

# Arizona Falconers Association

## General Membership Meeting

Feb. 24, 2008

Meeting started at 10:12 am

### **Officers Present**

Tim Riordan, President

Charlie Kaiser, VP

Ron Palmer, Treas.

Jamaica Smith, Sec.

Pam Hessey, Director

Forrest Miller, Director

Erik Powell, Director

Bob Mechsner, Director

Michael Mills, Director

Matt Murray, Director

### **Not Present**

Ian Wolf, Director

Nathan Charlton, Director

There were about 15 members present.

Tim started the meeting by introducing himself to the members present. He spoke about past divisions, and how he sees the Arizona falconers Association (AFA) moving into a period of unification based on the fact that all the members love the sport of falconry. He spoke about the importance of maintaining a unified presence during the upcoming changes to the federal and state falconry regulations. He reiterated that we are one group, and that no member of the board of directors is to pursue a personal agenda.

At that time the meeting was opened to the members for comments, questions, etc.

Gary Lollman asked that the AFA have more social gatherings in regional areas to promote more healing of the divisions of the past.

Bob Carson asked if anyone knew when the next Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGF) meeting was to be held. While we didn't know the specific answer to that questions, Forrest Miller shared that the deadline for asking for the extended quail season statewide (available only in 4 units near Phoenix & Tucson at this time) was in about a month and a half. He agreed to further look into what the AFA needed to do to see that the extended falconry-only quail season is made available statewide.

Matt Hankins mentioned that Lucy Mason, a state representative from Prescott, has introduced a bill that will affect falconry. His understanding is that it will change the wording of the law requiring that AZGF provide for falconry to allow for the use of exotic raptors for falconry outside the supervision of AZGF. John Bostwick, a member from the Prescott area, agreed to look further into that matter and report back to the board. (Secretary's note: In the week since this meeting took place, we found out that the bill is called House Bill 2332 and is in committee at this time, with no action scheduled. The board will continue to monitor its status.)

Charlie Kaiser segued into the issue of dealing with AZGF, putting on meets, etc., by suggesting that we put together an Administrative Manual. Basically it's a how-to manual so that things we've learned get passed on to future officers/members. He will be providing us a copy of the California Hawking Club version to give us a framework or starting point, and he will working with Michael Mills to put together the Desert Hawking Classic portion of the

manual to assist future Desert Hawking Classic coordinators.

Gary Lollman was nominated to be our AZGF Liaison. Charlie Kaiser was nominated to serve as co-liaison on this matter. The board unanimously approved the nominations. Gary will be getting in touch with AZGF to discuss the current status of the AFA and our desire to be proactive with all issues affecting falconry in AZ. These two will make up the core of the legislative/regulatory committee. The board agreed that keeping the committee small would be for the best.

Erik Powell announced that, as a member of the Education committee, he is donating a professional, large 3-D display to be used at educational events.

Bob Mechsner put in a positive word for Jerry Ostwinkle, mentioning all the positive impact he's had, especially recently, on falconry in AZ.

Matt Hankins brought up the issue of pigeon breeders killing raptors, and the idea that perhaps we could offer to help pigeon breeders in AZ with education at their events.

Erik asked about our membership status. Jamaica noted that we probably had about 30 members who had already paid dues for 2008, and that we normally extend the renewal period to the end of March. Gary Lollman said he would get a current list of AZ falconers from AZGF to give us some contacts for making a membership drive.

Forrest Miller offered to serve as our Apprentice Liaison, and the offer was accepted.

There was a call to adjourn. Charlie Kaiser asked members to provide constructive criticism regarding the Desert Hawking Classic this year, and asked for input on how to make it better for everyone. Jamaica pointed out that given the rush to put it on at the minute, she thought that the Desert Hawking Classic committee did a great job, and that was generally approved by those present.

George Bristol asked to speak before the meeting adjourned. He stated that he would withdraw his membership if the AFA started having officers meetings that didn't permit members to attend and cited many problems with the California Hawking Club and NAFA doing secret meetings. He shared his belief that we are not a unified club. He pointed out that AZ had approved an illegal species for falconry use, the screech owl.

Jamaica responded by pointing out that members were of course welcome to attend the meeting of the board of directors, and that Tim Riordan was simply trying to move us into that meeting, not make it secret. She further stated that the club was indeed unified, that there was no second club in AZ to the best of the board's knowledge. Gary Lollman said there was some grumbling about starting a second club due to unhappiness over the AFA situation for the past few months, but felt that things could be ironed out.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.