For many members, working with young birds and getting them ready for competition is most enjoyable. Getting the birds weaned and on a quality, varied diet is important. You will want to have a perch for each young bird and, of course, the loft kept clean and dry. Allowing plenty of fresh air (without being drafty) is important.

We wish you all the best of luck in the coming young bird season. Please feel free to send an email (aupromo@aol.com) to let us know about your experience and successes this season. We would love to receive photos so we may share in upcoming publications.

Again, good luck to all. Have fun!
Contest Dove Brain Teaser

We are excited to announce that Madison won and has received an AU hat with monogram logo. This is an opportunity for juniors to promote their hobby as well.

Brain teaser for our Junior Club members. The **first two members** to find the 4 doves will win a AU Ball Cap. Please circle the doves and send the picture to aupromo@aol.com with Name and AU number.

Still looking for **two more winners**. Please submit by **October 1, 2023** last chance
David Knightes and Brock Stine (Champlain Valley RPC) presented a racing pigeon program to local scouts at Champlain Exposition Fairgrounds in Essex Junction, VT at the Boy Scout Jubilee. The theme at the Jubilee was Racing. Brock explained the banding to the Scouts. Dave explained the chipping and proper holding of a bird.

Brock and David did a presentation and handed out flyers to promote the sport of racing pigeons. The Scouts had many interesting questions including how fast pigeons can fly, how long does it take for an egg to hatch, how high the birds fly and what is the farthest the bird is flown in a race. Great job David and Brock.
Future dentist Samuel hails from Michigan and is currently a student in Florida, majoring in biology. When he returns to Michigan, he will attend dental school and enter the family’s dental practice. In the meantime, he has enjoyed a variety of activities such as racing pigeons, sports and volunteering in an assisted living facility.

Samuel is active in his church, National Honor Society and three varsity sports. He is recipient of all-state honors in cross country and track. Interestingly, he is part of an Alzheimer’s research group and an honor student.

He does not back away from hard work, so we are expecting good things for Samuel.

Heidi also hails from Michigan. She is a young entrepreneur having started her own successful business between 7th and 8th grade. She plans to transition the business to her brother so she may pursue higher education in biomedical sciences. Heidi’s extra-curricular activities included serving on a youth advisory committee as part of a community foundation; dance academy; and racing pigeons.

Medical school is in Heidi’s future and it appears from her stamina and accomplishments, she is up to the task. Her studies will focus on cellular and molecular

She has a servant’s heart. Imagine what her expertise and service mindedness can accomplish!
He is a music lover that wishes to instill the love of music in others as an orchestra director/performer. Harrison is no stranger to work and will likely work throughout his college career to make his dream a reality. We have yet another servant’s heart in Harrison. Volunteering is practically his second career. He is an explorer in learning and making new discoveries. He has an associate’s degree in liberal arts and dual enrollment in two different institutions, making the Dean’s List multiple times. He received First Honors at his high school.

Harrison provides a most eloquent description of his accomplishment and goals. Most likely his progress will appear effortless.

Well done, students! Well done. Congratulations.

Raelynn with her pet Pigeon!

AU junior member, Raelynn, with her pet pigeon, "Little Debbie". After her swim every day, she races to the pigeon loft to get Little Debbie out for hugs.

Her mom, Corrie, shared, "We cultivate the love for animals and nature with our children and especially, racing pigeons!"

Thank you for sharing. It is such a positive to see junior members involved with such enthusiasm.
AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The AU Youth Scholarship Program has been established to assist members or relatives of members pursue their educational goals.

AU members and their relatives are eligible to apply for a scholarship. Criteria is listed below:

- Must be 23 years old or younger
- Must have a minimum B average
- Must be an AU member or relative of an AU member
- Must submit a signed application, bio, proof of GPA & photo by no later than June 1
- Bio will include educational & professional goals, work experience & community service involvement. Tell us how you work within the community (service programs, clubs, scouting, church, etc.) Be sure to include any certificates of acknowledgement or achievement and letters of recommendation. Supporting letters from educators are important.

Applications must be postmarked no later than June 1 each year. Applications and bios will be reviewed by the AU Youth Scholarship Committee. The top three essays (with the above information) will be selected. Each scholarship recipient will receive $2,000.00 to assist toward fulfilling their educational goals. Those that have already received an AU scholarship are not eligible to apply.

Award recipients will be notified. Upon receipt of proof of enrollment for the Fall semester, a check will be issued.

Scholarship winners will be announced each year in the AU Yearbook.

MAIL APPLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS TO:

ARPU
SCHOLARSHIP FUND
PO BOX 18465
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73154-0465
AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Complete ALL questions & return with bio & a current photograph postmarked no later than 6/1

NAME: ___________________________ PHONE: __________________

ADDRESS: ______________________ CITY: ______________________

STATE: _______________ ZIP: ___________ EMAIL: ______________________

COLLEGE ATTENDING IN THE FALL: __________________________

COLLEGE LEVEL: FRESHMAN__ SOPH__ JUNIOR__ SENIOR__ GRADUATE__

FIELD OF STUDY: __________________________

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE GPA (as of the completion of the last semester – provide proof)__________

HOBBIES/CLUBS/COMMUNITY PROJECTS________________________________________

HONORS RECEIVED (not required - include copies of certificates, etc.): _______________

________________________________________

DESCRIBE FINANCIAL NEED: ________________________________________

________________________________________

ARE YOU AN AU MEMBER OR RELATED TO AN AU MEMBER? INCLUDE AU ID NUMBER ___________. IF RELATED TO AN AU MEMBER, EXPLAIN:________________________

