

American Giant Homer Association



2008 Futurity Champion Cock. Opal bred and owned by Maurice & Maxine Durkee.

2012 1st Quarter Bulletin
January-March

3rd District Maturity Show - Hastings NE - Nov 3rd 2012

American Giant Homer Association
2012-- Officer List

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Western Vice President: Jeff Stapleton
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Bulletin / Publicity Director: Dale Clark
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Band Director: Gerry Hrasky
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Historian: Ruthmary Hunt
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Dist. 2-Ruthmary Hunt -1143 George Hunt Rd.
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Dist. 3- Gerry Hrasky
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Dist. 4- Ed Berthelot
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Senior Advisory Counsel

These members are here to offer their experience and wisdom with the
American Giant Homers.

They will be glad to hear from you!

Senior Ambassadors

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Presidents Message, January 2012

Hello to all, With my incoming Presidency brings the end of the show season and the start of a new breeding season. I would like to start by thanking all those who have supported me and gave me there vote as President. I would also like to thank Clifton Padgett for a job well done. Clifton did a great job of leading and supporting the AGHA and keeping us moving forward in very challenging times in the pigeon hobby. I am sure as immediate past President he will still be on board with all things Giant Homer related and a positive influence in our organization. Thanks again Cliff for a job well done.

Holding the office of President was always something that I never thought I was interested in or cut out for. My background in leadership is very little. I did serve as President of our 4-H club as a kid, I guess that worked out alright. I also ran a construction crew for a small construction company for awhile, no one ever experienced a major injury or got into a fist fight on my watch, I guess that was success in my bosses eyes. I currently am a relief supervisor at work. I keep things running smoothly and so far have had nothing but success and praise from my higher ups. This all brings up the question, " Now that I am President of the AGHA will I be able to lead our organization in the direction that we need to be headed for the future of our breed the American Giant Homer?" My answer to this question is "I will do my best with what I have to work with." That being said I am confident that along with my fellow officers that have recently been elected, we plan to keep the AGHA moving forward as one of the leading pigeon specialty breed clubs in the U.S. One must remember though that it takes IDEAS and INPUT from as many members as possible. Myself and my fellow officers do not want to make all the decisions on our own ideas. Every member is obligated as a dues paying member to voice their opinion by commenting in the bulletin or on the Yahoo group or contacting your District Director. When ever a proposal comes up to vote it is your right to cast your ballot and voice your opinion. Everyone needs to be active in the club for it to be a successful organization. I am very confident that WE have what it takes to take OUR organization into the future of the pigeon hobby. Many clubs are on their way out because of the "trying times" in the hobby, we will not be one of them.

As far as the show season, we went to the National Young Bird Show in Louisville, Kentucky in October. Mike Jones had the job of judging the Giants at this event. He did a great job sorting through them and in the end David Hurt had Champion hen and Grand Champion of the show with a really nice Indigo check hen and H & H Lofts had Champion cock with a Homozygous spread Indigo(double andalusian). I would like to thank Ross and Ruthmary Hunt for their generous cash donation for champ and reserve. The show went off as usual, very

smooth, with a nice benefit auction to top off the event. The Louisville Giant Meet is building a pretty nice treasury account so I would urge anyone that can participate to come show at Louisville.

In November we went to the Hartford City, Indiana all breed show. I did not show any Giants but Dustin Page 1st. Dist. Director did and he had Champion Giant and best Utility. I did take a couple of pairs of Giants with me 4-sale and was able to sign up a new member Rex Bercot of Indiana. Rex seems to be pretty excited about our gentle Giants and I believe if he can raise a few youngsters he will have the "bug" and we will see more of him. This show was ran well. I hope it can grow and turn into a major event over time.

December brought the 1st. District Show in DesMoines, Iowa. All I can say about this show is WOW! What a great facility and great hospitality by the Iowa Pigeon Club. This show is a First Class All Breed event. Ross Hunt had the pleasure of going through around 170 nice Giants at this show. In the end Larry Wilmes had Champion with a great opal bar old hen and I had Reserve Champion on a old blue bar cock. We had an auction at this show also and built up the 1st. dist treasury also. Sounds like Dustin is planning on holding 1st. dist. in Fremont, Ohio next year. I'm looking forward to it.

This year I did not enter any birds at our local January show in Fremont but Ralph Steuer, OH, Brad DeWys, MI, and Chari Patterson of Indiana showed. Ralph came out on top with a young b.bar hen. Also in attendance was Titus Hostetter from Pennsylvania. He was picking up some more giants for stock. I hope he can show some Giants next year. We also attended the Reading show in PA, no giants there this year but I plan to show there next year and spark more interest up there with Titus.

Well that's all I have for now. I would like to wish everyone a good breeding season and remember show condition starts in the breeding loft. Keep em' healthy.

Joe Braun
AGHA President
[\(419\)707-0637](tel:(419)707-0637)
jlbraun67@att.net

Eastern Vice President Report

By; Ross Hunt

The show season is over and a good one it was. The quality of the Giant Homers was top notch. The atmosphere at the shows was the best in the past several years. I believe I saw more serious talking amongst the breeders about breeding top show birds. To us this is very good and is what it is all about.

We made the good trip (Interstate all the way!) to the National Young Bird Show in Louisville, Kentucky. This is one of the top all breed shows in the U.S.A. The Giant Homer Section was well represented. And with Mike Jones as judge, made it even better. David Hurt had Grand Champion of the show with an outstanding Indigo Check Hen. H & H Lofts won Best Opposite with a Solid Cock.

We also made the trip to Des Moines, Iowa show-“Pigeons on the Prairie” that was held in one of the best show halls in the country. I was honored to judge this show and a good one it was. Larry Wilmes won Grand Champion with an Opal Bar Old Hen-one of the best I've seen in a long time. Joe & Lisa Braun had Best Opposite with a Blue Bar Old Cock-a top Giant Homer in all respects!

Next was the Futurity in El Reno, Oklahoma. This show, the largest single breed show the country, continues to be the best. Gerry Hrasky won Champion with a Solid Cock and H & H Lofts won Champion Hen with an Indigo Check hen. The quality of the birds shown continues to be better every year. As I've said before in this article that a lot of breeders are putting a lot of time and effort into improving their Giant Homers to be successful in the Show Halls.

Welcome to all the new members that have joined our great Association. Louisiana and east Texas now have a pretty good handful of Giant Homer breeders. Maybe a new hot bed in the making!

The breeding season is on here at H & H .We still have the line breeding program going with among others two pair that twist the line a little tighter.We are covering most color classes except for Splashes and Whites and are deep into the color projects Milky ,Pale and Pink. Hope everyone has a good breeding season and that you raise that Champion

Hi Gang

I hope everyone had a great Christmas

First, I must apologize for the length of this report. As a elected V.P. it's my responsibility to submit a bulletin report much better than this. Difficulties with new management at work (the first in 35 years) and the death of two family members in the last 6 days subsequently has made pigeons pretty low on my priority list. I will try to do better in the future.

Second, my 2nd fault was my responsibility to contact all the club members that put on the different shows. I will be sending out e-mail in the next few weeks. Just hang with me.

Okay, with that out of the way, I want to thank all of you that participate at the shows. Our numbers were down this year, but so was the rest of the pigeon hobby as a whole. I also want to congratulate all of you that raised those champions "Job well done"

Breeding season!

As far as the Salt-City Gang, I am the only one that has mated up at this time. I have a few fertile eggs but no hatches as of yet. I have 8 pair working, but for some reason 1 pair of cocks haven't laid yet? I am looking forward to a better run this year.

I hope you all have a great breeding season

Take care

"Tip-Y-Toe Lofts"

Jeff Stapleton

Hello Everyone!

I want to thank you all for helping out with the Ladies Silent Auction and also the Auction for the Futurity! It was greatly appreciated! I enjoyed getting to see you all. Hope you have a good year with your families and raise some beautiful birds!

Blessings to you all!

