

American Helmet Association

Helmet Happenings

What's Inside

President's Report	1
Judging Summary Sheets	2
Message Board on Web	2
Editor Note	2
Value of Strong Specialty Club	3
Secretary's Report	3
District 10 Report	4
Dues Due	4
Treasurer's Report	5
Waterer Idea	6
Upcoming Shows	6
Crested & Plainhead Judging Aids	7 8

President's Report

By Bob Bollinger

Wow is it cold outside!

Every once in a while I remind myself how much I enjoy having the birds out back. The temperatures here in PA have been hovering in the teens and twenties for the last couple of weeks. Even with heaters the drinkers still freeze. I try to minimize my time outside and I have spare drinkers so I can swap them out and bring a set inside the house to thaw. It all seems like a lot of work. A week or so ago when I was outside with wet hands in 20 degree temps I thought a bit to myself "This is crazy. Why do I do this to myself?" (a thought process that often happens in the winter) Then I remembered that I really do enjoy it. Keeping the birds is not just about the shows or selling a few birds ... I keep them because I do enjoy having them. Somehow it is all worth the effort :o)

I received a call from Ray Kolinski a few days ago. It seems that he was in a serious construction accident and has spent many weeks in the hospital and is still rather incapacitated. Many of us noticed that he had not attended several recent shows and no one could reach him on the phone. People were getting quite concerned. Ray said the he is now on the mend and hopes to stop by the Reading club show. He will not be able to show but would like to get out and see everyone. It sounds like Ray was very lucky and I look forward to regularly seeing him in the show room next season.

I am looking forward to Reading (Lancaster, PA) club show. The show is always very nice and we usually see a sizable number of birds. The entry numbers often vary between 1500 and 3000 depending on the date and location of the National. I expect the overall show numbers to be up this year but I am thinking that our helmet numbers will be a bit lean. I know that several guys are resting birds for the National and other are starting to consider breeding plans. We have had a bunch of nice helmet meets this year with good turnouts of birds and exhibitors. At Lancaster I expect to focus more on socializing and enjoying the overall event!

Judging Summary Sheets
By Bob Bollinger

I have included copies of an MFC and MFP judging summary sheet in this bulletin. I created these sheets as quick reference tools for use at shows. I was specifically thinking of small shows where the event may use an all breeds judge to do our helmets. I have watched members of other breeds get frustrated by judging at some shows and I thought the AHA should be proactive to help our host clubs and the judges. These guys volunteer their time to do what is sometimes a thankless job. Offering them a quick reference tool to help them do us a service seems the least we can do.

I know that we have a very good written standard with lots of pictures etc. However, at small one day shows time is of the essence and the judges don't often have the luxury of reading a multiple page standard prior to or during the judging. These summary sheets are intended to be a quick reference tools and provide a couple of pictures, our points, and a very short synopsis of the text associated with our points. In a simple one page format a judge who is not intimate with our standard can quickly acquaint him or herself with our breed and hopefully do an even better job of judging the birds. I think these are also handy tools for us to have on hand for our own members at the shows.

These sheets can be downloaded off the AHA web site. Feel free to print and use them at your upcoming events.

Message Board on the AHA Web Site
By Bob Bollinger

Over the years I have heard suggestions and I finally decided to add a message board to our AHA web site. The intent of the message area is to provide space for members to list birds for sale or birds they need. We can also list reminders for upcoming events, elections, or other items. This message area should be considered a service to our members. For now, if you would like to post something, send me an email. I will probably let the posting up for say three months or until the poster asks me to take it down.

The exact administration of the area is yet to be determined. If a non-member wants to advertise something we would probably want to charge a nominal fee. Once we see how much interest there is in the area we can have further discussions on administration.

Editor's Note

To save a little on publishing costs I will only include the order form and the officers list twice per year. They will likely be in the next issue as long as those pages don't raise the weight past an ounce mark. That's what happened for this issue. I was going to include them but without that page the total bulletin weight was 0.95 ounces. With it, it was 1.11 ounces. The rate jumps from 44¢ for under an ounce to 61¢ for over an ounce. It would still be 61¢ for up to 2 ounces so on most issues it wouldn't make a cost difference. This is the second issue in a row that one page jumped the rate up to the next level. They will likely be included in the next issue and then the July/Aug issue.

The following is a reproduction of an article in the October 1975 issue of the American Pigeon Journal. Fred's comments are as relevant today as they were then.

The Value of a Good Strong Specialty Club

By Fred Smith, Henderson III.

