

Helmet Happenings

Issue: Jan/Feb 2006

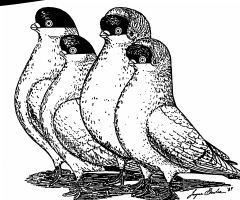
February 28, 2006

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Show results enclosed—
Rochester
Sturbridge
Freemont &
the National
(see photos
page 7)

From the President



Another national has come and gone. From the reports I have received it was again a great success. The breed was well represented, lots of helmets changed hands, there were many discussions as to the finer points of the standard, old friends were seen and new friends were made. I wish I could have been there. Thank you Dennis Bray for taking charge for me, and thanks to all who helped. Congratulations to the winners in each variety, and congratulations to all who made the effort to prepare their birds and travel to the show and didn't win. I hope you all enjoyed the beauty of the finest helmets in the world.

This afternoon I was thumbing through Levi's book "The Encyclopedia of Pigeon Breeds." This book was published in 1965. On pages 142 to 147 are pictured the helmets of that time. It's hard to believe that they are the same breed. We have seen a lot of change in the last forty years in our breed. I expect that there will be a continual evolution of the breed in the future as we seek to meet the standard. That is what makes it fun. We are all working to improve the breed. Although a breeder may be on top, if he doesn't improve his own flock, he will be left behind. That is the challenge.

The breeding season for a new year is upon us. Take time to study the standard. Honestly look at your show record for the past year and analyze where you need to improve to move ahead. It is easy to become "loft blind." Do your best to put birds together that will help you to move forward. If you need some help in some area, hopefully another breeder will be able to help you with a good bird. Good luck to you in the breeding pen. I look forward to seeing what we as a club can accomplish in 2006.

This year is an election year for the A H A. There will be some of our officers who have faithfully served who will want to step down or try another position. Start looking now for good people to run the affairs of the A H A. Perhaps it would be good for you to take your turn. Give it some thought.

James P. Jensen

Secretary's Report

by Charles Dwight

Congratulations to all the National winners. Wish I could have been there.

I don't have much to report this time. Everyone I have talked to from Michigan to Florida, seems to be having the same thing to say. The birds are just setting around looking at each other. With the weather almost 60 degrees for one or two days, then in the 20's for a few days then back up again, I guess they don't know if it is winter or spring.

Band sales have been very good again this year. We only have about 400 bands left. If you haven't ordered yours yet, don't wait too long.

We have a lot of members whose dues are due this time. Check your mailing label and the list in the bulletin and if yours are due please pay them, we need you as members.

News from DISTRICT 2

by Dennis Bray

Congratulations to the Farnsworth's for their first National win. Myron Berger was the judge. He had picked a great line-up of Helmets to win. I liked this Red because of its proportionate appearance. It was not over powered with frontal, crest or rosettes and had no break in the mane. This bird was picked to represent a Medium Face helmet. Another great feature about the Farnsworth's win—it shows that new comers into the AHA can win! I believe the on-going years of a single member winning consistently is over. There are too many quality Helmets available to enable all breeders a chance to improve their birds.

I was hoping to repeat my SF Champion at the National with a red young cock but Tony Patty showed a very nice yellow young hen. This SF had the good structural features we are looking for in this variety.

The Plain Heads showed a lot of different strong points. Good head frontal, short cobby bodies, good color; and the competition was great with several breeders competing for the championship. Bob Bollinger won best in this variety.

Thanks to our Judges for their time. Myron Berger—Medium Face, John Heppner—Short Face and Mike Crawford—Plain Heads.

After the judging was over we handed out the awards. We have a new Master Breeder among us, Myron Berger, a long time supporter and breeder of SF Helmets. The Short face variety has few breeders working within it, making it difficult to find available stock birds to continue improving the breed. Not an easy task to accomplish. Myron has won sixteen Nationals with his family of Short face Helmets.

At our annual meeting it was discussed to go back to the next smaller size band. These will be available next breeding season "07". We also discussed using means other than the club bulletin of communicating Helmet interests. The Helmet WEB-forum is available. If you are interested and would like to participate in this forum, email helmeteer@gmail.com and ask for an invite.

Something to think about for next year's National—better use of our time once we arrive. We either begin judging on Thursday or we hold the club meeting and auction on Thursday. If we decide to begin judging on Friday, we must rush everything and we find ourselves short on time come Saturday. As for the auction—this is a good fundraiser for the club and also a good way to bring in new members and distribute quality helmets. A decision needs to be made before we arrive in the show room to hold an auction to stop the selling of Helmets in the isles.

