

Helmet Happenings

July/August 2005

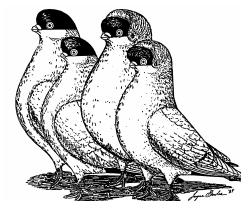
September 1, 2005

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**Best wishes
to everyone
in the shows
this season!**

From the President



Here it is the middle of August, the breeding season is as good as over, all your hopes are somewhere in that pile of feathers out in the loft. Hopefully one of these days you'll walk into the loft and there will be the bird of your dreams.

I had that feeling this morning as I took the time to look over the young birds. WOW!! There's a blue hen like I've been hoping to breed for several years. I guess some of the projects have finally worked out. I am pleased to see some hopefuls in several colors. Now if I can get rid of some of these feathers.

It must be getting closer to show season. After a quiet summer I am starting to get calls from breeders wanting to talk pigeons. It's great. From the reports I am getting, there seems to be an increase in interest in helmets across the country, and we're seeing a better breeding season for many fanciers. The AHA has sold out of bands for the first time in many years. This could be a great show season.

I have already been told that I'm going to get beat at the Western Sectional in Salt Lake City, the first weekend of November. That breeder hasn't seen my reds. For those who would like a good fall show to attend with some tough competition I would recommend this show. So far we have commitments from breeders in all three western districts who are planning to attend. It will be held November 4 & 5 in Salt Lake City. If you'd like information, contact Curtis Oberhansly or myself.

Ballots will be coming out soon for national judges. This is your chance to help select the right judge this year. Also we will be selecting the member to honor as member of the year. Please vote.

It would be good to get your band order in to Chuck to assure that you get what you need for 2006. How do you like the new size of bands? Some comments would be appreciated.

With the show season upon us, I would like to issue a challenge to all AHA members to get a new breeder started in helmets this fall, and to get them to join the AHA. Lets share our hobby.

Make sure your birds are healthy and pest free as they go through the molt. The week before the show is not the time to see if you have any bug holes in the feathers. Now is the time to address that issue. I look forward to seeing you at the shows.

James P. Jensen

News from DISTRICT 7

by Bob Bollinger

Well, here in PA the birds are finally in the molt. Many of the folks I have talked to have had a late breeding season. The birds seemed slow to start but once June arrived they did quite well for me. Vic Cardillo sounds like he raised a bunch of MFPs. Now we just need to wait for the molt to see how everything comes out!

We had a nice turn out at our WRPA summer show in Emingsville, PA on July 31. Mike Crawford judged for us and Vic Cline won champion MFC with a no less than outstanding black old hen. This bird was late hatch raised by Galen Goshorn. It seems that Vic had the opportunity to purchase several late hatches from Galen at the end of last year. The cock and hen that I saw will be though to beat this year. Both Vic and Galen are to be congratulated, Galen for his breeding prowess to make the birds and Vic for his eye to pick such stellar youngsters out of the nest. Great work guys! Also at WRPA, Steve Brockett took champion SFC and Bob Bollinger won champion MFP.

Included in this bulletin are lists of upcoming shows here in PA. We have several meets coming up and we would like to heartily invite everyone nearby to join us. We routinely have enough birds to make the meets point shows and everyone has a great time enjoying the birds and socializing.

I hope to see you all at the upcoming shows!

District 7 upcoming shows and events:

Reading Pigeon Association Young Bird Show
Sunday, October 2, 2005 (?)

not a meet but there should be a number
of helmet breeders at the show.

Reading, PA

Contact; Bob Bollinger

Eastern Hungarian Pigeon Club Show

Sunday, October 9, 2005

District 14 Meet

Waynesboro, PA

Contact; Victor Cline

White Rose Pigeon Association Winter Show

Sunday, October 16, 2005

District 7 Meet

Emingsville, PA

Contact; Bob Bollinger

Reading Pigeon Association Winter Show

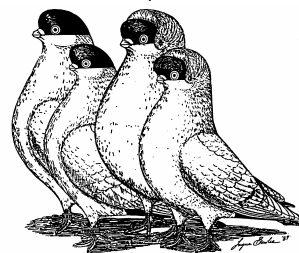
January 2006

District 7 Meet

Lancaster, PA

Contact; Bob Bollinger

**Looks like
we're going
to be busy!**



News from DISTRICT 14

by Victor Cline

We had a really nice show in Waynesboro in July. AT the EHPC summer show we had 30 MFC, 1 MFP and 2 SFC. Bob Bollinger won best MFP and Steve Brockett won best SFC. I won Champion and Reserve MFC with a Black OH and OC respectively that were late hatches raised by Galen Goshorn. Summer is always a tough time to show but a lot of helmet breeders came out to this show to get together and enjoy talking pigeons. That is the nice thing about our club and the local guys...we have as much fun talking pigeons as we do showing them.

