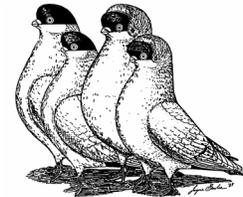


Helmet Happenings

July/August 2006

Sept. 1, 2006



From the President

Inside this issue:

President's Note	1
Thoughts on recruiting new members	2
News from Dist. 7	3
News from Dist. 8	4-5
To Feed /Not to Feed	6
Misc. articles	7-8
Secretary's Repts.	9
Officers Listing	10

The other day I was in the loft looking for birds to enter in the State Fair in a couple of weeks and I came to the realization that probably 2/3rds of my young birds won't be ready for any of the shows this fall. I had a slow start to the season and most of the birds were hatched in June or July. Normally the national would be in January and many of those later hatches could be shown by then. Although I used my 100 bands, this has kind of dampened my excitement for the show season. I would rather show my birds at their best than to just show birds to support, although I always do that anyway.

How was your season? Sometimes I wonder if we don't fight nature too much to try to make it fit our own calendar. Here in Utah we have a very late show on the first Saturday of February in a little town called Hurricane in southern Utah. I am going to show there this year and will encourage any other breeders from California, Utah, or the west to join me. I would like to be able to show off my birds at their best against others whose best birds have had a chance to really be ready for the show.

Would some later shows in other areas be appropriate? I know that when I mate up in January or February to see if I can get that early one, I usually have poor success. I often feel that I work the birds too hard for the poor results from that time of year. By the end of April or first of May the birds are usually ready to get with it. The biggest challenge then is changeable weather. I personally would like to see the national always be in January because it seems like the culmination of the show season when the best birds are shown in their best condition.

I hope you have had a good breeding season. Keep those birds healthy during the molt. If I am ever going to have health issues in my loft it is at this time when the birds are run down from the breeding season and are also going through the stress of the molt. Be sure you check them now for lice or pin holes. There's nothing more embarrassing than finding pinholes at the show.

I spoke with Chuck the other night. He should have the ballots out soon. Be sure to vote.

James Jensen

Grand
National
Entry form
& Rules
enclosed!

More Thoughts on Getting New AHA Members

By Jeff Butler

With the talk of the “new” Helmets to get more breeders interested in the breed (see article last bulletin by Harold Strawniak) I thought I’d put in my 2 cents for the future.

What is the first thing a person thinks about when they want to get a start in a new/another breed? I would say the breed has to be pleasing to the eye. Something that they find attractive. We certainly have that in our striking little birds. They often look at pictures of the breed in a publication or nowadays online. For them to do this we need to get these pictures in front of the public. The site (myfamily.com) has helped but we can still do more. A regular article in the Purebred pigeon for example would be a big help, and include a picture every time to keep people interested.

The next thing is “Are these birds available and at a fair price?” Lets all vow to help a new breeder get a start at a fair price. Some breeders are “experimenters” and will try a new breed to see if it is something they want to work with. Lets get them these birds at a price they can justify spending the money on. I know if I had contacted a breeder and the going price was starting at \$100.00 each or more I would’ve moved on. I got my start from James Jensen 2 years ago and paid less than \$100.00 for three pair plus shipping. Three pair for under \$150.00 to me says “come on and give this breed a try!” Had they cost that \$100.00 each it would have cost over \$600.00 to give them a try. Later on I would expect to pay more to get the stock that would help my Helmets advance in quality. I have done this with Chinese Owls. My first birds cost on average \$25-\$30 ea. Later that certain bird I felt I needed to progress cost much more, but by then I was willing to pay the price for the reward.

Okay, now I’m at a point where I like the breed, they are available at a reasonable price. What do I think of next? For me it was the questions of how hard is it to raise quality birds? I for one do not have the time to hand feed young birds. I use my own line of foster parents that I have had for nearly 25 years. Had I not had these, I would have had to buy the Helmets plus establish a good stud of feeders. Now I have to buy twice as many birds if I want to raise helmets. If our Helmets all did a good job of parenting that would eliminate the cost and time involved in having feeders or hand feeding them. Here I believe the idea a having a “new” Helmet is not the answer. Having Helmets that feed their own is, in my opinion, the way to go. As a breeder I want to consider all aspects of the bird, including the ability to feed their own young. Too many breeds have been messed up due to forgetting this quality. Some birds have gotten so big they crush eggs, have poor fertility, poor health, and also lack of parenting skills.

