

# Ameraucana Newsletter

Fall 2017 ~ Volume 3, Issue 3

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**Welcome New Member...**

Kathy Davis, IL



**Bantam - buff pullet and wheaten pullet  
Birds and photos from John W Blehm**



**Large Fowl - lavender silver pullet. Bird and photo from John W Blehm**

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[read more on page 2](#)

*"Wait I almost forgot to mention our board of directors has agreed to put up well over \$2,000 worth of awards with a boat load of cash. Now don't get me wrong our awards are nice, but the opportunity to visit and fellowship with our wonderful members is truly priceless. Where else can you pick the brains of some of the breeders..."*  
[read more on page 3](#)

*"Often in small county fairs, etc. I can judge all the small animal categories. I have been judging since 1977 and have judged cats, cavies, dogs, pocket pets..."*  
[read more on page 4](#)

## *Beth Curran ~ President*

Greetings, friends! Hope you are all enjoying your summer, beating the heat, and getting geared up for fall shows.

As most of you know by now, the board shuffled duties back in June, with Gina and Jensen taking over meets and points, John resuming the secretary job, and yours truly assuming the job of president. I appreciate the confidence that you have placed in me and will do my best to live up to it.

Congratulations to Debra Hogan for being our first Master Exhibitor, surpassing 800 exhibitor points! Debra hails from Northern California and has been raising Ameraucanas since the early 1970s (before they were even called Ameraucanas), including a red pyle project that caught the attention of Stanford University. In addition to poultry, Debra is a 4-H leader and an avid horsewoman. With family and other obligations she is only able to attend a few shows per year, making this milestone all the more impressive - way to go, Debra! Thank you for being such a wonderful ambassador for the breed we love!

We had a pretty good hatching season and, in spite of the annual battle with coccidia compounded by triple digit heat indexes and torrential rain, I see some good prospects for Fowl Fest in October.

This national is shaping up to be an amazing show, with thousands in cash prizes up for grabs and a number of quality birds available for purchase through the silent auction organized by Russ Blair. If you haven't already made plans to attend, I encourage you to do so. I am driving up from NC, hope to see you all there.



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## *John W Blehm ~ Secretary/Treasurer*



I know our 2017 Ameraucana National Meet is the talk of the town and just a month away, but it is time to think about our 2018 National Meet already! The Board of Directors will vote on a poultry show to host us in 2018, by the 15th of November of this year. In order for a show to be considered they have to submit a bid, with Beth, to host us by November 1st. If you have a show in mind, please get with their people and request a bid be emailed to Beth or to yourself and forward it to her. Remember that according to our [Constitution](#) "Any member may solicit bids (offers) from poultry show clubs wishing to host an Ameraucana National Meet and submit them to the President. Bids must be received by November first to be considered for the club's National Meet to be held the following fall."

Don't forget our Ameraucana Egg Judging Competition at our National Meet in October. Whether you enter birds in the show or not, Alliance members may bring eggs for the competition and there is no entry fee. A \$50 cash prize goes to four winners for Best & Reserve bantam and Best & Reserve large fowl eggs. Bring a half dozen to enter into each of the different classes. All the details are in the [Ameraucana Egg Contest](#) PDF file on our site's Downloads page.



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## *Gina Neta ~ Director of Club Meets*

(no report)

## Russ Blair ~ Director of Promotions

Hello, my fellow Alliance members, hopefully your summer has been a little more relaxed than mine? As I finally sit down to write my report for our summer newsletter all I can think about is our upcoming National Meet October 7 & 8, in Birch Run Michigan. I have been attending this show since 2011, exhibiting there since 2013 and think it is my favorite show to always attend. Now they are hosting our National Meet I am overwhelmed with delight. If you have never attended this show I recommend you make your plans for this one.



Not only is it held in a spacious expo center, with great lighting and spacious isles. There is so much to see and do between Birch Run and Frankenmuth (which is a short drive from our show). Whether you like to shop outlet stores (which one of the biggest is across from the expo center) like my wife, or if you just want to see the famous Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland there is something for everyone no matter the age. I also recommend you stop into the world famous Tony's Restaurant, but let me warn you now the portions are huge and don't attempt the famous BLT (which has 1lb of Bacon on it) alone. I made that mistake 3 years ago and learned my lesson.

