

# Ameraucana Newsletter

June 2023 - Volume 9, Issue 2



**A warm welcome to our new members!**

Samantha Wulff, Connersville, IN  
Brianna Honeycutt, Rogersville, TN  
Amanda Smith, Alberta, CA  
Micah Jobbins, Bartlett, TN  
Leslie Warner, Stamford, TX  
Leslye Weikel, Tyrone, GA

Samantha Tripp, Mount Pleasant, MI  
Kayce Sarver, Mart, TX  
Kelli Rudert, Pleasant Hope, MO  
Danielle Besley, Campbell, NY  
Nicholas Chambers, Sunbury, OH  
Chrissi Shewchuk, Etters, PA

**President – Russell Blair**



Greetings fellow Alliance members,

As I sit down to type this, I noticed my first chick pipped on my last hatch of the year. I say that knowing after my last two spring shows I will most likely do a couple small batches of my very best breedings. I have a lot of chicks on the ground but unfortunately most are from the numerous individual test matings I have been making. I am hoping all this hard work will bring great rewards with next year's hatchings. With my first hatch coming off January 2 this will be my second happiest day of hatching season. Hopefully all your hard work and breeding plans are keeping your brooders full as well. Enough about me I got a couple things relating to club business I better discuss.

Apparently, there was some confusion about our points policy concerning farm names? After much discussion between myself and the elected board of directors we decided there was some wording in the original meet policy that could have been worded better. The second sentence in the fourth paragraph under calculation of points used to read "Your Ameraucana Alliance Member Name should be the same as the name you exhibit under". The board has decided to change the wording to "Your Ameraucana Alliance Member Name must be the same as the name you exhibit under". I strongly suggest all members that exhibit reread our current exhibitor points policy that can be found on our website [ameraucana.org](http://ameraucana.org). Hopefully rewording this one sentence clears up any misunderstandings in the future.

I would like to also announce our 2023 national show committee has been given permission to put on a livestock only silent auction at our national meet. We have done incredibly well in the past years we have done this. Not only is this a good fund raiser it is also a great way of sharing some quality breeding stock Ameraucana to new enthusiasts as well as other breeders. If you happen to notice a few extra grow outs and would like to make a generous donation please let Janie Vila, Michael Muenks, Stan Alder or myself know. These could be Bantam or Large Fowl (single, pairs or trios) breeding quality Ameraucana. So even if you are not into exhibiting you might want to come and see what is up for grabs in the silent auction.

This leaves me with just one more announcement for this newsletter. I am pleased to announce our board of directors has decided to give out \$1,640 in cash awards at our 2023 national to be held December 1-3 in Knoxville TN at the Dixie Classic. So be sure to put this "one you don't want to miss show" down on your calendar. Folks this is shaping up to be another fantastic Ameraucana Alliance National. I am hoping to see some old friends and many new ones as well. Speaking of meets, go look at how many Ameraucana Alliance meets have been placed on members requests. Michael

Muenks and Mindy Waters have been very busy placing meets, updating the meet list, writing meet reports, and updating exhibitor points. This Alliance has come a long way since 2015 and it's all because of our great members and those that sacrifice some sanity to tend these tasks voluntarily.

Take Care and Happy Hatching,

Russ Blair

### Director – Janie Vilá



Hello again!

I have had quite a bit of time to ponder the chicken tending that we do. It is spring here in Virginia. Hatching has been going better this year and I have had ample time to devote to my birds this spring.

I was absolutely thrilled to get to go to the Dayton Fancy Feather spring show as an observer. I love the building and the grounds there. It was great getting to catch up with some of the other club members, get to know some new enthusiasts and of course hang out with my chicken friends. The birds there were nice as was the weather. The best part was getting to help Stacy Melton do the last prep of her birds before cooping in. On the way home we had lots of chats about how we wanted to put certain birds together. We

can look at a genetics calculator all day long but at the end of the day, we just make the best choices we can and hope that our decisions are an improvement over the last generation.

