

ABDA ZOOM MEMBERSHIP MEETING

19 November 2020, 6:30 PM to 8 PM

Host VP Hilde Stappgens; Secretary Bud Rice

Introductions:

Hilde Stappgens, Rick Merizon, Derek Tomlinson, Andrea Pokrzwinski, Trigg Davis, Bud Rice, Tim Gallagher, Lulie Williams, Mike Kasterin, Jeff Lipscomb, Chuck Stielstra

Minutes: Minutes moved and approved, (Trigg moved and Hilde seconded).

Membership Status: Corporate members = HDR, Branvold Chiropractic, and Hilde Stappgens to join with Residential Mortgage. Family members at 27, and individuals at 42, for a grand total of 72 memberships.

Budget (Gretchen): Balance of about \$27,000, which includes pay back on birds due to fewer losses. We lost 30 birds at end of season to a mink.

Events: 12 people attended pointing novice class. No flushing novice class this year. Fun day canceled and traded in for a training day at TF. Chukar Challenge was fun and safe with decent social distancing. Also had Master Chukar Challenge on the following Sunday, which was well received. Some people were confused during training Days, so we need to help new people get oriented to training areas and methods. Hunt tests went off well for flushing dogs. Good coordination and participation by members. Flushing tests at TF and Delta Junction. Mike Kasterin ran the test in SC and Jeff ran the test in DJ. Mike would like to vary judges from year to year. Jeff will provide maps to water and field areas next year. Hilde noted the pointing tests was well-attended, but second test had a small entry and we had to cancel outside judge due to Covid-19. The holiday party will be cancelled this year.

General Membership Meetings: Dr Priddy early in year. Rick Merizon gave a bird survey update in July and this meeting in November.

Rick Merizon reported on two large game bird efforts, spring breeding surveys in April-May and brood surveys in late June. Ruffed grouse numbers remain down in Interior Alaska and Sharptailed grouse are also down in population since 2019. Rock ptarmigan numbers are up or level, but willow ptarmigan numbers are down, especially along eastern Denali Highway. In Western AK ptarmigan numbers are coming up in AK Peninsula and Western AK. ADFG added several surveys in 2020 due to increased volunteer participation. Rock and willow ptarmigan chick survival rates were down. Normally we see 6-7 chicks per brood, but this year we averaged only 1 chick per brood. We saw sex segregated adults in summer when there should have been family groups. Heavy cold rain impacted birds this June during hatching periods. The

Alaska Range was hit harder than Chugach Mountains and elsewhere. ADFG hopes to increase brood survey efforts into Chugach and Kenai Mountains with additional participation from NAVHDA and ABDA members.

BOG met yesterday in a special work session. One idea was to cancel BOG meetings this winter. There will be a work session on January 21 to set up a Region 4 meeting date later, which area deals with Palmer, Alaska Range, Dillingham, King Salmon, Denali Highway. There are a few proposals of interest:

#24 Unit 17 Alaska Hare season and bag limits are to align with other areas of AK. This is a house-keeping proposal by ADFG.

#76 Public proposal to extend ptarmigan closure from 15 February back to March 31 along the Denali Highway in Unit 13. The regulation to set the end of the season at 15 February was adopted in 2018 and covered the entire Denali Highway. Natural mortality is low in ptarmigan after December. Any mortality after then is additive mortality and cuts into the breeder population. Rick ahs discussed this with biologists in Norway and Sweden, and they see the same phenomena.

#77 Youth only ptarmigan hunt in 13B from 10 -25 August was proposed by the Paxson AC. Statewide meeting was scheduled for March 21 is now postponed and to be in Fairbanks.

#162 creates statewide salvage component for snowshoe hare. Basically, a hare cannot be killed and left to waste in the field.

Board Nominations:

Mike Chihully, Lulie Williams, and Mike Kasterin nominated the following:

Hilde Stappens – President for 1 year

Steven McVeigh – VP

Carol Hedges - Treasurer

Bird Status (Hilde):

We had good help with wrangling and bird transport this season. We also had good help with bird pen set up and take down. We sold our bird order in first 5 days of availability. ABDA did not use all birds set aside for events, so those birds were offered to members for sale later. We lost 30 birds near the end of the season to the mink. We are planning to order 1400 birds, up from 1200 birds last year. We are to sell them for \$20/bird instead of \$22/bird because bird costs are about \$18 each, but we always have some losses. Some people made large orders right way last year which kept birds from other members. Hilde proposes to cap bird orders at 30/person until excess birds are indicated. The goal is to give everyone a 2-week window to

order up to 30 birds. Email for orders to be sent out at end of December or beginning of January 2021.

Bylaw Changes:

Hilde noted ABDA bylaws call for in-person meetings for elections, but the Board wishes to allow for virtual attendance to meetings with Zoom or another virtual platform. We plan to mail out a proposed bylaw change to members.

Training:

Hilde proposes that ABDA offer training beyond novice classes, to include gun acclimation, shooting birds over hunting dogs, and more advanced retrieving drills. Helping bird dog owners improve the performance of their dogs is part of the ABDA mission. Volunteers will be needed to help new members advance their bird dog training.

Signage:

Gretchen Clark suggested we obtain new signs to direct members to events because the old signs are worn and difficult to read. Bud suggested we get large attractive signs on the ABDA trailer too, both as a sign and mobile advertising. Gretchen will obtain estimates.

Health Certificate:

Jeff Lipscomb did not have a health certificate to fly his dog to Cold Bay, so his trip with Derek was cancelled. He warns all travelers with dogs to get a health certificate within 10 days of flying with a dog in Alaska or outside. Andrea suggests printing out regulations for travel with dogs and firearms. Chuck recommends getting the health certificate close to departure to cover the total trip to include the return, or be prepared to get a second health certificate elsewhere. Airlines are asking most times about health certificate nowadays, when they did not do so as often in past years.

Other:

Hilde has developed a draft calendar for next year events to coordinate with NAVHDA, Retriever clubs, and land owners. Tim recommended we get this out soon, especially to event coordinators.

Next Meeting:

Meeting adjourned around 8:40 PM. Next general meeting will be via Zoom on January 21, 2021.