



Supporting Swallow Pigeons
World Wide Since 1969
Newsletter No. 2, 2020



A Beautiful Nest! Picture submitted by Perry Mueller

President's Message

Chris Auer

Hello to all USC members!

First of all, I hope ALL of you and your families are doing well and staying healthy. Secondly, I also hope that you are raising a lot of high quality birds this year.

The voting for the annual meet site and certified judge is now over and I am glad to announce that the USC meet will be held in conjunction with the NPA National in Louisville, KY on Jan 28-30, 2021 and the judge will be Leon Stephens. Thank you to all USC members that took the time and made the effort to vote and congratulations to Leon.

On other club business, the Breeders Matrix is now posted in the documents section of the UnitedSwallowClub.com website. Take a look and let me know what you think, right now the plan is to update the matrix around the May timeframe each year so that we can include any new members in the database.

I would also like to thank George DelaNuez for putting together the Member Spotlight for our bulletin, George has let me know that he would like someone else to take over preparing the article going forward. If you are interested in putting that together for each bulletin please let me know.

Brad Stuckey is looking for publicity ideas right now. Brad is getting prices on USC label pins for your judging coats, magnets, a new patch, etc. If you have any ideas for promoting the USC please let Brad know what they are.

As was discussed at the annual meeting we have a new chairperson position to help drive membership and welcome new members. Jim Grober has accepted this role and he has already sent out a welcome letter plus a copy of the breeder matrix to

our "new" members. One idea that Jim and I have talked about is starting a mentorship "program" where he would ask one of our longer term members to make contact with a new member a few times to help them get started in Swallow breeding and exhibition. If you are willing to help out as a mentor please let Jim know!!

Now onto moving forward, I am looking for ideas that would help the USC increase membership, retain new members, improve breeding results and improve the show "experience" for everyone. A couple of ideas that have been brought to me are that we could develop a "Guide to Swallow Breeding" book that would include a pictorial explanation of our standard and what to look for in your birds, plus breeding tips from our seasoned members and a section on what the judges are looking for at the show. The key would be to get some kind of consensus from several members and judges as to what should be included. The other idea was to hold a series (2-3 per year) of video conference calls on Zoom, Skype, facetime or some other platform to review the standard, show prep tips, judging do's and don'ts, Q&A session or anything else to help new members, members that are trying new types of swallows and novice judges. If you have the motivation, time and drive to take on a task like this please contact me.

Thank you and I hope to see many of you in the show halls this coming show season, especially the National in Louisville, KY next January. Good Luck!!



Blue white bar Thuringer Swallow. Art by Gary Romig

Be There for
**The USC Annual Meet
for 2020**

At the NPA National in
Louisville, Kentucky

January 28, 29, 30, 2021

Leon Stephens: judge

United Swallow Club Annual Meeting Minutes-

The meeting was held on January 23rd, 2020 in the restaurant of the Embassy Suites hotel. The members present were as follows:

David Averbeck- President
Gary Romig- Vice President
Elliot Yeske- Secretary/Treasurer
Perry Mueller- Central District Director
Bill Griebel-Western District Director
Chris Auer-President Elect
Rachel Stuckey- Election Commishner
Brad Stuckey
Nate Wayne
Mike & Kathy Swanson
John Navant
Ron Smith
Pedro Carrillo
Jenny Noble

Meeting Was called to order by David Averbeck. David asked Elliot to give the treasurers report. (That report will probably be found later in the bulletin). Brad asked Elliot to give a report about bands. Elliot stated that he can not buy additional 2020 USC bands from the NPA. The minimum order that he would be able to order if he could order them is 500 as club and 100 per size. As of the meeting night Elliot estimated that he had about 350 number 8, and 450 number 11.

David gave a big thank you to George De La Nuez and Gary Romig for their work on the new 50th anniversary patch and banner. David then announced the new officers who are as follows:

Chris Auer-President
Gary Romig-Vice President
Elliot Yeske- Secretary/Treasurer
Perry Mueller-Central District Director
George De La Nuez- Western District Director
Ron Declement-Eastern District Director
Jim Richards-Canadian District Director

Chris Auer then took over the meeting and gave a state of the club speech. He said that we need to be in the club for three reasons-fun, camaraderie, and shows. We need to focus on positives and not the negatives especially on social media. We don't need to air out our dirty laundry with the world. People in the club are our number one and we need to protect that. He stated that our club numbers have been going down since the Oklahoma City National/Annual Meet, we have lost over 31 members. We need to spend time with people in the club to get it to grow. We need to figure out what motivates the new young members. Mike made a great point that Elliot does a great job in reminding people

when their dues are to be paid and if your dues need to be paid. Pedro has been impressed with all the positive vibes that the club does have. Bill made an observation about bulletins not being full. Also, a question about whether everyone is even receiving the bulletin either via email or mail. Also, a suggestion was made that there be a member spotlight in every bulletin so that new members can get to know about other members in the club. Chris also suggested we should do an information brochure about the club to give out to the new members and to have on hand at meets and shows so people can read about our club. Gary Romig volunteered do take on this task. Chris said that he would like to work with the Eastern District Director on trying to find a more southern show to be able to host a regular Eastern District meet.

