

Helmet Happenings

President's Report

By Jim Garus

Hello all Helmet enthusiast!

Well its that time of the year again to speak of the past and hope for the future. Our shows are behind us and I was finally able to attend a show and luckily it was the National. It will be a show to remember as we had one of our famous snow/ice storms arrive a few days before the show and continue during the show. Some club members had some pretty nasty drives home but all made it home safely.

As always it is fun greeting one another as we arrive from all parts of the country and Canada. I felt we had a good turnout of members and Helmets in all varieties. Dennis Manning picked a Steve Mitchell bird for champion MFC. I have not seen Steve jump that high or holler that loud in many years...congrats to Steve and it seems he has caught a second wind! Back in the day it was common to see Steve win as he had a team of Helmets anyone would love to have today. James Jensen judged the MFPH's and picked a Leonard Patito bird for champion. Steve Mitchell judged the SFC and also picked a Leonard Patito bird for champion. Way to go Leonard! Two National Champs.

One of the best parts of a Helmet show is the friendships that have developed over the years. One of our annual fun times is going out to dinner together and this year the Red Lobster was the place. Raposo was amazed by the quality of fish compared to the East coast. We all laughed and ate more then we should,especially Dennis Manning, as usual.

We did have our annual meeting and did agree to form a panel to explore a possible new point system for future shows. The shipping of birds, the cost of personal travel and the number of birds for a point show are the areas of concern. The panel exploring possible options is headed by Hank Ebbelaar. On his committee are Ernie Silveri and Bob Bollinger. I appreciate their involvement and understanding of the AHA's constitution. Members that have ideas are welcome to contact me.

As we pair up our birds I would like to see membership breed as many Helmets as possible and that does include me! I believe we should all try and show at least 8 birds at all the shows we attend. Our quality seems good but our numbers seem to be on the low side.

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District 1 Report

by K. Mike LaCom

This years Western Sectional was hosted by the LAPC annual Pageant in Ontario, California Dec. 1,2,3 of 2016. We did have a good showing of membership(and Helmets) as you can see in the photos below. In addition, we did have enough birds in all 3 main varieties for points. The 2017 Pageant will revert back to it's traditional dates of the weekend before Thanksgiving and will again be at the Ontario Convention Center. This years judging was done by Mike Cobb (MFC), Hank Ebbelaar (MFPH) and James Jensen (SFC). Many thanks for your efforts! I also wish to thank Dennis Manning and Hank Ebbelaar for their efforts in running one of our more lively and successful auctions. Over 25 Helmets were sold! Who wouldn't buy a Helmet from the guy's pictured to the right? Leonard Patito and I ran away with this years awards. Leonard in SFC and MFPH while I had the Champion and Reserve Champ MFC's.



Secretary's Report

Congratulations to all of this years winners at the NPA National show in Vancouver, Washington. The show was well attended by many AHA members. While the weather did present some challenges, I think we all had a great time. It is always nice to see so many old friends.

I would like to thank all of the judges for their time and effort, they did a fabulous job. It has been announced that the 2018 NPA National will be held in Amarillo, Texas. I hope you will make plans to be there!

For most of us the show season ends with the National. However, not in District 8 as they hold a nice little show in Hurricane, Utah. The show is usually attended by District 8 and District 1 members. This year's show was attended by six members showing over 50 MFC's with many nice birds in the show. Congratulations to Mike LaCom who totally kicked our tails.

Oh well, so much for the show season as it is time to start breeding. I will be breeding from about 30 pair this year in three varieties.

As for the club we are in great financial shape. The treasury has close to \$2000 and all bills have been paid. We do have less than 500 AHA club bands left. So if your are in need of bands get in touch with me as soon as possible. Please take the time to view the membership roster with your expiration date listed on it. At this time we have 12 members whose dues have expired or will expire shortly. If you are one of these people I hope you will continue to be part of the AHA. Please make all checks payable to the AHA. As you can see our membership has not grown much in the last few years. I would like to challenge club members to promote our club and our beautiful breed of pigeon. Hopefully, we can each sign up a new member this year.

In closing, I hope all of you have a great breeding season and I hope to see you at the shows.

