

The Ameraucana Breeders Club
 wishes rainbows and sunshine
 to Don Cable in his retirement.

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

May/June, 1993

Vol. XV #3

WINDS OF MONTANA

I close my eyes tightly
And instantly I am home,
Home in Montana,
Where the deer still run wild
And the wind blows free
The whole year 'round.
I can almost feel it now
As it brings with it
Memories of the seasons
As only Montana has them.
The rains of the spring
Turn the hills to emeralds
Dotted with rubies and diamonds
Gently bowing to one another
In the sweet breeze.
The summer heat
Makes everybody lazy,
Catching fish and drinking beer
As the hot wind dries them out.
The biting nip of autumn blows
Starting preparations for winter
With everyone trying to keep warm;
As the leaves on the trees
Slowly change colour and fall,
They dance in the wind
Creating their own special music
And the snow slowly starts to fall.
Once the world is blanketed in white,
The wind begins in earnest;
Blowing the snow in swirling patterns,
Then freezing it in place,
Holding everything in its power
Until the warm winds arrive
Battling for the rites of spring.
So many different winds,
So many different moods,
Yet even at its worst
There is nothing better
Than a Montana wind,
For with that wind
I know I am home.

Written by:
Cynthia Cay
November 11, 1988

Celebrate

OUT WEST

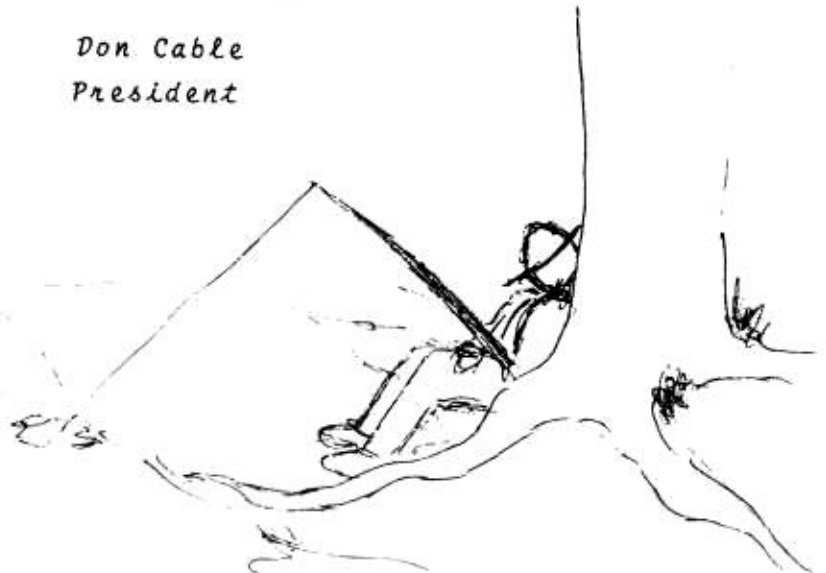
It was both enjoyable and gratifying to read all of the letters and other items from various club members in the last club bulletin; especially from those folks I have yet to meet personally, and I am certainly looking forward to getting together with everybody at our upcoming National Meet in September. I hope that you folks will continue to send in your letters and items of interest as it certainly makes the bulletin more interesting. I know that Jeannette appreciates your contributions as well - it's a tough job keeping the bulletin timely, newsy and informative if the membership offers no help.

School's out forever on June 21 (for me) and I haven't felt this good since I was a short-timer in the Army! 33 years, and I haven't strangled one kid (not yet), but seriously - I don't know what I would ever have done differently that would measure up to those years, but it's time to try something else, like loafing on the desert during winter and cooling off on the coast during the summer months.

In any case, I will be here in California until June 30 and then on the road. If you want to contact me I'll be receiving mail at: P. O. Box 1776, Georgetown, CA 95634, or contact either Jeannette Frank or Mary Lou Phelps for my latest whereabouts.

I leave for Arkansas on August 1 by way of Missouri then on to Iowa for our get together on September 18-19 in Mason City, Iowa. I do hope to see you there!

Don Cable
President



HOT NEWS

FROM THE OZARKS

'Tis a beautiful day in the Ozarks as one of the radio announcers used to say. After a week or better of chilly rain and clouds, the last three days have been glorious. Clear, blue skies that would rival any in October. This is very unusual for spring around here, but this has been a most unusual year so far, weatherwise. We really didn't have spring, per say - kinda went right from winter into summer. Everything bloomed out at once - most of it at least two weeks later than normal.

Chicken-wise, I only have three babies - 2 Doms and a wheatie(?). My "other half" threatened to do away with any babies this year so I didn't pen any breeders up. This little hen hid out with these. There is another hen hid out in the scrap pile and I can't find her. We have a mountain of aluminum scrap, but we're not about to give it away at 25¢ a pound or less. So, it just keeps accumulating. The chickens love it - there are all kinds of "caves" they can hide nests in. I had one last year come out with nine little balls of fluff.