I would also like to remind everyone I am still accepting donations for our silent auction. This will be a livestock only auction consisting of single, pairs or trios of breeding quality Ameraucana in Bantam and Large Fowl. I am personally going to give a one-year subscription to the poultry press, to anyone willing to donate, as a token of my appreciation for your generosity. It will be limited to one per household no matter how big or small the donation. Let us not forget any winning bidder that is not already a lifetime member of our Ameraucana Alliance will also receive a one-year membership to our club. This will include members and non-members alike and will commence on January 1, 2018. This will make you eligible for all awards, points and grant you full access to our forum for the entire 2018 year. This will be paid for by the proceeds of the auction and the remainder of the funds brought in will go for next year's national meet. This will give our existing members and fellow fanciers looking for a great start in Ameraucana a wonderful opportunity to obtain some from some of the top breeders across the nation.

Is it becoming obvious why I am so excited about this upcoming Meet? Wait I almost forgot to mention our board of directors has agreed to put up well over \$2,000 worth of awards with a boat load of cash. Now don't get me wrong our awards are nice, but the opportunity to visit and fellowship with our wonderful members is truly priceless. Where else can you pick the brains of some of the breeders who created most if not all our recognized varieties?

Enough of the National Meet, now I would like to share the importance of good record keeping. You see this year I had a white chick hatch from my blue bantam pens. At first, I thought it was a splash, but as it matured it became obvious it was a white Ameraucana. Luckily for me I toe punch all my chicks when they hatch and it was easy to figure out what pen it came from. It seems an outcross I made to another breeder's line to try and improve a fertility issue had brought in recessive white. Luckily through the information shared by some of our breeders I knew enough to keep the two lines separated. I have since culled all the birds from that breeding pen and acquired a pair of white bantams at a show I attended in June. Even though my other line should be good I will go through the painstaking process of test matting all my breeders to confirm the culprits have been eliminated from my breeding pens. The good side of this all is I have a pretty nice white bantam pullet to enter in October, so Mike Gilbert and Gina Neta be warned, I will be keeping you both honest in that variety. Who knows maybe this is Gods way of telling me I need another variety to work with, hopefully my wife doesn't see this.

So get your birds ready, be it for our National Meet or another show, it will not be long before the fall show season is in full swing. I know I have every pet carrier, conditioning pen and everything

(continued →)

in between filled up with potential winners. There is still time to request meets to your favorite show as well, just contact Gina or Jensen and they will make it happen. Until next time may your birds be in peak condition and your travels be safe my friends, God Bless

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## *Jeannette Frank ~ Director of Promotions*

Since I do not raise or keep poultry any longer I will have to draw on memories to fill my quota of articles or tell about some of my experiences at poultry shows.

I was asked to be a judge in July for the local 4-H Round Robin. I am sure you all are familiar with the fast pace of the Round Robin. I arrived at the barn ½ hour early so I went to see what birds had been in the 4-H show. There were four birds left in the cages and I was very disappointed in what was there and how the birds placed. I did not know how many were actually entered or the quality of any. What was upsetting was that there were two "Ameraucanas" with blue ribbons on the cages. The birds were mutt Easter Eggers.



To compound the problem I was told the judge had told them that because the "Ameraucana" had green legs they would lay green eggs and this was a good representative of the breed. This same judge had informed all of the 4-Hers showing that red earlobes meant the bird would lay brown eggs and white earlobes meant white eggs. I have been dealing with this misinformation for as long as I can remember (and that is a long time) I wish I could say that trying to correct all the misinformation was easy to correct but as any of you know that is not the case.

It isn't just the Ameraucanas either. One of the mothers of a 4-Her stopped me after we had finished the Round Robin and asked if I would critique her child's poultry. Now knowing how the birds placed in the 4-H show I agreed to look at the three birds. A large fowl light Brahma cockerel was one. I looked the bird over and showed the mother and 4-Her the good points and faults of the bird. Even tho it was only four months old it was a good representative of the breed but the judge had marked it as not good. Because these were 4-H birds it was not DQ'd by this judge. The other two birds were black Cochin bantam hen and a white bearded Silkie pullet. The judge had faulted both birds with numerous faults. I told the mother that even tho I didn't see the same faults I was not there at the time of the judging. Any one of these three birds would have placed higher than the Easter Eggers in my opinion.

I realize that I may be out of line being so critical of a judge that I do not know. I am sure some of my comments got back to this judge and the committee that hires judges, but unless the judge really knows something about poultry hiring a judge because they can judge both rabbits and poultry does not give the 4-Hers the right information to make them better. The comment that I heard was "This judge raises rabbits and really knows all about rabbits and has agreed to judge poultry also."