AHA Secretary

Leonard Patito

AHA MASTER BREEDER HALL OF FAME

1965	Karl Cordes	MFC	1985	Lloyd/Kay Larghe	MFC	1998	Roy Hurst	MFPH
1967	Clearance Mann	Mixed	1986	Tony Patti	Mixed	2002	Bob Bollinger	MFC
1970	Vic Eshpeter	MFC	1991	Don Phy	MFC	2002	Mike Crawford	MFC
1971	Fred Smith	Mixed	1992	Don Phy	SFC	2005	Raul Delgado	MFC
1974	Ray Sanchez	Mixed	1992	James Jensen	MFC	2006	Bob Bollinger	MFPH
1981	Bruce Scott	Mixed	1996	Bob Dunlap	MFC	2013	Don Phy	MFPH
1982	Steve Mitchell	MFC	1996	Harold Strawniak	MFPH		Honorary, Myron Berger	

District 8 Report

by James Jensen

The weekend before Thanksgiving we enjoyed participating in the Salt Lake Premier show. This show has always been a highlight here in Utah. Having the show two weeks later this year helped the birds to be more finished. We had 29 Helmets entered and shown by James Jensen, Steve Mitchell and Mark Etherington. Orrie Moore served as our judge. It was James Jensen's show. He had Champion, first reserve and second reserve in MFC crested helmets as well as Champion MFPH helmets. James red old cock #571 also went on to be the best fancy pigeon in the show. Helmets may be small in numbers but they still have an impact on the overall show. It was nice to see Keith Edwards at the show once again. We hope that he and Bill Martindale will show with us again in the future.

This year I have raised many more hens than cock helmets. It seems that all the cocks have been badly mismarked. I was pleased to come home from the Pageant and turn my birds loose only to see my bird that just won best black young hen at the Pageant start strutting around and chasing hens. HOORAY, I now have a young cock that is cleanly marked. He is also small and has a fantastic crest, great head and type. I have been needing something to bring down the size on my birds and I think I have now found it. We shall see. Christmas came a little early this year!

Hurricane Show Report

Show / Club:	Hurricane	Medium Face Crested
Location:	Hurricane, Utah	
Date:	February 3,4 2017	
Judge:	Mike Spence	
District Director:	James Jensen	
District:	8	Event:
Number Shown:	52	Total in Event: 52
Number Exhibitors:	6	Number Districts: 2

Place	Band	Color	Class	Exhibitor / Breeder
1	530	Yellow	OC	K.M. LaCom
2	1139	Red	OC	S. Mitchell
3	652	Yellow	YH	K.M. LaCom
4	514	Yellow	OH	K.M. LaCom
5	2865	Red	YC	M. Etherington
6	698	Yellow	YC	K.M. LaCom
7	517	Red	OH	K.M. LaCom
8	815	Blue	OH	M. Etherington
9	640	Dun	YH	J. Jensen
10	615	Red	YH	J. Jensen
11	1251	Black	OH	L. Patito
12	572	Dun	OC	J. Jensen
13	1067	Blue	OC	L. Patito
14	10	Blue	YC	S. Mitchell
15	19	Black	YH	S. Mitchell
16	1103	Black	YC	M. Etherington
17	3980	Dun	OH	J. Jensen
18	528	Blue	YH	L. Patito
19	1231	Silver	OH	L. Patito
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Exhibitors:	Districts:	Exhibitors:
James Jensen	8	
Steve Mitchell	8	
Mark Etherington	8	
Chet Edmunds	1	
Leonard Patito	1	
K. Mike LaCom	1	



District 8 Report

by James Jensen

It appears that we have made it through another winter. Here in Utah we have had almost double the amount of snowfall as normal this season. I am sure glad to see the grass again.

The first weekend of February we enjoyed our annual trip to southern Utah to the Hurricane show. It is always nice to go south and get a break from winter in northern Utah. This year we had three exhibitors from Utah and three from California, showing a total of 52 MFC Helmets. It's always fun to have one more show to spend with friends. Being this late, some of those late hatches were in show condition.

Mike Spence was our judge. This was his first time of judging that large a group of helmets, but he did a great job. The show belonged to Mike LaCom. He had five out of the top seven birds. Champion was a beautiful LaCom yellow old cock. Reserve went to a powerful red old cock which was shown by Steve Mitchell. This was the first time the red had been shown. Second reserve went to Mike LaCom's yellow young hen.

The competition was great but the fellowship was better. We enjoyed the local Chinese buffet Friday night, told a lot of stories, and had a lot of laughs. We were pleased to get Mike Gardner from Payson, Utah started in helmets. He will be a real asset to the breed.

I'm putting my pairs together for the new breeding season. What a lot of commotion! I'll be breeding from 10 pair of MFC this year. See you at the fall shows.

The man that does it all. Awards, paper work, and picture taking!

Luckily I got a shot of it.
KML



Grand National, Vancouver, Wa. 2017



Mitchell's Champion MFC

Patito's Champions MFPH & SFC

Manning's Champion SFPH

AHA members at the National



My Life with Helmets

Jim Garus

Many years of friends and Helmets has resulted in no birthday or anniversary celebrations at home. Yes, this is true for me! I always try to attend the Pageant as that is where my pigeon career started which falls on my birthday. The National is always the weekend of our anniversary! I can say, pigeons and being married to Judy have been the highlights of my life.

