

Arctic Bird Dog Association
4th Quarter 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 9th, 2023

Meeting commenced at 1905.

In attendance:

- Hilde Stappens - Randy Breaux
- Chuck Stielstra - Jeanne Holifield

Previous meeting minutes:

- Minor correction on page 3, "GSP" should be "DD."
- Chuck moved to approve, Hilde approved as corrected.

President's report – none at this time.

Secretary's report - none at this time.

Treasurer's report - none at this time.

- Chuck asks if Carol had reported any money received yet from Northern Lights club. Per Hilde, Carol has been out of town for last two weeks, so money could be waiting in the P.O. Box. Hopefully she will be at General Meeting to report.

Old Business – none at this time.

New Business –

- Jeff Lipscombe requested that 2024 Spaniel Hunt Test in Delta be held August 24th & 25th. Hilde recommended that this be brought to the General Membership meeting.
- Jeff Lipscombe also sent a concerned email regarding an issue that took place in the August hunt test, where participants were asked to ensure that they were wearing the appropriate color/brightness of orange. One participant declined and continued to participate in shooting activities.
- Bird cost/updates – Chuck/Hilde
 - o This year's efforts by Chuck to join hands with Northern Lights to get lower costs on birds didn't work. Vendor wasn't able to supply birds or quotes on time, however, cost per bird did end up being lower than previous years. Carol has exact amounts, with itemized costs.
 - o Moving forward, Chuck feels that having the same vendor could allow for the same rate, but not sure that the vendor will want to continue with the club again next year. Either way, either the shipper or receiver needs to be a "known" shipper with Alaska Airlines. Jeanne stated that ABDA should be name on the account (not an individual's), but the vendor would be preferable.
 - o Chuck stated should know by the end of the year whether or not Carl (the vendor) will continue to ship to Alaska. Chuck will look into the known shipper process on behalf of the club.

- Hilde states that the Board needs to decide on costs for the birds for next season, but not having shipping costs available makes this difficult. Bird costs ended up being around \$22 per bird, instead of the \$28 that we estimated and subsequently charged members at events. This is approximately \$3,750 that the club received above the costs of the birds. Per Chuck, the vendor charged us \$14 per bird this year, and will likely do so next year, so keeping some of this as a bumper for next year would be good. Hilde stated that we should base next year's costs on next year's quote, once we receive it. Chuck stated that the pen would cost the same, no matter how many birds were ordered; it would be better to have more birds than less, but also to have a bit of a cushion.
- Hilde recognized that Chuck and Bill had a stressful time with the bird program this year, and she would like to see less of that next year, with the other clubs taking on some of the burden. Only the bird pen rental is a fixed cost. Chuck doesn't want to see the value of the club go down, with members wanting birds and not being able to get them. Hilde doesn't want to burn out the volunteers who deal with the birds.
- Jeanne suggested involving 4H kids in bird wrangling. Chuck agreed would be nice, but most of the work would be over kids' head. Hilde stated the stressful work is in the logistics, and requires Bill and Chuck working closely together. Chuck stated would be nice to have someone bring the birds out from the airport.
- Chuck also asked if anyone was going to want chukars next year, or quail. Per Hilde, the pointing dog hunt test used only quail, not chukar, due to lack of assured availability. This made a huge difference in how many dogs qualified, with a diminishing effect on the event.
- The bird program usually opens up mid-January, and the next board meeting is after that. It's possible to delay the opening of the program to February, but other clubs open up their bird program in January. Chuck committed to having the known shipper information by next board meeting.
- Per Hilde, the industry practice seems to be to not have chukar chicks available year round, but only certain times of year, so there may be impacts on availability. This also impacts the thought of having someone locally raise chukars. The club has tried this twice this in the past without success.
- Nominating committee needs to be found for the positions of:
 - President – Hilde will be stepping down. Her suggestion is to make a bylaw change, to eliminate the past president position and add in a second Director position instead. The Past President's role is to assure continuity. Adding a Director position allows someone who wasn't the President to remain on the Board, still assuring continuity.
 - Treasurer – there's one year left of the two-year term, since Carol has graciously stayed on past her time. Randy has one applicant who is willing to take on the job. The Board has the ability to nominate the individual as interim Treasurer and fill the position with or without General Membership input. Randy agreed to contact the applicant and put together a meeting with Carol, Hilde, and himself.
 - Secretary – Jeanne's term is up this year. Randy says he has someone in mind.

- Chuck suggests Bud Rice for the nominating committee and will ask him. Randy suggested Tim Gallagher; Chuck will also contact him. Randy will also be on the committee as the Chair.
- 2024 Events
 - Randy asked if there would be two Chukar Challenges in 2024, which would add the need for more volunteers and birds. Hilde suggested first contacting the past chairs for the events, confirm the dates and their intent to remain chairs. The Chair for each AKC event must be a club member.
 - Sue Davis is willing to be the chair for the August Pointing Hunt Test, for the week before the Delta Spaniel Hunt Test, and would like it to be a Double-Double.
 - Dan Branvold might be willing to teach the Novice Pointing class again, but the room at Alyeska Canine Training needs to be rented by January.
 - Chuck suggested finding ways to keep people around after running dogs at the Chukar Challenge, such as a raffle or celebration of the winners.
 - Hilde stated that the only complaint that she heard was that there weren't enough birds for the 2nd Chukar Challenge, especially when there weren't enough birds for the Spaniel members to use for their own use. The 2nd Chukar Challenge didn't sell out, and had to be postponed due to weather, causing the club to lose a couple of entries.
 - Jeanne added feedback she was given, that dates should not be changed to accommodate various club members. Once chosen by the club, dates should stand. Also, steps should be taken not to overlap with the Kenai dog show, if possible.
 - Randy and Hilde will get together to discuss event particulars.
- Gift certificates from GunDog Supply need to be given out. Randy states some sort of event will be organized to award these to members, most likely a Friday night in January. They expire one year from issue date.

Commented [JH1]: Correct grammar for Double-Double?

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.