



Arizona Falconers Association

October 2018 Bulletin

Welcome New AFA Members!



*Thomas Boulton
Genevieve Bowman
Jim Bryan
Kelvin Celestine*

*Deanna Kovac
Troy Moody
Matt Murray
Jerry Ostwinkle*

*Robert Preston
Logan Vogel
Stacy Westerholm*

A Few Words from our Apprentice Coordinator, Matt Hankins

Most of us know the disappointment of life keeping you from going hawking a time or two.

Have you ever missed a whole falconry season because of unforeseen circumstances? I have, and it sucks (for the purposes of this article, "sucks" is an official falconry term).

I happened to miss out on what should have been my first hawking season because I could not find a sponsor. I could not even find someone willing to help me find a sponsor.

I was a member of the AFA, passed the written exam, attended all the meets, and was in touch with the club officers; and it still took me a year to find a sponsor. At that time, AFA had no apprentice coordinator. Thankfully, Gary Lollman connected me with a seasoned falconer who agreed to be my sponsor. With my sponsor's help, I spent my first official hawking season flying a Red-tailed Hawk named Danica, who caught five jackrabbits and two cottontails.

A few years later, when AFA appointed Jason Pollack as its apprentice coordinator, I was a General class falconer flying a Harris's Hawk named Jessica (who was dynamite – one season we caught 69 jackrabbits, with her personal best being four jacks in two hours!). As the apprentice coordinator, Jason would receive inquiries from people interested in falconry and he would connect them to active falconers in various parts of the state. Whenever I received someone's contact information from Jason, I would invite her or him to go hawking and watch Jessica chase and catch jackrabbits (some would bring cameras and would share their pictures, like the one adjacent to this article). Many would ask me to let them know the next time I was going to the field and I ended up contacting as many as eight people (my wife called them Groupies) every time Jessica and I went to chase rabbits.

After a couple of times with no one showing up, I decided after an initial exposure to a falconry experience, I would put the responsibility on the interested party to contact me if he or she wanted to go again. I had one person who would text me every Wednesday to ask where to meet to help flush game for Jessica, and he showed up almost every time. Dan Scrivener is a General class falconer now, after being my apprentice. I recently had a 14-year-old girl demonstrate the passion and commitment needed for falconry; our contact started in February and by May she had passed the written exam and I was able to find her a sponsor.

As the Apprentice Coordinator, I continue many of the best practices of my predecessor. I also learned people need three things to help them become licensed Apprentice Falconers: 1. The [AZGFD Falconry Regulations web link](#); 2. A nearby falconer willing to take them hawking and answer questions; and 3. An invitation to the next AFA event to connect with falconers from across the state. Typically, I spend an hour or so every week answering emails from people interested in falconry and providing them the link, an invitation, and contact info for a nearby and willing falconer. Less than half of all those who contact me ever reply, and only a few come to the field or an AFA event.

Many people don't need the help of an Apprentice Coordinator to find a sponsor, but some do, so if you are willing to be a sponsor for someone who contacts AFA, please let me know because missing a whole season of hawking, well it just sucks.



Matt Hankins has served as the AFA's Apprentice Coordinator for 7 years.

Matt and Jessica with two jacks.

Please contact Matt at apprentice@arizonafalconers.com if you are willing to become a sponsor!

Director's Reports

Director's Report: Jamaica Smith

October 14, 2018

Greetings, AFA members!

If you are an eligible voter, please look for an email over the next couple of days notifying you of the nomination process for the 2018 election. To be an eligible voter, you must be a licensed Arizona resident falconer with a current membership in the AFA.

Also, please be aware that only eligible voters who are General and Master class falconers are eligible to hold office or serve as a director for the AFA. The following people are eligible voters, and those with an M or G next to their name are eligible for nomination to office:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| m | Juli Bianchi-Ostler |
| m | Bill Boni |
| m | John Bostwick |
| a | Genevieve Bowman |
| m | Richard Brunotte |
| m | Jim Bryan |
| a | Nate Danforth |
| a | Shane Farrier |
| m | Matt Hankins |
| m | Pam Hessey |
| g | Nancy Hough |
| g | Jeremy Hough |
| a | Carissa Jonason |
| m | Charlie Kaiser |
| m | Michele Losee |
| g | Kristy McDonald |
| m | Harry McElroy |
| a | Cheryl McLaughlin |
| g | Shannon McQuerry |
| g | Rebecca Miller |

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| m | Matt Murray |
| g | Jon Orona |
| m | Jerry Ostwinkle |
| m | Ron Palmer |
| m | Erik Powell |
| g | Joseph Pravongviengkham |
| g | Carlos Rojas |
| a | Peter Schaefer |
| g | Anne schnell |
| m | Paul Schnell |
| g | Dan Scrivener |
| g | Jack Service |
| a | Amber Smelker |
| m | Greg Smith |
| m | Jamaica Smith |
| g | Harold Smith |
| a | Lydia Stinchfield |
| a | Stacy Westerholm |
| g | Brian Wood |

If you need to update your license status with the club, please contact me immediately so I can make sure you are included in the voting process as appropriate.

We will have nominations open for two weeks, then two weeks later we will have the election open for two weeks. This will allow time in between to confirm nomination acceptance and for candidates to submit their statements.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email:
director1@arizonafalconers.com

Director's Report: Paul Schnell

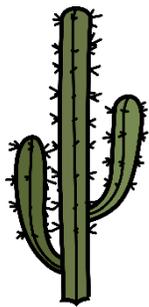
October 14, 2018

My wife Anne and I were recently notified by the Dept. of Environmental Conservation in NY (where we used to reside and practice falconry) that the USFWS website for reporting 3-186A transactions is active once again. You may receive the same notice if you have practiced falconry in another state. Please be aware that the AZGFD has **not yet** activated the site for AZ falconers as they have a backlog of information to add to update the state and federal databases. However, the site will be used again here in the future.



Bataleur

Photo by Mark Elder



Many Thanks to Carissa Jonason and Brian Wood for organizing the fall 2018 picnic!

