

# Helmet Happenings

## What's Inside?

President's Report	1
National Judges	1
Republished Article	2
A Helmet Is Not Good Just Because It Is Small!	2
Secretary's Report	3
Financial Report	3
District 8 Report	4
Member Picture	4
District 7 Show Report	5
AHA Order Form	6
Common Sense & Manners	7

## President's Report

By Hank Ebbelaar

Well is that time again, so here goes. Because I am not an author, and not much of a writer, I have been reading old AHA bulletins to see what the topics of conversation were at that time.

It is interesting to note that everything comes in a full circle. It seems that years ago, getting members to nominate &/or vote on officers, it was not much better than it is now.

Getting people to write a few lines seems to be like pulling teeth. I've got news for you. Going to the dentist is not so bad. They use Novocain now days. Lol.

Seriously, we need material to put in the bulletin. Three people can't do it all alone. One thing I read about back in 2003 and again in 2005 was inconsistency in judging. So I hope I can do something about it at the next national in Vancouver. I am going to have pictures of both MFC & MFP and mark all the parts of the Helmet, and then mark all the points given the area by our standard. Then put 4 or 5 birds on display and have a senior member judge them. He will give the birds the points he thinks they deserve.

We will also judge the birds. We will add up the points and see where we stand. We can then compare and see how close we are to each other. I know the ET people do this and so do the Domestic Show Flights.

In rereading one of Bob Bollinger's letters he touched on a very important subject. I would like to republish it in the bulletin (see insert) for your serious consideration. Let me know what you are thinking.

Yours in the fancy

Hank.

## National Judges

MFC – Gary Parsons    MFPH – Hank Ebbelaar    SFC – John DeCarlo Jr  
SFPH – John DeCarlo Jr    Muff – Vic Eshpeter

## Get Your Bulletin By E-mail

If you want to get your AHA bulletin by email send your correct email address to Greg Bliven at [grabliven@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

## **Bulletin Article Republished**

By Bob Bollinger

The AHA is one of the most organized and well planned specialty clubs in the NPA. The club rules are well documented with clear intentions set out in the preamble of all the documents. Lately we have found that there are a few gaps in consistency but realistically the AHA guiding principles are sound and well understood. There has been much debate about potential clarifying rule changes. This may be helpful but I would suggest that the club look even broader at the club rules and structure. If changes are made, go big and do it once and be done with it. In reviewing and digitizing the AHA documents I saw a consistent theme of minor changes sporadically over the years. While these changes were generally well intentioned, it seems that the piece meal nature of the changes lead to ambiguities which are the subject of recent discussions. Also consider club structure, do we really need out long list of Directors and Officers? The current officer list has 22 officer positions. If all the offices were filled, at current membership levels, approximately 1 in every 4 members would be an officer. That is a top heavy organization. Maybe it would be better to just have the sectional VP's versus a lot of directors? There could be other options, but I think the club would be far more nimble, decisive, and action oriented with less positions. The people in key roles could be expected to work hard, get things done, and then rotate out to share the work load. Next I think about show reports. The system has worked well in the past but let's face it, you need to use a computer or be a mathematician to calculate points. Then copy your form in triplicate and send it to 3 different people. Is it any wonder that few reports are completed? I suggest the forms could be simplified, set out a fixed amount of points for district, sectional, and national meets. If a threshold of exhibitors and birds are met, then the points are a given. Yes, I know that in theory our math was intended to reward bird count, number of exhibitors and etc. However in today's word, I am not really sure those incentives are producing birds at the shows. Maybe have the forms sent just to the bulletin editor or website where the secretary, point's director and others can pull from the bulletin or download what they need. There have been recent discussions about people's behavior. Maybe a code of conduct section could be added to set out expectations for all members. I'm sure there are other things that can be addressed as well. The AHA Constitution, By-Laws and Master Breeder program fill 20 pages, not counting several pages of records of revisions. Maybe there is just too much overhead in the system. My suggestion would be for a committee to look at the breadth of club rules and trim them down. Very simple very clear "bullet point rules" could be created that maintain the intent and principles that have served the AHA very well over the last 50 years. In today's realities, I think simplicity and clarity are king. If you address rule changes be comprehensive, clear, and short.

