

## President's Message

*Perry Mueller*

The Annual Meet voting is over and the winner is Des Moines, Iowa. The dates are December 7-8. Gloria Weisgram is the member in charge. This year's show will be in honor of Bob Benson. If you have any check Silesians, please plan on bringing them in honor of Bob.

It has been hot and very dry here in Saint Louis. The birds are doing fine, I just have to water them twice a day. This summer my wife, Susie, and I went up to see Nate

Wayne and his wife, Linda. Nate has some beautiful birds and Linda is a great hostess. Aside from the record breaking flooding we experienced afterwards in Duluth, we had a wonderful time.

We will be having a District Meet at the NYB show in October. The judge has not yet been decided. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

Click Here for Entry Form to the: [National Young Bird Show](#)

## Central District Meets Honor Bob Benson

*Gloria Weisgram*

The USC Central District meet will host two shows for the first time in many years! The first show will be held in Hutchinson, MN, in conjunction with the Minnesota State Pigeon Association's annual meet. The North Star Classic is dedicated to Bob Benson who was a long time club member. Show details elsewhere in this bulletin.

Our USC Annual Meet will be held December 7 and 8 in Des Moines, IA. Gary Romig of Patagonia, AZ, will judge our birds. Dubbed "The Checker Explosion", this show will also honor the memory of club member and master breeder Bob Benson of Northfield, MN. USC members are encouraged to show as many checkered swallows, any type or color, as possible.

In addition to regular annual meet awards, there will be a variety of artistic and monetary awards given for checkers. To date, the Minnesota State Club, Hans Schipper of the Netherlands, and numerous club members have donated awards. If you would like to donate an award in Bob's honor, you can do so by contacting Gary Romig. For \$10, Gary will create your award using this year's beautiful format! If you would like to give cash, trophy or any other award, contact Gloria Weisgram at ([gweisgram@gmail.com](mailto:gweisgram@gmail.com) or (701) 261-8716).

Once again, a bird auction will be held at this year's annual meet to help raise money for the club. Thank you to Mike Swanson for making some of his birds available for the auction. I had a good year with my black barless so I will pledge a pair to the auction. If any club members would like to donate to the bird auction, please bring



*An example of the award design planned for the two meets in honor of Bob*

quality birds that might get a new member get started or that would make a nice addition to someone else's loft.

Lastly, we will be looking to have as much fun as possible for the two days we are together. If you have any pictures of past shows or photos of Bob that you would like to share, please bring them. We will try to get together as a group on Friday night after the judging.

Let's see how many checkers we can show to pay tribute to a good breeder and colorful swallow club member! See you there!

## Club Officers for 2012 & 2013

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## Annual Meet Special Awards for Checkered Swallows (As of 9/3)

Best Checkered Swallow any variety or color  
Best Blue Check Silesian Swallow (Benson's favorite)  
Best Young Blue Check Silesian  
Best Silver Check Silesian  
Best Young Silver Check Silesian  
Best Crested Check Swallow any type or color  
Judges favorite Check Swallow any type or color

Also note that Judging will begin Friday evening at 7PM!  
Swallow Auction at 2 PM on Saturday

## Message from Central District Director

*Dave Averbeck II*

Greetings to all!! I hope that this years breeding season went well for you and that you are getting your show team a look for the up coming show season. I wanted to let you know as to who I am exactly. Some of you may know me by face, or by phone or don't know me at all. I am a second generation pigeon fancier, my father David Averbeck starting raising pigeons when he was a kid. He got back into them and then I got into them. I have been raising pigeons for over five years now. My first love with pigeons was American Fantails. So I started out with them, but as I started to going to shows I quickly wanted another breed. Pigeons with feathers on their feet quickly fascinated me and really caught my eye. The Swallow pigeon's color is what really drawn me to them. Their rich color on the shields as well as feet. When they call a Swallow Pigeon red, it really is a deep dark red.

