

# *Helmet Happenings*



## What's Inside

From the Editor	1
Riches to Rags	2
AHA Web Picture Request	2
District 7 Report	3
New Web Tool	3
South African Helmet Win	3
District 7 Lancaster Show Results	4,5,6
This & That Dennis Bray	6,7
New Members	7
Memberships Due	7
Secretary's Report	8
-Treasurers Report	8
-Officers List	9
-Rochester Show Results	
-White Rose Show Results	
-Members List	
-Order Forms	

## From the Editor

Hello everyone. I hope you're all doing well. My name is Paul McRae and I am your new Editor. I live between Chatham and Sarnia in Southwestern Ontario. This is my 5<sup>th</sup> year breeding Helmets. I keep all colours in MFC except Dunn. That keeps me very busy so I only have helmets. I have been raising 125 young ones a year from 15-18 pairs. Obviously I use feeders. It has been a slow start this year because January and February were very cold and I lost a lot. It has picked up now that the weather has warmed up a bit.

I am only about 45 minutes from the show hall for the National in 2008. Most of the active members in the Canadian Helmet Club are very close. I expect there will be a lot of us there and I am looking forward to a very large turnout with very tough competition. The talk on the MyFamily web site is that there are hardly any rooms left (as of several weeks ago) so book your room ASAP. Booking info is listed elsewhere in the bulletin.

Thanks to everyone for the encouragement and support in my new project. I can see now why time constraints dissuaded Todd and Cathy from continuing. Many thanks to them for the time they spent putting out the Bulletin. I apologize that this edition is late. Todd and Cathy published with a Microsoft program called Publisher. I don't have that program. The club would have bought me one (for \$170 American, \$6,000 Canadian) but I thought I would try another program to save the club the money. Therefore I have been setting up the basic structure in Word and converted what existing documents I could. That wasn't many so I have had to redo them. That also means it will look a little different than before. It will probably take me a while to get everything adjusted and set up better.

The one thing I did was to give all the Lancaster, PA show results. Colour classes, Class winners and points. I have always liked to see who is doing what at the shows. Not just the winners. It's interesting to see the progress people have made in the show cages. Let me know what you think of that format. Hopefully I can get a good template set up to make it go quicker when transferring the results. If I can, and you like it, I will endeavor to do it for all the show results.

Please send me letters, articles, pictures....anything! to include in the bulletin. This is your bulletin and it can only be as interesting and informative as you make it. I will try to get good information to include but I need all the help I can get. It always has been a very good bulletin and let's keep it that way.

Until next time....Paul

## Riches to Rags by Dennis Bray



Coming home from the DesMoines National as the winner of Plain Heads and Short Face I was very full of enthusiasm about my breeding program. With the timing of the National this year I could come home and begin mating my Helmets a month earlier.

My first decision was which variety do I start with? After determining which variety was most likely to produce more winners I started with Plain Heads. I then mated Short Face and finished with Medium Faced. Once the pairs were mated up and moved into the breeding pens the **DISASTER** began!!

Birds started to get sick. Diarrhea created a very wet loft. The birds were not eating and I started to lose birds I had entered at the National. My luck got worse and I lost both my National Champions. It progressed and I was losing up to 5 Helmets a day.

I called Kevin Zollars and we decided it that it was Paratyphoid. I started treating with Baytril. Five days into treatment the birds were not improving and I was still losing helmets. It moved into my Rollers and White Racing Homers. Nothing was safe except for the pigeons I had purchased from other breeders.

I called those breeders and sure enough they had vaccinated for Avian Paramyxovirus. It was PMV I had been hit with. I called Kevin again and we agreed that we had better vaccinate as soon as possible. After vaccinating my entire loft I was still losing pigeons. After a week I noticed that the droppings were getting firm and the loft was drying out. The pigeons started to eat again. Cocks started showing signs of mating and chasing hens. I ended up losing more than 2 thirds of my pigeons. Years of breeding had vanished! I had only 1 of 8 Plain Head cocks left. It was very sad and tough to deal with.



Fellow Breeders. The point is to make sure you vaccinate your birds every year. Don't let all your hard work go into the garbage can. It really hurts.