Often in small county fairs, etc. I can judge all the small animal categories. I have been judging since 1977 and have judged cats, cavies, dogs, pocket pets, poultry, pigeons, rabbits, and reptiles. 4-H extension office have supplied me with books and pamphlets to help me understand what is required of both the 4-Hers and the judge. And because my children have kept any or all of the animals at one time or the other I have a good knowledge of them. I have developed a pretty good sized card file of questions and information on all the different classes.

With that I think I will sign off. Keep in mind if you have questions of why a judge judged the way he/she did don't be afraid to ask. Any judge should be willing to talk to exhibitors of any age or caliber. When I was preparing to get my license I had a friend that was a judge (he also gave me my test) tell me to have a reason for all the decisions I make when judging and be able to explain why.

## Jensen Pierson ~ Director of Club Meets



At last that exciting time of year is upon us! All of the time spent caring for our breeding stock and raising new chicks is about to come to fruition. Here at Kal-Jen Farm in Ohio I am struggling to find space for all of my birds. Condition is an important factor when show season hits. For example, you could have the perfect bird, but if they are missing feathers it matters little how straight that pea comb is. Part of this year's improvements is to focus on conditioning my birds to have the best feathers they can. Next year I hope to have more individual cages to condition birds, but for now I will make do with what I have. The Ameraucanas at the farm are feathering out beautifully and I can not wait to see how they do at the shows this fall. I hope everyone is having a successful year with their birds. I am excited to put the names with the faces of all of our new members who joined this year that will be attending the Ameraucana Alliance National Meet at Fowl Fest. I wish everyone the best of luck this show season!