Perry Mueller actually got me started into swallows. He was part of our St. Louis club and gave me a pair of Blue Fullhead Swallows and a pair of Silver Barless Silesian swallows to start

off with. Let's just say that my start with them was not very good at all. I produce on mediocre Blue Spangle Fullhead Young Swallow and then one of the parents died; the Silver Barless never layed any eggs. Perry and I had talked about this and he said for me to try this pair of Black White Bar Fairy Swallows the next year. Boy after that breeding season I was hooked. I now raise Black White Bar Fairy Swallows and Black White Bar Silesian Swallows. I still have my American Fantails and I have even recently dabbled a little with the Saint Pigeon.

I am so grateful to Perry and my father for getting me into pigeons. I love to go to shows to meet other pigeon fanciers. I look forward to help promote the Swallow pigeon as well as represent the club the best I can. I am looking forward to the up coming show season that will start off for me at the National Young Bird show in October. I will also be looking forward to seeing more swallow fanciers at the Des Moines show, which will be the Bob Benson Memorial Show.

Thank you and Good Luck

## Message from Colorado, Another Western District Meet

*Mike Swanson*

A western district meet will be held in Denver Colorado on January 19, 2013. The judge will be Phill Gonzales, NPA master judge and breeder of Color Pigeons for over 50 years. The contact person is Mike Swanson.

Some awards have been announced with possibly more to come:

\$95.00 for Best Swallow by a junior. This award money for best swallow by a junior is from a pair of checks

which were Bob Bensons and were auctioned at the Colorado State Pigeon Association's Winter show last January).

\$25.00 Champion Swallow  
\$25.00 Champion Fariy  
\$25.00 Champion Silesian  
\$25.00 Champion Clean Leg  
\$25.00 Champion Fullhead

## National Pigeon Association 2013 Grand National Pigeon Show United Swallow Club Western District Meet

A USC Western District Meet is being planned in conjunction with the NPA National to be held in Vancouver, Washington on Jan 17-19 2013.

For entry forms: [CLICK HERE](#)

The Hilton Vancouver Washington is the official Hotel. For the Hotel website: [CLICK HERE](#) The show hall is the Vancouver Convention Center at the Hilton Hotel.

The airport to fly into is Portland International. Dave Holloway is the USC Western District Director and will be the person in charge of Swallows at the show. This should be a good show to attend as there are several good swallow breeders planning coming to this show.

# News Coming Out of the Pacific North West

USC Vice President Frank Bailey

Hello everyone from here in Washington State. As I listen to the news coming in from several breeders as well the weather channel, I can see some very warm temperatures throughout North America with some serious drought issues in several locations.

I am serious about wishing you well if you're one of those being impacted by some the extreme weather conditions. Here in the Pacific Northwest we have remained very mild for the most part. I think that this has perhaps contributed to my unusual and yet successfully high numbers of young birds bred this season.. It has been an enjoyable breeding season.

I've learned from several breeders that got off to a very slow start and then had to shut down from breeding way more than they needed. This is great news for our USC organization.

The news coming from my contacts in the Netherlands and Germany, is very similar as they are having a huge success story with this year's breeding.

Our Thüringer Fullhead breeder friend in Holland "Ben Kocken" tells me that this has been his very best season ever with his birds and is hopeful that this will result in a great show season beginning this winter.

The talk of our nation as well as those in Europe is the two largest pigeons shows in the world being offered to those interested in attending. The first and largest of the two show's will be held in Leipzig, Germany in December. They're planning on breaking numerous records for the amount of animals being exhibited. These include pigeons, chickens and rabbits. Sum 92,000 entries are being anticipated. It is being called a "WORLD SHOW" and promises to be the highlight of one's life if they're able to attend. Then the very next week Germany is hosting in the western part of their nation the Nuremburg Show.

What makes this journey so exciting, is that it offers those of us here in North America the opportunity to visit both shows and get back to America in let's say 8 to 10 days. Normally these shows are two weeks apart which makes it too expensive.

One thing to take under consideration is that Karl Heinz Sollfrank of Nuremburg is saying this is his last and final show for him in Nuremburg. Historically, Mr. Sollfrank has funded the entire show up front and would be reimbursed after the show was completed. Therefore without his generous assistance, it is unlikely this show will ever happen again. And if it did, the magnitude of this show would be greatly reduced.

