

# Ameraucana Newsletter

Summer 2017 ~ Volume 3, Issue 2

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## Welcome New Members...

Jan Williams, IL  
Ginny Petty, CO  
Cherie McElwrath, GA  
Rita White, OK  
Holly DeChane, MI  
Jason E Jones, TX  
Charles Scott, VA  
Julie Kradel, MI  
Heather Corson, FL  
Lalian Morton, OK  
Maria Betancourt, PR

Jessica Latiolais, LA  
Shannon Kohrt, IL  
Kim Trimble, BC  
Linda Penning, WA  
Susan Carroll, KS  
Samantha Voges, PA  
Dawnalysce Clifford, ME  
Gwen Wendling, MI  
Stephanie Obryant, LA  
Jeffrey C Fox, OR  
Mehmet Özgen, Turkey  
Christine K Barth, CO

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Large Fowl - black pullet, black cockerel and blue pullet.  
Birds and photos from Dawn Webster, of British Columbia.



*"As it happened, I had a pair of 6-month old LF wheatears I could spare and was happy to assist her. In lieu of payment I offered that she could have them in exchange for a..."*  
[read more on page 2](#)

*"I can officially say now I am an "adult". Now that I have graduated from college I can take a long needed breather and evaluate my flock. I am so excited to get back into the bird showing and breeding full time."*

[read more on page 5](#)

*"I corresponded with Don Cable & Mike Gilbert often. In 1987 I convinced Don to come to Great Falls, MT to judge a poultry show. (We had a strong state poultry association at that time.) He was doubtful at first but since he wanted to see MT he came. This poultry was one of the very, very first of what is the current double shows."*

[read more on page 5](#)

## John W Blehm ~ President



Since the Alliance doesn't have districts our club's directors are basically Directors-at-Large and take on whatever duties exist to assist Gina, our Secretary. We've included language in our constitution so that with Gina's requests and by my appointments we can help with all her duties as well as control the affairs of the Alliance. Beth and Jensen are taking care of everything associated with club meets, Jeannette and Russ are charged with promoting the Alliance and I am helping by continuing as editor of these newsletters. These responsibilities may change as needed for the club and as the personal lives of our volunteer officers dictate.

My last hatch of the season was on Tuesday, May 23rd and there were a few orders that I wasn't able to fill for bantams. There is plenty of blame to go around, including infertile eggs that just wouldn't hatch. I've hatched and shipped day-old chicks for about 30 of my 35 years with the club. They've gone to most if not all the 48 contiguous states, plus Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and several Canadian provinces. I'm slowly cutting back on large fowl and plan to keep few to none of them after next year. Bantams have been my favorites and I appreciate how much easier they are to handle, house and cleanup after, so I believe I'll concentrate on a few varieties of them.

Again this year, Russ is organizing a fund-raising auction of birds at our Ameraucana National Meet, the first full weekend in October. Last year it brought in hundreds of dollars and helped to keep our treasury in the great shape it is in, allowing us to continue donating beaucoup bucks toward awards. If you are donating birds to the auction we thank you. As usual we are also accepting donations of cash from members to go toward awards. You can designate it as a "Special" for specify wins or to be used as the directors see fit with credit given to you. You may even PayPal donations to [Pay@AmeraucanaAlliance.org](mailto:Pay@AmeraucanaAlliance.org) with a note what it is for. The offer and opportunities are there as in the past if you would like to donate, but I am hoping to have over \$2,000 offered, again this year, in awards at our Ameraucana National Meet between what members offer and the club.

I wish all members with internet access would visit our Ameraucana Forum often, but I understand life can be busy. For those that haven't read a recent post by Duane Schroeder I'm pasting it here for all to share...