Pat Clark

Treasurer Report for AGHA January 2011 to December 2011

Beginning Balance (checking acct.).....\$ 9,149.24

Expenses

Bulletin \$1,663.09

NPA Dues\$ 40.00

Wal-mart/supplies \$50.43

Postmaster \$76.90

Florida Grand Nationals Ad \$50.00

Foy's Pigeon & Pet Supply Ad \$200.00

James McKenzie-Matching Funds \$250.00

Kelly Jensen-Matching Funds\$250.00

Kelly Jensen-Dist. 3 Band Pool \$67.05

Gerry Hrasky-Bands \$13.00

City State Bank-new checks \$9.00

CNA Surety (bond) \$150.00

Dist. 1 Band Pool (cash) \$117.30

ISPA ad \$75.00

Cash out for Banquet \$416.30

Total Expenses.....\$3,428.07

Income

Dues \$2,055.00

Ads for Bulletin \$290.00

Patches \$30.00

Bands \$13.00

Band Pool Money

Dist. 1 \$117.33

Dist. 2 \$73.75

Dist. 3 \$67.05

Dist. 4 \$194.44

Canada \$13.43

Annual Show \$279.60

Club Treasury \$186.40

Banquet \$327.86

Total Income.....\$3,647.86

Ending Balance (checking acct.).....\$9,369.03

Petty Cash on hand.....\$1.05

The 2011 Executive Board meeting of the AGHA was held Saturday, December 3rd. Members present were Clifton, Jeff, Ross, Ruthmary, Libby, Kelly, Gerry, Dale, Pat, Mike, Ed and David.

Dale was wondering if everyone is happy with the website. We all agreed it is great. Also nice to have the membership list on there for reference. He said he is always looking for articles and pictures.

Dale announced the voting results:

President: Joe Braun	Ballot Director: Lisa Braun	Dist. 1 Director: Dustin Page
W. Vice President: Jeff Stapleton	Bulletin Director: Dale Clark	Dist. 2 Director: Ruthmary Hunt
E. Vice President: Ross Hunt	Historian: Ruthmary Hunt	Dist. 3 Director: Gerry Hrasky
Sec/Treas: Libby Jensen	Band Pool: Gerry Hrasky till 30 Aug. 2012 Then 1 Sept. 2012 Kelly Jensen	Dist. 4 Director: Ed Berthelot

Clifton announced that Master Breeder Awards will be presented to Larry Wilmes and Sugar Valley Lofts and Breeder of the Year to Joe Braun. Please don't say anything as Joe and Larry will not be here and they will receive their awards in Des Moines.

Dale asked if it mattered if he were to switch up the cover of the Bulletin. We all said do whatever.

David asked about having judging consistency by moving the birds around up in judging row. Was brought up by Jeff that maybe could have a 1st bird carrier and they could do that.

Jeff asked if we could have a judging format for all shows so that they are the same. He said he would be willing to head up a committee and talk to all the show chairmen and come up with a proposal.

Mike brought up that he will be working on revising the color classes. If you have any input please contact him. He will then put together a proposal for the bulletin.

David said excellent job on Purebred Pigeon special and the website.

Libby mentioned low on patches and out of some. She will get some pricing together and contact all to see what should be done.

Libby also brought up a few issues on the By-Laws. She retyped them so they can be edited anytime now. Also, make everything unisex throughout. Take out the part about Show and Breeders certificate as this is no longer used. Change Annual Show to AGHA National. Make junior 18 years and younger throughout.

After no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Jensen, sec/treas

Yearly meeting of the American Giant Homer association was held on Saturday December 3, 2011 in El Reno, Oklahoma.

President Clifton Padgett brought the meeting to order.

Secretary/treasurer report was passed out for all members to read. Motion was made and seconded to accept both of the reports. Ruthmary Hunt and John Jones audited the books and found them to be all in order.

Dale Clark gave the results of the voting:

President: Joe Braun	Ballot Director: Lisa Braun	Dist. 1 Director: Dustin Page
W. Vice President: Jeff Stapleton	Bulletin Director: Dale Clark	Dist. 2 Director: Ruthmary Hunt
E. Vice President: Ross Hunt	Historian: Ruthmary Hunt	Dist. 3 Director: Gerry Hrasky
Sec./Treas: Libby Jensen	Band Pool: Gerry Hrasky till 30 Aug. 2012 Then 1 Sept. 2012 Kelly Jensen	Dist. 4 Director: Ed Berthelot

Clifton gave a big Thank you to all who submitted articles for the Purebred Pigeon Special. Said it was really nice. Also thanks to Ruthmary and Pat for putting it together.

Mike Jones discussed doing some modifications to the color classes. If you have any input please contact him. He will be putting together a proposal and submitting it to the Bulletin for discussion.

Jeff Stapleton brought up having a judging format for all the shows so that they are all done the same and there is a consistency throughout. He will be contacting the people in charge of running the shows to help he decide how to set it up. There will then be a proposal for the Bulletin.

Randy Spahr announced the judges for 2012 are Jim Plowdrey for cocks and David Hurt for hens. Mike Jones will be the alternate. He also stated that we will have designated 1st bird carriers and they will mix up the birds in the cages so that all of the same exhibitors birds are not together. Volunteers were Jeff Stapleton and Dale Clark.

Clifton mentioned to start thinking of some special things to do for the 40th Futurity in 2013. Kelly Jensen suggested a Gold Band special, where each exhibitor could buy one or two special bands to put on the bird that they think will do the best. These birds would be shown in the regular show and then have a special class where they could earn extra money from the money that was collected from the proceeds of the sale of the bands.

Libby wanted to remind everyone to please pay their dues and ads and to make sure the info she has on you is correct. She also wanted to thank Janice Berthelot and Janelle Montet for helping in the kitchen.

You can still buy your bands from Gerry Hrasky for this year. Next year it will be Kelly Jensen.

Brad Martin mentioned to be sure to check your birds before loading up so we don't have any lost birds this year.

Jeff Stapleton thanked Libby for her work on the books for the show and that he already received and email with the results which was awesome.

John Jones mentioned that PETA is really cracking down on animal welfare, so be sure to not put too many birds in a box and that all are taken care of very well.

Awards for 2010-2011 were presented by President Clifton Padgett

Champion Hen Youth- Matt Saucier

Champion Cock Youth-Claire Witherell

Champion Hen Novice-Brian Parchmont

Champion Cock Novice-Brian Parchmont

Master Breeder Awards were presented to Larry Wilmes and Sugar Valley Lofts

Breeder of the Year was presented to Joe Braun

Special Recognition was brought to the champion overall hen and cock in remembering Jack Anderson and Maurice Durkee.

Champion Hen to H & H Lofts, Champion Cock to Sugar Valley Lofts.

Congratulations to all!!

Clifton also wanted to let everyone know that any ads that are placed in the bulletin are to help pay for the cost of publishing. Also don't forget to visit our website that Dale Clark has been working so hard on and doing a wonderful job on.

Meeting was adjourned. Libby Jensen, Sec./Treas.

District 1 Report
Dustin Page

The show season has come to a close. It always seems like it ends just as soon as it begins. I hated not being able to attend the district 1 show this year in Des Moines. I will never put pigeons before the well being on my family though. I knew the show was in good hands though when Joe and Lisa agreed to take over in my absence. I hear it was a good show and congrats go out to Larry Wilmes and Joe and Lisa Braun. Also thank you very much to the Hunts for braving the cold north to judge the show. I am sure there will be full results in the Bulletin.

Next year's District 1 show will return to Freemont, OH. I think that it is only fair to rotate the show throughout the district. If anyone else in the district has any other ideas for shows that we could hold the district at feel free to contact me with the information. We always seem to get a good turnout at Freemont and it is a well run show.

I am sure most of your thoughts have turned to the upcoming breeding season. I for one am only going to be breeding from 5 pairs. Granted they are five very good pairs that is still a pretty sizable drop for me. I also have decided that I am only going to be working with bars and checks in red, blue, silver, and cream. I have decided to cut out the rest of the colors as we just don't have the room for them.

Hope your breeding seasons go as planned.

Dustin

Please Pay your dues. If your dues are not up to date this will be your last Bulletin until your dues are made current. To ensure you don't miss any Bulletins, as a reminder to pay your dues, there will be a checkmark in the space below if they are not up to date. Thank you.

