

# Helmet Happenings

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By Hank Ebbelaar

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Where do I start? I guess I should start by telling you that I am the new President of the AHA. I am President by default after two others said they would rather not do it. What a mess to step into. To Para-phrase Hillary Clinton "It will take a village to fill Bob Bollinger's shoes." I will do my best, but it will be nowhere near the excellent job that Bob did. People with his organizing skills are hard to come by, and it is our great loss.

So where do we go from here? What do you as members of the AHA want to do? We all need to be more active in our club. Showing at the shows is important, but there is more to a club. We need a bulletin to keep in touch with one another. We need to get the show results to the bulletin editor ASAP, not having anything to publish was a problem in the 80's. I was looking at a 1986 bulletin and the editor was asking for material back then. Write about what is working for you or not working for you. For instance I have a pair of blues that finally laid. Now I am the first to admit that I am bad at writing things down & keeping good records. I checked one morning and they had babies. I left them alone and after four days I checked them. They had LONG beaks. OK they were homer babies. I went into my Homer loft and looked for helmet babies. I Did not find any. I guess I destroyed the helmet eggs. Live and learn I guess.

Winning at the shows is important, but it is not the only thing. We should make an effort to get to know each other better. We have a member of the AHA who I didn't know too well. At one of the nationals a group of us (the 3 musketeers of Washington state) and a couple of others went out to dinner. We had good conversation, good food and really got to know this gentlemen better.

We need to have a catalyst in our club, but I don't know what it is. Losing 2 members of the caliber of the 2 gentlemen who just quit doesn't help the situation any. As a club we CANNOT sustain this kind of loses and expect to continue to grow. Each and everyone of our members is important but these two gentlemen gave soooo much to the club. A great loss we won't soon recover from.

How about the finances of the club? We need to raise some money for the club operation. How about having a raffle for a gift certificate at a store good all over the nation? Let's not wait too long because January will be here before you know it. What's your pleasure guys?

Yours in the fancy

# Secretary/Treasurer's Report

By Greg Bliven

## **JAN-MAY 2011 FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **INCOME**

DUES	\$290.00
BANDS	\$332.50
BAND POSTAGE	\$18.90
SHIRTS, CAPS, PINS	\$0.00
NATIONAL AUCTION	\$150.00
NATIONAL SHOW REBATE	\$0.00
DONATIONS	\$86.49
<b><u>TOTAL INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>\$877.89</u></b>

### **EXPENSES**

BULLETIN PRINTING	\$31.40
BULLETIN POSTAGE	\$194.99
POSTAGE	\$65.07
SUPPLIES	\$184.37
2011 NATIONAL AWARDS	\$0.00
SHIPPING	\$0.00
NATIONAL AD	\$90.00
NATIONAL AUCTION	\$0.00
WEB SITES	\$0.00
2012 BANDS	\$519.95
STAMPS	\$0.00
2012 NPA DUES	\$0.00
CHECKS	\$22.00
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,107.78</u></b>

TOTALS	
JAN 2011 STARTING BALANCE	\$1,364.69
JAN-MAY 2011 INCOME	\$1,219.03
TOTAL	<u>\$2,583.72</u>
JAN-MAY 2011 EXPENSES	\$1,107.78
<b><u>JAN-MAY 2011 ENDING BALANCE</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,475.94</u></b>

### **New Members**

Jeff Simpson, NC  
Donna Johnston, MN

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.

## **2012 Bands**

Just a reminder about the bands next year, I ordered 1500 of each style. If you want the same bands as we have been getting the price is still \$.35 each, if you want the plastic coated aluminum bands the price is \$.40 each. Also I'd appreciate it if you all could send me your band series for 2011, so that I can make sure I have everyone recorded correctly during the transition.

I think I am getting things under control now, but I'll be honest it was a bit overwhelming at first with what I stepped into. Thanks everyone for being patient with me while I got things setup. I have most of our club information digitally, at least for this year and I plan to go back through our history and do the same once I have more time.

Most of us have our breeding seasons going, but for many of us in the NW it has been a late start due to weather. I have 6 pair of helmets who have been feeding babies until weaning. Only 2 pair are feeding their own and the others are feeding Catalonian tumbler babies. I have had good luck when I could swap the babies, and I am impressed with how well my helmets have been feeding this year. I only have 6 helmets banded, but several more in the nest and the rest have eggs.

