

Helmet Happenings

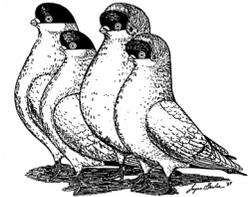
March/April 2006

May 1, 2006

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From the President



Here it is, the middle of April. I hope you've got some good prospects in the young bird pen. Things have been a little slow in the Jensen loft, but today it is 70 above, Spring is in the air, and the birds act like they are going to get serious about raising young. I do have a little dun in the nest that is keeping my attention.

Have you looked at the international helmet page at my family.com? (www.helmetgroup.com) I have enjoyed the banter as well as the great breeding and loft tips. I have learned a lot. I just wish we could get some of you guys who visit that sight every day to put a little of that information in the bulletin for those who don't have the internet. I suggest that everyone should find their way onto the site.

Someone asked when nominations are. The nomination form is to go out in May or June and be returned to Chuck by June 30th. The elections are to be completed in August. This year we will be electing all officers as well as member of the year and the national judges. I am hoping that we will get a much better participation in this process this year. For those interested in breeder of the year, you need to round up your points from 2005 young birds and get them in to Charles Dwight.

Just so that you will be aware, I will be stepping down this year. Since I got back into helmets in 1981 in Canada, I have held one office or another, and sometimes two at a time until the present time. It has been a lot of fun. I hope I have made the A H A a better club and I hope I have made a significant contribution to the helmet pigeon. I surely do enjoy seeing the beautiful birds in my loft. They are a lot different than what I started with 25 years ago. Due to health reasons I haven't been able to attend the national the past two years. I am still facing some challenges in that department but as always I am hoping to make the shows once again. It's just time for a change for me. I'm sure a qualified person will step up to take the reins.

Good luck to you in the breeding pen.

James Jensen

Thanks to all who submitted articles for this edition of the bulletin!

News from DISTRICT 7

by Bob Bollinger

Hi all, I hope your breeding programs are starting off well. Many of us here in District 7 are starting off very slow. As I am typing this it is mid April and I only have 1 banded baby on the floor. Others don't even have any banded yet. I have noticed that the helmets are somewhat later to start and mine come on strong in the May / June time frame. The late starts hurt for Louisville and some of the early shows but the late bloomers are always a pleasant surprise for the next show season.

We haven't really talked too much about our District 7 meets for this year. I suggest we go with the usual White Rose and Reading winter shows. I suspect that District 14 will be having their meet at the EHPC show and District 12 will be doing Rochester again. What about holding a YB meet? According to the rules we can also have a YB meet along with our 2 regular district meets. Is there any interest? (and will we have enough babies to make 50 birds?) Let's all start talking amongst ourselves and hopefully we can finalize our plans in the next couple of months. That will give everyone ample time to plan for their show season.

Why don't we allow scissors trimming?

By Bob Bollinger

I had some very interesting discussions with some Canadian fanciers at the last NYBS. We talked at length about their use of scissors trimming in the CHC. I have to admit that I found their suggestion to allow scissoring quite compelling. It seemed very clear that the process was easier for birds and that you would only have to do it once in the season.

To be clear, we are mainly talking about the process of cutting feathers in and around the back of the skull where they push back crest feathers on the MFC and in and around the cap areas of the MFP. The AHA standard already allows cutting of feathers at the base as that would be equivalent to plucking them. My purist side notes that we do raise birds based on their markings and we want to reward the birds with those appropriate markings. However the CHC standard already accounts for that by stating that in the event that 2 birds are equal, the bird without evidence of scissoring will prevail.

What is our history with the scissors trimming discussion? Is there a down side to scissoring?

I would like to hear thoughts, comments and any history that folks know about. If there is no good reason not to allow scissoring, I suggest that we seriously consider allowing it. It would be easier for us, the birds and our Canadian friends who may want to show with us! I have to believe that anything that helps get birds to the shows will be good for helmets.

Suggestions for Attracting Helmet Fanciers

By Bob Bollinger

Through the last two Nationals and other shows I have heard the subject come up regarding how we as individuals, and as a club, can attract new helmet fanciers. Through the discussions I have also heard a lot of bemoaning the future of the hobby and lack of young people getting into pigeons. I think these are two very different subjects. In this article I will share a few of my thoughts on how to get people breeding and showing helmets. In the next bulletin I will review my thoughts on newcomers.