We are going to have a District 14 meet at the upcoming EHPC show on October 9 in Waynesboro. Last year was the first time in quite a while that District 14 had a meet. Many people, from several states, came out to support the event with many, many great quality birds. We hope to repeat that success again this year. The current plan is for Victor Cardillo to judge MFCs and I will judge MFPs. A lot of breeders are already planning to come and we are hoping to get even more birds this year. Please let me know if you would like an entry for further information.

I hope to see you at Waynesboro!

News from DISTRICT 6

by Bob Dunlap

Not much to write about from District 6 or the Eastern Secti. Haven't talked to anyone but Chuck lately. As you all know by now, we in the Helmet or Pigeon world lost one of the all time great guys in pigeons this year. It took me and I'm sure Chuck also, a long time to get over losing a close and dear friend as Al Flinn. He didn't care if he won or lost, he was there because he loved the Helmets and the AHA. He would travel many miles each year to Helmet shows and sometimes wouldn't even show a bird. He was there for the love of Helmets and the camaraderie of the club. He taught many people about the Helmets. At the funeral home, Betty had an area set up to show Al's life with the AHA and also his 4-H groups over the years. It was heart warming to see generations of 4-H people paying their respects to Al, as he and Betty have been 4-H advisors for many, many years.

I've tried to think of a way we in District 6, as well as the AHA could honor Al for all that he has done for the club. He did so much to keep the AHA alive and well. Al also loved the National Young Bird Show in Louisville, KY. This was his favorite show. After consulting with other members, we all feel that to honor Al from this time forward, the District 6, Helmet Segment of the N.Y.B.S. be dubbed the 'Al Flinn Memorial Show'. All awards will have that engraved on them in hopes that every year we can honor the memory of one of the AHA's greatest members and all around great guy.

District 6 shows are set, trying to move shows around from year to year, the Indiana show and the Buckeye Classic are on the agenda. It's my understanding that it is time for the Eastern Secti to be held at Fremont, OH winter show this year. You will have dates and times later.

Hope to see everyone soon. Regards,

Bob Dunlap

bdunlap@smta.cc

News from District 8

by Curtis Oberhansly

Well, it's that time of year again. The first show on the docket in District 8 is a lawn show to be held at the home of James Jensen on September 10th. Judging will be done by those present. It is a fun way to see who has been hiding the potential winners and waiting to spring them on us. Most of the members that I have talked to so far have banded nothing but cracked eye, dropped wing, cross beaked babies "with a few exceptions." Look for those exceptions to start showing up any day now.

The AHA Western Sectional is in Salt Lake City, November 3rd to 5th this year. It is shaping up to be a good show. We've heard from several breeders from out of town that plan to attend. I hope they are able to stick with those plans. Just to entice all of you and add a little more excitement, James suggested that we revive the special futurity purse and auction for this sectional show. I couldn't agree more. In fact, the last time we followed this particular format, it may have been in Salt Lake.

The idea came about because we have some MFC prize money left over from a previous auction still sitting in the District account. In addition, we decided to doing a little informal fund raising to add to the existing pot. Right now we have about \$300 available and are shooting for a few more contributions to get the total futurity purse for this Sectional up to \$500 plus. Additional contributions to the purses are welcome. All MFC young birds wearing a AHA band are eligible, but exhibitor participation is strictly voluntary.

There will be prize money offered for each of the young bird classes in the MFC. To be eligible for these purses, the exhibitor must be willing to participate in the futurity auction held after the judging. It is modeled exactly after the very successful Giant Homer Annual Futurity Show and Auction held annually in Oklahoma, an event that has been primarily responsible for the success of their club and breed over the years. They would not trade their futurity show and auction for any show format in the country.

So here's how it will work. When a breeder cages his birds at the show, the secretary will ask whether his MFC entries are in or out of the futurity competition/auction. The exhibitor will sign up to be eligible. A schedule of purses in the various classes will be posted before the judging begins. We have only designated the MFC entries for the futurity prizes and auction at the time of this writing since it was the MFC that generated the existing prize money and subsequent contributions.

For those exhibitors who choose to participate, here's what to expect. The purses will be posted and the winners credited after the judging. The auction that follows the judging will include the top three young birds, MFC cocks and hens, in each color class with 10 or more entries. The top two young birds in any class with 5 to 10 entries. The first place bird in any class with less than 5 entries. (Time will be set aside to auction non-futurity birds as well. The entire auction is open to anyone and all bidders are welcome to bid on any bird, futurity or not.)