The last thing one needs to consider is that many breeders that show in the

Eastern part of Germany do not show in the western part. Therefore you're meeting different breeders and seeing different birds from different countries. So I would like to encourage any of you that have an interest to attend these shows. If you need more information and any assistance in your planning, please contact me and I will do my very best to do would I can to help you [frank-bailey@frontier.com](mailto:frank-bailey@frontier.com)

Here in the USA, we have four great shows planned: The Pageant of Pigeons held in November in

sunny Southern California, our USC Annual meet being held in Des Moines on Dec. 7 & 8 – this is a tribute to our friend the late Bob Benson, Louisville young bird show. Here in our own back yard we're hosting the NPA Grand National in Vancouver, WA on January 17 & 18 and this has been endorsed as a USC District Meet. Please contact District Director David Holloway [dianne.holloway@frontier.com](mailto:dianne.holloway@frontier.com)

For most of us, we're wrapping up our breeding season and will anxiously await the viewing of our birds after their junior molt. I want to wish you well as you begin your judging of what birds are worthy of becoming show birds and make the grade for your 2013 breeding season. In closing: I would like to encourage each of you that have extra birds with quality features, to please contact Gary Romig and advertise them in our USC Bulletin. With so many wanting quality birds and are not able to import them, it's an opportunity to for others to obtain and breed from your contribution. Thanks everyone and see you at the show.



A young Swallow from Frank Bailey. His project to reintroduce the blue black bar color in which the numbers of them have sadly faded in the last few decades.

# The Passing of Tom McCaig Sunday September 9, 2012

Gary Romig

The sad news coming from Bill Griebel in Southern California is the death of Tom McCaig. Tom has long struggled with an illness that could have taken him years earlier. And, now he is at peace.

Tom was truly a legendary breeder of pigeons and a well respected leader among the pigeon clubs he participated in. I for one was greatly influenced by Tom and a great many others were also influenced by him. Especially, members of the American Frillback Club, Los Angeles Pigeon Club, So. Calif. Color Pigeon Club and the United Swallow Club.

In the very early years of my involvement with Swallows and Color Pigeons. Tom exhibited his Frillbacks and was usually the judge of Swallows and Color Pigeons at the Pageant of Pigeons.

When I first returned from my time in Vietnam, Tom found a job for me to paint the banners of pigeons that were seen for so many years at the Pageant of Pigeons. He launched my career as a pigeon artist.

Tom was one of the founding members of the So. Calif. Color Pigeon Club. Because of his many trips to Germany Tom acquired a good knowledge of not only Frillbacks but many Color Pigeons.

To me Tom was the most impressive breeder of pigeons I had ever met. His achievements with the Frillback Pigeon



*2006...Tom McCaig stands with Reiner Wolf of Saxony in front of a picture of Tom's favorite Frillbacks. The picture is a copy of the original painting in Tom's home. This photo was taken on the west side of Tom's coop in Bill Griebel's back yard.*

are truly amazing and an inspiration to all that new him.

Tom was recognized the world over as Mr. Frillback and this includes his many friends and fellow breeders of Frillbacks in Europe, especially Germany. Tom had many friends in Germany and he often visited there and exchanged birds with the top breeders.

Bill Griebel and Tom had a marvelous relationship. When Tom's family were suffering from allergies caused by his birds at home it became necessary for Tom to secure a home for his birds away from his home. Bill allowed Tom to move his pigeon coop to Bill's back yard. This partnership created a well known world meeting place for lovers of Color Pigeons, Frillbacks, Trumpeters and several other breeds. People from all over the world have come to admire, meet and party in Bill's back yard graced with some of the finest examples of these pigeons.

I want to say for all of the breeders of pigeons who were touched by Tom our hearts go out to Tom's family for their lose. He will always be remembered by the pigeon community for his great accomplishments with the hobby and his contributions to each of us and the hobby in general.

*2003...I am sure there is nothing more relaxing than sitting down and visiting your pigeons. Here Tom McCaig contemplates his pigeons when they were housed in Bill Griebel's back yard. One of Tom's beautiful white Frillbacks is contemplating Tom. Steve Ball told me that Tom would often give his birds some safflower seeds while he sat there with them.*



# 2012 Official Entry Form

# Iowa State Pigeon Association

## 87th Annual Show

December 7 and 8, 2012

Iowa State Fairgrounds

Des Moines, Iowa

ENTRY DEADLINE POSTMARKED November 5th, 2012.

