

Fall 2007

Volume XXVII, Issue 3

# Ameraucana Bulletin



Ameraucana Breeders Club, 33878 Hwy 87, California, MO 65018-3911  
www.ameraucana.org

## President's Report, John Blehm

**John W. Blehm**  
President

**Michael J. Muenks**  
Secretary/Treasurer

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Director - North Central

**Rob Sando**  
Director - Northeast

**Paul Smith**  
Director - South Central

**Barbara Campbell**  
Director - Southeast

**Lisa Cree**  
Director - West

**Don Cable**  
Honorary Vice President

**Mike Gilbert**  
Honorary Vice President

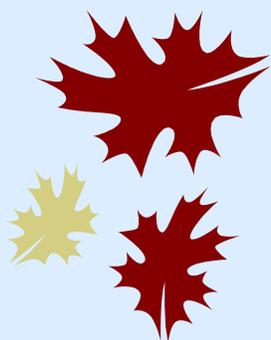
**Susie Winder**  
ABC Forum Administrator

Araucana breeder Alan Stanford and I recently wrote articles for Backyard Poultry magazine to help educate the public about Ameraucanas and Araucanas. The articles were printed back-to-back in the magazine and were well received by the readers. Of course the two breeds share a lot of history even though they are totally separate breeds. Our club has done a great job of educating the public about the differences and made a lot of progress. We would have made much more progress if the commercial hatcheries, like Murray McMurray and Ideal Poultry, weren't still selling mongrels as Araucanas/Americanas. They perpetuate the myth that they are the same breed of chicken. I went to a swap meet last Saturday and noticed at least a couple vendors selling Easter Egg chickens as "Araucanas". After over 25 years it is still an uphill battle when the general public is fed misinformation on the websites and in the catalogs published by many hatcheries across the country. We need to continue to write letters and emails to these hatcheries asking that they cease their false advertising and we need to continue to preach the truth on the ABC Forum so that we can reach many of the lost. OK, I'll get out of the pulpit now.



You may have noticed when I talked about the misinformation about Ameraucanas that Araucanas were mentioned quite a bit also. The false advertising affects that breed and the Araucana Club of America (ACA) as much as our breed and club. So we do have more than history in common. Some officers of the ACA and I feel that it may be mutually beneficial to purposely mention each other's club and breed in a way that is positive. I am not out to promote another breed through our breed club, but don't see a conflict of interest in unofficially having an understanding of cooperation. Our clubs are not enemies of each other. We should be the allied forces...the guys with white Stetsons. The bad guys are all of those that disseminate false information about both breeds and usually lump the two together. I have proposed a reciprocal link exchange with the Araucana Club of America and in anticipation of a positive response from them I have already placed a link to the ACA on the ABC website's Links page.

All appears to be well with the ABC. As the fall show season approaches consider exhibiting some of your great Ameraucanas. As I've said before even if you don't exhibit please consider attending our National meet in Great Falls, MT.



### Features this Issue:

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## Meet Reports

Have you ever considered helping out a club by filling out a meet report? If you have time and know that the show is an Ameraucana Breeders Club sanctioned meet, consider volunteering to fill out the ABC meet report for the host club and sending it in to the Ameraucana Breeders Club. Several of our members have done this in the last few months and it helps out the local club and the breed club. The meet report form may be found on the club website or may be requested from the club secretary/treasurer.

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### Abbreviation Guide for Meet Reports

**BB**=best of breed  
**RB**=reserve of breed  
**BV**=best of variety  
**RV**=reserve of variety  
**C**=cock  
**H**=Hen  
**K**=cockerel  
**P**=pullet  
**AOV**=Any Other Variety,  
**AOCCL**=All Other  
 Combs Clean Legged  
 (bantam)  
**AOSB**=All Other  
 Standard Breeds (large  
 fowl)

## Northeast Oklahoma Poultry Club

### Pryor, OK, Meet Report

Special Meet, March 3, 2007, reported by Kenneth Kvittum

No Ameraucana were shown.

