

United Swallow Club

Newsletter Number 2, 2023

Supporting Swallow Pigeons World Wide

Since 1969



President's Message Chris Auer

To: All USC members

At the time you receive this bulletin the 2023 breeding season will be at it's peak or for some almost finished. I hope everyone is having a great season and raising a lot of top quality swallows in all varieties.

Later in this bulletin you will see the results of the election that we just gone through. I will not go through all the results but focus on a couple in this "message".

- 2023 Annual meet will be held in conjunction with the NPA National in Louisville, KY next January. The judge will be Axel Nestler from Germany. Let's do everything we can as a club to make this a memorable show with a large number of entries exhibited by many USC members. Please volunteer to help with all the preparation for the show, auction and annual meeting

- President, I will be continuing on as USC President through 2025. I would like to thank all of the members that wrote my name in. I have to say I was "surprised" when Rachel sent Gary, Elliot and myself the results. I hope that this is a sign that you are willing to volunteer and support the club's efforts through this time period and beyond.

Please let me know if you have any actionable initiatives that you would like us to potentially work on, please include

recommendations. The 3 that I see having "some" merit are:

- 1) Update the judging program to reflect the current state of the club and hobby. Things to include but not limited to are the judge certification process and awarding of marks at all shows.
- 2) Updating the constitution and bylaws- most likely not a total re-write but just updating the items that are in most need of updating.
- 3) Start formally putting together a handbook of some type for newer members to help them learn from the "experts" on different methods to select stock, show prep, loft management, selecting breeding pairs, in depth explanation of the standard and/or anything else that "newer" members think would help them and others going forward.

Please volunteer to either lead a committee or at least as a minimum participate in a committee to move things through to completion.

In closing, let's put a goal in front of us to have a district meet this year in the East, Central and West plus the NYBS. All of us should try to re-instate the culture within the USC that we had a few years back where comradery and development of friendships between all members is a high priority.

Good bye until next time!!!

Chris Auer

United Swallow Club 2023 Election Results

President: Chris Auer
Vice President: Gary Romig
Secretary/Treasurer: Elliot Yeske
Western District Director: Dave Gazaway
Central District Director: Dave Averbeck
Eastern District Director: Corey Rosian
Canadian District Director: Bernd Licht
Annual Meet Location: ... NPA National, Louisville. Ky
Annual Meet Judge: Axel Nestler

Greetings from the Central Director Elect

Dave Averbeck

Hello and good evening from White River, Ontario, Canada!!! My name is David Averbeck for those who I have not had the pleasure of meeting or talked to. I am the new elected Central Director and I live in St. Louis, Missouri. I have held positions in the past within the organization and feel its is time to get back in. I hope to work with our president and NPA directors to not only promote the United Swallow Club, but to grow it. How are we going to grow this do you ask? One of the ways that I am hoping to is to start making sure that our club is represented in the major shows, host district meets, and attend smaller local shows to even if there is not any competition to promote the breed

of swallows. In the Central District, I hope to work with local members to host up to three district meets, NYBS, Des Moines, and St. Louis. I am open to hosting more with more support from the local clubs. Little about me, I breed Fairy Swallows in both black and blue-white bars. I also raise Saxon Whitetails, South German Blasse, and recently got a few of my first love of pigeons the American Fantail. I have been raising swallows since 2008. I am a second-generation pigeon breeder and hope to pass along my love for birds to my children as they get older. I hope to see you all at the up coming shows especially, NYBS and the Grand National both being held in Louisville, KY.

Plumage Lice

Perry Mueller

If you raise pigeons you have dealt with these lice.

As the weather warms up, they will start showing up in the young birds. The challenge is to get rid of these things completely. Years ago, I would dust these birds with Sevin dust. It seemed to do the trick then. It was always a major ordeal to go through all the birds and dust them. And if you did not get all of them, you would have to re-do it again a couple weeks later. And the dust was not very healthy.

The next thing I used was Permethrin . This process involved dipping the birds in a bucket of water and

Permethrin. This does work quite well, but again is a little unhealthy for the Pigeon Fancier. To try to keep you hands dry is a challenge.

The latest wrinkle I use is Ivermectin. Brian Goodwin told me about this product. I add a little bit to 2 gallons of bathwater, and it works like a charm. It seems like the birds that don't get in the bathwater lose the bugs also. Plus, it does a little worming. So far I've added this to the bathwater about once a month. So far this is the easiest method. No more dipping or dusting for me.





Hello everyone! Well, it's that time!! I'm sure we are all banding babies and dealing with what Mother nature has dealt us this year. Some are struggling with a slow start while others are thriving. I myself am somewhere in the middle with a lot of spotless babies popping up. Maybe not a lot, but more than normal. Its all part of the game though, right?

COMRADERY I wanted to take a minutes to talk about the breeding season and maybe more so, the time of year and reaching out to our fellow friends and breeders. It seems when us pigeon breeders are deep into May/June, we are busy with breeding and family vacations and the usual Summer distractions. Which, for some, can put pigeons on the backburner. At this time, I would encourage us all to take the time to reach out to your fellow breeders. Especially the new ones. I think it helps keep the pigeon bug flowing through the veins and rejuvenates the excitement to stay focused on our goals with our birds (whatever it may be).

I had 2 different local pigeon breeders call me who are newer to the hobby. They both had questions and mentioned they were struggling with cracked eggs, infertility etc. These are all things most of us have figured out and have fixed the issues with breeding box design, supplements and feed mixes containing the right nutrients. Again, it opened my eyes a bit to what I find common place (as it's been years since I have had to be concerned about these things). Loft design, maybe cutting a few vents in the loft, bowl depth, nesting material, all of it can affect your breeding season. With these breeders being newer (last 5 years), I sensed the frustration and found myself trying to convince them to hang in there

and stick to it! So, I would encourage you all, when we have put ourselves on cruise control, while our birds are doing their thing breeding, take the time to reach out to make these breeders feel comfortable communicating with us. They aren't bugging us. At least not me. If anything, they're getting us excited to help and share our knowledge.

I was also speaking to a local breeder about possibly having a Summer BBQ for our club to help not only answer those questions, but to also go over standards and to show breeders those things they may have looked over. Most breeders here have raised multiple breeds in their lifetimes and can pass that knowledge to those looking for breeding tips. I guess what I am getting at is, lets look outside the box with a positive attitude and look at doing something above and beyond the norm to keep the hobby alive and growing!!

VACCINATIONS Most of us know that giving our birds vaccinations is the only way to truly avoid most problems during the show season. Sure medications can work for diseases but viruses wipe out lofts! One thing I wanted to pass on is that there are a few pigeon supply companies out there that do have vaccines for Adeno now in a combo. They don't announce it on their sites so a phone call is usually necessary. I had a virus break out after show season last year and it wiped out 80% of my birds! Shortly after I found out about the vaccine, ordered it, hit up my birds and I had a nice drama and disease free show season this last year.

I hope everyone is doing well and having a great breeding season! I'm sure I will see some of you this show season!!

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