

# Ameraucana Newsletter

Spring 2018 ~ Volume 4, Issue 1

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## Welcome New Members...

Dana Leinenger, MT  
 Sarah Spiegel, WI  
 Jada, Collin & Weston  
 Olivia D Moore, KS  
 Jeoff Stevens, WI  
 Carol Straight, MI  
 Brad Stonebarger, OK  
 Gracie  
 Tim Bowsher, MI  
 Melody Teller, MI  
 Erin Sharp, VA  
 Kayla McGowan  
 Janelle O'Rourke, TX  
 Gracie  
 Deborah McAfee, AR  
 Kara J Ferri, NH  
 Katherine Harrell, NC  
 Christine M Lindsey, FL  
 Sara Knight, GA  
 Margaret Tambling, SC  
 Kelly Gore, AZ  
 Arwyn Taugner, CA  
 Frances Foster, MO  
 Candace Wells, WA  
 Emily & Natalee

Anne Lepak, WI  
 Sara Riccardelli, PA  
 Martha Griner, NJ  
 Gwyn Lynch, FL  
 Lily Davis, CA  
 Paula Hoffman, NC  
 Preston Gwinn, IN  
 Karen Warner, OH  
 Nicole Rickett, CA  
 Celeste  
 Susan Bachmann, PA  
 Jodie Vetter, CO  
 David & Anna  
 Eve Scott, CA  
 Faye Henthorne, AR  
 Richard Orr, CT  
 Mark Walker, ME  
 AudriAnna  
 Sherri Fisher, OR  
 Mark Sydnor, MS  
 Lisa Helms, MO  
 Liza Surock, WV  
 Elaine Rudis Jackson, CA  
 Sherry Klaus, MO  
 Keirsten  
 Alyssa Kim, CA

## In This Issue:

Welcome Members.....	1
Beth Curran.....	2
Russ Blair.....	2
Club Meet Report.....	3
Jeannette Frank.....	4
Mike Gilbert.....	5
Upcoming Meets.....	5 & 8
Jensen Pierson.....	6
John Blehm.....	7
Treasurer's Report.....	8
List of Club Officers.....	8

*"...two judges at our Ameraucana National Meet, with Don Karasek judging bantam fowl and Dennis Thompson judging large fowl..."*

[read more on page 2](#)

*"...making this year's National a historic event for our breeds 40th anniversary. I truly believe we have the greatest group of members hands down..."*

[read more on page 3](#)

*"...my human came and took me out of the cage and smoothed my feathers..."*

[read more on page 4](#)

*"...right now it looks like a pretty fair crop of bantam whites. I kept one trio that will produce 75% Walchak strain, and another pair to produce 75% Buske strain. All the females have been laying, and both males have been fertile..."*

[read more on page 5](#)



Large fowl white hen and cock in junior competition, by Gwyn Lynch at Lake City, Florida Sunshine Classic, January 6-7

## Beth Curran ~ President

Hello, everyone! Hope this finds you all well. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new members - great to see so many people enjoying our beautiful breed!

I apologize for being a bit out of the loop. Between trying to get things done around the farm before I'm laid up and can't, and school/sports activities, I haven't been able to spend much time online. This past weekend was a sports event in Michigan, and we were able to drop by John's for a little bit, a nice break in an otherwise fast-paced weekend. Next up is our basketball tournament, then my surgery is in April.

As some of you already know, I learned a few months back that I need to have both knees replaced. More like confirmed what I already knew, as I've had problems since a bad car wreck in high school. After over 30 years I'm excited to get new ones that work, but the downside is it will be done in two separate surgeries that will be at least three months apart, so I'm going to be out of commission for most of 2018.

I've pared my flock down to the bare minimum, and put as many birds as possible into the hands of other breeders so they won't sit idle for a whole season. Debbie Hogan bought my white bantams and the silver bantams went to Jeff Vance, along with a bunch of wheaten/blue wheaten bantams, leaving me with a small group of wheaten/blue wheaten bantams, LF buff & lavender, and the layer flock. I hope to at least hatch a handful of replacement birds between surgeries.