## **Members past due**

Teddy Anderson, Victor Cardillo, Marty DeHart, Larry Dobelbower, Galen Goshorn, Bob Jackson, Johnnie Johnson, Lloyd Larghe, Lorenzo Robinson, Antonio Rodrigues, Ray Kolinski Jr., Ray Sanchez

## **Members who will be due before next bulletin**

Brianna Clark, Victor Cline, Hank Ebbelaar, Betty & Pat Flinn, Bill Harnett, John Heppner, John Hoekstra, James Jensen, Mike Larson, Bob Lien, Aaron Lorton, Giulio Marcoccia, Paul McRae, Gary Parsons, Leonard Patito, Richard Ronevich, Ron Wakefield.

I will try to get the date your dues are paid thru on the address labels of this bulletin so that you know exactly when they are due.

## **Eastern VP Report**

By Galen Goshorn

Hello fellow Helmet breeders,

Since being elected Eastern Vice President, Bob Bollinger asked me to write a little about myself for those who don't know me or have never heard of me in Helmets.

I started with a beautiful black pair of Modenas in the summer of 1970. I was charged \$3 for this pair. I was like all the other kids who had pigeons if it was for sale I ended up with them in my loft. I had pretty much at least a pair of everything at one or other for about the first 6 to 8 years. Then in 1979 I cleaned house on most breeds except for my English Trumpeters.

Then in 1999 got a pair of Yellow Crested Helmets from a Helmet meet in Uniontown, PA. That pretty much got me started in Helmets for good. Even today I still love the dilute colors of Silver, Blue & Yellow, but to be competitive in even little local shows you have to be breeding & showing the power Reds & Blacks.

Many breeders here on the Right Coast have top notch Helmets that they breed & show. Myself, I'd have to say a huge thanks for the help & birds to both Bob Bollinger and Mike Crawford and to Raul Delgado (for that one key young black hen.

Well to finish up, I'm now 52 years old, married, with one 22 year old daughter. Plan on continuing to raise trumpeters & helmets for as long as possible.

Anyone who would like to contact me please feel free. By phone (717) 267-2461, by e-mail [galengoshorn@yahoo.com](mailto:galengoshorn@yahoo.com), or by mail 1799 Guilford Station Rd., Chambersburg, PA 17202. Or when you're in South Central Pennsylvania stop in, the lofts never as clean as I would like it, but whose is?

Yours in the fancy

## **District 1 Report**

By K. Mike LaCom

Greetings from District 1 home of this year's Western Sectional at the Pageant of Pigeons! Hopefully we will all have some birds ready by Nov. 10th, 11th and 12th at the new LAPC show location in Riverside, CA. If you have had some marginal breeding results this year you are not alone. Cool, cold (snow at my place), damp, wet (39 inches of rain) and wind have been the conditions in So. Calif. January and February were pretty much a bust for Brian, Leonard, Chet, Antonio and myself. Yes, there are at least 5 of us in District 1! Hope I have not missed someone. The last few months have been much better for all of us. Leonard has @ 20 pair of Plainheads and Crested breeding with a few banded and more on the way. Antonio has 5 pair of MFC's he is working with in all colors with a dozen banded. Brian's first love is his West's and Racing Homers. We're just thankful he has a few Helmets and shares his knowledge of breeding and Helmet standards. Chet and I have had our share of fertility problems off and on all season. Chet has 10 banded and I have 20. Hopefully we will all have a few more that are ready for the show season! We look forward to seeing you at the Pageant.

## **District 2 Report**

By Dennis Manning

Hi All ...

It's been a cold and wet winter and Spring here in the NW. The weather has broken lots of records this year most related to long cold spells and rain lots and lots of rain. So much snow in the mountains that the Columbia down stream from the Bonneville Dam his reaching heights no one has seen in a very long time probably since the Dam was built. All that is the result of snow pack starting to melt in the mountains. It a La Nina year and it is a duzzy..

I've spoken with most of the District 2 members in the last month or so and all are doing surprisingly well with their breeding season. Hank and Dennis Bray are off to good starts with some champions on the floor already. I haven't heard what Greg has in the nest yet. I know Jim Garus is just getting started (as usual). He doesn't like to spend too much time in the loft when it is cold. Californian. Vic has been quiet but I imagine he has had the skiing season of a lifetime this winter and he is probably still at it.

Dennis Bray says he has this year's Plainhead National Champ weaned. Mike Crawford, Leonard and myself should just give up now. Gosh that sure takes all the hope out of this seasonJ . Since him and his sinister partner have been known to try to intimidate me in the past I'm going to keep breeding anyway. My season is going well I've got about 45 banded and the next round in the nest so I should have some to choose from. I will have to cut my breeding season short as I have a vacation and a business trip planned for mid June and it is too much to ask my son to hand feed for 10 or twelve days ( he has to be to work by 7:00 AM) so I will break up shortly and hope I've got the best ones out already.