Chris then announced that Rachel Stuckey will again be the Election Commissioner. A discussion about a New member program came about. Nate made the motion that Chris delegates the task of taking on a new member program and Bill second it. The motion carries. Chris also mentioned that he created a Breeders matrix(directory) so that everyone can see what others are breeding. An idea about changing the existing patch with another patch. Elliot asked how soon we should be looking to create a new patch. Mike suggested Gary be on that committee for design of the new patch and finding a patch vendor. We have less than 20 of the anniversary patches left at the time of the meeting. Nate made the motion that Brad Stuckey help Gary Romig with the new patch and put him in charge of that, Bill second the motion and the motion was then voted on. It then passed. We need to make sure that we have good communication within the club and that will be our key to our success. Nate brought up the aren bands that the German club made for us for this show and that we should reciprocate the same gesture back. Both German clubs are going to be celebrating their 100 and 125 year anniversaries next year. Nate and Mike both made the motion that Gary works on this to come up with some design for this. David 2nd this motion. Motion was voted on and then passed. The meeting was then made a motion to close the meeting and 2nd by David, meeting was adjourned.

From USC Secretary Elliot Yeske

I still have a few USC bands to sell.
I have only 30, 8 mm
I think about 200 muffed 11 mm for sale



From Gary Romig, I've got baby Swallows. I am not sure what they will look like. On the left is a young silver/gold spangle. It could get better or worse with the moult. In the middle a very young red check. I am very short on hens in the red checks. On the right a cream yellow bar... a hen for sure having come from red parents. I hope all Swallow Club members are doing well and raising some good young ones

From the Central District Director

We are certainly living in unusual times. Hopefully our pigeon hobby will be back to normal this fall. The national show in January was outstanding. Congratulations to Mike and Cathy Swanson for an outstanding win. Their blue check set the standard for the rest of the birds in the show. Virus permitting we will have three shows in the central district this fall. The National Young bird show in October, a district show with the Des Moines club up in December and our annual meet at the national show in Louisville in January. All the shows are dependent upon the status of the virus of course. I'm having a good season here in St. Louis. I've had a little extra time to spend with the birds. Hopefully that will pay off in the show room this winter.

Perry Mueller: central district director



Amarillo; Black Spangle Fairy Swallow shown by Perry Mueller

Breeding Swallows in Louisiana

Last year, Rachel and I had a lot going on and we did not breed as many Swallows as we would have liked. After a lot of thinking, we decided to focus more on our Swallows, and sold out of some other breeds.

This year, we have put together five pairs of Rachel's Blue and Silver Check Silesians. I set each pair up in their own 4'x4' breeding unit. The birds are all nesting well and some have already laid eggs! We are grateful to Mike and Cathy Swanson for getting Rachel going with great birds.

Congratulations Mike and Cathy on your Grand National Champion Silesian! What an amazing specimen, and what a boost for the Swallow breed in our hobby!

I personally love the type and markings of Thuringer Swallows. I have put five pairs of the breed together and have a few getting started on eggs. One pair already has a squab! Most of my Thuringer Swallows are Silver Bars and I am grateful to Brian Goodwin for importing and promoting this variety of Swallows in multiple colors over the past few years. I would love to see Thuringer Swallows in Bronze and White Bars. Perry Mueller and Dave Holloway have graciously sent me some birds with Toy Stencil to breed into my current stock. There are a few breeders in Europe with these varieties and I have been intrigued by their birds for a few years now. Hopefully the USC will start seeing these varieties shown in the future.

Thank you David Averbek for your efforts over the last two years as our president.

Congratulations Chris Auer on being our president for the next two years. I hope you all have a great year and I am excited about the growth of our breed in years to come. May all be blessed with lots of promising results!

Sincerely, Brad Stuckey



At USC Annual Meet Bill Griebel judges a class of blue spangle Fairy Swallows while Dave Averbek and Chris Auer learn judging via judging program

USC Member Profile

Featured breeder Kaylee Quattlebaum

By George de la Nuez

Our featured member is Kaylee Quattlebaum, a second generation pigeon breeder from the state of Missouri. A young lady, whose love of pigeons has been passed down from her father, John Skistimas. We are proud to feature one of our few female members with a bright future in the Swallow fancy ... Please enjoy.



Kaylee holding her award for best silver check Saxon Wing Pigeon

Date of birth? 11/23/1995

Where do you live ? I grew up in Oak Grove, Missouri, about 25 miles east of Kansas City. After graduating from Mizzou (Missouri State University) My husband and I moved to Liberty, Missouri (North Kansas City area) for work. My birds are still at my dad's loft (about 40 minutes away), and I go back periodically to pair birds, trim show birds, etc.

