

American Helmet Association

Helmet Happenings

From the Editor

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Well here it is May already and everyone's breeding season here is finally in full swing. I hope all members have a great breeding year.

In this issue you will see several items from the President. Because of a computer mix up I didn't get some of his articles into the last issue so they are in this issue. Better late than never. Thank you to Bob Bollinger and Mike Crawford for taking the time to put together some great input for this issue. It is also good to see District Directors and Vice Presidents sending in reports this time of year. Hopefully it inspires the rest of us to take some time to make our newsletter better. Remember, our newsletter is only as good as our members make it.

President's Report April 2009

By Bob Bollinger

The breeding season is in full swing now. I have heard mixed results from different people. I have four banded and some more pairs are getting ready to go down on eggs. I am in the enviable or un-enviable position of having several extra pair of good MFCs and MFPs that I just don't have room to pair yet. As soon as the racing homers are done breeding I will have enough space to get them going too. Hopefully they won't be too late for the National.

There should be several good articles in this bulletin. I know that some files were lost when Paul switched from his old computer. I have resent a bunch to him and I hope that folks will enjoy them. I have also started compiling excerpts from the web dialog on the MyFamily helmet site. I have included some of them here. It is good to see quality information as well as informal dialog on the site. I am very pleased with both the MyFamily and AHA web sites. These are great resources for helmet breeders and I would encourage everyone to visit them regularly. For those of you who have not been out at the MyFamily site, contact Pavel L (see the officer list) for an invitation to sign you up!

I have heard a lot of people talking about show plans for this year and I have started to compile a show list. It's great that people are talking early and the word is getting out. I would encourage everyone to take a look at the list on the AHA site and in this bulletin. As you review the list, please give me updates on events, meets, judges, and corrections. If we all start making plans for meets now, we will have a great show season!

Most importantly, I have updated our FAQs section on the web site with articles, web dialogs and questions / answers. Hopefully this section will be a good resource for new members as they get into our breed. Check it out and let me know what you think; <http://www.americanhelmetassn.com/faqs.htm>

On other matters of club business; I recently sent off our updated standard to the NPA for the upcoming re-publication of the NPA book of standards. I also sent off a couple of our articles to the Purebred Pigeon. It is good for information on our breed to be out in front of the hobby in general.

Good luck with the rest of the breeding season!

President's Report February 2009

By Bob Bollinger

The Lancaster National is now over and I must say that I had a great time. It is always good to see the helmet faithful and look at nice birds. We had 200 birds shown at the national and competition was fierce. Congratulations to all the winners and especially Giulio. He spent a lot of money and traveled a long way to show at our National and his birds dominated the MFC classes. As we move forward, I would like to see some of us from the US show at the CHC shows in Canada. They have really nice shows and they have proven that negotiating the border crossing can be done.

I think we had some really constructive meetings at the National. The meeting minutes should be attached to this bulletin. There are several things worth noting here. First, are the proposed changes to the Constitution. We all need to get votes into Chuck (email or paper mail) regarding the proposal to allocate master breeder points to muffed and to add the spread ash based colors to our recognized color list. The ballots went out in the last bulletin and we need as many members as possible to vote. I think both proposals are good and I would encourage everyone to vote yes on them. We also have proposal moving through the board of directors to clarify the recent change to our breeder of the year award. When we changed our award to be based strictly on points we forgot to omit the 2 consecutive year limitation. That limit is no longer needed or pertinent to an award based solely on show results. After this passes through the board, we will see it published in the bulletin and then another ballot will be issued to members. I know that this feels like a lot of paperwork but it is important to get our club documents (Constitution, By-Laws, Standard, and Master Breeder rules) up to date and ready for publishing. The down side of making constructive changes to the club is the need to change our published documents. By getting everything done at one time we can update the documents all at once and get them published and available to members.

In this bulletin, you will also see an article that I created for the 50th year book. Unfortunately it didn't make the publishing deadline. I think it is still pertinent reading as it shares my perspective, as incoming president, on the great work on the Year Book. Thanks again for all your efforts Myron!

I have already heard from several members who have started their breeding program. I would love to live in an area where the climate allowed me to start breed around New Year. Unfortunately I will need to wait for several more weeks before starting in earnest.

I feel a lot of excitement among members as we look forward to spring and the upcoming 2009 season. I am convinced that our core nucleus of club members are as excited and engaged as ever. Our challenge moving forward is recruiting new members and sharing stock to allow them to succeed. I think we can start increasing our membership again by doing what we do best; communicating with each other, putting on great meets at shows, and sharing birds widely. I have many thoughts on how we can do it. More to come in future bulletins!

Incoming President's Message

50th Year Book

By Bob Bollinger

As I look forward to taking over the AHA Presidency in 2009 I am very excited about the future of our club. There are a number of articles in this year book which discuss and chronicle the 50 year history of the AHA. I think we are poised to continue that legacy into 2009 and beyond. Having been involved with pigeon clubs for nearly 30 years, I continue to marvel at how the AHA is so well structured and organized. At shows I routinely get approached by other exhibitors who remark about how much they like the helmets. They often comment that if they were to get into another breed it would be helmets. I believe we have a breed and a club that we can leverage to increase our membership and the number of birds at the shows.

So, where do we go from here? First, we need to talk to each other more and make an effort to reach out to new members and breeders. Second, we need to do some more and earlier planning to ensure that our meets are well located and timed to accommodate the most breeders and exhibitors in our various regions. Lastly, we need to figure out how to help new members successful with the birds.

We have definitely seen a decline in membership and show entries over the last several years. However, as I have attended shows throughout North America I have been impressed by the consistency of the core / long term helmet breeders. Our club has a great nucleus of members who routinely attend and show birds. This nucleus comprises centuries of helmet and pigeon experience. The key theme across our next steps is to better use the great foundation of members and knowledge that we already have available. I am convinced that our members still have the passion but like everyone now days, we are all very busy.