*"I was contacted last March by a parent of a girl wanting some real Ameraucanas to exhibit. I was provided background information about the student who had recently experienced some physical problems, but was very bright. As it happened, I had a pair of 6-month old LF wheaten I could spare and was happy to assist her. In lieu of payment I offered that she could have them in exchange for a written report to me explaining the difference between an Easter Egger and an Ameraucana. When the family arrived the girl timidly handed me a three page report neatly written on line tablet paper. She watched nervously as I read the report carefully, and then asked a couple of follow-up questions which she answered correctly. (e.g. What type of comb do the males have?) Recently she sent this email to me:*

*Hello, this is Shelby \_\_\_\_\_. In early April my mom, dad and I came and picked up a wheaten pullet and cockerel from you. I wrote you an explanation between the difference of an ameraucana and an easter egger. I just wanted to give you an update on how they are doing. My pullet has not yet began to lay eggs, but I am sure she will do so soon. I am excited to see her beautiful eggs! My cockerel has started to crow, and mature quickly. I recently entered them in my clubs annual open show for adults and youth. There were 6 ameraucanas entered into the show. 2 black, one white, one blue, and my two wheaten. My cockerel got best of breed and best variety. My pullet received reserve variety. I am very pleased with how they are doing. Their next show will be my local 4H fair in July. I will give you another update on how they do in the July show! I want to thank you again for the opportunity to get these amazing birds. Thank You,*

*I have yet to win Best of Breed but I doubt that will be nearly as fulfilling as seeing this fine young*

## *Gina Neta ~ Secretary/Treasurer*



Bring on Summer! Spring has sprung here in Northeast Wisconsin. I am nearly done hatching chicks and now just waiting for them to grow up to become what they will be. I am almost positive I see some future champions among them. Of course, I say that every year and often times the chicks have different ideas.

I have attended a few poultry swaps this spring and its always interesting to learn what the hottest craze/faze is among fanciers. This year seems to be blue chicks, and colorful (even frizzled) birds. Since my eye is drawn to white birds I have a lot of those, and I find most people consider pure white birds boring and plain. You may be surprised to know I have a small group of cochin bantams that include a couple of 'calico' colored females. Those are for 'pretty and colorful' in my group and they sure fit the bill.

Show season is starting to get under way with the first on my itinerary being held in Galesville, WI. This is a really fun event where you will find plenty of chicken talk and swapping and selling galore. It's a great show to kick off the season. I plan on bringing a few Ameraucanas, large and small. Later this summer and into the fall there will be more shows on my list and I look forward to each and every one.

Our Ameraucana Alliance National this year will be hosted by Fowl Fest in Birch Run, MI on October 7th and 8th . Make sure it gets on your calendar. I want to remind folks we are bringing back the ever-popular 'Silent Auction of Ameraucanas' for everyone to participate in with proceeds being credited to the club. This is a fantastic opportunity to purchase quality Ameraucanas from Alliance members while supporting our breed organization. If you find yourself with 'extra' Ameraucanas, please consider including them in the silent auction. These can be large fowl or bantams, and they can be part of the silent auction as single birds, pairs, trios, etc. Good birds that you are willing to part with will certainly help someone else continue to build on their breeding program. For more details and/or questions, you can contact Russ Blair.



*Gina's birds*

By the way, contact information for each Alliance officer is listed on the last page of each of these newsletters.

The Fowl Fest Poultry Show mentioned above is being held in Birch Run, MI at the Birch Run Expo Center just off of I-75. Judges are Jacob Bates and Tim Bowles, with Tim judging our National Meet. For additional information or questions, please contact Clay Mills, Show Superintendent at 989-763-1973 or Matt Boensch, Show Secretary, at 989-529-7030. I hope to see you there!

## Russ Blair ~ Director of Promotions

Hello, my fellow Alliance members, what a wonderful time of year it is. As I write this my hatching season is coming to an end and now I am sorting through my breeders with the anticipation of thinning my adult flock. Funny how excited I get firing up the incubators in late winter, to turn around and get just excited to be turning them back off a few months later. Hopefully your hatches were a success and your brooders, and grow out pens are full?

Now comes the endless hours of evaluation during the upcoming summer. I personally find it relaxing and peaceful sitting and watching my chicks mature along the way. By this time of year, I am well overdue for some rest and relaxation. Not that I will get any due to my work schedule, garden and many projects I seem to get started but hey here's to wishful thinking.



With the grow out period beginning this means one thing to me, show season is right around the corner. I am looking forward to the Galesville show this coming June 3, this will be my first spring time show, and my first time attending this show as well. Seems the more I exhibit the more I look forward to attending more shows. It truly is more the friends I get to see or make and the fellowshiping, than any ribbon or plaque that I may bring home, that draws me to them. If you have never exhibited poultry before, I would like to urge you to give it a try.