Upon receipt of the AHA bulletin one cannot help but reflect on the value this bulletin has on the Helmet interest throughout the country and many parts of the world. Certainly a strong healthy specialty club is vital to the interest of a given breed and the AHA is no exception to the rule. We can but point back in past Helmet history and see when the breed was neglected. Most were eras when no such clubs existed, or during eras when Helmet specialty clubs were at low ebb of interest. How can we recognize these problems in advance so as to avoid a re-occurrence of history repeating itself? A good barometer to a strong and interesting specialty club is the rise or fall of a membership list. If the club is on the move with interesting ideas, good national news coverage and an active group of officers, then the membership is on the rise. If the club plots along with no new ideas, a poor response to membership ideas, and a theory of "let Charlie do it, I haven't got time!" attitude, then we note a drop in membership and interest. Many clubs get themselves into such a rigid and complex constitutional frame of mind that they are limited in experimenting with new ideas and new thoughts and thus die from within. Such is the case with some of the older more established clubs, as they like to be called. Here is the specialty club that has an active group of a dozen or so members and catches three to four dozen new faces on a yearly basis that drop out after a year or so and try another breed. We reflect on these warning signs today, not as a measure of Helmet club problems, to a discussion of problems that all specialty clubs face from time to time. With the economy as it is, fanciers become more selective throughout the Fancy as to the measure of worth he gets for his money.

Secretary's Report

By Charles Dwight

Another year has come and gone. It has been a good year for the AHA. Our membership has stayed about the same for the year. Even in the bad economy our shows have been very good. We have lost some old members, but have gained new ones.

We have had a 50th anniversary year book printed, some good constitutional changes made, and our elections have had a better return of ballots than normal.

Our treasury is down some, caused by printing the 50th anniversary year book, having to buy national champion pins and some additional advertising. Without these our treasury would be about where we started the year.

Our 2009 band sales were great. We sold all 3,000 bands. The last band order I got was for 25 bands but I only had 15 left to send. So far 2010 band sales have been about the same as last year at this time.

Show season is about over, just a few late shows to go. It's time to start planning the matings for this year. A few of the members I have talked to already have their birds together. I know one has a baby banded.

Chuck

District 10 Report

By Paul McRae

The show season here is now over. The CHC had two shows, the stand alone Young Bird Show held in Sarnia, ON. and the all age show held at the Specialty Breeders Show in Woodstock, ON.

Giulio Marcoccia judged the YBS and Dan Homick had the honor for the MFC at the Woodstock all age show. Both of these men did an excellent job of sorting out the birds. Gary Parsons won both the plainhead and crested at the YBS. At the All Age Show Dan Homick took top plainhead and Giulio Marcoccia had the best crested. It would be a great if all judging is as consistent and fair as these two judges. Both judged by the standard and I believe the best birds were chosen. The Sarnia show had a great location. It was held in a very large greenhouse. The nursery rents these out during the winter months. They have heaters so it is nice and warm and lots of natural light. It's like judging them outside in the sun.

I feel I need to mention the recent successes of a district 10 member, Giulio Marcoccia. This isn't sudden success, as Giulio has been methodically breeding all colors of crested Helmets for 10 years. He has also been steadily placing higher in the final line ups. Starting in 2007 his diligence and hard work started paying off.

In 2007 he received the Canadian Pigeon Fancier Association (same as NPA) breeder of the year. He also received the AHA's breeder of the year for 2007 and 2008. It will likely be close for the 2009 AHA award even though Giulio couldn't show at either YBS due to his judging duties. He had champion bird at the 2008 NYBS, the champion bird at the Canadian Helmet Club YBS in 2008, and had the majority of birds in that final line up. He captured Reserve Champion at the Detroit Grand National in 2008 and had 13 of 27 in the final line up. In 2009 Giulio won Champion bird at the CHC All Age Show and had all birds in that final line up. At the 2009 Eastern Sectional in Rochester he won Champion and had 25 of 30 birds in the final line up. At the Lancaster National in 2009 he was awarded Reserve Champion and had 22 of 26 in the final line up.

You can see why I believe Giulio should be commended for his efforts. Few members have had the success that he has had with all colors. Giulio has steadfastly promoted the Helmet breed and I fully expect him to produce a National Champion in the near future.

