

# Helmet Happenings

**Issue: Nov/Dec 2005**

**December 30, 2005**

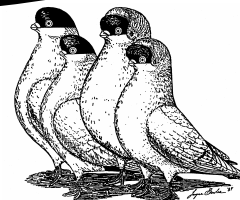
## **Inside this issue:**

President's Note	1
Secretary's Report & SF Proposal	2
District 2 Report	3
Band Size & Power Dusting!	4
New Members & Treasurer's Report	5
District 8 Report & Western Sectional	6-7
Officers	8
Order forms	9

SHOW REPORTS  
ENCLOSED!!

MASTER BREEDER  
POINTS ENCLOSED!!

Grand  
National  
!!See you  
there!



## **From the President**

Here we are at the end of another year. I hope 2005 has been a good year for you. I've had some challenges this past year, but all in all it's been a great year.

I always enjoy the cycle of the pigeon year. It begins with the anticipation of great things as I study out my matings and put the birds together. Then comes the excitement and the heartache of the breeding season as you see something special in a nestling only to have it die for some reason. There is the anticipation of seeing that baby that looks great coming out of the nest. In the summer I always look at that batch of new prospects and wonder what I ever saw in them as they go through the "ugly stage" between the time they are weaned and the first molt. Finally the youngsters start to bloom and my excitement for the shows builds up. Now if they'd only get through the molt in time.

I enjoy the shows. It's fun to see old friends and to spend a day or two submersed in pigeons with folks who are nuts about them like me. I enjoy preparing the birds for the show. I do enjoy the judging even if I don't win. I seem to always learn something about my birds that I may have overlooked. It's fun to buy and sell birds. It's fun to see how everybody has done this year.

As I attend shows, I begin to formulate plans for next year's breeding season. Hopefully I can come up with the birds I need to move my program forward. The cycle goes on.

The high point of the year is to attend the national. It's a chance to see breeders from all over the country as well as to see the best helmets in the country. Unfortunately I'm going to have to miss it this year. I had surgery on my hip in November and the recovery is taking longer than expected. I will still be on crutches at the national time and the doctor has told me that it would be foolish to travel. I am still going to send a few birds to show. I'd like to thank Dennis Bray for taking charge of our annual meetings for me. I really appreciate his help. I wish I could be there.

I would also like to thank all those who have called with well wishes, and particularly my good helmet friends who have come over to help me pass the recovery time and who have helped out in the loft. It's frustrating to not be able to do the simple things you have always done.

I hope you have enjoyed a special Christmas season and I wish you all the best in the new year. Good luck at the show.

James Jensen

## Secretary's Report

by Charles Dwight

Our membership is on the rise. It seems that when the shows start and people see our Helmets they become interested.

I have also received a lot of inquiries from our web site. Several of the new members are looking for some good birds. I have been able to help one of them, but I do not have anymore that I can let go. Most of them want crested birds.

In another couple of weeks the National will be over and show season will be at an end. Seems like it just started. My show season this year has been very short. I was able to attend the National Young Bird Show in Louisville and will be at the Eastern Sectional. I will not be at the National this year. I sure will miss seeing all my old friends, and getting to make some new ones.

Chuck

To Whom It May Concern,  
To all A.H.A. Directors,

In one of the past bulletins, I wrote about the point difference between MFC & SFC birds. I never heard anything pro or con about the topic. I have talked to a number of SF breeders and they felt that the time has come to make the change.

I am proposing to the directors that the change be made.

Thank You, Hank

Paste in signatures

### ACTUAL PROPOSAL:

First: Absolutely no change in the written standard.

Second: Drawings to remain exactly as they are, no change.

Third: The point change proposed for short-face only.

Fourth:A- Take one point from tail

B- Take two points from tail markings

C- Take one from body

D- Take two from head markings

E- Apply four to head

F- Apply two to beak

Printed in 1996 bulletin

## District 2 Report

by Dennis Bray

I had to write an article about our record breaking SF Helmet meet. 67 birds shown with 6 exhibitors. The largest class was 11 Red OC. Hank Ebbelaar won Best SF and Reserve, I won Best Young with a Red YC.

