Pigeon Tracks

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

Karen Clifton, Executive Director

As the school year starts to wrap up, you are probably thinking of summer fun and activities. What do your summer plans include?

Many of you will have completed the 2019 old bird race season by the time school is out. Some of you will still be actively racing with your clubs and since you will be out of school, you will have more time to spend in the loft and with your birds.

Summer is also a great time to invite friends over and introduce them to your hobby and your birds. You might just gain some new members for your club. Wouldn't it be fun to have more juniors in your club? If you find some of your friends are interested, help them along and let them get an idea of what your loft management is and be sure to let us know. We will send some brochures and literature that will also be helpful and of interest.

Though we still have the summer months in front of us to enjoy, we are also looking ahead to the **AU's 2019 Dr. Frank Greenhall National Youth Race**. This will be the AU's 22nd National Youth Race! The race will be held during the 2019 AU Convention in Ogden, Utah. The winner will receive a free trip to the 2020 AU Convention, which will be held in Baltimore, Maryland!

We are pleased many of you have decided to participate. We wish the following AU junior members the best of luck. If your name does not appear on this list, it is because we didn't receive an application for you. Please call or email (405-848-5801 or augrow@aol.com) and let us know so we may get you on the list and properly acknowledge you.

Chloe Aycock
Connor Aycock
Enoch Crabtree
David Dow
Colt Gardner
Max Gardner
Athinian Holloway
Zealynn Holloway
Brynn Horton
Grayson Horton
Clara Jackson
Iris Kowalski
Liam Kowalski
Milo Kowalski
Brooklynne Michael
Christian Michael
Madison Michael
Tanner Michael
Julianna Salinovici
Luke Salinovici
Sean Salinovici
Danielle Smith
Ryker Smith
Maggie Williams

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The Old & The New,
The Only Way to Fly!

It is a position that not a lot of older pigeon flyers will take on. First, you have to listen to a bunch of kids, then, try to pass some kind of information down to them and finally just watch the kids do lots of different mistakes as they develop their own style.

For the Thunderbirds of Bellingham, WA, Ted Amsler, is the man. He attends all of their 4-H meetings, Fly-Ins, basketings, racing days, and knock offs. The pay off on his end is very small, the child asking him an odd question or a repeat child taking advantage of Ted's ability to pick good birds at the Fly-in. The part he doesn't see is that when he doesn't get to a meeting (due to not being able to drive at night) the kids miss him. They like having him around. He is their future and their past. He represents what they can become. Both in being a Pigeon Fancier, and being a mentor to kids when they get older. The past they don't remember can come alive through Ted's eyes. That special bird he flew for years, his favorite breed, the other racers he's known, the great races he won.

My hat goes off to that guy, Ted, standing and watching the kids while wearing their club hat and T-Shirt to show his support of the club. To that occasional young bird he donates so the kids can fight over it and pick it at the Fly-in to be flown as their own. May there be many, many more Ted's to help keep this sport alive.

The 4-H Thunderbirds

A recent FUN FIND on ebay.

World War I messenger pigeon grouping: message capsule, medal, theater bullion patches.

What can you find out about our birds' amazing ancestors from World Wars I and II? It might be fun and fascinating to check.

SAY IT ISN'T SO!

Many people associate pigeons with illnesses – wrongly so, according to animal welfare groups. The health risks linked to pigeons are no greater than those of domestic pets or other captive and wild birds, says the German Animal Welfare Federation.

Those who feed pigeons with bread chunks or meat leftovers are also not doing them any favors. Such food is not good for the birds because it is often missing important nutrients. You and I both know that grains are best for pigeons to consume.

Pass it on!

2019 Youth Membership Contest

ESSAY CONTEST

This year is the 75th anniversary of an important day in history, D-Day. Many events across the country will commemorate the day. Why would D-Day be of value to know about in our sport/hobby with racing homing pigeons? Find out about the significance to us, as pigeon fanciers, of D-Day. Share that with us. Help us understand why we should care about that day with regard to pigeons.

THE RULES

Write an essay about the topic above. The minimum length of the essay is 100 words. Provide enough explanation to make the point of your essay very clear. Essays must be the original work of the AU junior member. Following instructions and having the entry in by the deadline will improve your chances of winning.* Membership must be current to be eligible. (*Past AU Youth Membership Contest winners are not eligible to win.)