Your Dues are Due

<u>Member</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>District</u>
Leonard Petito	1	Chris Evans	6
Dennis Manning	2	Kayla Flynn	6
Jim Garus	2	Steve Combs	7
Brian Nichols	2	Bert Harmon	8
Wes Siebe	3	Todd & Cathy Farnsworth	8
Shane Aherns	3	Dave & Kena Lin Gazaway	8
Danny Revolinsky	3	William Martindale	8
Steve Zachary	4	Robert Combs & Family	8
Bob Jackson Family	4	Marvin Schindler	
Hugh S. Ryan	4	Joyce Cap	12
Jim Williams	4	Lorenzo Robinson	12
Jack Janota	5	James Ashton & Cailin	12
		Monaban	

Treasurer's Report

Nov-Dec 2009

By Charles Dwight

Income

Dues	90.00
Bands	173.25
Band Postage	<u>15.00</u>
Total	\$278.25

Expenses

Postage	8.88
July/Aug Bulletin Printing	74.19
July/Aug Bulletin Postage	45.60
Stamps	68.40
¼ page NPA Bulletin	100.00
¼ page ad NPA Standard book	95.00
2010 NPA dues	20.00
½ 2010 bands	<u>450.00</u>
Total	\$862.15

Totals

Nov Starting Balance	\$ 2,236.81
Income	\$ 278.25
Balance	\$ 2,515.06
Expenses	<u>\$ 862.15</u>

Ending Balance \$ 1,652.91

Cheque for web site not cashed	<u>\$ 107.00</u>
	\$ 1,759.91



The picture above shows what I use to keep water from freezing in the winter. I thought some members that don't have easy access to buy heated waterers made for pigeons may be able to use it. It is a heated dog bowl that holds a gallon of water. I bought them at TSC Store in Canada but don't remember the cost. TSC is a farm supply/hardware store. They weren't cheap but have lasted well so far. It runs on 60 watts of electricity and is very easy to clean. I just put a 2" x 8" on it with some hardware cloth stapled to it so the birds don't crap into the water. This leaves an area big enough for them to get their head into but prevents them from bathing in it. The brick in front of the opening allows them to go down deep as the water level drops.

Upcoming Shows

NPA Grand National

Salt Lake City, UT. January 28-30, 2010. Judge/s: Mike Crawford-MFC, Jim Garus-MFP, Dennis Manning-SFC, Dennis Bray-SFP, Dennis Bray-Muffed.

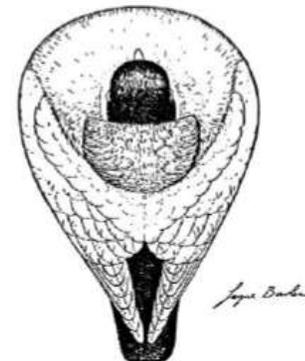
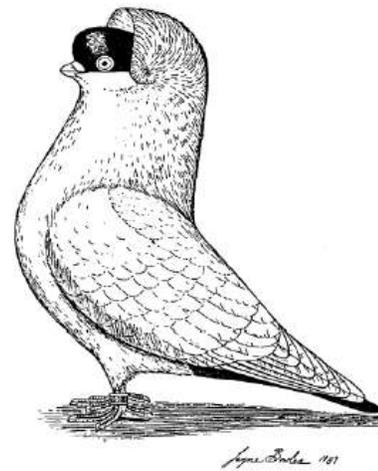
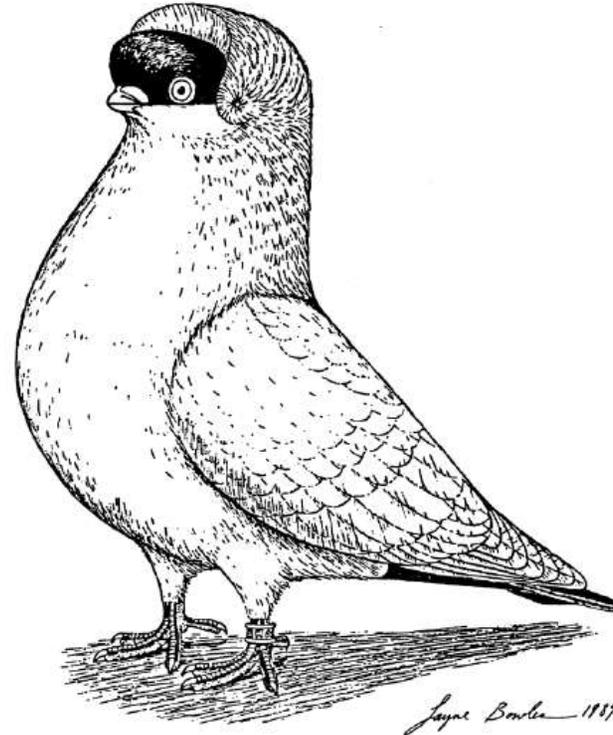
AHA Standard Summary

Medium Face Crested -MFC

Type	15	Jaunty, peppy with an active personality. Stands on toes, upright, well proportioned.
Crest Total	13	Crest shell shaped, above the head, thick, full. Rosettes symmetrical and well formed.
	Crest 7 Rosettes 6	
Head	10	Medium sized, broad frontal, not flat, broad cheeks, NOT pinched.
Color	10	Deep and rich. Head matches tail.
Body	10	Medium sized, cobby, short rather than long.
Head Marking	8	Straight and clearly defined.
Tail Marking	6	Straight and clearly defined.
Neck Total	6	Stout with a "bullish" appearance.
	Neck 3 Mane 3	
Beak	6	Stout, clear color, 5/8" in length.
Eyes	4	Bright pearl.
Tail	3	Neat, narrow.
Wings	2	Tight to body, not drooping, no side boards.
Legs	2	Sturdy, short in length.
Feet	2	Bright red, free of feathers.
Cere	2	Fine texture, flesh color.
Wattle	1	White, fine texture.
Condition	10	In addition to base points!