The man behind this big push was Myron Berger. Myron has been very enthusiastic after his family of yellow SF won at the National last year. His goal this year was to get more interest in the SF Helmets in District 2. That he did by helping us all with quality SF to start breeding from. Every month you could receive a call from Myron to make sure the breeding pen housing the SF was in full swing. Once we all started raising a few it was from the breeding pen to get those young ready for a meet to be held in October. A meet called the Sand'N'Sagebrush Show. It is held in Kennewick, WA. This SF meet just goes to show how important it is to have a promoter in every district. Myron started promoting this variety and meet at the beginning of the year. Now that the interest is high, we should continue to see the showing of SF Helmets. Looking forward to the showdown at the San Bernardino National. I hear there is a SF breeder from the east coast who has retired and moved to Arizona. His name is Zbigniew Kuna or better known as Ziggy. He is one of the best SF breeders to come out of the Empire SF club. The makings of another great SF meet. Don't miss this event!

At the Kennewick show the SF's were the largest class shown. The Plainheads were next with Dennis Manning winning with a Yellow OH. 23 Plainheads were shown with 4 exhibitors. The MFC were 3<sup>rd</sup> with 25 shown and 5 exhibitors. Dennis Bray won Best MFC with a Red YH. Thanks everyone for coming out and supporting this Eastern Washington show. Myron your promoting paid off for the district who now holds the record for the largest SF Helmet meet. Also, your personal goal to bring alive the SF variety in our Helmets.

Now, Hank and I drive to Salt Lake, Utah to the AHA Western Sectional. District 8, I think, has the largest turn out of quality Helmets in the country. District 8 has some of the best breeders and also holds claim to 2 master breeders of Helmets. They are Steve Mitchell and James Jensen. This is going to help any district improve their quality of birds-better quality Helmets to move around to the different lofts. To date, this was going to be the best quality show for Hank and I to compete with.

I left my home at 2:30 am, drove to Hank's home by 6:00 Thursday morning. We were loaded up in Hank's Ford truck 4x4 ready for snow. We drove to the border of Oregon and Idaho, stopped for gas and lunch. \$60.00 of gas and a good lunch had us back on the freeway. I had worked till 10:30 pm at my store the night before we left, so 3 hours of sleep and 1,600 miles ahead of us was going to make it a long day. Hank, who lives alone with his wife (kids all grown and moved away), wants to talk about solving world problems & discuss Helmets in general...Can we survive this trip together without our 3<sup>rd</sup> member, Vic Eshpeter telling Hank where to sleep at night and how many beers he had? All I wanted was a little less talk from Hank and some comfortable sleep. "Thanks Hank" – The caregiver he is, had made me a bed in the back of his truck!

The drive was pretty, lots of open space between Washington and Utah. Hank would perk up knowing he was going to a pigeon show. Arriving at the show hall in Salt Lake at 7:00 pm, pigeon carriers in hand, we walk in and find James Jensen and Curtis Oberhansly. Curtis is on his way out to get pizza. We get our pigeons put away about the time Curtis arrives back with the pizza. After enjoying the pizza and conversation about the birds, we head off to our hotel for a good nights rest. Friday morning we're back in the show hall getting our birds ready for judging. Don Phy was judging the Helmets at this sectional meet. Good turnout of MFC. There were three members showing SF. Hank was the winner of this variety. The Plainheads didn't have a big turnout but was well represented. Dennis Manning won best PH. The MFC blacks were the top winners in the final lineup with the Diviney Oberhansly team winning Champion.

Hank and I were disappointed in how our Helmets met with the competition, but with the auction held after the show, we had a great opportunity to purchase some good birds from the boys of District 8. So like most shows, during the long drive home, Hank and I discussed what we were going to do with our newly purchased Helmets and on returning home cull, cull, cull!

Hope to see a better showing from Washington State at the National.

As ever, Dennis Bray

## **AHA Band Size**

by Tony Patti

At a National meeting a motion was made and voted on to change the AHA band size from 7mm to 8mm. It passed and it was a mistake!

The biggest problem with this is that the size 8 can be removed (and replaced) on a Short Face. This is certainly contrary to the best interests of the club. I need not elaborate on the possible consequence of this. Also, this is a violation of NPA rules which state that a bird must be banded with the proper size band.

Additionally, the size 8 looks terrible on the foot. We must go back to a size 7. To those who are concerned about banding being too difficult, I say band earlier! For the first time in 35 years, I will not band AHA in 2006!



## **POWER DUSTING**

By Todd Farnsworth

I thought I would share something with you that I have tried for the past two years.

When we first started raising pigeons and only had a few pair, it took very little time and effort to dust the birds for lice and mites. Now we have about 150 birds and two rather large lofts and it has become a long drawn out and messy process. After reading articles about lice and mites they not only talked about dusting the birds but also dusting the entire loft.