Speaking of decisions, I am going to be cutting back on quite a few of my project varieties. I really want to concentrate on my silvers and the other recognized varieties that I have. I will of course keep my ermine. I must remind myself from time to time that family should always come first because I get very fixated on the birds. There are a lot of changes happening in our house and I need to restructure and refocus my breeding plans to accommodate these changes.

I hope that everyone has a great spring/summer. Get your gardens in, both flower and veggies! See you at the shows this fall.

### Director - Becky Howie



Hi everyone!

It is mid-May now and finally warm for the most part. Fertility and hatchability have been a bit sporadic this spring. I think it is because of the bipolar weather swings over the past few months.

When I suddenly had to go out of town, I was lucky enough to borrow a neighbor's broody hen to finish sitting some Ermine bantam project eggs for me. My wonderful DIL presided over an incubator ready for lockdown while I was gone, and a few eggs made it to hatch. I have some Wheaten and Blue Wheaten youngsters in the grow out pens and some Ermine babies coming along.

Since I was so far East, I just had to swing by Janie Vila's place in Virginia. It was the highlight of my road trip. She gave me a tour of her many project pens that included her Red Ameraucana, Chocolate Ameraucanas and Ermine Ameraucanas along with some others. Stacy Melton stopped by and the three of us went to lunch and had a great time visiting and catching up on the latest news before I had to head back home.

Landon and I attended the Missouri State Poultry Association show in Sedalia, MO. We got to hang out with Mike Muenks, Daniel Cook and his dad, Kandace Crosby and her parents and some other folks who were showing and/or interested in Ameraucanas. The little hen Landon raised in his bedroom last year did well with an AOCCL in the youth show. It will be Autumn before I attend any more shows.

The Ameraucana National at the Dixie Classic Poultry show in Knoxville, TN on Dec 1-3 is at the top of my list. I am also looking forward to a couple of local shows in Arkansas and Oklahoma in October and December.

Keep up with careful biosecurity so Avian Influenza does not take a toll on our hobby this Summer so we can have some great get together and show our wonderful Ameraucanas across the states this Fall.

### Director - Jeff Sonsalla



Hello Ameraucana members!

It is difficult to believe summer is almost here. We were still having large snowstorms in mid-April.

I am looking forward to poultry shows and county fairs this summer and fall. It will be good to see friends and their Ameraucana, especially after we had to cancel our Coulee Region Poultry Show last year. So far Avian Influenza is not a problem in Wisconsin this spring.

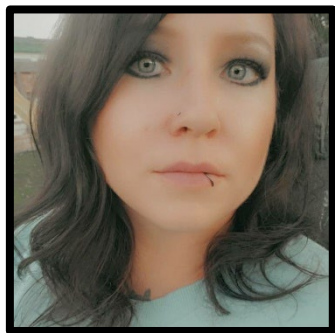
I hope everyone's hatching season has gone well. Unfortunately, I have not done much brooding and hatching yet this year. Hopefully things will improve as the year goes on.

Our local Coulee Region Poultry Show is arriving quickly this June 3rd. We are looking forward to having a nice group of Ameraucana Alliance members there showing and socializing. I encourage everyone to show your Ameraucana, meet other breeders and make or catch up with some lifelong friends.

The Alliance account balance is doing well. We have new members joining each month. The Treasurer's report is in the later pages of this newsletter.

Ribbons for best of breed and reserve of breed as listed in our spring 2023 newsletter, should be mailed out by the time this newsletter arrives. I have also been able to mail out numerous ribbons from past newsletters. There are still some remaining to be mailed out and will be done soon. Thank you for everyone's patience.

### Director - Mindy Waters



Hello again, Ameraucana fanciers!

We have had two spring shows- one being a double show- here in Washington State since I last wrote. Ameraucanas have been on top of the AOSB class in most of them. I was excited to see my own homebred Blue and Black hens collect a few more awards to add to their spread. We are seeing larger numbers of both Large Fowl and Bantam Ameraucanas at our shows and that's the most exciting thing to me! While I enjoy showing and think it is cool to place well, exhibition is not the primary reason I breed and raise Ameraucanas. When I first learned what a "true" or "real" Ameraucana was, I knew I not only wanted to add them to my flock, but I also wanted to breed them and see what I could accomplish. It's been a learning experience, that's for sure! One that I would not trade for anything. They are my heart breed, and always will be.

