

Love ...
like a wildflower garden
thrives and grows
in our hearts.

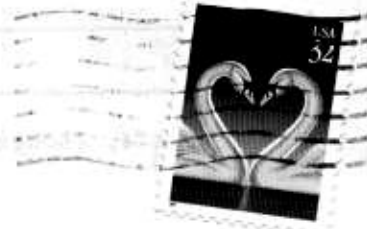
See me for articles for next newsletter March 10, 1997



Club Newsletter
Vol XVIII
#1

Ameraucana Breeders
Jan / Feb 1997

Ameraucana Breeders Club
P.O. Box 824
Great Falls, MT 59403



John Blehm
4599 Lange Rd
Birch Run, MI 48415

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dues: Family \$10.00 Individual \$7.50 Juniors \$5.00 (all dues due by 1/1)

name: _____

address: _____

city: _____ state: _____ zip: _____

phone: () _____ birthdate: _____

If you are paying a family membership would you please list family members names and ^{+ birthdates} ages?

(Use additional paper if necessary.)

Use this space below to list the breeds, varieties of large fowl you raise and/or sell:

Use this space below to list the breeds, varieties of bantams you raise and/or sell:

Use this space below to list any other type of poultry or/and livestock you keep:

Any comments, thoughts, ideas or general information?

Please return this questionnaire and membership dues to: Ameraucana Breeders Club
Jeannette Frank, Sec/Treas.
P. O. Box 824
Great Falls, MT. 59403-0824

Questions? Don't hesitate to ask!
(406) 761-5853

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY -

Have you noticed how many general publications are "doing" articles or photos on poultry lately? Sept. '96 issue of AMERICAN HERITAGE has an article titled "The Chicken Story". Jan. '97 issue of SMITHSONIAN has a Polish on the cover and several pages of photos of chickens. And in the craft magazines there seems to be all kinds of patterns with the chicken motif. Think this is the latest fad?

The 1997 ABC National will be in Wisconsin on Sept 27-28. A copy of their bid is in this newsletter. You can think about hatching that champion now.

I've enjoyed hearing from several of our members the past month or so...and received a letter from a past member- Jack Fugate. I enjoy all letters and phone calls but I do apologize for being so lax in writing lately. I received a letter from Bernard Kellogg. He was having problems regarding his eyes. Hope all is better by now. A phone call from Don Cable .. he wasn't caught in the flooding, etc. in California and is back in AZ. He is doing fine...enjoying the warm quiet of the desert. Sends his best to all.

Jerry Segler writes he no longer has poultry...got wiped out by a mink before a trapper got them. His neighbor had his chickens killed in an unusual method..all the flesh and intestines were removed. Head was left intact and just feathers, skin and bones left. AT first they thought it was coons since they caught several but after the mink was gone the killing stopped. Jerry is busy building his house on higher ground so says he doesn't really have time for poultry now...maybe in a couple years.

An article in the Feb. '97 issue of Poultry Press has already received a response from this club. It will be up to the editor as to if it is printed or not.

How many of you really look at the goldenrod colored membership card for ABC? One of our members told me he tacked his card up on the bulletin board of his cubicle among all the white and off white pages. One day not so long ago an attractive young lady was sitting in his office while he was checking some data regarding her. When he looked up she said, "OH, I see you are a breeder." Without a seconds thought he commented, "Not at the moment. I don't have a girlfriend." After a moment of complete silence everyone in the adjoining cubicles started laughing as did the young lady and our member. Shortly thereafter all seemed to be normal but I'm willing to bet that none of you can look at that piece of gold paper without a smile from now on.

And on that I'll sign off - Hope you are all in good health and humor.

Just need to remind you that all membership dues are due on Jan.1. If there is a red check mark here _____ your dues have not been received and this will be your last ABC newsletter.

I need every member to fill out the membership questionnaire and return it to me ASAP.. so I can get the membership/breeders directory ready by March. Thank you.

In case any of you are traveling this summer there will be three APA sanctioned shows in Montana this year..two will be in Great Falls during the Montana State Fair..if you want more information let me know. I'd like to make the MT State Fair the ABC Western Meet but don't know if the western members would be interested.



Birthdays: Jerry Segler - 1/10; Gary Gray - 1/21; Cliff Ikenberry - 2/13;
Amelia McAlexander - 2/17; Mark Duvall - 2/?

New Members: Frank Brewster - KS; Kerri Clarkson - NY; Daniel Dalton - Nova Scotia;
John Fank Family - IA; Earl Jones - MI.

