

Ameraucana Breeders Club  
May/June 1996 XVI #3





**AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB NATIONAL MEET - 1996**

**October 25 - 27, 1996**

**Hutchinson, MN**

For information on show book write or call:

**Mary Ann Rademacher**  
9185 Country Road 10E  
Waconia, MN 55387  
612-442-4031

**Arne Schmidt**  
42460 Blackhawk Rd.  
Harris, MN 55032-3505  
612-674-4291

Make your plans now and reserve a room:

BEST WESTERN VICTORIAN INN	1-800-369-0145
ECONOMY INN	1-612-587-2129
KING MOTEL	1-612-587-4737
HI MOTEL	1-612-587-2088
SUPER - 8	1-612-587-9299
AMERIC-INN	1-612-587-5515

Arne says there are several tours being planned. one to the Mall of the Americas. Judging begins at 8 am on Sat. Oct. 26th.

Banquet will be catered and held at the Agribition Building at the Fairgrounds. The Junior show will be in a separate show room with show ring for showmanship classes.

**Ameraucana Breeders' Club**

**1996 National Meet**

**October 26 - 27, 1996**

Hosted by the Minnesota State Poultry Association, Hutchinson, MN

Champion Large Fowl	Trophy & \$25.00	M.S.P.A.
Reserve Large Fowl	\$15.00	
Best A.O.V. Large Fowl	\$10.00	
Best Pair Large Fowl	Traveling Plaque	
Best of Each Std. Variety	\$5.00	
Res. of Each Std. Variety	\$3.00	
Champion Bantam	Trophy & \$25.00	M.S.P.A.
Champion Bantam	Traveling Plaque	
Reserve Bantam	\$15.00	
Best A.O.V. Bantam	\$10.00	
Best of Each Std. Variety	\$5.00	
Res. of Each Std. Variety	\$3.00	

All awards not designated "M.S.P.A." are provided by members of the Ameraucana Breeders' Club (Don Cable, Jim Fegan, Arne Schmidt, Jeannette Frank, & Mike Gilbert). To be eligible for awards not provided by the M.S.P.A., exhibitors must be members in good standing of the Ameraucana Breeders' Club: Jeannette Frank, Secretary-Treas., P.O. Box 824, Great Falls, MT 59403-0824. Annual dues are \$7.50 individual, \$5.00 junior, or \$10.00 family.

## Looking Ahead

Along with relief from the summer heat this autumn will bring our national meet and our club election of officers. The board of directors is selecting the site for the meet, but it is up to the entire membership to select officers for the next two years. It has been my honor to have served in all of the elective offices over the years, but it is time for me to step aside and give some other member a chance to serve. I will continue to serve the club as I have from the beginning, but not in an elective office. Some months ago I received a letter in which the writer assumed I would continue to stay on as club president indefinitely. Now indefinitely can be a very long time and assuming can lead to all manner of problems. I am reminded of the story where a salesman drove up to a farmhouse where an old codger sat rocking and smoking his pipe while a mean-looking rooster scratched in the dirt at the bottom of the stairs. "Is your rooster mean?", shouted the man from the window of the car.

"Why shucks no," replied the old-timer from the porch. As soon as the salesman climbed out of the car, the rooster climbed right up on him. As he jumped back into the car he hollered, "I thought you said your rooster wasn't mean!" The farmer pointed his pipe at the bird and said, "That ain't my rooster!"

Now as I have said, it has been my honor to serve as an officer in this club and it is high time some of you newer members jump in and give it a try. A mix of new people with fresh ideas and some established members with knowhow for stability would be ideal for future club growth and renewal. Jeannette Frank has done an outstanding job over the years and I would dearly love to see her as remaining secretary for as long as she cares to stay on.

Some years ago a member from Ohio was very unhappy with me and indicated to our secretary that I was ruining the club and had some hidden agenda. Now I may well have been bad for the club, but I am still unaware of what the hidden agenda might have been. Again, I am reminded of a story you have all heard about a motive: Bernie met Jerry at the national meet and as they were old friends and well-acquainted, inquired about each other's family.

Bernie: "How's your brother Bob? Does he still think that he's a chicken?"

Jerry: "He's just the same- still perched out in the henhouse."