## Missouri State Poultry Association Show 1 Sedalia, MO, Meet Report

Special Meet, April 21, 2007, reported by Bernita Miller

2 bantams shown by 1 exhibitor, Judged by Pat Lacey

BB, BV blue wheaten P by Jared Carver – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor, **Champion Ameraucana Over-All**

RB, BV black P by Jared Carver – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

2 large fowl shown by 1 exhibitor, Judged by Paul Monteth

BB, BV black H by Angela Stanley – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor, **Reserve Champion Ameraucana Over-All**

RB, RV black H by Angela Stanley – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor

## Missouri State Poultry Association Show 2 Sedalia, MO, Meet Report

Special Meet, April 21, 2007, reported by Bernita Miller

2 bantams shown by 1 exhibitor, Judged by Heather Hayess

BB, BV blue wheaten P by Jared Carver – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor, **Champion Ameraucana Over-All**

RB, BV black P by Jared Carver – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

2 large fowl shown by 1 exhibitor, Judged by Troy LaRoche

BB, BV black H by Angela Stanley – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor, **Reserve Champion Ameraucana Over-All**

RB, RV black H by Angela Stanley – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor



Blue Wheaten Portrait

## Southern Ohio Poultry Association, Lucasville, OH, Meet Report

Special Meet, May 26-27, 2007, reported by Harold Knapp

### 6 bantams shown by 3 exhibitors

BB, BV blue wheaten C by Wayne Gritter – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

RB, BV blue H by John Brown – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

BV brown red C by John Brown – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

BV wheaten C by Wayne Gritter – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

BV white C by Kathy Gratsch – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor

RV white H by Kathy Gratsch

### 14 large fowl shown by 2 exhibitor

BB, BV white H by Kathy Gratsch – out of 3 shown by 1 exhibitor

RV white P by Kathy Gratsch

RB, BV black K by Harold Knapp – out of 7 shown by 2 exhibitors

RV black H by Kathy Gratsch

BV blue H by Harold Knapp – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor

RV blue P by Harold Knapp

BV wheaten H by Kathy Gratsch – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor

RV wheaten C by Kathy Gratsch

## Buckeye Fancy Feather Club, Canfield, OH, Meet Report

Special Meet, June 9, 2007, reported by Patty Pickard

### 5 bantams shown by 2 exhibitors

BV blue wheaten P by Kathy Gratsch – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

BB, BV wheaten H by Caleb Pickard – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor, **Champion AOCCL & Reserve Overall Ameraucana**

RB, RV wheaten C by Caleb Pickard – **Reserve AOCCL**

BV white C by Kathy Gratsch – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor

RV white H by Kathy Gratsch

### 10 large fowl shown by 2 exhibitors

BB, BV white H by Kathy Gratsch – out of 3 shown by 1 exhibitor & **Reserve AOSB, Best Overall Ameraucana**

RV white H by Kathy Gratsch

RB, BV black H by Kathy Gratsch – out of 5 shown by 2 exhibitors

RV black K by Harold Knapp

BV blue K by Harold Knapp – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor

RV blue H by Harold Knapp

### JR Show (3 Ameraucana)

BB, BV, blue wheaten bantam C by Caleb Pickard – 1 of 1 & Best Junior Overall Ameraucana

RB, BV, wheaten bantam H by Caleb Pickard – 1 of 1

BB, silver large fowl H by Anthony Heitger – 1 of 1 & Champion AOSB



Silver Large Fowl  
Pullet  
By Jean Ribbeck



A collection of eggs and  
Ameraucana awards won by  
Barbara Campbell



Silver Large Fowl  
Cockerel  
By Jim Fegan

Photo provide by Mike Gilbert.

## North Central District Report, Jerry De Smidt, Director



Hello all from the Midwest desert (ha ha!), we have not had any rain since the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and it has been very hot. The corn is curling very bad and not much for ears on the stalks. Our lawn is brown and we have not cut it for almost a month. We have been watering the gardens to keep them alive and hoping for rain very soon.

I hope every one is done hatching and getting ready for the Nationals in Great Falls, Jake and I are planning on coming and will have some birds for sale. If you are looking for some birds let us know [jwoodhaven@aol.com](mailto:jwoodhaven@aol.com) or (920)833-9772 we will see what we have room for and bring them. If you want some kind of meet for your show you need to contact me ahead of time so that the meet can be listed in the show catalog and get in the quarterly ABC news letter. We will not be at any other shows this fall because I only have so many vacation days. I hope to see many of you at the national meet.

## Southeastern District, Barbara Campbell, Director



It has been a long, hot summer and I am amazed daily that I haven't lost birds due to heat stress. We keep a fan running 24/7 in the hen house and even during the several hottest weeks the power that runs from our house to the chicken coop was out the birds survived.