As most are aware, there is a lot of misinformation on the interwebs about this breed and about breeding in general. There are also a lot of unrealistic expectations new fanciers get caught up in. Some are disappointed when not all chicks hatched from even the most amazing breeder will be exhibition or breeding quality. Sometimes they even hatch birds that have leakage and should never be considered for a breeding pen in the future. I think it is difficult for the inexperienced to grasp the concepts of cull-rates and intentional selection pressure. It takes knowledge, experience, and even some luck to maintain a line of birds, let alone improve upon it. Not everyone is up for the task. It is much more complicated than throwing a male and a few females in a pen together and hatching chicks. There must be a long-term plan in place and a basic understanding of genetics and breeding methods.

One thing we see across forums is a lack of variety integrity. Some believe they can mix any varieties of the breed together and still hatch "purebred" Ameraucanas. We need to shift the idea of "purebred" to "Standard-bred." Is mixing

genetically incompatible varieties breeding to the Standard? No. We do have several project varieties at different stages. The key for project varieties is intention. You need a clear goal and a plan to get there. If you throw a bunch of varieties together willy-nilly, you are going to end up with mixed birds that are not consistent and breed unpredictably.

The vision behind creating a breed and each variety within it, is to have a specific set of traits and phenotypes, and for them to breed in predictable ways. Looking at the history of the Ameraucana, we find that the founders of the breed took mixed mongrel birds that were multicolored and unpredictable (aka “easter eggers”) and selectively bred them to look a certain way. If we start mixing them back up again without purpose, we are going backwards to what we started with- easter eggers. The history is also something that we often have to set straight.

Another issue I see is the fact that egg color is hard to photograph, and many images show a much “bluer” egg than is seen in person. Someone who purchases hatching eggs from a reputable breeder can feel a bit underwhelmed about their egg color. I personally think it is important to ensure our birds are homozygous for the blue egg gene, but shades of “blue” are very subjective and some are very pale and other are more “greenish.” For SOP breeders, egg color sometimes gets put on the back burner because type and plumage color and patterns take precedence in our breeding programs. It puts good breeders in a pickle of sorts.

Even so, this is an amazing breed to work with. From fluffy faces to pretty eggs, they will always be my favorite. I am forever grateful to the friends and mentors I have found within our breed club. We are here to help you along your Ameraucana journey.

### Director - Michael Muenks



Greetings fellow Ameraucana breeders and fanciers. I hope your spring hatching season has been all that you hoped for. It is mid-May as I write this report. The hens have been laying well. Fertility has been less than I hoped for in the individual breeding cages. By the time you are reading this I will have moved all the females into group breeding pens for the summer to let them do their thing and have the fun of hatching out groups of chicks to raise. I like to see hens brood and raise chicks. Many keepers of chickens do not like hens to go broody, but I do like to see the hens retain the ability to brood and raise chicks.

I struggled a bit with bacteria load in my cabinet incubator, tabletop incubators, and hatcher this year. I have enhanced by sterilization processes using Oxine Animal Health and have seen great improvements in the hatching of fertile eggs. I have also added two Hatching Time incubators to the mix, and I am anxiously awaiting the first hatches from using them. My original plan was to replace my cabinet incubator with the two Hatching Time incubators, but I may keep the old cabinet incubator if things continue to go well with using the Oxine Animal Health cleaning routine I have established. I really like the fact that the Hatching Time incubators open on both the back and front making surface cleaning a breeze. I know a few members have the Hatching Time incubators and several other breeders in the broader poultry world have moved to them with great results.

The second half of April was busy with poultry shows. I attended the Missouri State Poultry Association’s spring double show and the Tennessee Valley Poultry Association’s Spring Fling. Both shows were well run and had a nice number of Ameraucana that did well at the shows. It was fun to visit with fellow breeders and enjoy talking poultry along with getting off the farm for a few days. The next show I plan to attend is the Coulee Region Poultry Club, Inc in Galesville, WI the first weekend in June. It has been several years since I last attended the show and I am looking forward to visiting with fellow breeders and admiring the poultry.