My life with pigeons started in a friends backyard around 1958 in Southern California when I was about 11. A bunch of us were playing marbles and I noticed a kid had pigeons. I asked about them and he informed me they were White Kings. As I inquired more, I realized many of the kids also had pigeons of their own. After that day, I too had pigeons, as well as many other types of birds over the years. Even when I was in the U.S. Navy my parents took care of them for me. I remember as a kid buying an existing loft and wheeling it through the neighborhood on wagons. I have always enjoyed building bird cages, nest boxes, lofts, and dreaming about building the ultimate loft. Before I could drive I would take the local bus to the pet store. It was common for me to carry a hundred pound bag of feed back home on the bus! In addition, I would take chickens and or pigeons to sell on the bus...I must have been quite a sight! It was on one of these trips that a man at the pet store gave me some names of other kids that had pigeons in another part of town. Well, one of these kids had two names which I thought was kind of weird and I was not too sure if I needed to meet him. I did call him and the rest is history as we all know him as Karl/Mike LaCom. Meeting Karl has led to a lifelong friendship that we enjoy daily. Very seldom does a day go by that we don't talk and it is not just about pigeons! When we met, neither of us was old enough to drive so we relied on our parents or our bicycles to visit pet stores and pigeon breeders. We both had Helmets and Nuns. I will say our Nuns were much better than todays as they were typy and smaller. We had a National Champion at the Long Beach National @1965. We would still be raising Nuns today if they had not changed them into a utility breed. Slightly before this time, we began showing pigeons at the Pomona Fair and the Pageant which occasionally was held in our home town of Glendale. At one of these shows I remember seeing a yellow Helmet cock of Vic Eshpeter's that really impressed me and increased my enthusiasm for Helmets. I was @13 and he must have been 70.!!! I remember being taller than him AND I still am! My favorite show was the Pomona Fair. A first place bird usually paid \$4.00 ... a good sum of money in those days. Our mentor in those days was Jim Bishop who had several breeds with one of those being Helmets. At this time of my life I do not remember ever plucking a bird for a show. However, one year I did try bluing and yes I used too much and you know the results. Those were good years as I remember being hauled around in my cousins 1962 silver Pontiac Bonneville convertible. Karl went with me to Glen Arthurs in San Bernardino to buy Helmets. I can still picture the black cock I bought that day some 55 years later.

Finally, Karl and I were old enough to drive and we would get to use one of our parents cars to go to pigeon shows. We also attended the LAPC meetings and mingle with the greats of the time. When we were not doing pigeons, Karl would be doing sports and studying while I was cutting school....and we won't mention what else I did. Finally we both got our own cars! I had a 1958 Corvette and Karl had a 1967 Camaro. Gasoline was 19 cents a gallon, so we raced on the incomplete freeways and cruised most of the weekend nites! So besides pigeons, we frequently went to the drag races. Besides that we both had street motorcycles and off rode motorcycles. The fun had to end for awhile with me heading for the Navy and Karl to college. Four years later we picked up where we left off. However, the time had come for both of us to start our families and Judy and I moved to Oregon.

After moving to Oregon I continued my pigeon hobby. Judy and I bought an old farm house on 13 acres. This gave me plenty of room for pigeons but more importantly our 3 boys had the room for cattle and hogs which they also showed. I learned that Karl was out of birds and both of us were busy with jobs and families so there was not much correspondence. I stayed with the Helmets longer but I too decided to get out for awhile. I loaned my birds to Bob Bollinger and Mike Crawford. Upon getting them back, I decided to sell out. As I remember, Raul bought a couple of pairs of nice blacks(Phy stock) and Don Phy the rest. Shortly after this I was able to reconnect with Karl. He said "Guess What?" I am back in Helmets! He had met Steve Mitchell and James Jensen at the Pageant. I told him I had sold mine less then a year ago! Well, this brought back old memories and I had to get Helmets again but I was not ready to keep them. Don Phy did not have Helmets at this time, so we got together and went bird shopping. It was decided that he would keep and raise the Helmets. I can remember getting a really nice cock bird from Bob Bollinger and Don went to Louisville and obtained some more nice birds. I also picked up a nice black from Jensen. Don raised some nice birds but decided not to partner with me anymore. I had Don ship a few to Karl...so we were both really back in Helmets @2002. I decided I needed more and I set up a visit with James Jensen. James treated me very well and said anything in the loft is available except for a few. Well, I think I bought at least 10 on that trip. One was a red cock, band number 511. It had a great beak setting. When I decided to get back in Helmets I told myself I am breeding for a good beak setting. In my opinion, the beak setting on a Tumbler is a feature we want in our Helmets. The only Helmet breeder I have heard mention this feature has been Tony Patti. Like myself, we both have bred clean leg Tumblers which have a great beak set. My 511 had that feature and through the years was responsible for many great Helmets. I loaned that bird or his young to Phy, LaCom, Raposo, and all did well with his off spring. This was an awesome pigeon and I thank James for parting with him. About this time I also went to Louisville and picked up a top quality black from Raul. This pigeon only bred me four young before dying, but one offspring, a black hen, produced for me (and others) many good blacks. That is pretty much where I am today with Helmets.

