

# American Helmet Association

## Helmet Happenings

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### President's Report

By Bob Bollinger

Summer has come and gone and I am pleased with my breeding season. I got a late start and still have a few pairs together to finish off the season. Even though I didn't raise a lot of birds I am happy with their quality and look forward to seeing them molt out.

The show season has already started in Pennsylvania with the EHPC and Western PA clubs both holding events. The Western PA show was even large enough for points in both MFCs and MFPs. I have a separate article in this bulleting more details on the events. Harold, Ray, and Vic did a lot of work to coordinate their respective events and the work paid off. There were plenty of birds and a lot of fun at both shows. Great work guys!

I have heard a lot of positive comments about my SSL (supporting the small loft) suggestion in our previous bulletin. At this point I would like to solicit volunteers to brainstorm the concept and provide recommendation for how the AHA can implement SSL ideas to support and promote our new and small loft breeders. If you are willing to help, just shoot me an email!

In the last bulletin you saw a NYBS entry sheet. I hope to see a lot of folks at the show. What is also noteworthy about the sheet is the "behind the scenes" work that Chuck did to get our color classes updated to include our muffs. Thanks Chuck, for your follow up and attention to detail!

I have heard some rumblings that a couple of our prominent Western breeders are cutting down or getting out of helmets. While I am saddened to hear such things I have been around the hobby long enough to know that things ebb and flow. In fact about 5 years ago I too was feeling a bit burned out. I scaled back my helmets and took a bit of a break from focusing so heavily on them. As things go in cycles the break worked for me. Lately I have been feeling very motivated and optimistic about our breed. I know that helmets can be frustrating at times and I would really like to see them become easier to raise. But regardless of their faults I find them to be a captivating breed. I am hopeful that in a few years we will again see all the familiar faces in the helmet judging area.

## The 2009 Show Season has Started!

By Bob Bollinger

The show season here in Pennsylvania is off to a wonderful start. The EHPC held their annual summer show at Owls Park in Waynesboro, PA in June and in August the Western PA pigeon club had the first AHA point show of the season! Summer is a tough time to hold shows but with enough work and communication the helmet faithful came and we all had a good time at both events.

At Western PA (Dunbar) there were 58 birds shown (35 MFC, 23 MFP) by 7 exhibitors in 3 districts. Congratulations to Galen Goshorn for winning Champ MFC with a nice black OC. Harold Strawniak should also be congratulated on winning Champ MFP. It was also notable that 2009's were showing up in the top of both line ups. Great work for arranging this Harold and Ray! The show results are posted in this bulletin.

At the EHPC show we had 25 helmets shown by 6 exhibitors. Galen Goshorn won (Again!) champion MFC with a very nice Red OC. Bob Bollinger took reserve MFC with a yearling Blue OH MFC. In PH's Bob Bollinger won champion with a Blue OC and reserve with a Red YC. The EHPC always has a parade of champions at the end of the show. There were about 250 birds shown by exhibitors from at least 4 states. The Red MFC won champion of the show. There are always a lot of nice birds in the parade and it is very noteworthy to win against the best of all the breeds. Congrats to Galen and the \$100 prize ☺.

Beyond our exhibitors, there were a number of other helmet and former helmet breeders in attendance at these shows. Special thanks go to Brandon Jeffrey for judging at EHPC. A number of people drove long distances to support each event. Ray Kolinsky made the long trek to EHPC and also brought along a new helmet breeder Jeff Exline from Ohio. What a great way to support the breed and club!

If the early shows are any indication of what we have to look forward to this fall, I am expecting a lot of fun and excitement in Districts 7 & 14.

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The following was taken from <http://www.pigeonbooks.com> and was written by Dr Zsolt Talabér, Dr of Veterinary Medicine and author of various pigeon health books.

