

American Helmet Association

Helmet Happenings

What's Inside

President's Report	1-2
NPA Thanks	2
New Central VP	2
Web Postings	3
Sectional Meets	3
Web Postings	3-6
Secretary's Report	6
Treasurer's Report	7
Dues Due	8
Complimentary Breeds	8-9
Show Results CHC YBS & CHC National	9-12

President's Message

By Bob Bollinger

It's now the end of May and my breeding season is finally moving ahead. This year has been very strange for me. The birds were slow to start and then I was traveling for work quite a bit. Most of my pairs are finally mated and starting to work nicely. In fact I have 3 pairs that are actually feeding their own. There are two pairs of MFCs that are actually feeding better than some feeders. The eggs for the MFCs and the feeder hatched at the same time and when I went to swap them I found the MFCs fed. As I have been watching them the MFC parents continue to feed more than the rollers with babies of the same size. I am also seeing this in my other breeds. I don't know what has changed this late in the season but I am very pleased. I would have preferred to have more babies for the YB shows but I am happy with progress so far.

As I have been talking with others it seems that the start of 2010 has been rather slow for many. There are the obvious exceptions of Giulio and a few others who have a good number of very promising youngsters out and on the floor. I hope that everyone else starts to see progress like I have experienced.

You should have all received a nomination form from Chuck. I suggest that everyone talk amongst yourselves and nominate folks for all offices. Remember to talk with your perspective nominees before returning the form to Chuck. This will help minimize his work in verifying all of the candidates. I think our club is moving forward and I encourage everyone to consider taking an office to help keep our momentum moving.

I would like to recognize Greg Bliven for volunteering for the Secretary / Treasurer position. As you all know Chuck has decided to step down after a very long tenure. We discussed this at Salt Lake City and on the ride home to Oregon Greg, Jim, and Dennis talked about the role and Greg decided to step up. This is just another sign of our great forward momentum. Greg is a great guy and I know he has many endorsements. (of course someone needs to officially put Greg's name on the nomination form ... hint ... Jim or Dennis :o)

I would also like to offer special thanks to Paul McRae for getting our last bulletin out. I know he has been totally bogged down with a bunch of college courses and finals which are never fun. Thanks again for working us into your crazy schedule and helping to get the bulletin back on track.

I can empathize with Paul. Over the last three months I have spent nearly 4 weeks out of the country traveling back and forth to Europe several times. This has limited my ability to enjoy my birds and club activities. It looks like my travel schedule is finally starting to ramp down. I am hopeful that I will be more fully engaged in the near future.

**Thank You to the NPA
By Bob Bollinger**

Below is a copy of the Thank You note that I send to the NPA for the Frank Hollmann service award that we received at Salt Lake City. We talked this in our last bulletin but I can't repeat enough. We should be very honored to receive the award. I know our club members always do their best to have meets at major events and conduct ourselves in positive manner. We have a lot of fun and a great breed. People notice! Great work everyone.

*National Pigeon Association
c/o John Heppner, President*

On behalf of the AHA I would like to formally thank the NPA for the Frank Hollmann service award we received at the Salt Lake National. We are humbled and honored to receive such a prestigious award. It is very gratifying to have others notice what we sometimes take for granted. The AHA is blessed with a hard working group of members who are dedicated to the hobby and supporting shows from coast to coast. The AHA has a rich 50 year history. We hope to continue to be of service to NPA and our hobby in the future!

Thank you again,

*Bob Bollinger
President, American Helmet Association*

**New Central Vice-President
By Bob Bollinger**

Don Phy has done a lot of work for the AHA over the years and has decided to step down from the Central Vice President position. I respect his decision and on behalf of the AHA I would like to thank Don for everything he has done.

According the By-Laws I have the privilege of appointing someone to fill the remainder of Don's term. My search was not difficult. When Bob Lien talked with Don about his decision to leave office, Bob stepped up and offered to fill the role. This made my job easy and helped the club maintain continuity of officers in the post.

So, I have the great honor of officially appointing Bob Lien to the office of Central Vice President. Thanks again guys for working this out for the club!

Web Postings By Bob Bollinger

I have noticed that the hits on our MyFamily site are a bit slow now days. This isn't uncommon in spring time as people are busy breeding and getting other work done around the house. I would still like to encourage everyone to go out to the site and both start conversation treads and comment on threads that are already posted. I have included a couple of notable threads in this bulletin. These are great examples of worthy discussions. I will also add them to our web site for future reference. Our web site and the MyFamily site are great resources to help drive our club and our breed.