## **A Helmet Is Not Good Just Because It Is Small!**

By John Heppner

First of all I want to thank Dennis Manning for the very informative and interesting article he wrote in the last bulletin. When you discuss the progress of the Helmet pigeon itself the bulletin becomes a great thing to read. I would not be writing this article if Dennis had not written his.

I liked what Dennis wrote and showed in his article but a discussion of the size of the helmet is not complete unless you mention width of body. One needs to mention much more than mere width. You need a full chest, actually the chest thrust forward and then some decent underbody.

Too many small Helmets have weak chests or bodies. When the Standard calls for "cobby" that means short and wide. The small Helmet without a cobby body looks wimpy. When the Helmet was down sized in measurement people succeeded in getting them smaller but along the way, many but not all, lost body width or cobbiness of body.

I am not against a smaller helmet but to look really good it needs good width and depth of chest.

## **Secretary's Report**

Breeding season is over for most of us. I think I have a few nice ones, but won't know for sure until the finish moulting. I banded about 25, so much better than the 3 from last year. I am looking forward to the show season and think we could have a very large National. I hope everyone has a great show season and I look forward to seeing many of you at the shows.

## **Members past due**

Bill Beaver, Bob Bollinger, Joyce Cap, Stephen Combs, Vic Eshpeter, Betty & Pat Flinn, Jim Garus, Bill Harnett, Donna Johnston, Kenyon Jorgenson, Bob Lien, Aaron Lorton, Giulio Marcoccia, Pablo Diaz Menindez, Paul McRae, Gary Parsons, Steve Petitto, Richard Ronevich, Mike Seiler, & Jim Shackleton, Jeffrey Simpson.

## **Members whose membership will expire before the next bulletin**

Dennis Bray, Joseph Corradino, Raul Delgado, Chet Edmunds, Galen Goshron, Joe Granger, John Heppner, John Hoekstra, Bob Jackson Family, James Jensen, Giulio Marcoccia, William Martindale, Leonard Patito, Tony Patti, Wesley Pfadenhauer, John Raposo, Danny Revolinsky, Hugh Rynn, Ernie Silveri,

## **JUN-SEP 2012 FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **INCOME**

DUES	\$45.00
BANDS & Registration	\$21.00
BAND POSTAGE	\$0.00
SHIRTS, CAPS, PINS, PATCH	\$0.00
NATIONAL AUCTION	\$0.00
NATIONAL SHOW REBATE	\$0.00
DONATIONS	\$0.00
Futurity	\$0.00
<b><u>TOTAL INCOME</u></b>	<b>\$66.00</b>

### **EXPENSES**

	\$0.00
BULLETIN PRINTING	\$41.91
BULLETIN POSTAGE	\$47.70
POSTAGE	\$14.15
SUPPLIES	\$0.00
2012 NATIONAL AWARDS	\$0.00
SHIPPING	\$0.00
NATIONAL AD	\$0.00
NATIONAL AUCTION	\$0.00
WEB SITES	\$0.00
2013 BANDS	\$0.00
STAMPS	\$0.00
2013 NPA DUES	\$0.00
CHECKS	\$0.00
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u></b>	<b>\$103.76</b>

### **Adjustment**

TOTALS	
JUN 2012 STARTING BALANCE	\$1,588.44
JUN-SEP 2012 INCOME	\$66.00
	TOTAL
	<b><u>\$1,654.44</u></b>
JUN-SEP 2012 EXPENSES	\$103.76
<b><u>SEP 2012 ENDING BALANCE</u></b>	<b>\$1,550.68</b>

## **District 8 Report**

By Steve Mitchell

Fellow fanciers...I am not much at writing articles for our bulletin. But I felt it is important to tell you my thoughts in planning the Western Sectional.

The Salt Lake Winter Show was held on the first weekend of December each year since 1909 but a few years ago the club decided to move the date to November and our Helmets are just not in good feather at that time.

I thought it would be the best for our birds to be in their best show condition and give us a better chance to show your birds in top condition.

So that is why I decided it would be the best thing to let the Pageant of Pigeons in L.A. host the Western Sectional again this year. I spoke to Mike and he said they would be glad to host it. So let's all get together and support them again this time.

I also heard from James Jensen and he has made one of his beautiful clocks to be given away at the show, so that will be a nice trophy for someone.