________________________________________

SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION ALONG WITH A BRIEF BIO/ESSAY WHICH INCLUDES:

- EDUCATIONAL GOALS
- PROFESSIONAL GOALS
- WORK EXPERIENCE
- COMMUNITY SERVICE INVOLVEMENT - HOW DO YOU GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY?
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR ACHIEVEMENTS

MUST HAVE A MINIMUM B AVERAGE & BE 23 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER

________________________________________  ______________________________________
Applicant Signature  Parent/Guardian Signature

Candidates previously awarded a scholarship are not eligible.
Jesse started enjoying Pigeons at nine years old. He is proud of his sport and loves his birds. Over the past seven years he has done very well with club races. Jesse is old enough to drive and takes Birds to school and single tosses them. It’s only 2 miles from his home. Air miles. His school newspaper did an article about Jesse hobby.
THIS CARDINAL is for THE BIRDS

It's race day. Participants arrive with their trainers, check in, and wait for the competition to begin. So far, all that sounds familiar. Then, however, things take a turn, for the race doesn’t begin with a horn or a whistle. It begins with a release of up to 20,000 feathered participants, that, with a flutter of noise and wings, rise into the air and head to their own homes which means they take off in any number of different directions.

Exactly what kind of race day is this? Ask St. Michael raising senior Jesse Randolph. He would know exactly what is going on and would welcome the opportunity to explain it. That's because Randolph is a fancier. He raises and races pigeons. "My father raised pigeons with his father when he was growing up in New York. There was a loft on the roof of his building. And now I am raising pigeons with my dad," he says. "Raising pigeons is a much bigger hobby up North than it is down here. Down here, when you ask what most people know about pigeons and pigeon racing, the answer is, 'Most people don't.'"

Despite “most people” in our area being unaware, pigeon racing is a billion-dollar industry with an extensive history. It traces back as far as 190-230 CE when the Mishnah Sanhedrin listed people who raced pigeons as unsuitable for testifying in court (scholars assume this is because racing pigeons would have involved gambling). Modern pigeon racing is directly linked to Belgium in 1818 when the first 100-mile pigeon race was recorded. From there, it expanded across Europe and made its way to the U.S in the late 1870s. More recently, the industry has exploded in China where it is an expensive and serious business. In the past five years, two pigeons have sold there for over $1 million dollars, and Chinese fanciers frequently pay upwards of $150 thousand dollars for a single bird.

Compared to high-dollar fanciers, Randolph’s pigeon is a bit more humble endeavor. "We had a really small loft when we first started when I was in elementary school, and we didn’t have that many birds," he says. "Then, we repurposed a shed and created a much bigger loft. Now, we have about 75 birds."

Randolph is clearly enthusiastic about this hobby that he shares with his father. That enthusiasm is catching as he adeptly simplifies the complex system of raising, training, and racing the birds. "Our loft is divided into different sections," he begins his explanation.

Caring for all these birds requires much work. One might assume that cleaning up behind 75 pigeons would be the worst part of that job. Randolph disagrees. "I just scrape the floors, put the mess in a bucket, and take it out. That’s the easy part. He grimaces a bit as he continues, "The worst part is mixing the pigeon food. I hate it! I use an old tomato can and mix pigeon food pellets with pigeon feed with corn and pigeon feed without corn, and then I combine all that with barley. One tomato can. I use this one tomato can to fill a huge bucket. It’s not hard, but it is really annoying. My dad talks about getting a cement mixer to do this. Then, I could dump..."
Jesse Randolph - Randolph Acers Cont.

...the different bags into the mixer using the right portions and let it go. Mixers are expensive, but, to me, it would be worth it because however much they are, that is that much of my time that I don't have to waste to keeping things up with that old tomato can.

Arenas were set for their birds. Randolph and his father also use the backyard arena for training. "We start by letting the birds onto a screen and outside the loft called 'the stalls.' Each bird has a band painted on its leg. There is a clock in the stalls that detects a bird walking over it. That clock is really important because it tells us how fast and far the birds are going around the area. They go out two to three miles and then back to the loft. This is called 'routting.'"

After a few weeks of this, we load the birds into crates, take them to the airport, release them, and watch them fly back to the loft. This increases the distance in increments of ten miles until we get to 70 miles, which is the furthest we go in training."

Randolph welcomes opportunity to share his hobby with his community. "This year, I trained some birds for the Panama City Resale's annual youth event sponsored by Christ the King," he says. "The theme involved pirates and kids getting kidnapped, so I was going to put a little note with "HELP" scrawled across it in big letters, but the birds flew away and I didn't get them home from Christ the King."

Randolph explains that "there are all sorts of pigeons. Some are for racing, others are for show, and there are even decorative pigeons that are bred for their looks."

While most people have seen colorful pigeons flying around urban landscapes, Randolph explains that there are "all sorts of pigeons. They range in color from silver to splashy to white to reds. With show pigeons, there are fancy-looking pigeons and multicolored pigeons. There is a type of bird called a Tumbler. They go up in the air and they look like they're just freeze and stop flying and tumble down in the air and then they catch themselves. It's really cool to watch."

All this is the kind of information that Randolph likes to share with people. He is clear that he loves this hobby and enjoys introducing others to it. In fact, he extends an open invitation: "If anyone is interested in looking at the pigeons and seeing what they do, I would totally be open to giving them a tour of the loft or teaching them about how the pigeons do what they do."

Randolph Acers Cont.