As ever....Dennis Bray

## Pictures Needed for AHA Web Site

I have been watching a lot of great activity occur on the helmet MyFamily site. There also seems to be a good number of pictures being posted there. I would like to add some of these pics to our AHA site. I would like to request that anyone who has good pictures of champions, club members or judging please send me some of these and I will post them to our site. I don't expect to post all the same pictures, just some of the highlights of shows and the club. I can also pull the pics off MyFamily and post them myself. However, protocol dictates that the original submitter either send them to me directly or at least shoot me a mail to grant me permission to use the files on our site. Let me know what you all think.....Bob Bollinger

## District 7 Report

Bob Bollinger

The show season is over here in District 7 and we were once again blessed to have a number of nice shows with many members turning out for the fun and fellowship. One thing that I did notice throughout the season was a drop off in numbers of helmets being shown. We had a great turn out of breeders at all the shows but as many people are cutting down on the number of helmets that they keep, the show numbers continue to drop. I am noticing this phenomenon not just in District 7 but in other shows as well. I strongly suggest that as a club we spend some time in self reflection to evaluate our current position and our route to the future. I have some ideas .... but that is the subject for a future article.

A few of us have tried to start getting some early babies out. I have a nice Yellow MFP on the floor and I have heard of some other guys who have started raising a few. For the most part, weather in this part of the country is not too accommodating for early breeding so most folks haven't started yet. From what I hear, many people are really excited about the upcoming season.

Once again I would like to thank Todd and Cathy for all their work over the last 3 years. I also look forward to working with Paul to help our club continue to provide an outstanding bulletin.

## New Tool on the Web Site



by Bob Bollinger

In response to a number of suggestions, I have created and uploaded a new template to the web site that can be used to make a color class results list for our helmet meets. The list will then be in digital format and ready for the bulletin and web posting. This tool allows the district director to enter results at any time; before the show, during judging or afterward. I have also created an instruction sheet which explains how to use the template in the most effective manner. This tool will be used in conjunction with the show report template because both forms are needed to show overall results. Included in this bulletin is an example of the output of the tool for a recent District 7 meet in Lancaster, PA. You will see the typical AHA show report form as well as a color class result listing. Let me know if you have any questions or problems using the template.

## South African Helmet Win

Submitted by Bob Bollinger

I'm sure many of you subscribe to the Purebred Pigeon magazine. (If you don't I strongly recommend it!) Going through my last issue I was pleased to see a show report from South Africa where a Blue MFC Helmet won best of show. It is interesting to see our breed represented and see how it is performing in the rest of the world.

**Note from Editor:** On the International Helmet Pigeons Group web site (My Family) Fadiel Hendricks from South Africa let us know he also won Show Champion with a black helmet sold to him by Giulio Marcoccia of AHA District 10. Fadiel is a regular on the site.

Reading Pigeon Association  
Lancaster, PA January 13, 2007

AHA District 7 Results  
Total of 58 birds shown

Medium Face Crested



46 MFC. 3 districts represented. 9 exhibitors

Red YH				Black YH			
Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place/Points	Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points
1	1111	Mike Crawford	4 <sup>th</sup> / 14.50	1	1119	Mike Crawford	6 <sup>th</sup> / 8.70
2	1136	Mike Crawford		2	2965	Victor Cline	
3	117	Brandon Jeffrey		3	1131	Mike Crawford	
4	1815	Brandon Jeffrey		4	2942	Victor Cline	
5	1820	Steve Combs		5	3075	Vince Pellegrino	
6	1118	Mike Crawford		6	3087	Vince Pellegrino	
Red YC				Black YC			
Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points	Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points
1	111	Steve Brockett	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 17.40	1	2954	Victor Cline	9 <sup>th</sup> / 4.35
2	102	Steve Brockett		2	1139	Mike Crawford	
3	1127	Mike Crawford		3	2752	Raul Delgado	
4	1117	Mike Crawford		4	2967	Victor Cline	
5	112	Steve Brockett		5	103	Steve Brockett	
6	104	Steve Brockett		6	1125	Mike Crawford	
7	1826	Steve Combs					
8	910	Brandon Jeffrey		Black OH			
9	1806	Brandon Jeffrey		Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points
10	36	Brandon Jeffrey		1	2140	Mike Crawford	11 / 1.45
Red OH				Black OC			
Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points	Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points
1	1505	Mike Crawford	5 <sup>th</sup> / 11.60	1	2145	Mike Crawford	12 <sup>th</sup> / 1.16
2	2777	Raul Delgado		2	2107	Victor Cline bred by Galen Goshorn	
3	2606	Vince Pellegrino					
4	282	Steve Brockett		Blue YH			
				Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points
				1	12	Brandon Jeffrey	14 <sup>th</sup> / 0.87
Red OC				Blue OC			
Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points	Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points
1	1249	Mike Crawford	7 <sup>th</sup> / 7.25				
2	417	Victor Cline		1	5916	Mike Crawford	10 <sup>th</sup> / 2.9
3	3665	Pete Keppley					