I would also like to remind everyone not to forget to request a meet at one or all of the shows you might attend. Even if you are not interested in the points, ribbons or other awards offered. This is a wonderful way to promote our awesome club the Ameraucana Alliance, as well. So be sure to contact Beth, or feel free to contact myself and I will gladly forward all the information to her. Meet request information is readily available on our home page under the download section.

One last thing I would like to discuss as well, you guessed it our National Meet the first weekend of October at the fall Fowl Fest show in Birch Run. Now that our chicks are growing out and hatching season is coming to an end. I would like to remind everyone I will be accepting any offers of potential breeding stock for our silent auction to be held at this epic show. We are accepting single, pairs or even trios of potential breeding stock Ameraucana both in Bantam and Large Fowl for this event. This will be a wonderful way to make it easy for someone to get a start in our amazing breed, or to possibly give your existing flock the needed improvement you have been looking for? The success of this auction depends on the generosity of our attending members and their willingness to donate, which from my experience should make this as epic as our National Meet.

I will be posting the topic soon on our forum, or feel free to contact me as well at [slicktree@hotmail.com](mailto:slicktree@hotmail.com) or even call me at (419) 410-2613 if you find a few extra Ameraucana you would like to donate. I will be providing a small token of appreciation to all who donate that will be announced soon as well. So thanks for reading this and enjoy your Summer, be sure to spend as much time with your loved ones as you can. Enjoy your barbeques, days at the beach or just the time sitting on the front porch with a loved one, take care and God Bless.

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### Ameraucana Meet Report

#### Cowichan Valley Poultry Fanciers

Fall Show, Duncan BC, November 19, 2016  
(Note: no Ameraucana bantams were shown)

16 large fowl by 3 exhibitors, judge Mark Camilleri

**Ch AOSB, BB, BV - black P by Dawn Webster out of 12**

**Res AOSB, RB, RV - black H by Dawn Webster**

BV - blue P by Dawn Webster out of 4

RV - blue H by Dawn Webster

1 jr large fowl shown by 1 exhibitor, judge Mark Camilleri

BV - black K by a nonmember out of 1

## Beth Curran ~ Director of Club Meets

Hello everyone, hope this finds you all well, and hope that you have all had a good hatching season. Mine is wrapping up and now I'm praying I can ward off the dreaded coccidia through the hot, humid weather over the next few months.

Although it got off to a slow start, I had a better season than I've have in quite some time. My hatch rates had not been good but, after switching feeds and adding some supplements recommended by Jeff Vance, things really turned around.



Meanwhile I have been busily constructing new pens, having been gifted a large quantity of used scallop net. My plan is 2-fold - give the birds more room to roam, and me less grass to mow! 😊

Don't forget to get me your meet requests for fall shows in time to get them in the fall newsletter! Have a great summer, and I hope to see many of you at our national meet in the fall!

My friend Rita with her pet silver bantam pullet. This little girl was not a candidate for the breeding pen but is still doing her part to promote the breed with the trademark personality that makes Ameraucanas as popular as pets as they are for exhibition!



## Jensen Pierson ~ Director of Club Meets



I can officially say now I am an "adult". Now that I have graduated from college I can take a long needed breather and evaluate my flock. I am so excited to get back into the bird showing and breeding full time. With the warm weather and sunshine the 2017 hatches are flourishing in fields of green. This year I have decided a farm logo is long overdue. As well as the new logo I have created three words that I feel embody the values of my



farm. As apart of the sustainable farming mindset I am letting my Ameraucana flock mingle with my ducks in the yard. With beautiful feathering and vibrant red combs I can tell I made the right choice. I am eager to see how the new birds feather out in the fall. The Ameraucana breed still amazes me with its durability and "chickeness". Out of the 13 black hens I have in the hen House, 5 of them have decided to go broody. The broody hens will be in for a surprise when they all hatch Muscovy ducklings in the next few weeks. It feels like spring just keeps dragging on here at my farm with all the broody hens and rainy weather. I hope everyone is having as good of a hatching season as I am.



## *Jeannette Frank ~ Director of Promotions*

Way back in the late '70's-early 80's I was researching a particular breed of chickens and found a source for them. I got involved with that particular breed and thru a special favor of a friend received three pair but in the process of helping organizing a breed club I became acquainted with a fellow in TN who insisted that I accept two pair of a new breed of chicken... Ameraucana.