I made the decision last summer to downsize my operation and hatched only 55 chicks this spring rather than over 100 as I had done the previous years. After the culling process and losing a few to a devious coon, I am growing out 28 birds that show promise. I will downsize again this year and over winter only 2 males and probably 10-12 females rather than 3 males and 25 females as I did last year. As a result of this I will have quite a few birds for sale. I believe at least some of the restrictions for shipping out of Knoxville have been lifted. I will know for sure I guess when I take the cockerel John has ordered to the PO later in September if it doesn't come back the next day! I will be taking all that I have for sale to our district meet. I don't plan to make my final selections for myself until late September. I have finally learned to heed the words of wisdom that come from years of experience (Mike Gilbert!) and give wheaten/blue wheaten a chance to mature before culling for anything other than serious defects. I will also offer hatching eggs March - May but obviously on a more limited basis. I am pleased with the progress that has been made this year in my breeding program. Michael Muenks had shared with me at last year's national meet some valuable breeding information that he had learned regarding the undesirable red lacing that can occur in wheaten and blue wheaten males. In the process of breeding for clean hackles over the years I had produced females with very little tail color. It turns out these females were responsible for the red lacing in the males. I hatched only from hens with good tail color this year and only culled 1 cockerel out of 25 for red lacing - thank you Michael!

I have placed our SE District Meet with the Bluegrass Poultry Association in Danville, KY on October 27th. I realize that this is in the extreme north of the SE district. My reasoning here is that I'm looking ahead to 2010 and feeling the waters for the right location for the National meet that will take place in the SE District. At the present time I'm not aware of any members in our district that are showing and by having the National further north we can make it convenient for and draw members from the NE, NC and SC districts. If interest grows in our district before then we can certainly consider show clubs that are more central to the SE district. The Upper Cumberland show in Cookeville, TN might be a good one to consider.

Hope to see you in Danville!



Black, Blue, White, and  
Buff Large Fowl  
Ameraucana

Jerry De Smidt  
[jwoodhaven@aol.com](mailto:jwoodhaven@aol.com)  
920-833-9772

We will be attending the  
National Meet in Great  
Falls, Montana and are  
willing to deliver birds to  
the show.

## South Central District Report, Paul Smith, Director

We have had a very strange growing season this year! There has been lots of rain with floods in our area. Over 1000 homes in our county had flood water damage and many acres of small grain crops and three lives lost due to the over abundance of water. The birds loved the cool temps and have grown exceptional well! We were about two months late getting any chicks hatched but they have developed well enough to take to the national meet in Great Falls, Montana. I know its going to be a long trip, but am looking forward to seeing the Ameraucana Gang and showing what we have.

We won't be bringing our travel trailer this year, as we don't want to risk the transmission in our pick-up. We burned up two in our old one pulling the travel trailer through the Arbuckle Mountains which are only small hills-compared to what will be in Montana.

October 13, the Saturday following our national meet will be our district meet at the Southern Missouri Poultry Club Show in Sedalia, Missouri. Brad and Tiffany Buttram are the show secretaries and can be reached at 400 W. Luthy Rd., Niangua, MO 65713, (417)462-7792, or [bradtiff122306@yahoo.com](mailto:bradtiff122306@yahoo.com).

I hope to see a good turn out for our district meet this year. We have held it at the Oklahoma State Show in Shawnee the past few years. We selected Shawnee as the Oklahoma State meet which is Dec. 1 and 2. Contact Steve Jones, 9677 Butler Lane, Poetry, TX 75160, (972)636-9093, or [ghia4me@sprynet.com](mailto:ghia4me@sprynet.com) for a catalog. Shawnee is one of the largest and best shows in our district. It's not unusual for them to fill up with 3,000 head and turn entries away. Don't wait until deadline to enter.

Having raised a vegetable garden for the past 45 years (started at age 6) and an organic one for the past 22 years, we are carrying it to the next level by starting a seed instead of vegetable market. We are in the process of getting a certified organic status. Then we will apply for a state license to market vegetable seeds. With all the hybrid and now genetic modified plants, I thought this would be the time, if not too late, to try to help save some of the old time varieties for future generations. The house building project is still progressing. It's down to completing the inside, which Angela and I are doing ourselves, so it is a slow process.

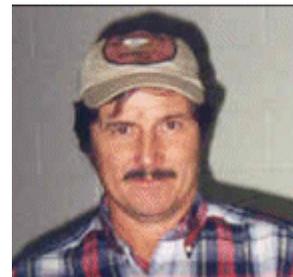
We look forward to seeing everyone at the fall shows.

## Western District, Lisa Cree, Director

Greetings from the Western District. I hope everyone is well and this year's birds are looking promising. We've had a nice summer so far here in Western Washington with a few days over 100°, which is pretty hot for us, but plenty of cooler overcast days as well. We've done a lot of gardening this year and have had enough sun and warm weather that the squash and tomatoes are coming on strong. After shipping chicks earlier in the year, we raised a couple hatches of Ameraucanas and they're growing well. We raised very few Japanese and Rosecomb bantams this year, just a few pens that were of particular interest.