AHA District 7 Colour Class Results

Medium Face Crested (continued)

Silver YH				Yellow YH			
Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points	Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points
1	1412	Bob Bollinger	13 / 0.87	1	1406	Bob Bollinger	2 / 21.75
				2	1421	Bob Bollinger	
Silver YC				Yellow YC			
Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points	Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points
1	1414	Bob Bollinger	8 / 5.80	1	1420	Bob Bollinger	1 / 29.00
2	1425	Bob Bollinger					

Medium Face Plain Head



10 MFP shown. 1 district represented. 2 exhibitors. No points awarded

Silver OC				Dun YC			
Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points	Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points
1	72	Mike Crawford	4	1	1113	Mike Crawford	7
Silver YH				Dun OH			
Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points	Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points
1	1115	Mike Crawford	1	1	1262	Bob Bollinger	5
Ash Red YC				Black OC			
Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points	Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points
1	1426	Bob Bollinger	9	1	3020	Mike Crawford	8
Blue YC				Blue YH			
Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points	Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points
1	1104	Mike Crawford	3	1	1429	Bob Bollinger	2
2	1442	Bob Bollinger					
Blue OH							
Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place / Points				
1	1941	Mike Crawford	6				

Reading Pigeon Association  
Lancaster, PA January 13, 2007  
AHA District 7 Colour Class Results

**Short Face Crested**



2 SFC shown. 1 district represented. 1 exhibitor

Black OH			Yellow YH		
Place	Band	Exhibitor	Place	Band	Exhibitor
1	785	Steve Brocket	1	914	Steve Brocket bred by Joe Pelligrino

**This and That**

by Dennis Bray

I must thank Todd and Cathy for publishing the bulletin the last few years. For those few of us who have yet to get on the computer the Helmet Bulletin is something we really look forward to getting.

Thanks to our new Bulletin editor, Paul McRae of Ontario, Canada. Please everyone; help Paul in keeping this Bulletin fun and interesting to receive. Looks like our foreign neighbors to the North are becoming more interested in getting involved in the States. The Western Sectional being judged by Gary Parsons from Ontario. Giulio Marcoccia showed at Louisville and the National. I must say, this Canadian breeder put some fear in us American breeders. Giulio came with an impressive show team. With the National being held near Detroit, Michigan next year I am sure there will be more Helmets shown from Canada.

The DesMoines National is over. In this breeders eyes it was a successful show. The entries were down this year, yet the quality of Helmets in all varieties was good. Those AHA members who did not support this National missed a good N.P.A. pigeon show. Total entries were over 8,000 pigeons. The show hall was plenty large to support the number of entries. It was a great show hall to support this type of event. Fred Smith walked in and sat down in the Helmet section to visit and reminisce about all the long time Helmet breeders. Fred Smith and Myron Berger were real good competitors in the short face during the 60's and 70's. In addition they were very active in the Helmet club during those years.