Sectional Meets for the fall By Bob Bollinger

There have been a lot of discussions about our upcoming sectional meets for this fall's show season. I know that Bob Lien is doing a lot of work to promote a Central Sectional at Des Moines. This is fantastic! Des Moines hosted a wonderful National a few years ago and their annual show routinely draws 4000-5000 birds. I know that a lot of our Canadian friends come to the event and it promises to be a great meet. As far as I can recall, this will be the first Central Sectional in about 10 years. It's a long way from PA but I am planning to come out. I certainly expect it to be worth the 20 hour drive.

The West Coast guys have their plans in place and Giulio Marcoccia and Ray Kolinski have done a lot of work to plan the Eastern Sectional. I am thrilled to see this early planning. We are going to have good meets at good locations. People have coordinated the events to coincide with other meets so our members can enjoy several of their breeds at the same time

Great work everyone!

Web Postings from MyFamily Site



Posted By: GIULIO MARCOCCIA

Date Posted: Apr 24, 2010

Description: Well folks, I am starting to shut it down for breeding. May will be my last hatch and I am done for the year. I see some champion potential birds, but I would only be guessing. LOL

Date Taken: APRIL 2010

Place Taken: CANADA
Owner: GIULIO MARCOCCIA

Robert Larochelle - Apr 25, 2010

Hi Giulio, no doubt there will be some champions in there... I only paired up my birds yesterday! I have 24 pairs so I might just take one round and then let them sit on fake eggs until I break them up...Are you also hand feeding the OGO's? I heard they are excellent parents, is that the case with yours also?

GIULIO MARCOCCIA - Apr 25, 2010

Hi Robert , you must very busy at work , 25 pairs is a lot so I can't see you not raising a bunch real quick , good luck. The OGO's feed excellent and especially their own, but in my quest to finish early I hand feed every bird I raise after 10-15 days under the parents. My birds learn to eat and drink real fast in the show pens and it also tames them down.

Bob Lien - Apr 25, 2010

Giulio, a great looking bunch of youngsters. Looks like your breeding season went really well. I'm still interested in a pair of black OGO's. Did you raise any blue helmets this year?

GIULIO MARCOCCIA - Apr 25, 2010

Hi Bob, I have some blues out and am waiting for a few more to hatch. Black OGO's gave me some trouble this year , had two pairs with no youngsters, so only had some out of my other two pairs, will see what I can do for you by Louisville.

New Thread - Colin when does your show season start?

Dan Ross - Apr 23, 2010

Colin just was wondering when your show season start is it in June, July? Because isn't it about 6 mo. different than ours? Also will your government ever make it easier for you to receive shipment of birds? Off the subject of birds I still remember my brother in law had some R&R in your country he being from the Midwest and the other fellow was from the east coast chartered a fishing boat, they also had been drinking a little too much. They got to horsing around on the boat the owner of the boat took a bucket and poured it over the side of the boat, Doug said the water started to get a little rough and presto the sharks were coming up to the top, needless to say they got sober asap!

Colin Campbell - Apr 23, 2010

Hi Dan our first major pigeon show starts next weekend in my area and from then until around the end of July there will be a show on somewhere in the east side of Australia on most weekends.

The show next weekend is the Twin City Show which is held in a city call Albury which is in my state of New South Wales just across the border is Wodonga which is in the state of Victoria this show is about one and a half hour drive from my home in Wagga Wagga and this show usually has around the 900 birds shown in all breeds, I will post some photo's of the show on this site.

Dan Ross - Apr 23, 2010

Thanks Colin this site really brings fanciers closer best of luck to you in your show season

Anthony Ferguson - Apr 25, 2010

Dan here in South Australia, I have a Poultry & Pigeon club 20km away first show last weekend & then first Sunday of every month , normally get between 100 to 200 pigeons.

Major Shows are SA Canary & pigeon young bird May 16th and Annual 2 day in June 19 & 20

Dan Ross - Apr 25, 2010

Thank you Anthony its fun to learn from others and there countries

Pigeon lung article

Dave Antolin - Apr 19, 2010

Pigeon lung article ~ <http://www.aviculture-europe.nl/nummers/10E02A05.pdf>

Myron Berger - Apr 21, 2010

I am one of the lucky ones to have copd caused by pigeons, smoking and all the dust from my wood shop and the type of work I did for years- road maintenance. This set of articles is good and I hope the hobby will take care and have great ventilation in the lofts and take care to wear a mask when in the loft.