Bernie: "Why don't you folks get him some psychiatric help?"

Jerry: "We need the eggs."

Now I do have an agenda, but it is not hidden. I want to encourage our members to take an active part in promoting our breed and our club. If you know of a member who would make a good club officer, please take a little time to get this person nominated. Gain their permission and send the name in to our secretary. Better yet, volunteer to run yourself. The club needs your help.





Does anyone in Ameraucana-land know anything about hatching duck eggs? The only information we could find was on the directions to our incubator. It informed us that duck eggs take 28-30 days to hatch, and to set the temperature the same as for chicken eggs.

The first 2 ducks that tried to hatch (at 24 days) were never able to peck a hole bigger than pea-sized. We were reluctant to try and help them out, as we sadly know from experience what happens if a chicken is helped out of the egg too quickly.

We became concerned after about 24 hrs. and called someone we knew who had hatched some mallard eggs, which were the same kind we were trying to hatch. She said sometimes ducks had a hard time hatching and had to be helped slowly out of the shell. By the time we had started "helping", one duck had already died. The other one made it out o.k., and we called him Lucky Ducky, and figured that was the end of the hatching.

At day 26, we were surprised to discover that another duck had started pecking, and after a little more human intervention, Lucky Ducky had a much appreciated buddy whom he welcomed into his lonely box with duck kisses.

Pecking sounds could be heard from some of the remaining eggs, so since Lucky Ducky was no longer lonely, we decided it best to leave the eggs alone and let nature do the rest of the work. None of the other eggs even cracked, and after day 33, the pecking sounds had stopped.

Out of curiosity we opened the remaining 4 eggs to find 3 fully developed dead mallards and 1 apparently infertile egg.

So, we're trying to figure out what went wrong. The humidity in the incubator had been raised at about day 19 to allow for the hatching of the chicken eggs that were also in the incubator at the time. We did not reduce it again, assuming that ducks would not have a problem with a more humid hatching environment. Could this have done it?

*Michelle Atkins*

## More Musings From Mike

May, 1996

I had made the decision to quit raising White Ameraucana large fowl after the 1995 national meet in Michigan. The Brown-red variety of large Ameraucanas is in need of development, and I had raised some 1995 seed-stock, hopefully, to begin to accomplish that task. Such a project would take at least three years and would involve hatching a lot of culls. And so it was decided to free up the needed space by getting the true-breeding whites into the hands of a few dedicated breeders who would promote and show them.

Even though white is far from my favorite variety in chickens these are kinda special. So when quality folks like Jim Fegan and Richard Orr were willing to take them over the decision was that much easier. The timing seemed right too, in that one of the pullets took top honors (and a strapping cockerel reserve) in good competition at the national. At least we could go out of them on a winning note.

By early November only one large white, a later-hatch cockerel, was left on the premises. He had not been deemed worthy to take along on the Michigan trip, not even for the sale barn, as his tail had been picked out when he was young and hadn't grown back in. This bird was destined for the freezer before the new year arrived.

But as the cold winter days rolled by the cockerel began to look better . . . and better. His tail grew in, his muscular body filled out, and "Rocky" suddenly looked at least as good as any that had been sold. Realizing one of the pullets, a birchen, was a carrier of recessive white it soon occurred to me that it mightn't be too difficult to raise a small number of white large fowl for the 1996 national meet.

Early in January we hatched a few chicks in assorted varieties for my youngest son's 4-H project. Due to my work schedule there would be no more chicks hatched until April. But these would be under Jason's care until his final county fair show in July. Jason is 18 and in his final year of 4-H before it's off to college. Empty nest time for mom and dad this fall!

On Easter Sunday I stayed home for church and a family gathering, not leaving for work until about four p.m.. But before driving off I turned Rocky and his mate loose in the yard. The sunshine and tidbits these two would discover on the lawn were sure to give them a boost after the long, hard winter. My family would be there to lock them up at dusk.

The phone rang at the office. The voice on the other end explained that, somehow, a bantam Silver Laced Wyandotte rooster had escaped his cage and joined the two Ameraucanas in the yard. Now Rocky had one problem. He just could not tolerate other male chickens in his domain, and especially not around his wife during the spring mating season. When last seen the bantam was in full retreat, galloping across the soybean



**Musings continued - page 2**

stubble in the field which borders our creek bottoms, *with Rocky in pursuit*. Not even Jason, who recently helped set a school record in the 800 meter relay, could catch them.