I have a number of detailed ideas and strategies that I will try to implement as I assume the presidency. Some of these include; regular phone calls to officers, judging seminars, a mentor program, and show planning assistance. I will discuss these in much more detail in the coming months and bulletins. I think our future is bright and I am looking forward to more exciting helmet shows in the future.

QUICK NOTE FROM YOUR EASTERN VICE-PRESIDENT

By Giulio Marcoccia

WELL THE LANCASTER NATIONAL IS NOW OVER AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE INVOLVED THAT MADE THE SHOW A GREAT SUCCESS. CONGRATS TO ALL THE WINNERS AS THIS WAS A WELL ATTENDED SHOW WITH MANY FANTASTIC HELMETS. SPECIAL THANKS TO MY FRIENDS DON PHY, RAUL DELGADO AND BERNARD AND VICTOR CLINE & FAMILY. YOU FOLKS KEPT ME ENTERTAINED FOR A FEW FUN DAYS, GOOD TIMES.

RAUL AND I HAVE CO-ORDINATED TO COME UP WITH THIS YEAR'S EASTERN SECTIONAL. IT WILL BE HELD ON DEC 6TH, 2009, IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK. WE HAVE STRATEGICALLY PICKED THIS SPOT FOR ITS CENTRAL LOCATION TO MANY OF THE EASTERN AHA MEMBERS. DISTRICT 10 CANADIAN HELMET BREEDERS ARE ALSO VERY CLOSE AND SHOULD MAKE THIS ONE A WELL ATTENDED MEET. PLEASE CONTACT RAUL DELGADO FOR ANY INFORMATION NEEDED. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE.

AS I AM WRITING THIS, I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MANY OF THE AHA MEMBERS, EITHER BY PHONE OR E-MAIL AND FIND THAT MOST HAVE STARTED TO BREED AND ARE EXCITED ABOUT THEIR NEW CROP OF BABIES. SOME ARE DOING BETTER THEN OTHERS. 2009 FINDS ME JUDGING THE LOUISVILLE NYBS AND ALSO THE CANADIAN NYBS, WHICH KEEPS ME OUT OF SHOWING MY YOUNGSTERS EARLY IN THE YEAR. MY BREEDING HAS STARTED LIKE GANG BUSTERS WITH OVER 70 BABIES HATCHED AND DOING WELL BEFORE APRIL FOOLS DAY. ONE OF MY BEST STARTS TO DATE. I ATTRIBUTE THIS TO HEALTHY BIRDS AND A NEW BABY BROODER I HAVE MADE FOR UNDER 100 BUCKS. IT HAS ALLOWED ME TO SAVE BABIES THAT I WOULD NORMALLY HAVE LOST. IF ANY ONE NEEDS SOME INFO ON THIS SYSTEM PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME ANYTIME. I WILL BE VERY HAPPY TO HELP.

HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A TERRIFIC BREEDING SEASON. SEE YOU AT THE SHOWS

GIULIO MARCOCCIA

Thoughts on Helmet Breeding

By Mike Crawford and Bob Bollinger

The conventional wisdom for pigeon breeding is; “mate the best to the best”! This is a great rule if you have a loft full of champions and proven breeders. Unfortunately, most of us don’t have a loft full of perfect birds. We will try to share our more practical experience with breeding helmets.

The basic ideas that we want to share in this article are:

1. You should only breed with your better birds.
2. Sometimes your best breeders are not the show winners.
3. Balancing features is the key.
4. Some faults should never be bred from.

Ideally we would always breed the best to the best birds. However, “Best” is not always defined by show results. Moreover, experience has shown that some of our most productive pairs have been two stock birds. You must take all the features of the bird into account when planning your matings. Some of the birds that aren’t good in the show pen can be very useful in the breeding pen. Typically people refer to those less than perfect birds as stock birds. Stock birds are maintained because they have one or two great features that we want to use to enhance another bird. This is where balance comes in. As we mate our pairs we try to ensure that each bird has features that improve the other or compensates for a defect. Listed below are a number of features we have found can be balanced in matings: (in no particular order)

- Color
- Weak Rosettes to Deep Drilled Rosettes
- Long to Short (birds and feather length in general)
- Tall to Short
- Cap / Markings (over marked to under marked, mis-marked to very cleanly marked)
- Beak length (short to long, stout to weak)
- Beak setting (beak setting can be improved, but if a bird is very down set, don’t breed it)
- Feather quality (long and loose to tight and hard)

As much as balance is good, you always need to remember to breed with only your better birds. Mediocre birds typically breed mediocre birds and bad birds rarely make anything useful. We try to sort out a group of our better birds (show and stock birds) and use them for breeding. We typically try to keep similar birds together and only improve one or two features at a time. Putting very dissimilar birds together can have unpredictable results.

We have also found that some faults are very hereditary and should never be bred from. It is often difficult to pass over a bird with a bunch of stellar features. However, if you don't eliminate these faults from your breeding program they can come back to haunt you. Faults to avoid:

- Pinched heads (when viewing the bird from the front the sides of the face come to wattle at an angle versus straight down)
- Wing Droopers / Shallow Backs (these often go together)
- 13 tail feathers
- Cross beaks
- Bull eyes
- Severely Cracked Eyes / Bad Eyes
- Excessive eye brows (where the features protrude out over the eye from the side of the head)

The above lists are not all inclusive but provide some general guidelines that we use in the breeding pen. Remember that balance is key and try not to do too much at one time. If a mating doesn't work out, break up the pair and balance them against other birds. Many National Champions have come out of stock pairs, with minor imperfections, that have balanced well and produced great youngsters.