This is when I thought about **POWER DUSTING**. Due to the fact that time was limited and (I was feeling lazy) I got out my trusty gas powered leaf blower, removed feed and water then spread a line of poultry dust (containing Permethrine) along the window sill. Now—standing outside of my loft, I set the gas blower on high, pointed it at the window and let the powder fly. Needless to say the birds start to fly around due to the noisy wind storm that just came out of nowhere. When the fog clears you can be assured that not only are the birds dusted but your entire loft including even the smallest of cracks and holes now have a white powder coating. I repeat this about every 3 months and the whole process takes about 5 minutes. Since starting this about 2 years ago the results have been great. This is a lot faster than dusting them individually but the downside is I don't get treated for lice and mites with the birds the way I did before. @@

\----/

We here at "Lofts of Fun" would like to say that this years' Western Sectional was the most enjoyable show we have attended in our short career of Helmets. We met a lot of breeders that we had only heard of before. I have to say we feel like we have made some GREAT new friends. The quality of birds at this years show was nothing shy of spectacular and it was clear that everyone was having a good time not only with the competition but also with the camaraderie.

We plan to attend the National and look forward to seeing all the new friends we have made as well as the many new friends that we will meet there.

GOOD HEALTH and GOOD BREEDING!!!!



## New Members

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Hemet, CA 92544  
Ph: 951-927-1664

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Ferdinand, IL 47532  
Ph: 812-367-1477  
e-mail: gholt@psci.net

### NEW JR. MEMBERS—

Jay Mortz  
200 Flatbush Ave.  
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Nathan Streich  
26704 481st Ave.  
Brandon, SD 57005



## Are your dues past due?

Please check your mailing address label on this newsletter—  
If highlighted, your membership is due for renewal.

Leonard Patito	District 1
Everett Uhls	District 3
Charles Folkening	District 6
Wayne Diviney	District 8

## Address Changes & Corrections

Betty J. Flinn—e-mail correction:  
alflinn@earthlink.net

## Junior Member Needs Help

We have a junior member who has been a member of AHA for two years that is needing some help. His name is Caleb Yatuzis. Caleb has some Helmets of moderate quality and is looking for some better birds. He would also like to hear from some older breeders who can give him some advice on how to improve his birds. Can anyone help him out?

Caleb Yatuzis  
16164 Fitzgeralds Rd.  
Milford, DE 19963  
Ph: 302-424-2165  
e-mail: pigeon@peoplepc.com

## Treasurer's Report

Oct/Nov 2005

by Charles Dwight

### INCOME

Dues	\$ 650.00
Bands	\$ 758.75
Band Postage	\$ 29.00
Non AHA Band Regis.	\$ 15.00
National Awards	\$ 60.00

(Donated by Jim Bean for Best Young, MFC, MFP & SFC)

Master Breeder Patches \$ 25.00

(Updated M.B. patches sold to present Master Breeders at cost)

**Total \$1,537.75**

### EXPENSES

Master Breeder Patches	\$ 250.00
NPA Dues	\$ 20.00
Balance 2006 Bands	\$ 525.00
Postage	\$ 7.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 802.07</b>

### TOTALS

Oct. starting balance	\$2,868.13
Income	\$1,537.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,405.88</b>
Expenses	— 802.07

**Nov. ending balance \$ 3,603.81**

Send comments, suggestions or even a joke or two to us at:

Todd & Cathy Farnsworth, Bulletin Editors  
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or e-mail us at loftsoffun@highstream.net



The deadline for articles in the next newsletter is February 20.

Issue	Next Deadline	Approx. mailing date
Jan/Feb	<b>February 20</b>	February 28
Mar/April	April 20	April 30
May/June	June 20	June 30
July/August	August 20	August 31
Sept/Oct	October 20	October 31
Nov/Dec	December 20	December 31

## News from DISTRICT 8

By Curtis Oberhansly

Well, we had a great show and a great time at the AHA Western Sectional in Salt Lake City November 4th and 5th, with \$650.00 in cash prizes, a new traveling futurity trophy and then topped off the next day by an intense MFC auction patterned on the Giant Homer Club's annual futurity show. What made the auction so tantalizing is that to participate in the cash prizes the exhibitors had to put any young birds placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd (in the largest classes) into the auction.

Don Phy judged the MFC (123 MFC entered) handing championship honors to Diviney/Oberhansly; he also judged 10 SFC, won by Hank Ebbelaar. Dennis Manning won the Plainheads (13 entered) with Wayne Diviney judging.