Okay, now I have a breed I like, they are available at a reasonable cost and they can raise their own young. What’s next? Are the other breeders a fun group? With the Helmet people this has been an easy one to answer—A most definite YES! After the site (myfamily.com) came up I found that most all Helmet breeders are willing to help a new breeder with birds, advice, support etc. When I was starting this process of getting a second breed I looked at 2 other breeds as possibilities. The Helmets won out because of the people. Nothing to do with the birds. Just friendly, helpful people. This is, I believe, the number one reason people choose a new breed.

My last question was “Is the breed popular in my area so there will be competition at the shows?” This, in my case, could be better. There are not many active breeders here in Iowa. I think we can change this by doing the above. All these very basic aspects put together will help the number of new breeders increase. Creating a new breed is not the answer. Just make the existing breed more attractive to beginners. This will be easier to do, take less time and I think the payoff will be better. So there you have it. That’s what I think is needed to see our club grow.

News from District 7

by Bob Bollinger

The breeding season is pretty much over here in District 7. For the most part breeding numbers are way down this year. The good news is that quality is up. I look forward to some stellar birds being shown this fall. Personally, I have decided to get rid of all of my colors of MFC's and MFP's except for yellow and silver. This will allow me to focus on these colors and hopefully continue to improve the quality and numbers of these birds that we see at the shows. If anyone has suggestions for meets or events in our district please let me know. I look forward to seeing everyone at the shows.

I Agree with Harold!

By Bob Bollinger

I really enjoyed Harold Strawniak's perspective on a possible solution for our challenges with helmets that are difficult to raise. Creating a new class or type of longer faced bird is a great idea. I have personally found that the longer faced MFC's do have a fair amount of success with raising babies. I also agree that we don't necessarily need to give away many of the appealing features that our MFC's to accomplish this. Great Idea Harold!!

Constitution Reminder

By Bob Bollinger

As many of you remember we are trying to tidy up some of the old typographical errors and inconsistencies in our constitution. I would like to have a first draft of the constitution done by the time the show season hits. For all of you who have packets to review, could you try to get them back to me in the next few weeks so I can get to typing? Thanks everybody for all your help.

Upcoming Show Dates—

Sunday, October 1, Reading Young Bird Show, Reading, PA, District 7 Meet (Maybe), Contact: Bob Bollinger

Sunday, October 8, EHPC Show, Waynesboro, PA, District 14 Meet, Contact: Victor Cline

Saturday, October 21, NYBS, Louisville, KY, District 6 Meet, Contact: Bob Dunlap

Saturday, October 28, WRPA Fall Show, York, PA, District 7 Meet, Contact: Bob Bollinger

January 2007, Reading Winter Show, Lancaster, PA District 7 Meet, Contact: Bob Bollinger

List your upcoming shows here!

Please send your show schedule to the bulletin editors now to be posted in the November Newsletter.

News from District 8

by Curtis Oberhansly

Fall is in the air and the show season is on everyone's mind now. I wish I could have early success in the breeding pen because this time of year I sit around and look at badly frayed birds many of whom are as miserable as they look during the stress of the molt. And many of my best prospects are just losing their squeaker voice and showing few signs of a molt yet. But I've always been in the cold country and never had early show success.

Our show season in District 8 begins on September 23rd at one o'clock at James Jensen's home. This is the annual young bird lawn show, which is always a fun and interesting event. Everyone is anxious after all the work and frustration of the breeding season to see what the others have done. There aren't usually that many first quarter hatches to look at and the best are back in the loft in the molt, but it still gets the juices flowing.

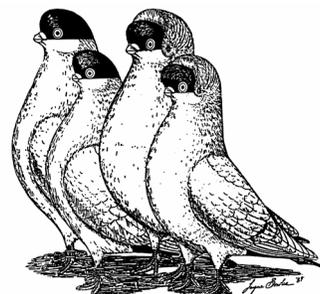
So far I haven't heard of anyone from District 8 that plans on going to Louisville on October 21st.

Our next show is the Utah Clubs' Annual Winter Premier on November 3rd and 4th. This has been a big show in Utah going back to when I was a kid in the 50's. Our junior club got to sleep over at the show to "guard" the birds. Of course all we did really was chase each other in the isles, slide on the shavings in our socks, and occasionally wipe out a section of cages. Then frantically spend the next hour catching birds, cleaning up and putting it all back together. I'm sure our elders never noticed.