So ... how do we attract fanciers to helmets and the AHA? We need to first face the reality that helmets just aren't that easy to raise any more. It may not be reasonable to try to attract brand new pigeon fanciers to helmets. I have seen a lot of newcomers come and go here in District 7 over the last 5-10 years. Nearly all of them got out of the breed (and some out of pigeons) because the birds were just too hard to raise. What we need to do is market our breed to experienced fanciers. Experienced fanciers have the knowledge and background to deal with feeders, hand feeding, show trimming, etc. With experience they are more likely to have success in the breeding pen and the show hall. This helps avoid the frustration and disappointment that I have seen plague our newcomers.

Helmets and the AHA have a lot of things going for them. We need to use these attributes to capture the interest of other fanciers at places where we already go! We can market our breed at the show hall, racing club house, and feed store. At the shows we can do several things. First and foremost we need to keep our entry numbers up. Helmets are a nice looking bird with a lot of personality. A large class of good looking birds will attract other fanciers' interest as they stroll the aisles and judging areas. This may take some focused effort in areas where there are only a few breeders. Placing those extra birds will ultimately pay off. Once the fanciers' interest is captured we then need to tell folks about the club, the bulletin, the great organization of the AHA, our master breeder program, and fun / camaraderie that we all share at the shows. The last thing we need to do is have information and bulletins available (all downloadable on the web site) in the judging area. After we have captured folks' interest we need to give them something to take with them so they will be reminded to join the club! We have tried these techniques at shows in District 7 with great results.

**WE'VE COME
A LONG WAY!**



More Back in Time articles are printed throughout the bulletin.

Back in Time—The Early Years submitted by Harold Strawniak

For those of you who can remember the early years of the A.H.A., can appreciate the unquestionable hard work and wholehearted devotion that the early A.H.A. pioneers have given to this organization. Many of the early organizers are no longer with us, but what they initiated nearly a half century ago is still being carried on today. With this article I would like to acknowledge some of those early members and to give our new members, and to those too young to remember, some A.H.A. history. If the Membership doesn't mind I would like periodically to present similar information. There may at times be some material that is suspect, that due to contradiction between records and records being incomplete. If one is aware of such, let us know so we can set the record straight. For the curious there's a lot of A.H.A. history out there. When put in print these articles can go on for a very long time.

News from District 8

by Curtis Oberhansly

Not a lot of news to report from District 8 -- it's that time of year. Seems as though most of us have had a slow start for whatever reason. Quite a bit of weather variation. James indicated that most in the District seemed to be struggling getting their breeding season kicked off with any kind of numbers. I talked to Don Phyl about 3 weeks ago and he said that he had lost a dozen youngsters just the night before, all under helmets and due to weather, and that he had only banded about a dozen. (He probably means a dozen class winners!) Wayne Diviney is alone in being satisfied so far. He is only breeding from one cock and three hens in rotation, but he's already banded 8 or 10. Maybe he's on to something. I've been trying to rotate hens from a hen pen, but they lay too quickly and I have a lot of infertile eggs as a result. So there's kinks to work out there.

The Myfamily.com helmet site keeps growing. We have helmet fanciers from far and wide contributing regularly & posting photos. The topics range from genetics, to loft design, breeding and raising young, nutrition and medications, shows, the standard, and just about anything else a fancier could possibly think of. If you aren't connected and joining the site, then think twice before you do because it is addictive. You might find yourself tired the next day from being on the site too late at night. I know that I am.

Everyone knows by now that the National is in December on the 7th. So the show season is more compressed this year. A quick rundown of a few approximate dates: October 21st - NYBS Louisville; November 3rd and 4th - Utah Premier; November 10th and 11th - Western Sectional Medford Oregon; November 16th and 17th - Pageant in San Bernardino, CA; December 7th - National DesMoine, Iowa. It is going to feel very strange to have the show season end in early December, while everything feels so compressed in November. I have no clue at this time how to sort out my plans for shows.

James J. had a good idea -- a late show in a warm place. So we are going to promote an option for those interested. There is a longstanding winter show on February 3, 2007 in Southern Utah two hours drive from Las Vegas. The weather is in the low 70's, dry and sunny. We'll be talking a lot more about this over the summer, but pencil that in as an option for your show season. If enough of you are interested, it could be a lot of fun and fill that need for a true winter show when the birds are really in full feather and showing their best.

BACK IN TIME—43 YEARS

THE YEAR 1963

A New A.H.A. program "Honorary Members" goes into effect and Wendell M. Levi becomes the first recipient.

For the first time in the history of the A.H.A. the club has a full compliment of officers.

Headed by Myron Berger and Len Eklund, N.P.A.—A.H.A. bands are now available for the first time to A.H.A. members.