I have been rambling on about 50+ years of good times, but I need to get to the "meat and potatoes" of my thought on our hobby. So here goes.

As of Nov.9th, 2016, it seems as though being not politically correct is OK, I agree, lets tell it like it is. So, I will tell you my thoughts and opinions, if I offend anyone you can go protest somewhere.

First, Nov. 9th was a great day for America and that is not up for debate. I feel I have developed some great friendships with many club members, but I do not believe I will always have pigeons. I continue to call former Helmet breeders, not about birds, but because of them. This has become more important and fun for me than the birds.

Second, I remember the AHA with almost 300 members and now we have 50+. In my opinion there have been many factors that have contributed to this, one of which is today's society/life style. Remember my mentioning hauling a loft on wagons to raise pigeons. No way today! You would need a permit and would be lucky to have 12 birds. Our hobby is not youth friendly anymore, especially if you live in the city. 4 H is way smaller than it use to be. We use to have guys getting back in pigeons that had birds in their youth. Unfortunately there aren't many of them left. As a result, our shows are getting smaller. I think we need to find a way to increase our district shows. Also, the cost of flying, lodging, meals, etc. has really gone up. So now I think a Sectional or District meet is a good way to present our breed. It has become harder to travel to National shows as most of us are 70+ or -.

Thirdly, most of us are keeping less pigeons which I believe is due to time, money, and energy. However, when attending and showing I think it is always good to take a couple extra birds for a possible new Helmet breeder. Newer members should make some calls early in the season to hopefully add to their family as most of us don't keep many extra birds anymore. I encourage membership to share their birds (which many of you do) to stimulate our breed. I also think \$100 to \$200 per bird is not out of line these days. We all know they are hard to raise and very time consuming. The above mentioned cost to me is well worth it for a good bird. Many of you know I have spent far more, but it quickly boosted my quality. Then, I could also sell off a few for \$100 or more that would also help other breeders. In a few years, they will have improved their family of birds and I will have had my investment returned. I see and know guys that can afford to do this but don't, and their birds do not advance. That is their call but trust me, you usually get what you pay for. I have done this through the years with Don Phy. Don has been a tremendous breeder. We both enjoyed staying up for hours going through his birds. I was always excited when I left Don's, as his policy was anything in his loft was for sale. I always came home with something and it was usually from the top. Thanks Don, for making good stock available!

Fourth is Judging. Many of us discuss the judging at shows and the standard that a judge is to go by. I feel our Helmet drawing is excellent and is a replica that we are still striving for. I have bred thousands of Helmets through the years and can only remember a few that came close to our drawing. They are difficult to make and reproduce. When one judges, he may have 100 Helmets to judge and none of them fit that standard. He still needs to judge towards the standard. It is my feeling judges usually don't do this and therefore exhibitors don't get a fair shake on what they have been striving for during the breeding season. We all could write and talk about this forever, but then we get a judge that zones in or out on individual features and misses the total package. I realize you need to pick a champion, but picking poor color, long legs, down set, etc. just takes us away from our standard. You know I like beak setting and what it does for a bird. It gives it an appearance of having top skull and a good roll off of the wattle flowing into the back skull. This feature also seems to get them to stand upright, hence causing a good station and eye/feet placement. The black cock from Raul that I mentioned earlier had a golf ball head and he reproduced it on a daughter. That is what we want and they are awesome! I do think as membership seems to be keeping less birds, this should be a trait to breed and cull for. I sometimes think many of our judges don't know what I am referring to...I hope not. In the last few years, finding a judge has been tough and using members decreases our show numbers. In California, they have been using Brian McCormick and Mike Cobb. Both men seem to be doing a great job. They are not Helmet guys and therefore focus on the standard whereas our own guys have a tendency to swing toward their personal likes. In finishing this point, I would say we will never have a perfect judge. Someday we might have computers doing the job and this still will NOT satisfy everyone. If you are called on to be a judge I would recommend the following. Do not be in a hurry. Speak in a clear voice. Say why you lined the class up in the order you placed them. Face the exhibitors when stating your decisions.