### Apple Cider Vinegar

**What is your opinion about organic acids? One of my friends uses them, first of all apple cider vinegar every week. Is he right?**

Undiluted organic acids (acetic acid, citric acid, lactic acid etc.) have adequate disinfecting powers in and of themselves, but they are dangerous and highly corrosive, and so must not be used in undiluted form. They perform a fine service when diluted, however. The use of apple vinegar is the most highly recommended, which as a natural substance is not in the right concentration harmful to pigeons or to their environment; indeed, if it enters the pigeons' bodies it is an important source of organic acids and trace elements.

Real apple cider vinegar is a natural substance, but only if from a bio farm. It strengthens the immune system, as it is an excellent source of trace and micro elements. However, this is only true of vinegar derived from apples grown in a natural (e.g. grassy) environment free of chemical fertilizers and

insecticides. An apple that is artificially cultivated does not undergo real ripening, and so does not contain the biologically complete stock of micro elements and organic acids of which it is genetically capable.

Apple cider vinegar is an ideal source of organic acid. Organic acids help digestion and the breaking down of food intake, and thus prevent the development of illnesses caused by undigested food.

Infected water is one of the most common ways for pathogens to pass from one pigeon to another. If an infected pigeon drinks from the drinker, pathogens flow into the water from its beak and buccal cavity, which survive and spread, eventually infecting the entire flock. It is widely known that acidity prevents the spread of coli bacteria and salmonellas. These pathogens like a gently alkaline environment in which they can really start to proliferate. Apple cider vinegar mixed in water prevents salmonella from spreading in the waterer. Its acidic effect continues to restrict pathogens, even in the pigeon's intestines.

The acidification of drinking water is an economical procedure, allowing us to spare ourselves a lot of antibiotic treatment, which is not only beneficial financially, but also environmentally and from the perspective of our own health.

We can use apple cider vinegar for the disinfection of objects, or more precisely for the subsequent acidification of a sterilized set of trays. This prevents the spread of salmonellas in the outside world. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that whitewashing is not an adequate means of disinfection! Firstly, lime has little effect on certain pathogens; secondly, after a time the whitewashed surface will be weakly but continuously alkaline, and a weakly alkaline environment is particularly favorable for the survival of salmonellas and coli bacteria! These bacteria like precisely this gently alkaline environment, while in acidic conditions they decay quickly. For this reason – alongside the acidification of drinking water – systematic cleaning of the loft, or spraying the walls with slightly vinegarish water, can prove extremely effective. This is a very useful and very cheap method.

What is less well-known is that apple cider vinegar can be life-saving. Many have found that in hot weather pigeons' rate of breathing can increase, dramatically if it is very hot, and pigeons breathe rapidly with their beaks open. On such occasions the increased exchange of air causes more carbon dioxide to leave the blood than normal. This leads to acid deficiency, and so the blood becomes increasingly alkaline (breathing alkalosis). Initially this process generates bad disposition, dizziness, then nausea, and, if it becomes more extreme, death. In hot weather we pine for soft drinks with lemon and carbon dioxide in order to compensate for the acid deficiency. If at such times we give our pigeons water with apple cider vinegar, we can save their lives.

In prolonged heat we can achieve even more with a little apple cider vinegar than this. For in addition to the changing pH of the blood, potentially fatal processes are taking place in the digestive system. Heat is a powerful stressor, but is bad for digestion in and of itself, as the vessels in the skin, lungs, etc. expand, while the vessels supplying the digestive system contract. Thus in hot weather consumption of food declines, meaning that good intestinal bacteria do not have adequate nutrition, and so the acid they produce also decreases. Meanwhile, as we have seen, the alkalinity of the blood grows, which is life-threatening. Simply put, the body attempts to compensate for this by taking acid away from the digestive system, further increasing its alkalinity. As the heat stress has already reduced the resistance of the digestive system, all these factors mean that conditions are ideal for the fast proliferation and spread of salmonellas lurking in the intestines.

Thus in hot weather there is every chance that a paratyphoid epidemic will flare up. In most cases, all this can be prevented by a simple acidification of drinking water with apple cider vinegar.

