

# Meeting Notes

## 4Q 2021 ABDA General Membership

### Thursday 18 November 2021

Zoom meeting was hosted by Hilde Stappgens,  
which began around 7:10 PM and ended around 8:30 PM

- Welcome and recognition of members: Present were President Tim Gallagher, Vice President Hilde Stappgens, Treasurer Carl Hedges, Member-At-Large Chuck Stielstra, and Secretary Bud Rice (notetaker), Jason Martin, Trigg Davis, Gretchen Clark, Els Crisafulli, Mike Kasterin, Mike Chihuly, Dori Hollingsworth, and Rick Merizon. Tim had all participants tell where they are from, how long they have been members, what breed of dog(s) they have. Before the meeting Mike Chihuly mentioned that he has a few large coveys of quail and a few pheasant around his home, but chukar have not survived. The quail have persisted for 8 years.... He also mentioned Jessie Abrams with an English Cocker has joined and will train with him on the Kenai Peninsula.
- Last GM meeting minutes review and approval: Chuck Stielstra moved and Trigg Davis seconded approval of the meeting minutes from July 15, which was held in person at Cabela's.
- Membership Status: Holding fairly consistent at 76 total memberships (43 individual, 30 family, and 3 corporate). The total has varied from 75 to 77 memberships over the year.
- Budget Status: Carol Hedges noted the account balances are at about \$21,000. This balance is down from last year, but some payments were accrued from last year. Tim Gallagher noted that Carol has received lots of positive feedback for an excellent job of tracking income and payments for the association.
- Draft 2022 Event Schedule: Hilde Stappgens led this discussion and did much research to attempt to avoid conflicts with other dog club events. The proposed schedule mirrors that of 2021.

<b>2022 ABDA Draft Event Dates</b>		
<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Novice Class - Pointing	4/12/2022	On Eagle River field, no conflicts
Novice Class - Spaniel	4/14/2022	On Eagle River field, no conflicts
Family Field Day	6/11/2022	On Training Fields LLC
Chukar Challenge - Classic	6/25/2022	On Training Fields LLC
Chukar Challenge - Master	6/26/2022	On Robinson Field, no conflicts?
Hunt Test – Pointing (Training)	7/16/2022	On BDA Fields, Possible conflicts with Northern Lights NAVHDA event, which might move to the previous week per discussion with Scott Breitsprecher
Hunt Test - Pointing	7/17/2022	BDA Fields, Possible conflicts with Northern Lights NAVHDA event, which might move to the previous week
Hunt Test - Spaniel	7/30/2022	Conflict with AKC Dog Show that several lab retriever owners like to attend. Need to consider options
Hunt Test - Spaniel	7/31/2022	Conflict with AKC Dog Show that several lab retriever owners like to attend. Need to consider options
Hunt Test - Pointing (Training)	8/13/2022	At BDA?
Hunt Test - Pointing	8/14/2022	At BDA?
Hunt Test - Spaniel	8/27/2022	In Delta Junction where Sharptailed Grouse season opens August 25. Cannot delay due to Moose and waterfowl season starting September 1. Do not want to go earlier in case first spaniel test is pushed back one week.
Hunt Test - Spaniel	8/28/2022	In Delta Junction
Holiday Party	TBD	

- 2021 General Membership (Zoom?) meetings (6:30 pm; 3<sup>rd</sup> Thur/1<sup>st</sup> Month/each Quarter, except the fall meeting is delayed until after hunting seasons.)

	Location	Topic	Speaker	Coordinator
20 Jan	Zoom	Board Election/2022 Program		Tim
21 Apr	Zoom	2022 Program Update	Bud	
21 Jul	Zoom	TBD		
17 Nov	TBD	Bird Surveys	Rick Merizon Update	Bud