CHAMPION AMERAUCANA (Large Fowl or Bantam) Buff P. Mike Gilchrist \$5.00

RESERVE AMERAUCANA (Large Fowl or Bantam) White P. Annie Schmidt \$3.00

Minimum of 25 Ameraucanas must be shown by three different exhibitors for qualified win.
in each size.

To be eligible to win exhibitors must be a member of ABC prior to judging. Winners
receive awards when results are received from the Show secretary.

Host Club Minnesota State Poultry Assn Type of ABC Show NATIONAL
Club Secretary MaryAnn Rademacher Phone # 612-442-4031
Address 9185 Co. Rd 10 East City & State Wadena MN 55387
Number of Ameraucanas exhibited Large Fowl 15 Bantam 30
Number of Ameraucana exhibitors L.F. 9 - Btm-7 total 10
Judges name Russel Carlson Date of Show Oct 25-27, 1996

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB, P.O. BOX 824, GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403-0824

CHAMPION AMERAUCANA (Large Fowl or Bantam)\$5.00

RESERVE AMERAUCANA (Large Fowl or Bantam)\$3.00

Minimum of 25 Ameraucanas must be shown by three different exhibitors for qualified win.
in each size.

To be eligible to win exhibitors must be a member of ABC prior to judging. Winners
receive awards when results are received from the Show secretary.

Host Club Bay City Poultry Assn Type of ABC Show Club
Club Secretary Richard Ross Phone # 517-683-2934
Address 2180 Froede City & State Caro, Mi 48723
Number of Ameraucanas exhibited Large Fowl 21 Bantam 17
Number of Ameraucana exhibitors 10
Judges name Rick Porr Date of Show Oct 12-13-96

=====

December 1, 1996

Jeannette Frank
Ameraucana Breeders Club
P.O. Box 824
Great Falls, MT 59403

Dear Jeannette,

This is to update and end the tale of my move from Indiana to Ohio in late July. As you may recall, we got a place in town while we looked for land, and I could not keep crowing roosters at my home. Some pullets in the garden shed was the best I could do. I found a place in the country 20 minutes away to "board" my roosters. But I concluded in October that I was going to lose my male birds over the winter. I lost eight of my best hens and four roosters. Dogs, varmints, and illness from wet, dark pens were wiping me out.

I sent in an ad to run in November in *Poultry Press*, but it did not appear—it may run in December's issue. When it did not appear, I tried without success to find a 4-H kid locally who might be interested in breeding and showing Ameraucanas to carry on my strain. Then I went through my Ameraucana club files and noticed that a man not far from me had been listed on the membership list a few years ago. He was very interested in obtaining my fowl, and I was able to give him two nice trios of large wheateans. He has been breeding large whites. I do not know if he is an active member any more and would appreciate it if you would send him a newsletter. He is:

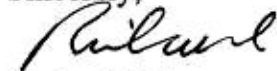
George Patterson
R.R. Box 44
Kitts Hill, OH 45645
614-643-0063

I gave George information about how to reach Wayne Meredith, the source of my basic stock, for new blood. Also I gave him the address of Mike Gilbert, who has given me advice on breeding. George said he would give me a start when I am able to have roosters again, so maybe I will be back. Right now I am just happy that I found a good home for a strain I have worked hard on for the past five years.

I knew boarding chickens would be risky, and it was a disaster. You asked me a while back about tips for moving chickens. Moving chickens in the back of my truck was no problem: just give them lots of room in their crates and feed them oranges sliced in quarters for some food and, most importantly, liquid. Pieces of orange would be great when shipping chickens, too.

Well, thanks for listening. I won't be breeding Ameraucanas for a while, but I will be reading the newsletter and wishing everyone well—especially those trying to get clean hackles in the large wheateans!

Sincerely,



Richard Gilbert
32 Mohler Lane
Athens, OH 45701

Happy New Year and congratulations to the newly elected officers of the ABC.

After seeing Spring in January last week - two 70°+ days, we are back to winter again. It's clear and about 20° but so far the wind isn't too bad. I'm waiting for the sun to get a little higher before I go do chores. The crew will want OUT.

I got a surprise last Friday eve - came home from work and went out to do the chores - heard peep, peep, peep and sure enough, I discovered a hen (pullet actually) with 14 little ones - a very colorful mixture to be sure. I put Mon and babies in a larger cage and she's taking very good care of them.