I must address the poor sportsmanship that I have seen the last several years pertaining to the selection of champions at our Nationals. I feel it damages the image of our club. It is also disrespectful to the judge and the breeders of the champion helmets. It is a great honor to be chosen champion and when another member carries on about the wrong bird winning it sure takes a lot of excitement away from the winning breeder. Both times this happened it was a master breeder making a statement regarding poor judging and the wrong Helmet being picked. Is it so important for you breeders counting your master breeder points to show this kind of sportsmanship? This breeder/showman would be willing to do away with the master breeder award if it is going to induce our members to act in this way when they

don't get the master breeder points they feel they were cheated out of. Get used to losing. There's lots of new competition out there. They are good breeders raising good helmets.

The champion MFC, a black young cock, owned and bred by Raul Delgado was an outstanding Helmet. Raul, who is not a first time National winner, has to be very proud of this win. Don Phy had reserve with a very good black old cock and Giulio Marcoccia got third with a beautiful silver cock.

The Plain head champion was a powerful yellow old cock owned by myself. Reserve went to Bob Dunlap with a good colored blue old cock. A nice yellow hen won third for Giulio Marcoccia.

There were 10 short face shown, which is not enough for a point show. Even so, this variety is receiving more attention and it is becoming more difficult to win a short face champion award. I won with a red young cock and Bob Dunlap picked up reserve with a red old cock. I received third with a red old hen.

We did not hold an auction at this show because of the lack of available birds. This is one reason we are seeing new winners and breeders. There has been a lot of good quality Helmets available for sale.

Good luck in the breeding pens. Remember to help support our new bulletin editor.

As Ever.....Dennis Bray

### Welcome to Our New Members

Louis Fournier 123706 W. Heck Rd. Prosser, WA 99350. ph 509 756-1198  
David Henshaw 6630 Freeman Rd. Westerville, OH. 43082 ph 614 901\*8860  
Brandy Ralston & Family 2601 Rose Ave. Ceres, CA. 95307 ph 209 581-0828  
Mike Davis 4021 Burgess Falls Rd. Sparta, TN 38583  
Pete Keppley 76 Bay Bridge Dr. Brick NJ. 08724 ph 732 899-6788  
John DeCarlo Jr. 3040B Godfrey Ave. Gilroy, CA. 95020 ph 408 846-0987

### Your Membership Dues are Due

District 1	Kevin Heppner	District 8	Richard Bohman
District 3	Donna Johnson		Brandy & Mindy Bingham
	Nathan Strsich		Gary Garrett
District 4	Hugh S. Ryan		Steve Mitchell
	Gerald Butler		Curtis Oberhansley
District 5	Ron Davis	District 10	Dan Homick
	Howard Kleinberg & Family	District 12	Roger Gravel
District 6	Alisha Finkbeiner		Vincent Pellegrino
	Greg & Christy Michael		Jay Mortz
	Georgia Lawrence		Andy Terracciano
District 7	Caleb Yatuzis & Family		
	Galen Goshorn		
	Phil DeCarlo		



**Secretary's Report**  
by Charles Dwight

Not much going on. I guess everyone is busy raising this year's champion.

We have signed up a few new members in the last few months, but we also have a long list of members whose membership dues are due or past due. Check the mailing label or the list elsewhere in this bulletin.

It looks like the National show in Detroit, MI is going to be a big one. Hotel rooms are already going fast. Reservation information is in this bulletin or on the NPA web site.

I want to thank Paul for taking on the task of printing our bulletin. It is our responsibility to supply him with articles to print. It is also one of the duties of our officers.

**Treasurers Report**  
**January / February 2007**  
by Charles Dwight

**Income**

Dues	\$245.00
Bands	\$154.50
Band Postage	\$10.00
Donations	\$7.00
National Show rebate	\$149.00
Bulletin Allowance Refund	\$34.71
Total	600.21

**Expenses**

Postage	\$18.45
Bulletin Printing	\$120.13
Bulletin Postage	\$80.54
Total	\$219.12

**Totals**

January starting balance	\$3269.25
Income	\$600.21
Total	3869.46
Expenses	219.12
February ending balance	3650.34

**2008 National Show**  
**Reservation Info.**  
Rooms are going extremely fast  
**BOOK NOW!**

Best Western Concorde  
44315 Gratiot Ave  
Phone: 586 493-7300  
Give Code: 0123NPA





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**District 13 Director:** OPEN

**District 14 Director:** OPEN