It's not too early to start thinking about our State Meet in Washington. The show is held in Chehalis WA at the SW WA Fairgrounds December 8th and 9th. If you're not already on the mailing list contact Mike Dooms at Mike Dooms at [mpdooms@localaccess.com](mailto:mpdooms@localaccess.com) or call him at (360)736-2751.

Best of luck to all who show!



### AMERAUCANA CHICKS

Bantams and large fowl in several varieties from [ChickHatchery.com](http://ChickHatchery.com)

Now accepting order for 2008 hatches in March and April.

Go to [www.ChickHatchery.com](http://www.ChickHatchery.com) for complete information and an Order Form or send a SASE to ChickHatchery.com, 4599 Lange Rd., Birch Run, MI 48415, for an Order Form.





**Club Merchandise**

- 1982 Club Handbook - \$5
- 1998 Club Handbook - \$5
- 2005 Club Handbook - \$5
- ABC 4" Patch (2) - \$5.50
- Bulletins 1979-1984 - \$30
- Bulletins 1985-1993 - \$35
- Breeders Directory - \$2

Make Checks Payable to the Ameraucana Breeders Club and send to the club secretary.



**Ameraucana T-Shirts**

- Black – 12" ABC Logo
- 100% preshrunk Cotton
- \$10 - M, L, XL
- \$12 – XXL
  
- Natural – 2 5/8" ABC Logo
- 50% cotton/50% polyester
- \$10 - M, L, XL
- \$12 – XXL

Shipping included in the price. Send payment to:

John W. Blehm  
 4599 Lange Rd.  
 Birch Run, MI 48415-8137

**Northeastern District, Rob Sando, Director**

No report submitted.

**Treasurer's Report**

<b>ABC Checking Account, Central Trust Bank, Jefferson City, MO</b>	
<b>Opening Balance 5/27/07</b> (adjusted \$30.21 for balancing error)	<b>\$ 1,958.89</b>
Income – Dues, Directories, Donations, etc	109.50
<b>Income Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 109.50</b>
Expense - Postage	64.56
Expense – Office Supplies	424.96
Expense – ABA Membership	50.00
<b>Expense Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 539.52</b>
<b>Correction – removed Office Depot Rewards Program deposit, it was a gift certificate ... not a deposit - \$38.56</b>	
<b>Ending Balance as of 8/25/07</b>	<b>\$ 1528.87</b>
Respectfully Submitted, Michael J. Muenks, Secretary/Treasurer	

**Life Under the Animal ID System, Cheryl M. Eggers**  
 Updated February 12, 2006

I was looking for something about NAIS to print and came across this story and thought a little humor might be the best for this issue in this bulletin. I hope you enjoy this story . . . Michael

“ . . . Along about March of 2005 my brother and his wife moved to town and gave us 3 hens as pets for the kids. He had to file 2 sets of paperwork, one to notify the government of where the hens were and one to notify them that **their premises** was no longer keeping animals as they were **moving to town**. Total forms – 4

I, within 24 hours, had to file 2 sets of paperwork, one to obtain a **premises** identification number, giving name, social security number, address, and GPS number with the state and feds. I had to file 3 forms for the hens. Total forms – 4

Then my husband said, if you have to be here to feed 3 hens, why not get a few more. So we went in with the neighbors and ordered 100 chickens. They then had to file 1 form setting up a **premises** and 50 forms for owning the chicks + 50 forms since they would be 'off premises' boarding at my house. We had to file 50 forms reporting our 50 new chicks. Total forms – 151

Four of the **chicks** died in the first week, I had to file 3 incident reports, and my neighbor had to file 1. Total forms – 4

In May, it was Mandy's 8th birthday and all she wanted for her birthday was a pretty little kid named Snowflake, so we went a little flakey and got Snowflake and a nanny named Carmen, needed to file **2 forms**. Carmen didn't work out, though she was a beautiful goat she was terrified of children and one day tried to run away taking Snowflake with her and I had to file **2 incident reports**. So she went to live with a neighbor and we traded for a new nanny named Paige. Both the neighbor and I had to file **2 reports each**, one for the goat going, and one for the goat

## Upcoming Club Sanctioned Meets

### September 29-30, 2007

Wisconsin State Meet, placed by Jerry De Smidt  
Wisconsin International Poultry Club Show, Portage, WI  
Contact:  
Tara Kindschi, (608)727-2720

### October 6-7, 2007

**ABC National Meet**, placed by the Board of Directors  
Montana Poultry Fanciers Association, Great Falls, MT  
Contact:  
Larry Kibbee, [singletreebantam@wmconnect.com](mailto:singletreebantam@wmconnect.com)  
(406)284-6978  
Sharon Eliasson, (406)323-1655

