

United Swallow Club

Newsletter Number 1, 2024

Supporting Swallow Pigeons World Wide

Since 1969



Bill Griebel's Best Swallow and Grand Champion at the NPA Grand National over 5,860 Pigeons

President's Message

Chris Auer

To All USC Members,

February is upon us, I hope all of you that participated in the show season were successful and had an enjoyable time. Now is the time to pair up your birds and start the breeding season. Good luck to all.

I would like to congratulate all the USC members that exhibited birds last month at the NPA National, I was not able to attend but I heard it was quite an impressive group of birds to see. I would also like to congratulate Bill Griebel for not only winning the Swallow competition but for ultimately having the Grand Champion for the whole NPA National. It is quite impressive for 2 USC members in the last few years to have birds be awarded the title of National Champion. Also, I would like to personally thank Axel Nestler for traveling from Germany to judge our birds, I have only heard positive feedback on the job he did.

Nomination of the location and judge for the 2024 USC annual meet is now open. Please send Rachel Stuckey your nominations. There has been talk of nominating another European judge for this show. The executive committee agrees that this would be ok due to the success of the last couple of auctions and the current status of our financials. One thing must be stated though, if you nominate a judge from overseas the individual that will help the judge with selection of airplane tickets, Hotels, transportation to the show site, meals, etc must be identified at the time of the nomination. This year Perry Mueller's efforts made Axel's trip and

our show a success. Thank you Perry!!!

Also during the next month please read through the constitution and bylaws and help identify "rules and clauses" that you believe would help the club if they are changed.

For example: Article V, includes the sentence "The annual show should be on a rotation basis as much as possible". The question is should this sentence be removed or changed to clearly state that an annual meet can go to the same location on a repeat basis?

Send your potential changes to the Const and ByLaws to me, I have solicited the help from a few club members to decide which proposals will actually make the ballot this year.

Thank you,

Chris Auer - USC President

Nominations for the 2024 USC Annual Meet location and judge are now being accepted. The nomination window will close 30 days after this bulletin is emailed. Send you nominations to:

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Or text/phone to: (770)533-3923
Or email to rachellasyone@yahoo.com
Or message her on Facebook/Messenger

United Swallow Club Annual Meet at the NPA National Meet, Louisville KY Jan 18-20, 2024

Judge: Axel Nestler from Germany

Fairy Swallow

(Crested Saxon Wing Pigeon)

Black White Bar Young Hen

S94 YH 31 Bill Griebel

Black White Bar Old Hen

HS96 OH 310 Bill Griebel ^{Best, Champion}

S95 OH 200 Bill Griebel

S94 OH 394 Bill Griebel

S94 OH 433 Bill Griebel

S94 OH 110 Bill Griebel

G92 OH 1305 David Averbeck

Black White Bar Old Cock

S95 OC 100 Bill Griebel

S94 OC 116 Bill Griebel

Black Spangle Young Hen

S94 YH 274 Perry Mueller

G92 YH 390 Perry Mueller

Black Spangle Young Cock

S93 YC 278 Perry Mueller

G92 YC 272 Perry Mueller

Black Spangle Old Hen

S95 OH 903 Perry Mueller

Black Spangle Old Cock

S93 OC 456 Perry Mueller

Blue White Bar Young Hen

S93 YH 721 David Averbeck

Blue White Bar Young Cock

G92 YC 733 David Averbeck

Blue White Bar Old Hen

G92 OH 1508 David Averbeck

Blue White Bar Old Cock

S94 OC 1305 David Averbeck

Red White Bar Young Cock

S95 YC 46 Bill Griebel

Red White Bar Old Cock

G92 OC 125 Bill Griebel

Yellow Spangle Old Hen

S93 OH 816 Nate Wayne

Yellow Spangle Old Cock

S95 OC 893 Nate Wayne

S93 OC 1351 Nate Wayne

Yellow White Bar Young Hen

S95 YH 238 Nate Wayne

S94 YH 246 Nate Wayne

Yellow White Bar Old Hen

S93 OH 891 Nate Wayne

Yellow White Bar Old Cock

S93 OC 811 Nate Wayne

Silesian Swallow

(Plainheaded Saxon Wing Pigeon)