Finishing Up. I have been fortunate for many years to attend many shows and visit many lofts. As my old memory remembers, there are a few Helmet families that I was always impressed with. In the late 80's, Steve Mitchell had a cute family of MFC's in all colors. Steve's birds were consistent in style, color and could get up on their toes! One did not need to be a Helmet breeder to know they were related. They didn't exaggerate in any feature but were well balanced and stood proud. The next family of birds I liked was John Heppner's that were also from the late 80's. I remember John coming to Washington and judging our District Show. He bought a red hen from me that was the Reserve Champion for \$80.00 No one could believe \$80 for a Helmet! However, John later told me that this bird built his foundation for a family that was way ahead of it's time. His birds at the Milwaukee National were awesome, great rosettes and feather length, but still were short and stylish. A very hard combination to achieve. His birds went on to do very well. So well, I remember that when I judged at Louisville his Champion was the father of the Reserve Champion, his son, and I believe the band number was 3000. I also picked that bird Champion later that year at the Salt Lake City National. I wish I had that family of birds today. Also back in the 80's, I was approached by a cowboy at the Portland National wanting to buy a red hen. His name was Don Phy. That day began a friendship that has, was, and still is. I believe his blues were some of the best colored blues I had ever seen. Some we see today may go back to his family but not quite of his quality. Two breeders that currently have developed a good family of birds are John Raposo and Karl LaCom. Karl enjoys yellows, as we know, but as I have learned over many years it is hard to be competitive in this color. Well, his are competitive and do stand up to the other colors...well balanced birds. John has a red family that reminds me of Heppner's old family, very typy and balanced. He and I met @10 years ago and decided to do some bird loaning. I had feather length and he had size. Well by helping each other we have improved our birds. A hard combination to keep the small size and add feather length. Most of the time this does not mix well.

I promise this is my last topic. One of my personal beefs. I believe the AHA should have a Master Showman and not a Master Breeder. I prepare my birds 2 or 3 days before the show. This is about all the time I have with my schedule. In addition, I am old, my fingers are big, eyesight isn't what it use to be, and my patience is short. Mine get a bath and fluff them up and off to the show. At the show it is like a beauty contest. OK, yes they are going to be judged. My thoughts are, with my many years of being around Helmets, prepping a bird falls under showmanship not master breeder. I feel you can only breed a bird so far, but you can prepare all birds to look much different than they really are.

That's it! It has been fun reminiscing, I must say my life would have been much different if the above story hadn't happened. It is amazing what those little birds that God created have meant to all of us. As I said, the friendship we have made is what it is all about. The birds may go away but the memories and friends will be with me till my last breath.

Politically correct is out and if I upset someone I say GOOD as that causes debate and debate lays it on the table for discussion.

So, I am the President and if ya don't like it ...Impeach Me! Jim

Sixty-nine Years with Helmets by Steve Mitchell

Well, it is really hard to realize that I have had Helmets for over 69 years. It must be true love! I don't think my wife is too jealous, since she has shared 56 of those years married to me, plus she knew for 4 years before while dating that pigeons were part of my life. It has never been boring and we have enjoyed many fun trips and friends because of pigeons. I would like to share some of my experiences with raising Helmets in Utah. My main interest has been in the MFC Helmet, although I did win the National in SFC one year and then sold all of them. Like many of you, I have been thrilled by my successes and discouraged by losses. I have judged and been judged. I have struggled with changes in the breed and learned much from many of you. I have also enjoyed the honor of Master Breeder with the AHA, the NPA, and the Utah Pigeon Club. In 2009, while we were serving our LDS mission in New Jersey, I even had the opportunity to judge at the New York Big Apple Show. It is fun to have friends at every show anywhere that I have gone and lofts to visit.

As I reflect upon my years as a Helmet enthusiast, what stands out are not triumphs and defeats but the many neat people whom I have known who also share my love of the birds. I could fill a book with the names of all the great men I have known who raise pigeons. One who is very special to me is the living prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints...Thomas S. Monson. I have met him several times thru the years because he raised pigeons and his son still does. In this article, I will mention only a few who have influenced my birds and my hobby.

I got my first pigeon in 1947 at the age of seven. This bird was a Black Magpie Kormorner that was blind in one eye. I bought it for a dime. My Dad had pigeons too, so I am sure some of my interest was inherited. I have raised 4 sons and 2 daughters who helped in the lofts and some picked up the fancy, but at this time only one son still raises birds....because finding homes where you can have birds is not as easy as it use to be. But it was a great way to teach responsibility and how to stick to a job. Thru the years, I raised different breeds. None of these birds intrigued me like my first Helmets. I got my first pair in 1953. They were reds that I obtained from a Mr. Myers. At this point, I thought they only came in red because that was all I had ever seen in Utah. I participated in my first show in 1954, entering eight birds. I won four ribbons at the show and was very pleased with my success. I didn't win my first trophy for another six years.

