

Arctic Bird Dog Association
4th Quarter 2023 General Membership Meeting
November 16th, 2023

The meeting began at 7:10 p.m.

In attendance:

- Hilde Stappens
- Chuck Stielstra
- Carol Hedges
- Gretchen Clark
- Jessie Chmielowski
- Tim Gallagher
- Bill Ellis
- Sue Davis
- Tina Veldkamp
- Dana Stewart

• Last GM meeting minutes review and approval:

- Chuck Stielstra motioned to approve the minutes. Tim Gallagher seconded. The minutes were approved.

• Membership Status as of November 13th, 2023: Hilde Stappens

Quarter	Total	Individual	Family	Corporate*
1	88	59	28	1
2	66	43	22	1
3	67	43	24	0
4	64	41	23	0

There is a slow decline in membership. Looking at the last report, it seems as if there are a few individuals whose membership has lapsed. If someone would want to contact them, I'm sure they would renew.

• President's report – Hilde thanks Bill Ellis and Chuck Stielstra for their work with the Bird program, making sure all members received the birds that they ordered. Hilde thanked other members of the Board, making sure that the club events went as planned, including Randy Breaux and Sue Davis. Hilde lastly thanked Carol Hedges as the Treasurer, for keeping the club finances straight and remaining past the end of her commitment.

• Treasurer's report – Carol

- YTD, there is a \$1400 loss. This could be because membership dues being significantly down (30%) for most of the year, or because the Pointer program (such as events and classes) has decreased. In the Bird program, all expenses were up, including fuel for transport and birds themselves. Overall, expenses were not bad. There is a \$24,337 bank balance at the time of this meeting. There are no large outstanding bills.
- Hilde asked about the status of the Robertson field in Pt. Mackenzie. Carol stated that she would double-check, but there has been one payment made to Dan already in 2023.

- Carol recommended that the Treasurer position be rotated out soon, simply because of liability and the possibility of mistakes being made.
- Secretary's report – Jeanne Holifield - N/A
- Status of events for 2024 – Randy Breaux – N/A
- Committee Reports:
 - Bird program 2023 recap and outlook for 2024 - Chuck Stielstra/Bill Ellis
 - 1400 birds were ordered this year. There were some supply issues later in the year; 1,136 chukar were received, and 56 pheasants. 67 quail were purchased locally, which allowed there to be enough chukar to be on hand for the hunt test in Delta. Per Bill, Chuck did enormous amounts of work. He was on hand at the airport for bird pickup, and then drove the birds to the Valley, sometimes needing to sleep in his truck.
 - Bill talked to a couple of members about positioning a dog kennel at the LLC property, in order to allow members to pickup their birds.
 - Family Fun Day was an enormous success, but more birds used than were expected. However, these gaps in availability were filled between members.
 - Bill states that he believes that the Bird program is very important for membership, and that he is willing to continue to arrange orders in January. However, he recommends that there be a committee in place to pack crates for bird orders, so that it's not just him and Chuck doing that work.
 - Chuck stated that the Bird program did try to get a larger amount of birds on hand, in cooperation with Northern Lights NAVHDA, but this was not successful. He believes that next year will run more smoothly, with 250 birds per shipment, and starting earlier to make the arrangement. The supplier has had difficulties in getting chukar eggs, to start the process for 2024. ABDA was able to arrange considerable savings on freight, but Alaska Airlines is the only game in town for this purpose.
 - Hilde asked if there was a date that the vendor would be able to share dates on when birds would be available. Per Chuck, the vendor might be getting his eggs ordered from Pennsylvania, but it sounds like all vendors are in the same boat in not being able to get eggs.
 - Bill states that there are clubs in the States that are ordering 10,000 birds at a time. Nationwide there is a shortage of game birds, because there are so many clubs ordering for events. Hilde states that the earliest she can get chicks is in April, when means she has to raise them for a couple months before they are ready to be used.
 - Hilde stated that the approximate cost per bird for this year appears to have been around \$20, but this was due to lower freight costs. Chuck states he won't know for sure how much the cost will be next year, and that Alaska Airlines is not very responsive. The supplier did honor his quote of \$12 per bird, but don't expect that price to remain the same next year. Hilde states a special board meeting might need to be held, in order to determine the club price for birds for 2024.