Raising Helmets Without Feeders

By Mike Crawford

Over the years people have been talking about modern helmets having trouble feeding their babies. I have also had this problem and I don't have space to keep feeder pairs. To move past this problem I work with the helmet pairs to help them and hand feed babies. Over the last 15 years I have raised on average 30-50 birds a year with the following techniques.

In general it is best to let the parents do as much of the work as possible. If the parents are sitting tight you can let the squabs under them in the nest. I let the parents feed the babies as much as possible. If the babies are not being fed I will hand feed them from day one. If they are being fed I will let the parents feed first and then I will top off the babies. I have also found parents who are not good feeders at first and then start feeding at when the babies are 1-2 weeks old. Keeping the parents in the process helps them maintain their parenting skills and reduces the amount of hand feeding required. It is worth noting that hens feed for the first 10 or so days, then the cocks feed through weaning time. Watching when the babies are and are not fed will help you identify who is the poorer parent in the pair.

If the parents are not sitting well the babies should be moved. I use a small aquarium with an incandescent light to house and warm the babies that I remove from the nest. Babies can be kept in the aquarium from the day that they hatch until weaning time (3-4 weeks).

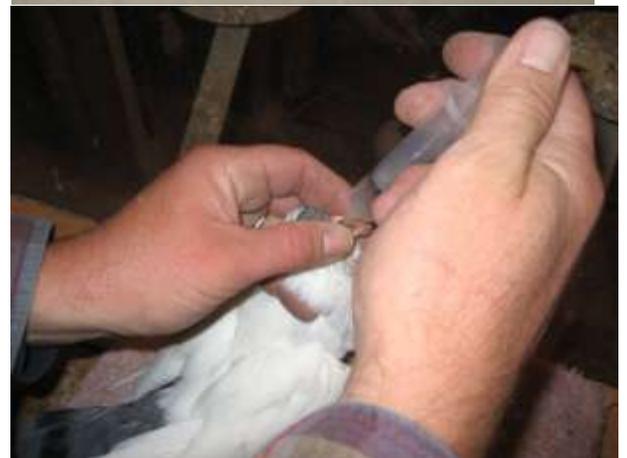
There are a number of good hand feeding formulas on the market. Most of the mixes have been developed and marketed for parrots and other cage birds. I have used Exact and Roudy Bush with good success. Most formulas come with clear instructions so I will not go into detail on mixing the feed. I will try to describe some of the techniques I use that are specific to pigeons.

I use various sizes of syringes / bottles in the hand feeding process. I try to group the babies into large, medium, and small sizes and choose the size syringe and feeding mix concentration accordingly. The pictures at the right show the types of syringes /bottles that I use. It is very important that the feeding syringe tips are not too sharp or pointy as they could cut or tear the mouth and throat of the baby you are trying to feed.

When preparing the hand feeding mix I use a very dilute mixture for the small babies and make it thicker as the birds get bigger. I use warm water to make the mix. The warm water is not a shock to the small babies and it also helps the mix dissolve better.

To feed the babies tilt back and pull up, holding their head between your thumb and forefinger. Your hand will be over the back of the baby and then slightly extend the neck and put the head up. Insert the syringe or bottle tip into the back of the bird's mouth being careful to avoid the front hole which is the bird's wind pipe. When the tip is in place gently push in the feed. If the feed mix goes in easily the tip is in the right place. If it flows back out of the beak or is difficult to push, the syringe tip is not at the right place and you should pull out the syringe and then put it back in to try again.

When the babies are first hatched the trick is to get a small amount into the bird and not let any drain down into the lungs. A very little bit in a fresh hatch will go a long way. I feed twice a day. Some directions suggest that fresh hatches should be fed more frequently. However I have had very good luck with 2 times a day, morning and evening. The babies are most vulnerable in the first 2 weeks after hatching. This is where you need to be most careful and practice. As the babies get larger I increase the amount of feed and the size of feeding syringe. By the time the babies are a few weeks old I switch from the syringe to a feeding bottle seen here. The bottle holds more feed and allows me to quickly service the babies without having to repeatedly refill the syringe.



Older babies should be fed until their crop is pumped full and nicely bulging. It should look and feel similar to a baby that is well fed under a good feeder pair.

While I work with the babies I try to evaluate their overall wellbeing. As I noted before, I try to keep the youngsters with their parents as much as possible. I carefully observe the babies when I feed in the morning and evening. It is especially important to check the crops to see if there is any feed remaining. I have found that babies who are not well covered by the parents and get cold usually have feed remaining in their crops at feeding time. While it may appear that the parents are sitting well, the undigested food in the crop is your signal to move the babies from their parents to the aquarium.

The conditions in the aquarium should also be monitored. The light bulb wattage often needs changed based on the outside air temperature. If the babies are huddled together under the light, they need more heat. The amount of feed in the crop at feeding time should also be monitored. As I noted above, if there is food remaining in the crop between the morning and evening feedings, the babies are too cool. If the babies move off to the side of the light, that would indicate that it is too hot for them. I have had good luck keeping all sizes of babies in the aquarium together. Even the fresh hatches seem to do OK. I have had up to 8 babies in aquarium at same time and not same age. I have had new hatches and 3 week olds together, it doesn't matter. It is actually neat to watch new hatches crawl under 3 week olds just as if they are parents. As they get older the babies will learn from each other and help in the weaning process.

Weaning the babies is the key next step in the process. When the babies are 2 weeks old I start adding grains to the hand feeding process. I open the baby's mouth in the same way that I would to insert the feeding syringe. Then I carefully start pushing some amount of small grains into their throat. This simulates what the parents would be doing at this point in their feeding process. As the babies move from 2 to 3 weeks old I try to give them increasingly more grain. I also start to dip their beaks in the water dish to teach them how to drink. The key to weaning is getting them to drink. My goal is to wean the babies at about 3-4 weeks of age so they are eating and drinking on their own.

