

Helmet Happenings

Nov/Dec 2006

Jan. 1, 2007

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REFLECTIONS

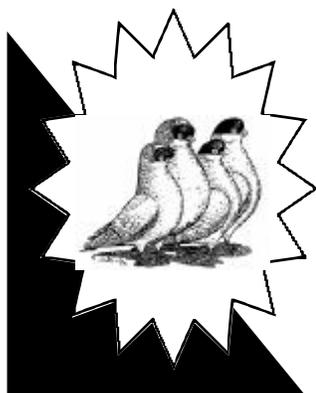
As the end of 2006 approaches, I find myself reflecting on the enjoyment I have found in raising pigeons, and more particularly, in raising helmets. It was 25 years ago when I looked up my old friend Steve Mitchell and bought some helmets from him to take to my new loft in Calgary. I was so excited to be able to enjoy pigeons once again after many years, and now my son would enjoy them with me. Over the years, three of my children have taken an interest in pigeons and we have had a lot of fun together.

I have had the privilege of traveling to many shows and have made many friends over the years. I probably go to the shows now to see friends as much as I go for the competition. It's always fun to receive a phone call from someone in helmets.

The past couple of years my showing has been greatly curtailed because of health problems. 2006 has had it's share of additional health problems, but I am happy to say that I am getting around better now than I have in years. Because of Todd Farnsworth's help this summer when I was recovering from hip surgery, I ended up with a great breeding season. It has been a pleasure to attend several shows and renew old acquaintances. I have been pleased to see that my birds are still competitive.

This morning I enjoyed spending some time with the birds. I still have many that are trying to get the last couple of flights molted in. It seems like when the cold weather hits, the molt stops. I have been giving them extra baths and have been massaging the quills to help them along. I am pleased to see that some of my late hatches will be ready to show at Hurricane the first weekend of February.

Now I dream of my new matings for the new year. With winter just beginning, I've got to be patient. Isn't this a great hobby? There is something to anticipate for every season of the year. There are good friends to share it all with. I hope that you can enjoy another great year with helmets. James Jensen



News from District 8

by James Jensen

AHA DISTRICT 8 REPORT

Congratulations and thanks to all who were elected to office and are willing to serve the AHA for the next two years.

On November 3rd and 4th, District 8 had a meet in conjunction with the Utah Pigeon Club. There were 69 helmets entered by 6 exhibitors. Honors went to Meridian lofts for champion short face crested. In the medium face crested, champion went to James Jensen with a red old hen, first reserve went to Curtis Oberhansly with the second place red old hen, and Curtis also had second reserve with a red young hen. We had an enjoyable time together and a lot of birds changed hands.

Curtis Oberhansly is fighting pigeon breeders lung and farmed out his birds at this show. He is hoping to be able to get back into birds in a year. We wish him well. All of us can imagine the feelings we would have if we had to give up our birds for that reason. Good luck Curtis.

On February 2nd & 3rd we will be holding another district meet in Hurricane, Utah. This should prove to be a lot of fun. It sounds like Jim Garus, Mike LaCom, Leonard Patito as well as the Utah boys are all planning to attend. Others have also shown an interest. The birds will be in their best feather and by then, I should know just what they are. I've got a yellow hen and a black cock that will be fun to show by then. The weather is always good that time of year in Hurricane (very much like Las Vegas, and only two hours from there) and we in northern Utah are glad for a break in the winter. If you have an interest in this show, please contact me at (801) 544-9390 or Laurie Mueller at (435) 865-1360.

Good luck at the shows. James Jensen

Secretary's Report

by Charles Dwight

Well, the National show is over. It was a very disappointing show. 187 Helmets entered, but only 103 shown. Only Medium Face crested had enough for a point show.

Even though our entries were not too good, it was still a great show with over 8,000 birds. The show hall was one of the best I have ever been in.

One of the high points of the show was when Fred Smith came in. Fred is one of our lifetime members and the author of the Helmet Handbook. It was great to meet Fred again and be able to sit and talk with him again.

Bands are in the mail, and you should have received them before you get this bulletin. Sales have been good, with over 2,000 already sold.

The National Show next year will be in Detroit, Michigan.

Thank you Todd & Cathy for doing the Bulletin for as long as you have. All future materials should be sent to the new bulletin editor, Paul McRae listed here. ?

New Bulletin Editor!

Paul McRae, Bulletin Editor

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News from District 2

by Dennis Bray

I received my Helmet Bulletin today. Always fun to read the articles and look thru the show reports.

I was disappointed in the elections for club officers. I realize we all live very busy lives; no extra time for other activities, but this is about YOUR pigeon club. The club that is trying to bring relaxation, allow you to vent our daily problems, enjoy the hobby etc. To have a successful club we need members, willing and working leaders. Everyone needs to get more involved in club functions. Participate in judging & fund raising events to help pay for awards. Pay for out of area judges, help with the bookkeeping at the shows. Don't be a user of the club and give nothing back. Thos who are unhappy with the judges, or placement of AHA sanction meets, help make improvements – get involved in the decision making etc., otherwise, you may be in the wrong club. This organization needs some direction. If all you can do is complain and do nothing about it, find another club you can take down for lack of interest. This years' ballots return was only 21.

