

# ABDA ZOOM MEMBERSHIP MEETING

16 July 2020, 7 PM to 8 PM

Host VP Hilde Stappgens; Secretary Bud Rice

## **Introductions:**

Hilde Stappgens, Rose Munafo, Mike Kasterin, Rick Merizon, Gretchen Clark, Joe Budesky, Bud Rice, Mike Chihully

**Minutes:** Zoom meetings are not included in ABDA ByLaws. We hope to change that in the future.

**Membership Status:** 47, but was in 80s last year; drop due to Covid-19?

**Budget (Gretchen):** Balance of \$32, 832. Gretchen is cutting checks for bird orders and first 3 days use of Training Fields. Hilde noted we are using more birds for the Specialty training than the hunt test this coming weekend. Mike Kasterin asked if additional birds would be available for purchase. We will know more after first two hunt tests, pointing and flushing.

## **Bird Status (Hilde):**

300 chukar were delivered and fat and healthy on Monday 13 July. The Chukar Challenge used 144 birds with 8 lost birds. We have used so far 460 birds out of 900 shipped. So about 440 birds are in the ABDA in pen now at Gary Thompson's. We estimate using about 120 birds this weekend for the specialty and hunt test. 48 birds requested in addition to the test so far for training. Mike Kasterin estimates 100 chukar will be used for the flushing dog test in early August. 300 more birds arrive at the end of July to carry us through the season.

## **ADFG Small Game Updates: (Rick Merizon)**

BOG meetings for Region 4 (Alaska Range and the AK Peninsula) in Wasilla 22-29 January, and statewide (12-15 March in FBX). There are two ptarmigan proposals in Unit 13. One proposes to move the season closing date back to March 31 from 15 February. Rick has a proposal to address AK Hares in the Dillingham area. Comments are due January 8 for BOG meeting in Wasilla. 13E ptarmigan spring counts are down. 13B counts are up. Ruffed and Sharptailed Grouse counts remain low in Interior. There are ongoing brood surveys in Hatcher Pass. Wet weather in Interior and AK Range this spring could reduce chick survival. This 5<sup>th</sup> year of brood surveys help to understand chick survival. Rick will send Bud details on BOG proposals to share with ABDA members. Rick will write Analyses and Recommendations for ADFG before the meetings. A&R should be available for the public in October.

## **Hunt Tests:**

Pointing judges from outside (WA) are still interested in coming if quarantine limits are lifted in both AK and state of origin. Good turnout for Specialty on Saturday, and Jr and Master dogs signed up for pointing test on Sunday; no Senior dogs. Mike Kasterin spoke to Flushing test on August 1-2. Have 2 fields, Robinson Field is 900 yards long. Test uses only first 150 yards of that field. Has cabin for Judge at former Pt MacKenzie store area. ABDA has cabin through August 7. Cabin could be available for other ABDA members. Hilde bought a packet of 50 disposable masks and hand sanitizer for hunt tests. Chuck Stielstra's hand wash station will be available for tests too.

**Title 17 Proposal: (Joe Budesky)**

Changes to municipal lands to require leashes, and an e-collar had qualified as a leash on municipal lands. Frisbee play with dogs is not allowed on municipal lands. The new rule would require a physical leash for all dogs on municipal lands except in dog parks. This new rule would prevent training of dogs with e-collars on municipal lands. ABDA members need to write the Animal Control Board, Mayor, and Assembly. Mike asked where he can get information to read up on proposal and how and where to make comments. There is an ABDA Facebook and FB messenger group addressing this proposal. Joe suggests we all write and try to attend the meeting on the proposal to oppose it. We don't know who is driving the issue. Hilde noted there are many uncontrolled dogs in public areas. Many dog walkers have stopped because of untrained dogs off leash. Bud suggested and Joe agreed to contact Alaska Search and Rescue Dog Association to comment on this proposal too.

**Elections: ABDA** needs a nominating committee of 3. We need nominations for President, VP, and Treasurer. Mike Chihully volunteered to be on the nominating committee. Tim Gallagher will need to find 2 others to work with Mike C. Tim would automatically become the new Past President on the Board.

**Next Meeting:** As needed.

Meeting adjourned around 8:00 PM.

Action Items:

- 1) Comment on Title 17 Proposal
- 2) Nominate candidates for President, VP, and Treasurer.