The weekend following our Utah Winter Show, some of our members will be traveling to Medford, OR for the Western Sectional – November 9th and 10th. Logistically, it's going to be difficult whether one chooses to drive, or to fly and take the birds. It's going to be an especially tough schedule for someone like me who lives 5 hours south of Salt Lake City. I would have to leave our Premier show on the 5th to come home and rest the birds for a couple of days and then go back to Salt Lake on the 7th to catch a flight or begin the drive on the 8th? So I'm still trying to figure it out. Todd and Cathy Farnsworth have already sewn up the road warrior award. They are showing at the Utah show, then driving midweek for Oregon, then leaving from there to go down to the Pageant on November 16th to 18th. Tough exhibitors and tough birds.

I haven't heard who is going to go to the National in Des Moines on December 8th and 9th. For some of us, the Hurricane, Utah show on the first weekend in February is looking more and more promising. With no National in January, we will be hankering for a true winter show with the birds in fine feather, especially on in the mild weather of Southern Utah. A small show, but I think that we will have most of the Utah breeders in attendance. We'll just have to wait and see who else we can entice.

Good luck in the early shows – hope you all have a great time!!



Pass the Scissors Please!

by Curtis Oberhansly District 8

Just to keep the scissor debate going (and to have articles for the Bulletin) I have abridged what Gary Parsons, Sec/Treas of the CHC has said about scissor trimming (which is legal in the Canadian Helmet Club) So these are Gary Parson's words:

First of all, this is a quick attempt at how I would re-write the AHA standard....

"The goal should be to present your bird in the best show condition possible, but also in the most natural condition possible with the least possible signs of preparation, i.e. plucking, trimming, etc. How it is done should not matter, as long as the above result is the same.

Over trimming and over plucking that causes easily found bald spots anywhere on the bird is a disqualification.

Over trimming and over plucking in the head/crest area that does not result in bald spots, but detracts from the "natural appearance" of the natural feathering of a bird should result in a reduction of points for the "condition" factor of the bird.

Any other trimming or plucking of feathers, for example such as to shorten or change the shape of the wings or tail of a bird is a disqualification.

If I thought it was wrong to use scissors I would not do it. But when I see people plucking off marked feathers from the body, plucking white feathers out of the rump, putting Vaseline or alcohol (or whatever) on the birds feet and legs, etc., I personally don't think that trimming feathers in the crest with scissors is all that bad!! All those other tricks are attempts made to hide or alter the true appearance of a bird as well.

Dennis (Manning) you say..."It is a discussion about cutting feathers in half or even only cutting off a portion of the feather as opposed to plucking it completely out." And then you go on to say..."A plucked feather is a missing feather not an altered feather. " Well, feathers out of a birds body, and I pluck 1 off-marked feather from my bird, but then I cut a few feathers "in half" in the baseline of the crest, and my bird gets disqualified, where's the justice in that?? If the current rule was put in place to discourage the shortening of tail feathers or wing flights with scissors, then why not just come right out and state that would be a disqualification like I noted above. Personally I think we mislead the judge and our peers and potential newcomers just as much, if not more, by plucking those 100 feathers out of the body!! I know I've heard lots of complaints in Canada from newcomers that were totally shocked after their newly acquired helmets molted in!! I think that does more overall harm to our breed than half trimmed feather in the crest, and therefore I think we spend way too much attention on it than it deserves.

We all know our helmets need some preparation in their head/crest area for shows. Without some sort of plucking/trimming there, we would not have a very attractive lineup at the shows!! If done properly, scissoring can be done so that it is hardly noticeable. Unfortunately, not everyone is good at it, just like not everyone is good at plucking. I simply disagree with the current "disqualification" part of the standard, I think it is a farce considering all the other things we do to our helmets to get them ready for show.

Continued on page 7

TO FEED OR NOT TO FEED

By James Jensen

This afternoon I enjoyed looking through the last bulletin again. As I read Harold Strawniak's article I thought I might make a few comments. First I would like to thank Harold for looking after the master breeder points. He has had this job as long as I can remember and I appreciate his keeping track of all of us.

Harold wondered if we needed a new helmet. I personally don't think so, we just need to bring back the parenting ability we once had in the m. f. crested helmets. I absolutely agree with Harold that the main reason that our club is down in numbers is the difficulty of raising helmets now. I believe that in our rush to raise that champion, we have over used foster parents and have neglected to maintain the parenting ability of our crested helmets. The m. f. plainheads do a fine job of raising their young. They are supposed to be basically the same bird as the crested. In recent years we have seen a growth in popularity of the plainheads and I believe it is because they are easier to raise.