Bob Bollinger - Apr 28, 2010

I'm glad to see that we are discussing the need to consider the fancier in loft design. I have asthma and as I have designed my lofts I have kept ventilation in mind. I also regularly use a mask to clean and do dusty tasks. There is nothing sadder than hearing that someone had to give up their birds for health reasons that could have been prevented. Much of this just good sense.

Dave Antolin - Apr 28, 2010

Do you have an open front system in your loft Bob? Can you share a picture of it? I'm somewhat renovating the loft to allow for more air flow. I have too much dust still in it.

DENNIS MANNING - Apr 29, 2010

My lofts are open in the front from about three feet up to the roof line. The floors are expanded metal so air flows in through the bottom and out the open fronts. I don't have to deal with much in the way of severe weather so I can get away with that design. I have a peaked roof so the dust collects on the cob webs up in the ceiling area but there is none down below where I work. Whenever I get into someone's enclosed loft I can really feel the difference. I was in a friend's loft today and I could taste the air it was very closed up. I know that is not good for us and I am pretty sure it is not good for the birds.

Bob Bollinger - Apr 29, 2010

Hi Dave, yes I do have an open front and I used to use slatted wood floors in my loft. I am in Europe on business for the next two weeks and I will send you a pic when I return. I have found that both the open front and slatted floor helped keep down dust. This year I converted to a solid floor as I was having trouble with varmints getting under the loft and killing the birds through the slats. Doing both made a marked difference and I may go back to expanded metal or something else to allow air flow through the floor while affording protection for the birds. I also created an aisle on the back side of my loft with a plexiglas wall between me and the birds. In the isolated aisle I keep my supplies and I can stand and watch the birds without being in the dust in the loft environment

New Thread - Plainhead Markings

Posted By: Bob Bollinger

Date Posted: Mar 1, 2010

Description: More PH YBs. They are nest mates and see that one has a short cap and the other a long ... very interesting

Date Taken: January 2010

Hank Ebbelaar - Mar 2, 2010

Any crested birds in their background?

Bob Bollinger - Mar 3, 2010

Hank, the answer is yes and no. I do not mix crested into my PHs. I do know that over the years many of the birds I bought carried cr//+ as I occasionally see them show up in the babies. I keep records on all of my breeders to know who carries and over 50% do.

Bob Bollinger - Mar 3, 2010

The parents are a dun hen on a silver cock.

Colin Campbell - Apr 9, 2010

Hi Bob these birds look very well marked our marking are becoming a lot more stable since we imported birds back in the early 90`s sounds along time to get marking stable but to get the type and head structure it all takes time and we don't have that many breeders in Australia.

It is interesting with regards to the head marking I don't mind if the marks are a bit short but I have had a lot of trouble with the markings being too long and the young birds this year the better headed birds seem to have the longer markings, do you find that your better headed birds in general have longer markings.

Bob Bollinger - Apr 14, 2010

Several thoughts here; Quite frankly I am a bit disappointed with the range of these head markings. The two birds in the pic are nest mates. Note how one has a long cap and one a short cap. There are two other babies from this pair; one with a short and the other with a perfect cap. So while markings are more stable than in the past I would like to see mine become more stable.

Yes, I do see a bit of a correlation of big headed birds to long caps. I don't think there is as much of a genetic link here, but more of a breeder preference that carries through. The other thing we need to deal with is back skull. I find that some birds that have over developed back skull tend to tolerate long caps as the long cap looks straight with too much skull in the rear. So I think we have overlooked the long cap. As we focus more on the whole head I think cap length will start to play out as a key concern.

DENNIS MANNING - Apr 29, 2010

Good thoughts Bob. I have long been a devotee of a good marked PH. Half caps often but obviously not always, are a sign of crested cross. The crest's cap is short naturally. If it had a PH cap the first three or four rows of the crest would be colored like a SF Moorhead cap. We have a great deal of points on that marking but in the show room it does not always get the attention it deserves. I do not believe that the long backskulled birds have the correct PH head BUT when it comes to the marking if you view that bird from the side and that line appears straight from the intersection of the mandibles to the back point of the head you have got to give him the marking points. You can fault the head as not being correct flat on top etc. but he gets the marking points. I often see the long backskulled birds at rest in the show coop and the head appears to be over marked but when I see that same bird up in the judging pen and he is up on his feet and showing the line is straight.