Originally, the only thing I culled for was markings and a good red eye cere. That was all I was told that you wanted in a good Helmet. In trying to expand my little flock, I put many miles on my bike riding around Salt Lake City. Around 1957, I raised a black out of my reds. I could not believe my eyes! Boy, was I a proud young breeder. I thought I had performed a rare genetic feat...Oh the Bliss of Youth! Fortunately, I soon discovered an easier way to obtain color variations in my flock...which was purchasing power. I got my first yellow from H.O. Christianson. A Mr. Malcolm had the only blues I had seen. I bought a pair of blues from him and my first black cock from Mr. Holland. At that time, my goal was to have a pair of every type of pigeon I had ever seen. I proceeded with this goal for a few years. By 1955 I had thirty to thirty-five breeds which included two pair of Nuns. Because the Nuns constantly fought I traded them to a local pigeon dealer, Jack Denture, for 3 red Helmets. After obtaining these Helmets I slowly began getting rid of other breeds and concentrated on Helmets.

In 1958, I won my first champion Helmet at the Utah State Fair with a daughter of my first black hen. She was also black. By then I also had my blues going and found out they came from the New York area. It was at this show that a man told me that some men had formed a new club for Helmets in Los Angeles at the Pageant of Pigeons. He told me that he had mentioned me to them and suggested that I contact the secretary of this new club. So I did. That was the beginning of a long friendship with John McClanahan and his wife Mary. John was a real backbone behind the club in those days. We talked often on the phone, but I didn't meet John until 1966 when I was in California on business. There was also a fellow named Bob Braswell who had some very nice Helmets and was hard to beat. About this time I received a letter from John McClanahan welcoming me to the club and indicating that I was the first member to join after the founding meeting.

Another Helmet breeder that comes to mind is Karl Cordes and also a bunch of fine breeders in Washington. Karl and I exchanged birds for many years. He and his wife came to visit me in 1969. On this trip he told me a funny story that I have laughed about for years. He said that while driving down to Utah he had seen a sign over a little house that said, "we buy junk and sell antiques." I have for many years also been an "antique" collector.....so I guess my wife and I now have a lot of "junk" ??? Good stuff!! Karl was the first Master Breeder in the Helmets. I have missed his help and knowledge of breeding since his death in 1991 and have to give him a lot of credit for my success.

Back in 1959, James Meyers had the best Helmets. I could not beat him. In 1962 James left Utah to serve a mission for LDS and I was able to purchase most of his birds. Also at that time, Ted Christianson (son of H.O.) had some very nice reds and yellows and was also hard to beat. I enjoyed the competition with Ted with each of us winning some and losing some. About this time I ran a newspaper ad to sell some birds. James Jensen and his brother Alan answered my ad and thus began a life-long friendship.

In 1960, I went into the Air Force National Guard and farmed out my birds to different men for six months. In 1964, I moved to Lyman, Wyoming which was the first time I had to build a new loft away from my parents home in Salt Lake City. While there, I met Charlie Amsler in Evanston and got him interested in Helmets. Charlie later became president of the AHA. After living in Wyoming a few years I moved to Honeyville in northern Utah. Then three years later to Sandy, Utah about 100 miles further south. Then after another 3 years back north about 50 miles to Kaysville, Utah. Keeping my birds wasn't that difficult while moving these short distances because I had built a modular pen to pull apart and move with me. It was much more of a feat, however, when I moved to Colorado in 1974 and back to Utah again few years later. In Colorado, I had built a new pen, not the modular kind, so we put it on a trailer and brought it with us. It was quite a sight! I put a sign on the back of the pen that said, "Utah or Bust". My kids could have shot me, but it was a necessity because at that time we moved to 10 acres of land without a house. It took a few weeks living with relatives in Salt Lake and in our barn before we got a mobile home for the family of 5 children. In the following year we built a home on the property. Yes, pigeons and family have made our lives a real adventure. I have been living in Kaysville, Utah since 1976 and for years only added new lofts to the old one. In 1981, James Jensen and I again crossed paths. He was living in Canada and wanted to get back into Helmets. I shipped him several pair. He and his sons learned to love the birds all over again. In 1990, we sold 2 acres of our land to James and he built a fabulous loft with a gate in the fence between our two lofts. So we spent many hours with our birds. Even though we both moved around a bunch, we renewed our friendship again when we finally settled down to raise our families in Kaysville. I guess we both got a little restless (don't want to admit it was our old age) and James built a new one level home on the other part of his property and a new loft. James Jensen is a great asset to the clubs and to the hobby. He is also a fine showman as he can put a bird into condition that is a joy to see! These days, he is extremely hard to beat. In 2007, we built a new home only three miles from the old house. Once again I put my lofts on trailers and moved them to the new home, leaving my son to move the old loft a hundred feet to raise his pigeons.