When the babies are eating and drinking I remove them from the aquarium or their parents. I put them into a small young bird pen where I keep babies that are recently weaned up to 1-2 months old. I don't keep them with old birds because the babies sometimes stop eating and will try to beg for feed and continue to rely, or hope to rely, on the old birds to feed them. By keeping the youngsters together they learn from each other but won't beg for feed and slow the process.

The one problem with extensive hand feeding and using the aquarium is keeping track babies and parents. The key challenge is watching the babies until they are ready to band. This can be very tedious and you may need to be creative if you have a bunch of babies at the same age. I have tried to use small separators or dividers in the aquarium with differing amounts of success. The best thing to do is keep accurate records of who was moved when and then sort it out the best you can.

I can take care of 10 babies in less than 5 minutes including mixing and clean up. It doesn't take long until the babies think you are mom or dad and they will be begging you to feed them. We all want our birds to be better feeders. Until that happens hand feeding can be a useful tool and help you raise lots of babies. With some patience and practice you can be very successful.

Hand Feeding

taken from our MyFamily web site

GIULIO MARCOCCIA - Mar 3, 2009

NOT SURE IF I SAW IT ON THIS SITE OR ANOTHER. DO ANY OF YOU GUYS USE PURINA GREEN PELLETS AS HAND FEED FORMULA? I HAVE SOME AND HAVE GROUND IT TO A POWDER, BUT AM HAVING TROUBLE FIGURING OUT THE VOLUME OF WATER TO ADD. SO FAR I HAVE TRIED 4 PARTS WATER TO 1 PART POWDER AND THIS SEEMS TO BE OK, BUT BIRDS ARE NOT GROWING AS FAST. WHAT'S YOUR THOUGHTS ???

Read what others had to say:

Mike Larson - Mar 3, 2009

I TRY NOT TO THINK. IT HURTS MY HEAD WHEN I TRY AND THINK.

Jim Garus - Mar 3, 2009

G, mamming is ewesing green/yellow and likes them better than exact.

DENNIS MANNING - Mar 4, 2009

G ...I am using the gold and green as one is high protein and the other is high carbs. I'm mixing them 50/50 green and gold. I am grinding them up in a coffee bean grinder and mixing them in a less formal manner than you. I have a quart container that I fill about 2/3 full of water and dump in the coffee grinder container full I don't know the exact volume of that. I then add mix or water as needed until it is thick like pudding (after I let it set for about 15 minutes) and pump them up. I'm using roudybush squab the first four or five days and then I go to a formula that is one third roudybush 3 and 2/3 Purina nutriblend for another week or so at least until they are showing plenty of feather Then I go to straight nutriblend until they wean. So far it is really working good for me nice fat squabs. I used the game bird started pellets last year but it must have been too hot for the birds as all of them had stress marks on their juvenile feathers, This year with nutriblend they are doing great.

GIULIO MARCOCCIA - Mar 4, 2009

Ok Dennis, I do the same type of thing with a few hand feed formula's. I have tried a thicker consistency, but find the babies have a hard time digesting it. How do you mix your squab formula? I use 6 water to 1 powder, the directions on the roudybush package sucks. How many times a day are you feeding? How many cc per bird say at different life stages. How hot do you keep your brooders? Just picking your brain, this maybe a great subject to help others raise helmets especially the first few days of life after hatch. Also if you let your formula sit for 15 min., is it not too cold?

DENNIS MANNING - Mar 4, 2009

I would sure like to come off a little more organized in the process Giulio but I'm just not. I can't tell you if it is 3 to one or 6 to one. I mix the roudybush squab very thin the first couple days and check to see if they are digesting it or just pulling the water out. Very thin to me is almost watery in consistency. As we both found out the last couple seasons sometimes they seem to suck the water out and leave hard clumps in the crop that can eventually plug them off an kill them. If they are

passing the roudy OK then I start thickening the formula over the coming days to a very thick solution I do this because I am trying to mimic what happens in the nest. The thicker solution will start to stretch the crop without coming back up the throat and choking the baby (learned that one the hard way a few times) I still continue to check daily and make sure hard lumps are not forming in the crop. If I find those lumps, it is not a good thing. I lose some at that point but I have learned to save them as well. I use my fingers on the crop and attempt to smash the lumps while adding a little warm water down the throat. I have gotten pretty successful at, for lack of a better term, "re-mixing" the solution inside the crop. If I'm lucky the baby will then digest the food in the crop and the problem is fixed. Once I start getting big bulgy crops on the young I start giving them a partial shot of the roudybush 3/Purina nutriblend formula along with the roudybush squab, just a little. This is the stage in the loft where you will see a few grains in the crop so I'm sure it won't hurt them. If they are growing good at that point they get off the roudybush squab completely.

I use metal shaded lights with 100 WATT bulbs. I have four boxes setting adjacent to each other with the youngest birds in the middle that way they get the most heat. It is a trial and error process that I adjust throughout the season. I don't have a thermometer (I should). If the birds are panting its too hot if they are shivering it's too cold. As the weather gets warmer the lights get raised higher. This time of year the temps can swing form 28 degrees to 60 so it is a daily process. A brooder of some sort with a thermostat and heat control would be much better. I feed the youngest three to four times a day. It depends on when I can get away to get home and do it. The older youngsters get fed twice a day.

For all but the youngest a tight full crop is the measure for how much I give each until I want them to wean. When I move them to the weaning pen I cut down their feed dramatically they get a half a crop full twice a day basically enough to keep them alive. I always keep a weaned youngster in with them.

GIULIO MARCOCCIA - Mar 4, 2009

Thanks Dennis, sounds like we are on the same page, I just have not had the same luck with the roudybush squab, my babies just don't seem to grow with it. I will cut the water down a bit and watch their crops.

