

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB BULLETIN
Ameraucana Breeders Club, 4599 Lange, Birch Run, MI 48415
November, 1997 Vol. XVII #4

Ex-President's Corner
John W. Blehm 11/1/97

The Ameraucana breed and it's club are alive and well! Our annual national meet was held the last weekend in September, in Janesville, Wisconsin. Thanks to Mike Gilbert for taking down the minutes of the meeting. Here are some of the highlights:

President John Blehm called the meeting to order...those in attendance were members John Bashaw, John Blehm, Jim Fegan, Mike Gilbert, Gary Gray, Earl Jones, Ron Klemmedson, Arne Schmidt, the Robert Walchak family and Eric Wilhelmi...Secretary's Report - not available...Treasurer's Report - \$115.74 balance as of 9/27/97, to save bank charges and check printing fees, acting Treasurer John Blehm is utilizing an existing account he had "zeroed out" for use by the A.B.C. to facilitate the endorsement of checks, John requested all funds submitted via check or money order be made out to him instead of the A.B.C....those present were asked to consider taking on either the Secretary/Treasurer position or that of President. There were no volunteers, so John is to work with the Directors to fill these positions until the next election (fall of 1998)...Old Business: None...Distribution of show awards:...New business: Discussion was opened on the site of our 1998 National meet. The Bay City Poultry Assn. Had submitted a written bid...(discussion, motions, voting)...the ABC 1998 national will be held the second weekend of October at Alma, Michigan...Discussion was opened concerning the continuance of the traveling plaque for champion Am. Bantam...after much discussion it was moved the ABC retire the current plaque and replace it with a similar award in honor of Mary Lou Phelps...the subject of developing a new club logo was discussed and John Blehm agreed to ask Rusty Hart to develop one...adjournment.

Since that time the Directors, by consensus, have filled the vacancy of Secretary/Treasurer by accepting my offer to take the position and Mike Gilbert's offer to take on the office of President, until the next elections.

Thanks to former Secretary Jeanette Frank for forwarding the ABC membership cards and handbooks to me.

We are down to 13 handbooks left. They won't last long, and I think we should get busy developing and printing new ones. Your financial help with this project will be greatly appreciated. As with the old handbook, ad space may be purchased to help keep costs down. More on this subject in the future - any ideas?

The media covered the "Promise Keepers" in Washington DC, but for the rest of the story ask Mike Gilbert, he was one of them!

I received a box of 72 new ABC rosettes, Best of Breed & Reserve of Breed. They will be awarded to members at club meets where the eligibility requirements have been met. Thanks to President Mike for taking the time to order them and special thanks to Don Cable, for his generous contribution of \$50.00 toward their purchase.

I received a note from Ken Duvall. He no longer has Ameraucanas and suggests Karolyn Kibbee take on the position of Western District Director. Karolyn, please let me know if you would and I'll get with the powers that be to make it official.

Speaking of Karolyn, I received a nice letter from her also. She has been a supporter and promoter of the breed for many years. Here is part of her letter, dated 8/25/97:

"At the Montana Poultry Fanciers Show, ABA & APA-July 18 & 19- Gail Woolstenhulme, Blackfoot, Ida, had a good win, Reserve Champion Bantam w/a wheaten pullet. Ed Carter Judge (246 in show). I won AOCCL in Great Falls, July 31 & Aug- Best & Reserve in Show 1, w/Paul Kroll NY Judging- w/a Blue Wheaten P. & hen. Show 2. W/Jeanette Frank, Best AOCCL - w/a cock Blue Wheaten- Billings Aug 13 & 14- I won again, Reserve Bantam w/a Blue Wheaten Ckl. This time- I am so proud & happy that I continue to plug away w/ these fluffy-face birds. We are showing in Utah Oct. 3 & 4 & w/ luck- some blue Wheaten's will go- What about A.B.C. doing something for us out "West"? I will never get to a National in Wisconsin? Sincerely, Karolyn Kibbee"

Tidbits from Mike Gilbert, 9/15/97:

Congratulations to Duane and Phyllis Urch for winning Champion Bantam Cock (all breeds) at the Minnesota State Fair open poultry show. The winning bird was a wheaten Ameraucana. Duane sells Ameraucana chicks in (bantam) wheaten plus large fowl in silver and in black. He recently acquired two excellent black breeding males from Wayne Meredith.

Congratulations to Illinois member Dr. Gary Gray for winning champion Ameraucana bantam at the 1997 Illini Poultry Show on a wheaten hen. Eye witnesses say the winning hen lays eggs of an excellent shade of blue.

Thanks to Don Cable, Arne Schmidt, Duane & Phyllis Urch, John Blehm and Mike Gilbert for contributing cash awards for our 1997 National Meet. A part of the funds went to purchase new red, white and blue rosettes.

