

Helmet Happenings

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By Hank Ebbelaar

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Well AHA members it's time for a bulletin again. I hope everyone's breeding is going good by this time.

Here is an alert for all you guys & gals who ship birds through the post office. In my small post office I have NEVER had a problem shipping or receiving birds. The last time I sent some birds away, I had to open the box so he could verify that there were live birds in the box. I asked him what he knew about birds and he said "Nothing" but the post office has been getting too many claims made on dead birds. He also said that delivery would now be 3 days instead of 2 days. He said that if this keeps up the post office will quit taking lives. Just a warning to everyone.

Over spring break, I went back to Holland to see my last two Aunts who are still alive. One is 80 and the other is 88. Both their husbands are dead and they have no kids. I was only there for 10 days so most of my time was taken up with relatives but, I still found time to visit with one pigeon fancier while there, a fellow by the name of Dick Hammer. He is an International Pigeon judge. I met him for the first time at one of the NPA shows many years ago. I have been to his home on other trips to Holland. He has been over here at least 5 or 6 times judging. He usually judges Pouters over here. He just got back home from judging in Saudi Arabia when I e-mailed him about stopping by to visit. He judges here in the U.S.A., Australia, and South Africa to name a few.

I spent the night at his home and had a very traditional Dutch dinner. Not too much meat, but lots of fresh vegetables and potatoes. The next morning the traditional European breakfast, hardboiled egg, Dutch cheese (yum) different kinds of thinly sliced ham and of course fresh rolls. His whole house is full all kinds of literature about pigeons from all over the world. In fact he has a copy of our 50th Anniversary Helmet book that Myron Berger put together. He raises Voorburg Shield Croppers and some Dutch breeds. He lets them out to free fly every day and his neighbors enjoy them also.

Now, about the Helmets here in the U.S., not too many people are writing anything for the bulletin. I decided I should call a few. Mike Crawford feels a little left out because he does not have a computer, a little out of touch. So far he has banded a couple of Helmets and that is about it. He did tell me that our immediate past President has 25 or 28 on the floor, but of course they are not Helmets. Victor Cardillo has not done a lot, just a couple. I hear that Johnny Raposo is going gang buster with his birds and has about 25 so far.

Some of the California guys have a few banded. I guess in the warmer climates you can raise birds a bet earlier.

Here in the Pacific Northwest it is a bit slow, although Dennis Bray and Dennis Manning have raised a good number. Our new breeder in B.C. Ernie Silveri tells us his has banded 25 to 30.

Myself I have banded 5 so far this year so we will see what happens.

Tony Patti had some varmint problems, so he just got his birds mated. Tony says NEVER start too early because it just wears out your hens.

In January, we get a few nice warm days and the birds get active and the breeder gets antsy, mates his birds, has babies and then a couple of cold nights the babies die and you are back at square one.

Well folks keep working on it and the numbers will come. I guess we don't need number as much As quality. Guess we just have to breed a lot and keep the best 1 or 2%

I am writing this on my school bus on a Saturday afternoon. Had to take the soccer team 200 miles to the regionals. Unfortunately they lost their game 1-0. That's it for this time, see you at a show.

Get Your Bulletin By E-mail

If you want to get your AHA bulletin by email send your correct email address to Secretary Greg Bliven at grabliven@yahoo.com and be sure to put AHA e-bulletin in the subject line. You will get your bulletin much faster and at a lot less cost to the AHA. Help us save some money and have your bulletin emailed.

Secretary's Report

By Greg Bliven

Breeding season finally seems to have kicked off here in Oregon. I have eggs from most of my Helmets under feeders. Not much is new here, I am staying busy with work, kid's sports, taking care of my birds, balancing the budget, putting bulletins together and everything else that goes with the Secretary position. I haven't even had time to be on the website much, which is unusual for me. I do feel like I am getting the hang of this position. Also I have had 6 Helmets hatch out in the last few days and they are all under feeders, so hopefully I will have a good year. My last decent year for raising young was in 2009. I hope the season is going well for everyone and look forward to seeing you all at the shows this Fall and Winter.

