, only for young dogs with most of their life ahead.

The last question had to do with running and hunting dogs in deep cold like we have witnessed lately. Priddy indicated dogs could be trained to do most anything, such as Iditarod and other distance dogs, but dogs that spend lots of time indoors probably won't do as well in deep cold. He recommends waiting until conditions improve or warm up. Also wading in deep snow or mud puts lots of stress on dog limbs, including ligaments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.