When I am ready to hatch, I'm cautiously optimistic for the first time in a long time. I've had a number of bad hatching seasons. It seemed to be a case of embryo burnout, as the majority were quitting after day 18. I've been told this is normally a nutrition problem, so I changed feeds and added protein from various sources ranging from cheap cat food to live mealworms. Nothing helped. I was getting pretty discouraged until one day last spring I was talking to Jeff Vance, and after hearing of my troubles, he told me what he used, which he learned from Mike O'Neill and Curtis Blackwell - 2 ounces Red Cell, 2 ounces peanut oil, 2 ounces fish meal to a 5 gallon bucket of good quality 18% feed. Having tried so many things already, I won't lie, I wasn't holding out a lot of hope. But son of a gun if after about six weeks, I didn't have the best hatch I'd had in years! The next several hatches were equally good. I was absolutely amazed! Unfortunately, by then it was early June and hatching season was pretty much over. So I am anxious to see how it goes this year. I'm still not exactly sure what was lacking in their diet. If I had to guess, I suspect it may have been a vitamin or mineral that the Red Cell supplied, but whatever it was, I'm sure keeping them on it!

In other news, the board recently voted to support changing the wording of the Standard for blue wheaten from lacing to edging. Please note that our club is not seeking the change, but rather voted to officially endorse the change being sought by a third party. More information can be found on our forum. The board also voted to have two judges at our Ameraucana National Meet, with Don Karasek judging bantam fowl and Dennis Thompson judging large fowl.

Hope all of you have a great hatching season! Beth



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## Russ Blair ~ Director

Greeting's my fellow Ameraucana Alliance members, hopefully the bitter cold has taken retreat. As I write this I hope your hatching season is well on its way. Unfortunately, I am off to a very slow start between my work schedule, family emergencies and hens not co-operating that is. My slow start to hatching season has not hampered my excitement for the upcoming shows. It simply means I most likely will have to condition some of my better large fowl breeders for the upcoming fall show season.

I am currently waiting for verification/permission from the hosting club of our 2018 National Meet to have another silent auction. I am hopeful they will grant us the opportunity and if so I am hoping this will be the greatest one yet.



(continued →)

With this being the 40th anniversary of our wonderful breed's name and club's origin. I am hoping to make this National Meet historic. I would like to ask all Alliance Members to please set a few extra eggs with the hopes of a wonderful silent auction. After all, can we really ever hatch too many? For those who attended our 2016 National Meet, do you remember seeing every recognized variety and a lot of project varieties in large fowl and bantam on display? Why can't we try and make this another reality at our 2018 National Meet? Better yet, how cool would it be if we could also offer every variety at our silent auction? This is what I mean about making this year's National a historic event for our breeds 40th anniversary. I truly believe we have the greatest group of members hands down from any other breed club around. Time and time again I have seen our members graciously help out in various ways of generosity. I know this is a huge goal to obtain, but I was always told if I am going to dream I might as well dream big.

Alright enough of my dreams for our 2018 National Meet, let's talk about the here and now. For those who are not aware our member Steve Neuman approached our board a few months back about an open Facebook group. I am glad to say it is turning into a huge success with 396 current members as I type this report. It has become a wonderful recruiting tool where Ameraucana breeders, owners and plain old enthusiasts can gather to ask questions, share experiences and photos. Being a current administrator, along with Steve and Rebecca Howie, I have spoken to dozens of people through Messenger. Many of them are enquiring more about our Alliance, more importantly how they can join. Every one of them speaks freely of how enjoyable the group is and especially love the friendly attitude among our members. It also sounds like several of them are also planning on attending our Ameraucana National Meet as well. I would like to take a quick minute to welcome all our new members. It doesn't matter how you found us I just want to welcome each and every one of you to the Ameraucana Alliance. I am hoping to meet several of you this September in Portage, Wisconsin.

In closing I would like to mention our upcoming meet at the Dayton Fancy Feathers Club spring show this coming April 28th & 29th. They are also hosting the APA semiannual and several other breed club meets and even national meets as well. It should be a fairly large show with a great turn out all around. I know I have separated several breeders and have begun the conditioning process to have them ready to attend it. I am looking forward to going with my Uncle Dave and experiencing a new show I have never attended. I hope several of you do the same as well this year, get out of your comfort zone and experience a show you have never attended. Better yet, get with fellow Ameraucana Alliance members and place a meet at all the shows you will attend. Our meet policy is readily available on our home page and Michael Gilbert is the current director in charge of placing them.