Like anything else, apple cider vinegar can be overdosed. In too great a quantity it can even damage good intestinal bacteria. The high quantity of acid absorbs calcium (lime) and removes it from the system, which results in motor and reproductive problems. So overdoses of apple vinegar should be

avoided. The dose for 5% apple cider vinegar is 4-8ml per litre of drinking water, 1-3 times a week. If we administer it more regularly, e.g. in prolonged hot weather, we should choose a lower level of concentration.

We use a slightly more concentrated solution to clean the cage, but if we sense a pungent smell, we should not forget to ventilate.

**\*\* Note**

Some fanciers recommend disinfection of drinking water with bleach (sodium hypochloride), using a concentration of one tablespoon of hypo for each five litres of water. This can cause concern, however, for it is precisely the salmonellas that cause paratyphoid that are principally transmitted orally, and it is gently alkaline, watery environments that they like the best – in such circumstances they are even capable of growing. And bleach and similar compounds leave an alkaline pH level in their wake. It seems much more logical to treat drinking water with organic acids and vinegars, and practical experience bears this out.

We can use many kinds of drinker for providing water. Metal drinkers can be easily and effectively disinfected, but they also have a disadvantage: certain types of liquids can dissolve metal ions from them, whose effect can be harmful. We should be aware that even weak acids like apple vinegar solution can chemically react with metals, which can cause an adverse level of metal intake through the drinking water. Particularly dangerous from this perspective are brass drinkers, for copper can have a very adverse effect on the liver. If metal trays are used, then, we recommend ones that are zinc-plated, or, ideally, enameled.

## **Election Results**

### **National Show Judges**

Mike Crawford-MFC  
Dennis Manning-SFC

Jim Garus-MFP  
Dennis Bray-SFP

Dennis Bray-Muffed.

Member of the Year – Myron Berger

## **District 10 Report**

By Paul McRae

Well it is now September and breeding season is over. Now the fun begins!

In our district it seems that Gary Parsons, Giulio Marcoccia and I had a normal year for quantity. John Hoekstra had a very slow start. I don't know if he caught up or not. I'm not sure how Francois Renaud did. From anecdotal evidence it seems that he had a good year. We'll have to see how the quality is for our members at the shows. I know for myself I am disappointed at the quality of my young ones so far. Some later ones could come on ok, but it looks rather disappointing. It's only 10 days to the NYBS and a lot of the birds I entered are not finished yet and may not be for the show. I may not be able to substitute them for other ones. Oh well, that's the way it goes. Giulio Marcoccia had a normal year but was disappointed with the quality overall. He's not fooling me though. I know he has some nice young ones there. He is quite disappointed that he cannot show them at any young bird shows this year because he is judging the CHC young bird show and the NYBS in Louisville.

Best luck to everyone at the shows this year. I am looking forward to seeing you all.

## Show Results

### Western PA Pigeon Club Dunbar, PA.

**Date:** August 16, 2009  
**Judge:** Harold Strawniak  
**District Director:** Ray Kolinski  
**District:** 7  District  
**Total Number Shown:** 58      **Points for event:** 10

(50 total required for points)

	<u>MFC</u>	<u>MFP</u>	<u>SFC</u>	<u>SFP</u>	<u>MFCM</u>
<b>Birds reqd for points:</b>	25	20	15	10	na
<b>Number of Birds:</b>	35	23			
<b>Number of Exhibitors:</b>	6	3			
<b>Number of Districts:</b>	3	1			
<b>Event Points:</b>	10	10			

### Medium Face Crested

**Show / Club:** Western PA Pigeon Club  
**Location:** Dunbar, PA  
**Date:** August 16, 2009  
**Judge:** Harold Strawniak  
**District Director:** Ray Kolinski  District  
**District:** 7      **Event:**  
**Number Shown:** 35      **Total in Event:** 58  
**Number Exhibitors:** 6      **Number Districts:** 3