Dale Clark : Bulletin/Publicity Director

2011 1st District Show held in conjunction with ISPA show

Des Moines, IA Dec 9-10, 2011

173 birds entered Judge: Ross Hunt

Champion: OH 2679 Opal Larry Wilmes
 Best Opposite: OC 116 Blue Bar Joe Braun
 Best Young Hen: 3063 Solid Larry Wilmes
 Best Young Cock: 255 Blue Check Maxine Durkee
 Best Old Hen: 2679 Opal Larry Wilmes
 Best Old Cock: 116 Blue Bar Joe Braun

Denotes Best of Color

Blue Bar YH (7)

1. M. Thrasher 1376
 2. G. Clendening 1604
 3. J. Braun 128

Blue Ck YH(6)

1. L. Wilmes 3030
 2. J Braun 105
 3. J Braun 132

White YH(1)

1. M Thrasher 1378

Blue Bar YC(12)

1. J. Braun 150
 2. M. Durkee 202
 3. M. Durkee 203
 4. L. Wilmes 3012
 5. J. Braun 148
 6. J. Braun 134

Blue Ck YC(2)

1. L Wilmes 3045
 2. G. Clendening 1600

Rec Red/Yel OH(1)

1. J Braun 192

Blue Bar OH(9)

1. J. Braun 151 #
 2. J Braun 179
 3. D. Hurt 1574
 4. J. Braun 152

Blue Ck OH(9)

1. M Durkee 84 #
 2. L Wilmes 4030
 3. L Wilmes 2947
 4. J Braun 136

Rec Red/Yel OC(1)

1. D. Geiman 1851 #

Solid YH (9)

1. L Wilmes 3063 #
 2. J Braun 135
 3. J Braun 110
 4. J Braun 100

Blue Bar OC(3)

1. J Braun 116
 2. L Wilmes 2976
 3. J Braun 105

Blue Ck OC(5)

1. L Wilmes 2933
 2. J Braun 2331
 3. J Braun 158

Solid YC (9)

1. L Wilmes 3057
 2. J Braun 156
 3 J Braun 122
 4 L Wilmes 3051

Other Bar YH(4)

1. L Wilmes 3076
 2. J Braun 108

Other Ck YH(5)

1. L Wilmes 3114
 2. R. Daily 661
 3. M Durkee 266

Solid OH (4)

1. J Braun 154
 2. D. Hurt 1504

Other Bar YC(1)

1. M. Durkee 252

Other Ck YC(6)

1. M. Durkee 255 #
 2. L Wilmes 3017
 3 J Braun 196

Solid OC(8)

1. D. Hurt 1568
 2. L Wilmes 2680
 3. D. Hurt 1570
 4. J Braun 2340

Other Bar OH(2)

1. J Braun 150
 2. J Braun 2312

Other Ck OH(6)

1. M Durkee 1768
 2. D. Hurt 1525
 3 J Braun 2313

Pied OH (2)

1. D Geiman 1839
 2. Jensen Flyway 2831

Other Bar OC(1)

1. J. Braun 118 #

Other Ck OC(7)

1. M Durkee 3132
 2. D. Geiman 436
 3. M Durkee 2974
 4 M Durkee 3145

Pied OC (1)

1. D. Geiman 1450 #

<u>Opal YH(1)</u>		<u>Rare YH(2)</u>		<u>Faded YH(1)</u>	
1. L Wilmes	3031	1. M. Durkee	205	1. L Wilmes	3006
		2. M. Durkee	245		
<u>Opal YC(4)</u>		<u>Rare YC(1)</u>		<u>Faded YC(5)</u>	
1. M Durkee	3022	1. L Wilmes	3042	1. D. Geiman	2273
2. M. Durkee	3016			2. M. Durkee	253
		<u>Rare OH(1)</u>		3. Jensen Flyway	3201
<u>Opal OH(2)</u>		1. J Braun	131 #		
1. L. Wilmes	2679 #	<u>Rare OC</u>		<u>Faded OH(3)</u>	
2. R. Daily	570	1. M. Durkee	2989	1. D. Hurt	1594 #
				2. M. Durkee	2650
<u>Opal OC(3)</u>		<u>Almond YH(1)</u>		3. M. Durkee	2943
1. M. Durkee	30	(moved from class)			
2. M. Durkee	18			<u>Faded OC(5)</u>	
3. R. Daily	683	<u>Almond YC(3)</u>		1. M. Durkee	3102
		1. M. Durkee	235	2. M. Durkee	3119
<u>Grizzle YH(3)</u>		2. J. Braun	147	3. D. Hurt	1560
1. L Wilmes	3069	3 R. Daily	652		
2. M. Durkee	276			<u>Dilute YH(3)</u>	
3. M Thrasher	1388	<u>Almond OH(2)</u>		1. D. Geiman	2278
		1. J Braun	122 #	2. L Wilmes	3085
<u>Grizzle OC(5)</u>		2. R. Daily	665	3 J Barrett	2018
1. L Wilmes	1773 #	<u>Almond OC(3)</u>			
2. Jensen Flyway	2825	1. J Braun	125	<u>Dilute YC(1)</u>	
3. M Thrasher	2271	2. D Geiman	470	1. J Braun	102
		3. R. Daily	668	<u>Dilute OH(1)</u>	
<u>AOC YH(1)</u>				1. D Hurt	1515 #
1. J Braun	123				
<u>AOC YC</u>					
1. J Barrett	2000				
<u>AOC OC(2)</u>					
1. Durkee	45 #				
2. Jensen Flyway	2813				

Hi Everybody!

I hope everyone had a GREAT holiday season!

2011 is over and it will be a memorable one for me. I'll start off by saying "thanks" to Joe and Lisa Braun for proposing, setting up, and getting the Master Breeder program in place. I did vote yes to it! I wouldn't be one today if it weren't for our newly elected President! Thanks again Joe!

The show season again was fast and furious. Maxine, Don and I, under great driving conditions, attended Hastings NE district show, and we all had a great time, as always! I got to drive Max's new, loaded Chevy Avalanche LTZ; we really rode in style! A big "thank you" to Libby and Kelly for all the work they do to put on that show!

The next week, Don and I attended the North Star Classic which had over 1,000 birds! We didn't win the whole thing again, but we did win Champion Utility, a big event to showcase our Giants. Paul Lepinski and his team put on another great show.

Next was the New Ulm show, which was small with over 400 birds; but, it was a fun time, clean, and organized, with good food and plenty of pigeon talk. I won Champion Utility and Champion Rare with an Exhibition Homer.

Most know that Max and I missed El Reno, but, we'll shoot for next year. Both of us had some exhausting events that prevented us from going.

Next was the ISPA show in Des Moines, which had around 3,700 birds! As I mentioned in the first paragraph, that was a show I'll remember for a lifetime when I achieved the honor of Master Breeder status! When I got home, I told my wife, Liz, that I had the best time in my life...that is, after meeting her and getting married...err... and after having the two kids...you get the point. Thanks to Joe and Lisa for putting on the 1st District show....and everyone else that made that late Friday afternoon news event special—Max, Don, Ross, Ruthmary, Brad, Kelly, Libby, Jeff, Jim, David, Gary, Ron, Dale, Karen and little Libby. It was also nice to see Gerald Hobbs and Amos Hodson, both highly regarded among the American Giant Homer Association family, at the event on Saturday.

Yours in the fancy,

Larry

MINNESOTA STATE PIGEON ASSOCIATION
2011 NORTH STAR CLASSIC
November 12
McLeod County Fairgrounds
Hutchinson, Minnesota

American Giant Homer meet
Judged by Herb Rath

Champion; YH 3007 faded, Larry Wilmes
Reserve Champion; OH 2948 dominant opal, Larry Wilmes
Champion Junior; OC 2961 grizzle, Brooklyn Marpeu (she loves her trophy!)

Young Hens	Young Cocks
1 – 3007 Larry Wilmes	1 – 3062 Larry Wilmes
2 – 3032 Larry Wilmes	2 – 3022 Larry Wilmes
3 – 835 Lloyd Bauer	3 – 836 Lloyd Bauer
4 – 3105 Brooklyn Marpeu (JR)	4 – 820 Lloyd Bauer

Old Hens	Old Cocks
1 – 2948 Larry Wilmes	1 – 1773 Larry Wilmes
2 – 2679 Larry Wilmes	2 – 2992 Larry Wilmes
3 – 81 Joey Marpeu (JR)	3 – 2961 Brooklyn Marpeu (JR)
	4 – 2687 Joey Marpeu (JR)



Back row; Jim VanVooris, Herb Rath, Don Roscoe, me, Lloyd Bauer, front row; Brooklyn Marpeu