### October 6-7, 2007

North East District Meet, placed by Rob Sando  
Southern Ohio Poultry Association's Fall Show,  
Lucasville, OH  
Contact:  
(740)259-2852 (evenings)

### October 13-14, 2007

Michigan State Meet, requested by John W. Blehm  
Michigan Poultry Fanciers – Frankenmuth Fowl Fest,  
Frankenmuth, MI  
Contact:  
John W. Blehm, [FowlFest.org](http://FowlFest.org) (989)777-1234

### October 13, 2007

South Central District Meet, placed by Paul Smith  
Southern Missouri Poultry Club, Sedalia, MO  
Contact:  
Brad Buttram, [bradtiff122306@yahoo.com](mailto:bradtiff122306@yahoo.com) (417)462-7792

### October 20, 2007

Indiana State Meet, requested by Wayne Gritter  
Central Indiana Poultry Show, Lebanon, IN  
Contact:  
Doug Akers, [dakers@purdue.edu](mailto:dakers@purdue.edu) (765)482-7182  
Ron Patterson, [rpatter815@earthlink.net](mailto:rpatter815@earthlink.net) (765)676-6192

### October 27-28, 2007

Minnesota State Meet, placed by Jerry De Smidt  
Minnesota State Poultry Association Show, Hutchinson, MI  
Contact:  
Mary Ann Rademacher, [ajmrademacher@embarqmail.com](mailto:ajmrademacher@embarqmail.com)  
(952)442-4031

### October 27, 2007

Southeast District Meet, placed by Barbara Campbell  
Bluegrass Rabbit and Poultry Assoc. Show, Boyle Co.  
Fairgrounds, TN  
Contact:  
Oscar Bailey, [obailey@iclub.org](mailto:obailey@iclub.org) (859)369-7065

### November 24-25, 2007

North Central District Meet, placed by Jerry De Smidt  
Eastern Iowa Poultry Show, Iowa City, IA  
Contact:  
Phil Shank, [pbshank@netins.net](mailto:pbshank@netins.net) (319)646-2001

### December 1-2, 2007

Oklahoma State Meet, requested by Paul Smith  
Oklahoma State Poultry Show, Shawnee, OK  
Contact:  
Steve Jones, [ghia4me@sprynet.com](mailto:ghia4me@sprynet.com), (972)636-909

### December 8-9, 2007

Washington State Meet, requested by Lisa Cree  
SW Washington Fairgrounds, Chehalis, WA  
Contact:  
Mike Dooms, [mpdoods@localaccess.com](mailto:mpdoods@localaccess.com), (360)736-2751



## Buff Bantam Pullet

Champion AOCCL at 1996 APA National  
Hutchinson, MN

Picture provided by Mike Gilbert.



This large fowl blue is the correct shade of blue, but where is the lacing the standard calls for as the Andalusian hen below demonstrates?



Ameraucana Picture provided by Michael Muenks, Andalusian from Feather Site, Photo courtesy of Andy Vardy <http://www.feathersite.com/Poultry/CGA/Andal/BRKAndalusians.html>

### *Bantam Hill*

Interested in Ameraucana?  
Visit our website at [www.bantamhill.com](http://www.bantamhill.com) for more information or send a SASE to Bantam Hill, 33878 Hwy 87, California, MO 65018  
**For 2008 we will only have started Ameraucana available.**

**Check out our website for more details.**

## **Blast From the Past**, Hard Questions from a Burned out Member . . . and a reflection by Michael Muenks

White recovering from stinging losses due to critter attacks this summer I have seriously contemplated the future of Ameraucana here at Bantam Hill. I have long thought to eliminate white, blue, black, buff, wheaten, and blue wheaten varieties and keep only brown red and silver. That being said, I am concerned about the number of birds in the country for most of those varieties. Only blue and black large fowl and wheaten/blue wheaten bantams seem to have really sustainable populations distributed across the country in my opinion. Most of the varieties are in a few pockets raised by a few hardy souls. My sense of duty to the breed has won out for now, and I am tracking down birds to replace what was lost and I am hatching out late summer chicks in the hope that I will be able to get what I need before the molt starts.

My experiences this summer led me to pick the following article from the fall 1990 club bulletin for reprint. Interestingly enough, my current mood, this choice of article, and the message from our club president all follow the same theme. I wonder what that means . . .

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### Hard Questions from a Burned-Out Member . . .