We are all looking forward to the Western Sectional at the Pageant this year, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the show. Should be a great one. The Dist 1 boys are planning an excellent meet I heard that they are putting up hundreds in prize money.. Wow.

I've signed contracts for two District 2 meets this year one in Kennewick at the Sand and Sagebrush show and the second in Puyallup in November. Any awards that you may want to put up will be gladly accepted. I have rebate dollars from last year to spend on awards but it would be great to see even more.. Happy helmeting and I'll see you all in the Fall..

## **Looking Back:**

### WHY DO I SHOW?

By Myron Berger, District 2

From Nov.1989 Bulletin

After 30- years of breeding and showing I sometimes have to ask myself why I should attend shows. I have a room full of awards, some good, some bad, some very small that means a certain achievement such as my first color class win at a National level, some large beautiful awards that are a recognition of years of breeding.

It's nice to review the wins in many breeds and occasionally dream about the bird or birds that won the awards. But these material awards are not really important any longer. Yes, I will admit it is nice to win, but win or lose it is still fun to compete.

That is still not a good reason to show. Why show? You or I can show for the glory of winning and the prestige it brings and the possible additional value of the birds, but that is still not a real reason as pigeons have always been a hobby and NOT a source of revenue. I would rather give away or trade a good bird then to sell. I would rather give away or trade a good bird then sell.

Why show? Perhaps I am looking for a certain bird to improve my stud. This is a valid reason and I am always looking for something in some breed. Sometimes it is a cull I need for a color project or perhaps a top show bird with the desired traits I need, or just a decent bird with what I want. The shows are the best places to find what I need for improvement of my birds or a make the contacts necessary to get just what I need.

Why show? The show room and the related activities of a show have always proved to be the best source of knowledge in this hobby. No matter how much I read there is more to learn! It is ALWAYS possible to learn! All one has to do ask and listen and most any fancier is willing to help. Some advice is good, some bad and what works for one fancier, may not help for you at all.

Why do I show? The real reason is --THE PEOPLE. Rich--poor--good--bad. Friends or whatever. It is THE PEOPLE that keeps me showing or attending shows. There is nothing better than going to a show and meeting new friends and renewing old friendships. It is great to put a face with a name you have only read about. THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE PIGEON HOBBY CAN'T BE BEAT AND THAT IS THE REAL REASON FOR GOING TO SHOWS. Through the shows it has been possible to make friends throughout the world. A pigeon fancier is always a friend.

## Another Year

By Dennis Bray

Another year started. Birds on eggs, babies in the nest. Despite the cold-wet temperatures my losses are FRUSTRATING. I won't complain about the weather as many of you have it a lot worse than us here in the Northwest. I normally mate my birds up in December. After our last local pigeon show which is held Thanksgiving weekend. But this year had plans to vacation in Mexico. After coming home from San Diego National. So I never mated up until Feb. As of today there is 1 MFC Ash Red, 1 Red SF, 3 PH in my young bird pen. Need more feeders less breeding pairs of helmets.

I would like to thank Hank, Jim and Greg. Our club is going thru some changes and these gentlemen stepped up to fill the need. Hank will be our president and Jim plus Greg will be our new Bulletin Editors. So has great and strong this helmet club is. We will do fine with these new changes to the club. These members can use your help so be there when called upon. Be sure to help with articles for bulletin. Our bulletin is what keeps our interest in the Helmet between shows.

Received my new 2011 Catalogue from Tony Patti, New England Pigeon Supply. This is the third product catalogue. So after looking thru it found something I feel will improve my helmets. I will let you know how it worked when we meet up in Lakeland, Florida.

Breeders and showman here in the Western Districts need to start saving our money early this year to support the Western Sectional which will be held in California with the Pageant, Mike LaCom and Leonard Patito will be hosting. Then the big one in Florida with Steve Petitto hosting. As for our local shows in District 2, haven't made my mind up which shows they will be. Guess that depends on what I have ready for those Summer and Fall shows.

Hope to see you at the shows. I will be looking forward to it.

As Ever

### District 4 Report

By Don Phy via Jim

My recent visit to Don Phy's and Ed Pointer's as always I enjoy visiting Don & Ed, two guys that will talk pigeons all night. Every time I go to Don's it's like going to a pigeon show. He will carry pigeons into his house all night if you're willing to stay up. Don has a show pen set up in a spare room. Real good times and time goes fast when you're having fun.