Has anyone been to any shows this spring? I haven't nor have I talked to anyone who has.

I sure hope this is a better year for you than it has been for me.

I'm looking forward to seeing everybody at Iowa in September...and it's just over four months away. Think about those awards.

Mary Lou Phelps
Central District Director
May 15, 1993

BREEDER'S FORUM

Question Number One

What method(s) of incubation do you use (natural, make of incubator, etc.), how do you brood your chicks and what do you feed chicks and growing birds (type of feed, brand name, ingredients - including percentages of nutrient, supplements, etc.) to get them off to a good start.

BREEDERS FORUM #1

I really prefer to use broody hens rather than the incubator, but, if you want a group of chicks all out at once, then the incubator is the way to go.

My incubator is a Country Boy. It does an excellent job. It has 3 fans - two in the lid and one on the floor - the fans run all the time. I've found that it needs 2 pie tins of water rather than one. It ranks right up there with the Roll-X.

If I hatch in the incubator I start the little ones in the bathtub with a 125 watt heat lamp. I use old sheet blankets in the tub. It's easy to keep them clean. As soon as they are pretty well feathered or they start jumping out of the tub, they go out to a room in the hen house. It has an outside pen, so works good. They are usually about three months old when I turn them loose with the rest of the crew.

My chick starter is Kent chick-go --19-20% protein, it's a starter grower combined so they stay on it for three or four months. If I can find it, I like to add a little extra fine chopped corn, also red & white millet. I also feed rolled oats from the start. They get regular scratch grain when they are big enough to handle it.

I don't believe in using antibiotics all the time. I usually give growing birds a 1/2 dose coccidiosis treatment once every month or six weeks, just to keep it under control. Weather has a lot to do with it, too. Damp and humid will bring on an outbreak when you least expect it. I much prefer to use Amprol over the sulfa drugs because of the side effects of the sulfas.

To me, there is nothing cuter than an old hen (be she large or bantam) with a bunch of babies out doing what came naturally.

Mary Lou Phelps

AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

ELEANOR VINHAGE
Secretary



P. O. BOX 127
AUGUSTA, NJ 07822

AMERICAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Dues: Adult \$8 a year, \$15 for 2 years
Junior (18 & under) \$5 a year, \$9 for 2 years

NONA SHEARER, Secretary
26383 S. Tucker Road - Estacada, OR 97023
Phone 503-630-6759



Promoting Standard Bred Poultry Since 1914

WILLIAM F. WULFF, Editor and Publisher

P. O. Box 542

Connersville, Indiana 47331



AMERAUCANA BREEDERS FORUM QUESTION NUMBER ONE

At the outset, perhaps it would be beneficial to illustrate just a few of the outstanding qualifications for participation in this exercise.

1. As of today, April 20, 1993, I have managed to hatch, during the prime months of March and April, a grand total of sixteen Ameraucana chicklets. These from approximately 16,237 fertile and infertile eggs carefully chosen from the most select matings one can imagine. Not to worry, due to top-notch management practices gleaned from years of experience, only a few of the sixteen will doubtlessly croak within a fortnight.
2. Then there is the modest-sized group hatched in January; the better ones have long since expired due to excess smoke inhalation. No, it was not Marlboros. If memory serves, I believe we explained this little mishap to the neighbors (the nosy busybodies got curious about the billowing clouds of black smoke) as "trying out a new method of parasite control." Anyway, who would believe a fallen heat lamp could burn its way through the litter and on through a full one-inch pine board bottom without setting the entire building ablaze?
3. Having enjoyed a modicum of success last summer using setting hens, I chose once again this season to utilize the reliable Hova-bator. This highly technical apparatus has proven time and time again to be just as trustworthy as the electric current that feeds it. Why, just last night Mother Nature sneezed in our region, resulting in a power outage lasting well over four hours in blustery, sleet-filled weather.

Fortunately nine of the 873 fertile eggs had already hatched and, by the time I remembered a broody hen and slipped a few pipped eggs under her warm (albeit slightly smokey) feathers, the rest had died in the shell, thusly saving untold dollars in future feed bills. This is actually a very economical method of not raising chickens, reminding one of certain U.S. Dept. of Agriculture programs currently in vogue.

Perhaps fellow fanciers would like to try this program. If one has the disadvantage of living in an area where electric power is taken for granted, the system may easily be simulated simply by pulling the plug on about the 20th day of incubation. But one musn't forget to candle out all the infertiles and to faithfully turn all the eggs by hand about three times per day for the first twenty days lest full appreciation for this method be irretrievably lost.

4. As for feeding the growing birds, I have found, using the aforementioned proven hatching and rearing methods, that a single bag of Purina medicated starter feed should be sufficient to raise the survivors to full maturity. At which time . . . but that's another story.