About three or four days later, as I left the house for work about dawn, a dark shape was spotted crouching in our driveway. It was the bantam rooster; he didn't move as I approached, only shivered in the cold dampness of the morning. He seemed genuinely grateful as I placed him back in the warm and friendly confines of his small pen.

All we ever found of Rocky was a pile of white feathers in the creek bottoms, a hangout for varmints of every sort.

Hopefully there is a lesson to be learned in this story, and the older I become the more clearly it dawns across my consciousness. *When we mistreat others, be it physically, verbally, or through neglect, eventually it will come back to haunt us.* We may even be, like Rocky, sowing the seeds of our own destruction.

And whether or not we care to acknowledge it, scriptural guidelines for human behavior are still valid . . . and always will be. *By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*" John 13:35 (NIV)

So at last we are truly out of the large whites. *But there is that one white pullet from the January hatch, Rocky's offspring, and she's starting to look quite promising . . .?* But this is where the story ends for now. Guess you'll just have to show up at the 1996 national meet to find out for sure. Have a safe, happy summer. And may the only true God bless each of you.

\*\*\*\*\*

Wisconsin Farmer's Proverb: **He who throws mud loses ground.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Post Script: We had a very good hatch of Buff Ameraucana bantams this spring, so should have some nice birds to share. We will ship started birds any time the weather is not too hot, or young adults by early fall. We will also deliver to the national meet and perhaps one or two other fall shows.

We also have a decent white bantam cock available, 1995 hatch and proven fertile. And a pair of large fowl birchens - not show quality - but something to work with. Write with your needs or call evenings, weekends. M.K. Gilbert, W5171 Baker Road, Holmen, WI 54636, phone (608)857-3386.

Hi Jeannette,

April 29, '96

I just opened and read your very nice newsletter. You are probably the only person I write to during the year, but I sure talk on the telephone!

We have moved up to Washington. We just went to the Eugene Show last weekend. Daniel had best Ameraucana and reserve of the junior show with a black Old English cock bird. It was a fun show, new people, but the Old English are hot here..350 birds! We're trying to get the OE National in Alma next year. I've met alot of new chicken friends here already. They travel to Idaho, Utah, Oregon and Washington in small caravans. I hope to make it with them this year.

We have our show in Alma, WA on June 1. I told Larry Urban to hire you for next years show. He says he knows you.

I've hatched out a dozen Wheaten bantams so far. I just bought three white Ameraucana bantam chicks from someone named Harris at our local chick auction. We'll see how they do.

Nobody shows Ameraucanas except us, but that's okay. I noticed there are many breeds that are low in number. I still love my little tufted beauties.

I've heard from a judge in California the same thing about Ameraucanas never winning because they aren't a true breed. But my son has won over Polish and Cornish to win best AVOCCL by a Jr. several times. I've noticed a lot of judges are highly oppinionated. I take it all in fun and good spirits. My kids and I have lots of fun at these shows and it's a callenge to raise nice birds.

Jim Wheeler in CA has my nomination for Western DD. He's a good bird man. Raises several breeds and he was on Champion Row lots of times in California.

We bought four acres in North Bend, WA. It is very beautiful here. We see deer and elk almost daily on our place. It rains here a lot more than CA. I'm getting used to it. We are starting to go fishing and hiking now.

Here;s my new address: Ken Duvall  
44705 SE 161st Place  
North Bend, WA 98045  
206-831-6326

Keep up the good work,



Thanks, Ken - for keeping  
in touch and your nomination.



4/22/96

Dear Jeanette ,

A family of mink got in and killed all of my large fowl this winter . Then stopped after I caught one .Thins were ok for about a month then got the bantams . They got allof them except 2 young roosters one a Blue Red and a Lemon Blue The only hens was left with are 1 black ,lsilver,3 wheaton, and 1 that looks to me like Brichen . They were my culls I thouthThey are breeders now .

My young freinds have all given up I think . All but the Bells they have sated with the chickens for about5 years.

In fact Sharon sets all my eggs .

By the way I caught another mink .I was told that they saty in pairs.

