

Minutes from Big Sky NAVHDA Meeting – January 20, 2017

Old Business – Approved accepting minutes from last meeting

Treasurers report - “After paying national insurance and \$1250 down on birds we have about \$ 3000.00 in bank.” Note that we were at \$2000 last year prior to paying for birds and also prior to paying for insurance. Note that we do still owe \$1250 for Chukars. We did well on our test this year, the Snake Break clinic and the First Aid Class.

During the 2015 year Gary Whitman lent the chapter \$1500 for birds and fees. As we’ve built back our bank balance the club agree to pay back Gary half of the money in 2017 and half in 2018.

Election of officers – Marcus Troyer decided to step down this year. We held an executive election and the following people were nominated and voted into office this year

President – Jason Rice

Vice President/Director of Training – Todd Wheeler

Secretary/Treasurer – Gary Whitman will continue

Test Secretary – Lisa Troyer continues

Meals Chairperson – Lisa continues

Website/communications – Jeff Kershner

Officers nomination seconded and votes were carried

1a. Membership - \$40 stays the same, encourage donations and life membership \$250

## **2. Training Days**

We had lengthy discussions about training days, organization, bird acquisition

Todd Wheeler, newly elected VP/Director of training suggested that a training plan might be a nice addition for training days

2b. Birds

Don from the Tri Cities area is able to get birds for much cheaper than what is available in our area. He will investigate bringing birds over for both training and testing. His bird prices are:

Pheasants \$7/hen \$8/chukar

Phil Matteson will investigate acquiring additional pheasants from a local preserve that might have birds left over at the end of the year.

We have obtained our test birds (chukars) from Bob Miller in the Townsend area. He currently has about 450 flight ready birds. We have our test birds plus an additional 50 birds for training. There was discussion about trying to acquire additional birds for club members wishing to prepare for the UPT and UT tests later in the summer

Training Day Fee – The Training Day fee will stay at \$10  
Bird fees - pigeons will most likely be \$5/bird this year . Game birds TBA

Locations – Muddy Dog Ranch, Warm Springs/Garrison, Gold Creek  
We had discussions about moving among multiple locations during the training season.

First training day – April 8 and then every two weeks with locations TBA. We

Phil Matteson will do MFWP gamebird permits, will need legal descriptions for each location

We will need to order more poppers and live ammo for training and testing

**4. Tests** – We had lengthy discussions about whether to conduct a UPT/Utility test this year. The group decided to postpone a decision until suitable Utility Test grounds can be evaluated this year. We have a number of properties to evaluate.

#### **NA test – Big Sky Chapter Natural Ability Test**

Date – June 8, 9, 10 - Muddy Dog Ranch (if approved by owner)

Option to open a fall test for UPT/UT TBA

Lisa will contact NAVHDA about test date

Send out a notification about Natural ability

Lisa will reach out to judges (Gary first), send suggestions to Lisa for additional judges

Youth testing can be reimbursed up to 75% fees from the national office

Birds – We have paid a deposit for chukars from Bob Miller, Don will check with supplier in WA about additional birds. We need pheasants for the tracking portion of the test

We decided to promote testing materials for youth and advertise through our website

## **5. Fundraising**

Canine first aid- We will explore a First aid class for members and guests in the Helena area this year

Snake break clinic – We will hold a snake clinic this year (TBA)

Penny Jo again? We talked about inviting Penny Jo or other trainer to do a seminar this year. No consensus was reached.

## **6. Collaboration**

Several of our members are also members of the Sharptail Chapter. Jon Arkins, their current president has reached out to explore options for collaborative training, workshops and possible testing together. A number of us will be at their annual meeting in April and will initiate discussions.