Seriously, we hope to see you-all at Mason City in September; just don't expect a record number of entries from the Gilbert operation this time around. And if we do succeed in placing a bird or two it will be the result of the one useful attribute we do possess, namely PERSEVERANCE. Without it we should surely have turned to a less exasperating hobby many years ago. In closing - May your bird of happiness be found on champion row!

P.S. If perseverance is too hard to pronounce, a suitable synonym would be "stupidity"

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

Dear Jeannette,

I have been trying to find some Wheaten Ameraucana Bantams for some time and can not locate any in my area or any of the New England shows I have attended. Any help you can give me would be greatly appreciated.

If I locate some I will join you club. Right now I show and raise Black Old English and belong to the OEGB club and the ABA.

Thanks,
Jim Patterson
RR 2 Box 243-A
S. Rooyalton, VT 05068

4-12-93

Hi,

This past winter I lost all my birds due to a sickness contracted thru loaning out two hens to a friend who had purchased unknowingly some sick birds. When I got back my two hens I didn't know of this and they came down with a severe respiratory problem and it really spread rapidly just as we had our first severe cold snap & blizzard.

Am interested in locating some good wheaten and blues. Eggs, chix or adults. Do you know of anyone that I might get in contact with? (Possibly whites, also.)

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,
Gary Broadbent
N. 1803 Flora Rd.
Greenacres, WA 99016

Hi Jeannette

I have meant to write for sometime and your note was the push I needed. We had a couple of days of sun and I feel pretty good. I was so sick of mud, rain, sleet, snow and gloom. Yes, I do suffer from SAD big time. I guess I am solar powered and back up batteries were not included. Still not dry enough to till the garden and I want to grow something. I did start some flats of plants because I couldn't wait...tomatoes, asters, stocks (new for me) and my first attempt at daylilies from seed. I have some iris seed to start soon but have done that before. Some more of my genetic tinkering. I would like to try roses from seed but so far I haven't been able to get them to sprout. I have some ideas but first I have to get the seed to grow. I like the old roses because they don't need pampering.

I haven't been satisfied with the chickens lately so may not hatch any this year. I did add peafowl and a pair of Mandarin ducks and some tangerine doves. My trying for improvements is costing more than it is paying so I think I'll let someone else bear the burden for awhile. I just want to enjoy the birds.

I did manage to eliminate one of the wild dogs and a fox with a bad case of mange. Haven't seen the wild dogs for awhile. Maybe the predators will give me a break.

I will get back to Iowa but most likely won't show. I just want to visit my friends.

Your friend,
Jerry Segler

Hi Jeannette,

April 21, 1993

Thanks so much for the two Ameraucana newsletters you sent me and the list of breeders. I can't believe I didn't join last year...just kept wondering why the newsletters weren't coming!

Enclosed is my membership form and a question. Do you have any Tomaru chickens from Jim Allen in Oklahoma? He sent me about ten eggs (all he had) in 1990. I now have fourteen hens and seven males, but none of the males I've hatched crow as long as the two which hatched from the original eggs. (I still have one of those males.) I called Jim Allen to see if he had any suggestions (He didn't) and to see if I could get some hatching eggs for "new" blood. He said he didn't have them any longer and believed you were the person who got his last ones. If you don't have them, do you know who has them - if they exist? Hope you can help me. Thanks!

Sincerely,
Ron Nelson

(Editor's note: I wrote Mr. Nelson and told him my share of the Tomaru chickens went home with Jeanne T. I don't know if any of them exist any longer or not. Does any of the club members know where Tomaru chickens can be found? If so you can contact me or Mr. Nelson. His address is: E 3073 Wesley Road, Ogdensburg, WI 54962)

4-9-93

Dear Mrs. Frank,

Thanks for the note in the ABC newsletter. I've been in a "dither" trying to decide what to do as far as the Ameraucanas are concerned. Well, today there's less question. Something got my rooster (he was almost a "Silver Duckwing"). I had let all poultry run wild and hadn't lost a single one in two years.

I've had such bad "vibes" trying to deal with other poultry people; can't seem to get any co-operation at all. I don't have (or want) bantams, so it's either Silver Duckwing or Blacks that I would be interested in. Probably would be best to go with eggs. That's if my old girls ever decide to set. I've had several old hens which were setters when they came here, but don't set now - I don't understand why!

We had no winter here until late Feb., then everything broke loose, now it's been the great dismal swamp ever since.

Will close for now, so can get this in the mail before it runs. I'm off to So. Ohio Swap Meet at Lucasville, OH.

Thanks again,
Tom Knoche

(Editor's note: Can any of the club members help Tom with his wish for large Ameraucanas? Or suggestions for getting/making hens go broody? His address is: 860 Oakleaf Road, Sardinia, OH 45171)

THANK YOU!