Help to Recruit a New Helmet Breeders or Two

Submitted by Tony Patti

Hi All,

As many of you already know the National Pigeon Association holds an auction at the Grand National every year. The purpose of this auction is to raise money for the Junior Program of the NPA. It has done well in the past and has really benefited the juniors of the NPA. Our new Junior Director in the NPA is Rich Werner of Pennsylvania and he has recruited me to help solicit quality birds for the auction. We already have a nice list going but we really want to make this the best auction the NPA has ever held. What better place to do this then at DesMoines where the National is returning after 50 years!! It is with this in mind that I ask all of you if you can please donate a pair of decent birds to help out in what is the future of our hobby, the juniors. I know a lot of the time we all want to help out but can't figure out what we can do. I've been there too. Well, this is your chance to help and help with what may well be one of the most important parts of the hobby, helping those juniors. Please don't sit back and figure someone else is going to do it. Take the lead and do it yourself. If you belong to a specialty club please ask other members of your club to donate a pair. Remember it is never one particular thing that makes a National "Grand" but it is a combination of all of the little things that go into it. Let's make this piece of the puzzle fit perfectly!!

On another note Rich Werner is also organizing a bus trip from Pennsylvania to DesMoines. Estimated cost is about \$175 per person with your birds. They have even offered to take the birds of folks not traveling on the bus at a cost of \$100 round trip. Pretty good deal if you ask me. If anyone is interested Rich can be contacted at Revmwerner@aol.com

I'd like to compliment Rich, while many others were talking about the difficulties of getting into DesMoines, he was out figuring out an alternative method.

Thanks to all of you for your time and dedication to the hobby.....

Stan Ryan

BACK IN TIME—42 YEARS

THE YEAR 1964

On January 1st of this year, by vote of the membership, the A.H.A. became an affiliate of the National Pigeon Association.

The revised version of the A.H.A. constitution is adopted.

This year starts the beginning of the A.H.A. Master Breeder program. Phill Royal gets full credit for putting together the program and becomes the first A.H.A. points director.

The list of honorary members continues, with the additions of William Joyce of Sydney, Australia, Herbert Koehne-mann of West Germany, and Art Kehl of the United States.

1964 sees the birth of the first A.H.A. yearbook.

Concerns and comments on National meetings

by Charles Dwight

As I was rewriting the minutes of the National meetings to add some things that were left out of the first ones that were sent to me I found several things that concerned me.

1. At the Board of directors meeting, there were several members present who are not on the Board of Directors who were making and seconding motions.
2. At the General Meeting a person seconded a motion that is not a member of the AHA.
3. Item 1-General Meeting: This cannot be approved at a meeting. It requires a constitutional change that must be done thru the procedures.
4. Item 3-General Meeting: I was shocked when I first read this. After talking to Bob Bollinger I understand it a little better. It needs a lot of clarification. It would have to be a constitutional change.

We have a provision in the constitution now where Districts can receive money from band sales. Section C, Item 3. From what I understand after talking to Bob Bollinger, this will be almost equal to the proposed change. In all the time I have been secretary/treasurer (1993), there has only been one request for these funds.

5. Item 4-Per Todd's request that show reports be standardized. We have standard forms on the web site, all we have to do is use them.

6. Constitutional Amendments:

Section A:

A proposed amendment signed by two senior members is furnished to a District Director for consideration.

Section B:

If the District Director approves the proposed amendment, a copy is sent to the President for review, after which it is:

Section C:

Submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration. If approved by two-thirds majority vote of the Board, the proposed amendment shall be:

Section D:

Reviewed and aired as to its merits in two successive issues of the News Bulletin, promptly followed by a mail vote of all senior members in the next regular issue.

Section E:

Changes resultant from amendment will become effective on the first day of the month, sixty days following a favorable vote.

Compiled by Harold Strawniak

Points Director

The 2005 show season is now history and the show reports are appearing. In the past decade the A.H.A. hasn't seen much change in the number of shows put on each year of the total entries they've received. In most events the mfcfc are number one in total entries, followed by mfcfph's.

Excluding the annual N.P.A. national show, there hasn't been a A.H.A show in some time with enough short-face, of either variety, to qualify for master breeder points; but that may all be coming to an end.

This past October the helmet breeders in district two put on a show in Kennewick, WA that took me back to the days here in district seven, where the short-face birds outnumbered the medium-face.

In the past there were a number of west coast short-face helmet breeders with champion birds. My first encounter with west coast short-face came in 1972 at the N.P.A. Grand National in Asbury Park, New Jersey. At this show Ray Sanchez of CA took champion short-face with a recessive red cock that showed superior red brick color along with good station. Then came the 1987 N.P.A. National in Downingtown, PA. At this show Jeff Berger, from the state of Washington, took champion short-face with a red cock that possessed both a good head and exceptionally good crest. And the trend continues.