Black White Bar Young Hen

S94 YH 411 Jim Grober

S94 YH 29 Bill Griebel

G92 YH 123 Bill Griebel

Black White Bar Young Cock

S95 YC 2721 Jim Grober

S94 YC 421 Jim Grober

S94 YC 432 Jim Grober

S94 YC 28 Bill Griebel

G92 YC 403 Jim Grober

Black White Bar Old Hen

S94 OH 85 Bill Griebel

Black White Bar Old Cock

HS96 OC 370 Bill Griebel

Black Spangle Young Hen

S94 YH 405 Jim Grober

Blue Barless Young Cock

S95 YC 252 Perry Mueller

S94 YC 368 Perry Mueller

Blue Barless Old Hen

HS96 OH 947 Perry Mueller ^{Best Res. Champ}

Blue Barless Old Cock

S94 OC 444 Perry Mueller

G92 OC 1753 Perry Mueller

Blue Black Bar Young Cock

S95 YC 437 Jim Grober

S94 YC 427 Jim Grober

S94 YC 424 Jim Grober

G92 YC 431 Jim Grober

Blue Black Bar Old Cock

S94 OC 2516 Jim Grober

Blue White Bar Young Hen

HS96 YH 323 Chris Auer

Blue White Bar Old Hen

S94 OH 532 Chris Auer

Blue White Bar Old Cock

S93 OC 1022 Jim Armstrong

Silver Dun Bar Old Hen

HS96 OH 865 Jim Grober

S95 OH 870 Jim Grober

Fullhead Swallow

(Saxon Swallow)

Black White Bar Young Cock

S94 YC 700 Chris Auer

I90 YC 317 Chris Auer

Black White Bar Old Hen

S93 OH 905 Chris Auer

Black White Bar Old Cock

S95 OC 926 Chris Auer

G92 OC 1012 Chris Auer

Blue White Bar Young Hen

S94 YH 285 Perry Mueller

S94 YH 270 Perry Mueller

Blue White Bar Young Cock

S95 YC 255 Perry Mueller ^{Best}

S94 YC 261 Perry Mueller

Clean Leg Spot Swallow

(Thuringer Wing Pigeon)

Black White Bar Young Hen

G92 YH 91 Elliot Yeske

Blue Barless Young Hen

S94 YH 506 Ron Smith

Blue Barless Old Hen

S95 OH 218 Ron Smith

G92 OH 401 Ron Smith

Blue Barless Old Cock

S94 OC 411 Ron Smith

G92 OC 631 Ron Smith

Blue Black Bar Young Hen

I90 YH 511 Ron Smith

Blue Black Bar Old Hen

S94 OH 412 Ron Smith

S94 OH 435 Ron Smith

Silver Dun Bar Old Hen

S94 OH 625 Ron Smith

Blue Check Old Cock

S94 OC 417 Ron Smith

S94 OC 623 Ron Smith

S93 OC 221 Ron Smith

G92 OC 220 Ron Smith

Red Check Young Hen

G92 YH 512 Ron Smith

Red Check Old Hen

S93 OH 430 Ron Smith

Red Check Old Cock

S95 OC 399 Ron Smith ^{Best}

S94 OC 393 Ron Smith

G92 OC 416 Ron Smith

Red White Bar Young Hen

S93 YH 269 Perry Mueller

S93 YH 852 Perry Mueller

Silver Barless Young Hen

S94 YH 500 Ron Smith

S93 YH 505 Ron Smith

Silver Barless Young Cock

S95 YC 501 Ron Smith

Silver Barless Old Hen

G92 OH 607 Ron Smith

Thuringer Fullhead Swallow

Ash Red Check Young Hen

S93 YH 256 Chris Auer

Ash Red Check Young Cock

S93 YC 262 Chris Auer

Ash Red Old Cock

G92 OC 21 Elliot Yeske

Black Old Cock

G92 OC 7 Elliot Yeske

G93 OC 1783 Elliot Yeske

Blue Barless Young Hen

S93 YH 1795 Brian Goodwin

I90 YH 223 Brian Goodwin

Blue Barless Young Cock

S95 YC 204 Brian Goodwin Best

Blue Barless Old Hen

S94 OH 2902 Brad Stuckey

Blue Barless Old Cock

S95 OC 35 Elliot Yeske

G92 OC 37 Elliot Yeske

Blue Black Bar Young Hen

S95 YH 255 Chris Auer

Blue Black Bar Young Cock

G92 YC 260 Chris Auer

G91 YC 1771 Brian Goodwin

I90 YC 232 Brian Goodwin

Blue Black Bar Old Cock

S95 OC 415 Brad Stuckey

Blue Check Old Hen

S94 OH 208 Brian Goodwin

Red Bar Young Hen

G92 YH 239 Brian Goodwin

Red Bar Young Cock

G91 YC 1789 Brian Goodwin

Rating System

I90	Inferior
G91	Good
G92	Good
S93	Superior
S94	Superior
S95	Superior
HS 96	Highly Superior
E 97	Excellent