DENNIS MANNING - Mar 4, 2009

What I think I've learned is to not spend too much time on the roudy squab, get to the roudy and or roudy/purina mix as quickly as possible.

Air In Crop

taken from our MyFamily web site

Todd Farnsworth - Mar 4, 2009

What make a young helmets crop fill with air? I don't mean the small amount that happens regularly but this is similar to a pouter's globe that is ready to burst. I have lanced it to let the air out but it will heel and fill with air again.

Read what others had to say:

DENNIS MANNING - Mar 4, 2009

You can also stick a small piece of surgical tubing down his throat and release the air. It will fill right back up again with every breath but you can release it a couple times a day. Not sure what the injury is it

could just be swelling in the throat I have dealt with it before I don't believe I have ever successfully kept one but mostly because I just quit trying.

Brian McCormick - Mar 4, 2009

I have found that in young babies that bloat up their crop with air, that is the beginning of canker somewhere along the throat or even inside the crop. I assume their throat is irritated so they are continually swallowing, which is all air.

Sour crop does this because of the gases being released by the fungi or bacterial-rotting feed in their crop. I think it is an enzyme or something like that. They say a flush with pepto bismal or baking soda solves it.

Jim Garus - Mar 4, 2009

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I DO, BAKING SODA OR PEPTO, DOES CROP HAVE AN ODOR.

DENNIS MANNING - Mar 4, 2009

I've heard of the baking soda trick also but the ones I had the feed was passing through ok they just had their throat so sealed up that the air would not escape and you could almost see them fill up like a pouter..might be canker??makes sense?/ that would surely be closing off the passage.. If you really wanted to try to save one you could treat for both conditions and try to fix a tube down the throat to release the air until the swelling went down or the canker went away

Todd Farnsworth - Mar 4, 2009

Thanks for all your help. As for odor there doesn't seem to be any and for visible canker I can't see any of that. I did treat today with Spartrex in case it is canker and will try your other suggestions. I probably wouldn't try so hard to save this bird but it is a bird I really like to this point and it is good to know what may work for next time it happens.

Thanks again for the help.

Mike Larson - Mar 4, 2009

ANY TIME I CAN HELP OUT AGAIN, JUST LET ME KNOW.

50th ANNIVERSARY PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	
ITEM	COST (each)
Button	\$ 1.50
Embroidered Ball Cap	\$ 12.00
T-Shirt	\$ 10.00
SHIPPING	
ITEM	COST
Button	\$ 2.00
Ball Cap	\$ 4.00
T-Shirt	\$ 4.00
Ball Cap and T-Shirt	\$ 7.00

Secretary's Report

By Charles Dwight

Not much to report this time. I guess everyone is busy banding babies and starting to look for that new champion.

A couple of our District directors are starting to plan their district meets for this year. Hopefully they will get them published in the bulletin so our members can plan ahead to get to them and show.

Treasurer's Report

Jan/Feb 2009

By Charles Dwight

Income

Dues	400.00
Bands	357.00
Band Postage	36.00
Donation	5.00
Patch	7.50
50 th Anniversary Caps, Buttons, T-Shirts	220.00
National Show Rebate	205.00
Total	\$1,230.50

Expenses

Postage	11.12
Copies-Constitution	16.98
100 National champion Pins	204.00
Yearbook – Myron Berger	458.86
Ad – Feather Fancier	35.00
Nov/Dec Bulletin Printing	161.92
Nov/Dec Bulletin Postage	97.03
Web Sites	172.69
Mailing Labels	11.90
National show Awards	361.50
Total	\$1,531.00

Totals

2009 Starting Balance	\$ 2,581.81
Income	\$ 1,230.50
	Balance \$ 3,812.31
Expenses	\$ 1,531.00
Feb Ending Balance	\$ 2281.31

Get Your Bulletin by Email

If you want to get your AHA bulletin by email send your correct email address to Secretary Charles Dwight. You will get your bulletin much faster and at a lot less cost to the AHA. The US Postal Service will be raising rates in May 2009 so the cost for mailing the bulleting will rise. Help us save some money and have your bulletin emailed. To receive the bulletin electronically, email your email address to Charles Dwight at mrsd@wcnnet.org. Be sure to put AHA in the subject line.

2009 Bands

Bands for 2009 are nearly sold out. If you still need bands, call or email Charles Dwight before you send your order to make sure he still has some left. When the AHA bands are gone. You can order from the NPA, or one of their band distributors. Toni Patti is a NPA distributor.

District 6 Report

By Charles Dwight

I attended a swap meet last weekend put on by our local pigeon club. Several of our AHA members were there. Betty and Patrick flynn, Leonard Kuzminski, Scott Amo, Sally Przybrandowski, Don Rexroth and district 7 Director Ray Kolinski. The weather was great and a lot of birds were bought and sold.

I was able to get all of the district 6 meets set for the year. They will be listed in this, and upcoming bulletins.

Hope everyone is having a great year.....Chuck

District 6 Shows

District 6 Young Bird Meet

National Young Bird Show. Louisville Kentucky. October 31, 2009-05-07

District All Age Meet

Michigan Pigeon Club. Fremont Ohio. December 5, 2009.

District All Age Meet

Fremont Pigeon Club. Fremont Ohio. January 16, 2010

District 7 Report

By Ray Kolinski

Hi to all Helmet Club members.

The breeding season is getting started here in Pennsylvania. Most of the breeders have a few young and some have a few banded. I don't want to talk about the weather, but it has been terrible here. This is expected since I am in the Laurel Mountains. We have been from minus 20 degrees to the 50's and there's lots of snow everywhere. Everyone in the region has had their share also, but spring is soon here.