Here's to a wonderful hatching season to all. May your brooders be full of wonderful fluffy faced chicks. Better yet may several of them finish out to make it on champion row this coming show season. Until next time God Bless and thank you for the opportunity to serve as one of your director's. Sincerely, Russ Blair

## Ameraucana Meet Report

### Washington Feather Fanciers

Brisk - Chehlis, WA, November 12, 2017

2 bantams by 1 exhibitor, judge Rico Sabastianelli

**BV, BB - black H by Karen Carpenter out of 1**

**BV, RB - white C by Karen Carpenter out of 1**

23 large fowl by 4 exhibitors, judge Amanda Stallman

RV - blue wheaten C by Royce Van Blaricome out of 4

BV - silver P by Tom & Michelle Cram out of 2

RV - silver P by Tom & Michelle Cram

**RV, RB - wheaten P by Royce Van Blaricome out of 3**

BV - lavender P by Tom & Michelle Cram out of 1



Bantam wheaten cockerel, by Becky Howie, at Lake City, Florida Sunshine Classic, January 6-7, double show

## Jeannette Frank ~ Director

My name is Wheetie. I am a 9 month old wheaten Ameraucana bantam. I'd like to tell you about my experience last weekend. Well, actually it started some time ago.

My human came thru our house and picked up each one of us and checked us over very carefully. Looking at our face, beard and muffs. Our combs and feet and even pulling our wings out and checking thoroughly. Some of us were put in individual cages and given extra special treatment and food. Every day our human would take us out of cages and hold us and check out all our parts.

Then a week ago we got baths. Do you have any idea what being plunged into a tub of warm sudsy water feels like? And having your face and feet really cleaned? After the sudsy water being put in another tub of warm water then having the water "wrung" out of your feathers and having a towel wrapped around you before being put in a cage again. Made me want to head for the dust box. Took me awhile to get my feathers preened back to normal. I am sure glad I'm not a Silkie. I heard that they have a wind blown on them to get them fluffy. Don't think I would like that. Can you imagine a wind storm in your face?

Then very early one morning we were put in what they call traveling cages and put in the back of a truck with a top on it. I tried to sleep as much as one can with the cages bouncing around. Finally we stopped by a big building. The sun was just coming up.

Our human opened the truck and started taking our cages out and taking us into the big building. I could see lots of cages sitting around in the building and rows of cages all over. And people...everywhere. My human carried my cage to a row of cages and took me out and put me in one of the cages after looking me over good. The cage had a wire floor so I was careful how I stepped. Good thing there was a solid piece of cardboard where I could stand. It was kind of interesting to see others like me in the cages around me. None of them were nice as me tho.

And the noise! Seems like everyone had to talk at once. I thought our house was noisy but this took the cake. All the cocks seemed to be trying to outdo each other with their crowing. So many different tones. Made me wish I had earplugs. And the females were almost as bad with the gossiping. My goodness the tales I heard.

After awhile my human came and took me out of the cage and smoothed my feathers with a silk cloth and looked me over good. Used a cloth on my comb and feet & legs to make them clean. I was hoping I could get a drink and something to eat but that didn't happen.

Pretty soon another human came and took me out of my cage and really got personal checking me over. I mean, the indignity of it all. I thought it was kind of rude the way I was checked out. I don't mind the head and body but this person got very personal, if you know what I mean.

Pretty soon, my human came back and looked at the tag hanging on the cage then put food and water in my dishes. I really was thirsty and almost starved to death.

Then there were a lot of people (and I do mean a lot) walking around and talking and pointing. A few even took pictures. A bunch of kids (human not goats) were running around and pushing and shoving and laughing. Eventually things quieted down as everyone left my area. I settled down to take a nap.

Let me tell you I was sure happy when my human came and took me out of the cage and put me in the traveling cage and carried it to the pickup. When all of us were packed in the truck started moving. I tried to get some sleep but that is easy with all the jostling. Once back in my own cage I slept like a baby (chick that is).

I have heard some of the older hens talking about shows. I guess that is where we were. Not like one that takes forever to get to and lasts several days in strange cages with strangers all around and then forever to get home again. I am sure glad about that.

I will be so glad to be able to head for the dust bath and scratch around in the dirt for fresh bugs again.

Just wanted to share my adventure with you. Hope you enjoyed it. Until next time, Wheetie.



## Mike Gilbert ~ Director

I really do enjoy reading about what others are doing with their Ameraucanas on our website forum and on our Facebook forums. Love looking at the pictures, hoping folks will ask for comments. Years ago I was always feeling the pressure to produce too many birds for my facilities, so that there would be some to share with others. That is not the case anymore, as the breed has gained so much in popularity that the gene pool is wide and diverse for almost all the varieties in the Standards. The Ameraucana by all indications has become one of the most popular exhibition breeds in America. And now we have them being raised in a number of foreign countries as well. Looking back, I'm satisfied our time in the early years was well spent.



