

ABDA Board Meeting – Thursday 19 March 2020

Present: Tim Gallagher (teleconference leader), Hilde Stappgens, Gretchen Clark, Chuck Stielstra, Bud Rice. Derek Tomlinson is bison hunting in Delta Junction.

Tim checked to determine everyone had read Hilde's synopsis of Covid-19 responses. Tim is getting data from his son about Covid-19, and the situation is more severe than portrayed by data and media. This issue may carry into summer.

Novice Classes:

ACT expects to reopen by April 15, but Hilde thinks this is optimistic. James is not sure he can start class at the scheduled time due to work concerns. Dan can go with the flow. These classes are easy to postpone or cancel. Outdoor sessions need not be shut down, but indoor sessions may not be possible. We need to check with the State about having outdoor session on Mental Health lands. We need to send out emails to registrants, but we need help with ABDA emails. George Bennett needs access to emails as a backup to Stacey Dean, who was pulled off email access by Bryan after she resigned as Secretary. Chuck and others recalled Stacey is willing to screen emails. She has recently been reinstated to handle emails. George is primarily handling Facebook. We decided to allow cancellations, but class May continue with indoor sessions moved to outdoors if necessary.

Family Fun Day:

This will be outdoors on private land and we should be able to continue as scheduled, but we may ask attendees to bring their own food and drink. Guests would not be allowed, just the handler with dog and one other significant other. We plan to keep groups sizes less than 10. Refunds are simple via PayPal according to Gretchen.

Chukar Challenge:

We should be able hold these events on private lands (BDA, TF, and Robinson's). We plan to keep participants apart and have them show up a little before their start times and leave after their runs. Run times would be drawn a few days before the event dates. Bud requested Master level event rules and scoring from Dan Branvold and James Ohlinger. Dan has provided draft rules. Bud will work with Sue Davis to order Chukar Challenge blankets, but we will leave the date off until we know the event will go forward, about 3 weeks out. We can embroider the year and event level (Master) then and save the blankets for future use should any event be cancelled.

Hunt Tests:

Hilde has figured pointing test options as the chair of pointer tests, but she has not yet talked with spaniel test chairs. April AKC hunt tests have been cancelled nationwide. Hunt Secretary takes \$5 off the top of each entry, and that cost may not be refunded in the case of an event cancellation. Our first hunt tests are for Spaniels in July on Robinson Field and BDA for pointers. We may not provide lunch and drinks due to social distancing of at least 6 feet. We discussed postponing the sign-up date to mid June, but Chuck Stielstra convinced us to keep the signup dates early so potential participants could plan ahead. Gretchen indicated it would be simple to refund with PayPal minus the Hunt Secretary cost. We decided to keep the opening registration date at May 1 for hunt tests with the option to change dates and locations as needed. All the outsider Pointer judges want to come up to AK. Hilde will find local judges if outside judges are not able to travel. Gretchen reported that Jeff Lipscomb's Delta judges are not traveling, and he does not yet have a plan B. We hope to update members and the Board with updates from our April meetings. We will test the use of Zoom technology for virtual meetings at the

next Board meeting and use Zoom for the General Membership meeting. Tim will work with Gretchen to set this up.

Birds:

We will keep our current order of 1200 Chukar from Western Game Birds. No event is yet cancelled. If events are cancelled, then we will sell extra birds to members for training. ABDA could have up to 600 extra birds if all events are cancelled, but we doubt this will occur. There are several puppies to train among members, and we all need to have outdoor fun with our dogs during these trying times.

Gretchen checked PayPal records and reported the following signups to date:

Fun Day – 3

Flushing Novice Class – 4

Pointing Novice Class – 11

The next Board meeting is 9 April, and Tim will draft an agenda and set up a Zoom call with Gretchen.