It is also that time of year again to nominate the National judges, our club officers, and member of the year for 2011. You can send nominations to me by e-mail or regular mail, my info is on the join the AHA form (last page of bulletin).

New & Returning Members

Lee Pittman, CA John DeCarlo, CA

If you've joined the AHA in 2011 and haven't seen your name here, please contact me so I can track that information in a new spreadsheet. Thanks.

Members past due

Bill Beaver, Bob Bollinger, Joyce Cap, Vic Eshpeter, Jim Garus, Bill Harnett, Donna Johnston, Kenyon Jorgenson, Aaron Lorton, Giulio Marcoccia, Paul McRae, Steve Petitto, Richard Ronevich, Mike Seiler, & Jeffrey Simpson.

Members whose membership will expire before the next bulletin

Pablo Diaz Menindez

JAN-MAY 2012 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

DUES	\$280.00
BANDS & Registration	\$462.00
BAND POSTAGE	\$34.00
SHIRTS, CAPS, PINS, PATCH	\$94.00
NATIONAL AUCTION	\$0.00
NATIONAL SHOW REBATE	\$124.00
DONATIONS	\$10.00
Futurity	\$250.00
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$1,254.00</u>

EXPENSES

BULLETIN PRINTING	\$51.84
BULLETIN POSTAGE	\$89.87
POSTAGE	\$57.67
SUPPLIES	\$53.98
2012 NATIONAL AWARDS	\$600.00
SHIPPING	\$0.00
NATIONAL AD	\$0.00
NATIONAL AUCTION	\$0.00
WEB SITES	\$30.00
2013 BANDS	\$1,025.00
STAMPS	\$0.00
2013 NPA DUES	\$0.00
CHECKS	\$0.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$1,908.36</u>

	<u>Adjustment</u>		
TOTALS			
JAN 2012 STARTING BALANCE		\$2,261.80	
JAN-MAY 2012 INCOME		\$1,254.00	
	TOTAL	<u>\$3,515.80</u>	
JAN-MAY 2012 EXPENSES		\$1,918.36	
<u>MAY 2012 ENDING BALANCE</u>		<u>\$1,597.44</u>	

District 1 Report

By K. Mike LaCom

Greetings from District One. First, I'd like to welcome two new members to our district. Lee Pittman, from the El Cajon area of California, with Plain heads and Crested Helmets. He has banded a few birds as of early April. Secondly, John de Carlo from the Gilroy area of California. Johnnie, as many of us know him, has had a few Helmets for some time, and he recently purchased many birds from Jim Garus. Welcome to both of you!

As for other District One members, the breeding season has gotten off to a slow start but everyone seems to have a few. The one exception is Chet who has banded over 20 with more on the way this month. I believe there are 10 members in this district which should make for a good Pageant in Nov. As you might know, the Pageant has moved back to the Orange Show Fairgrounds in San Bernardino. Supposedly, the show hall has been updated. The dates for the show are Nov.14th - 17th. **Raise some Helmets and support the shows!**

District 2 Report

By Dennis Manning

The breeding is slow for most in our District, we are in the second year in a row of colder than normal Spring weather with the occasional warm day just to mess the birds up. I've been hand feeding a lot but losing a lot to cold nights as I try to get them a couple days under the parents. In talking with the rest of the local members the experience has been the same. Most have banded in the single to low double digits but all remain hopeful.

With the National here in the Northwest this year most of our local shows have been canceled. I've signed a contract for the sand and Sagebrush show in late October in Kennewick Washington and that is it so far for District 2 for this upcoming season. Some of us have been working on getting birds up to the Abbotsford show in BC this Fall, the show is about two weeks after the Kennewick show and will take some serious logistical maneuvering to make it happen but it would really be fun.