Don Cable is on the road again, and expects to winter in south Texas. His forwarding address is PO Box 2010, Sparks, NV 89432

Junior member, Katie Helland, 12100 Center, San Martin, CA 95046, is interested in finding blue or silver Ameraucanas in either Large Fowl or Bantam.

Since the last Bulletin I've had four requests for information about Ameraucanas and/or this club, from non-members. Thanks to all members for promoting and helping to spread the word about the best chickens around.

Here is a transcription of a letter I received from a new junior member:

"Dear Mr. Blehm,

Hi my name is Allison Hoving I'm eleven years old. I live in Traverse City, Mi. I own several Americana Bantam pullets. I have one that is all black. I

spoke to the judge during my 4-H showmanship at the fair, he said she was top breeding stock. Now I'm looking for a good match for her. I would like to join your club, so that I can learn more about Americanas. Sincerely Allison Hoving"

The Indiana Poultry Breeders Association will host a state meet for the ABC, at their annual winter show December 6-7. Ameraucana Breeders Club offers to it's members, with three or more exhibiting: a rosette for Champion and rosette for Reserve Champion with both L.F. and Bantams competing. For more info on the show contact David Wulff, 943 N. My Lane, Connersville, IN 47331-8217, (765) 823-0621.

District Directors, please help out by placing meets within your districts when requested by members and get the show information and results to me as soon as possible.

If you have not yet paid your membership dues for 1998, please send your check, payable to John W. Blehm, to the address on the letterhead. Also send along any address corrections and information on the varieties of Ameraucanas that you show, breed and/or are looking to acquire. I'll include the information in a membership directory, early next year.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Rev. William P. McKinnon,	Flovilla, GA
Jay Horn,	Arroyo Grande, CA
Allison Hoving, (junior)	Traverse City, MI
Ron Klemmedson,	Blair, WI
Robert Walchak, (family)	Holmen, WI
Jeoffery Stevens,	Clinton, WI
Carlton Yoder,	Goshen, IN
Jake Hendzel,	Menominee, MI
Katie Helland, (junior)	San Martin, CA
Scott Eutsler,	Stuart, VA

What's happening with you? Send correspondences to me I'll do my best to put everything together and continue mailing out bulletins. Your input is desired. Write an article, send show results, ask questions in an open letter, or whatever you can contribute.

Thanks to Jeanne Trent and Mike Gilbert for sending show results from Alma, MI and Janesville, WI.

In case you don't hear from me until next year...

Happy Thanksgiving...

Merry CHRISTmas...

& Happy New Year!

from Poultry Press, Nov. 1997



WISCONSIN INTERNATIONAL POULTRY CLUB - (1) CHAMPION AOCCL
A BLUE AMERAUCANA PULLET BY MIKE GILBERT

Thank you Wisconsin State
Poultry Breeders
for a great
Ameraucana National!



John Bashaw Arnie Schmidt
Jim Fegan
Mike Gilbert John Blehm

Super Grand Champion of Show
Champion Waterfowl
Colored Muscovy Pullet
BV-RV Colored
BV-RV Blue
BV - Chocolate
BB - Colored Muscovy
BB - Mille Fleur d'Uccle
BB - Bearded White Silkie

Thanks Paul Montieth, Troy Laroche
and the Bay City Poultry Association

Rusty Hart
East Jordan, Michigan



"ON A DUCK?"

Thanks to BCPBA
for Great Weather
At Our State Meet
Ameraucana
Breeders Club
Jeanne Trent
Champion Bantam
Champion Ameraucana
John Blehm,
Ruth Whitney



BAY CITY POULTRY ASSOCIATION - PICTURED IS DICK
ROSS, RUTH WHITNEY, EARL JONES AND BARB PIPER.
BARB AND RUTH PRESENTED A PLAQUE TO JONES
AND ROSS FOR BEING THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE
BAY CITY POULTRY ASSOCIATION (PRESS PHOTO)

The 1997 National Meet of the Ameraucana Breeders' Club was hosted by the Wisconsin International Poultry Club on September 26 - 28 at Janesville, Wisconsin. Eight exhibitors entered a total of 67 Ameraucanas - 44 bantams and 23 large fowl, and seven new memberships were added to our growing roster at the show.

September was relatively early for most A.B.C. members to show off their 1997 crop of Ameraucanas, so the numbers were not quite as large as hoped for, and it was apparent that a number of the birds actually shown had insufficient time to finish out. Judge Lewis Cunningham passed on a number of favorable comments, suggestions, and cautions - all of which were appreciated by the exhibitors.

In the end, champion large Ameraucana was a wheaten cock shown by John Bashaw, while reserve went to a white pullet, also by Mr. Bashaw. Best A.O.V. (variety other than that of champion or reserve) was awarded to Arne Schmidt on a black pullet. Arne also took home the Bruce Hutchinson memorial traveling plaque for best *pair* of large fowl on blacks. Other large fowl varieties shown included blue and buff. No silver, blue-wheaten, or brown-red were displayed this year.