As one who has bred and shown Ameraucana bantams since before their recognition as a distinct breed by the American Bantam Association and then the American Poultry Association, it seems to me there has been a discernable lack of improvement within most of the varieties for the past four or five years. Why this stagnation should occur is difficult to understand, as the Ameraucana Breeders Club seems to have a stable and active membership, a terrific newsletter, capable leadership and good participation by its members. The ABA and APA yearbooks contain Ameraucana advertisement from club members and non-members (I think) alike. Also, a quick review of Poultry Press reveals a general acceptance of the breed by the fancy as a whole. For example, the August, '90 issue contains not only our club ad, but sources of chicks and /or hatching eggs from at least four advertisers and Ameraucana placing at several shows. They even spell "Ameraucana" correctly most of the time now! And of course the standard descriptions and pictures can be found within the ABA and the APA official publications.

So, I would ask the reader some tough questions that are designed for self-examination. Questions for each of us to answer in this self-examination process, "Am I part of the solution or part of the problem?" and "What am I willing to do about it?"

In more or less random order, here they are:

1. Are we truly interested in improving the breed to a level of respectability, or are we satisfied to win show awards against a low level of competition? (The "big frog in a small puddle" syndrome.)
2. Am I satisfied to make a single mating of each of my varieties once a year? Do I really expect to make any progress with such a program or am I painting myself into a corner?
3. Am I truly a poultry breeder or just a poultry reproducer? Do I know the difference?
4. If I am limited in my knowledge of what to do, have I sought advice from more experienced persons?

## Blast from the Past, continued ...

5. Am I more interested in the welfare of the breed or in self-glorification?
6. Why don't we have silver bantam males colored as they should be – black and white feathers only, without autosomal red on the back and shoulders?
7. Why don't we see buffs in the showroom, either large or bantam? Have we ever? Will we?
8. Where are the bantam blues? In the past we saw blue females, more than once, win Best of Bred and even AOCCL in reasonably good competition.
9. Why don't we see black males or blue males without unacceptable quantities of red or silver in the hackles?
10. Where are the bantam brown reds? One pair with fair color and poor type was exhibited at Highland in 1989. Why is there only one person working on this standard variety?
11. Why, after all these years of breeding, are we still tolerating dark ticking and even dark striping in the hackles of wheaten and blue wheaten? We see this not only in males, but even females – heaven forbid. Are we reading and understanding the standard?
12. Am I “networking” with others who are working with my variety (ies)?
13. Should we keep the name “Ameraucana Breeders Club” or change it to something like “Ameraucana Exhibitors Club”?
14. Are we just “fooling around” with non-standard varieties when all our regular varieties (except perhaps whites) need so much help? Do we know what it takes to get a new variety recognized and have we measured the cost in terms of time, dollars, and effort?
15. Do I expect to acquire or replace exhibition quality stock for “peanuts” after someone else has sacrificed thousands of dollars and thousands of hours, not to mention the strained family relationships, to produce a limited quantity of what I am willing to start out with?
16. If I already have decent stock am I taking reasonable precautions to preserve and protect it from the risk of loss? If my negligence results in avoidable losses is it “my lousy luck” and “my business”, or is it a loss to the breed as a whole – since those particular genetics will not be available to share with others?

I am just as guilty as anyone, perhaps more so. And folks, I don't presume to answer these questions for you. But, I do know we can all improve our performance. If we pull together and all do our part, we can collectively make our next national meet the top gathering of Ameraucanas and of the Ameraucana Breeders the world has ever seen! Let's just do it!

I am really feeling guilty about my losses to critters this summer. That being said, I really enjoy my Ameraucana and I want to do even better at being a breeder, not just a keeper or exhibitor. I admit that I have done my fair share of experimenting where time and energy should have been focused on raising more chicks and culling harder on the eight standard varieties. I am particularly surprised at the issues of 17 years ago and how similar they are to those of today. So what goals have I set for the next year?

1. Raise more chicks and cull harder.
2. Go to more shows.
3. As your secretary/treasurer work to set up a way of networking those working on the standard varieties and on new varieties so that members can network more efficiently.

What are your goals as a breeder?

### For Sale

Started Ameraucana bantams in brown red, buff, and black gold.

\$10.00 each plus box & shipping or I will deliver to the following shows:

Great Falls, MT  
Wisconsin International  
Minnesota Poultry Ass.

Mike Gilbert  
(608)857-3386  
or e-mail:

[ameraucana@redstagacres.com](mailto:ameraucana@redstagacres.com)

### Pips & Peeps

Large Fowl Ameraucanas  
Black, Blue, Blue  
Wheaten, Buff, Silver,  
Wheaten & White



Jean Ribbeck  
PO Box 461

Newman Lake, WA 99025  
509-226-3833

[rribbeck@sprynet.com](mailto:rribbeck@sprynet.com)  
[home.sprynet.com/~rribbeck/](http://home.sprynet.com/~rribbeck/)

## Club Events at National Meet

**FOR  
SALE**

Several good blue, black and splash large fowl breeders.