Lately, we have had some really good years at the Pageant, Nationals and Utah shows, keeping up the competition with some great breeders and friends. Win some and lose some but still forever friends and love the great competition that makes feeding everyday worth the effort. My wife and I have really enjoyed the long friendships with the following and their wives....Mike LaCom, Leonard Patito, Jim Garus, Chet Edmunds, Dennis Manning, Mark Etherington and of course James Jensen to name a few. In addition, the many years spent with Vic Eshpeter and Hank Ebbelaar at many Nationals. I guess some of us can say we've been around for a long time! I am very fond of Helmets but the friends I have made while raising birds have become more important to me than the birds themselves. I have seen a lot of people come and go but I feel we have as good a bunch as ever in the AHA. True, we have lost some good people along the way. If I were to include all of the people I have enjoyed associating with thru Helmets this column would be a novel! I have only tried to mention a few. In conclusion, I would like to thank all of you with who I have associated for being my friends and making the hobby so enjoyable. I consider it an honor to be associated with you and the AHA.

Steve Mitchell

Show Reports Western Sectional

Show / Club:	Pageant, LAPC, Sectional	Medium Face Crested	
Location:	Ontario, California		
Date:	December 1-3, 2016		
Judge:	Jensen, Ebbelaar, Cobb	M. Cobb	
District Director:	K.M. LaCom		
District:	1	Event:	Sectional
Number Shown:	53	Total in Event:	91
Number Exhibitors:	8	Number Districts:	4

Place	Band	Color	Class	Exhibitor / Breeder
1	652	Yellow	YH	K.M.LaCom
2	517	Red	OH	K.M.LaCom
3	591	Blue	YC	L.Patito
4	1359	Blue	OC	L.Patito
5	579	Dun	OH	J.Jensen
6	609	Black	OC	D. Manning
7	639	Dun	YH	J.Jensen
8	523	Blue	YH	L.Patito
9	1433	Black	OH	L. Bollinger
10	649	Black	YH	J. Jensen
11	1868	Yellow	OH	L. Bollinger
12	1231	Silver	OH	L.Patito
13	414	Red	YH	C. Edmunds
14	571	Red	OC	J. Jensen
15	650	Yellow	YC	K.M.LaCom
16	680	Red	YC	K.M.LaCom
17	530	Yellow	OC	K.M.LaCom
18	1103	Black	YC	D. Manning
19	911	Blue	OH	L.Patito

...
Exhibitors:	Districts:	Exhibitors:		
D. Manning	2			
H. Ebbelaar	2			
J. Jensen	8			
M. Etherington	8			
L. Bollinger	7			
C. Edmunds	1			
L. Patito	1			
K.M.LaCom	1			

Show / Club:	Pageant, LAPC, Sectional	Medium Face Plainhead	
Location:	Ontario, California		
Date:	December 1-3, 2016		
Judge:	Jensen, Ebbelaar, Cobb	H. Ebbelaar	
District Director:	K.M. LaCom		
District:	1	Event:	
Number Shown:	20	Total in Event:	91
Number Exhibitors:	3	Number Districts:	3

Place	Band	Color	Class	Exhibitor / Breeder
1	4999	Blue	OH	L.Patito
2	935	Yellow	OH	L.Patito
3	1230	Silver	OH	L.Patito
4	508	Yellow	YC	L.Patito
5	1651	Red	OC	D. Manning
6	915	Yellow	OC	L.Patito
7	614	Dun	OH	D. Manning
8	622	Yellow	YH	J. Jensen
9	1125	Ash Red	YC	D. Manning
10	1233	Silver	OC	L.Patito
11	501	Blue	YC	L.Patito
12	1229	Blue	OC	L.Patito
13	1110	Dun	YH	D. Manning
	1298			L.Patito

...
Exhibitors:	Districts:	Exhibitors:		
D. Manning	2			
J. Jensen	8			
L. Patito	1			

Show / Club:	Pageant, LAPC, Sectional	Short Face Crested	
Location:	Ontario, California		
Date:	December 1-3, 2016		
Judge:	Jensen, Ebbelaar, Cobb	J. Jensen	
District Director:	K.M. LaCom		
District:	1	Event:	Sectional
Number Shown:	17	Total in Event:	91
Number Exhibitors:	4	Number Districts:	2

Place	Band	Color	Class	Exhibitor / Breeder
1	4998	Red	OC	L.Patito
2	752	Red	OC	J. Pace
3	215	Red	YH	Z. Kuna
4	500	Red	YC	L.Patito
5	4711	Yellow	OH	H.Ebbelaar
6	722	Red	OH	J. Pace
7	209	Black	OC	Z. Kuna
8	115	Blue	OC	Z. Kuna

...
Exhibitors:	Districts:	Exhibitors:		
J. Pace	1			
L. Patito	1			
Z. Kuna	1			
H. Ebbelaar	2			