As a reminder, requests for Ameraucana Alliance meets at shows in fall 2023 need to be made by August 15, 2023, for publication in the fall newsletter.

As a gentle reminder, please use your name when entering shows with your Ameraucana if you wish to collect Exhibitor Points. Farm name entries are not allowed for use in the calculation of Exhibitor Points.

I hope your summer is great and you have some nice grow-outs!

Do not forget to feed grit to keep your chickens healthy!



Bantam black, wheaten/blue wheaten and white hatching eggs for sale. Local pick up and shipping available.

Contact: Michael\_Muenks@yahoo.com

## Upcoming Meets

June 3, 2023

### Wisconsin

Club Meet, requested by Mike Gilbert

Coulee Region Poultry Club, Inc., Trempealeau County Fairgrounds, Galesville, WI

Contact: Jim Laatsch, JimSparky2000@yahoo.com (253) 241-9981

September 23-24, 2023

### Virginia

Club Meet, requested by Stacy Melton

Virginia State Fair Show 1, Meadow Events Park, Doswell, VA

Contact: Sarah Campbell, odpa2021@gmail.com

October 7-8, 2023

### Ohio

Club Meet, requested by Russell Blair

Dayton Fancy Feathers Club Fall Show 1, Darke County Fairgrounds, Greenville, OH

Contact: Amanda Heitzman, amanda.heizman@hotmail.com, (937) 681-6002

October 7-8, 2023

### Ohio

Club Meet, requested by Russell Blair

Dayton Fancy Feathers Club Fall Show 2, Darke County Fairgrounds, Greenville, OH

Contact: Amanda Heitzman, amanda.heizman@hotmail.com, (937) 681-6002

October 14-15, 2023

### Michigan

Club Meet, requested by Russell Blair

Michigan Poultry Fanciers Fowl Fest Show #1, <http://FowlFest.org>

Contact: Clay Mills, ctmills@casair.net

October 14-15, 2023

### Michigan

Club Meet, requested by Russell Blair

Michigan Poultry Fanciers Fowl Fest Show #2, <http://FowlFest.org>

Contact: Clay Mills, ctmills@casair.net

October 28, 2023

**Arkansas**

Club Meet, requested by Rebecca Howie

Heart of the Ozarks Poultry Association 15th Annual Fall Show

Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center, Fayetteville, AR

Contact: Jacob Bates, jakeab42@hotmail.com (479) 965-5222

October 28, 2023

**Missouri**

Club Meet, requested by Michael Muenks

Missouri State Poultry Fall Show and Swap #1, Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO

Contact: Bernita Miller, 300 N. Franklin, Windsor, MO 65360,

bmiller@iland.net, (660) 647-2427

October 28, 2023

**Missouri**

Club Meet, requested by Michael Muenks

Missouri State Poultry Fall Show and Swap #2, Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO

Contact: Bernita Miller, 300 N. Franklin, Windsor, MO 65360,

bmiller@iland.net, (660) 647-2427

December 1-3, 2023

**National Meet**

Dixie Classic Poultry Show, Jacobs Building - Chilhowee Park, 3301 E. Magnolia Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37914

Contact: mummados@gmail.com, <https://tvpoultryclub.com/handbook/>

December 9, 2023

**Oklahoma**

Club Meet, requested by Michael Muenks

Oklahoma State Poultry Federation, Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center, Shawnee, Ok 74802

Contact: [oklahomastatepoultryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:oklahomastatepoultryfederation@gmail.com)



## Ameraucana Alliance National Awards

Dixie Classic, Knoxville Tennessee 12/1-3/2023

### Open Show Competition with 3 or more entries per class

Champion Ameraucana overall.....	\$100
Reserve Champion Ameraucana Overall.....	\$75
Best of Breed Bantam.....	\$50
Reserve of Breed Bantam.....	\$25
Best of Breed Large Fowl.....	\$50
Reserve of Breed Large Fowl.....	\$25
Best Variety Bantam (recognized and Best AOV).....	\$25
Reserve of Variety Bantam (recognized and Reserve AOV).....	\$15
Best of Variety Large Fowl (recognized and Best AOV).....	\$25
Reserve of Variety Large Fowl (recognized and Reserve AOV).....	\$15
Champion Bantam trio.....	\$50
Reserve Champion Bantam Trio.....	\$25
Champion Large Fowl Trio.....	\$50
Reserve Champion Large Fowl Trio.....	\$25
Champion Display Overall.....	\$50
Reserve Champion Display Overall.....	\$25