The National was a great show. It was my first one in quite some time. I was real proud to win with my red hen. She is on eggs now. We also had some great discussions at the meetings and hope to have some changes and a lot of great ideas will follow. Congratulations to Mike Crawford, Giulio Marcoccia and all the other winners. It was also nice to meet all the other members at the show.

I would like to announce the District 7 all age shows for 2009. The White Rose Pigeon Association show on August 2nd and the Western Pennsylvania Club show on August 16th. The Reading Young Bird Show is my pick for the young bird meet. It is on October 4th. It is great preparation for your Louisville birds. The last meet is either White Rose or the Reading show in January or the Big Apple Classic in December. These will have to be discussed with members so I will be asking everyone at all the shows. Victor Cline of District 14 will be having an early show at the Eastern Hungarian Club in June or July. He also has definite dates on October 14th and November 21st. Vic will let us know what's going on when he gets more information.

I would like to thank Bob Bollinger and my friend Harold Strawniak for all their advice for a new Director. Also glad to hear that James Jenson is feeling better after his surgery.

Hope to see you all at the shows this summer. Club members may contact me via email. Rays-Animal-Paradise @ yahoo.com or by phone at 814 289-7036. Take care....we are going to have a great year!

Ray

DISTRICT 8 REPORT

By James Jenson

Spring must be coming. My first helmet egg was laid today. It's exciting to contemplate the possibilities for the New Year.

Yesterday Mark Etherington and I took a drive to southern Utah to visit a new helmet breeder, Jim Mueller. We left him with another pair of helmets and had a lot of fun looking over all of his birds. Jim has a problem most of us don't have. He told us that last week he stepped out his back door and there was a mountain lion sitting in front of his garage. He lives in a very rural area and apparently there are several lions in the area. He's had them around his pens more than once. I think that kind of greeting would wake you up in the morning.

We have gotten a few new (or returning) breeders going in helmets this past year in district 8. We are looking forward to a fun show season next fall. Because of hosting the national in January, the Utah pigeon club is not having its regular show in November. The grand Circle pigeon club in Hurricane, Utah is moving their show to that first weekend of November this year, so we will set a district meet there. They will not have their regular February show again because of the national being in Utah. In September we will have our annual lawn show and barbeque. Several of us are planning to attend the

western sectional in Kennewick, Washington also. Throw in a couple of fairs and the Pageant of Pigeons and it is going to be a busy show season.

We would like to invite you all to come to the national in Salt Lake City in January. It should be a great show for helmets. Leonard Patito is particularly pressing for a LARGE plainhead show this year. At the first Salt Lake national, if I remember correctly, there were 135 m f plainheads shown. He'd like to see that again. The competition is always tough here in m f crested. I spoke to Myron Berger the other night. He is planning to be here so we will see some good short faces also. I hope you can join us.

Well, good luck to you in the breeding pen. Hopefully we'll see you at one of the shows.

James Jensen

Proposal to Amend AHA Constitution

The current rule is that a member cannot win breeder of the year two years in a row.

Proposal is to amend Section C-2 of the constitution regarding breeder of the year rules to allow a member to receive the award in consecutive years.

Proposed by Dennis Manning, Vic Eshpeter and Hank Ebbelaar of District 2.
Passed Unanimously by the Board of Directors.

AHA Standard Changes Voting Results

1. Spread ash red and yellow passed.
2. Master breeder points for muffed helmets passed.

Your Dues are Due

<u>Member</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>District</u>
John DeCarlo Jr.	1	Walter Boroznoff	7
John Hepner	1	Victor Cardillo & Family	7
Robert Kirby	1	Ray Kolinski Jr.	7
Ray Sanchez	3	Pavel Lutsenko	9
Teddy Anderson & Family	4	Gary Lien	11
David Henshaw	6	Danny Garling	14

AHA SHOW REPORT Medium Face Crested

Show / Club: Canadian Helmet Club (Specialty Breeders Show)
Location: Woodstock, Ontario
Date: November 29, 2008
Judge: John Ridler
District: 10 **Event:** District
Number Shown: 38 **Total in Event:** 71
Number Exhibitors: 8 **Number Districts:** 1

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	124	Blue	OH	Gary Parsons	23.00
2	760	Yellow	OH	Gary Parsons	17.25
3	644	Red	OM	Gary Parsons	13.80
4	40	Black	OC	Dan Homick	Non Member
5	104	AORC	OC	Dan Homick	Non Member
6	1340	Dun	OC	Dan Homick	Non Member
7	11	Silver	YH	Gary Parsons	5.75

Exhibitors: (all from district 10) Dave Antolin, Aaron Burn (Jr) Randy Cobb, Michael Gregorinski (Jr)
Dan Homick, John Koops, Gary Parsons, Guy Steffler

AHA SHOW REPORT Medium Face Plainhead

Show / Club: Canadian Helmet Club (Specialty Breeders Show)
Location: Woodstock, Ontario
Date: November 29, 2008
Judge: John Ridler
District: 10 **Event:** District
Number Shown: 20 **Total in Event:** 71
Number Exhibitors: 4 **Number Districts:** 1

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	20	Red	YC	Dan Homick	Non Member
2	82	Blue	YC	Dan Homick	Non Member
3	116	Black	OH	Gary Parsons	10.80
4	181	Yellow	OC	Randy Cobb	Non Member
5	99	AORC	YH	John Koops	Non Member
6	174	Dun	YC	Randy Cobb	Non Member
7	176	Silver	OH	Randy Cobb	Non Member

Exhibitors: (all from district 10) Randy Cobb, Dan Homick, John Koops, Gary Parsons

2009 Show Dates

June

EHPC Summer Show
Waynesboro, PA
June 28, 2009
Contact: Vic Cline

August

Western PA Pigeon Club
District 7 Meet
Uniontown, PA
August 16, 2009
Judge/s: TBD
Contact: Ray Kolinski
rays_animal_paradise@yahoo.com
814-289-7036