**ENTRY FEE: \$5.00 per BIRD**

LATE ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY NOVEMBER 12th, 2012

**LATE ENTRY FEE: \$6.00 per BIRD**

Make Checks Payable to: Iowa State Pigeon Association

CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED - See bottom of 2nd page

NOTE: Do not use YEARLING unless your breed

specifies that it judges YEARLING classes.

Exhibitor # \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitor \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Jr. Exhibitor's Age \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*I make the entries below subject to the rules of this show.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Amt Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Ck/MO # \_\_\_\_\_

| Do Not Us | Young Hen | Young Cock | Yearling Hen | Yearling Cock | Old Hen | Old Cock | Breed | Color | Band # | GENETIC |
|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|---------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
|           |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 1         |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 2         |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 3         |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 4         |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 5         |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 6         |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 7         |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 8         |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 9         |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 10        |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 11        |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 12        |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 13        |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 14        |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 15        |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 16        |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |
| 17        |           |            |              |               |         |          |       |       |        |         |

|  |                                   |                      |       |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------|
| <p><b>SEND ENTRIES TO:</b></p> <p>Jan Nyhus, Co-Show Secretary<br/>         412 East 1st Street<br/>         Huxley, IA 50124-9444<br/>         Phone: (515) 231-1561<br/>         e-mail: jnyhus@iastate.edu</p> <p>OR: (319)269-0916 physicsczar@yahoo.com</p> | Show Entries @ \$5.00 per Bird    | Quantity _____ Birds | Total |
|  | Genetic Entries @ \$5.00 per Bird | _____ Birds          |       |
|  | Late Entries @ \$6.00 per Bird    | _____ Birds          |       |
|  | 4-bird For Sale Holes @ \$10/hole | _____ Holes          |       |
|  | LCD TV Raffle Tickets @ \$5.00 ea | _____ Tickets        |       |
|  |                                   |                      |       |

ISPA 2013 Dues (Junior 1-yr \$10; 3-yr \$25. Senior 1-yr \$15; 3-yr \$40. Family 1-yr \$18; 3-yr \$50

Check here if you will be sending your birds via US Postal Service \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL REMITTANCE**

|           |           |            |              |               |         |          |             | Additional Birds - 2012 Official Entry Form -- Page 2 |        |   | GENETIC |
|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|---------------|---------|----------|-------------|---|--------|---|---------|
| Do Not Us | Young Hen | Young Cock | Yearling Hen | Yearling Cock | Old Hen | Old Cock | Breed       | Color   | Band # |   |         |
|           |           | X          |              |               |         |          | Chinese Owl | Reduced Black   | 287    | x |         |
| 18        |           |            |              |               |         |          |             |   |        |   |         |
| 19        |           |            |              |               |         |          |             |   |        |   |         |
| 20        |           |            |              |               |         |          |             |   |        |   |         |
| 21        |           |            |              |               |         |          |             |   |        |   |         |
| 22        |           |            |              |               |         |          |             |   |        |   |         |
| 23        |           |            |              |               |         |          |             |   |        |   |         |
| 24        |           |            |              |               |         |          |             |   |        |   |         |
| 25        |           |            |              |               |         |          |             |   |        |   |         |
| 26        |           |            |              |               |         |          |             |   |        |   |         |
| 27        |           |            |              |               |         |          |             |   |        |   |         |
| 28        |           |            |              |               |         |          |             |   |        |   |         |
| 29        |           |            |              |               |         |          |             |   |        |   |         |
| 30        |           |            |              |               |         |          |             |   |        |   |         |

FOR ADDITIONAL BIRDS ENCLOSE SEPARATE SHEET

\*\*\*\*\* JUNIOR COMPETITION \*\*\*\*\*

(Birds must also be entered above - NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR JR COMPETITION)

|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***I.S.P.A. Membership Form:***

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renew \_\_\_\_\_ Adult \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_\_\_ Family \_\_\_\_\_