I have been working on the Master Breeder changes committee but nothing to report yet. I've also been working on the NPA National and it is really coming together. Thanks greatly to the herculean efforts of our own Ernie Silveri who has been able to round up some impressive donations for the show. We have a ton of feed donated by the Seed Factory NW to feed the birds at the show and a few other donations in addition those procured by Ernie. The web site is up and running www.npagrandnational2013.com and we will be making changes as needed heading into the summer months.

At some point at least by early Fall we in District 2 will need to get some lights and decorations put together for our area at the National. Greg has banners but hopefully we can put something together even better to go with them. I would like to get a set of lights like Karl/Mike's that we will have going forward. If I can find a good price on some on line I will pass the hat and we'll see if we can get a set. That's all for now good luck with the breeding season.

Here is the information so far on the National

Show site: Vancouver Convention Center at the Hilton.

Show date: Jan 17 - 19. We hope to be able to coop in birds around 2PM on the 16th.

Entry fee: NPA members 4.00 per bird, non-members 5.00 per bird

HQ Hotel: Vancouver Hilton, rates standard room 90.00, King Suite 99.00, Parlor Suite 109.00. Phone number [800-861-8540](tel:800-861-8540) or 360 - 828 - 4323. Please ask for the NPA rate. FREE Parking if you stay at the Hilton. Pickup your parking pass when you check in. Overflow Hotel is the Red Lion at the Quay. Also 90.00 for standard rooms, more for suites. [877-423-7115](tel:877-423-7115) or [360-694-8341](tel:360-694-8341) The Red Lion is 3 1/2 blocks south of the Hilton. Since parking is free we recommend that you rent a car. It will help you get around (sights and restaurants). Airport to use Portland International (PDX)

Show Superintendent: Keith Casteel [360-256-9264](tel:360-256-9264) roller1@comcast.net

Assistant: Larry Flowers [541-521-2429](tel:541-521-2429) flowersfancy@aol.com

Assistant: Dennis Manning [503-392-3560](tel:503-392-3560) helmet1@embarqmail.com

Show Secretary: Trish and Brian Nichols: [509-427-3435](tel:509-427-3435) btnichols@gorge.net

Early Birds

By Bob Lien

I hope this newsletter finds all you of doing well. Breeding season got off to an early start this year. I put my birds together at the end of November with great success. I banded my first baby January 4th. It is very unusual for this part of the country due to the cold winters. In the past I would not have even thought about putting birds together until late March early April. As of the end of April I've banded 12 birds. I'm looking forward to the shows. I hope everyone's breeding season is going well. Good luck to all in raising that champion, looking forward to seeing all of you at the shows.

NW Happenings

By Dennis Bray

Can it really be the month of May?..Looking in at my young bird pens, you would think it was January, considering I mated up my birds the first of December. For a hobby that's supposed to help us relax from our everyday stresses, I'm going nuts and becoming very frustrated in the pigeon loft. Are the birds poor parents or is it sickness in the breeding pens? I started breeders on Foys All-in-One powder and kept them on it for five days. Birds look good after medication - some are slow on going down on eggs, but some do hatch and survive. When the cold, wet weather comes, the breeders do nothing. Those few breeders that lay and hatch young seem to lose them the first day. The young not getting any pigeon milk..Am I fighting some kind of sickness...young too weak to hold their heads up to be fed by parents? Is there something my birds are lacking causing their young to be so weak and die?

Is the answer less breeders and more feeders? ...I actually got rid of my white racing homers who were my feeders, to cull back on my feed expense, and now think this was probably a mistake. What are you breeders using? Some tell me Mookies, others say Domestic Flights. The successful breeders tell me to hand feed starting as soon as they hatch, but I just don't have the patience for this method. After each breeding season I will go through my breeding records and cull any parents that don't raise at least one young bird. My thinking being..if they are carriers of a virus, I'll eliminate the sickness through culling poor parents or possible sick birds. As of today, in the young bird pens I have; 3SF, 4PH, & 5MF....not good considering they have been together for five months! One good point, two of the twelve banded are Futurity bands - a small plus for the season!