We will deliver to the shows that we attend or ship at the buyer's expense.

**In spring 2008 we will offer day old large fowl Ameraucana chicks in black, blue, splash, wheaten, blue wheaten and splash wheaten varieties.**

Eight hatches-one every two weeks February 4, 2008 through May 12, 2008.

Paul & Angela Smith  
2257 CR 224  
Gainesville, TX. 76240  
940-668-0719  
E-mail:  
[sw\\_psmith@swmail.net](mailto:sw_psmith@swmail.net)



The national meet is located at the Montana State Fairgrounds in the Poultry and Rabbit Barn. Directions to the fairgrounds may be found at the following link: <http://www.goexpopark.com/map-dir.htm>

Enclosed with this bulletin is an entry form and some basic information. A show catalog may be requested from the host club and the show

catalog, when available, will be posted at [www.ameraucana.org](http://www.ameraucana.org). The headquarters for lodging is the Days Inn. The Days Inn is located at 101 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northwest, Great Falls, MT. The telephone number is (406)727-6565. The following rates are good for October 4 – October 7, 2007: \$51.85 + tax for 1 person and \$56.95 + tax for 2-4 people. The Days Inn is located four blocks from the Montana State Fairgrounds. There are many other lodging choices located at the Great Falls Visitor's Bureau: <http://greatfallscvb.visitmt.com/>. If you are arriving early or staying for a day or so there is information about day trips to locations of interest in the area.

For those traveling from the south it is recommended that one dress in layers. The show barn is reportedly cool and the weather should be comfortable, but cool to those coming from the south. We should not expect snow. (I personally was caught with mostly shorts and short-sleeves at last year's national in Michigan where it had just snowed!)

At the national meet the club will have a display table that will serve as a meeting place. Club and breed information will be displayed along with the eggs for the egg contest, club merchandise, any silent auction items, and club awards. There will be a list at the show table for volunteers to staff the table for ten minutes on the hour. A poster will be posted with the times the club table is open to sell items and take new memberships and membership renewals.

The Ameraucana will be judged first at the show. The judge will be Brian Decker for our national meet. Mike Gilbert will judge the egg contest. The club meeting will be held at 2:15pm on Saturday, October 6. The location will be posted at the club table. For the national club meeting topics for discussion are the 2008 National Meet probable location in the North Central District, update on the change of the APA Ameraucana silver description, a financial update, announce the winner of the traveling awards, present the lifetime achievement award, take a group picture, organize a Poultry Press Ad, placement of meets procedure, British Egg Shell Color Chart, and any other agenda items added at the time of the meeting. The host club will be giving out awards at their evening banquet. I suggest that the Ameraucana Breeders Club members in attendance at the meet go to the banquet at Elmer's with our host club for our evening meal on Saturday evening.

Eggs for the egg competition may be shipped to: Larry and Koralyn Kibbee  
9069 Wooden Shoe  
Manhattan, MT 59741  
(406)284-6978

Shipped birds will not be accepted. If you would like to make a donation for the awards please send them to Koralyn Kibbee at the address above. Please note if the donation is for a specific award or variety. Please make checks payable to The Montana Poultry Fanciers Association.

## National Meet Awards

### 2007 Ameraucana Breeders Club National Meet

Awards offered by: The Montana Poultry Fanciers Association and its members & the Ameraucana Breeders Club and its members.

Big Sky Exposition, Great Falls, MT - October 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

All awards are subject to change the day of the show.  
Cash amounts have not been determined at the time of publish.  
Additional awards may be given.

Champion Ameraucana	Rosette and cash award
Reserve Champion Ameraucana	Rosette and cash award
Best Display, LF or Bantam	Rosette and cash award
Reserve Display, LF or Bantam	Rosette and cash award
Best Trio, LF or Bantam	Rosette and cash award
Reserve Trio, LF or Bantam	Rosette and cash award
Best of Breed Bantam	Rosette and cash award
Reserve of Breed Bantam	Rosette and cash award
Best of Breed Large Fowl	Rosette and cash award
Reserve of Breed Large Fowl	Rosette and cash award
Best Ameraucana - in Junior Show	Rosette and cash award
Reserve Ameraucana – in Junior Show	Rosette and cash award
Best of Variety Bantam	Cash – top five varieties (pending)
Reserve of Variety Bantam	Cash – top five varieties (pending)
Best of Variety Large Fowl	Cash – top five varieties (pending)
Reserve of Variety Large Fowl	Cash – top five varieties (pending)
Best LF buff	The Arne Schmidt Memorial Traveling Plaque
Best Bantam Eggs	Rosette or Plaque
Reserve Bantam Eggs	Rosette or Plaque
Best Large Fowl Eggs	Rosette or Plaque
Reserve Large Fowl Eggs	Rosette or Plaque

Only Ameraucana Breeders Club Members are eligible for awards from the ABC & its members.

