



# AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION UPDATE

## ARE YOU AMONG THE HEROES?

In the last two newsletters, we expressed appreciation to all members that have gone above and beyond to help with lost birds. We know many of you do. The AU office receives numerous calls and emails from concerned individuals who have found birds. Many of them aren't familiar with homing pigeons and their main concern is safety for the bird.

In addition to the inquiries and calls for help that we receive, we also receive reports from finders sharing their experience. Often, praise is shared, however, there are times when these individuals are very surprised and disappointed by the response of the owner.

The members below were highly praised for their assistance with recent lost bird calls. We salute you! Your assistance provides a positive image of the sport and pigeon fanciers:

Jim Muckerman (MO)

Paul Malboeuf (MA)

Byron & Mo Williams (LA)

WE & Linda Folsom (GA)

Hank Talcott (OH)

Steve Turner (OK)

Jack Land (WA)

### Favorable Response:

*"Mr. & Mrs. Folsom picked up the pigeon this afternoon...Not knowing anything about pigeons, this was a real learning experience. Folsom is not the owner, but the owner belongs to his club so he was happy to help and get the bird. Thank you for your great service, I love a happy ending."*

### Unfavorable Response:

*"Would love to get my son involved when he is a bit older. My wife doesn't quite like how indifferent the 2 pigeon racer guys we've dealt with so far are to animals. Neither appeared to respect the animals any more than a remote controlled car as a racing toy...We feel bad for the bird, but not the owners."*

## CONGRATULATIONS, DR. DAVID CHEN 2007 AU Convention Race Winner By Karen Clifton, AU Executive Director

The winner of the 2007 AU Convention race was Dr. David Chen. The AU Convention race is the most prestigious in this country and we were excited to see the results. In addition to a great convention, the SMCC handlers offered an exciting display on race day.

The 2007 AU Convention race was flown from Griffin, Indiana on October 19. The birds did amazingly well and the five winning birds came in together.

The winning breeder was Dr. David Chen of Whittier, California, with AU 2007 APPC 6145. Dr. Chen's winning bird is 50% Leo Bekaert and 50% Janssen. Dr. Chen flies a family of Bekaert/Janssens.

Chen's racing experience began in Taiwan when he was 16 years old. Dr. Chen moved to the United States in 1977. After getting settled and getting his education and career in order, he realized he was still 'bit by the bug' and wanted to get back to the sport. He knew he missed the birds and so just a few years after relocating to the United States, Dr. Chen knew he was ready. In 1985, he returned to a sport he loved!

Initially, he flew with the SEQ in Whittier, California. He currently competes with the Topper Racing Pigeon Club, which is part of the Orange Belt combine. Dr. Chen indicated this is the second year he has bred from the parents of 6145. Some of the babies were sent to his friends in Taiwan and did well for them.

Dr. Chen believes there are three very important aspects to successful competition. He said that good health is absolutely the most important thing. He feels it is important to follow general guidelines to ensure the birds are housed in a clean environment and given optimum care. He stressed that cleanliness leads to good health.

Second, he uses Probiotic. Chen says that has been a major part of the health regimen his birds are on.

Last but not least, he trains hard. The birds will make approximately 60 tosses before the season begins, up to 100 miles.

Asked if he has entered the 2008 AU Convention race again, Chen replied, "Absolutely, I hope to attend this year. It also shows my support of the national organization. Every experience I've had interacting with the AU staff has been very positive and professional. I believe the AU is the number one pigeon organization here."

He also expressed gratitude to his 2007 Convention race handler, Bill Michalski. "He was an outstanding handler and I appreciate him putting up the race."

We salute you Dr. Chen!



## News From Your National Office

By Karen Clifton, Executive Director

The AU national office and Board have several projects that are on-going; our work with the USDA to seek exemption from the Animal Welfare Act regulations; monitoring legislation that may impact us; enhancing competition standards; further development of the National Database and the list goes on.

During the previous board meetings, it was decided that we needed to add to our arsenal of promotion and education materials. We are currently developing an educational pamphlet that may be used to share with individuals, neighbors and even family members that have health concerns about the birds. A similar brochure is being completed that may be shared with veterinarians that express concern.

Additionally, we are in the process of compiling a Leadership Manual. This book will include club management and retention issues, as well as some tried and proven efforts to assist new members, which leads to member retention. We hope to have these materials available to clubs in the near future.

One very successful project to assist new members, which will be featured in the Leadership Manual, was recently held in the Northwest Zone. Director, Gary Braden, and several members of his combine held a seminar for new flyers. They discussed vaccination, medication and supplements. New flyers were introduced to the widowhood and lighting system. A video was

shown and lunch was provided. The ages of the attendees were 40's and 50's. Attendees were provided with information about the AU and tips to update their skills.

If you or your club members have other suggestions, we would like to hear from you. All input is welcome!

The AU national office strives to provide a tremendous return to AU members. We work every day to offer support, supplies and partnership. Because of our partnership, we have the strongest pigeon organization in the country.

We put a high priority on serving AU members in a prompt, accurate and professional manner. We appreciate your feedback on the quality of service your club, or you personally, have received. We are just a phone call away (405-848-5801).

In closing, we hope you are registered for the 2008 AU Convention. The Heartland Federation has a slate of fun activities lined up. If you haven't yet registered, please do soon (for more information, go to <http://2008arpuconvention.info/>). You won't want to miss it!



### IN MEMORY OF:

**Phil Calerich**

(Foothills RPC-CO)

**John Hadlock**

(West Central Indiana RPC - IN)

**Vince Condello**

(Amsterdam RPC-NY)

**Jay Rennick**

(Mount Hood RPC-OR)

**Del Smet**

(Fond Du Lac RPC-WI)

**Larry Long**

(Galesburg PC-IA)

**Steve Henry**

(Rodeo City-TX)

**Robert Parker Muschler**

(North Star RPC MN)

### MID-YEAR AU BOARD MEETINGS

This serves as notice that the mid-year AU Board meetings will be held on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Meetings will take place in Las Vegas at the Doubletree Hotel. Items on the agenda include National Award Point System Committee review, Competition Standards report, National Database/WinSpeed© updates, and Sport Development activity summary. Additionally, various committee reports will be shared.

Members are encouraged to attend. For more information and details, please call the national office.

An advertisement for Smith Family Loft. The background is dark with the text "Smith USA FAMILY LOFT" in a stylized font. Below this, it says "VISIT US ONLINE AT: SmithFamilyLoft.com". Two men are featured: Lewis Burns on the left, wearing sunglasses and a green shirt, and Warren Smith on the right, wearing a suit and tie. Below their names are their titles: "LOFT MANAGER/ BREEDER" for Lewis Burns and "OWNER/BREEDER" for Warren Smith. At the bottom, it says "Our ultimate goal is to build one of America's greatest performance based families." There are images of pigeons in the background and foreground.