Good luck breeders, my Helmets are mated up now and with our mild winter the pairs went down on eggs quickly this year. I now have five Helmets in my weaning pen.

As ever, Dennis Bray

News from DISTRICT 7

by Bob Bollinger

Hello all! It was a nice show season this year. Tom and I had the opportunity to go a lot of places and see a lot of people. I firmly agree with many others who have written that seeing old friends and meeting new people is what the hobby is all about!

Things are starting off slow around here this year. My birds have been down for the last month and I don't expect to start breeding until mid-March. Some of the people I have spoken to have already started. It is tough in PA this time of year. Just last week we had a high one day near 60 degrees and a low the next in the 20's.

I look forward to this upcoming breeding season with several pairs selected to raise yellow and silver MFC's. Wish me luck :o)

Club Document Updates

by Bob Bollinger

As you may or may not know, during the process of converting our club documents to digital format, we discovered many discrepancies and differences from our current practices. James has ask us to form a committee to check and correct the documents prior to doing a mass printing for club members. Corrections can be as simple as typographical errors or more complex. Some of the more complex changes involve practices that have either been formally or informally modified over the years.

The committee members will review our constitution, by-laws, and master breeder program. They will mark up the documents with their findings and provide some explanations for the items that they feel need correcting. After I get everyone's updates, I will compile a master document with all the changes and explanations. We will then publish the changes in the bulletin and follow the modification process already outlined in our by-laws. I don't expect that we will find anything controversial or "earth shattering" in our work, this process should merely enable our ruling documents to follow our current practices.

I am asking committee members to provide their updates to me by late spring. I will then try to get the master documents updated for publication in the bulletin by summer. I will keep you all updated with the committee's progress as we go along.



Vic Eshpeter & Myron Berger with his well deserved Master Breeder Award!

Send comments, suggestions or even a joke or two to us at:
Todd & Cathy Farnsworth, Bulletin Editors
528 N. 660 W. West Bountiful, UT 84087
or e-mail us at loftsoffun@highstream.net



The deadline for articles in the next newsletter is April 20.

Issue	Deadline	Approx. mailing date
Jan/Feb	February 20	February 28
<u>Mar/April</u>	April 20	April 30
May/June	June 20	June 30
July/August	August 20	August 31
Sept/Oct	October 20	October 31
Nov/Dec	December 20	December 31

News from DISTRICT 8

by Curtis Oberhansly

Well, another National is in the books. From District 8 we had Todd and Cathy Farnsworth, Steve Mitchell, Wayne Diviney and myself. James Jensen was under doctor's order not to attend or a team of horses couldn't have kept him away. It was a great time and The Orange Show grounds are a very good venue for a pigeon show. It's located on the east side of the LA basin and so you miss most of that famous traffic. I've attended the Pageant there previously and it always seems to have good weather, accessibility & lots of entries. For those who didn't make it, hope to see you soon at one of the other shows.

Congratulations to Todd and Cathy Farnsworth for their big win as Champion and 3rd Reserve in the final lineup and to Mike Crawford for 1st and 2nd Reserve. Congrats also to Bob Bollinger and Tony Patti for winning the MFP and SFC respectively.

Also, congrats to Todd and Cathy for receiving the Member of the Year award at the National. As we all know, putting out a bulletin six times a year is a huge job and they deserve a boat load of appreciation for doing that.

District 8 looks forward to Mark Etherington having birds to show this fall. Mark was the District 8 Director but got out of the birds for a while. He got back in last fall and should be competitive pretty quickly having some good stock birds that he can call back in and put to work. James J. also tells me that another new member has picked up some Helmets, is a good breeder, and should be rolling this fall – David Gazaway from Utah County. Welcome David, we all look forward to showing with you.

It's that time of year again when we are all trying to keep babies alive after they hatch. They get chilled and we discover anew that the helmets aren't good parents or that our feeders aren't what we had hoped...it's always something, but this time of year it's usually weather related. It can be discouraging to lose youngsters, especially out of our best pairs. It is also a little bit lonely and isolated after the excitement of the show season. I am so pumped up by the time I leave the National that it's a let down to go home to bad weather where the glow of the shows begin fading fast.