Here in the northwest, everyone is discussing where they will go in supporting local shows. Our big December show has been cancelled due to work on the National being held in January in Washington State. I'm looking at the lawn show in July, Everett show in October, Kennewick end of October, and Utah, our Western Sectional, in December. I will probably drive, not fly to Utah, as our airport can't be trusted to fly with our pigeons!

I'm also thinking about the Great Western in California. Non helmet breeders are encouraging me to attend, but then again, if I don't have any young to show, I won't be going anywhere!!

Short Face Gleanings

By Phil DeCarlo

My breed, as many of you know is the Short Face Helmet. The following is my detailed loft arrangement with photos, which in my opinion can be used for any breed. I am fortunate to have a large area for my birds. It was a converted carriage house made into a garage downstairs and on top, where hay would be stored, I had sections built for my birds. The area is approximately 25'x30' and its 20 feet off the ground. Most fanciers don't have that kind of room, but if I didn't, I would just cut down on the amount of birds. I have enclosed pictures of my loft setup. The largest section is for my feeders, I carry 34 pair, they are the work horses in my loft and I want as many as I can house to support my breeding program.

Now here's my secret to breeding a top Short Face. I use only one cock, this bird on a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the highest quality show bird is a 10. My belief of get rid of the bad ones, sell the good ones and keep only the superb has been my philosophy for years. Now you'll see my individual breeding pens. They are not too big where the cock has to go chasing the hen. I feel 2'x2' they are just the right size. Now I'll take this outstanding cock bird and rotate six hens to him. I do not keep him with the hen all day I want him amorous when I put him back with the hen in the evening. When the hen lays her second egg they and she are immediately removed. The eggs go to feeders that are timed. She goes in a hen section where there's no way the hens can mate (see photo) to each other also where she can see the cock bird with another hen. The cock bird once the eggs and hen are removed I let sit alone for two days before I introduce

another hen. Now keep in mind with the size of my loft I can easily have 25 to 30 pair of Helmets to breed from, but I'm looking for the best results with half the effort and time. My suggestion to someone thinking of starting, buy the best cock bird your money can buy get six very nice hens and you're on your way. See you in my column next time.



Pumper Section measuring 25' x 6'.
36 nest boxes, 25 pumpers, floor wood grates, and plastic grates in nest boxes.



Section I use for 2012 young ones. I can also use this section to breed out of.



Three photos of Aviary for young ones and extra hens.
Note tray at bottom for easy cleaning.





Photo of the nest boxes I can use to breed out of. This section will be used for 2012 birds. The walls are painted pink to hold back aggressive birds from fighting. I can't prove it helps.



Closed screen feed bin



Four individual breeding pens, notice tray at bottom slides out to clean droppings.



Open screen feed bin I use show topper – feed, safe and dry.



Inside breeding pen
Water & feed cup



View of breeding pen.
Note screen floor and wooden bottom to catch droppings.



Hen section with ^ perches and wood grated floor. Made to stop hens from mating to each other.



Another view of hen section, water off floor – wooden grates, ^ perches.

Featured Member of Quarter

Bob Lien

In 1993, my brother Gary and I decided to get back into pigeons. We attended a show in Papillion, NE to find a new breed to get into. We met Wes Siebe and Wes Pfdenhauer who were showing helmets at this show. They introduced us to the helmet breed and told us about the Des Moines Pigeon Show. That fall, I went to my first big pigeon show in Iowa. I had no idea the pigeon show would be that big. They had over 5,000 pigeons at the show that year and almost 100 helmets were being shown. This was where we purchased our first helmets. We talked with Everett Uhls who had real nice yellows and reds we ended up with and some real nice blacks from John Heppner. Thanks again to those I've mentioned in this article for getting me involved.