He always shipped his birds with a tomato in the box. He even wrote an article for the Ameraucana newsletter titled "Let them eat 'maters" his theory was that the tomatoes provided nutrition and liquids for the birds to make the journey comfortably with less stress. It seemed to work as the birds arrived in good health and completely relaxed.



Thru the acquisition of these Ameraucanas I also became a member of the Ameraucana Bantam Club (It was one of the requirements of receiving the birds), in 1983. I corresponded with Don Cable & Mike Gilbert often. In 1987 I convinced Don to come to Great Falls, MT to judge a poultry show. (We had a strong state poultry association at that time.) He was doubtful at first but since he wanted to see MT he came. This poultry show was one of the very, very first of what is the current double shows. I think Ken Cooke from Oregon was the other judge. So many people doubted that a double show would work.

Don arrived in good time and was thrilled to have been able to see the Might MO (Missouri River) from the air. The first question from him was could he feel the river so that is where we headed...down to the river so he could scoop up a handful of the water. After he got checked into his motel and freshened up I took him out to my house for a fresh brook trout dinner and a view of all the mountains he could see from our deck.

The next morning I picked him up and we headed to the poultry show. Don has a neat sense of humor so a friend and I had entered a "special bird". The other judge was not amused but Don got a chuckle from it and made several +/- on the entry card as well as comments..."In a class of it's own" and "Never seen anything like it before". I still have this unique bird. It is a bit worn now.

The day after the show we took Don to Helena, MT for a special Charlie Russell exhibition. On the way home he was excited to see a herd of antelope next to the road. And we took him to the Charles Russell Museum in Great Falls as well as other special places in and around GF.

A few years later (or was it just two) when the Ameraucana Club held it's national meet in Hutchinson, MN I picked Don up at the airport in Minneapolis and took him to a Heritage Farm north of there before we headed to Hutchinson. What a delight to see all the heritage breeds of farm animals and the old ways of doing everything. We spent a couple hours there before heading to one of the greatest get togethers of all time. It was such a wonderful, relaxed gathering of so many for the first time. Remember?? I think there were only two other Ameraucana National shows that I was able to attend that all of the group was together. Highland, IL and Mason City, IA. Both were fantastic that all of the ABC team was together. So many have passed away now and as we get older it is more difficult to travel. In both these shows I was working to get my judges license so didn't spend as much time as I would have liked but I still have great memories and plaques. Don gave me a fantastic framed group of poultry cigarette cards that he had and it still hangs on my wall above my computer. Don has always been a good friend and great support. One piece of advice he gave me when I was the whole club staff (Pres, VP, S/T., New editor, etc). He said "You can please some of the people part of the time and part of the people some of the time but you can't please all of the people all of the time."

There are so many of the Ameraucana people that have been so important in my life and unfortunately some of them are gone now.

I have written several articles, made word search puzzles and so forth for the Ameraucana newsletters of the past. I can't locate them at the moment but perhaps in the future I can revise some. That is why this time I reminisced a bit about one important member of the AA.