Recently as last year at the N.P.A. Grand National in Lancaster, PA, Dennis Bray, also from the state of Washington, walked away with the champion short-face crested of the show. This short-face craze in the northwest will continue, its been around for a long time, perhaps it all started many years ago when that Copenhagen cock made it to the northwest.

A Reminder to all District Directors

by Harold Strawniak, Points Director

When submitting show reports to the points director, please answer all questions on the official A.H.A. show report forms. Not answering a question, especially a question requiring a number, may jeopardize the authenticity of the document. Some mistakes being made include not answering the following question— "list all exhibitors names and districts in this variety on the back of this page". When answering this question please note if an exhibitor is a non-member.

Also, if a bird is entered in the show but is absent from the competition such bird will not count in the entry total. This also holds true for exhibitors. If a member enters a variety but fails to cage a single bird of such variety the member is not considered an exhibitor of that variety.

From Our Loft by Todd Farnsworth

We at Lofts of Fun are having better success now that the weather is starting to cooperate and the birds have finally settled in. We have 20 young helmets banded and are excited about several of them. The reds as usual, are in the lead as far as numbers go but at this time I am most excited about a young black.

This has been a real unusual year in our loft because it seemed like the birds didn't want to settle or stay with the mates we put them with. All of this created some infertility and eggs laid on shelves or on the floor. We got off to a bad start but we just kept telling ourselves that it only takes one to be a champion. We know this is true, we just don't know who's loft it is in!

We are planning on attending the Western Sectional in Medford and the Pageant in San Bernardino this year. Unfortunately, we will not be attending the National; too many miles and the timing is wrong for us.

We have been watching the new web site myfamily.com and are aware of what some of you are doing and somewhat how your progress is coming along. The rest of you need to share and care by writing or emailing the bulletin so we can all stay informed of what our friends and competitors are doing.

Here is something we found to be very interesting and that is of the 25 people who frequent the myfamily web site; 10 of them are not current members of AHA. This means that of the 98 members of AHA only 15 are aware of or care to access this great sight. It also means there are 10 other people who are interested in helmets and should become members of the A.H.A. As we all know the only way we have a true club is through member involvement. If we all sit back and wait for the club to happen it is only a matter of time before a club is dissolved.

Our club is different than many in the sense that we not only have color classes in the breed but we also have crested, plain head, muffed, short face, and medium face, all are equally important to the club as a whole but in some cases we all tend to fall into our own small groups and our involvement as a club can suffer. We all need to remember that the A.H.A. stands for ALL varieties of the Helmet pigeon. Good luck to all this breeding season!

Secretary's Report

by Charles Dwight

I don't have much to report this time. I have only heard from one or two members, and that was only to trace a band number on a bird. I guess everyone is so busy banding young birds they don't have time for anything else. Hope to have more to report next time.

Chuck

New Members

Johnnie Johnson
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Park River, ND 58072

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email:
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Jr. Member:

Jonathael Rodriguez
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Ph: 860-833-4561
email: silverswifts@aol.com

Are your dues past due?

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

District 1
Stan Reynolds
Leonard Patito
District 2
Brian Nichols
District 3
Jeff Butler
District 6
Patrick Flinn
District 7
Phil DeCarlo
District 8
Joshua Zilles
Brandon & Mindy Bingham
District 10
Don Homick
District 11
Mike Sweeny
District 12
Rafael Marrero
John Reda
District 14
Steve Brocket

Treasurer's Report Feb/March 2006

by Charles Dwight

INCOME

Dues	\$ 135.00
Bands	\$ 57.75
Band Postage	\$ 6.00
Natn'l Show Rebate	<u>\$ 210.00</u>
Total	\$ 408.75

EXPENSES

Natn'l Show Awards	\$ 280.00
Shipping Awards	\$ 20.00
Postage	\$ 12.84
Bulletin Printing	\$ 115.22
Bulletin Postage	\$ 97.26
1/2 2007 Bands	\$ 525.00
Stamps	<u>\$ 39.00</u>
Total	\$1,089.32

TOTALS

Starting Balance	\$4,025.42
Income	<u>\$ 408.75</u>
Total	\$4,434.17
Expenses	<u>- 1,089.32</u>
Ending balance	\$3,344.85

Send comments, suggestions or even a joke or two to us at:
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The deadline for articles in the next newsletter is June 20.

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

2006 Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting was called to order January 19, 2006 by Western Vice President Dennis Bray.