RES. CHAMPION: HS96 Blue Barless Silesian Swallow by Perry Mueller



Thuringer Swallow Blue Barless OC 204 Brian Goodwin
Photo Layne Gardner



Best Fullhead, Blue White Bar YC 255 Perry Mueller. Photo Layne Gardner



Thuringer Wing Pigeon Red Check OC 399 S95 Ron Smith
Photo Layne Gardner



Silver Dun Bar HS96 OH 865 Jim Grober.
Photo Gary Romig



Saxon Wing Pigeon Crested Red White Bar YC 46
Bill Griebel S95 Photo Layne Gardner



Black Spangle OH 903 Perry Mueller S95
Photo Layne Gardner



Blue White Bar YH HS96 #323 Chris Auer.
Photo Gary Romig



Group of Swallow & Color Pigeon Breeders at the NPA Grand National/USC Annual Meet
Back Row: Dave Averbeck, Bill Griebel, Nate Wayne, Ron Smith, Brad Stuckey, Lance Newman and Elliot Yeske
Front Row: Judge, Axel Nestler, Perry Mueller, Jim Grober, and Gary Romig

Voting for a European Judge at the Annual Meet. What's Involved Anyway?

By Nate Wayne

Initially it starts with some members expressing a desire to have a "European" Judge for the Annual Meet. It takes some discussion among members to decide on who the judge might be. In my opinion, it is desirable to have the judge speak some English. If they speak no English, for me, the experience is less enjoyable. Second, they have to be available. Availability is less of a problem if the Annual Meet is held in conjunction with the NPA Nat". District Shows and the Pageant are more problematic. We try to vote for an Annual Meet Judge and show site about a year in advance so people can plan. In Europe, for the larger shows, judges are scheduled out three years in advance in some cases. They too have problems finding enough judges. Thirdly, they have to be willing to travel. This is not always the case.

Once a potential judge is identified someone must contact the potential judge and find out if they are willing and available. Next

it is important to explain to them that first they are nominated and then voted on by club members before an official invitation can be extended.

If the European Judge is elected, a point person should be selected to be the main person to communicate with the judge. They can extend the official invitation and its acceptance, make reservations for show accommodations, confirm show dates, coordinate reimbursement of the judges travel expenses and answer other questions. This usually takes several emails. If this is the judge's first time it helps if they can speak to someone they know who might have judged here before.

There are several considerations for travel. Ticket cost is probably the most important. In recent years, it has included getting flight insurance too. What city should the judge fly out of and what city should their destination be? A number of European Cities only have direct flights to the U. S. once or twice a week. What about layovers and connecting flights? When should they arrive and depart? You can't expect the judge after travelling for 18 to 20 hours to get off the plane and go directly to the show hall and start judging. What happens if the flight is delayed a day?

A connecting flight arriving in Louisville would have been a great choice. However, there are no club members in Louisville to host the judge and no club members in the immediate area for loft visits. You have to have hosts which will pick the judge at the airport, provide food and lodging, get the judge to and from the show, provide food and lodging after the

show if necessary and get them to the airport. Club member Perry Mueller and his wife Susie were the hosts. Thank you Perry and Susie.

So you are the judge. You travel all the way from Europe to the US and you don't get to do any sightseeing? So that responsibility also falls on the hosts. Keep in mind all the travel issues we deal with, the judge has to deal with most of them on their end too.

I haven't tried to include everything but hopefully you have a sense of the amount of work involved.

Postscript:

In my opinion when you vote to have a European Judge at an Annual Meet you are voting to support that endeavor. Most members are able to help in one or more of three ways.

Helping to raise money to offset the related costs.

Having an entry in the show.

Attending the show.

I was very proud of the support shown by my fellow club members. I felt it was one of the more successful and enjoyable shows in recent club history. Thank all of you.:

Message from Axel Nestler

Hello friends and breeders,

When I look at the photos from the show at home now, I will say again thank's the members of the Swallow Club for the invitation for judging.

A special thank to Perry and Susan, for welcoming me in your home.