As far as my breeding season goes I am having a very good year. I have several pair of my Helmets raising their own young and I have raised a lot of young with my other breeds. I have some nice Bell Necks Rollers and Mookies and Tagenrods also. So am really looking forward to seeing you at the shows.

Good Luck!!



## **Member Picture**

As far as we know, the AHA is the only club in the U.S. (any maybe the world) to have three members named, Victor. Left, Victor Cline, center, Victor Eshpeter, right, Victor Cardillo. This picture was taken at the 2012 National in Florida.

# AMERICAN HELMET ASSOCIATION SHOW REPORT

DISTRICT 7 NON-POINT SHOW  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA PIGEON CLUB  
FAYETTE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
ROUTE 119 DUNBAR, PENNSYLVANIA  
SUNDAY AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> 2012

SHOW STATUS – DISTRICT # 7 ALL AGE  
DISTRICTS SHOWING # 7, 14  
EXHIBITORS: 4 ....  
ALL AHA MEMBERS

VICTOR CLINE ; DISTRICT 14  
DAN GARLING ; DISTRICT 14  
GALEN GOSHORN; DISTRICT 7  
HAROLD R. STRAWNIAK; DISTRICT 7

HELMET ENTRIES - 27  
HELMETS SHOWN - 27

MFCLC ENTRIES - 16  
MFCLPH ENTRIES - 9  
SFCLC ENTRIES - 1  
MF MUFF PH ENTRIES – 1

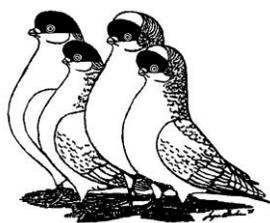
Med. Face C.L.Crested – 16  
Judge; John Hoekstra  
Exhibitors – 3  
Vic Cline  
Dan Garling  
Galen Goshorn  
Champion: Yellow O.C. # 803  
Exhibitor: Vic Cline

Med. Face C.L. P.H. - 9  
Judge; John Hoekstra  
Exhibitors – 3  
Dan Garling  
Galen Goshorn  
Harold Strawniak  
Champion: Ash-Red O.C. # 729  
Exhibitor: Harold Strawniak

Short Face C.L. Crested - 1  
Judge; John Hoekstra  
Exhibitors - 1  
Harold Strawniak  
Champion: Black O.C. # 665  
Exhibitor: Harold Strawniak

Med.Face Muff P.H. – 1  
Judge; John Hoekstra  
Exhibitors: 1  
Harold Strawniak  
Champion: Gold O.H. # 875  
Exhibitor:Harold strawniak

THIS REPORT  
COMPILED  
BY  
HAROLD R. STRAWNIAK



# 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  
Plus \$3.00 for postage per order

Number of Bands    \_\_\_\_\_

Year                    \_\_\_\_\_

(Min. order = 25 bands) x \$0.45  
 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, or continue from the date they expired. 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](mailto:grabliven@yahoo.com)

## **Common Sense and Manners**

By Victor Cardillo

At this year's National, I had a chance to watch the jr birds being judged. I really felt proud of what I saw. My pride had nothing to do with the birds, or how they were judged, but the temperament of the jr members when one of their birds did not make it to the top. Even the jr's who birds were last in a class, or next to last, handled themselves with respect, and manners. Not one kid uttered a single word, had outburst, or said, "That judge had idea of what he just did". Instead they stayed cool and calm. I only wish every adult at that show could have seen, what I witnessed in those kids.

The jr birds were judged on Saturday. On Friday, when all of the other birds were judged, I saw and heard things from the so called "Adults", that was downright embarrassing, to the hobby, to the other members, and to the clubs. Even as I judged the Helmets, I heard a member making nasty comments, and pouting, after a class of birds were judged.

A judge is someone who gives back to the club. A judge is a person who would rather be showing, than judging. A judge is someone who puts out money for travel, hotel, and meals, with no return. A judge is someone who does not care who wins the show, his only goal is to find a bird, to the best of his ability, that best fits the standard. Therefore, a judge is someone who deserves one word, RESPECT.

No matter what, thank that judge, for giving of himself, even if you think he did a bad job. Make his experience a pleasant one, before, during, and after the show.

Any club, and any member, should be outraged to see or hear a member showing disrespect to the judge, or to other members. Any club, or it's members, that would allow disrespect to a judge, without taking action, would be a club, or member, with no backbone.