### Ameraucana Meet Report

#### Coulee Region Poultry Club

Coulee Region Poultry Club Show, 6/3/2017

24 bantams by 9 exhibitors, judge Art Rieber

BV - black H by Russ Blair out of 4

RV- black H by Russ Blair

BV - blue H by Russ Blair out of 1

BV - blue wheaten H by Mike Gilbert out of 3

RV - blue wheaten H by Natalie Sonsalla

BV - brown-red C by Mike Gilbert out of 1

BV - buff C by Natalie Sonsalla out of 1

BV - wheaten H by Natalie Sonsalla out of 2

RV - wheaten H by Russ Blair

Res AOCCL, BB, BV - white K by nonmember out of 9

RB, RV - white P by nonmember

lavender trio by Noah Lasley

28 large fowl by 9 exhibitors, judge Zeb Skow

**RB**, BV - black H by Bob Rennolet out of 16

RV- black C by Jacob Sonsalla

BV - blue C by nonmember out of 3

RV- blue C by nonmember

BV - brown-red H by nonmember out of 1

BV - silver C by Jacob Sonsalla out of 2

RV - silver P by Bob Rennolet

BV - wheaten H by nonmember out of 2

RV - wheaten C by nonmember

**BB**, BV - white H by Gina Neta out of 4

RV - white C by Bob Rennolet

### Ameraucana Meet Report

#### California State Fair

Poultry Show, Sacramento CA, 7/8-24/2017

17 bantams by 5 exhibitors, judge Emmett Wild

BV - black H by Debra Hogan out of 7

RV - black C by Debra Hogan

BV - blue H by Debra Hogan out of 2

RV - blue H by Debra Hogan

**Ch AOCCL, BB**, BV - buff H by Debra Hogan out of 2

RV - buff C by Debra Hogan

BV - silver H by Debra Hogan out of 4

RV - silver P by Debra Hogan

**RB**, BV - wheaten H by Debra Hogan out of 2

RV - wheaten K by Debra Hogan

43 large fowl by 6 exhibitors, judge Emmett Wild

**RB**, BV - black P by Debra Hogan out of 5

RV - black H by Debra Hogan

BV - blue C by Debra Hogan out of 5

RV - blue P by Debra Hogan

BV - blue wheaten P by Debra Hogan out of 5

RV - blue wheaten H by Debra Hogan

BV - brown red H by Debra Hogan out of 6

RV - brown red P by Debra Hogan

BV - buff H by Debra Hogan out of 5

RV - buff P by Debra Hogan

BV - silver P by Debra Hogan out of 5

RV - silver H by Debra Hogan

BV - Wheaten K by Debra Hogan out of 6

RV - wheaten H by nonmember

**Res AOSB, BB**, BV - white H by Debra Hogan out of 6

RV - white P by Debra Hogan

# Awards list for Ameraucana National Meet

Fowl Fest, Birch Run, Michigan - October 7-8, 2017



## Open Show Competition:

Champion Ameraucana Overall.....	\$100, plus a Trophy by Kraig Shafer
Reserve Champion Ameraucana Overall.....	\$100
Best of Breed Bantam.....	\$50
Reserve of Breed Bantam.....	\$50
Best of Breed Large Fowl.....	\$50
Reserve of Breed Large Fowl.....	\$50
Best of Variety Bantam (recognized & Best AOV).....	\$50
Reserve of Variety Bantam (recognized & Reserve AOV).....	\$30
Best of Variety Large Fowl (recognized & Best AOV).....	\$50
Reserve of Variety Large Fowl (recognized & Reserve AOV).....	\$30
Champion Bantam Trio.....	\$50
Champion Large Fowl Trio.....	\$25, plus \$25 by Russ Blair
Champion Display Overall.....	\$50
Reserve Champion Display Overall.....	\$25

## Ameraucana Egg Competition:

Best Bantam Eggs.....	\$50
Reserve Bantam Eggs.....	\$50
Best Large Fowl Eggs.....	\$50 by Duane Schroeder
Reserve Large Fowl Eggs.....	\$50

## Junior Competition:

Best of Breed Bantam.....	Rosette, plus \$20 by Russ Blair & \$20 by Beth Curran
Reserve of Breed Bantam.....	Rosette, plus \$10 by Russ Blair & \$10 by Beth Curran
Best of Breed Large Fowl.....	Rosette, plus \$20 by Ken Olsen & \$20 by Beth Curran
Reserve of Breed Large Fowl.....	Rosette, plus \$10 by Russ Blair & \$10 by Beth Curran
BV Bantam and LF (recognized & Best AOV).....	Blue "Ameraucana National Meet" Ribbon
RV Bantam and LF (recognized & Reserve AOV).....	Red "Ameraucana National Meet" Ribbon
BV Bantam (recognized & Best AOV).....	\$10 by Russ Blair
BV Large Fowl Wheaten & Blue Wheaten.....	\$20 each by Royce Van Blaricome
RV Large Fowl Wheaten & Blue Wheaten.....	\$10 each by Royce Van Blaricome
BV Large Fowl Buff.....	\$15 by Beth Curran
Exhibitor (other than BV & RV).....	Yellow "Ameraucana National Meet" Ribbon

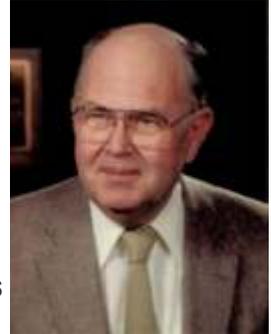
- Only Ameraucana Alliance Members are eligible for these awards by the club and our members, except nonmembers are eligible for ribbons & rosettes in Junior Competition only.
- Eggs entered into the egg judging contest become the property of the Ameraucana Alliance.
- Some members prefer cash and some prefer trophies of some sort. Winners have the choice of either cash or non-cash for club sponsored awards. Dollar amounts are associated with each win and each winner may decide whether to receive the cash or a non-cash (hardware) award, such as a plaque, rosette, coaster, etc. of fairly equal value with shipping figured in. This gives the winners the option and by having non-cash awards made after the meet the winner's name may be included in custom designed awards.

## *In Memory of John Skinner*

*By Mike Gilbert*

John Skinner was the APA Standard Committee chairman during the process of achieving APA Standard recognition for the Ameraucana in the early 1980's, and he was a very accomplished poultryman. For those who may be interested, his complete obituary is printed in the August edition of Poultry Press. I will attempt to reiterate some of the high points here and provide some supplementary information. John will always have a special place in my memory, as he judged the first La Crosse County Fair that our family participated in, and in the process awarded our daughter a merit badge for poultry showmanship. If memory serves, I believe he said at the time it was the first time he had done so. That would have been around 1980 or so when Melissa was just shy of 10 years old, and she had never done showmanship before. Mary and I were proud parents that day, and still are.

John passed away on July 2, 2017, at the age of 93 after a prolonged battle with Parkinson's disease. He was a Nebraska farm boy who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in WWII and participated in the epic battle for Iwo Jima. This Pacific island was defended by some 23,000 Japanese army and navy troops; U.S. casualties numbered 5,700 killed in action and another 17,400 wounded. Some of you may have read the book or viewed the movie "Hacksaw Ridge" which detailed the harrowing experiences of a conscientious objector who served as a medic in that battle. Desmond Doss became the first conscientious objector to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his unbelievable and astonishing heroic service saving the wounded under intense enemy fire. And he never fired a shot.