### Ameraucana Egg Competition

Best Bantam Eggs.....	\$75
Reserve Bantam Eggs.....	\$50
Best Large Fowl Eggs.....	\$75
Reserve Large Fowl Eggs.....	\$50

### Junior Competition

Best of Breed Bantam.....	Rosette, plus \$15 by Janie Vila
Reserve of Breed Bantam.....	Rosette
Best of Breed Large Fowl.....	Rosette
Reserve of Breed Large Fowl.....	Rosette
Best of Variety Bantam (recognized and Best AOV).....	Blue Ribbon, plus \$10 by Russ Blair
Reserve of Variety Bantam (recognized and Reserve AOV).....	Red Ribbon
Best of Variety Large Fowl (recognized and Best AOV).....	Blue Ribbon, plus \$10 by Russ Blair
Reserve of Variety Large Fowl (recognized and Reserve AOV).....	Red Ribbon
Exhibitor (other than BV or RV) .....	Ameraucana Alliance National Ribbon

*~Only Ameraucana Alliance Members are eligible for these awards except nonmembers are eligible for ribbons and 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 members can decide to receive equal value trophies instead of cash awards.*

## Treasurer's Report 05-15-2023

Checking Account at Waumandee State Bank, Arcadia, WI

Previous Balances as of 2-15-2023	
Checking	\$3672.89
PayPal	\$555.44
<b>Total Balances</b>	<b>\$4228.33</b>
Income	
Income	\$633.78 memberships - checks \$188.00, Paypal \$445.58 \$112.50 (paid members ads for ABA and APA yearbooks \$15 Donation to National Junior Awards by Janie Vila <b>Total = \$ 761.28</b>
Expenses	
Expenses	\$142.80 (Omnis – 2-year AmeraucanaAlliance.org website) \$32.34 (Reimburse for mailing expenses) \$259.20 (Award Plaques) \$35.38 (Reimburse for mail envelopes) \$13.58 (Omnis website Domain) \$ 65.05 (Printing of Spring Newsletter) \$ 359.00 (100 new club patches – from Paypal 2-20-22) \$ 225.00 (Full page APA yearbook ad) \$ 225.00 (Full page ABA yearbook ad) \$ 625.00(Cash Awards for Western Ameraucana National)
Balances as of 05-15-2023	
Checking	\$2561.48
PayPal	\$455.78
<b>Total Balances</b>	<b>\$3007.26</b>

Note: Checks still need to be written for Ameraucana Alliance Western National.  
Respectfully submitted, Jeff Sonsalla – Treasurer

## Newsletter/ Meet Deadlines

### Newsletter Deadline

Have something to share in the Ameraucana Alliance Newsletter? Great! Email your ads, articles, opinions, stories, photos, etc. to [janievila@hotmail.com](mailto:janievila@hotmail.com) by August 15, 2023. Please send ads, articles, opinions, and or stories in Word or Rich text.



### Club Meet Requests

If you have a meet request, with an entry deadline after September 1, 2023, email it to [Michael.Muenks@yahoo.com](mailto:Michael.Muenks@yahoo.com) by August 10, 2023.

Please request meets as early as possible. If there are multiple shows at the event such as a double show, please make a meet request for each show at the event.