Disqualifications: more than 12 tail feathers, cracked/bull eyes, completely black upper mandible, deformations (cross beak, crooked toes)

Elimination: sickness, parasite infestation, excessive trimming (bare spots), scissoring (mid-feather)



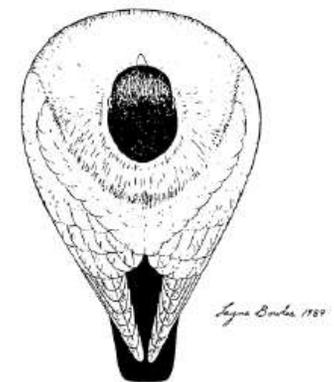
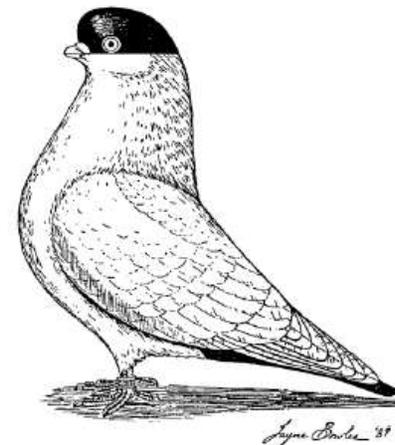
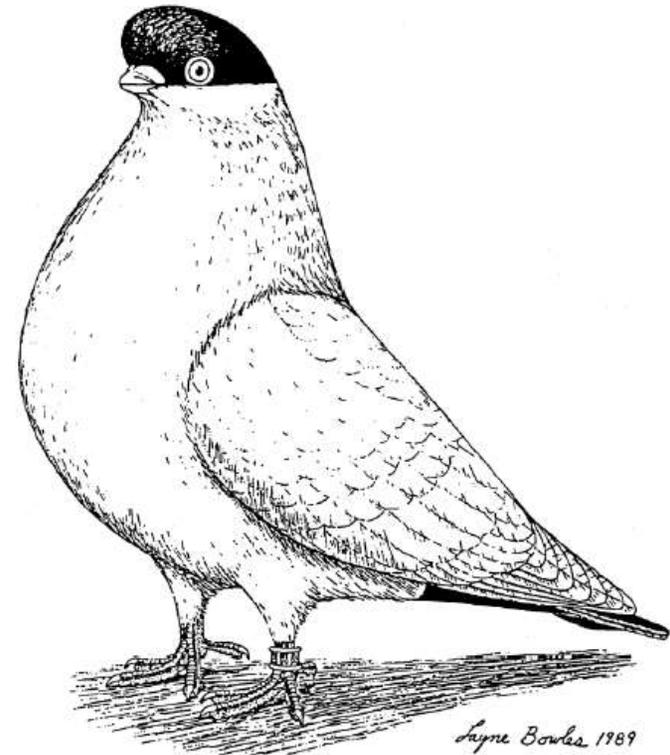
©AHA 2009

AHA Standard Summary
Medium Face Plainhead -MFP

Type	17	Jaunty, peppy with an active personality. Stands on toes, upright, well proportioned.
Head Marking	14	Straight and definite, demarkation wraps around back of head.
Head	12	Medium sized, broad frontal, no flatness, broad cheeks, NOT pinched.
Color	10	Deep and rich. Head matches tail.
Body	10	Medium sized, cobby, short rather than long.
Tail Marking	6	Straight and clearly defined.
Neck Total	9	Stout with a "bullish" appearance.
Beak	6	Stout, clear color, 5/8" in length.
Eyes	4	Bright pearl.
Tail	3	Neat, narrow.
Wings	2	Tight to body, not drooping, no side boards.
Legs	2	Sturdy, short in length.
Feet	2	Bright red, free of feathers.
Cere	2	Fine texture, flesh color.
Wattle	1	White, fine texture.
Condition	10	In addition to base points!

Disqualifications: more than 12 tail feathers, cracked/bull eyes, completely black upper mandible, deformations (cross beak, crooked toes)

Elimination: sickness, parasite infestation, excessive trimming (bare spots), scissoring (mid-feather)



©AHA 2009