- Misc Topics:
  - Board Nominations and Election: (Tim and Mike K): Hilde Stappgens has agreed to run for President; Bud Rice runs for Vice President, Carol Hedges stays on as Treasurer; Chuck Stielstra stays on as Member-At-Large; and Tim Gallagher replaces Derek Tomlinson as Past President. We need a nominee for Secretary. Mike Kasterin, Chuck Stielstra, and Tim are working on this.
  - Bird Program: (Hilde) Shipping costs are increasing greatly and chukar costs will increase from \$9/bird to \$10/bird. We estimate the cost per bird may increase from \$20/bird in 2021 to \$22 or \$23/bird in 2022, mostly due to increases in shipping. We plan to order 1400 birds as last year. Hilde asked if members would like an option to pick up birds at the airport at arrival for less cost per bird (\$18 or \$19?), but Dori and Chuck said this might be impractical because arrival times are often uncertain and many members are distant from the airport. Hilde noted we had few mortalities last year but over 100 birds escaped the pen when a gate was open. Gary Thompson and Lori Wharton recaptured birds the next few days and Hilde noted no discrepancy in expected numbers. The new vendor is Diamond Wings out of Billings, MT. He is the only vendor Hilde could find who would ship to AK. The vendor is seeking fertilized eggs in January to produce good flying birds by June. He is producing about 50,000 chukar total. Mike Kasterin asked why not use quail at less cost? Hilde noted too many pointing dogs catch the quail, which ruins their training and testing. Others noted pheasant are difficult to dizzy for training and testing purposes, and they need

to be kept separate from chukar. Shipping is possible via Alaska Air from Billings to Seattle and then north to Anchorage. Shipping times should be similar to recent years. The new vendor raises birds on sand, which reduces mortality and disease in birds.

- Board of Game Proposals (Bud deferred to Rick Merizon):  
2020/2021 BOG meetings were postponed due to Covid-19. Proposals were forwarded to the current Board cycle. Region 4 will be addressed, which covers Palmer, Dillingham, and various South Central areas. This meeting will occur in Wasilla between January 21-28, 2022. January 7 is the due date for comments. The Board may address 5 proposals of interest to ABDA members as follows:

24 – Alaska Hare (the large tundra hare in W and NW Alaska)

76 – Extends closure the date for ptarmigan in Units 13B and 13E (Denali Highway) from 15 February to 31 March and reduces the bag limit during that extension period from 10 to 5 birds/day.

77 – Establishes a Youth only hunt for ptarmigan in Unit 13B from s August to 24 August. After then (August 25) the season open for all hunters. This proposal was submitted by the Paxson AC.

222- Extends the closure date in all of Unit 13 from 15 February to 31 March and reduces the bag limit for ptarmigan to 5 from 10.

227 – A local person wants to reduce daily bagf limit for grouse in Unit 14A from 15/day to 5/day. Ruffed Grouse is already at 2/day, so this primarily affects the harvest of spruce grouse.

There is also a Statewide meeting in Fairbanks 4-11 March 2022, but most small game proposals address hares. Comments are due 18 February 2022.

Rick noted the volunteer help with ptarmigan and grouse brood surveys tripled last year over previous years and surveys were expanded into the Chugach and Kenai Ranges.

He noted that ruffed grouse are beginning to rebound out of historic low populations. Sharptailed grouse are at average numbers and there was good chick survival last summer. Ptarmigan numbers are very low, especially along the Denali Highway, due to heavy rain and snow during chick birth and rearing. Ptarmigan numbers are up around Nome and along the Taylor Highway, and they are rebuilding in SW and W Alaska.

ADFG was able to use volunteer time and mileage to leverage Pittman-Robertson funds for wildlife management. These funds will be used to purchase survey equipment like GPS collars for dogs.

Mike Chihuly asked how ADFG will respond to proposals for ptarmigan season extensions. Rick noted he will issue an official position in the next couple of weeks, but also indicated he will share with the Board the ADFG analyses that showed spring harvest is added mortality to potential breeding birds that survive winter. Mike also asked if emergency orders could be issued by ADFG if populations appeared to be struggling. Rick noted most hunters don't review or see EOs in time and policing these types of orders would be more difficult than for commercial fish or large game. He also noted that a reduced bag limit in late spring does little to protect breeding birds because most hunters do not bag more than an average of 2 birds/day.

Rick offered to send Bud links to the BOG proposals of interest, which he will share with ABDA members and encourage interested individuals to comment. ABDA members discussed whether it was appropriate for the association to comment because various members have differing opinions about these proposals.

- Discretionary Investments: Tim noted Derek Tomlinson obtained new event signs for ABDA and still have the old ones. We also obtained 14 wire bird cages to use for events, which are much lighter and easier to transport than the boxes, but they have no bottoms to protect vehicles from bird feces. Hence cardboard or other material is recommended under these cages. Mike Chihuly asked the Board to consider obtaining 12 or more 8-foot high flagging poles to mark event boundaries. Most agreed this was an excellent suggestion.

- Next Meeting: 20 January 2022; Location: Cabela's or Zoom