AGHA
October 29, 2011
2011 Louisville N.Y.B.S.
Judge: Mike Jones

119 Birds Entered											
Champions					Champions						
Grand Champion	OTHER CHECK	2801	D. Hurt		Champion Cock	OTHER SOLID	1249	H&H Loft			
Reserve Champion	DILUTE	2831	D. Hurt		Reserve Champion	OTHER CHECK	2820	D. Hurt			
Best Display	D. Hurt			*Best of Color	Best Novice	D&J Page					
Blue Bars					Other Bars						
# YC: 4		# YH: 7			# YC: 4		# YH: 10				
1	1213*	H&H Loft	1	128	Braun's Loft	1	1224	H&H Loft	1	1223*	H&H Loft
2	103	Braun's Loft	2	1258	H&H Loft	2	2098	D&J Page	2	2821	D. Hurt
3	113	Braun's Loft	3	1003	J. Plowdrey	3	2957	L. Myer	3	2358	B. DeWys
4	2351	B. DeWys	4	2350	B. DeWys	4	2356	B. DeWys	4	1930	B. Martin
5			5	121	Braun's Loft	5			5	108	Braun's Loft
6			6	2608	F. Stracuzzi	6			6	2804	D. Hurt
Blue Checks					Other Checks						
# YC: 4		# YH: 11			# YC: 7		# YH: 7				
1	1225*	H&H Loft	1	105	Braun's Loft	1	2820	D. Hurt	1	2801*	D. Hurt
2	198	Braun's Loft	2	2815	D. Hurt	2	1211	H&H Loft	2	2813	D. Hurt
3	2361	B. DeWys	3	1313	H&H Loft	3	1900	B. Martin	3	2823	D. Hurt
4	1040	J. Plowdrey	4	2600	F. Stracuzzi	4	1023	J. Plowdrey	4	126	Braun's Loft
5			5	3157	R. Steuer	5	120	Braun's Loft	5	3172	R. Steuer
6			6	1277	H&H Loft	6	2802	D. Hurt	6	1218	H&H Loft
White					Recessive Red/Yellow						
# YC: 2		# YH: 1			# YC: 1		# YH: 1				
1	1080	J. Plowdrey	1	2945*	L. Myer	1	1025*	J. Plowdrey	1	2085	D&J Page
2	2975	L. Myer	2			2			2		
Solid					Opal						
# YC: 5		# YH: 5			# YC: 3		# YH: 5				
1	1249*	H&H Loft	1	110	Braun's Loft	1	1014*	J. Plowdrey	1	1028	J. Plowdrey
2	3155	R. Steuer	2	100	Braun's Loft	2	2601	F. Stracuzzi	2	2816	D. Hurt
3	3154	R. Steuer	3	1915	B. Martin	3	1909	B. Martin	3	1201	H&H Loft
4	111	Braun's Loft	4	1018	J. Plowdrey	4			4	2610	F. Stracuzzi
5	2932	L. Myer	5	2941	L. Myer	5			5	2611	F. Stracuzzi
Grizzle					Almond						
# YC: 2		# YH: 3			# YC: 2		# YH: 1				
1	1006*	J. Plowdrey	1	1007	J. Plowdrey	1	2603	F. Stracuzzi	1	138*	Braun's Loft
2	2987	L. Myer	2	1204	H&H Loft	2	1045	J. Plowdrey	2		
3			3	2956	L. Myer	3			3		
Faded					Rare						
# YC: 3		# YH: 2			# YC: 1		# YH: 1				
1	2931	L. Myer	1	2359*	B. DeWys	1	1048	J. Plowdrey	1	1906*	B. Martin
2	1000	J. Plowdrey	2	2836	D. Hurt	2			2		
3	2091	D&J Page	3			3			3		
AOC					Pied/Splash						
# YC: 0		# YH: 2			# YC: 2		# YH: 0				
1			1	1038*	J. Plowdrey	1	1090*	J. Plowdrey	1		
2			2	2353	B. DeWys	2	2961	L. Myer	2		
Dilute					# YC: # YH:						
# YC: 2		# YH: 9			# YC:		# YH:				
1	102	Braun's Loft	1	2831*	D. Hurt	1			1		
2	2818	D. Hurt	2	1001	J. Plowdrey	2			2		
3			3	2810	D. Hurt	3			3		
4			4	1910	B. Martin	4			4		
5			5	101	Braun's Loft	5			5		

Louisville 2011	2011	2011
Starting Balance:		\$2,756.00
Credits:		
Auction Take	\$705.00	
Member Donations	\$305.00	
Payback	\$178.50	
Total Credits:		\$1,188.50
Starting Balance + Total Credits:		\$3,944.50
Expenses:		
Payouts	\$885.00	
Judging	\$150.00	
Advertisement	\$75.00	
Misc.	\$30.00	
Ending Balance:		\$2,804.50

2nd District Newsletter

by: Ruthmary Hunt, 2nd District Director

Well, here it is once again - The beginning of a brand new year and a brand new breeding season. We here in the 2nd District want to wish everyone good luck with their breeding programs this year.

First, I would like to welcome the new American Giant Homer Association Board of Directors that took office January 1, 2012. Joe Braun will no doubt be a great asset as President. Joe and his wife Lisa are die-hard A.G.H.A. members and they want the very best for our Association. Joe will work hard to make sure that the A.G.H.A. grows and prospers in his term as president. He is already working on revising the Association Committees. Lisa, who is our new Ballot Director, will promote the elections and exercising your right to vote as an A.G.H.A. member. Joe and Lisa both have the American Giant Homer Associations best interest at heart. Clifton Padgett will serve as Immediate Past President. Eastern Vice President Jeff Stapleton and Eastern Vice President Ross Hunt will be there to help Joe in any way they can and back him up when necessary. Libby Jensen is returning as our Secretary Treasurer for the next term. Dale Clark, as our new Bulletin Director, will continue to provide the Association with the all-important A.G.H.A. Quarterly Bulletin. The Bulletin is the lifeline of the Association to its members across the U.S.A. and the globe. Please feel free to send any articles and pictures to Dale through out the year for the Bulletin. Dale will also continue to be the Webmaster of the A.G.H.A. website. This is one of the best tools for recruiting new members. Your District Directors: District #1 Director is Dustin Page, District #2 Director is myself, District #3 Director is Gerry Hrasky (who was formerly our Band Director) and District #4 is Ed Berthelot. Kelly Jensen is taking over as Band Director for the upcoming term. I will also be serving as Historian for the Association. The Board of Directors of the American Giant Homer Association will be striving to make this Association a better club for all and will no doubt be successful in promoting the Giant Homer. -Americas Pigeon!

This past year for Ross and I has been an exciting one. We made our second trip to the National Young Bird Show in Louisville, Kentucky. This is a great show. We love the place and the people. Most of all we love the Friday Night Get Together at the host hotel, the Crowne Plaza. Most of the Giant Homer group gathers at the hotel restaurant to sit around laughing and talking. It is the best time for us that travel to the show. Mike Jones, Tulsa, Oklahoma, was the judge for the Show. The winners at the Louisville Show were David Hurt and H & H Lofts. This is where some of the top birds in the country start their training for the Show Circuit. Mike and his wife Teresa had to stay at a hotel across the river in Indiana. So if you want to attend the show at Louisville please be sure to make your reservations EARLY!

We also traveled to Des Moines, Iowa to the ISPA Show, which was also the 1st District Show, and the American Giant Homer National. Ross had been asked to judge the show and he agreed. I went along as navigator. It was a great trip although it was somewhat colder than we are used to. I think we realized that Saturday morning when we left the hotel to go to the Show Hall. It was 5 degrees or colder! BRRRR! Much to our surprise the cokes, water and even our bottle of nose spray was frozen solid! These Southerners are not used to that kind of cold!! We prayed that we would be able to drive around without any problem. I have to admit that the road crews up north really know what they are doing. We had the pleasure of seeing some old friends and meeting new ones. We had talked with Mr. Amos Hodson over the phone for several years. We finally got a chance to meet him in person. What a fabulous wealth of knowledge and information. Mr. Amos had probably forgotten more about pigeons

than most of combined will ever know. Larry Wilmes and Joe Braun took top honors at the Des Moines Show. There were some really exceptional birds at this show.

We attended the American Giant Homer Young Bird Futurity the first weekend in December. We all had a great time .Jim Barrett judges the hens and Kelly Jensen judged the cocks. Each judge did an excellent job. Gerry Hrasky won Champion Cock and we here at H & H won Champion Hen. We felt very fortunate after the year we had to actually have 5 out of the 8 top placing birds. The auction was a success as was the Ladies Silent Auction. Libby provided an excellent lunch with homemade chili and chicken soup and all the fixings. Pat Clark, Janelle Montet, and Janice Berthelot helped set up the snack and goodies that were provided to the group.

Our year started off with a trip to Carroll Coopers loft. We drove over for a visit, as did Brad Martin. We all enjoyed sitting around looking at and talking about the Giant Homers. Carroll really knows his stuff when it comes to Giant Homers. He has some beautiful birds and just about every color you can imagine. We always have a great time when we go to Carroll's and we hate to have to leave when we have to head home. We are glad he is close enough that we can visit often. We did miss seeing Carroll's granddaughter Haleigh this time. We plan on visiting other breeders this year as well.