## Life Under the Animal ID System continued ...

coming. Paige is a sweetheart. I only had to lift her into the stanchion 3 times before she decided to do it all by herself.

My neighbor asked if we could let our goats come over to help with weed control, they did that for about 2 weeks. ([14 incident reports X2 goats](#)). We were getting almost a gallon of milk a day before we dried her off to go 'visiting' (both the neighbor and I had to fill out [incident reports - 4](#)). She did get out of the yard 3 times ([3 incident reports X 2](#)) and enjoyed going for walks with us once a week all summer ([12 incident reports X 2](#)) We are now hoping for triplets in the spring. The goats came home in November, requiring [another 4 reports](#). [Total forms – 74](#)

Then one day I got a call in town, the neighbor's dogs had gotten into my chickens. I came home to find **dead chickens** all over **my property** and scattered down the road. We were devastated and filled the incident reports. 8 for the dead chickens and 4 for the ones that **left the property**. [Total forms - 12](#)

## Club Notes

The deadline to submit articles, ads, reports, etc. for the next bulletin is November 15, 2007 and need to be sent to the club secretary.



Bulletin advertisements are free to all members!



Check out the ABC Forum, [www.ameraucana.org/abcforum](http://www.ameraucana.org/abcforum), to keep up with current topics in the Ameraucana world.



Membership renewals may be sent to the club secretary for 2008 at any time. **All yearly memberships are due January 1, 2008.** The lower right hand side of the bulletin indicates your membership level and when it expires.

You may update your membership information or breeders directory information at any time.

**Welcome to our  
New Members**

Keith Malchoff, NY

Pat and Kristi Hirte  
Family, OR

Ken Olsen, KS

Craig McDonald, KY

Dorothy Bales, OK

**Features in the****December Issue:**

Blast from the Past

National Meet Round Up

NAIS Update

**Life Under the Animal ID System continued ...**

My dog thought what they had done looked like fun, so began killing chickens too. So far she has killed 8. Resulting in 8 reports for dead chickens and 2 for the two she tried to hide in the woods as they left the premises. [Total forms – 10](#)

On Labor Day weekend, the neighbors came over and we killed 57 chickens. Dividing the paper work, we still had to file 57 forms between us. [Total forms – 57](#)

One of my chickens liked my neighbor. Every day she would make a beeline for his barnyard (he gives trail rides, forms went in for each time the horses left and returned). I had to file 1 report for her leaving and one for coming every day. Oh we tried to keep her home, but she was a little escape artist! 90 forms X 2 = 180 for that one chicken. [Total forms – 180](#)

I had 3 chickens die for no apparent reason or from injury from other chickens, or one punctured himself on a wire. [Total forms – 3](#)

This year we have filed 499 reports, tagged all animals, purchased the equipment and software to do this and it hasn't even been 12 months since we started. All we wanted to do was have a few animals to teach the kids a little about responsibility and grow some of our own food."

Imagine getting THAT for a Christmas letter?

Life under NAIS is for the birds!"

<http://reliableanswers.com/patriot/2006/01/national-animal-id-run-amok.asp>

**Ameraucana Breeders Club Board of Directors****President, John Blehm**

4599 Lange Road, Birch Run, MI 48415 [john@ameraucana.org](mailto:john@ameraucana.org) (989)777-1234

**Secretary/Treasurer, Michael Muenks**

33878 Hwy 87, California, MO 65018-3911 [michael@bantamhill.com](mailto:michael@bantamhill.com) (573)796-3999

**Director-North Central, Jerry De Smidt**

N912 Hill Road, Pulaski, WI 54162 [jwoodhaven@aol.com](mailto:jwoodhaven@aol.com) (920)833-9772

**Director-Northeast, Rob Sando**

2116 Street 121 W, New Madison, OH 45346 [rsando\\_shrop@hotmail.com](mailto:rsando_shrop@hotmail.com) (937)996-0117

**Director-South Central, Paul Smith**

2257 CR 224, Gainesville, TX 76240 [sw\\_psmith@swmail.com](mailto:sw_psmith@swmail.com) (940)668-0719

**Director-Southeast, Barbara Campbell**

392 Whitaker Hollow Road, Lake City, TN 37769 [BlueEggAcres@comcast.net](mailto:BlueEggAcres@comcast.net) (865)494-0876

**Director-West, Lisa Cree**

Seabeck, WA [creefarm@peoplepc.com](mailto:creefarm@peoplepc.com)