

# UNITED Swallow Club



Fall 2014 Newsletter • [www.unitedswallowclub.com](http://www.unitedswallowclub.com) • Since 1969

## My History with Pigeons

By Phil Gonzales



My interest and beginning in pigeons began perhaps like many of yours. I was given two young wild pigeons at the age of eight. I was enamored with these birds and vividly remember seeing a white pigeon with a black tail that was beautiful. On my way home from school one day I recall noticing a pigeon loft. It all began with these birds and from there onto purebreds.

As a young boy I went to the library and checked out books eager to deepen my knowledge of pigeons. I subscribed to the American Pigeon Journal. At that time the APJ was a national source of what was happening in the fancy, I eagerly read each of the editions. I caught wild pigeons after school under bridges until I got into purebred pigeons.

Although over the years I've raised forty plus different breeds. Among them Fairy and Silesian Swallows, Saxon Shields, Ice Pigeon, Saxon Whitetails, Saxon Monks, Frillbacks, Archangels and the list goes on from there. Two breeds that have endured with me and are my current focus include Silesian Swallows and Fantails.

Phil Gonzales shows his large collection of pigeon art and memorabilia. Above right: is the cover of the 1969 Pageant of Pigeons marked catalog featuring Phil's champion black white bar Saxon fairy swallow (wing pigeon). Photo: Mike & Cathy Swanson. Story continues on page 4.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Mike Swanson*

Wow, the 2014 breeding season is mostly over. Everyone seems to be having a good year. Some breeders have expressed having a good ending to their year. I finally finished a young bird loft, it seems as if it took forever. However, I don't think even a tornado could do much to it. I'm pleased with the outcome. Hopefully, it will prove to be an asset for my birds. I already have way too many

young birds in it but the set up with the flight pen is an appealing location for my young birds especially this time of year. In my main loft I do have a few young bird pens as well. I've always resisted having additional lofts. However, I do enjoy the new set-up and the view from our patio of our new young bird loft and flight pen is quite enjoyable.

*Continued on the next page*

### Club Officers for 2014 & 2015 (See more officers on page 6)

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** *continued*

I suspect we will enjoy the view in all of the seasons and the young birds will enjoy the very large flight pen as well.

A lot is happening with upcoming shows. The show season will provide lots of opportunities for breeders to show their new crop of birds along with their old birds in numerous locations. Locally the Colorado State Pigeon Association will be having a Western District Swallow Meet on January 17, 2015 in Henderson, Colorado at the Adams County Fairgrounds. We have many awards and we are hoping for a good turnout from the Swallows breeders in Colorado.

Nationally there are numerous shows that should provide everyone the opportunity to participate in this year's show season from coast-to-coast. The NPA National in Los Angeles, California in January of 2015 will be a major show. I'm planning to attend and looking forward to the show and reuniting with the many breeders who are planning to attend. Gloria Wiesgram has indicated she plans to attend. John Navant of Colorado has indicated he plans to attend, too. Exhibiting in shows this year provides all of us an opportunity to support Swallows by showing or by attending these shows. I would encourage all of you to keep in contact with Gary Romig to promote events in your area and submit them to the bulletin.

Internationally a unique opportunity awaits all of us. Andreas Reuter contacted me and invited all of the USC members and breeders to attend and show at the First World Championship Show for Saxon Color Pigeons in Zwonitz, Germany on January 9-10, 2016. Cathy and I are planning to attend and look forward to the show. This show will be a great time for fellowship with numerous European friends and fanciers as well as the numerous excellent birds. I can remember time and again L.E. Hummel expressing his enjoyment and appreciation for the European shows and how he enjoyed the birds and these events.

In other news, judging program chairman Bill Griebel appreciates your feedback about the certified judging

program. Providing feedback to Bill provides you with the unique opportunity to bring your voice to the club about judging.

Act on this opportunity to express your perspective and concerns about the judging program. For example you could nominate new judges, share your perspective about the degree of difficulty with regards to different colors and marking. Concerns could include what you've noticed in the past show seasons about color, uneven bars, frequency of open backs, proper muff shape etc. Participating in this conversation brings your voice to the club and improves our birds and how they are judged.

Dave Averbeck is working on the National Young Bird Show. If at all possible perhaps you could send birds or better yet attend and bring your birds! Set-up for the show is October 24th and the show is Saturday October 25th at the Kentucky Exposition Center Pavilion Building. Entries must be postmarked on or before October 8, 2014. Dave has made the generous offer to have birds sent to him and he will take them to the show. Also if you have auction birds or items let Dave know.