We got a late start getting our birds mated up in December since we traveled to Des Moines. But the mild weather we are having seems to be having a good affect on the birds. We have a good start on fertile eggs. Hopefully the weather will be kind so that when the babies start hatching there will be no worry of them freezing.

Hopefully, the weather where you are will be kind to you as well so that you may raise that "CHAMPION"!



Ralph Steuer AGHA Master Breeder at Louisville 2011.

My Adventure with Pigeons

By: Hayleigh Anne Wilkins Hunt

Hi! My name is Hayleigh Anne Wilkins Hunt and I am 11 years old. My grandparents are Ross & Ruth Mary Hunt of H & H Lofts in Mansfield, Louisiana. I have been a member of the American Giant Homer Association for 3 years. When I was 10 years old I joined my schools 4-H Club. I received the 4-H newsletter and I looked at it. I saw that there was going to be a pet show. I asked my Mom if I could enter the pet show. She said "Yes, you can!". My grandparents said I could have a Giant Homer pigeon for the show. I was so excited because I love the Giant Homer pigeons. I named my pigeon Star. She is a Splash. They showed me how to hold my pigeon. They showed me how to always hold my pigeons feet between my fingers to keep her from getting away.

We went to the pet show. The people wanted to see Star and touch her. They thought she was very pretty. Star won 1st Place as the Most Unusual Pet and 3rd Place as Best Groomed. I showed my granddad my ribbons and trophies I won and he was so proud of me. The rest of my family was proud too.

So all of you out there remember that pigeons are a lot of responsibility but they are also a lot of fun.



Hayleigh Wilkins Hunt holding her pigeon Moonbeam at the De Soto Parish 4-H Pet Show October 2011..Shown with her are her brother Nicholas Hunt and his house turtle Rambo , and cousin Mason Huey .

**3rd Dist. Maturity 2011
Hastings, NE.**

Judges:

Ray Cottier – Hens

Jeff Stapleton -- Cocks

Champion Cock	Wilmes	1773	Grizzle OC
Reserve Champion	Durkee	18	Opal OH

Champion Hen	Schoon	73	Grizzle OH
Reserve Champion	Sugar Valley Loft	2515	Dilute OH

Champion	Wilmes	1773	Grizzle OC
Reserve Champion	Schoon	73	Grizzle OH

Almond			
OC	OH	YC	YH
	1) 2510 Sugar Valley Loft	1) 2516 Sugar Valley Lofts	1) 2270 Dale Geiman
	2) 2364 Gary Clendening	2) 235 Wildwood Farms	2) 1603 Gary Clendening
Any Other Bar			
OC	OH	YC	YH
	1) 2550 Sugar Valley Loft	1) 2536 Sugar Valley Loft	1) 2529 Sugar Valley Loft
		2526 Sugar Valley Loft	2503 Sugar Valley Loft
			3000 Larry Wilmes
Any Other Check			
OC	OH	YC	YH
1) 3132 Wildwood Farms	1) 2529 Sugar Valley Loft	1) 255 Wildwood Farms	1) 2533 Sugar Valley Loft
2598 Sugar Valley Loft	2) 2608 Jensen Flyway	2) 2252 Any Other Check	218 Wildwood Farms
2692 Larry Wilmes	3) 1768 Wildwood Farms	3) 3034 Any Other Check	2250 Dale Geiman
	2518 Sugar Valley Loft	4) 216 Wildwood Farms	

		3202 Jensen Flyway	
		2504 Sugar Valley Lofts	
AOC			
OC	OH	YC	YH
1) 45 Wildwood Farms	1) 1534 Dale Geiman	1) 2000 Jim Barrett	1) 2502 Sugar Valley Loft
2813 Jensen Flyway		627 Roger Schoon	626 Roger Schoon
437 Dale Geiman			
Blue Bar			
OC	OH	YC	YH
1) 3030 Larry Wilmes	1) 2513 Sugar Valley Loft	1) 202 Wildwood Farms	1) 2559 Sugar Valley Loft
	2) 2507 Sugar Valley Loft	2) 2500 Sugar Valley Loft	2) 2521 Sugar Valley Loft
	3) 2599 Sugar Valley Loft	3) 2506 Sugar Valley Loft	3) 3205 Jensen Flyway
	4) 2569 Sugar Valley Loft	4) 203 Wildwood Farms	239 Wildwood Farms
	2653 Larry Wilmes	634 Roger Schoon	1604 Gary Clendening
	1834 Dale Geiman	3206 Jensen Flyway	
		313 Ray Cottier	
		3012 Larry Wilmes	
Blue/Black Check			
OC	OH	YC	YH
1) 2012 Jensen Flyway	1) 4030 Larry Wilmes	1) 2527 Sugar Valley Loft	1) 2004 Jim Barrett
2) 2555 Sugar Valley Loft	2) 3051 Jim Barrett	2) 3045 Larry Wilmes	2) 2572 Sugar Valley Loft
3) 2992 Larry Wilmes	3) 3036 Sugar Valley Loft	3) 1600 Gary Clendening	3) 3030 Larry Wilmes
2519 Sugar Valley Loft	4) 2947 Larry Wilmes	615 Roger Schoon	4) 3005 Larry Wilmes
1911	2824	1606	613

Gary Clendening	Jensen Flyway	Gary Clendening	Roger Schoon
	2703 Jensen Flyway		1635 Wayne Varra
	84 Wildwood Farms		
	3146 Wilwood Farms		
Dilute			
OC	OH	YC	YH
1) 1851 Dale Geiman	1) 2515 Sugar Valley Loft	1) 2543 Sugar Valley Loft	1) 2018 Jim Barrett
	2578 Sugar Valley Loft		2534 Sugar Valley Loft
	447 Dale Geiman		204 Larry Wilmes
Fade			
OC	OH	YC	YH
1) 3119 Wildwood Farms	1) 2650 Wildwood Farms	1) 210 Wildwood Farms	1) 3006 Larry Wilmes
3102 Wildwood Farms	65 Roger Schoon	2) 3200 Jensen Flyway	
26 Wildwood Farms	3044 Dale Geiman	3) 3201 Jensen Flyway	
		3026 Larry Wilmes	
		2257 Dale Geiman	
Grizzle			
OC	OH	YC	YH
1) 1773 Larry Wilmes	1) 73 Roger Schoon	1) 628 Roger Schoon	1) 633 Roger Schoon
76 Roger Schoon	2522 Sugar Valley Loft	3023 Larry Wilmes	
2821 Jensen Flyway			
Opal			
OC	OH	YC	YH
1) 18 Wildwood Farms	1) 2524 Sugar Valley Loft	1) 250 Wildwood Farms	1) 3031 Larry Wilmes
2586 Sugar Valley Loft	2359 Gary Clendening	3003 Larry Wilmes	2) 2524 Sugar Valley Loft

30 Wildwood Farms	2679 Larry Wilmes		3) 1637 Wayne Varra
			4) 1636 Wayne Varra
			1640 Wayne Varra
			1605 Gary Clendening
Pied/ Splash			
OC	OH	YC	YH
	1) 2505 Sugar Valley Loft		1) 2539 Sugar Valley Loft
	2831 Jensen Flyway		
Rare			
OC	OH	YC	YH
1) 436 Ray Cottier		1) 3042 Larry Wilmes	1) 245 Wildwood Farms
3122 Wildwood Farms			2514 Sugar Valley Loft
Recessive Red			
OC	OH	YC	YH
1) 1618 Roger Schoon	1) 3018 Dale Geiman		1) 608 Roger Schoon
Solid			
OC	OH	YC	YH
1) 3113 Wildwood Farms	1) 2545 Sugar Valley Loft	1) 2505 Sugar Valley Loft	1) 2528 Sugar Valley Loft
	2540 Sugar Valley Loft	2507 Sugar Valley Loft	2518 Sugar Valley Loft

2011 AGH FUTURITY NOTES:
by Ross & Ruthmary Hunt

New Records: No new records

Biggest Class: Any Other Check Cocks-38

Smallest Class: Tie between the Rare Cocks(2) and the Recessive Red/Yellow Cocks(2)

Kids & Novices: Claire Witherell-Youth Cock, Matt Saucier-Youth Hen and Brian Parchmont won both Novice Hen and Cock

A First: Phillip and Tammie Gouthier and Joe Jefferson. It was their first time to the AGH Futurity. We'll be looking for ya'll next year!