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	1431	Black	OC	Galen Goshorn	24.75
2	852	Red	OC	Steve Combs	18.56
3	102	Red	YH	Bob Bollinger	14.85
4	1438	Silver	OC	Galen Goshorn bred by Bob Bollinger	12.38
5	2202	Black	YC	Victor Cline	9.90
6	78	Black	OH	Victor Cline	7.43
7	100	Yellow	YH	Bob Bollinger	6.19
8	1260	Yellow	OH	Galen Goshorn bred by Bob Bollinger	4.95
9	3444	Silver	OH	Bob Bollinger bred by Jim Garus	3.71
10	161	Silver	YC	Bob Bollinger bred by Galen Goshorn	2.48
11	848	Red	OH	Victor Cline	1.24
12	101	Yellow	YC	Bob Bollinger	0.99

13	1311	Blue	OH	Bob Bollinger	0.74
14	519	Ash Red	OC	Ray Kolinski	0.74
15	50	Red	YC	Jeff Exline	0.74
	2107	Black	OC	Victor Cline bred by Galen Goshorn	Brought back 2nd to champion

<b><u>Exhibitors:</u></b>	<b><u>Districts:</u></b>	<b><u>Exhibitors:</u></b>	<b><u>Districts:</u></b>
Vic Cline	14	Ray Kolinski	7
Bob Bollinger	7	Jeff Exline	6
Galen Goshorn	7	Steve Combs	7

### Medium Face Plainhead

**Show / Club:** Western PA Pigeon Club  
**Location:** Dunbar, PA  
**Date:** August 16, 2009  
**Judge:** Vic Cline  
**District Director:** Ray Kolinski  
**District:** 7      **Event:**  District  
**Number Shown:** 23      **Total in Event:** 58  
**Number Exhibitors:** 3      **Number Districts:** 1

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	42	Black	OC	Harold Strawniak	18.25
2	515	AORC	OC	Harold Strawniak	13.69
3	1339	Blue	OC	Bob Bollinger	10.95
4	408	Blue	OH	Harold Strawniak	9.13
5	640	Red	YC	Harold Strawniak	7.30
6	388	Yellow	OC	Harold Strawniak	5.48
7	157	Ash Yellow	OC	Harold Strawniak	4.56
8	386	Black	OH	Harold Strawniak	3.65
9	3926	Dun	OH	Harold Strawniak	2.74
10	110	Yellow	YH	Bob Bollinger	1.83
11	4280	Red	OC	Harold Strawniak	0.91
12	103	Yellow	YC	Bob Bollinger	0.73
13	549	AORC	OH	Harold Strawniak	0.55
14	3484	Ash Red	OC	Ray Kolinski	0.55
15	622	AORC	YC	Harold Strawniak	0.55
16	607	Ash Red	YC	Harold Strawniak	0.55
17	106	Red	YH	Bob Bollinger	0.55
18	303	Ash Red	OH	Ray Kolinski	0.55
	423	Black	OC	Ray Kolinski	Brought back 2nd to champion

<b><u>Exhibitors:</u></b>	<b><u>Districts:</u></b>	<b><u>Exhibitors:</u></b>	<b><u>Districts:</u></b>
Bob Bollinger	7	Harold Strawniak	7
Ray Kolinski	7		

## Show Results

**Show / Club:** EHPC Fall Show  
**Location:** Waynesboro, PA  
**Date:** October 11, 2009  
**Judge:** Brandon Jeffrey

**District Director:** Victor Cline  District

**District:** 14 **Event:**

**Total Number Shown:** 51

*(50 total required for points)*

	<u>MFC</u>	<u>MFP</u>	<u>SFC</u>	<u>SFP</u>	<u>MFM</u>
<b>Birds req'd for points:</b>	25	20	15	10	10