Ron DeClement and Steve Ripper are working on Eastern District Meets. The young bird meet is the first weekend in October and held in conjunction with the Reading Pennsylvania Show Association. The second show is in January of 2015 at the Host Farm in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Bill Griebel is the member in charge for the NPA National. Hans Schipper will serve as the judge. Two hotels are already booked up and it sounds as if it will be a big show. Several European color pigeon breeders are going to be in attendance. Contact Bill if you have anything for the live auction or the silent auction. Birds, art work, books etc. All of this money goes to support USC shows and endeavors. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the NPA National in January in L.A.

Lastly don't forget as we look ahead to next year, renew your dues and get your band order to Elliot Yeske.



*Photo of the new young bird loft of Mike and Cathy Swanson, Ft Lupton Colorado.*





*The new home for young swallows, Ice pigeons and Saxon whitetails of Mike and Cathy Swanson.*



*View of Mike and Cathy Swanson's main loft with the new young bird loft to the left.*



## My History with Pigeons *by Phil Gonzales: Continued*

Judging has taken me many places and created many opportunities to judge a variety of birds and make special and enduring friendships. I've travelled from Oregon, to New Mexico and Washington. Other shows I've judge with regularity include shows in Colorado, Iowa and numerous judging experiences in California. I especially enjoy judging fantails and pouters, I suspect it is due to their "showy nature". I've been honored to be designated as a NPA Master Judge. I consider this award special and strive to honor its meaning and integrity when I judge.

In the late 1960's and 70's I obtained my swallows from Leon Stephens in California. I was also very fortunate to obtain some very good Fairy Swallows from a man who lived in Northern California. He had obtained his birds from Dr. L.E. Hummel in Missouri.

One of the largest shows I've judged was well over 600 birds, quite a task and undertaking. Our current European judging system is a quality judging system. In my opinion it is my preference if only one person does the judging. More than one judge draws in differing opinions and it can be difficult to balance it out in the end.

Panel judging can be a good way of judging if the panel of judges is on the same page with respect to the standard of the breed. One aspect of judging that I believe in and put much energy into is sharing with exhibitors my perspective of their birds relative to the standard and "the why" for the rating. One of the biggest challenges in judging can be trying to explain to people who have not studied their

standard or have not bred their breed long enough to know the breed. Overall, I enjoy judging pigeons. I have tried to breed the breeds that I judge to deepen my knowledge and in my opinion it is one of the best ways to understand the breed.

Pigeons have impacted my life in many ways. I have been able to have visitors from various countries. Pigeons have created opportunities for me to travel to numerous shows throughout the country. Pigeons have given me a closer relationship with very enjoyable people. Pigeons have opened up a lot of knowledge to me in many ways.

Collecting items related to pigeons is something I enjoy very much. I have postcards from the feather world at the turn of the century. Additionally I have numerous pigeon paraphernalia from all over the world. Items include pigeon stamps, books, pigeon whistles, bands from all over the world and even one from Disneyland! I have an Army carrying box and military messenger band and one unusual leather postcard with a pigeon on it from 1910. I also have an extensive book and magazine collection that I enjoy.

Lofts through the years have varied in size, location and purpose. Currently I have four lofts varying in size and a flying loft as well. One of the largest lofts I had was in California it was 60'X24'. Due to work expectations I was transferred to Colorado and think often how spoiled I was to have had such a large loft.

Definitely the pigeon hobby has brought me varied experiences, friends and enriched my life in many ways.