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

Can you believe that by the time you get this May is over and we are into June? Where has the year gone? This means the ABC National Meet in Mason City, Iowa is just three months or so way. Are you ready? I'm not!

I haven't heard from anyone about trophies, awards or plaques. Mike Gilbert mentioned something about a Memorial Trophy in Bruce Hutchinson's name. Any thoughts, ideas? I need to hear from you as soon as possible.

I suppose because the weather has turned nice everyone is busy in their yards and gardens. Hope some of you are getting the future Ameraucana champions ready for Mason City.

I have had several requests (some printed in this newsletter) for Ameraucanas-large and bantam. Please - any of you who have stock to sell - let me know. Keep me up to date so I can pass the information on to those inquiring. Maybe it is time to consider doing a Breeders Directory again. I want to remind all of you - club members can advertise in the club newsletter free of charge.

As promised in the March/April issue of the ABC newsletter Don Cable sent out questionnaires for the Forum to several members. The responses I have received are printed in this issue. I am sure that if any of you would like to respond to the questions all of the members would appreciate your input. My understanding is that there are three questions to be answered in this newsletter and the next two.

As noted in Don's article - he is going to be on the road for awhile. I was hoping he'd consider picking up a certain hitchhiker from MT on his way to Iowa but I guess he is going by a different route. Too bad.

I was just handed a notice by my younger sister. Seems as if my father's side of the family is planning a reunion on the Fourth of July weekend. (Why not the rest of my summer is planned by this relative or that one.) I have mixed feelings about family reunions. And I do not like traveling any distance on National Holidays. This reunion is in southwest MT... only 6 or 7 hours by car. Some of my dear aunts and uncles and a couple cousins I would very much like to see but there are a few I'd really not care to see for a hundred years or so. Last real family union was in 1984. My husband has only half heartedly committed himself to going...that means if some good excuse comes up we won't go. Oh, well.

For the record..at this point I am definitely planning on being in Mason City on Sept. 18/19. Hope you are, too.

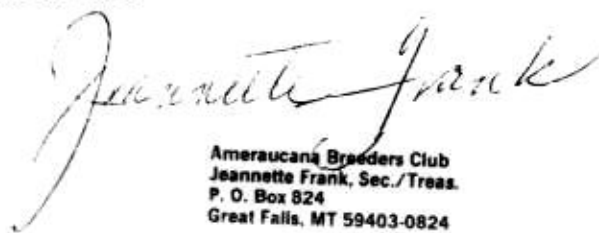
I haven't heard from Jeanne T. lately but the last time I talked to her she was getting ready to move down with her brother, Pete, for awhile. The job situation in Central Lake area is really slim pickin's. For those of you wanting to write to her here is her address:

Jeanne Trent, 119 Pine Crest Drive, Jonesville, MI 49250

I know she would love to hear from any (or all).

Don't know what the plans are for Mason City at this time. We should have more definite schedules, plans, ideas, etc. in the July/August issue of the ABC newsletter. The deadline for getting articles, items, etc. to me is **JULY 21**. That will give time in between relatives popping in and out to get it put together and in the mail before the influx of county fairs.

Can't think of anything else at this moment. I am trying to wrap up this newsletter and get it to the printer so I can pick it up next week and get it in the mail to you. This weekend we are going camping with my step-daughter and her family. I get to fish..for rainbow trout and brook trout for three days. The kids and other relatives can fend for themselves. Last year we went camping with them and I caught nine rainbows in an hour and a half and no one else caught any and they have not let me forget it. Can I help it if the fish like my bait better than the people standing next to me?



Ameraucana Breeders Club
Jeannette Frank, Sec./Treas.
P. O. Box 824
Great Falls, MT 59403-0824

1993 AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

DUES: Family \$10.00 Individual \$7.50 Junior \$5.00 (All dues are due Jan. 1.)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE NUMBER: (____) _____

If you are paying for a family would you please list family member names and ages:

(Use additional paper if necessary.)

I (WE) raise and breed the following **AMERAUCANAS:**

LARGE FOWL:

BANTAM:

I (WE) will sell: Hatching Eggs _____ Chicks _____ Started Stock _____ Adult Birds _____

Will you ship any of the above? _____

Will you deliver to shows any of the above? _____ What shows?

Please list other breeds of poultry you raise or breed. Be sure to state if they are large fowl or bantams, variety, bearded or non bearded. (Use additional paper if necessary.)

Please use the space below for your comments, thoughts, ideas or general information about you or your family. Any suggestions for future newsletters would be appreciated.

Please return this questionnaire and membership dues to: **JEANNETTE FRANK**
P. O. BOX 824
GREAT FALLS, MT 59403-0824

If you have a question or need immediate help call: (406) 761-5853.

Remember ALL memberships are renewable on January 1 of each year.