I did set some eggs last Sunday - the 29th. Mark Fields, S/T of the Dominique Club, brought me 4 bantam pullets, a cockerel and returned one of the males he had borrowed last March and brought me 12 eggs, 4 of which are from the last of the Voter stock. I have them under two hens and have my fingers crossed.

I lost my old Dommie - he was such a sweet old bird - always there to greet me when I got home from work and I do miss him. It's unusual for a Dom to be that much of a pet since they are such an independent bird.

I've been reading in the newsletter about the problems some of you have been having with "laryngo". There is a very simple way to keep this from happening - vaccinate your birds! It's not expensive - less than \$10.00. Aren't your birds worth more to you than that? And it doesn't take much time to do it. Jim and I could run thru my crew (and I always had a bunch) in less than two hours. We always waited until dark. He would catch and hold them while I did the eye drop. It's much easier on the birds to pick them off the roosts. After vaccinating every bird the first year, you can get by with just doing your young or new birds the next year. Get it done 6 weeks or so before fall show season so your birds aren't contagious to any one else's. The cheapest vaccine I've found is from Jeffers Vet Supply in West Plains, MO. If you order it in the warm weather, ask them to pack it in ice. And keep it in the refrigerator after you receive it. Laryngo used to just crop up in the fall, when the seasons were changing, but 2 or 3 years ago they had an outbreak at the Missouri State Fair - and I see Jeanne got it at Centreville, MI in May. So you really aren't safe anytime, anymore. Vaccination will stop an outbreak in 2 or 3 days and that is the ONLY thing that will stop it. The birds that survive an outbreak will be carriers. Do you really want to discard all that work and pride you have in your flock, be it large or small? I think not!

Well, I'd better get off my soap box and get on to other things. I was so low on Ameraucanas that I ordered 25 from Crows Hatchery in Windsor, MO. I'm pleased with the birds - they are "typie" although the pullets are a little dark.... very friendly. If you are just getting started it's a good place to get them and they are PT clean.

I'm getting along okay - do what I can and let the rest slide. Doesn't seem like it's been 19 months since Jim passed away. I keep up with the poultry world with the ABC and Dominique Club newsletters and PP. Since I can't show anymore those are my links to the outside.

I enjoy all the articles in the newsletter. Keep them coming!!

Best of everything to you all for a successful 1997 and here's hoping for a champion!

Mary Lou Phelps

Wisconsin International Poultry Club



Sponsors of

THE WISCONSIN INTERNATIONAL SHOW

"One of America's Prestige Shows"

November 4, 1996

Mike Gilbert
W5171 Baker Road
Holmen, WI 54636

Dear Mike:

The WISCONSIN INTERNATIONAL POULTRY CLUB is submitting a bid to host the 1997 National Meet of the AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB.

Our show, one of the largest in the region, will be held on September 27-28, 1997 at the Rock County Fairgrounds, Janesville, Wisconsin. It is easily accessible--just off I-90 near the Wisconsin-Illinois line. Motels and restaurants are plentiful within a mile of the show, offering a wide range of prices.

We feature single decking, wide aisles, and splendid lighting. We use Poultry Press for our catalog, plus mailing premium lists to all who request them.

We offer the following inducements for your National Meet:

1. Two trophies--Champion and Reserve of the breed.
2. Prior to the show, our Club will give you \$1.00 for each Ameraucana entered, which you may distribute at the show as your Club chooses;
3. You may have your choice of judges from our panel, and Ameraucanas will be judged first when the show begins;
4. Ameraucanas will be located prominently in the show room, and a Champion Row will be set up just for Ameraucanas--three cages for Bantams and three cages for Large Fowl.
5. We will provide a Club display table in our gathering room, and a separate room will be available for your Club's meeting.

Please feel free to call and discuss our bid if you have questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,

Rev. Paul Ashbrook, Show Secretary
W7075 Alp Court
Wild Rose, WI 54984

President's Corner

Happy new year! The club's elections are over, and as the new ABC president I pledge to work with Jeannette and all members to the best of my ability. One duty, that is expected of the office is a "President's Corner", in the newsletters. I thought this would be a good time to let the members know a little about me. In the future I'll try to write about chicken type things, but I think that by knowing some background about any contributor is helpful.