As the bidding on a futurity bird will proceed, and if the owner of the bird wishes to keep the bird at a certain bid level, he must outbid the other bidders. He then pays 10% of the bid price back into the kitty to be used exclusively for subsequent Western Sectional futurity purses. In this way, the purses are automatically replenished for the following year.

So for example, let's say that you want to participate in the futurity competition and be eligible for some of the purses. Your black young cock placed in the top three in its class. The bidding goes up to 100 dollars. You can let the bird go at that price, in which case you get \$90 and \$10 goes to the kitty for next year. Or you can bid \$110 to keep the bird. If yours is the winning bid you take the bird home and give \$11 dollars to the pot for next year.

Continued on next page

When we did this back in the 90's, it was a lot of fun and created an extra dimension and excitement. But we did learn a little. First, don't worry about the bidding on those two or three "special" birds that everyone seems to get worked up over. If it appears that two or three birds are going for a high price, don't sweat it. Those birds would go for a high price down in the aisles even without an auction. That's between one buyer and one seller. But, once people get that out of their system, there will be plenty of other birds to bid on that will go for reasonable prices. And the highest price birds aren't necessarily the best stock birds anyway -- we already know that. (Ouch, ouch -- for those of us who have been burned paying too much for "winners".)

If you have birds in the winner's circle, you would most likely spend your winnings to protect some of your winners. You would just as likely let a bird or two go and use that money to bid on other birds in color classes you are trying to build. If you have good depth in blacks, this is a good way to sell blacks and buy into good birds in another color. This format really helps to spread some good birds around.

If you don't have birds in the winner's circle, you will have a chance to pick some up. So it is a win-win for the seller, the buyer and the Sectional Show in terms of building excitement and interest and spreading some birds around.

But nothing is a fit for everyone, and you can make your decision whether to take part in the purses and auction when you cage your birds at the show. If you decide to sit that part out, you'll still enjoy what promises to be a fun and interesting sectional show. And you'll still be able to bid on any birds in the auction.

Then, if you happen own a winning bird that attracts this attention and commands a high price at the auction, it's a fun win-win decision for you. You can sell the bird or bid to protect it. If it won the class, you already won enough to protect the bird. And, after all, you have the family it came from. You can sell one of your winners and use the money to buy the other guy's winner.

Anyway, it was a lot of fun when we used to do this and it should add to the excitement coming up for those that want to join in. Not only do you get sweaty palms during the judging, you can also sweat bullets trying to decide whether to sell or protect your top placing birds. See you in Salt Lake.

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

News from DISTRICT 2

by Dennis Bray

I talked to James Jensen the other day. He reminded me that the deadline for articles for the Helmet bulletin had to be in by the 20th of the month. It's the evening of August 10th and I will put something together.

James and I discussed our breeding season and if we had anything in the loft to get excited about! He also was putting in a plug for the western sectional to be held in Salt Lake City in conjunction with the annual Utah Premier Show, November 4th & 5th. Sounds like this will be a well attended show. Hope you in the western part of the country will give this show your support. The Utah boys put on a good show and do a great job entertaining the out-of-town breeder. Some of the best Helmets to compete against usually come out of Utah. Step up and try the competition.

I would like to personally welcome back Steve Gelhausen to the Helmet club. Steve and I competed against each other as junior members. Steve was a good breeder back then. Myron Berger has helped him back into the SF Helmets. He will be breeding black and ash reds. I've been told he already has some showable young SF's.

Myron has been doing some strong campaigning for breeders in the SF variety. Steve was in good hands with Myron as a junior member; doing all the right things in life, unlike myself as a junior, having Vic Eshpeter & Hank Ebbelaar to look up to as my senior members. These two adult members were always good to me in the show room and breeding pens, but when I really began to learn a lot in life is when I turned 21 years old. My lessons continued outside of the show room to the bars and hotel rooms. Thanks fella's, where would I be today without my Helmets and traveling partners!?

We had our first Helmet show of the year last month. We had five exhibitors & all three varieties were shown. Good show. Hank brought a very nice yellow hen plainhead. Lots of power. This bird brought most of the discussion at this show and will do lots for next years' breeding season. Our next Helmet meet will be in Sunnyside on Sept 3 & 4. Hope to see more Helmets exhibited.

It was a disappointment to receive our NPA Grand National Show Report and not find our Helmet show results. Pictures of Champions looked good. The expense to purchase this catalog is plenty-then to be disappointed to find no show results.

I understand the results of 2005 AHA nomination ballot was pretty poor. Myself included as I forgot to fill out, and send in to Charles. Maybe we can extend the dates?