Bulletin Editor Report

By Jim Garus

Well finally another bulletin. We have to get our nominations done earlier this year so please do so & be sure they will make the commitment before nominating. Some great things have come since we're able to have most the club officers out in the West. One thing is the trip to the Pigeon Center in July for our President Hank and Secretary Greg. Thanks to the AHA for funding the cost of the trip. I think it's great we will be represented there at the inaugural as we are the longest standing NPA affiliate. I'm excited to finally raise the dues by \$10 per year which will help pay for our 2 guys expense. Greg & Hank have been briefed that the AHA is not like the Secret Service, no hookers. We sure haven't heard from many Directors or Vice Presidents. I assume if no one participates we will go from Directors to Dictators.

The Futurity band pool was not participated in by many (7), I hope next year more will join in & help the club, the officers can use the extra money as there may be another trip they want to take.

I have talked to many & nobody has many young. I know out West the weather is still cold at night. I myself hatched my first eggs on May 25th & hope to shut it down in July.

I understand the Washington National is coming along well, it's amazing it is as our Gorilla Mamma is involved, remember when flying in the airport is PDX – Portland Oregon is 10 minutes from the show hall. If any of you out there have a problem with Greg & Hank's trip, give me a call. If that's what it takes to hear from someone, you must care about the AHA. Well, til next time , joking not so serious.

Jim

AHA

Nominations

2013 Vancouver, WA National Show Judges

MFC: _____

MFPH: _____

SFCR: _____

SFPH: _____

Muffed: _____

Please check with the person you are nominating, to make sure they are interested in judging at this Grand National, before putting their name on the lines. Thank you.

Outstanding Member of the Year(2011): _____

Signed: _____

Return To: Greg Bliven
951 SE Academy St.
Dallas, OR 97338

Must be received by July 1

AHA Officer Nominations

President: _____

Secretary/Treasurer: _____

Western Vice President: _____

Central Vice President: _____

Eastern Vice President: _____

District Director: # _____

Publicity Director: _____

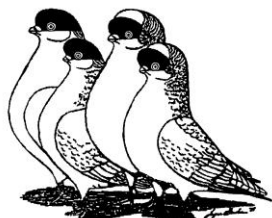
Bulletin Editor: _____

Please check with the members to make sure they are willing to do the job before nominating them. **These nominations must be received by July 1 to comply with our Constitution and By-Laws.**

Also if only one name is put down, it is an automatic, so make sure you vote for someone who will represent your district or region and are active in the club. Since everything has to go through the board of directors, let's pick officers that will take projects on and go to shows. For District Director, you only vote for your District, so put down what District you are in and who you want to vote for. If you don't know what district you are in, leave it blank and I will fill it in for you.

Member Name: _____

Signed: _____



Join the AHA!

www.americanhelmetassn.com



The American Helmet Association is devoted to the promotion, breeding, and exhibition of all varieties of helmet pigeons. Whether you've been breeding Helmets for years, or if you're just starting out, the AHA is the club to belong to!

Order Form for AHA Stuff

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Membership Dues

Adult \$15.00 /yr
Juniors \$ 5.00 /yr
Family \$20.00 /yr

Membership Cost \$ _____
Number of Years x _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____

Bands

2013 Plastic Coated Aluminum Bands \$0.45 each
2012 Regular Plastic Bands \$0.35 each
Plus \$3.00 for postage per order

Number of Bands _____

Year _____

(Min. order = 25 bands) x \$0.35

Please order in increments of 5 (25-30-35 etc.)

Cost of Bands \$ _____

Plus Postage \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please note that your membership begins the day you pay your dues. Your bulletin address label reflects your current membership term.

If you want a certain numerical range, get your order in early and specify below the range you are requesting.

Plastic Coated Aluminum Band Series 0-2699

Series Preferred: _____

Alternative Series: _____

**Send form to: Greg Bliven
951 SE Academy St.
Dallas, OR 97338
503-623-9797
grabliven@yahoo.com**