I've lived in Saginaw County, near Michigan's "Thumb", all my life. My wife, Kathy, and I graduated from High School, together, in 1972 and married in '73. We have two children. Our daughter, Sherrie, is a nanny and married this past May. John II, has worked at General Motors, the last two summers and is between jobs now. I am a journeyman Patternmaker, by trade, and own Reliable Pattern & Design, Inc., with two employees. We make wood, plastic and metal pattern tooling that is used in foundries to produce metal castings. Kathy and I also operate a radio station, Memories 1210, WKNX, in Frankenmuth. We feature a "soft oldies" music format with short Christian programs daily. WKNX is in the process of changing frequencies from 1210 to 1250 and the switch must be completed by February. The businesses keep us busy. It's only been the last three years that we've been working for ourselves, and it's been enjoyable (for the most part).

I think I was in grade school when we first learned about and had "Araucana" chickens. Some relatives had ordered a so-called rare and exotic assortment of chickens from a hatchery and we ended up with a pair of "Easter Egg Fowl". That's when we learned about the low cholesterol and high nutrition in the "Araucana" eggs (NOT). Back on the farm, my dad would normally order white Rock chickens, for eggs and meat. When first married, we only had a one acre lot, so I started raising rabbits and chickens in the backyard. You can take the boy off the farm, but you can't take the farm out of the boy syndrome. In 1980 we moved to our present home with, 25 acres and plenty of room for birds. At that time I didn't know things like breeders clubs, Standards or Poultry Press existed. I had seen chickens at the county fair, but didn't know about poultry shows. About this time I was breeding medium sized black "Araucanas", with muffs, beards and tails according to what was appealing to me. Somehow I got a member's directory of the "Society for the Preservation of Poultry Antiquities" and under the "Araucana" heading noticed that Mike Gilbert, of Wisconsin, had all kinds of "Araucanas". I phoned him and found out that he was now calling them Ameraucanas and if I joined the Ameraucana Bantam Club, I could get some eggs from his flock. I'm not sure what year that was, but my name is listed as a club member in the 1982 handbook. Since that time I've learned quite a bit about chickens, thanks to our club members. I've even had the opportunity to meet some of the charter members including Mike Gilbert, Don Cable, Jerry Segler and Bernard "Pop" Kellogg.

In closing I'd like to invite you to attend a regional or national club meet whenever time, money and location permits. Please contribute to the newsletter, by writing about your successes and failures with chickens and don't be afraid to ask questions. No member of this club was born with their present knowledge of chickens.

John W. Blehm 12/96

Dear Mrs Frank,

Thank you for the newsletter and notes. I have been trying to learn more about Ameraucanas from reading over the past year. I can't find much in the references I've found. I'm interested in the genetics of blue eggs, leg color and beards.

I entered my birds in the 4H and State Fairs. In the 4H they did okay because the judge liked how well cared for they were. At the state show the judge nicely suggested I get better birds. I have gotten some eggs from a local flock (didn't hatch) and birds from 2 mail orders. They're all very nice birds but where can I get some I can show? I have standards since I have to support my flock by selling eggs.

I am 10 (almost 11) and live in New Jersey. Is there anyone in the Club that can help me?

Sincerely,

Murray Natkie
Murray Natkie
32 Cedar Grove Rd.
Annandale, N.J. 08801



ABOUT MY GIANT
(By a Pullet-zer Prize Winner)

*My giant's quite predictable!
He always serves me morn's and eve's
With choicest grains delectable,
Provides clear water, then he leaves.
Who knows from whence returns each day,
This servant's undependable!
If I could speak I'd have my way
'N tell him he's expendable.
He'll often hold me in his hand
To smooth and stroke my plumage bright,
Then puts me down where I can stand
To search and scratch for small delights.
One day he tho't he was in charge;
That time I suffered horrid rinse,
With soap and wet in tub so large -
Ne'er been so angry 'fore or since!
Then after toweling, out to dry,
And gave but day or two to rest.
Next came a tedious trip, but Why?
He knew I'd miss my homey nest.
At length arrived - such a clamour!
So many Kings and Queens of fowl,
Laying claim for tops in glamour,
'Twas difficult to hide a scowl.
A white-robed giant came around,
To peer and poke and spread my wings.
I tho't he'd never set me down
And go about some better things.
First right, then left, on down the aisle,
Exam'ning birds in every cage.
Odd, marking coop-cards all the while,
He labored long for paltry wage.
This beast returned for second look,
To squint, to nudge, to nod his head.
At length he peeked inside a book,
But "Best of Class," was all he said.
Fal'wing sentence to front of show.
'Mid stares and grunts, cameras flashing,
My servant-giant said, "Time to go,"
'N homeward-bound we soon were dashing.
I'm still perplexed what happened there,
But I am treated fairly swell,
With tender morsels, some to share,
And winter's home in which to dwell.*