<b>Number of Birds:</b>	30	21
<b>Number of Exhibitors:</b>	4	4
<b>Number of Districts:</b>	2	2
<b>Event Points:</b>	10	10

### Medium Face Crested

**Show / Club:** EHPC Fall Show  
**Location:** Waynesboro, PA  
**Date:** October 11, 2009  
**Judge:** Brandon Jeffrey

**District Director:** Victor Cline

**District:** 14 **Event:**  District

**Number Shown:** 30 **Total in Event:** 51

**Number Exhibitors:** 4 **Number Districts:** 2

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	108	Red	YC	Bob Bollinger	21.50
2	102	Red	YH	Bob Bollinger	16.13
3	1311	Blue	OH	Bob Bollinger	12.90
4	1750	Black	YH	Victor Cline	10.75
5	2107	Black	OC	Victor Cline bred by Galen Goshorn	8.60
6	2202	Black	YC	Victor Cline	6.45
7	207	Black	OH	Ray Kolinski	5.38
8	1033	Red	OC	Victor Cline	4.30
9	519	Ash Red	OC	Ray Kolinski	3.23
10	1096	Silver	OH	Bob Bollinger	2.15
11	161	Silver	YC	Bob Bollinger bred by Galen Goshorn	1.08
12	100	Yellow	YH	Bob Bollinger	0.86
13	1333	Yellow	OH	Bob Bollinger	0.65
14	1420	Yellow	OC	Bob Bollinger	0.65

15	101	Yellow	YC	Bob Bollinger	0.65
16	528	Red	OH	Ray Kolinski	0.65
	119	Red	YC	Bob Bollinger	Brought back 2nd to champion

**Exhibitors:**

Bob Bollinger  
Victor Cline

**Districts:**

7  
14

**Exhibitors:**

Galen Goshorn  
Ray Kolinski

**Districts:**

7  
7

### Medium Face Plainhead

**Show / Club:** EHPC Fall Show  
**Location:** Waynesboro, PA  
**Date:** October 11, 2009  
**Judge:** Brandon Jeffrey

**District Director:** Victor Cline

**District:** 14      **Event:**  District

**Number Shown:** 21      **Total in Event:** 51

**Number Exhibitors:** 4      **Number Districts:** 2

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	1423	Blue	OH	Bob Bollinger	19.25
2	103	Yellow	YC	Bob Bollinger	14.44
3	106	Red	YC	Bob Bollinger	11.55
4	1345	Blue	OC	Danny Garling	9.63
5	550	Yellow	OC	Danny Garling	7.70
6	110	Yellow	YH	Bob Bollinger	5.78
7	772	Red	OC	Bob Bollinger bred by James Jensen	4.81
8	2254	Yellow	OH	Bob Bollinger bred by Dennis Manning	3.85
9	125	Red	YH	Bob Bollinger	2.89
10	1334	Dun	OH	Bob Bollinger	1.93
11	423	Black	OC	Ray Kolinski	0.96
12	303	Ash Red	OH	Ray Kolinski	0.77
13	1209	Silver	OC	Bob Bollinger bred by Mike Crawford	0.58
14	1705	Silver	YH	Victor Cline	0.58
15	130	Black	YH	Bob Bollinger	0.58
	1337	Blue	OH	Bob Bollinger	Brought back 2nd to champion

**Exhibitors:**

Bob Bollinger  
Victor Cline

**Districts:**

7  
14

**Exhibitors:**

Ray Kolinski  
Danny Garling

**Districts:**

7  
14



## District One Report

By K. Mike La Com

Greetings from District One! Hopefully we have all had a successful breeding season and are looking forward to the upcoming show season. I am still not certain why my breeding season started slowly for my yellows but did manage to raise 28 from my small loft. I am looking forward to showing at the Western Sectional, Pageant and National. One can do this once you retire. Lucky me! Hope to see many of you at these shows. Especially the Pageant. Leonard Patito and I were pleased to have James Jensen as this year's judge. Unfortunately, as many of you know, James had open heart surgery in mid-Sept. which has curtailed all activity. We hope it is a quick and complete recovery!

