

ABDA ZOOM Q&A MEMBERSHIP MEETING

16 2020, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Host Hilde Stappens, Anchorage, AK

Introductions: VP Hilde Stappens arranged to admit invited participants, and 15 people attended, including President Tim Gallagher, Past President Derek Tomlinson, Secretary Bud Rice, and Member at Large Chuck Stielstra. We could all hear and see each other, but we could not hear Hilde. Rick Merizon of ADFG Small Game Program also attended. After opening introductions, Rick Merizon answered questions about Small Game Population status.

ADFG Small Game Program:

Rick mentioned that small game populations are variable around Alaska, but that heavy snow as with this year tends to help ptarmigan to escape cold and predators. He noted that continued lack of snow in SW Alaska is keeping small game populations depressed there due to lack of snow cover and predation. He will be conducting limited small game breeding surveys along the Denali Highway. Lek counts and drumming counts are beginning for Sharp-tailed Grouse and Ruffed Grouse, respectively, in Interior Alaska and Southcentral Alaska. He is hoping volunteers will be able to assist with brood surveys this summer, but we will not be able to do so in as social a manner as in the past. He will keep us posted on how we will proceed as survey time nears. Chuck Stielstra asked if the BOG Proposal 91 to limit grouse bag limits in the Delta Junction area passed, which ABDA supported. Rick reported it did. The daily bag limit for all species of grouse (ruffed, sharp-tailed, and spruce) in that portion of Unit 20 near Delta Junction is 5 per day.

2020 Calendar

Tim Gallagher noted that protecting the safety and well-being of members, volunteers, and event participants is paramount.

Pointing dog novice class and flushing dog novice class have not started to date due to the COVID-19 pandemic responses to eliminate public gatherings and to reduce travel between communities. Use of Alyeska Canine Trainers (ACT) for the first 2 sessions of each class has been cancelled. We will likely cancel all novice classes this year and refund applicants.

The Family Fun Day scheduled for Saturday, June 13, and may or may not go. President Gallagher would like to hold it if at all possible because it introduces new people to the club and gets folks energized about training their dogs. This is also a bird pick-up and training opportunity for members on Training Fields LLC. We would need to address state and local

mandates for COVID-19. We will accept registrations and refund registrants if the event cannot proceed.

The standard pointing dog and flushing Chukar Challenge is scheduled for Saturday June 20, and a Master class for braces of dogs on Sunday June 21. The Flushing dogs have low interest in the Master level event, so that will not occur this year. The pointing dog master level event is a maybe. Mike Kasterin reported that Dan Robinson extends permission to ABDA to use his field near the junction of Ayreshire and Farmer's Roads in the Point Mackenzie area. Bud was to check to make sure our event does not conflict with events posted on the Alaska Retriever Club calendar, and it does not so far. Again, we need to conduct the Chukar Challenge in accordance with State and local mandates with regards to COVID-19. Barbara Branvold said she would draft protocol for addressing COVID-19 as she and Dan have to do so with their work and they are familiar with the mandates. Dan suggested we have all participants sign a waiver before entering the grounds indicating they are not sick, have no temperature, and have not traveled out of state recently, etc. Bud even suggested we use a temperature gun, if we can get one, to assure participants do not have a fever. We could recommend or require participants to wear a mask. We will have wash stations and/or disinfecting wipes/gel available at both fields. Bud will pull run orders in advance of the Challenge and send these out to participants with instructions on when their run is scheduled. Safety briefing information will be included with the run order and waiver. Participants are to arrive not more than 30 minutes before their run to sign and submit a waiver and get into position for their run. There will be no communal lunch. Participants are to bring their own lunch and drinks. Participants are to leave reasonably soon after their run to avoid congestion. Blanket awards have been ordered, but the year date is not yet embroidered in case we need to cancel the events. Top performers in their class will be mailed their awards afterwards.

We have judges lined up for pointing dog hunt tests and the flushing dog tests. We are still planning to hold hunt tests in July and August if we are able to do so.

Training Bird Status:

Hilde Stappens ordered 1200 birds from Western Wings LLC of Reno, NV this year, up from 1,000 birds last year. The first shipment should arrive in early June. We still need to patch the holding pen at Gary Thompson's before the birds arrive. Hilde held aside 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 chukar because the company was sold out. We may order 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. Because the Master level of the Chukar Challenge may not occur, then we may have up to 100 extra birds.

Next Meeting:

We plan to have another General Membership Zoom meeting in May with updates.

Meeting adjourned around 7:30 PM.

Action Items:

- 1) COVID-19 protocol
- 2) Waiver to include COVID-19 concerns
- 3) May GM Zoom meeting with updates
- 4) Patch bird pen at Gary Thompson's