

American Racing Pigeon Union *Pigeon Tracks*



SUMMER FUN!

Karen Clifton, AU Executive Director

On behalf of the American Racing Pigeon Union national office, we hope you are all enjoying summer fun.

The youth races are going strong! As shared in January, there will be three races just for junior members this year. If you are entered in the Flying Clovers race, you are likely receiving regular updates from handler, Mike Netzky. He has done a tremendous job keeping the updates flowing and is enjoying training and working with your birds.

Likewise, if you are entered in the Western Colorado One Loft Youth Race, Gary Weir is in contact with you providing updates. With 35 years of experience racing, Gary is dedicated to training your birds for a successful race.

The AU National Youth Race, is being hosted by the Greater Tampa Bay Combine. Eric Alvarez (813-833-5045) and John Stephen (562-477-0755) are contacts for the convention and the youth race and are eager to help if you have questions. When the inventory is received, the AU will send out monthly updates leading up to the race, which will be held on November 3.

We will feature the youth race participants in the upcoming issue of *Pigeon Tracks*.



Even though summer is just getting started, some of you are likely already thinking about fall classes and possibly graduation. Please don't forget the AU offers a scholarship program. Each year, three individuals are selected to receive a scholarship (\$2000 each) to assist with educational goals.

We post the applications and criteria in each of our quarterly newsletters and the annual yearbook. Applications are due by June 1 each year. The review committee will soon be selecting the three scholarship recipients for 2021/2022 and those individuals will be featured in the 2021 AU Yearbook.

It is not too early to be thinking about submitting an application for the next school year. Applicants must be related to a current AU member, be 23 years of age or younger, and maintain at least a B average. Only those applicants that have not received an AU scholarship are eligible to apply.

Again, have a safe and fun summer and enjoy your birds!

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TRUE OR NOT TRUE



Believe it or not, this is a statue by Paul Sloan (local artist) in Adelaide in Australia.

FLYING CLOVERS GO TO SCHOOL

Flying Clovers' Emme and Will had a school presentation. Club members worked under the guidance of organizer Mike Netzky. The resulting portable loft was a fun way to introduce the racing to an area elementary school. The students at the school were very enthusiastic and had many questions about the birds. It was the hit of the day.



The club is now planning to participate in a 4th of July parade and let their birds fly home as they go along the route. It will be fun and entertaining.

4-H THUNDERBIRDS FLY AGAIN

The Thunderbirds Fly-In in-person meeting was held outside this year. Each family had a designated area to be in, more than 6 feet from other families. They were allowed to remove their mask only when in their family chairs.

Each club member got to pick 4 pigeons and put identifying color bands on them. The 4-Hers will be racing and show these pigeons for this spring and summer season. The club had a business meeting, welcomed 4 new members, and had time to practice showing and handling their pigeons. They practiced speaking to the group. They also played some games such as “ who can remove their mask fastest with out using their hands” and the game “Pterodactyl.”

The kids had fun. They are really excited to about their pigeons.

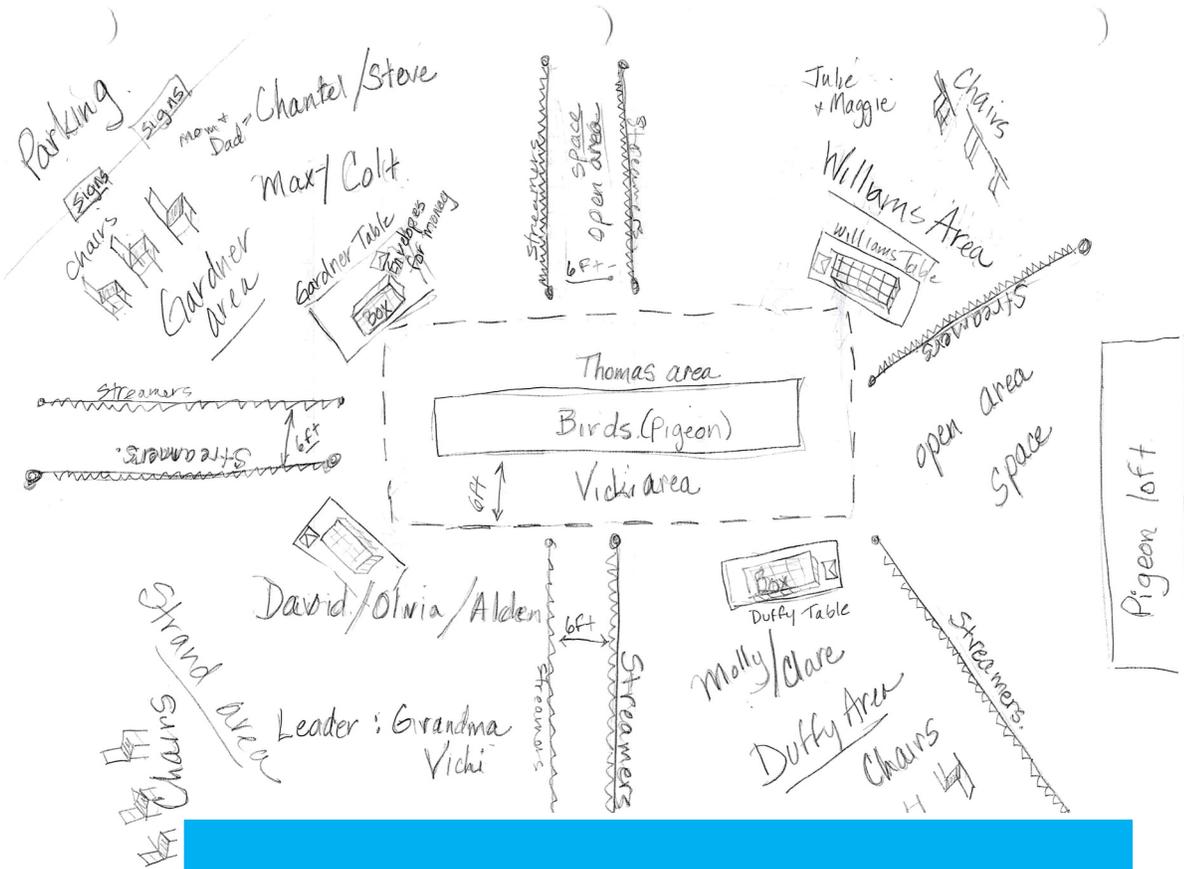
Usually, we would have someone come in and speak. With no extra frills allowed we did the one thing we hadn't done in months. There was true excitement to have a meeting. We needed a new secretary, treasurer & vice president. Our president kept his spot because he had waited 10 years to have it and the first year he got to be president, Covid happened. He showed us how much he has gone by helping the Fly-In run smoothly. With the lawn divided into 4 sections , a six foot buffer in between each section, each family had a safe area. From their safe zones they could practice fit & show, have a much desired meeting, play a couple of ice breaker games and finally enter the bird zone one at a time to pick their birds. When all the birds had colored E-Z Clip bands on to match each kids color of bands the birds were let go and they could fly back to their loft (one loft on the property)

Vicki Strand provided a layout for project approval by the state (next page). Cont'd pg 4



4-H THUNDERBIRDS

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Event layout presented to the state for event approval.