THE PRIZE

For the *seventeenth* year, the amazing prize of a Benzing electronic timing system has been donated by Ed Minvielle and Charles Siegel & Son, as representatives of Benzing. Ed & Siegel's want to see youth participation in the sport grow. The AU appreciates their continued generosity.

THE DEADLINE

The entries must be postmarked by August 30, 2019. The winner will be selected prior to, and announced during, the 2019 annual convention held in Ogden, Utah. The AU "Youth Membership Contest" is open to all AU junior members.* (*Past AU Youth Membership Contest winners are not eligible to win.)

Please provide the following:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ CLUB (if applicable): _____

I hereby submit my entry in the 2019 AU Youth Membership Contest. I have read and understand the rules and certify that I have written the essay myself.

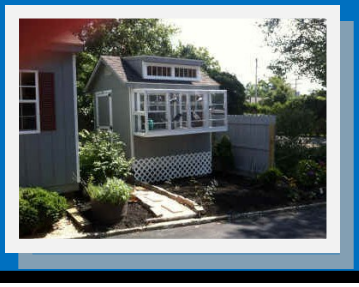
_____ _____ _____

(Signature—Junior Member) (Signature—Parent or Guardian) (Date)

Return this entry form with your essay to the AU national office.
It must be postmarked no later than August 30, 2019.
Mail to: American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc., P.O. Box 18465, Oklahoma City, OK 73154

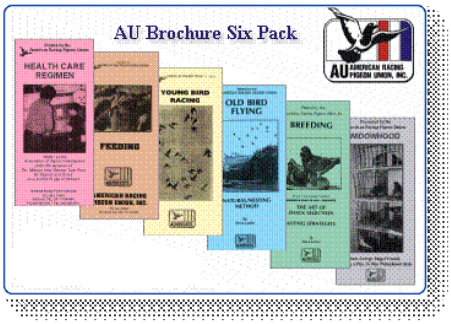
Showcase Lofts

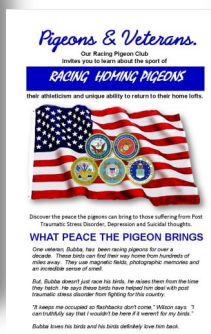
We would love to see your lofts. Email your pictures and a little background about yourself and the loft to aupromo@aol.com. We will feature your loft on the AU website.



2016 AU loft contest winner.

Need to promote your hobby? We've got you covered!





Let us know what you need.

You don't want to miss an opportunity to win a free Benzing Electronic Timing System, courtesy of Siegel's Pigeon Supply and Ed Minvielle. They have been providing this gift to the essay contest winner several years.

Don't let this awesome prize pass you by. All it takes is an essay submission and you will be in consideration to win.

DO NOT, REPEAT, DO NOT, let this pass you by! Did you know the value of this prize can be as high at $1000?

SEE PAGE 4!

Contact information:
American Racing Pigeon Union
PO Box 18465
Oklahoma City, OK 73154
1-800-755-2778, toll free
1-405-848-5801, telephone
1-405-848-5888, fax
www.pigeon.org

This annual event is where the Thunderbird members practice what they know about birds and learn new things through presentations. There is an educational talk, then the Thunderbirds pick their young birds that they will race the current year.

The day's schedule includes a Fit & Show, Demonstrations, Lunch, a talk on pigeons, a drawing for pigeons, closing with a silent auction.

This year, everyone enjoyed hot dogs, chili, chips, cookies and a veggie tray, along with homemade items provided.

It is during lunchtime that members can take a 3X5 card around and look at the baby birds. They write the numbers of the cages of the birds they like so they may locate them later. They pick several in case their favorites are already sold.

All the silent auction proceeds go to the Thunderbirds and are used for their hats and bands for their birds. Every child that joins the club receives a hat that they can put their winning pins on. They are always in need of hats. Anyone can donate stuff for the silent auction.

Anyone that would like to donate young birds to the kids can do so. The kids will fly the birds for young birds, take them to the fair, and then the birds (if not taken home by the kids) will be put into the Strand loft to be raced as OB and kids can keep watch on them. They also get first choice of babies from their birds from previous years.

Does this sound like something you would enjoy? If you are in the Bellingham, Washington area, call Vicki at 360-966-4796 to find out more.