**Judges: Kelly Jensen-Cocks
Jim Barrett -Hens**

Most Laid Back Exhibitors: Brad Martin-he had nerves of steel!

Special Thanks: James McKenzie, Dale and Pat Clark, and James Slaton for setting up the show hall. THANKS GUYS!

Tireless Workers: A pat on the back for all of the bird carriers!

New Exhibitors: NONE but wait until next year! Okay, Phillip and Joe, this is your cue!

Best Bird Carrier: A second pat on the back to all those who helped carry birds up for the show and the young bird auction

Most Excited Exhibitor: Glen Saucier when he won the Blue Bar Hen Class

Up & Coming Exhibitor: A tie between Haleigh Vaughn and Matt Saucier

Honored: Gerry Hrasky-Master Breeder and Larry Wilmes -Master Breeder, Joe Braun-Outstanding Breeder of the year!

Biggest Eater at Banquet: Matt Saucier -this good ole Louisiana boy loves food!

Best Chefs : Thanks to Libby for the delicious food-Chili and Chicken Soup plus a special thanks to Janice Berthelot, Pat Clark, and Janelle Montet (the Chefs Elves) who helped set up the snacks for the group.

Biggest Complaint: None thank goodness!

Recommendations: None! Everything was great!

Nice Guy Award: Mike Jones-its like he is running for office

Most Popular Color at Auction; The Splashes got a lot of attention this year as did the Dilutes.They were a close second.

Hardest Worker: It was a tie-John Jones for running a top notch auction and Randy Spahr who kept the show moving!

Most Over Used Description: “WHAT???”

Surprise Bidder: Jim Plowdrey– he must have gotten a raise too!! : -)

Most Thrilled Bidder: Haleigh Vaughn –she really got into the bidding process with the backing of grandpa Carroll Cooper

Tiredest Person in the World: Doc Crotty (again!) for keeping them straight on the hen side. You’re still the best Doc!

2011 Futurity
Judges
Jim Barrett – Hens
Kelly Jensen – Cocks

Champion Cock	2530	Solid	Sugar Valley Lofts
1st Reserve	1266	Any Other Check	H & H Lofts
2nd Reserve	1262	Opal	H & H Lofts

Champion Hen	1202	Any Other Check	H & H Lofts
1st Reserve	1261	Any Other Bar	H & H Lofts
2nd Reserve	1411	Blue Bar	Glen Saucier

Best Display	374	Sugar Valley Lofts
2nd Best Display	349	H & H Lofts
3rd Best Display	313	Randy Spahr

Youth Cocks	Band	Breeder	Youth Hens	Band	Breeder
1	427	Claire Witherell	1	1419	Matt Saucier
2	2806	Ben Hurt	2	2803	Ben Hurt
3	2817	Ben Hurt	3	757	Haleigh Vaughn
4	1407	Matt Saucier	4	792	Haleigh Baughn

Novice Cocks	Band	Breeder	Novice Hens	Band	Breeder
1	2213	Brian Parchmont	1	2207	Brian Parchmont
2	2215	Brian Parchmont	2	2211	Brian Parchmont

Rare Cocks	Band	Breeder	Rare Hens	Band	Breeder
1	1228	H & H Lofts	1	3399	James McKenzie
2	3398	James McKenzie	2	1906	Brad Martin
			3	1068	Jim Plowdrey
			4	1298	H & H Lofts
			5	2540	Sugar Valley Loft
			6	3313	Carroll Cooper
			7	366	Haleigh Vaughn
			8	1427	Glen Saucier
			9	720	Haleigh Vaughn

Almond Cocks	Band	Breeder	Almond Hens	Band	Breeder
1	2516	Sugar Valley Loft	1	1434	Glen Saucier
2	2315	George Lechner	2	539	Randy Spahr
3	410	Dr. Duane Crotty	3	1774	James McKenzie
4	2453	B & B Loft	4	1771	James McKenzie
5	2302	George Lechner	5	1834	Kirk Hardin
6	431	Dr. Duane Crotty	6	443	Dr. Duane Crotty
7	1116	Mike Jones	7	1129	Mike Jones
8	432	Dr. Duane Crotty			
9	2306	George Lechner			

Solid Cocks	Band	Breeder	Solid Hens	Band	Breeder
1	2530	Sugar Valley Loft	1	2595	Sugar Valley Loft
2	1249	H & H Lofts	2	700	Carroll Cooper
3	1027	Jim Plowdrey	3	1915	Brad Martin
4	2505	Sugar Valley Loft	4	1018	Jim Plowdrey
5	1106	Mike Jones	5	773	Carroll Cooper
6	2114	Clifton Padgett	6	1009	Jim Plowdrey
7	2546	Sugar Valley Loft	7	2518	Sugar Valley Loft
8	2113	Clifton Padgett	8	761	Carroll Cooper
9	2507	Sugar Valley Loft	9	757	Haleigh Vaughn
10	775	Carroll Cooper			
11	1821	Kirk Hardin			

Fade Cocks	Band	Breeder	Fade Hens	Band	Breeder
1	2970	Laverne Myer	1	1941	Brad Martin
2	1455	Glen Saucier	2	560	Randy Spahr
3	512	Randy Spahr	3	2836	David Hurt
4	2141	Clifton Padgett	4	2140	Clifton Padgett
5	2213	Brian Parchmont	5	2224	Brian Parchmont
6	547	Randy Spahr	6	2225	Brian Parchmont
7	2012	Jim Barrett	7	2207	Brian Parchmont
8	1769	James McKenzie			
9	727	Haleigh Vaughn			

Grizzle Cocks	Band	Breeder	Grizzle Hens	Band	Breeder
1	2547	Sugar Valley Loft	1	1007	Jim Plowdrey
2	1375	Mark Thrasher	2	1451	Glen Saucier
3	1006	Jim Plowdrey	3	2150	Clifton Padgett
4	1390	Mark Thrasher	4	2158	Clifton Padgett
5	2817	Ben Hurt	5	2211	Brian Parchmont
6	2215	Brian Parchmont	6	1768	James McKenzie
7	2465	B & B Loft	7	1831	Hannah Hardin
8	1760	James McKenzie			
9	427	Claire Witherell			
10	1382	Mark Thrasher			
11	555	Randy Spahr			

Opal Cocks	Band	Breeder	Opal Hens	Band	Breeder
1	1262	H & H Lofts	1	2825	David Hurt
2	2560	Sugar Valley Loft	2	2586	Sugar Valley Loft
3	943	C & C Lofts	3	1028	Jim Plowdrey
4	1444	Glen Saucier	4	573	Randy Spahr
5	1105	Mike Jones	5	3388	James McKenzie
6	2204	Brian Parchmont	6	2524	Sugar Valley Loft
7	2464	B & B Loft	7	1100	Mike Jones
8	1014	Jim Plowdrey	8	520	Randy Spahr
9	925	C & C Lofts	9	1910	Brad Martin
10	2112	Clifton Padgett			
11	572	Randy Spahr			

White Cocks	Band	Breeder	White Hens	Band	Breeder
1	1080	Jim Plowdrey	1	3376	James McKenzie
2	2005	Jim Barrett	2	2944	Laverne Myer
3	1379	Mark Thrasher	3	2945	Laverne Myer
4	3375	James McKenzie	4	3397	James McKenzie
5	2975	Laverne Myer	5	1096	Jim Plowdrey
			6	744	Carroll Cooper
			7	545	Randy Spahr

Recessive Cocks	Band	Breeder	Recessive Hens	Band	Breeder
1		Jim Plowdrey	1	1775	James McKenzie
2		James McKenzie	2	3395	James McKenzie
			3	915	C & C Lofts
			4	400	Dr. Duane Crotty

Any Other Bar Cocks	Band	Breeder	Any Other Bar Hens	Band	Breeder
1	2536	Sugar Valley Loft	1	1261	H & H Lofts
2	548	Randy Spahr	2	1930	Brad Martin
3	3400	Sugar Valley Loft	3	1152	John Jones
4	1310	H & H Lofts	4	2804	David Hurt
5	2210	Brian Parchmont	5	1833	Kirk Hardin
6	2550	Sugar Valley Loft	6	2503	Sugar Valley Loft
7	1224	H & H Lofts	7	2513	Sugar Valley Loft
8	553	Randy Spahr	8	561	Randy Spahr
9	2526	Sugar Valley Loft	9	1208	H & H Lofts
10	521	Randy Spahr			
11	2957	Laverne Myer			
12	2101	Clifton Padgett			
13	1825	Kirk Hardin			