My time as a breeder is rapidly drawing to a close. I'll probably always keep a few birds around as long I'm able to care for them, but the days of keeping them over winter are nearly over. My plan is to order chicks in early spring, raise and condition them, properly cull them, enjoy the show season with friends, and then dispose of the very best to other folks who will breed them. As we are reminded in Ecclesiastes Chapter three, "There is an appointed time for everything; and there is a time for every event under heaven -- A time to give birth, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot what is planted." As we grow older our priorities change. I owe it to my patient and loving wife to do a little more traveling, and that has become very difficult to arrange with livestock to tend.

For now, we should all be hatching and raising our Ameraucanas in anticipation of the fall shows. Our National is scheduled for the last weekend of September, so that is only about seven months away as this is written. Some of my pens are not cooperating fertility wise, but right now it looks like a pretty fair crop of bantam whites. I kept one trio that will produce 75% Walchak strain, and another pair to produce 75% Buske strain. All the females have been laying, and both males have been fertile. My wheaten bantams produced three chicks, and then the cockerel went infertile. Ended up borrowing another male from Jeff Sonsalla, but it's too soon to know the results. However, that does illustrate the value of networking with other fanciers close by. I only kept two pair of LF Brown Reds, and my favorite male has been infertile up until now. And so it goes; some years are better than others. Rest assured I'll plan to bring my best to Portage, Wisconsin, at the end of September. I hope to see many of you there; it should be an outstanding event for our breed. We need to plan a Friday night and a Saturday night get-together/dinner for our members, and for those of you traveling - it is not too soon to be making motel reservations. See you there?



The first two Ameraucana chicks hatched in 2018 at Red Stag Acres, Bantam Whites

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### Upcoming Ameraucana Meets this fall - go to page 8 for a list of spring and summer meets

September 29-30, 2018

#### **Ameraucana National Meet**

Wisconsin International Poultry Club – Wisconsin International, Portage WI

Contact: Steve Tone [info@wisconsininternational.com](mailto:info@wisconsininternational.com)  
(608)371-WIPS

October 20-21, 2018

Nevada Club Meet, requested by Debra Hogan

Northern Nevada Poultry Fanciers Association, Reno NV

Contact: Garrett Wells [nnpfa@hotmail.com](mailto:nnpfa@hotmail.com) (541)921-0471  
or (775)502-6782

November 3-4, 2018

Michigan Club Meet, requested by John W Blehm

Michigan Poultry Fanciers – Fowl Fest, Birch Run MI

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

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### *Election Year*

#### Article 8 - Election of Officers

*"Officers shall be elected every two years...*

*Nominations must be received by the Secretary by October 1st." Please read our Alliance constitution/bylaws for complete details.*

## Jensen Pierson ~ Director

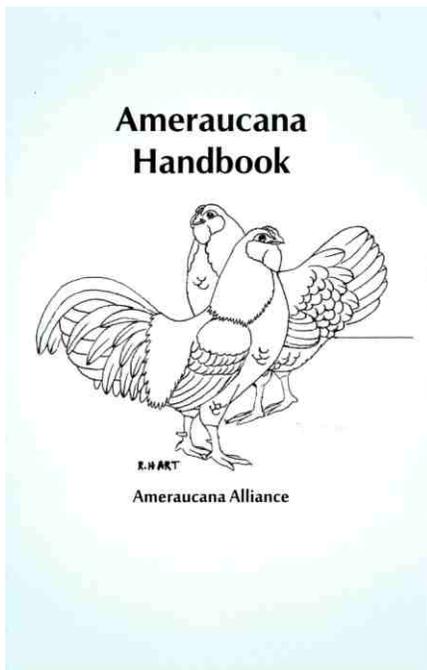


Well the best time of the year is here! Let the snow melt and the days of endless rain begin! Spring is coming and so is everyone's new crop of Ameraucanas. I wish I could say my place is overwhelmed with babies, but I must confess that my brooder is full with three perfect blue large fowl Ameraucanas and one, yes one, large fowl black. I even had to go to rural king to buy chicks so

my single black chick wasn't alone for the first week of life. Do I feel like I am behind? Yes, yes I do, but you know what? It's ok. It's ok to be behind schedule. This is the year I have had the most breeding females in my pens, and yet I find myself with less chicks now than I had this time last year. I am quickly learning that not every year can be expected to produce the same amount as the year before it. This year just may be the time I struggle to hatch the same number as last year, but I can promise you one thing my fellow breeders. The breed will always improve no matter the quantity of the hatch. I may be hatching clutches of eggs two at a time right now, but it is better than nothing. So for those of you who are struggling out there to hatch the quantity you wanted, know that it's OK. You are not alone. I for one am going to keep improving the great breed one chick at a time. Can't wait to see everyone at the shows this year!