Officers in attendance:

Leonard Patito	District 1	Todd Farnsworth	Bulletin Editor
Henry Ebbelaar	District 2	Vic Eshpeter	District 2 Member
Bob Bollinger	District 7	Dennis Manning	District 2 Member
Curtis Oberhansly	District 8	Pavel Lutsenko	District 9 Member
Dennis Bray	Western Vice President		

Minutes of 2005 meeting and financial report were read and approved.

Old business:

Leonard Patito moved and Todd Farnsworth seconded, that standard change as proposed in Bulletin go to the General Meeting for discussion and approval.

Constitution update sent out to certain members for comment. Look at 1. Judge selection (nomination), 2. Judge rebate (out), and 3. Entries for point shows.

New business:

Band size: Take a motion to the general meeting to change band size to 7 on next ordering cycle. Motion by Curtis Oberhansly, seconded by Leonard Patito.

Web site: Motion by Bob Bollinger, seconded by Pavel Lutsenko to keep paying for it.

Band sales and 10%: Take a motion to general meeting for 10% of band sales to be divided equally among district, but only on "request" of district.

Discussion points—be sensitive to SPCA concerns in any discussion in regards to culling
Recommend to general meeting that A.H.A. pay the \$109.00 annual fee to "myfamily.com" to maintain the international Helmet chat and photo share site set up by Pavel Lutsenko. Motion by Pavel Lutsenko, seconded by Bob Bollinger.

Judging to begin a 9:00 am on 1/20/06

Submitted by Curtis Oberhansly. Rewritten by Charles Dwight.

2006 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 10:15 am, January 21, 2006 by Western Vice President Dennis Bray.

Members in attendance:

Leonard Patito	District 1	Dennis Bray	District 2
Henry Ebbelaar	District 2	Vic Eshpeter	District 2
Dennis Manning	District 2	Myron Berger	District 2
Bob Bollinger	District 7	Mike Crawford	District 7
Curtis Oberhansly	District 8	Steve Mitchell	District 8
Wayne Diviney	District 8	Todd & Cathy	District 8
Pavel Lutsenko	District 9	Tony Patti	District 12

continued next page

2006 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING—continued

Minutes of 2005 meeting were read by Dennis Bray. Motion to accept by Steve Mitchell, seconded by Wayne Diviney. Motion passed.

Financial report was read by Dennis Bray. Motion to accept by Dennis Manning. Seconded by Steve Mitchell. Motion Passed.

Old Business:

1. Short face discussion: Hank Ebbelaar discussed and reviewed the contents of the Bulletin article regarding the standards as relates to the point spread on short faced. Hank Ebbelaar moved to change as per the article. Dennis Manning seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. Constitutional work: Bob Bollinger reported on the progress, has circulated copies for input from a few individuals. Will collate and report results at a later date.

New Business:

1. Band size: Discussion among members in regards feeling that present band size is too large. Can possibly be removed or replaced even on smaller, older birds, looks sloppy. Concerns that a size seven provides too narrow a window for banding when out of town, etc. Others recommend banding early and taping it on to hold as a solution. Tony Patti moved to switch to size seven at earliest opportunity. Seconded by Steve Mitchell. Motion passed.
2. Web site: Members thanked Bob Bollinger for all the work and great info contained on the web site. Dennis Manning moved that A.H.A. pay the \$70.00 to keep running. Seconded by Toni Patti. Motion passed.
3. Band sales: Suggested that 10% of band sales to be "distributed equally" among districts regardless of membership size. However, the district must "request" the funds to receive them. Not automatic. Consider as a constitutional amendment as well. Motion by Leonard Patito. Seconded by Dennis Manning. Motion passed.
4. Bulletin discussion: Todd Farnsworth requested that show reports be standardized for ease of publication and understanding in the bulletin. Also stated that articles must be constructive and positive. Otherwise the editors will not include all of the negative portions. General agreement, but no motion.
5. Myfamily.com: Discussion about value as a promotional tool. Thanks to Pavel Lutsenko for all the work in starting up and maintaining. Members encouraged to sign up and participate. Reaching fanciers from Canada, Australia, South Africa, and the U.S.A. Good photos and info sharing. Motion by Pavel Lutsenko and seconded by Myron Berger for A.H.A. to pay the annual fee of \$109.00 to keep it going. Motion passed.
6. New business brought for general discussion by the members:
 - A. Think of someone to replace Chuck Dwight. Not possible, but inevitable. All hardy thanks to Chuck, but everyone hopes he will continue for another decade or two.
 - B. Auction didn't happen at National. Not promoted, too bad. Think of ways to promote better next year.
 - C. Judging discussion in general. Examine alternatives from point to clinics to any-way to make judging more consistent and predictable throughout the A.H.A.

Submitted by Curtis Oberhansly. Rewritten by Charles Dwight.

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