Dilute Cocks	Band	Breeder	Dilute Hens	Band	Breeder
1	510	Randy Spahr	1	2831	David Hurt
2	501	Randy Spahr	2	2810	David Hurt
3	2016	Jim Barrett	3	2324	George Lechner
4	2543	Sugar Valley Loft	4	1001	Jim Plowdrey
5	511	Randy Spahr	5	2217	Brian Parchmont
			6	1996	Carroll Cooper
			7	563	Randy Spahr
			8	582	Randy Spahr
			9	1042	Jim Plowdrey
			10	2925	Laverne Myer
			11	1216	H & H Lofts

Blue Bar Cocks	Band	Breeder	Blue Bar Hens	Band	Breeder
1	2575	Sugar Valley Loft	1	1411	Glen Saucier
2	2506	Sugar Valley Loft	2	532	Randy Spahr
3	536	Randy Spahr	3	1911	Brad Martin
4	2841	David Hurt	4	1258	H & H Lofts
5	2558	Sugar Valley Loft	5	1278	H & H Lofts
6	719	Carroll Cooper	6	2535	Sugar Valley Loft
7	508	Randy Spahr	7	529	Randy Spahr
8	542	Randy Spahr	8	426	Dr. Duane Crotty
9	543	Randy Spahr	9	1938	Brad Martin
10	2571	Sugar Valley Loft	10	2559	Sugar Valley Loft
11	2500	Sugar Valley Loft	11	1953	Brad Martin
12	2026	Jim Barrett	12	1167	John Jones
13	2570	Sugar Valley Loft	13	1815	Kirk Hardin
			14	1770	James McKenzie
			15	2521	Sugar Valley Loft
			16	2459	B & B Loft

Any Other Check Cocks	Band	Breeder	Any Other Check Hens	Band	Breeder
1	1266	H & H Lofts	1	1202	H & H Lofts
2	1900	Brad Martin	2	1125	Mike Jones
3	2820	David Hurt	3	1102	Mike Jones
4	1114	Mike Jones	4	1320	H & H Lofts
5	1432	Glen Saucier	5	1419	Glen Saucier
6	2576	Sugar Valley Loft	6	2457	B & B Lofts
7	1430	Glen Saucier	7	918	C & C Lofts
8	1046	Jim Plowdrey	8	2801	David Hurt
9	1104	Mike Jones	9	541	Randy Spahr
10	1023	Jim Plowdrey	10	574	Randy Spahr
11	2309	George Lechner	11	1282	H & H Lofts
12	2599	Sugar Valley Loft	12	3207	Jensen Flyway
13	736	Haleigh Vaughn	13	2561	Sugar Valley Loft
14	522	Randy Spahr			
15	2504	Sugar Valley Loft			

Blue Check Cocks	Band	Breeder	Blue Check Hens	Band	Breeder
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1	2462	B & B Loft	1	1304	H & H Lofts
2	2136	Clifton Padgett	2	2567	Sugar Valley Loft
3	17	B & B Loft	3	1150	John Jones
4	1040	Jim Plowdrey	4	1313	H & H Lofts
5	514	Randy Spahr	5	2815	David Hurt
6	2563	Sugar Valley Loft	6	1121	Mike Jones
7	923	C & C Lofts	7	1248	H & H Lofts
8	1383	Mark Thrasher	8	2108	Clifton Padgett
9	1225	H & H Lofts	9	2572	Sugar Valley Loft
10	798	Carroll Cooper	10	3410	Sugar Valley Loft
11	2527	Sugar Valley Loft	11	2452	B & B Loft
			12	2564	Sugar Valley Loft
			13	416	Karen Witherell

Pied/Splash Cocks	Band	Breeder	Pied/Splash Hens	Band	Breeder
1	2993	Laverne Myer	1	2539	Sugar Valley Loft
2	2806	Ben Hurt	2	1097	Jim Plowdrey
3	2857	Ben Hurt	3	418	Abigail Witherell
4	1095	Jim Plowdrey	4	440	Claire Witherell
5	2577	Sugar Valley Loft			

AOC Cocks	Band	Breeder	AOC Hens	Band	Breeder
1	2542	Sugar Valley Loft	1	3396	James McKenzie
2	1779	James McKenzie	2	1800	Kirk Hardin
3	701	Carroll Cooper	3	1038	Jim Plowdrey
4	758	Haleigh Vaughn	4	2107	Clifton Padgett
5	790	Haleigh Vaughn	5	1119	Mike Jones
			6	792	Haleigh Vaughn
			7	1459	Glen Saucier



Judge Mike Jones with David Hurt and champion hen and Ross and Ruthmary Hunt with champion cock. Louisville 2011.



Gerry Hrascky with Champion cock and Judge Kelly Jensen. Futurity 2011.

Ruthmary Hunt, Judge Jim Barrett, and Ross Hunt with champion hen. Futurity 2011.



Joe Braun with champion cock, Larry Wilmes with Champion hen, along with Judge Ross Hunt at Des Moines 2011.



Larry Wimes recieved Master Breeder award and Joe Braun Breeder of the Year 2011.



Gerry Hrasky recieved Master Breeder award 2011.

Building the Trunk of the Tree-the Family Tree (the way we did it)
H & H Lofts- Ross & Ruthmary Hunt

The base of our family of Giant Homers is based on Blue Bars and Blue Checks, the trunk of the tree as we call it, with Indigo (genetically blue) and Ash-Reds along side. Blues and Indigos are great as the trunk of your family tree. Later, when you are ready, you can “branch” out to other colors such as Opal, Fade, Grizzle, Almond, etc. The Blues are also good to use to improve recessive colors such as Milky and Pale. But you must get your base first. As Giant Homer great Jack Anderson once told us-“Build your barn and then paint it.” Truer words were never spoken.

When we started out we received our first birds from Mr. Lee Boudin, Lake Authur, La in 2000. They were Blue Bars and Red Bars. Lee told us that these birds were pure A & J birds. Being raised on a farm and taught to stay with a line of stock, we knew we must contact Jack Anderson. Mr. Jack and his partner Mike Jones supplied us with two pairs of Giant Homers which included Blue Check Cock #246, a Giant Homer that would be become instrumental in building our family of birds. Later, we found out that Master Breeder Carroll Cooper lived just 135 miles west of us in Tyler, Texas. Off we went!! We picked out ten stock birds from Carroll Cooper, which included a Silver Check Cock and a Red Check hen that were already mated.

In 2001, we raised from these pairs a Blue Bar A.O.C. Hen, Red Check Hen #1, Red Check Hen #2 and a Silver Check Hen (known as Silvie). Later that same year, we took these birds to the shows. The Blue Bar A.O.C. hen (affectionately known as Jack) won her class at the Futurity and was second at the Tulsa State Fair Giant Homer Show. Red Check #1 was second in a very large class also at the Futurity.

Please know that all four of these hens had superb Giant Homer bodies- a real handful as it were. Being fortunate that all four were outstanding hens our stage was set. I believe this would be a good time to say that we work from the hen side in our breeding program. You must have the best cocks available but you must have a top group of hens to make it work. It's the same as having a top group of mares or a top herd of cows. Get the top females and the good studs or bulls will fit right in. It is the same with Giant Homers.

In 2002 we raised two Indigo Bar Hens #362 and #373-sisters that placed 1st and 2nd in their class at the Futurity. We added these two hens to our base, which gave us a total of 6 top hens. That same year, we went to the AGH Young Bird Futurity in El Reno, Ok. looking for the best cocks that were available. We asked best friend John Wagner, one of the top AGHA Master Breeders to pick out the best two cocks in the building. He did! But neither John nor us knew just how good a job he had done. He picked two Any Other Checks that later placed 1st and 2nd in their class. First was an Indigo Cock #1339 from Jerry Theis (a great Giant Homer breeder no longer with us). Second was Red Check Cock #4206- a George Lechner bred bird. We also purchased a Blue Bar cock #247; an A & J bred bird. Let it be noted that all these cocks were extremely strong headed and large bodied birds.

So the 2003 breeding season was on. We mated #1339 to Silvie. They produced the 2003 Futurity Champion Indigo Velvet Hen #1230. This pair and the others produced other good birds in 2003. We kept all of the best hens plus a couple of cocks.