In the bantams, a nicely laced and typy blue pullet by the Gilbert family took top honors, and went on to take champion Ameraucana and champion A.O.C.C.L. of the show, edging out a very nice White Laced Red Cornish male. Reserve bantam and reserve Ameraucana went to a wheaten hen by the Gilberts. The same bird had taken best A.O.V. bantam Ameraucana as a pullet at the 1996 national meet at Hutchinson, Minnesota. The 1997 A.O.V. bantam was a black female shown by John Bashaw. Other bantam varieties on display were brown-reds, blue-wheatens, buffs, and whites. Only silver was missing among the bantams.

At our annual meeting the membership voted to accept the bid of the Bay City club to host our 1998 national meet at their show in Alma, Michigan, to be held the second weekend of October next year.

The members and officers of the Ameraucana Breeders' Club take this opportunity to thank the Wisconsin International Poultry Club for its' generous and friendly hospitality, and to thank judge Cunningham for his cooperative and friendly spirit as well. Together with the camaraderie of old and new members, it made for a successful and very enjoyable meet. We hope and expect to match or exceed this effort next year; why not consider joining us?

submitted by Mike Gilbert, vice pres., Ameraucana Breeders' Club

WHAT ABOUT THE A.B.A.?

Some Ameraucana Breeders' Club members, having joined us in recent years, may not be aware of *another* great organization that has faithfully demonstrated "user friendliness" to A.B.C.'ers and our favorite breed of poultry. The American Bantam Association, under the leadership of then secretary-treasurer Fred Jeffrey (author of Bantam Chickens) and its' standard committee chairman, the late Frank Gary, assisted and encouraged the originators of Ameraucana bantams at each step toward official breed recognition and acceptance.

Upon completion of our 1980 qualifying meet in California under the direction of Don Cable, the A.B.A. quickly extended formal recognition to the first two varieties of Ameraucana bantams, i.e., Wheaten and White. Then, after our second qualifying meet at the great 1983 combined A.P.A./A.B.A. national show in Columbus, Ohio, The A.B.A. promptly informed us the final six bantam varieties would be accepted as well. Coincidentally, the 1983 Ohio National still ranks number one in terms of total entries for a U.S. show. Some 10,400 birds were on display from (if memory serves) 39 states, Canada, and Bermuda. It was *grand!* We were able to display 70 Ameraucana bantams in seven varieties, buff being the exception. Dave Horman's white hen, a Wayne Meredith bred bird, took top honors, while Don Cable's wheaten hen received reserve of breed. The wheaten hen's photo may be seen in the A.B.A. Bantam Standard as an example of how the female Ameraucana bantam should appear. These two great 1983 hens would no doubt be capable of winning most Ameraucana competitions today.

The American Bantam Association continues to extend every courtesy and consideration to the Ameraucana Breeders' Club and its' members. As examples, the A.B.A. reprinted an article from our newsletter (on Wheaten coloration) in its' Summer 1997 Quarterly. It also reprinted in its' 1997 yearbook the poem "About My Giant" from our January/February 1997 newsletter. Moreover, the A.B.A. continues to provide easier means by which new breeds and varieties become recognized than does the American Poultry Association. The reader might keep this in mind if he or she chooses to work for the establishment of any new Ameraucana varieties.

The A.B.A. updated its' Standard in 1997 and made a loose-leaf edition available in a convenient three-ring binder. This will provide for an inexpensive means to keep the standard up-to-date when future revisions are made - and changes *will* be made. The A.B.A. has many other bantam-related publications, as well as older yearbooks, available at very reasonable prices. The yearbooks are conveniently indexed for the readers' use in locating advertisers and ads for each breed or variety. These books contain valuable educational articles, both new and historical.

Considering the fine treatment we have received over the years from the A.B.A. it was surprising to note only one of our members advertised in the 1997 A.B.A. yearbook. It, the quarterly bulletins, and eligibility for A.B.A. sponsored show awards come free with membership. Annual dues are a great value at only \$10 per year. A three year membership may be purchased for \$25 or a lifetime membership for \$200. Any of the above can be secured by writing A.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Eleanor Vinhage, P.O. Box 127, Augusta, NJ 07822. Her phone and fax number is (201)383-6944, or E-mail to Fancybntms@aol.com. New worlds of information and pleasure await you.

11/3/97

It's Monday and I want to get this bulletin out. Jeanne's report on the Alma, Michigan show didn't come in the mail today, so her article on will have to wait until next time.

Annual membership dues are:

\$10.00 / Family

\$7.50 / Individual

\$5.00 / Junior

Are you looking to buy or sell birds? Send the information, to be included in the next bulletin. No charge for members to advertise.

For information about poultry shows, organizations and the like, subscribe to the Poultry Press, PO Box 542, Connersville, IN 47331-0542

John W Blehm