## Meet Reports

### **Cascade Spring Show 1 – Green Card, March 18, 2023, Monroe, WA**

7 bantams shown by 4 exhibitors, judged by Nate Rynish

BB, BV black cock by a non-member, out of 2

RV black pullet by Kar a non-member

RB, BV buff cock by Katie Johnston, out of 3

RV buff cock by Katie Johnson

DQ wheaten hen by a non-member, out of 1

BV white pullet by a non-member, out of 1



19 large fowl shown by 7 exhibitors, judged by Nate Rynish

RB, BV black hen by Mindy Waters, out of 6 – **Reserve Champion AOSB**

RV black hen by Mindy Waters

BB, BV blue hen by Mindy Waters, out of 10 – **Champion AOSB, Reserve Champion Large Fowl**

RV blue cockerel by Mindy Waters

BV self blue hen by Katie Johnston, out of 1

BV white pullet by a non-member, out of 1

BV AOV splash hen, by Mindy Waters, out of 1

**Cascade Spring Show 2 – White Card, March 18, 2023, Monroe, WA**

7 bantams shown by 4 exhibitors, judged by Callum McLeod

BB, BV black cock by a non-member, out of 2

RV black pullet by a non-member

RB, BV buff cock by Katie Johnston, out of 3

RV buff cock by Katie Johnson

BV wheaten hen by a non-member, out of 1

BV white pullet by a non-member, out of 1

19 large fowl shown by 7 exhibitors, judged by Clint Carter

RB, BV black hen by Mindy Waters, out of 6 – **Reserve Champion AOSB**

RV black hen by Mindy Waters

BB, BV blue hen by Mindy Waters, out of 10 – **Champion AOSB, Reserve Champion Large Fowl**

RV blue cockerel by Mindy Waters

BV self blue hen by Katie Johnston, out of 1

BV white pullet by a non-member, out of 1

BV AOV splash hen, by Mindy Waters, out of 1

**CRPE Spring Invitational, April 22, 2023, Stevenson, WA**

4 bantams shown by 2 exhibitors, judged by Conor Keegan

BV black cock by a non-member, out of 1

BB, BV buff hen by Katie Johnston, out of 3

RB, RV buff cock by Katie Johnston

15 large fowl shown by 6 exhibitors, judged by Conor Keegan

BV black hen by Mindy Waters, out of 4

RV black pullet by Mindy Waters

BB, BV blue hen by Mindy Waters, out of 8 - **Reserve Champion AOSB**

RB, RV blue cockerel by Mindy Waters

BV blue wheaten hen by Katie Johnson, out of 1

BV buff hen by a non-member, out of 1

BV self blue hen by Katie Johnson, out of 1

**CRPE Spring Invitational Junior Show, April 22, 2023, Stevenson, WA**

2 large fowl shown by 1 exhibitor, judged by Conor Keegan

RB, BV blue wheaten hen by Katie Johnston, out of 1 – **Junior Show Reserve Champion AOSB**

BB, BV self blue hen by Katie Johnston, out of 1 – **Junior Show Champion AOSB**

**Tennessee Valley Poultry Association's Spring Fling, April 22, 2023, Knoxville, TN**

17 bantams shown by 2 exhibitors, judged by Danny Padgett

BB, BV black hen by a non-member, out of 8 – **Champion AOCCL**

RV black cockerel by Michael Muenks

BV blue hen by a non-member, out of 3

RV blue pullet by Michael Muenks

RB, BV white pullet by Michael Muenks out of 3

RV white cockerel by Michael Muenks

BV self blue pullet by a non-member, out of 1

BV splash cock by Michael Muenks, out of 1

20 large fowl shown by 6 exhibitors, judged by Danny Padgett

BB, BV black cock by a non-member, out of 14 – **Champion AOSB, Champion Large Fowl, Show Champion**

RB, RV black pullet by Stacey Melton – **Reserve Champion AOSB**

BV blue cock by Michael Muenks, out of 2

RV blue cock by a non-member

BV brown red cock by Michael Muenks, out of 1

BV self blue cockerel by Stacey Melton, out of 3

RV self blue cockerel by Stacey Melton

**Tennessee Valley Poultry Association's Spring Fling Junior Show, April 22, 2023, Knoxville, TN**

1 large fowl shown by 1 exhibitor, judged by Danny Padgett

RB, BV blue hen by a non-member, out of 1

**Ameraucana Alliance Board of Directors**

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<http://ameraucanaalliance.org/forum/>