Would like to mention that Leonard had a great breeding season with over a hundred! Unfortunately many of these are without a crest. Maybe one of these days I will try a pair. If you have any questions about this year's Pageant give either of us a call.

Have a good molt!

K. Mike La Com

### New Members

Richard Ronevich  
P.O. Box 212 Hickory Hill  
Mt. Pleasant, OH 43939  
Phone: 740-769-2565

### Your Dues are Due

<u>Member</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>District</u>
Marilu Rajala	1	Walter Boroznoff	7
Stephen Henderson	8	Ray Kolinski Jr.	7
Chris Evans	6	Gregory Munch	7
Jack Janota	8	Gary Lien	11
Gary Parsons	10	Kayla Flynn	6
Steve Zachary	4	Jim Williams	4

### Proposal

By Toni Patti

I have a suggestion that I believe would add a little spice to our shows, something new! I would like to see a final competition that picks the "Most Improved Helmet". This isn't something that I want to make official in any way. I don't suggest that points be involved or that it be mandatory. This would just be something extra to increase interest and add a little drama, some bragging rights!

The best of each variety would go up in front of a three judge panel with the intent of picking the bird that appears to be the best example of its variety. In other words, a MFCR could be better in some characteristics than a Muff but the Muff could be far above any Muff shown to date.

I don't intend to press this idea, just throwing it out as something new and different. Maybe, some day, as the secondary varieties continue to improve, this could become more than just a novelty. In some breeds, this is standard procedure.

Toni Patti

# Upcoming Shows

## District 1

**LAPC Pageant of Pigeons.** San Bernardino, CA. November 19-21, 2009  
Contact: Mike La Com km11sj@charter.net

## District 2

**Big Apple Invitational**  
White Plains NY. Nov 14, 2009. Judge: Steve Mitchell Contact: Raul Delgado

## District 6

**National Young Bird Show**  
National Young Bird Show. Louisville Kentucky. October 31, 2009  
Likely Judges: Giulio Marcoccia-MFC, Harold Strawniak – MFP  
Contact Chuck Dwight at mrsd@wcnet.org

### **All Age Meet**

~~Michigan Pigeon Club. Fremont Ohio. December 5, 2009.~~  
Cancelled due to the Eastern Sectional Dec 6. This show should have been listed as being held in Detroit.

### **All Age Meet**

Fremont Pigeon Club. Fremont Ohio. January 16, 2010

## District 7

**Reading Young Bird Show.** Reading, PA. October 4, 2009. Judge/s: TBD  
Contact: Ray Kolinski rays\_animal\_paradise@yahoo.com 814-289-7036

**WRPA Fall Show** Emigsville, PA. November 8, 2009. Judge/s: TBD  
Contact: Ray Kolinski rays\_animal\_paradise@yahoo.com 814-289-7036

**Reading Pigeon Assn Winter Show.** Lancaster, PA. January 14-17, 2010. Judge/s: TBD  
Contact: Ray Kolinski rays\_animal\_paradise@yahoo.com 814-289-7036

## Western Sectional

**Sand and Sagebrush Annual Show, Columbia Basin Pigeon Club**  
Kenewick, WA. October 23-25, 2009. Judge/s: TBD. Contact: Dennis Bray

## Eastern Sectional

**Rochester Pigeon Fanciers Show.** Rochester, NY. December 6, 2009. Judge/s: TBD  
Contact: Raul Delgado crownlofts@aol.com or Giulio Marcoccia giulio\_marcoccia@sympatico.ca

## NPA Grand National

Salt Lake City, UT. January 28-30, 2010. Judge/s: Mike Crawford-MFC, Jim Garus-MFP, Dennis Manning-SFC, Dennis Bray-SFP, Dennis Bray-Muffed.

## 2009-2010 AHA Officers

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