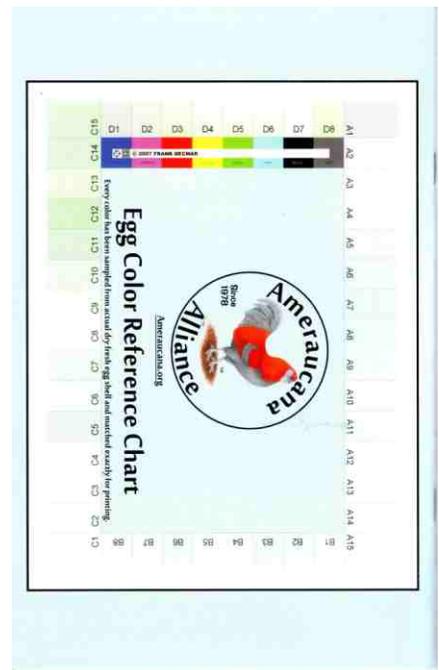
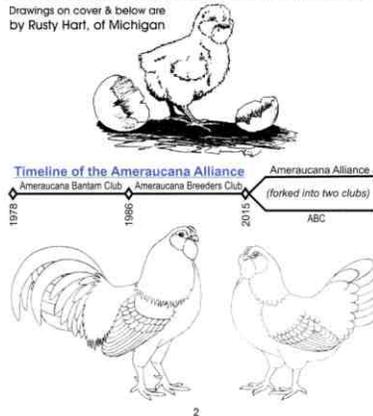


*One of Jensen's chicks*



Contents	
Foreword.....	3
History of the Ameraucana Fowl, by Michael K Gilbert.....	4
Ameraucana Chickens, by John W Blehm.....	25
Ameraucana Standard.....	28
Ameraucana Day-Old Chick Phenotype, by John W Blehm.....	30
Early History of the Ameraucana Breed & Club, by Richard A Orr.....	32
A few commonly used Terms and Abbreviations.....	44
Ameraucana Egg Color Reference Chart.....	back cover

Drawings on cover & below are by Rusty Hart, of Michigan



**2018 Ameraucana Handbook 40th Anniversary edition - Cover, Contents page and Back.**

## John W Blehm ~ Secretary/Treasurer

I read Mike's report and thought how much of it was very close to my story. There were many years that I bred varieties of Ameraucanas just to help supply good stock to those that wanted them, even though they weren't varieties that were ones that appealed much to me. When the APA recognized the eight large fowl varieties, that didn't exist at the time, I went to work trying to create all but the two I knew Wayne Meredith was working on. There were times when I would drop a bantam or large fowl variety thinking others would supply the demand, but they didn't so I would breed and sell them again and again. Looking back I wish I had put more into the varieties, like buff, that were my favorites and less into appeasing others.



With age and health I continue to cut back on the hobby and plan to be down to just two LF varieties of Ameraucanas next year with maybe up to a half dozen bantam varieties. I'm working on a silver pheasant/silver Ameraucana cross with the name Pheasaucana in mind. After the first two hatches of the season there hasn't been any fertile eggs from that project yet, but silver pheasants breed earlier than many others, so I'm hoping to get some chicks starting in March. My two silver pheasant males are over both bantam and large fowl silver and lavender silver female Ameraucanas, so I could end up with two varieties of Pheasaucana chickens in two sizes in a few years. This is one of those "just for the fun of it" projects.

Most of our Alliance members have internet access, but many don't visit our Ameraucana Forum often and many have never logged in. To view our Members Only section and to post you must login. These Newsletters are our official means of corresponding with members, but they only come out quarterly and don't come close to communicating all that is going on. Our forum fills in the gaps and on a daily basis you can keep up with the rest of the story, plus be part of it. One of

the more recent topics is one I started to share my idea of chicken water cup heaters. During a Michigan winter the water in these pint size hanging water cups can freeze, so I wired some 12 volt, 10 watt submersible heat pads that fix in the cups to keep the water from freezing.