Also thanks for Nate, Elliot and David for helping me in the show, with translate and writing the cards.

I meet new breeders and friends.

It was also for me a new situation, that I judging pigeons in this form.

When I stay at home, I call Klaus Burghardt, Hans Schipper, Rudi Kreher and I meet Reiner Wolf also.

From all them I say many greeting.

Now we hope the new breeding season will go on.

All the best for you

Regards Axel

Bill Griebel wins the Overall Grand Champion at the NPA Grand National

The United Swallow Club held their Annual Meet and show in conjunction with the National Pigeons Association Grand National in Louisville KY. It was a good competition with several high placing birds in all categories.

This year the Swallow Club was able to have a judge come from Germany. Thanks to the efforts of several members of the Club. For this show we had an outstanding Judge, Axel Nestler, from Germany. A special thanks goes to Perry Mueller for hosting Axel.

Axel did an incredible job of explaining the fine points of a good Swallow Pigeon. There were a lot of fine Swallows entered. At the end of 2 days work judging, Axel picked Bill Griebel's Black White Bar Saxon Wing Pigeon (Fairy Swallow) as the best Swallow of over 100 entries. The Winning Bird, an Old Hen, was one of several birds placed in the Highly Superior (HS96) ranking. Other Highly Superior birds included: Perry Mueller's Blue Barless Silesian, Jim Grober's Silver Dun Bar Silesian, and Chris Auer's Blue White Bar Silesian. In the Thuringer (Clean Legs) category Brian Goodwin won with a Blue Barless Fullhead and Ron Smith won with a Red Check Spot Swallow.

All in all, it was a great Swallow Pigeon Show with many members in attendance.

It has been the custom at NPA Grand National Shows, to have a Final Pick for the Top Bird in the Show. A total of 5,864 pigeons and 160 breeds.

Pigeon breeders started bringing their winning birds of all types into a line up at the end of the Show Hall. A Three Judge team, one from Scotland, Scott Sharp, and two from Australia, Phil Cleghorn and Alan Watts, did the judging.

The audience of breeders and spectators watched as the judges looked over all the birds. They worked quickly and had their main attention on a few birds. I sat with Bill Griebel as we watched the judging and we could see that the Judges were closely examining Bill's Black White Bar Fairy Swallow. In just a few seconds they picked Bill's bird as the Best in the Show! They then picked a very fine English Trumpeter belonging to John DeCarlo Sr. as the Second place bird and a White Jacobin of John Manckia was third. It was a thrilling end to the show for the United Swallow Club!



Phil Cleghorn, Australia-Scott Sharp, Scotland-Bill Griebel, USA and Alan Watts, Australia



Perry Mueller receives a German award from Axel Nestler



Bill Griebel Receives award for Champion Swallow



Axel Nestler of Germany explains how the foot feathering should be as he judges a group of black Saxon Wing Pigeons. Dave Averbek is working as scribe

A Tribute to Werner Zahn (1936-2023)

Werner's parents emigrated from the city of Bieber, near Offenbach am Main to the Netherlands in the early 1900s. Werner was born in Arnhem in 1936 and attended school there as well but unfortunately the family had to leave the Netherlands due to the outbreak of World War 2 and the properties they had built up there were seized by the state. So, Werner spent his youth back in Germany in Offenbach-Bieber.

Werner inherited his love of pigeons from his father, who kept pigeons but was never so involved in the hobby as his son. Bitten by the pigeon bug, by 1951 Werner had Ice Pigeons and had exhibited them with some success in Hannover.

Werner completed an apprenticeship as a businessman working in his parent's business producing leather goods. It was also during this period that he met Erich Müller. In the coming years the two often traveled together and spent many wonderful hours together—always with something regarding pigeons!

Werner married his wife Rita in 1961 and they began their family in 1964 with the birth of their son Frank, who was born at home in Obertshausen. Rita was familiar with pigeon breeding because her family had also raised pigeons.

The Bieber small animal breeding association in Bavaria offered ideal conditions for pigeon breeding and beginning in 1951 Werner began breeding seriously, exhibiting for the first time in Hanover. At the same time, Werner developed a love for book collecting and exchanged books with Erich Müller and Karlheinz Sollfrank. His interest was not only in pigeon books but also chickens and other bird books. It's no surprise that he visited antique book stores in London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Munich. Additionally, many of the older breeders left him books to ensure they would remain in good hands.