Secretary's Report

By Charles Dwight

Not much to report this time. Everything seems to have come to a stop.

Our membership is going down fast. We are down to 69 paid and past due members as of this morning. Ten of the members listed in the past due list will be dropped next month.

Band sales have been very slow. We still have 500 bands not sold.

Nomination ballots are due June 31. At this time (June24) I have only received five.

Chuck

Treasurer's Report

Jan-May 2010

By Charles Dwight

Income

Dues	250.00
Bands	232.15
Band Postage	21.00
Donation	2.50
Shirts/Caps/Pins	83.00
National Auction	1192.00
National Show Rebate	<u>152.00</u>
Total	\$1,932.65

Expenses

Postage	5.00
Bulletin Printing	138.20
Bulletin Postage	120.88
Bulletin Supplies	33.89
National Show Awards	280.00
National Show Awards Shipping	20.00
National Auction	1072.80
Supplies	45.52
Websites	129.14
½ 2011 Bands	<u>450.00</u>
Total	\$2295.43

Totals

January Starting Balance	\$ 1,759.91
Income	\$ 1,932.65
Balance	\$ 3,692.56
Expenses	<u>\$ 2,295.43</u>

May Ending Balance \$ 1,397.13

Your Dues are Due

<u>Member</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>District</u>
Joe & Terri Hammons	1	Stephen Henderson	8
Brian Nichols	2	Robert Combs & Family	8
Jim Garus	2	Francois Renaud	10
Shane Aherns	3	Marvin Schindler	12
Chris Walker	6	Lorenzo Robinson	12
Don Rexroth	6	James Ashton & Cailin Monaban	12
Gary K. Yount	6		

The Advantage of Complimentary Breeds By Bob Bollinger

Over the years, some of our most striking and desirable show breeds have become less productive than many of us would like to see. There are a number of possible solutions for dealing with less than perfect breeders. Some people hand feed, many use feeder pairs, and others just let the pairs struggle though with low productivity. My preferred strategy is to keep complimentary breeds where I can swap eggs and then have opposing pairs raise each others' babies.



By using other nice show breeds I get the advantage of feeders without necessarily wasting space for pairs whose sole purpose is to be foster parents. With the complimentary breeds I show my feeders, enjoy other clubs and have nice birds to look at in the loft.



MFC - 5 days old

My passion is medium face helmets. I have found that the helmet babies are more small and delectate than other breeds. It seems that they require more care than the helmet parents are capable of providing. To increase productivity I routinely swap their eggs and babies with others in the loft. Along with the helmets, I also keep Brunner croppers, horseman pouters, and other breeds. I have found that the helmets will raise the other breeds' babies as they tend to be more robust and tolerate the sub-optimal parenting of my helmets.

When choosing a complementary breed I pick birds that have a reputation for being great feeders. I try to match size and temperament to the birds I am working to foster. I pair the birds at similar times to match the timing of the eggs. I have found that some pairs tend to be a little bit faster or slower than others. I just account for that when I pair them so they match timing. I have found that eggs can be swapped +/- 3 days and babies can be swapped any time as long as they match size and color. It is acceptable to move babies from pair to pair as they grow.



Good Adoptive Parents



Simple Records

Record keeping is important when swapping parents. However, the process does not need to be complicated. I use a simple white board with blocks that represent my nests. I record when eggs are laid, when they hatch and the band numbers of the parents. I typically fill in the pertinent data when I actually make the egg swap. The same records can be kept in notebooks, on cards attached to the boxes or even on scraps of paper.

Helmets and other show breeds can often be frustrating. There is no point in getting stressed and leaving a breed you really enjoy. By adding and utilizing a complementary breed you get to enjoy both!