I started a project a couple of years ago to cross the plainheads into the crested with the express purpose of reestablishing the parenting ability in the crested birds. During the project, I have noticed a couple of things. The plainheads lay a bigger egg. Does this make their new hatched young bigger and stronger than the crested and therefore better able to beg for milk? My crested birds will pick up rollers or mookees and feed them, but they often will not begin feeding their own young. I don't believe that beak size is the problem. This year I have had Old German owls, m.f. plainheads, and valencian figuritas successfully raise crested helmets. They all have beaks as small as or smaller than crested helmets. It seems that the crested birds lack vigor at hatching and that the parents need a more vigorous stimulation to get them raising young. One other thing I have noticed is that when I did my initial crosses, the pairs with a plainhead hen would raise their young and the pairs with a crested hen would lose their young. It seems that the hen is the first to begin feeding the new babies.

I am two years into my project. This year I mated plainhead and crested crosses together to see what they would do. Out of four pair, two did a fine job of raising their young and two pair did not. Obviously the pairs that did not raise young will not have any progeny to propagate the problem. This year I will be working from those birds that raised their young and the young them selves. As all of my first generation crossbreeds carried the crest factor, I have raised a few crested birds in the second generation. I will be showing one at the Utah state fair in a couple of weeks.

Continued on next page

TO FEED OR NOT TO FEED....continued

By James Jensen

The bird has a magnificent crest but has lost some type and width of head and body. This year I will cross in some of my best crested birds to see if this parenting ability will breed through. I will still be working with the crosses together to enhance the trait. I am hopeful that in a few years I will have been able to re introduce the parenting ability into my m. f. crested birds. I will surely enjoy them more and if I am successful, I feel that I will have made a valuable contribution to the breed.

I would like to suggest to all breeders that you either join me in this project or perhaps there is a better way to accomplish it. I am sure it would make a great difference in the popularity of the m. f. crested helmets. I agree with Harold when he says that today's helmets are the most appealing birds in the show room. Let's take the challenge to make them the most desirable in the loft as well.

Pass the Scissors Please!continued

by Curtis Oberhansly District 8

If I could pluck a lot faster than I do, and if the feathers didn't grow back so fast, I would probably learn how to do it better. But then again, when I was a kid and my older brother kept yanking the hair on my head, I was never a big fan of that!!

I totally agree with you (Pavel, member of CHC) too much scissor trimming, executed improperly is not a good trim job! I do not like it either when as soon as you look at a helmet, even without picking it up, that you can tell it is over trimmed. And believe me, not everyone is good at it. I personally believe that several of our good CHC helmet breeders trim way too much. Like I've stated before, less is better, and as far back into the crest is better too. Then it can only be seen if someone brushes back the crest feathers.

And I also agree with you that over-trimming should be docked points, and what I DISAGREE with is that it is currently a disqualification. I don't think it would be a big deal if my birds were cut down in points if they were over trimmed compared to the other helmets in a show, but I do think it is a big deal if my birds are disqualified. And 2 other things I would like to emphasize are:

(1) We should be focusing on the qualities of the bird itself, NOT how it has been trimmed. The qualities of the bird should FAR outweigh how it was prepared for show. We all know we have to trim in the crest area, and probably will always have to for quite some time, to some extent, so it shouldn't matter how it is done, as long as the end result is what we want.

(2) I will never agree that a poor trim job in the crest should be a disqualification for an otherwise good helmet, it is just poor show prep. Like I said in point (1) above, "the quality of the bird itself should FAR outweigh how it was prepared for show". Don't disqualify the bird, just take away some points from the overall condition factor. BUT, do disqualify a bird for trimmed tail or wing feathers, because that is a deliberate attempt to alter the bird in a way that we all find unacceptable.

BACK IN TIME—40 YEARS
THE YEAR 1966

N.P.A. National
Costa Mesa CA. Jan. 12-16, 1966
Champion mfclc—black hen #4567
Breeder—F. Ray Sanchez
Champion mfclph—black o.c. #873
Breeder—Russ Schatz

The “A.H.A. Master Breeder Program” headed by Phil Royal and the written “A.H.A. Constitution” with C.E. Mann in charge were completely updated.

Jerry Williams becomes the 1966 A.H.A. member of the year and Clarence E. Mann the breeder of the year.

This year we see two mfclc hens enter the “A.H.A. Hall of Fame”. A red #688 bred by Fred Smith and a yellow #161 bred by Ken Eklund.