This Western Sectional appears to be the largest show of the season so far in terms of number of entries for MFC helmets, edging out Louisville 123 to 105 (certainly not in numbers of exhibitors however). We'll see what happens at the National. Exhibitors from Washington, Oregon, California, Utah and Idaho joined us in Salt Lake City.

The black classes in the MFC were particularly strong, winning the first four places in the final lineup. Champion MFC and 1st reserve went to Diviney/Oberhansly for a Black OH and Black OC in that order. Todd and Cathy Farnsworth won 2nd and 3rd reserve with a black YH and black YC respectively. James Jensen was 5th in the final lineup with a red YH.

The big money went to Todd and Cathy Farnsworth taking home about half of the purse. They won the overall money for the champion young bird and also 1st reserve champion young bird. They also took the first leg on the traveling trophy. James Jensen followed them with 4th reserve and dominating the young red classes.

The futurity auction made Saturday morning every bit as exciting as the judging on Friday. Of course, the owner can always "protect" his winners by being the top bidder. In which case, he or she pays the standard 10% to the club just like any other AHA auction. As the bidders lined up, the owners were anxious, the bidders were hopeful. A strong representation of some of the best young helmets in the country were in this auction.

The owners were thinking, if the bidding reaches a certain price, will I let this or that bird go?? What will it take to tempt me? Do I want to sell one of my top young birds to buy one in another color class? The bidders were thinking, what is my strategy? How can I pick up the best possible birds at the lowest price?

In the final analysis, it was a win/win for all participants and for all budgets. For those concerned about the prices of helmets, 16 out of 25 birds went through the auction at or below \$100.00 each. (In addition, 9 birds went into the auction without any opening bid, even though they were from top lofts and bloodlines – something that a few bidders now regret.) Three more birds sold between \$100 and \$200 dollars. Three more birds were bid up into the \$300 range, but all were protected by their owner costing them \$30.00 each back to the club. The highest bids came on two young Jensen blues. Mike Larson and his friend Jim Garrus decided the night before that they would not be denied a pair of James Jensen young blues. James finally relented on a blue YC when the bidding reached \$1,000.00.

So that \$1,000 provided the headline for those who like to tout prices, but the more interesting fact is that the vast majority of the birds, and some very good ones, went for some very reasonable prices with a great spread as outlined above. That's why it was a win/win. The only hitch is that James has to keep his breeding pairs healthy to produce some more good blues.

Anyway, if you enjoy different dimensions of excitement at a pigeon show, this Western Sectional really delivered. And in the end we replenished the purse out of the 10% to the club, which is just waiting for the next time we decide to do it again. Good luck at the National; see you there.



A.H.A. Auction on Saturday



Helmet folks enjoying the Auction action!

Photos from the A.H.A. Western Sectional  
 Salt Lake City, Utah—November 4 & 5, 2005  
 James Jensen, AHA President—Presenting Awards



Champion Black OH



Champion and 1st Reserve Exhibitors-  
 Wayne Diviney/Curtis Oberhansly



First Reserve Black OC

2005  
 Salt Lake  
 Premier

&

A.H.A.  
 Western  
 Sectional



Champion Young Bird Black Hen



Champion Young bird &  
 1st Reserve Young bird  
 Exhibitors—  
 Todd & Cathy Farnsworth  
 with traveling Futurity trophy



Champion Shortface Crested  
 Exhibitor - Hank Ebbelaar

Champion Plainhead  
 Exhibitor - Dennis Manning  
 (sorry, no photo avail.)

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## Order forms

## **More News from DISTRICT 8**

By William Martindale & Keith Edwards

We had the opportunity to go to the District 2 meet in Kennewick, WA this year and also the District 8 meet in Salt Lake City. We are proud to say the A.H.A. has a great bunch of members. We have never been treated as well as we are in the Helmet club.

Believe me we've tried W.O.E., Clean Legs, Komorners etc. and non are as cordial or as friendly as the Helmet breeders. Special thanks to Myron Berger, James Jensen and Todd Farnsworth. What fantastic guys to work with.

Remember the new members and the youth are the ones who make the future clubs. My grandson from Peoa, Utah went to his first pigeon show in Utah and he is hooked!

Thanks a lot for the hospitality and friendship – that is what it should all be about.

### **SYMPTOMES of the BIRD FLU**

The Center for Disease Control has released a list of symptoms of bird flu. If you experience any of the following, please seek medical treatment immediately!

1. High Fever
2. Congestion
3. Nausea
4. Fatigue
5. Aching in the joints
6. An irresistible urge to crap on someone's windshield



# Happy New Year!