### District 5 Report

By Steve Petitto via Jim

National is being well prepared. There is an excellent facility about 45 min. from Tampa airport. Steve says the facility is excellent with a nice pool so helmet fanciers bring your sun screen & thongs, and something for your feet too.

### District 8 Report

By Steve Mitchell via Jim

I'm still trying to get the MFC to feed their young. There are only two participants in the Utah area Steve and James. Utah will have a show in Hurrican which is fairly close to Las Vegas next February. Some California & Northwest guys will attend.

## **District 11 Report**

By Bob Lien via Jim

Breeding coming along slow at the Lien farm, but plans on having the annual show at Des Moines. There one would need to dress warm as it's the coldest I've ever been, should have known not to wear my Richard Simmons outfit.

## **District 14 Report**

By Victor Cardillo

### **TOMATOES**

Ever since I was a kid, I could not wait for the tomato plants to bear fruit. Nothing taste better than a fresh tomato from the garden. As I got older, I started to garden my own tomato plants. It was easy as a kid; I just got the end result, picking a vine ripe tomato and ate it. I found out how hard it was to prepare the soil, stake the plant, water it, trim it, and care for it. This process takes time, work, and patience's. The end result, a wonderful, tasty, home grown pleasure. As I've grown older, I understand life, and work, is not much more than growing tomato's. It takes patience, time, caring, and very strong roots. There will be bugs to deal with, and things can fall apart, but it's how we deal with our problems that gives the end result. If my tomato plant falls, I just pick it up and re-stake it. It will be forgiving and bear fruit again.

What happen in our club the last few months was wrong. We had some bugs, and instead of dealing with the bugs, we tore out the roots.

In the last 10 years, no one has done more to promote Helmets, and the AHA more than Bob Bollinger. He was our master gardener. Bob has stepped down, and our club will suffer until our roots take form again.

When people offer their service, without pay, we need to be grateful. We need to thank them every time we see them. When a problem comes up, we need to deal with the problem, and not the person.

Over the years, I have noticed how few people are really involved in putting on a show. Just a few will work hours upon hours, weeks upon weeks, setting up cages, clean up, tear down, and haul away the heavy cages. If a problem happens, that person is not treated very well. As I walk into every show, I search for the person in charge, just to say, "Thank You" for putting on this show.

Next time we have a problem within our club, let's deal with the bugs, and not throw the tomatoes at our leaders. Bugs will always come again, we can deal with them, Great leaders, maybe one in a lifetime.

## **Bulletin Editor Report**

By Jim Garus

Well as you know I was elected (with stiff competition) the new bulletin editor. Greg Bliven our secretary lives by me and also works with me so we will do helmet bulletins on a little company time.

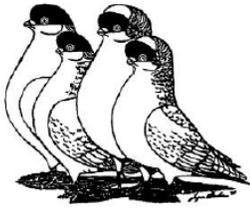
This is my first bulletin and will get another out in Oct/Nov. The more people that write articles the more interest & info we will have about our club & it's members. I for one will attempt to submit pictures and pick a person to highlight. I like to talk so I will be calling and also I do travel a bit so will visit when in the area and get pictures.

As for me, I've been around the AHA since the great 60's. My good friend Karl Mike LaCom (He has two first names) have shown Helmets and Nuns off & on through the years. Growing up (not yet) in LA, I remember the early days of the club and LA was and still is a great pigeon town.

I've seen this club up and down in membership, but usually have the same die hard bunch of ole time guys always at most shows. As far as my writings as the bulletin editor I will post what benefits the club. Please send your opinions. I have seen twice now where power or ego has affected our club. Since the National, our club has been in turmoil. We have lost our President and another member of 40 years. We all need to remember how our club became the oldest NPA affiliated club, it wasn't by arguing. This club has in the past pulled through tough times and we will again.

My enjoyment is getting a call from fellow breeders that I have known over the years and going to a show and having fun with the guys we may see once a year. This will build a club, but bickering will ruin a club fast, save that for the politicians. Everyone has their own personality, some are extremely competitive, some in between and some could care less. All of these are ok in a club as long as it's done with good sportsmanship and respect to each other and our club officers. We have a great bunch of guys that share birds and constantly talk throughout the year, which is what keeps us interested. These critters are tough to keep alive as babies. If it wasn't for the camaraderie some would get a different breed. My article may or may not be appreciated by all, but I speak to many who share my opinions.





# 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     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Bands

\$0.35 per band  
 Plus \$2.00 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      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Series Preferred: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alternative Series: \_\_\_\_\_

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