Have not been fishing yet ,but hope to go soon and often.

The boys keep us busy .The oldtes is getting married inJuly. the middlê one is graduating high school in may .The youngest one wats to learn to drive .

I hope to make at least one show this year .

P. S. You put out great newsletter .

Your Friend.

Charlie

Ernie by Bud Grace





Dear Jeannette,

I enjoy the newsletter. Sorry I haven't had time to contribute. But finally here are a few \*pictures of my fowl.

I raise large wheaten Ameraucanas. I got my start with eggs from Wayne Meredith of Waukesha, WI. He breeds many varieties, but I specialize in the large wheatens. Getting non-striped hackles in the males is elusive so far. I'm getting cleaner hackles, though. I have some nice wheaten hens and pullets, though I get a lot of black-breasted reds. I should add that I infused a couple of nice hatchery Ameraucana pullets into my stock, and some of these blends come a beautiful singery wheaten and others come black-red. My best hen is out of "pure" Wisconsin stock and is a creamy wheaten. My best male is her brother.

In the future I hope to be able to ship eggs, chicks, and stock. But I would most like to get them breeding true to color!

Sincerely,

Richard Allert  
1700 N. Rustill Road  
Bloomington, IN 47408

\* Ed note -  
If I can  
reproduce them  
the photos will  
be in this  
newsletter.

Hi Jeannette,

April 20, 1996

Well, it has been too long since I wrote. I haven't heard much about the paintings for the standard. I signed and sent in the consent forms but haven't heard anything since. I'm temporarily laid off until May 28th. I'm building a 30'x45' pole barn now and making preparations for a new house...all on higher ground. I'm doing most of the work myself. It is going to be a long summer.

The pole barn is not for chickens. I will set my first eggs about May 1st. I have never waited this long but I am fed up with this so called spring weather. I will not have to try so hard to keep the chicks warm.

I have loaned out some varieties and kept a few projects here. I am still working on the silver bantams and have enough late hatched birds survive the winter to use as breeders. I will also hatch a few light brown in large fowl and bantam. I have produced an interesting colored pullet...she is a silver wheaten (salmon) She is not carrying any of the light brown markings and appears to be a true wheaten pattern type hen. I still like color breeding projects. I do not consider myself an exhibitor...just a breeder who sometimes exhibits to support the breed. Perhaps next year I can have some showable birds.

I'm also sending a couple of pictures of my grandsons. The with Jake holding the Cochin rooster was taken May, 1995 a week or two before the flood.

Well, I better go for now.

*Jerry*

New Members: William Watson - P. O. Box 54, Newton, GA 31770  
Sandna Woolsterhulme - 629 N. 2800 E., St. Anthony, ID 83445

Birthdates:

Michelle Atkins	5/4
Doug Atkins	5/19
Becky Bell	6/13
Norbert Burke	4/18
Don	7/4
Chris Ficken	5/8
Paul Kroll	6/26
Jessica	
McAlexander	6/5
Jeanne Trent	7/10
William Watson	6/12
Jim Wheeler	7/4
Walt Wheeler	7/23

BIZARRO





## REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

Where to begin - don't know about your area but we went from cold and dreary to hot and dry. Good for business but hard to adjust to on such short notice.

I hope you have read the newsletter before you turned to this page. If you did then you know where and when the ABC National Show will be. Anyone wanting to contribute to the award fund please let Mike Gilbert or Arne Schmidt know as soon as possible.

Mike was wondering if anyone had or wants to contribute to the fund for the new paintings of Ameraucanas for the APA Standard of Perfection. Send your contributions to him.

I have received a few nominations for the club election coming up this fall. I need more for the ballot. Send them in as quickly as you can so I can get the ballot ready.

As you have read in Don's article he has chosen to step down as President. Don has been a major contributor to the Ameraucana breed and club from the beginning. I do hope he will continue to be a contributor. It was good to see the Poultry Press use one of his articles from our newsletter in the June issue. If you missed it look on page 35.

One of my greatest pleasures about being the sec/treas are the letters and phone calls from you. It makes my job much easier. I would love to meet each one of you in person but since that isn't possible I'll be satisfied with the letters and calls. Please don't stop now. I've heard from Jeanne T several times...the last couple times I missed her calls. She was going to send me an article for the newsletter. Had a nice chat with Gary Gray about his book and his schedule. I have started to read his book but summer is the wrong time for me to read anything. Thanks, Gary, for signing the book for me. Makes it that much more valuable to me.