*Some breeding coops in my chicken barn with 12v, 10w heaters in the water cups.*

The topic with all the details is under our Health, Housing & Hatching subforum. Topic on Bumble Foot and Worming have also been recently discussed there. Under our Exhibiting, Promoting & Club Notes subforum there is a topic on our 2018 Ameraucana National Meet. Find out about your lodging options there, along with any and all details about our meet as we get closer. This is the one really BIG event that we have annually as a group and whether you are into exhibiting or not it is a great opportunity to talk chicken.

Our new Ameraucana Handbooks, with our egg color chart printed on the back page, arrived today (2/26) from the printer and I hope to mail out this week to our new members that haven't received an Ameraucana Handbook and to those that advertised in it. Other Alliance members may purchase one for \$3. The details are on our site's Ameraucana Merchandise page.

## Important Dates

Deadline for the next Ameraucana Newsletter is May 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 Mike Gilbert, for any shows that have an entry deadline after June 1st...the date the next Newsletter is due by. Please request meets as early as possible & request meets at both shows when there are two shows at one venue.

## Treasurer's Report

Checking accounts at Great Lakes Federal CU, MI

Previous Total Balance as of 11/22/2017 =	\$2,554.34
Previous Checking Balance as of 11/22/2017 =	\$2,056.30
Income	\$2,670.00
\$1,346.16 p e n s e s	
GLFCU Checking Balance as of 2/24/2018 =	\$3,380.14
PayPal Balance as of 2/24/2018 =	\$229.34
Ending Total Balance as of 2/24/2018 =	\$3,609.48

### Upcoming Ameraucana Meets - go to our Ameraucana Meets page for a complete updated list

February 24, 2018, 2 shows/2 meets

**Florida** Club Meets, requested by Rebecca Howie  
**Central Florida Poultry Breeders Association**, Orange Blossom Special, Bell FL  
Contact: Craig Prusansky [craig.prusansky@cflpoultrybreeders.org](mailto:craig.prusansky@cflpoultrybreeders.org)

March 17, 2018

**Washington** Club Meet, requested by Royce Van Blaricome  
**Washington Feather Fanciers**, Cascade Spring Show, Monroe WA  
Contact: Emmett Wild [maggie.wild@yahoo.com](mailto:maggie.wild@yahoo.com)

March 17, 2018

**Texas** Club Meet, requested by Shannon Rowe  
**North Texas Poultry Showcase**, Dallas TX  
Contact: Casey Carter - [Casey@CaseyLCarter.com](mailto:Casey@CaseyLCarter.com)

March 24-25, 2018

**California** Club Meet, requested by Debra Hogan  
**NorCal Poultry Association**, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Show, Red Bluff CA  
Contact: Susan Smallbrook [NorCalPoultry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:NorCalPoultry@sbcglobal.net)

March 31, 2018

**Florida** Club Meet, requested by Rebecca Howie  
**Central Heritage Poultry Classic**, Kissimmee FL  
Shereen Simmons [shereen.simmons20@gmail.com](mailto:shereen.simmons20@gmail.com)

April 28-29, 2018

**Ohio** Club Meet, requested by Russ Blair  
**Dayton Fancy Feather Club - Spring Show**, Greenville OH  
Contact: Tyler Greer [tyler.greer.1998@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.greer.1998@gmail.com)

June 2, 2018

**Wisconsin** Club Meet, requested by Mike Gilbert  
**Coulee Region Poultry Club** show, Galesville WI  
Contact: Jim Laatsch [Jimsparky2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Jimsparky2000@yahoo.com)  
(253)241-9981

July 13-29, 2018

**California** Club Meet, requested by Debra Hogan  
**California State Fair**, Sacramento CA  
Contact: Eunita Boatman (916)263-FAIR  
(916)263-3149 [entryoffice@caexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@caexpo.com)

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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#### **Secretary/Treasurer - John W Blehm**

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#### **Director - Russ Blair**

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#### **Director - Jeannette Frank**

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#### **Director - Mike Gilbert**

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#### **Director - Jensen Pierson**

1004 SR 350 West, Wilmington OH 45177 [kaljenfarm@gmail.com](mailto:kaljenfarm@gmail.com) (937)725-1991



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