In 2004, Blue Check Cock #246 produced 6 youngsters. His sons- Indigo Check Cock #1211 became the 2004 Futurity Champion. His full brother, Blue Check #1254, was 1st Reserve Champion. Both cocks are still here at H & H. We lost the only hen from that mating. That same year at the Futurity, we purchased the 2004 Futurity Champion Almond Hen; an A & J bred bird, and added that branch to our “Tree”.

In 2005 we were pleased with the progress of our family. We decided to add three more branches to the tree; Fade, Grizzle, and Opal. The result was a Fade cock #1271 that was 1st Reserve Champion cock the Futurity. We also had Futurity Champion Tiger Grizzle Hen

#1238 and 1st Reserve Champion Hen Black Check Hen #1245. Great results occurred but please realize that the Fades, Grizzles, and Opals were crossed into our established Blue family and in a few generations were “absorbed” into our loft other than the color.

In 2006 we had a good start at the shows when sickness hit our loft and shut us down for the remainder of the show season. We suffered great losses with our young birds basically setting us back especially in our Milky program.

I hope you do not think that all of the above is about the success story of H & H Lofts but maybe it is. The building of a family of Giants by selective line breeding is about being successful. When you have a truly outstanding bird, cock or hen, they can be lost in several generations of outcrossing. By selective line breeding you can re-create a Giant Homer up to 87% of his blood. We have used this method here at H & H with great success enjoying having Giant Homers that are 3/4 blood of the particular original cock. One thing that happened was we had the three cocks –the Blue Bar, Blue Check, and Indigo Check. Looking back I see this as interesting and advantageous to our program. Normally we would want only two cocks to work with but with three we have been able to intertwine the bloodlines without having to outcross. We had a closed loft of Blues and Indigos for eight years when, in 2008, knowing that our family of Blues was established we were of the mind to outcross if we could find the “right Giant Homer”. In 2008, I judged the hens at the Futurity and there was an outstanding Indigo Bar Hen #2776-08 that I placed 2nd Reserve. This hen from the top loft of Larry Wilmes of Mankato, Mn. had the traits we were looking for to add to our loft. Among her many attributes is that she is a heavy hard-bodied hen and her outstanding ability to show. She has a presence in the Show Pen that we believe is second to none. #2776-08 has produced the Best Young Hen at the Tulsa Show in 2010, the 2nd Reserve Champion Hen at the 2010 American Giant Homer Futurity and most recently #2776-09’s daughter #1227-10 produced the Champion Indigo Check Hen #1202-11 and 1st Reserve Champion Hen Indigo Bar #1261, which are full sisters, at the 2011 A.G.H. Futurity. All of these hens are currently at work at H & H Lofts and are all mated to H & H line bred cocks. We have absorbed these traits into our family of Giant Homers in a few generations. If a bird doesn’t have an excellent Giant homer body he doesn’t stay at H & H. We use, what we call our “power genetics” program to breed Giant Homers that are hatched with the bodies we want—a handful at 30 days of age! I realize that we haven’t mentioned the Reds much. That is because we use them sparingly such as with Dilution to produce Cream Bars, which is my favorite color. With the arrival on the scene of #1211 2004 Futurity Champion Indigo Check, he replaced the Reds in the building of our family of birds. Again, our family is based on Indigo, Blue/Black Check, and Blue Bars.

At the District 4 /Tulsa State Fair Show Oct 5 & 6, 2007, Judge Jim Barrett was down to 4 young hens in the Blue/Black Check Young Hen class. All were Black Checks. Fellow member and good friend Dale Clark and I were watching pretty close as we had two each in the group. Another fellow member, David Hurt, commented that they all had a definite similarity. He was right. They are all closely related.

An important point that showcases the family happened at the Tulsa Show. At the 2006 Futurity, Clifton Padgett let us have an Andalusian Hen—our first time into Solids. We had a dark Blue Check Cock #1275, big bodied and good head that we thought would fit nicely with the hen. We really loved this young cock. We had shown him twice and he was thrown out both times. Rule #1—don’t let a judge mate your birds! This pair produced 8 youngsters in 2007, all good Giant Homers. One daughter, Indigo Check #1213 was Champion hen at the Tulsa Show. A full brother to this hen, a Black showing bars, won the A.O.C. class. The point being was that the Andalusian hen is a granddaughter of one of our Indigo Hens and when mated to #1275 which is a deep-core line bred bird of the same line, she was thrown right back into the “trunk of the tree”. The results are obvious. Another example to highlight the results of selective line breeding (which, again, increases your chance of being successful in the show halls) is in 2007 at the AGHA Young Bird Futurity, we were very fortunate win both

Champion Cock Black Check #1256 and Champion Hen Indigo Check #1260. They are both closely related. #1256 grandfather is #1339 one of our foundation cocks. #1260 father is #1339. Both #1256 and #1260 are deep line bred birds and it shows.

We have been working with the Milky factor at H & H for nine years using our top Giant Homers to bring the color to a Giant Homer with the type we wanted. We were having great success all the way around- type, size, and color until 2006 when sickness struck our loft. The Milkies suffered, as did the others. We have not recovered to the level we were before the sickness but in 2009 and 2010 with the help of fellow Giant Homer and Milky Breeders, Jim Barrett and Gary Clendening, they supplied us with Milky Giant Homers and those that carry the gene for Milky. We formed a co-op, if you will, and we will continue to produce the best Milky Giant Homer possible.

Another color project we have been working on at H & H for the past five years is the color Pale. With the help of the great breeder of American Giant Homers and American Show Racers Amos Hodson of Creston, Iowa, we have made great strides in putting the Pale into today's Giant Homers. We do feel that Pale has always been present in the Giant Homer but by pedigree we will have the factor known.

The point of the above paragraphs is that once again we placed Milky and Pale into our family of Blues and Indigos, using our top breeders and again these colors will be, in a short time, absorbed into our family and only the color will remain. The results have been what we call successful.

Using the family "trunk of the tree" works. Always remember when "branching" out with colors: Fade, Grizzle, Almond, etc. after the first cross, always go back to the "trunk of the tree" with the next mating. Selective line breeding greatly increases your percentage of winning at shows but best of all as a breeder it greatly increases your chances of producing the best Giant Homer possible. American Giant Homers –Americas Pigeon!!!



Dinner at Kelly and Libby's. 3rd District Maturity 2011.

SQUABBING

Giant Homers started as a squabbing breed and this is my experience with squabbing. My introduction to Giant Homers was at the 1952 Des Moines National. As I was admiring the Giant Homers, an older gentleman ,Ed Mrovka, began talking to me and then " took me under his wing". He took me upstairs from the show room to where they were having the annual meeting. There they had a small freezer with dressed squabs displayed. That seems very unusual now, but it was their way of encouraging fanciers to raise Giant Homers and joining the club, and it worked for me.

The squabbing business was going strong in 1928 when the Giant Homer Association was organized-incidentally the same year I was born. Destiny ? They were used be cause of their good size, vigor, and productivity.

In the middle '50s a few of my birds weren't of show quality or good red color. So what to do? A close friend, Fred Schnieder, raised show Kings and ran a locker plant in Fort Madison. So, we and Grant Besser, another local Giant Homer breeder, decided to send squabs to the Chicago market. Fred froze them, packed them in dry ice, and shipped them. We got about \$1.25 a pound for them, and they New York dressed to a little over a pound apiece.

At about 4 weeks old they have reached maximum weight and feather under the wings have sheathed out to be easily plucked. After that the fat would be reduced by exercise developing into muscle and called by the market "hard or old". Whites , recessive reds, and silvers were preferred because of the light skin color.

To kill the birds we stuck a pointed knife through the roof of the mouth where the neck joins the skull and given a little twist and withdrawn. this death is as quick and painless as possible. as soon as it has died the crop is flushed. Before it stiffens we dry picked the feathers, leaving the head, head feathers, insides,& feet intact This was to assure the market that it is a pigeon and not a crow or some other bird. Care was taken not tear or bruise the skin. The squabs were not drawn and immediately cooled in water. The squabs kept better undrawn when shipped than drawn.

When older pigeon were being used at home, I would just pull heads, skin and eviscerate them, as it was much easier and quicker than the above process. Elenora would put them in a pressure cooker until done and pick the meat from the breast and legs to use. The breast made about 80% of the meat. This is why our requirement for a long deep keel is stated in our standard.

She used that meat plus the heart and liver to make a casserole with a pie crust liner adding peas, carrots, onion, spices and a thickened broth. Sometimes, she would add biscuit dollops on top. Other times, a layer of pie dough. YUMMMM ! Our 3 kids all loved it !

Gerald Hobbs

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