While riding to or from fishing sites I keep my hands busy doing wash cloths...crocheted mostly. I have developed a pattern of my own. It is in my head and not written down but that's okay. I can do one from start to finish in a couple/three hours. Makes the driving time go fast.

On that note...fishing hasn't been too great lately. We went to a mountain lake (Wood Lake where Don C caught a couple once) in mid May and found it still covered with ice. Water is too cold and streams are too high and roily. Jerry and I did catch some nice rainbows in the Missouri River at Craig over the Memorial Day weekend. Sure are good eating.

Kids are doing fine...my oldest, Mona, and granddaughter, Talena, are due here the first of July. Haven't seen either of them for five years. Number 2, Denise and her son, Eric are settling into their new abode and her new job in Beaumont, TX. Number 3, Cynthia, still works at the bookstore here in GF. Good thing since I have such an interest in books...she can order almost any that I need or want. My son, Morgan, is biding his time before he goes back into the Navy. He spent a year in college but the Navy made him a good offer if he went back.

On the subject of books...I'd like to know if any of you know of a good book on trees of the world. Everything I have seen does not cover what I want. Some of you know I dabble in bonsai and I have some exotic tree seeds sprouted but can't find very much information on them. Mostly Australian and the southern hemisphere.

Several years ago I started inquiring about the possibility of a poultry calendar. Every one I tried to get to help me promote the task told me it wasn't feasible...guess what... Mary Lou sent me a Chicken calendar for my birthday. I saw some afterward at the local Wal-Mart. Waldenbooks (local) will be handling them next year if my daughter has any say.

Plan on being at the National.. I won't be there but I have very fond memories of when I was in 1987. I met the club legends for the first time.

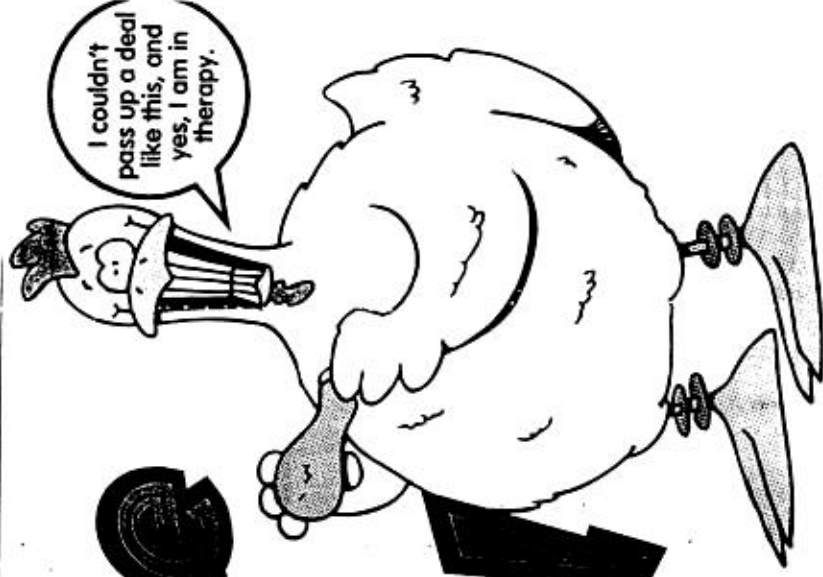
On that note...I'll sign off. Keep in touch.

Ameraucanally  
Jeanne



# We've got the Best Looking Legs in Town

(Chicken Legs that is)



USDA Insp., Family Pack

**Fresh Fryer  
Leg Quarters**

**38¢**  
Lb.

Ed note

This was sent by

Michelle Atkins -

Mom, Michelle has

you and Doug had your

Daddy yet? Let us

know, okay?



1996 AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dues: Family \$10.00 Individual \$7.50 Juniors \$5.00 (all dues due by 7/1)

name: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

city: \_\_\_\_\_ state: \_\_\_\_\_ zip: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_ birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are paying a family membership would you please list family members names and <sup>birthdate</sup> 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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

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:

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

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



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