Thankfully, something has come along that has helped me slow the rate of withdrawal. A truly dedicated fancier and all around great guy, Pavel Lutsenko of western Canada, has taken on the task of starting up and promoting an international helmet web site where you can share with other helmet fanciers almost in real time. Pavel came to the National and it was great to meet him and let his unbridled enthusiasm for the Helmets rub off. He's young and positive and computer savvy. Because of his efforts, we can all share photos, ideas, chat and just stay in contact. Not to mention making new friends in the Helmet community and chatting with fanciers across the USA, Canada, Australia and even South Africa. People that I can only hope to meet someday. It has passed many a cold evening for me being warmed by the photos and camaraderie of this site. If you don't use a computer or e-mail, it is worth learning just for this connection. And it is soooo easy. THANK YOU PAVEL. We owe you.

Anyone who wishes to check it out can go to MyFamily.com and look for the International Helmet Pigeon Group. Pavel is the expert at getting people set up with a user name and password. Just send him your e-mail address and he'll have the latest e-mails coming to you in a flash. Then, once you go into the site initially, you just click on your email and the latest stuff is right at your finger tips. Pavel can be reached at lutsenkop@gmail.com or if you have questions I can help with, you can e-mail me at curtiso@direcway.com and I'll help you anyway that I can.

Try it out. I think that you'll find yourself checking your e-mail with more and more excitement to see if anyone posted an interesting new photo or just to chat about genetics, breeding techniques, the standard or a particular bird featured in one of the photos. You won't be sorry.

I would also like to thank Bob Bollinger for all of this hard work on the AHA web site. If you have not visited lately, you need to. Bob has totally worked it over with a lot more interesting items and info. And the more help he gets with good photos, show results properly formatted and other items of interest, the better it will get. I'm going to talk much more about that in the next issue of the bulletin. Until then – luck in the breeding pen.

Curtis

News from DISTRICT 9

by Pavel Lutsenko

The New Helmet Web Group

Hello to all,

I was asked to write a little about the new Helmet web group that the AHA has agreed to sponsor for this year. The new site can be found by typing in www.helmetgroup.com in your address line on your browser. So far we have about 30 members involved. Most members are from Canada and the United States but we also have some members that are from South Africa and Australia. This group was first started using the Yahoo web group pages. Yahoo was very good but did not have the functionality that we now have with the MyFamily.com group. I have noticed that a lot of people that were active on the yahoo group have not been too active on the new site. It is a little more difficult to use but we all have to understand that it is impossible to wreck your computer by pressing buttons and exploring the helmet-group site. The new site already has about 60 pictures that users can comment about. There are a few pictures posted so that everybody gets the idea.



It would be great if everybody got online and joined the new forum site.

While I'm here I would just like to add that I was able to go to the National in California. This was my first National and what an experience! I had a great time meeting all the AHA members at the show and it was quite the show with a lot of excellent helmets shown. Congratulations to all the winners. I would also like to thank Leonard Patito for meeting me at the airport and dropping me off at the airport.

Well that's all for this time. See you all online,

Pavel Lutsenko

www.helmetgroup.com

Special thanks to the *TEAM*

by Todd Farnsworth

First and foremost I want to thank my wife for the time and effort she puts into our loft. Cathy is the one who helps keep the birds medicated, bathed, vitamins, and of course spoils the birds with their treats. I never wonder who I will be traveling to the shows with because Cathy and I are equally vested in the hobby and I always look forward to traveling to the shows with her. Those of you that do everything in your loft by yourself can imagine how great it is to have someone to help with all of the everyday tasks.

James Jensen also deserve much thanks for the great friendship, great advice and of course the great birds he has been willing to share with us. The many years of knowledge and expertise James possesses is truly amazing. Any time I have a health issue in the loft James has been there to help me diagnose as well as give a possible remedy. The amount of knowledge I have received from James is priceless and the birds outstanding.

Thanks also goes out to Steve Mitchell who is another great friend with more knowledge in helmets than I will every have. Steve was also there to get me started in this great hobby. The first pair of helmets that I got from Steve he would not accept any money for, but instead ask that I take him fishing sometime (this was the deal of the century). Steve and I have since been fishing a couple of times but I will always feel indebted for the great friendship, advice and birds we continue to share.

Wayne Diviney has also been a great help and a friend. Wayne is a master of looking at two birds and knowing what they are capable of producing. I can only hope to be able to read birds this well someday. I feel that Wayne is a great asset to not only us at Lofts of Fun, but to the helmet breed as a whole. Wayne is the type of person that I feel is a great promoter of the breed. Wayne's generosity with birds as well as his knowledge of the birds is a real plus for all in the club.