Good to see the support by Phil DeCarlo on SF Helmet articles & pictures. Hank from District 2 is attempting to change the point system in SF only. I think with all new interest in SF now we can finally get this change done to help continue the interest in raising SF Helmets.

Good luck in the upcoming shows. Hope to see you at a district meet.

As ever, Dennis Bray

More news from DISTRICT 2

by Hank Ebbelaar

The 3 Musketeers, Vic Eshpeter, Dennis Bray & myself, Hank Ebbelaar not only have gone to the last 14-15 NPA Nationals all over the nation, we also do other things together. We went to a birthday party. Actually it was Vic's 70th birthday and approximately 300 of his friends attended.

A number of his friends living near Vic made him a large birthday cake out of chicken wire. Paper tissues were stuck into the wire. It had three tiers and had 70 empty paper towel rolls as candles. They were painted different colors and had yellow cellophane as flames.

Now on the inside of the cake was one of Vic's closest 300 pound friends who jumped out of the cake! His friend Ken, was dressed in a ballerina suit. Vic had no idea what was going to happen.

This party had been planned for months and Vic never had a clue. We never laughed so much, Vic was almost crying and rolling on the ground. That will teach him to say "no strippers". Ha, Ha.

Why Do I Show?

By Myron Berger, District 2
from Nov. 1989 Bulletin

After 30– years of breeding and showing I sometimes have to ask myself why I should attend shows. I have a room full of awards, some good, some bad, some very small that means a certain achievement such as my first color class win at the National level, some large beautiful awards that are a recognition of years of breeding.

It's nice to review the wins in many breeds and occasionally dream about the bird or birds that won the awards. But these material awards are not really important any longer. Yes, I will admit it is still nice to win, but win or loose it is still fun to compete.

That is still not a real good reason to show. Why show? You or I can show for the glory of winning and the prestige it brings and the possible additional value of the birds, but that is still not a real reason as pigeons have always been a hobby and not a source of revenue. I would rather give away or trade a good bird than sell.

Why show? Perhaps I am looking for a certain bird to improve my stud. This is a valid reason and I am always looking for something in some breed. Sometimes it is a cull I need for a color project or perhaps a top show bird with the desired traits I need, or just a decent bird with what I want. The shows are the best place to find what I need for improvement of my birds or a project or make the contacts necessary to get just what I need.

Why show? The show room and the related activities of a show have always proved to be the best source of knowledge in this hobby. No matter how much I read there is more knowledge to be gained at a show than any other source of information. It is ALWAYS possible to learn! All one has to do is ask and listen and most any fancier is willing to help. Some advice is good, some bad and what works for one fancier, may not help at all for you.

Why do I show? The real reason is—THE PEOPLE. Rich— poor—good—bad, friends or whatever. It is THE PEOPLE that keeps me showing or attending shows. There is nothing better than going to a show and meeting new friends and renewing old friendships. It is great to put a face with a name you have only read about. THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE PIGEON HOBBY CAN'T BE BEAT AND THAT IS THE REAL REASON FOR GOING TO SHOWS.

Through the show it has been possible to make friends throughout the world. A pigeon fancier is always a friend.

MYRON C. BERGER

We'd like to thank Myron for this article and many others that he sent for printing in future Helmet Happenings Bulletins. We also welcome Myron to Salt Lake City to be the judge for the Utah State Fair September 15 & 16 and look forward to meeting him.

Todd and Cathy Farnsworth
Bulletin Editors

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: pigeonsbright.net

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: curtis0@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

American Helmet Association

c/o Todd Farnsworth, Bulletin Editor
528 North 660 West
West Bountiful, UT 84087-1333



American Helmet Association
Founded 1958

Helmet Happenings



POINTERS FOR BEGINNERS
A "Cobby" Body!!
November 1969 Bulletin

It is the body of the Helmet which differentiates our breed from other "head and crest" varieties. The A.H.A. Standard also calls for a balanced bird. The body is an important, and probably the most neglected, feature of the breed. It must be cobby in appearance, or as our Roller friends say, have the "Apple Body" feel. It should be tight feathered, and short cast, rather than long and rangy. In hand the body should be small, about 10 ounces for MF and 7 ounces for SF in the cock classes (hens slightly smaller). It should have good width at the shoulder with a wedge shape to the narrow tail.

The stance should be rather upright in carriage, with the eye over the ball of the foot. While not often achieved, this is usually caused by a too-long cast of the body. Wings should be carried above the tail but are occasionally seen drooping below the tail. This is considered a fault that can be corrected in the breeding pen.

Another body fault is excessively large size. An oversized Helmet looks as much out of place in a show room as one with a long, snippy head.