Other hobbies besides pigeons? I'm a high school Athletic Trainer, so work keeps me pretty busy. When I do have time, I enjoy reading, playing with my dogs, and doing graphic design for wedding stationary

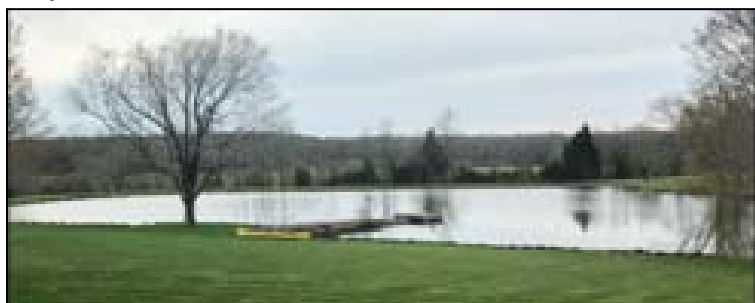
Who got you started in Swallows? Where was the first time you saw the Swallow pigeon? When I was in 5th grade, dad brought a bunch of different breeds back from his work trip to California. The only two breeds that there were pairs of were Swallows and Priests. The Swallows were meant for my younger sister because the Priests manage to be even flightier, and dad figured it would be easier for me to handle them. The Swallows were Blue Black Bars from Bill Griebel. Blue is my favorite color, so I bullied my younger sister until she let me have them. My first pair of babies were handled so much that as adults, they would sit in your open palm. Between those two babies, I won 3 Junior Nationals, swept a Rare Breeds show at Nationals (too few Swallows were being shown to show against just the breed), and got the chance to show in the Parade of Champions at 16 years old.

How did you find out about the USC ? I don't remember how I found out about the USC, but I imagine that somebody told 12 year old me to "go give that man \$5", and I've been a member ever since.

What's your least favorite part of the hobby? My least favorite part of the hobby is pairing up birds. I'm a chronic over thinker and can manage to spend hours in a freezing cold loft trying to make decisions on something that is 60% knowledge and 40% luck



Kaylee's childhood home located next to lake. Oak Grove, Missouri



Loft Kaylee shares with her father in Oak Grove.

Do you have any suggestions on how to improve our club? Do you feel there is enough information available out there to help breeders succeed?

I think that Chris Auer has definitely got us on the right track with some forward thinking ideas. I love the idea of having a breeder spreadsheet. I think it takes out a lot of unnecessary legwork instead of calling around to find out the same info.

On that note, I think younger breeders could be more easily attracted to the club if we have a larger online presence. A lot of younger people are too intimidated to call around for info. 4H clubs are always looking for projects, and by having more information online, or a form on our website to send in questions. I think that younger breeders would be more likely to reach out. There is so much knowledge out there regarding colors and genetics that isn't written down, so a beginner would have no idea. I've heard that there has been some consideration about merging the USC with the Color Pigeon Club. I think that would be a great idea. I can understand why some might not approve, but I think that's mostly connected to the emotional idea of maintaining the integrity of the "Swallow Club". If we are trying to grow the breed, it makes way more sense to target those already breeding pigeons, instead of trying to get someone to commit to pigeons in general and all the work that goes with them.



Kaylee's blue check Saxon Wing Pigeon



Breeder Loft



Kaylee's Ash red bar Saxon Wing Pigeon



Kaylee receiving award from Gary Romig



Kaylee's Silver check Saxon Wing Pigeon



Kaylee's blue black bar Saxon Wing Pigeon.

My other suggestion is regarding judging. While I understand that maybe we have an emotional attachment to European style judging, I feel that it is too subjective. One judge may value color over type, or vice versa. Even while judging against our standard, too much subjectivity is involved. I realized this while watching my dad's Trumpeters being judged. When it comes down to the finals, the poster board gets pulled out. Yes, the judge is still using their best judgment to award a number score to each category, but that category has a preset value. I feel like this kind of objectivity is more attractive to beginners who might not know the birds as well, and are intimidated by our current judging style. I do think that our judges typically do a good job of explaining their decisions, especially when they know the breeder would appreciate feedback

How long have you been in the pigeon hobby? I have been in the hobby since 5th grade, so going on 13 years now.

How many pairs do you breed from? I am currently breeding from about 6 pairs. I only had 6 quality cock birds survive the winter, so that set the number. I typically try for about 8 pair.

Rewarding in breeding the Swallow pigeon? What I enjoy about Swallows is how challenging they are, especially muffed. When you walk around a show hall, there are a lot of breeds that you might think "Well, I could do that!", but Swallows aren't one of them. I think that a perfectly patterned Swallow is one of the most beautiful breeds in the show hall. There are just so many variables to try to control, that achieving a bird close to that perfect standard really draws attention.

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