With the increased popularity of pigeon breeding in the 1950s and 60s, Werner founded the Offenbach and Surrounding Areas Pigeon Club in 1967 and soon all of the well-known breeders of the region became members. It was also during this time that he studied and passed the requirements to become a recognized judge. He was a specialty judge for Saxon Color Pigeons and he bred Saxon Wing Pigeons, Swallows, and Shields until the end of his life.

His interest in his Saxon Wing Pigeons helped him make contacts throughout the world and one day Dr. L. E. Hummel from the USA, a great expert on Color Pigeons, visited him. The two looked at his pigeons and Werner asked the Dr. to assess the quality of his Wing Pigeons. He replied that the yellow and red ones were very nice, but the blue ones were behind in quality compared to those in the USA. Werner told me that he couldn't sleep for nights knowing there could be better Wing Pigeons elsewhere. He concluded: he had to go to America! This was the start of a series of visits, which would take him to the USA six times, several times with judging assignments at the American National Pigeon Shows. Of course, he also traveled around the country, always on the lookout for books to add to his collection. The Americans valued him and regarded him as an ambassador for German Color Pigeons in the USA. But he wasn't drawn just to the west! In the 1950s, he contacted Siegfried Wild from Zschocken/Erzgebirge which resulted in a lifelong friendship. At first, he travelled by train, then later drove a Volkswagen Beetle over the mountains to the east. He had to drive through every village, because modern highways didn't exist yet.

Traditionally, the Zahn and Wild families spent the time around the



2016, Cathy Swanson with Werner Zahn

Pentecost holiday with each other, and in winter Werner made it a point to visit the main shows in the Erzgebirge area. Werner visited many well-known breeders who are now considered legends. With his friend Rudi Kreher, the two were seen as a team, attending all the important shows.

In fact, one can say that Werner Zahn attended every national and VDT show from the 1950s onwards, without a hitch until 2022. His ambition led to the holding of five VDT shows in Offenbach and Frankfurt am Main, even organizing a National in the Frankfurt fairgrounds under the leadership of his friend Dr. Werner Lüthgen, with him as first chairman of the Offenbach Pigeon Club. He also held the presidency of the

pigeon club for 54 years and after retiring from the office received the title of emeritus president. Likewise, he was on the board of the Frankfurt Bird Breeders Breeding Association founded in 1867 for many years.

In 1970, Werner Zahn took over as president of the Saxon Color Pigeon Club in West Germany, which Werner retained until the reunification of Germany. As part of the merger of the two German Color Pigeon Clubs he gave up the presidency and was appointed emeritus president. From then he was very active in the Saxon Wing, Swallow, and Shield Pigeons Club, serving as breed overseer for many years, ensuring that fanciers maintained and improved the quality of the breeds. His reports as chairman and breed overseer were always meaningful, future-oriented and, above all, complete. During the 1980s his literary activities brought us a complete treatise on the Saxon Color Pigeons in the pigeon and poultry magazines. Later, he included his expertise regarding the pigeon and poultry literature in his articles. In the "Columba" newsletter published annually by the Nuremberg Pigeon Museum, he was supportive with articles starting with the very first publication and his sharing of knowledge was eagerly anticipated with each issue.

Werner Zahn received the title of master of purebred pigeon breeding by the VDT in 1990 and has been an Emeritus Master in the BDRG since 2001. He was also honored for 50 years Membership in the local club of Hessen-Nassau.

Over the course of his life, the Saxon Wing Pigeon population continued to grow his lofts. But there were also Saxon Swallows, German Double Crested Trumpeters, Saxon Field Color Pigeons, German Modenas and also, very early and successfully, he bred the long-beaked Magpie Tumblers, and whose breeders still know Werner today.

In fact, Werner Zahn was a bridge between East and West. At a time when the Cold War was raging, he wasn't interested in politics, but pursued his passion without allowing himself to be restricted and maintained his contacts from East Germany all the way to California. Honors and titles didn't really interest him but there was no distance too far for him to travel in order to see beautiful pigeons. Always honest, he often told people what they didn't want to hear and at the same time, he was also a great diplomat.

Werner Zahn died on October 27, 2023 at the age of 87. A few days before his death he said: "I have had a fulfilling and really beautiful life."

One cannot expect a better life! I hope and wish that in the new world Werner will be reunited with his old friends and companions who have already left, and can continue his beautiful life.

Michael Gallasch
Translated by Layne Gardner

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* In Red will be removed by next issue

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