

First Quarter 2009

State of the Arctic Bird Dog affairs

From the President

Hello Members of ABDA,

Daylight is beginning to be quite abundant, the Iditarod is finishing up (another amazing run by Mackey!!) and the hunting season is almost over. Unfortunately the snow conditions have not been great for dogs lately; at least I haven't found them too accommodating. I have been finding a few birds though! Pie, my Brittany has figured out how to locate and point grouse in the trees tops. I thought it was a fluke at first, but she has been pretty consistent lately. Enough about me and my dogs.

Daylight and warmth bring on the training itch, soon we will all be in the fields with the dogs getting shaped up for Hunt Tests and next hunting season. The club is facilitating the annual Novice Class which starts April 17<sup>th</sup>. If you have a chance I invite you to stop by to introduce yourself and lend your support and encouragement to those folks participating. We were all rookies once!

After the class concludes in late May the club events will begin. Once they begin it will be a flurry of activity. We have added another Chukar Challenge to the calendar and I would like to see the weekly training sessions that we started last year continued. Everyone is welcome to attend and I would be grateful if you would assist me in facilitating by coming out to volunteer your time and your wisdom to help make it a positive experience for the newer members of the club. If nothing else, come on out and tell me something great about your dog. I would love to hear about the awesome feats they have accomplished over the last 8 months.

The board and I would greatly appreciate any volunteer time you could spare (between fishing trips of course) to help with events. Please contact one of us and let us know what you can do and if we contact you, please say yes.

Sincerely

Dale Sweetser

President, Arctic Bird Dog Association