*Phil with more of his collection*



*John Navant gets the tour of Phil's collection*

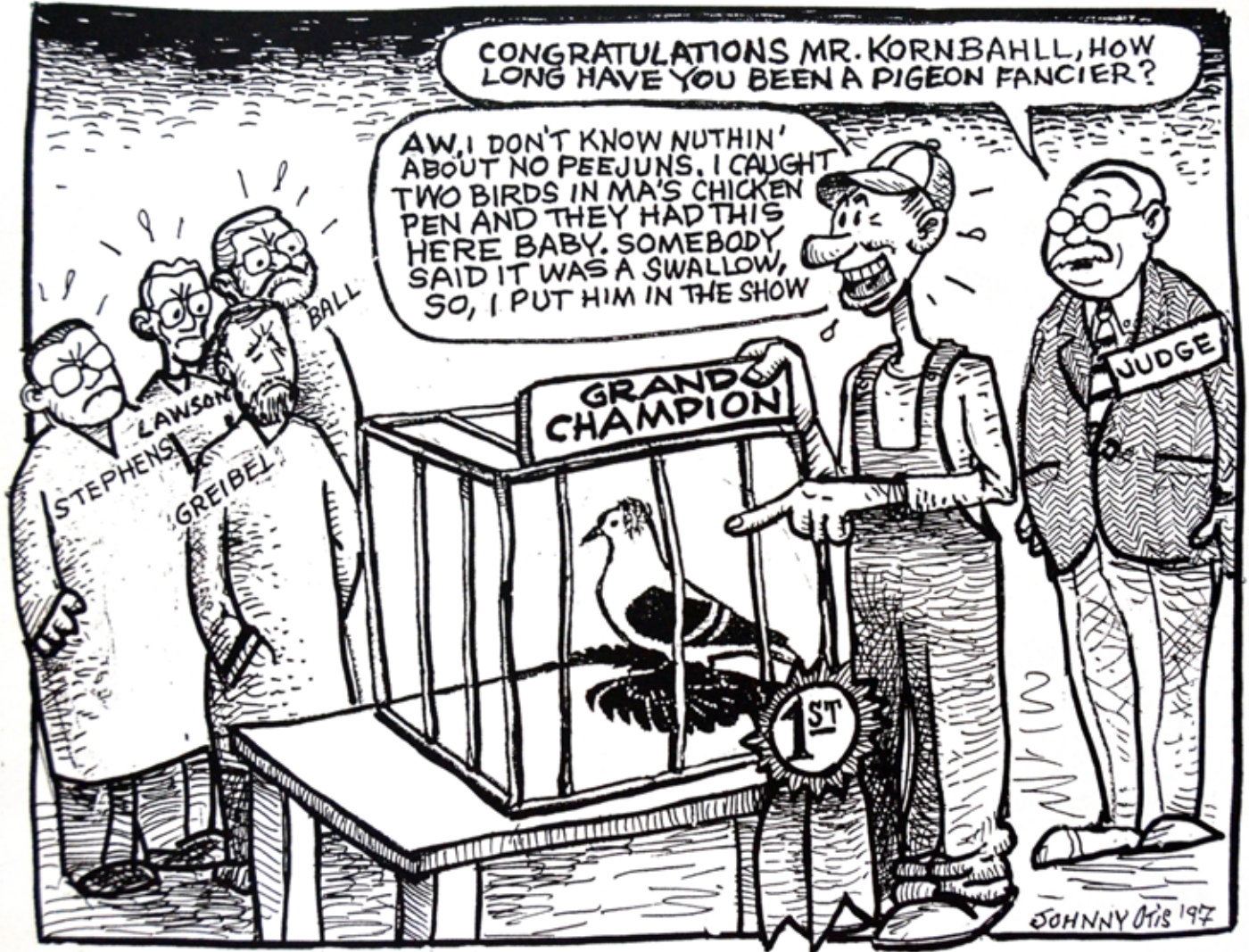


*Phil with his pigeon loft on the left invites us into his pigeon museum.*



I hope that all of your breeding season went well. I hope that you have the next champion picked out. My breeding season went fairly well or at least better than last year. We all know that the show season is quickly coming upon us. I hope that some you have gotten your National Young Bird Show book in the mail this past weekend. We are looking to put on a great show with lots of Swallows this year in Louisville. Please find the attached entry form for Louisville. Our judge this year will be Nate Wayne. Please remember that if you can't attend but still want to show, you can ship your birds to me and I will take them down to the show hall. I am planning on being down there Friday before the

show. I am looking forward to seeing you all down there. Also, we will not be having a central district meet in Des Moines this year. I am personally in a wedding and from what I have gathered from other fanciers there just wasn't much interest of showing up there. I am however tossing around the idea of having a district meet in St. Louis the second weekend of January with the St. Louis Metropolitan Pigeon Club. We put on a nice show with a new show hall in Gray Summit, Missouri. It is about a half on hour from St. Louis. Please shoot me an email if you would are interested in having a district meet as well as if you may be interested in judging should we have the district meet in St. Louis.



Johnny Otis picks a little fun with his good friends in the Swallow Fancy

More USC Officers for 2014-2015

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# National Young Bird Show

## October 25, 2014

Pavilion - Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center  
Louisville, Kentucky

Entry Fee: \$5.00

Mail all entries to:  
NATIONAL YOUNG BIRD SHOW  
P.O. Box 21  
Milton, KY 40045

Make checks and money orders payable to:  
NATIONAL YOUNG BIRD SHOW

Canadian entries: US money orders only  
No Canadian postal money orders

Entries must be postmarked by Post Office on or before: **October 8, 2014** No postage Meters.

	BREED	Color Number	Hen Band Number	Cock Band Number
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

see booklet for color number – use number for color

USE ANOTHER PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL ENTRIES

Please group your birds by sex or color number order.

Exhibitor number (sec. use only)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Clubs: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Junior Exhibitor

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print - used for next year's mailing list**

Quantity		Cost
_____	Entries @ \$5.00 each	\$ _____
_____	Sales coop @ \$20.00 each (limit 3 coops - 8 bird limit)	\$ _____ <small>paid in advance only</small>
_____	Parking Pass @ \$9.00 each include self-addressed <u>STAMPED</u> envelope	\$ _____
		\$ _____ TOTAL



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