- Website - Dana Stewart – N/A

- Bill thanked Dana for the initial email blast out to the members in January for boosting orders in the Birds program.

- Hunt Test committee - Jeff/Flushing dogs/August -- Sue/Pointing dogs/August (Jeff Lipscomb was absent on this call).

- Sue states Wayne Yamashita would be present for the August hunt test. She will not be available in July, so someone else needs to chair it. Alternatively, another double-double could be arranged in August as in 2023. She is also working on securing Cindy McCann.
- It seems that folks are running their dogs in the NAVHDA hunt test, so we are working around that. The August hunt test dates are the 17th and 18th, if approved by the ABDA board and AKC. This would hopefully be the one weekend that NAVHDA doesn't have anything. The weekend before that Judy Alderson is not available, so someone else would need to be a judge if that weekend was chosen.
- Hilde states that in the August double-double, even though four entries were available, some folks only entered twice. There needs to be better advertising for this purpose, in order to allow people time to consider. There are also too many other opportunities for other events to happen, and a lack of volunteers.
- Bill stated that the camaraderie over that one weekend was fantastic, exchanging ideas.
- Hilde thanked Bill and Barbara for hosting the event and making sure everyone had meals.
- Chuck asked if only AKC dogs could be allowed to participate in the event. Hilde confirmed and stated that the option to allow non-AKC dogs to run would be to host a non-AKC event prior to the actual event. She suggested alternative ways for Munsterlanders to participate.

- Nominating Committee – Randy Breaux (Randy was not present on this call).

- Hilde asked Tim if he would be on the nominating committee; Tim confirmed. The third member considered was Bud Rice, who was also not on the call. Hilde stated she would follow up with Bud.
- This next year, there need to be nominees for President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

- Membership Committee - (vacant)

- ABDA bylaws state that there should be a membership committee, which is currently vacant. Hilde asked if there was someone on the call who would be willing to fill this position. Tina Veldkamp volunteered.

- New business:

- Question from member: does ABDA do any fall/winter training? Hilde stated that there is flexibility in the bylaws to add a training committee, but there needs to be a volunteer to take this on. She has recently been contacted by members looking for training, but someone would need to coordinate it. Tim added that most training in the winter takes place informally, but there are no birds to do the training with. NAVHDA does a lot of training in the winter. Larry Zirkle might be a good contact for this purpose.
 - Suggested training topics were training Pointers to retrieve and also an e-collar training.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next GM Meeting (annual meeting and election): January 18th, 2024, Location: Zoom.

ABDA 2024 Events,

Dates	Event	Location	Lead	Notes
<i>Apr-May</i>	Pointing Novice Class	<i>ACT/Eagle River</i>	?	
<i>Apr-May</i>	Flushing Novice Class	<i>TPR/Eagle River</i>	?	
<i>April</i>	Gunners' Clinic for Spaniel Hunt Tests	<i>Birchwood Shooting Park</i>	?	
<i>June</i>	Family Fun Day	?	?	
<i>June</i>	Chukar Challenge (Classic)	?	?	
<i>June</i>	Chukar Challenge (Master)	?	?	
<i>July</i>	Flushing Hunt Test	?	?	
<i>August</i>	<i>2nd Chukar Challenge</i>	?	?	
<i>Aug</i>	<i>Pointing dog private lessons</i>	?	?	
17 & 18 th Aug	Pointer Hunt Test	?	Sue Davis	
24-25 Aug	Flushing Hunt Tests	Delta Junction	Jeff Lipscomb	
<i>__ December; 3pm</i>	<i>Holiday Party</i>	?	?	

GM meeting dates for 2024:**January 18th; April 18th; July 18th ; November 21st**