Thanks goes out to so many people who have helped in their own way. Not only just in camaraderie, advice and friendship, but also with motivation and encouragement. This list includes all of the people who have shared their advice, problems, ideas and successes in this great hobby. There are too many names to mention them all and the list continues to grow. I continue to learn from all of you and truly appreciate all that you do.

Judges are also a great source of help for us. Judges have taken the time to talk to us and help us understand not only the weaknesses in our birds, but also any lack of preparation or conditioning that we need to address before putting the birds in a show. Judges have also been very good to point out strengths that we need to focus on for future breeding. Judges in my opinion are people who sacrifice a great deal for the club. We as members **ASK** these great **VOLUNTEERS** to give us their **opinion** of which bird they feel is the best on show day. In return judges subject themselves to more criticism than an NFL referee. Judges have their **interpretation of the standard**, as well as their **preference** in helmets (just as we do). This is obvious in that everyone's loft and breeding program differs from the other. Not all judges see things alike and in many ways this can be a good thing. Several opinions can and do draw attention to a wider view of the overall bird. Some judges as well as breeders can be partial to crest, others to beak, other to head, others to color, and the list goes on. None if these things alone make a great bird. In many ways I think it is good to have several opinions and or interpretations which will help us focus on the overall bird. I really appreciate the great job judges do and I will be the last to judge the judge.

We at Lofts of Fun **thank all of you** as a **team** for your part in making our loft what it is today.

Grand National Champions

San Bernardino California
January 19-21, 2006



Champion MFC
Red YC #1111
Exhibitors:
Todd & Cathy Farnsworth



1st Reserve MFC
Black YC #2145
Exhibitor: Mike Crawford



Champion SFPH
Red YH #617
Exhibitor: Vic Eshpeter



Champion MFPH
Blue YC #1232
Exhibitor: Bob Bollinger



1st Reserve MFPH
Yellow OH #643
Exhibitor: Dennis Manning



Champion SFC
Yellow YH #2502
Exhibitor: Tony Patti

New Members

Francois Renaud
85 de la Rocheliere
Quebec, CANADA J5K 2E1
email: sicnarf65@hotmail.com

Junior Members

Alisha Finkbeiner
11411 West Michigan Ave.
Saline, MI 48176
Ph: 734-429-9777 email:
ldfinkbeinerfarm@provide.net

Old Members Rejoined

Andy Terracciano
32 Wayhill Road
Waterford, CT. 06385

Dave Gazaway
1864 N. 2060 W.
Lehi, UT 84043

Are your dues past due?

Please check your mailing address label on this newsletter—If highlighted, your membership is due for renewal.

District 1
Leonard Patito
Stan Reynolds

District 2
Brian Nichols

District 3
Jeff Butler
Everett Uhis

District 4
Bob Jackson Family

District 6
Nelson Eylander

District 8
Steve Mitchell
Joshua Zilles

District 10
Don Homick

District 11
Mike Sweeney

District 12
Rafael Marrero
John Reda
Joseph Gardfolo
Vincent Pellegrino

District 14
Steve Brockett

2005 Financial Report

by Charles Dwight

INCOME

Dues	\$1,240.00
Bands	\$1,368.00
Band Postage	\$ 60.25
Patches	\$ 30.00
National Pins	\$ 120.00
Natn'l show rebate	\$ 168.75
Natn't Auction	\$1,345.50
2005 Futurity	\$ 100.00
Photo pg. in bulletin	\$ 90.13
(pd. by C. Oberhansly)	
Non AHA band regist	\$ 15.00
Natn'l Awards prizes	\$ 60.00
(donated by Jim Bean)	
Master Breeder Pch	\$ <u>25.00</u>

TOTAL **\$4,622.63**

EXPENSES

Natn'l Awards	\$ 275.50
Natn'l Pins	\$ 200.00
Postage	\$ 49.13
Bulletin Printing	\$ 530.79
Bulletin Postage	\$ 252.24
2004 Futurity	\$ 190.00
Natn't Auction	\$1,197.00
2006 Bands	\$1,050.00
NPA Bulletin Ad	\$ 50.00
Pigeon Debut Ad	\$ 50.00
Supplies	\$ 145.50
New M.B. Patches	\$ 250.00
NPA Dues	\$ 20.00
Band Refund	\$ <u>36.00</u>