John's military service gave him eligibility for GI Bill education benefits when he returned home, and he put them to good use by obtaining two college degrees. He later taught on the faculties of Texas A&M College, the University of Nebraska, and lastly the University of Wisconsin.

He joined the Poultry Science Dept. at the University of Wisconsin in 1963. He was awarded a full professorship in 1967. In 1971, he became the country's first designated Poultry and Small Animal Specialist. John participated in the writing of 18 books, numerous journal articles, and educational and 4-H publications. He served on many organizations, advisory panels, and committees. He was frequently asked to speak at industries, organizations and conventions, including organizing the first symposium on poultry industry waste management. He was a member and licensed Judge of the American Poultry Assn., the American Bantam Assn., Poultry Science Assn., World Poultry Science Assn., Life member and Lifetime Director of the American Poultry Historical Society, and a member of the British Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

John became the youngest person to hold an APA general license in 1953. He was also the youngest person to become inducted into the American Poultry Hall of Fame. His interest in fancy poultry started at the age of four when his father presented him with a pair of Buff Cochin bantams. John was still raising Cochin bantams after his retirement from the University of Wisconsin as Emeritus Professor in 1985, and he continued to do so for many more years.

In all my dealings with John Skinner, both written and in person, he was always the consummate gentleman, displaying an attitude of humility and willingness to listen. Leading up to the APA Ameraucana bantam qualifying meet at the 1983 Ohio National show, there had been a considerable amount of communication between John Skinner, Don Cable, and myself. After the judging was completed, John did not attend the APA general meeting, as he apparently had other commitments and had to leave early. When time elapsed and we heard nothing as to approval or disapproval, some became quite hostile with regard to his performance on our behalf. What we did not realize is that the APA was trying to decide what to do about the large fowl, as we had only worked with the bantams to that point. In the end the APA did the right thing and recognized large fowl Ameraucana in the same varieties and using the same descriptions as the bantams except for weights. And even on that issue we were consulted. The decision was announced at the 1984 National Meet of the APA in Milwaukee, and I was happy to be in attendance. At the end of the day I believe we Ameraucana fanciers owe John Skinner a debt of gratitude. May his soul rest in peace.

## Important Dates

Deadline for the next Ameraucana Newsletter is November 15th. Please have reports, articles, photos, ads, etc. emailed to John by then to be considered.

That is also the date to request meets be placed by, thru Jensen & Gina, for any shows that have an entry deadline after December 1st...the date the next Newsletter is due by. Request meets as early as possible & request meets at both shows when there are double shows.

## Treasurer's Report

Checking accounts at Great Lakes Federal CU, MI

Previous Total Balance as of 5/25/2017 =	\$3,926.49
Previous Checking Balance as of 5/25/2017 =	\$3,622.00
Income	\$80.00
Expenses	\$65.00
GLFCU Checking Balance as of 8/22/2017 =	\$3,637.00
PayPal Balance as of 8/22/2017 =	\$502.28
Ending Total Balance as of 8/22/2017 =	\$4,139.28

## Upcoming Ameraucana Meets

September 9 & 10, 2017

**New York Club Meet**, requested by Neil Townsend

[The Twin Tier Poultry Club](#), Bath NY

Contact: Robert Whitney [rodewhite@gmail.com](mailto:rodewhite@gmail.com)

(607)776-2500

October 7-8, 2017

**Ameraucana National Meet**

[Michigan Poultry Fanciers – Fowl Fest](#), Birch Run MI

Contact: Matt Boensch [mjwaterfowl@yahoo.com](mailto:mjwaterfowl@yahoo.com)

- Tim Bowles judging our Ameraucanas
- Early coop-in on Friday, Oct. 6 from 4pm - 9pm
- Birds released on Sunday by 11am
- Go to [FowlFest.org](http://FowlFest.org) for the Show Catalog & Entry Form

October 21, 2017

**Indiana Club Meet**, requested by John W Blehm

[Central Indiana Poultry Show](#), Lebanon, IN

Contact: Doug Akers [dakers@purdue.edu](mailto:dakers@purdue.edu)



Bantam - lavender pullet  
Bird and photo from John W Blehm

Honorary Vice Presidents of the Ameraucana Alliance: Jim Fegan – Mike Gilbert – Jerry Segler

Ameraucana Alliance Board of Directors:

**President - Beth Curran**

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