1 Year (2013) \_\_\_\_\_ 3-Year (2013, 2014, 2015) \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence for Iowa Residents: \_\_\_\_\_

If Family Membership, Name of Second Adult in Family \_\_\_\_\_

|  | Name  | Age   |
|--|-------|-------|
| If Family Membership, Names and ages of all children | _____ | _____ |
|  | _____ | _____ |
|  | _____ | _____ |
|  | _____ | _____ |

Breeds Raised \_\_\_\_\_

**CREDIT or DEBIT CARD PAYMENT**

Name as it exactly appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of card (VISA, MC, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Message from Minn., Another Central District Meet

Paul Lepinski

Just a quick note to inform all of you of the North Star Classic. The North Star Classic will be held on the 10th of November 2012, at the McLeod County Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, Minnesota. The North Star Classic is hosted by the Minnesota State Pigeon Association. This year's North Star will be dedicated to Bob Benson, as many of you are aware Bob was from Minnesota and was an active member with the MSPA. For those of you that knew Bob personally, you would know that he was a wealth of knowledge and always willing to go the extra mile to assist other breeders and support the hobby anyway he could. He has been dearly missed by his friends.

With this being said, I would like to see support in honoring him at this year's North Star Classic. Anyone interested in entering any birds in this year's show please contact me at paulsloft@mcshi.com and I will personally insure that an entry form is mailed out to you. Last year's North Star had 1,051 entries with 10 speciality clubs in attendance. We expect a 1200 to 1500 bird show this year, with 14 Speciality Clubs already committed to attend. USC member in charge is Gloria Weisgram. Please come and honor Bob and have a great time at the North Star.

## Bob Benson Discusses Breeding His Swallows

*From the editor. "A story written by Bob a few years ago that covers his perches, nests, etc."*

In the spring bulletin Dick Baker asked some good questions regarding the breeding and showing of swallows. I know, because I was there only a short time ago. Most everything I know about the breed was garnered from others, so I'll pass on some of their wisdom.

cut them 3" or 4" if I could do it over! I nail these perches onto 1" 4" x 12" pine and bolt then at a 45 degree angle to the wall. This keeps the muffs from rubbing on the walls. I bolt these onto pine 2"x 2" one above the other four or five high. Each row is 16" apart. These units are easy to remove for the breeding season.

I only have perches in the breeding lofts during the winter when I have the pairs separated. I remove the perches for the breeding season, this tends to keep each pair in their compartments which are easy to defend. I think it keeps the fighting to a minimum - I only have had two eggs broken since I started using this system. I hope this helps someone. I will discuss other questions in a later bulletin.

### Question #1 Do you have to trim muffs for breeding?

I've done it both ways; trimming is the safest, but I like watching my birds all summer with their beautiful muffs. For me it's a toss up.

### Question #2 What to use for nests?

I have twenty compartments approximately 3' x 18" x 16". Each is dowelled in front with a 10" opening which can be closed in winter. There are two nests in each compartment, approximately 1" x 12" x 12" pine, to this base nail 1" x 4" x 11 1/2" pine onto two sides. Put each nest in a corner for an easy to clean nest.

On one nest attach 5" dowels, drilled and glued into the bottom rear, and two dowels (1") in front to lock into the wall. The birds like boxes at two levels, and they use them both.

For nesting material I use cedar chips - and put alfalfa on the floor of the pens. Most birds will add alfalfa to their nest.

### Question #3 What is the ideal perch for swallows?

I use the round perch 6" and 5" in diameter; but I would



Bob Benson's perches and nest boxes disassembled.



Interior shot of Bob's loft showing his perches



Bob Benson's nest fronts with nest box placement inside.

## Photos from Perry Mueller's Visit With Nate Wayne



The table setting that Linda and Nate Wayne set out for Perry and Susie Mueller on their visit to see the Wayne's home. Note the small figurines of pigeons and German characters. All photos by Perry Mueller.



Nice looking yellow spangled wing pigeons at Nate Wayne's.



Young black spangle swallow at Nate Wayne's.



Breeding yellow, red & black swallow and wing pigeons.



Yellow white bar wing pigeon at Nate Wayne's.