Show reports Grand National

Show / Club:	Grand National	Medium Face Crested
Location:	Vancouver, Washington	
Date:	Jan. 2017	
Judge:	Manning, Mitchell, Jensen	
District Director:	Dennis Manning	
District:	2	Event:
Number Shown:	57	Total in Event: 112
Number Exhibitors:	9	Number Districts: 6

Place	Band	Color	Class	Exhibitor / Breeder
1	1140	Red	OH	S. Mitchell
2	616	Black	YH	J. Jensen
3	184	Dun	OH	J. Jensen
4	184	Dun	OH	J. Garus
5	332	Black	OH	K.M. LaCom
6	126	Blue	OH	J. Garus
7	5575	Black	OC	J. Jensen
8	1873	Red	OC	L. Bollinger
9	335	Yellow	YC	J. Raposo
10	807	Blue	YH	A. Hansen
11	337	Red	YH	J. Raposo
12	1359	Blue	OC	L. Patito
13	442	Dun	OC	K.M. LaCom
14	649	Black	YC	J. Jensen
15	310	Yellow	YH	J. Raposo
16	580	Yellow	OC	J. Jensen
17	344	Red	YC	J. Raposo
18	1080	Blue	YC	A. Hansen
19	1231	Silver	OH	L. Patito
...

Exhibitors:	Districts:	Exhibitors:
J. Jensen	8	
S. Mitchell	8	
L. Patito	1	
K.M. LaCom	1	
H. Ebbelaar	2	
J. Garus	2	
A. Hansen	9	
J. Raposo	5	
L. Bollinger	7	

Show / Club:	Grand National	Short Face Plainhead
Location:	Vancouver, Washington	
Date:	Jan. 2017	
Judge:	Manning, Mitchell, Jensen	
District Director:	Dennis Manning	
District:	2	Event:
Number Shown:	2	Total in Event: 112
Number Exhibitors:	2	Number Districts: 2

Place	Band	Color	Class	Exhibitor / Breeder
1	694	Red	YC	D. Manning
2	1362	Ash	YC	T. Heidrich

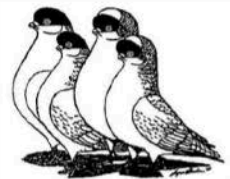
Show / Club:	Grand National	Medium Face Plainhead
Location:	Vancouver, Washington	
Date:	Jan. 2017	
Judge:	Manning, Mitchell, Jensen	
District Director:	Dennis Manning	
District:	2	Event:
Number Shown:	29	Total in Event: 112
Number Exhibitors:	4	Number Districts: 3

Place	Band	Color	Class	Exhibitor / Breeder
1	4999	Blue	OH	L. Patito
2	1276	Silver	OC	L. Patito
3	1623	Blue	OC	D. Manning
4	1663	AOC	OH	D. Manning
5	1214	Silver	OH	L. Patito
6	1662	Black	OH	D. Manning
7	904	Red	OH	L. Patito
8	935	Yellow	OH	L. Patito
9	120	Yellow	YC	E. Silveri
10	915	Yellow	OC	L. Patito
11	1154	Yellow	YH	D. Manning
12	614	Dun	OH	D. Manning
13	1161	Red	YC	D. Manning
14	509	Blue	YC	L. Patito
15	104	Dun	YH	E. Silveri
16	1141	AOC	YC	D. Manning
17	135	Black	YC	E. Silveri
18	533	Blue	YH	L. Patito
19	1125	ASH	YC	D. Manning
20	1647	Red	OH	D. Manning
21	1121	Black	YH	D. Manning
...

Exhibitors:	Districts:	Exhibitors:
L. Patito	1	
D. Manning	2	
H. Ebbelaar	2	
E. Silveri	9	

Show / Club:	Grand National	Medium Face Plainhead
Location:	Vancouver, Washington	
Date:	Jan. 2017	
Judge:	Manning, Mitchell, Jensen	
District Director:	Dennis Manning	
District:	2	Event:
Number Shown:	24	Total in Event: 112
Number Exhibitors:	6	Number Districts: 4

Place	Band	Color	Class	Exhibitor / Breeder
1	4998	Red	OC	L. Patito
2	631	Red	OC	D. Manning
3	500	Red	YC	L. Patito
4	1380	Blue	YH	T. Heidrich
5	4711	Yellow	OH	H. Ebbelaar
6	2270	Black	OC	D. Manning
7	1140	Black	YC	D. Manning
8	1367	Black	YH	T. Heidrich
9	1123	Red	YH	D. Manning
10	1387	Ash Red	YH	T. Heidrich
11	1350	Ash Red	YC	T. Heidrich
12	1608	Blue	OH	D. Manning
13	413	Red	OH	H. Ebbelaar
14	1640	Blue	OC	D. Manning



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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!

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