BACK IN TIME—39 YEARS
THE YEAR 1967

N.P.A. National
Milwaukee, WI Jan. 10-15, 1967
Champion mfclc—red y.h. #n/a
Breeder—C.E. Mann
Champion sfclc—n/a
Breeder—C.E. Mann

Clarence E. Mann appoints a committee of A.H.A. members to develop a Short Face helmet standard. The initial work was done by Lennart N. Eklund, followed by Fred Smith, Clarence E. Mann and Charles Amsler.

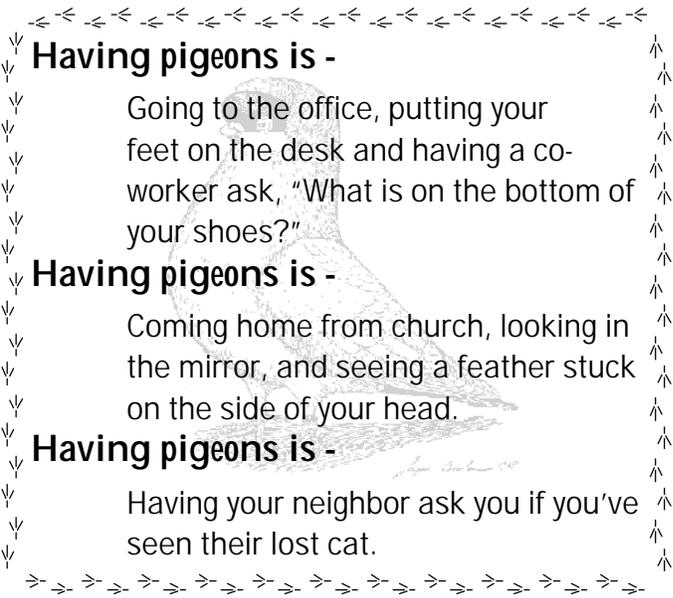
Bruce Scott becomes the first A.H.A. member to hold both the “Member of the year” (1964) and “Breeder of the Year: (1967) awards.

Dun MFCLC hen #577, bred by Vic Eshpeter, becomes the first dun helmet to enter the “A.H.A. Hall of Fame”. Also entering the hall of fame this year is a mfclc black cock #500 bred by Phil Royal.

Dennis Machado becomes the first director of district seven.

The new revised “A.H.A. Master Breeder Program” was adopted by the membership.

Phil Royal is this years A.H.A. member of the year. Clarence E. Mann becomes the 2nd A.H.A. master breeder.



Having pigeons is -

Going to the office, putting your feet on the desk and having a co-worker ask, "What is on the bottom of your shoes?"

Having pigeons is -

Coming home from church, looking in the mirror, and seeing a feather stuck on the side of your head.

Having pigeons is -

Having your neighbor ask you if you've seen their lost cat.

Secretary's Report

Chuck has been out of town for the month of August and the first week of September showing his sheep at the Michigan and Ohio State Fairs. He is just getting caught up with his AHA Secretary duties and apologizes for the delay in his sending the mailing labels etc. for the bulletin.

How did he do at the fairs? At the Michigan State Fair he had two champion rams over all breeds, Champion Ram and Reserve Champion Ewe. He also won Reserve Champion Ewe at the Ohio State Fair.

Way to go Chuck!

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 October 20.

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

Treasurer's Report
Apr./Aug. 2006
by Charles Dwight

INCOME	
Dues	\$ 240.00
Bands	\$ 43.75
Band Postage	\$ 3.00
Total	\$ 286.75
EXPENSES	
Supplies	\$ 48.08
Postage	\$ 8.13
Stamps	\$ 39.00
Bulletin Printing	\$ 76.75
Bulletin Postage	\$ 85.75
Total	\$ 257.71
TOTALS	
Starting Balance	\$3,344.05
Income	\$ 286.75
Total	\$3,630.80
Expenses	- 257.71
Ending balance	\$3,373.09

Are your dues past due?

Please check your mailing address label on this newsletter—if highlighted, your membership is due for renewal. If you have paid your dues within the last 2 months please disregard.

- District 4 Mike Geis
- District 7 Phil DeCarlo
- District 11 Bob Lien
- District 7 Daniel Sexton

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@hughes.net

District 9 Director: See pg. 9

Pavel Lutsenko

District 10 Director: OPEN

District 11 Director:

Bob Lein
7320 Adams St.
Lincoln, 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