September

October

Reading Young Bird Show
District 7 Meet
Reading, PA
October 4, 2009
Judge/s: TBD
Contact: Ray Kolinski
rays_animal_paradise@yahoo.com
814-289-7036

Sand and Sagebrush Annual Show
Columbia Basin Pigeon Club
Western Sectional
Kenewick, WA
October 23-25, 2009
Judge/s: TBD
Contact: Dennis Bray

NYBS
District 6 Meet
Louisville, KY
October 31, 2009
Likely Judge/s: Guilio Marcoccia - MFC
Harold Strawniak - MFP
Contact: Chuck Dwight
mrsd@wcnet.org

November

WRPA Fall Show
District 7 Meet
Emigsville, PA
November 8, 2009
Judge/s: TBD
Contact: Ray Kolinski
rays_animal_paradise@yahoo.com
814-289-7036

LAPC Pageant of Pigeons
District 1 Meet??
San Bernardino, CA
November 19-21, 2009
Contact: Mike La Com
km11sj@charter.net

December

Rochester Pigeon Fanciers Show
Eastern Sectional
Rochester, NY
December 6, 2009
Judge/s: TBD
Contact: Raul Delgado or Giulio Marcoccia
crownlofts@aol.com
giulio_marcoccia@sympatico.ca

January 2010

Reading Pigeon Assn Winter Show
District 7 Meet
Lancaster, PA
January 14-17, 2010
Judge/s: TBD
Contact: Ray Kolinski
rays_animal_paradise@yahoo.com
814-289-7036

NPA Grand National
Salt Lake City, UT
January 28-30, 2010
Judge/s: TBD

Active Members by District

DIST	LAST	FIRST	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP	PHONE	Email
1	DeCarlo	John Jr.	3040B Godfrey	Gilroy	CA	95020	(408) 846-0987	
1	Hammons	Joe &Tari	577 W. Via De Palmas	Queen Creek	AZ	85240	(480) 888-9071	tariquilts@msn.com
1	Heppner	John	3040 Godfrey Ave.	Gilroy	CA	95020	(408) 848-3399	
1	Kirby	Robert	40274 N. Prince Ave.	Queen Creek	AZ	85240	(480) 987-1544	bkpigeons@msn.com
1	LaCom	K. Mike	2826 El Caminito St.	La Crescenta	CA	91214	(818) 249-0651	KMIISJ@CHARTER.NE
1	Patito	Leonard	6048 Aurora Dr.	Mira Loma	CA	91752	(951) 685-0627	dpatito6@hotmail.com
1	Rajala	Marilu	23905 Clinton Keith #114	Wildomar	CA	92595	(951) 461-3257	greenmagpies@yahoo.
1	Schatz	Russ	2092 Guyson Street	Lomita	CA	90717	(310) 326-6400	reschatz@AOL.com
2	Berger	Myron	6809 N. Market	Spokane	WA	99217	(509) 467-6259	regallofts@hotmail.com
2	Bray	Dennis	P.O. Box 211	Lakewood	WA	98259	(360) 652-8788	
2	Ebbelaar	Henry	P.O. Box 368	Outlook	WA	98938	(509) 837-3814	hebbelaar@charter.co
2	Eshpeter	Vic	17014 Rainbow Ln.	Greenwater	WA	98022	(360) 663-2230	
2	Garus	Jim	2041 Lewis St.	Dallas	OR	97338	() - 0	
2	Larson	Mike	614 S. Main	Independence	OR	97351	(503) 838-4474	
2	Manning	Dennis	14595 Misty Drive	Cloverdale	OR	97112	(503) 392-3560	DENNISMANNING@M
2	Nichols	Brian	P.O. Box 229	N. Bonneville	WA	98639	(509) 427-3435	btnichols@gorgf.net
2	Schenck	Otto	11614-270th Street E.	Graham	WA	98338	(253) 847-9961	oschenk@hotmail.com
3	Aherns	Shane	2860 75TH E.	Inver Grove Hts.	MN	55076	(651) 450-7401	Pigeon.Pigeon@hotmail
3	Crook	Mike &Pe	1921 G Road	Prairie du Roche	IL	62277	(618) 458-6454	mmpm lofts@htc.net
3	Johnson	Johnnie	208 Sandwood Cir.	Park River	ND	58270		
3	Pfadenhauer	Wesley	13276 Beaverdale Road	West Burlington	IA	52655	(319) 392-8177	
3	Revolinsky	Danny	4101 Village Drive	Whitelen	WI	54247	(920) 652-0839	drevsky@aol.com
3	Sanchez	Ray	Rt. 1 Box 216 A	Purdy	MO	65734	(417) 422-3731	
3	Siebe	Wes	12407 Clear View Height	Peosta	IA	52003	(319) 557-1380	
3	Smith	Fred	P.O.Box 105	Henderson	IL	61439	() - 0	
4	Anderson&Fa	Teddy	Rt.2 Box153A	Pauls Valley	OK	73075	(405) 484-7390	
4	Jackson famil	Bob	P.O. Box 1737	Brackettville	TX	78832	(830) 563-9074	
4	Phy	Donald	7200 N Martin Luther Kin	Oklahoma City	OK	73111	(405) 478-2089	
4	Rynn	Hugh S.	34251 Resaca Vista Dr.	Los Fresnos	TX	78566	(956) 233-8686	hsrynn @ hotmail.com
4	Williams	Jim	226 Sycamore St.	Abilene	TX	79602	(325) 518-6227	Jim@WilliamsSurveyin
4	Zachary	Steve	2803 Hwy. 957	Ethel	LA	70730	(225) 936-2961	steve-zachary@yahoo.
5	Janota	Jack	600 Timber Bay Cir. W.	Oldsmar	FL	34677	(727) 510-5245	jacekj123@msn.com
5	Petitto	Steve	2139E. Leewynn Dr.	Sarasota	FL	34240	(941) 343-9598	
5	Raposo	John	18030 Leetana	N. Fort Meyers	FL	33917	(239) 691-1612	jesrap2002@yahoo.co
6	Dunlap	Bob	7608 U.S. Hwy.127	Sherwood	OH	43556	(419) 899-2558	pamerin@SMTC.com
6	Dwight	Charles	1093 St. Rt. 101 East	Clyde	OH	43410	(419) 547-8184	mrsd@wcnet.org
6	Evans	Chris	1737 Beaumont Ave. N	Massillon	OH	44647	(330) 837-2034	julioevans@555net.co
6	Flinn	Betty &Pat	192 Geiger St.	Bluffton	OH	45817	(419) 358-6766	alfinn@the courier.com
6	Flinn	Kayla R	9565 N. Dixie Hwy.	Bluffton	OH	45817	(419) 358-6766	
6	Granger	Joe	3328 South 9 Mile Rd.	Auburn	MI	48611	(517) 662-4925	
6	Henshaw	David	6630 Freeman Rd.	Westerville	OH	43082	(614) 901-8860	dhenshaw@insight.rr.c
6	Kuzminski	Leonard	6823 Emmett Rd.	Brockway	MI	48097	(810) 387-3777	