Show Results Canadian Helmet Club Young Bird Show

Show / Club: Canadian Helmet Club
Location: Sarnia, Ontario
Date: November 21, 2009
Judge: Giulio Marcoccia
District Director: Paul McRae
District: 10 **Event:** District
Total Number Shown 61 **Points for event:** 10

(50 total required for points)

	<u>MFC</u>	<u>MFP</u>	<u>SFC</u>	<u>SFP</u>	<u>MFM</u>
Birds reqd for points:	25	20	15		
Number of Birds:	34	21	5	1	1
Number of Exhibitors:	6	6			
Number of Districts:	1	1			
Event Points:	10	10			

Place

1	22.50	19.25	1.25	0.25
2	16.88	14.44	0.94	0.19
3	13.50	11.55	0.75	0.15
4	11.25	9.63	0.63	0.13
5	9.00	7.70	0.50	0.10
6	6.75	5.78	0.38	0.08
7	5.63	4.81	0.31	0.06
8	4.50	3.85	0.25	0.05
9	3.38	2.89	0.19	0.04
10	2.25	1.93	0.13	0.03
11	1.13	0.96	0.06	0.01
12	0.90	0.77	0.05	0.01
13	0.68	0.58	0.04	0.01
14	0.68	0.58	0.04	0.01

Medium Face Crested

Show / Club: Canadian Helmet Club
Location: Sarnia, Ontario
Date: November 21, 2009
Judge: Giulio Marcoccia
District Director: Paul McRae
District: 10 **Event:** District
Number Shown: 34 **Total in Event:** 61
Number Exhibitors: 6 **Number Districts:** 1

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	2040	Red	YM	Gary Parsons	22.50
2	425	Yellow	YH	John Hoekstra	16.88
3	2048	Blue	YM	Gary Parsons	13.50
4	427	Black	YM	John Hoekstra	11.25
5	58	Silver	YH	Dan Homick	0
6	592	AOC	YM	John Koops	0
7	17	Dun	YH	Dan Homick	0
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Exhibitors:

Districts:

Exhibitors:

Districts:

Randy Cobb
 Dan Homick
 John Hoekstra

10
 10
 10

John Koops
 Paul McRae
 Gary Parsons

10
 10
 10

Medium Face Plainhead

Show / Club: Canadian Helmet Club
Location: Sarnia, Ontario
Date: November 21, 2009
Judge: Giulio Marcoccia
District Director: Paul McRae
District: 10 **Event:** District
Number Shown: 21 **Total in Event:** 61
Number Exhibitors: 6 **Number Districts:** 1

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	342	Black	YH	Gary Parsons	19.25
2	176	Yellow	YH	Randy Cobb	0
3	164	Red	YH	Randy Cobb	0
4	155	AOC	YM	Randy Cobb	0
5	595	Blue	YM	John Koops	0

Medium Face Crested

Show / Club: Canadian Helmet Club
Location: Woodstock, Ontario
Date: November 28, 2009
Judge: Dan Homick
District Director: Paul McRae
District: 7 **Event:** District
Number Shown: 117 **Total in Event:** 159
Number Exhibitors: 13 **Number Districts:** 1

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	88	Red	YH	Giulio Marcoccia	46.75
2	855	Blue	YC	Giulio Marcoccia	35.06
3	805	Black	OH	Giulio Marcoccia	28.05
4	822	Dun	OC	Giulio Marcoccia	23.38
5	932	Silver	YH	Giulio Marcoccia	18.70
6	118	AOC	YC	Giulio Marcoccia	14.03
7	624	Yellow	OH	Giulio Marcoccia	11.69

Exhibitors: Giulio Marcoccia, Paul McRae, Gary Parsons, Dan Homick, Randy Cobb, John Hoekstra, John Ridler, Mike Gulliford, Joel Antolin (Jr.), Adam Antolin (Jr.), Michael Gregorinski, Aaron Burn (Jr.), Bill Albers.

Medium Face Plainhead

Show / Club: Canadian Helmet Club
Location: Woodstock, Ontario
Date: November 28, 2009
Judge: Robert Larochelle
District Director: Paul McRae
District: 7 **Event:** District
Number Shown: 33 **Total in Event:** 159
Number Exhibitors: 5 **Number Districts:** 1

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	82	Blue	YH	Dan Homick	0
2	161	Black	YC	Gary Parsons	16.69
3	164	Red	OH	Randy Cobb	0
4	407	Yellow	OC	John Hoekstra	11.13
5	195	Silver	YH	Randy Cobb	0
6	729	AOC	YC	Randy Cobb	0

Exhibitors: Randy Cobb, Dan Homick, John Koops, John Hoekstra, Gary Parsons,