District 2 had two great helmet meets. Our first meet was held in eastern Washington. This is an effort we western Washington breeders must do. For years Hank and Myron would travel to the west to support shows in the cold, snowing conditions to show their Helmets with us.

We had fifty Helmets shown with five exhibitors. This show is turning into a very good SF Helmet meet. Four breeders of SF with twenty five entries. Two breeders of Plain Heads. Four breeders of Medium Face with ten birds entered. This show belonged to Myron Berger who won best SF with a sliver and went on to win Champion over-all Helmet and Reserve Champion of the show. Nice win for this breeder and a little rare SF Helmet.

Our next big show in District 2 was the Western Sectional held in Grants Pass, Oregon. The judge came to us from Eastern Canada. Gary Parsons. The show was well supported by other districts. This was Gary's first visit to the northwest to judge Helmets. It was the first time for any of us to meet him. He had never seen any of our Helmets before this show. Excitement was in the show room to have Gary begin judging. We started first with the SF. Hank Ebbelaar won Best of Breed with a red young cock. We then moved to PH. Dennis Manning winning Best of Breed with a red young cock. Finally the medium face judging was started, lots of interest and excitement. Who traveled the furthest to win champion Helmet? Breeders from Utah, California, Oregon, Washington – all were represented. The winner was an Oregon breeder who almost didn't show. Last minute, he spotted a very nice little red young hen. Jim Garus' helmet went on to win Best Helmet among the other varieties and First Reserve Champion of the whole show.

After the show we all said our goodbyes to the out of state showmen. The west coast breeders all met for dinner then drove to Jim Garus' home to spend the night. On arrival to Jim's we were invited to his loft for a quick look. Very nice set-up for his helmets! My first impression was I had never seen so much good breeding stock in any loft. After this treat, into the house we marched to find Jims wife removing a fresh baked cherry pie from her oven for all of us to enjoy. We sat up until midnight discussing our Helmets. Sunday morning, bright and early (7:00 am) we were back up and discussing which Helmet we saw in Jims loft and why we needed to take it or them home with us. Judy again impressed us fellas with a great breakfast; waffles, eggs and sausage. Jim, great little wife. We were all grateful. After breakfast finally to the loft we marched – each of us getting to take home with us some very good Helmets. Next year, keep an eye out for the Washington breeders, we are going to be winners!

Until next time. See you all at the Des Moines National.

As ever, Dennis Bray

NEW MEMBERS

↓ Bret Harmon ↓ 336 N. 200 E. ↓ Payson, UT 84651 ↓ Phone: 801-465-4994 ↓ e-mail: bizmstr@msn.com ↓ ↓ Aaron Lorton ↓ 890 N. Tower RD ↓ Dawson, IL 62520 ↓ Phone: 217-364-9524 ↓ e-mail:	↓ John Heppner ↓ 3040 Godfrey Ave. ↓ Gilroy, CA 95020 ↓ Phone: 408-848-3399 ↓ e-mail: ↓ ↓ John DeCarlo Jr. ↓ 3040 B Godfrey Ave. ↓ Gilroy, CA 95020 ↓ Phone: 408-846-0987 ↓ e-mail: john@mhcarwash.com
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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 1	Kevin Heppner Edward Verdugo
District 2	Gary Lien
District 3	Jeff Butler Donna Johnston Nathan Strsich
District 4	Gerald Butler Mike Geis
District 5	Ron Davis Howard Kleinberg & Family
District 7	Joe Powers
District 8	Keith Edwards Curtis Oberhansly
District 12	Roger Gravel Tony Patti Jay Mortz
District 14	Daniel Sexton

2006 Financial Report

by Charles Dwight

2006 INCOME

Dues	\$ 1160.00
Bands	\$ 1085.00
Band Postage	\$ 50.00
Non AHA Band Reg.	\$ 15.00
Patch	\$ 15.00
Natn'l Show Rebate	\$ 210.00
Donations	\$ 5.00
Total	\$ 2540.00

2006 EXPENSES

Stamps	\$ 222.18
Bulletin Printing	\$ 285.10
Bulletin Postage	\$ 388.12
Postage	\$ 41.08
Supplies	\$ 132.99
Natn'l Awards (Calif)	\$ 280.00
Shipping	\$ 20.00
2007 Bands	\$ 1050.00
NPA Bulletin Ads	\$ 50.00
NPA 2007 Dues	\$ 20.00
Copies	\$ 14.95
Nat Awrds (DesMnes)	\$ 308.00
AHA Web Site	\$ 70.00
Web Site (P Lutsenko)	\$ 109.00
Total	\$ 2991.42

2006 TOTALS

Starting Balance	\$3,720.67
Income	<u>\$2,540.00</u>
Total	\$6,260.67
Expenses	<u>- 2,991.42</u>
Ending balance	\$3,269.25

Please take the time to sign the Delta airline petition. As the only air carrier that will consistently carry pigeons as excess baggage we need Delta to avoid a merger with US Airways. Please go to <http://keepdeltamydelta.org/default.aspx>

2007 Order forms

2007 A.H.A. Officers

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