## Ameraucana Meet Reports

### Washington Feather Fanciers

Cascade Spring Show, March 18, 2017

4 bantams by 1 exhibitor, judge Donald Barger

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

BV - blue C by Karen Carpenter out of 2

RV - blue P by Karen Carpenter

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

15 large fowl by 7 exhibitors, judge Donald Barger

BB, BV - black H by nonmember out of 7

RB, RV - black K by nonmember

BV - blue C by Karen Carpenter out of 2

RV - blue H by Karen Carpenter

BV - blue wheaten K by Royce Van Blaricome out of 3

RV - blue wheaten P by Royce Van Blaricome

BV - wheaten K by Royce Van Blaricome out of 3

RV - wheaten P by Royce Van Blaricome

1 jr large fowl shown by 1 exhibitor, judge Donald Barger

BB, BV - blue wheaten pullet by nonmember out of 1

### Nor Cal Poultry Association

Show, March 25 2017

46 bantams by 13 exhibitors, judge Heather Hayes

**BB, BV - black C by Debra Hogan out of 29**

**BB, RV - black P by Debra Hogan**

BV - wheaten K by nonmember out of 5

RV - wheaten C by nonmember

BV - silver H by Debra Hogan out of 7

RV - silver H by Debra Hogan

BV - self blue P by Debra Hogan out of 5

RV - self blue K by Debra Hogan

64 large fowl by 13 exhibitors, judge Daniel Shaw

**BB, BV - black P by Debra Hogan out of 10**

RB, RV - black H by nonmember

BV - blue C by Debra Hogan out of 2

RV - blue K by Debra Hogan

BV - wheaten C by nonmember out of 10

RV - wheaten H by Debra Hogan

BV - blue wheaten P by Debra Hogan out of 8

RV - blue wheaten C by Debra Hogan

BV - buff P by Debra Hogan out of 7

RV - buff H by Debra Hogan

BV - silver H by Debra Hogan out of 10

RV - silver C by Debra Hogan

BV - brown-red H by Debra Hogan out of 7

RV - brown-red K by Debra Hogan

BV - white H by Debra Hogan out of 3

RV - white H by Debra Hogan

BV - self blue C by Debra Hogan out of 3

RV - self blue C by Debra Hogan

5 junior bantams by 4 exhibitors, judge Heather Hayes

BB BV - wheaten K by nonmember out of 5

RB RV - wheaten H by nonmember

? junior large fowl by 3 exhibitors, judge Daniel Shaw

BB, BV - black C by nonmember out of ?

RB, RV - black H by nonmember



*White Cockerel, bred by Dawn Webster*

### Dallas ANR Committee, 4-H Clubs & AgriLife Ex.

North Texas Poultry Showcase, April 8, 2017

14 bantams by 1 exhibitor, judge Monty Fitzgerald

BB, BV - black K by nonmember out of 2

RB, RV - black H by nonmember

BV - blue wheaten K by nonmember out of 3

RV - blue wheaten P by nonmember

BV - brown red H by nonmember out of 1

BV - silver H by nonmember out of 3

RV - silver C by nonmember

BV - self blue C by nonmember out of 2

RV - self blue H by nonmember

BV - chocolate C by nonmember out of 1

BV - splash wheaten K by nonmember out of 1

18 large fowl by 4 exhibitors, judge Monty Fitzgerald

BV - black P by nonmember out of 4

RV - black K by nonmember

BV - blue H by nonmember out of 2

RV - blue P by nonmember

BV - blue wheaten C by nonmember out of 1

BV - wheaten K by nonmember out of 1

Res AOSB, BB, BV - white K by nonmember out of 3

RB, RV - white H by nonmember

BV - self blue K by nonmember out of 9

RV - self blue P by nonmember

(No junior bantams shown)

20 junior large fowl by 8 exhibitors, judge Monty Fitzgerald

BB, BV - black K by nonmember out of 8

RB, RV - black H by nonmember

BV - blue C by nonmember out of 6

RV - blue C by nonmember

BV - white H by nonmember out of 2

RV - white P by nonmember

BV - self blue P by nonmember out of 1

(EE) H by nonmember out of 1

## Important Dates

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

That is also the date to request meets be placed by, thru Beth, for any shows that have an entry deadline after September 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 Associated Bank, WI

Previous Total Balance as of 2/27/2017 =	\$3,954.95
Previous Checking Balance as of 2/27/2017 =	\$3,150.00
Income	\$565.00
\$93.00 x p e n s e s	
AB Checking Balance as of 5/25/2017 =	\$3,622.00
PayPal Balance as of 5/25/2017 =	\$304.49
Ending Total Balance as of 5/25/2017 =	\$3,926.49

## Upcoming Ameraucana Meets

July 8-24, 2017

**California Club Meet**, requested by Debra Hogan  
[California State Fair](#), Sacramento CA  
Contact: Eunita Boatman (916)263-FAIR,  
(877)Cal-Expo [Info@Calexpo.com](mailto:Info@Calexpo.com)

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)

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)



Jeannette Frank was honored by the APA and presented with a plaque for her "many years of service to the Poultry Fancy" at the Oregon Spring Invitational Show, in May.

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

Ameraucana Alliance Board of Directors:

**President - John W Blehm**

4599 Lange Road, Birch Run MI 48415-8137 [John@FowlStuff.com](mailto:John@FowlStuff.com) (989)777-1234

**Secretary/Treasurer - Gina Neta**

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