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6	Rexroth	Don	1722 C.R. 232	Fremont	OH	43420	(419) 332-6867	
6	S & S Lofts		8711 Elton Hwy.	Tipton	MI	94287	(734) 645-9532	
6	Wakefield	Ron	1977 S. Meridian Rd.	Ovid	MI	48866	(517) 834-2388	
6	Walker	Chris	29 Fell Ave.	Northfield	OH	44067	(330) 329-8740	CDW5561@gmail.com
6	Yount	Gary K.	10625 West Vrsailles R	Covington	OH	45318	(937) 526-5673	garyyount@msn.com
7	BOLLINGER	ROBERT	15529 Field Stone Lane	Stewartstown	PA	17363	(717) 993-0994	RSBollin@aol.com
7	Boroznoff	Walter	22 Bloomfield Ave.	Paterson	NJ	07503	(973) 278-8764	
7	Cardillo Famil	Victor	22 Pedricktown Woodsto	Pedricktown	NJ	08067	(856) 299-4432	Vclofts@aol.com
7	Combs	Stephen	6694 Gehr Rd.	St. Thomas	PA	17252	(717) 595-0278	
7	Crawford	Mike	2549 Oakland Road	Dover	PA	17315	(717) 764-1703	
7	Goshorn	Galen	1799 Guilford Station Rd.	Chambersburg	PA	17201	(717) 267-2461	
7	Kolinski Jr.	Ray	215 Mexico St.	Boswell	PA	15531	(814) 629-5133	
7	Munch	Gregory	305 Mohawk Ave.	Warren	PA	16365	() - 0	
7	Strawniak	Harold	1308 Barkley Road	Port Vue	PA	15133	(412) 673-2469	
8	Combs,&Fam	Robert	44 S 1190W	Blackfoot	ID	85221	(208) 684-5172	coomrobe@snakeriver.
8	Farnsworth	Todd &Ca	528 N 660W	West Bountiful	UT	84087	(801) 673-3916	loftsoffun@msn.com
8	Gazaway	Dave&Ke	1864 N 2060 W	Lehi	UT	84043	(801) 768-0903	dkgaz@aol.com
8	Harmon	Bert	336 N 200 E	Payson	UT	48651	(801) 465-4994	blzmstr@msn.com
8	Henderson	Stephen	954 S. Morning Side Cir.	Kaysville	UT	84037	(801) 726-3747	steve@cardboard peopl
8	Jensen	James	1541 W. Galbraith	Kaysville	UT	84037	(801) 544-9390	jensenkunkel@hotmail.
8	Martindale	William	633 Fullmer	Meridian	ID	83642	(208) 888-7744	
8	Mitchell	Steve	1428 So. Sunset Dr.	Kaysville	UT	84037	(801) 544-2136	
9	Lutsenko	Pavel	9411 Paisley Dr.	Vernon	BC	Vib 2	(250) 542-0765	lutenkop@gmail.com
10	Hoekstra	John	R. R. # 1	Wyoming	On	MON	(519) 845-0162	
10	Marcoccia	Giulio	2780 Avondale Ave.	Windsor	ON	N9E-	(519) 972-7768	giulio_Marcoccia@sym
10	McRae	Paul	943 Dawn Vally Rd. RR#	Tupperville	ON	NOP	(519) 683-1519	pigeon-man@sympatic
10	Parsons	Gary	46 Vimy Ct.	Sarnia,	ON	N7S-	(519) 336-5535	gaparsons@hotmail.co
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11	Bean Jr.	James E.	10455 4th St.NW.	Albuquerque	NM	87114	(505) 897-4180	jebean@lerq.nmt.edu
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11	Lien	Bob	7320 Adams Street	Lincoln	NE	68507	() - 0	
11	Lien	Gary	3801 S. 78TH	Lincoln	NE	68506	(402) 486-1333	glien @yahoo.com
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12	Delgado	Raul	174 3rd Street	Troy	NY	12180	(518) 272-0413	crownlofts@aol.com
12	Patti	Tony	95 River Road	Preston	CT	06365	(860) 889-0078	tony@nepigeonsupplie
12	Robinson	Lorenzo	30 Rensselaer St.	Troy	MY	12180	(518) 322-8680	
12	Schindler	Marvin	307 SW Millard Dr.	Port St. Lucie	RI	34953	(772) 878-6897	
14	Cline	Victor	375 Pangborn Blvd.	Hagerstown	MD	21742	(301) 733-1758	
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