TOTAL **\$4,296.16**

TOTALS

2005 Starting Bal.	\$3,394.20
Income	<u>\$4,622.63</u>
Total	\$8,016.83
Expenses	- <u>\$4,296.16</u>
Ending balance	\$ 3,720.67

Treasurer's Report

January 2006

by Charles Dwight

INCOME

Dues	\$ 135.00
Bands	\$ 138.25
Band Postage	\$ 9.00
Non AHA band regist	\$ 5.00
Patch	\$ 7.50
Dist. 5 show rebate	\$ 22.00
Total	\$ 316.75

EXPENSES

Postage	\$ 12.00
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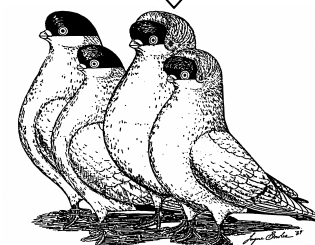
TOTALS

Starting Balance	\$3,720.67
Income	<u>\$ 316.75</u>
Total	\$4,037.42
Expenses	- <u>12.00</u>
Ending balance	\$ 4,025.42

Correction:

Our apologies to exhibitors Brandon and Mindy Bingham of District 8. Their names were mistakenly left off of the exhibitors list for the Western Sectional Show report in the Nov/December bulletin.

We had a great time
at the shows this
year!



2005/2006 A.H.A. Officers

President:

James Jensen
1541 W. Galbraith LN.
Kaysville, UT 84037
Phone: 801-544-9390
E-Mail: jensenkunkel@hotmail.com

Eastern Vice President:

Bob Dunlap
7608 U.S. Hwy. 127
Sherwood, OH 43556
Phone: 419-899-2558
E-Mail: pigeonsbright.net

Central Vice President:

Gerald Butler
106 Chaparral CT.
Olney, TX 76374
Phone: 940-564-3827

Western Vice President:

Dennis Bray
P.O. Box 211
Lakewood, WA 98259
Phone: 360-652-8788 :

Secretary/Treasurer:

Charles Dwight
1093 ST. RT. 101E
Clyde, OH 43410
Phone: 419-547-8184
E-Mail: missusd3@yahoo.com

Publicity Director:

Tony Patti
95 River Rd.
Preston, CT 06365-8038
Phone: 860-889-0078
Fax: 860-889-2497
E-Mail: tony@nepigeonsupplies.com

Points Director:

Harold Strawniak
1308 Barkley RD.
Portvue, PA 15133
Phone: 412-673-2469

Bulletin Editors:

Todd & Cathy Farnsworth
528 N. 660 W.
West Bountiful, UT 84087
Phone: 801-294-3360
E-Mail: loftsoffun@highstream.net

District 1 Director:

Leonard Patito
6048 Aurora Dr.
Mira Loma, CA 91752
Phone: 909-685-0627
E-Mail: dpatito6@hotmail.com

District 2 Director:

Jim Garus
2041 Lewis St
Dallas, OR 97338
Phone:

District 3 Director:

Wes Pfadenhauer
13276 Beaverdale Rd
West Burlington, IA 52655-8565
Phone: 319-392-8177

District 4 Director:

Mike Geis
P.O. Box 81
Macomb, OK 74852
Phone: 405-598-5081

District 5 Director:

Steve Petitto
2139 E. Leewyn DR.
Sarasota, FL 34240
Phone: 941-343-9598

District 6 Director:

Bob Dunlap
7608 U.S. Hwy. 127
Sherwood, OH 43556
Phone: 419-899-2558
E-Mail: pamerin@SMTC.com

District 7 Director:

Robert Bollinger
15529 Field Stone LN.
Stewartstown, PA 17363
Phone: 717-993-0994
E-Mail: RSBollin@aol.com

District 8 Director:

Curtis Oberhansly
PO Box 1452
Boulder, UT 84716
Phone: 435-335-7434
E-Mail: curtiso@scinternet.net

District 9 Director: OPEN

District 10 Director: OPEN

District 11 Director:

Bob Lein
7320 Adams St.
Loncoln, NE 68507
Phone: 402-466-3620
E-Mail: husker-helmets@msn.com

District 12 Director:

Raul Delgado
174 3rd ST.
Troy, NY 12180
Phone: 518-272-0413
E-Mail: crownlofts@aol.com

District 13 Director: OPEN

District 14 Director:

Victor Cline
375 Pangborn Blvd.
Hagerstown, MD 21742
Phone: 301-416-8688

Order forms