

MSPA Official Newsletter

Winter 2018

Thanks to the efforts of our knowledgeable members this issue is again full of great articles and information about the pigeon hobby. If you have an idea for the newsletter or would like to contribute an article, please contact me at Pigeonprekker@hotmail.com I would welcome your input.

The Electronic Newsletter Reminder!

Due to the cost of postage and printing a high-quality newsletter, the MSPA Board of Directors has decided to make the quarterly newsletter available on the MSPA web site at <http://www.minnesotastatepigeonassociation.com>, under the Member Section tab. If you are a member that doesn't have internet access, you can view the newsletter at your local library or request a mailed copy at: **MSPA Newsletter, 21500 201st Street NW, Big Lake, MN 55309** or call (612)889-2945. Prior to the posting of every Newsletter, a postcard will be sent to each member alerting him/her to the availability of the new on-line Newsletter. For the time being no password is necessary to view the "Membership Section" of the web site. An archive of past newsletters will also be available on the MSPA web site. The Newsletter can be downloaded or printed from the web site if the member desires a hard copy. **If you have already notified me of your desire to receive the Newsletter via conventional mail, there is no need to notify me again, I will mail your copy!**

IF YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES PLEASE NOTIFY US!

. Notice of MSPA Swaps and Upcoming Events

Submitted by - Patti Dietzel

The MSPA is planning on hosting two swaps in **2018**. They are scheduled for - **March 24th and September 29th** at the McLeod County Fair Grounds in Hutchinson, MN. Further information should be elsewhere in this bulletin. We are also planning on a summer picnic and lawn show. Timing of this has not been finalized. The 2018 North Star Classic is set for Saturday, November 10th. It should be another great one. Hope to see you there.

Officers' Reports

A Message from our President

Submitted by - Paul Lepinski

I would like to thank all the individuals that supported me and voted for me in this past election.

We had a good turn out for the annual meeting although I was hoping for more of a turn out. I am hoping in the future we can have a greater attendance by the members of the MSPA. The input from the members is vitally important to attempt to please the majority of the membership.

The board has chosen to have two swaps this upcoming year one on the 24th of March and the second one on the 29th of September. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan on attending them. Meetings will also be held in conjunction with the swaps. Please invite a friend and get the word out about the swaps! We need people to make these successful. I have already been working on this upcoming North Star Classic and my personal goal is to bring the entries above a thousand again. In order to reach that goal I will need the support of all members. I hope to see all of you at the swap and until then please stay healthy and be safe.

1st Vice President's Message

Submitted by - Tim Kvidera

Thank you all who participated in the recent elections. Even though there was a slim slate many of you took the time to express your wishes. Remember this is your club. We officers are in place to work on your behalf and point the club in the direction you want us to go. We need your input. A great way to provide that is to attend as many of the upcoming meetings as you can and speak up.

It was a pleasure being part of Bruce Rhode's team the past four years. Thank you Bruce for your consistent efforts to facilitate the Board and Membership meetings and keep us all on track.

By this time all should have received the Show Catalog tabulating the results of the 2017 MSPA North Star Classic. I enjoy putting it together. It forces me to refresh my computer skills, which tend to get a bit dormant when no longer in the work force. But it also reminds me why they call that moving, blinky vertical line, arrow or hand image a curser. Maybe it should be a curse, as I am sure I was the curser. :-)

Anyway, a couple interesting things that came out of the work I put into the show report. This year the Show Catalog was sent electronically to those entrants who requested it, as well as to the MSPA members who get the bulletins electronically. This cut the printing and mailing costs in at least half, saving the club many dollars. The report was sent to all exhibitors as well as those on the current MSPA mailing list. Which brings up the second point, I would like to make. About half of our 94 people on the mailing list are in arrears with their membership. 43 of you have only paid dues through 2017. Yes there are all sorts of reasons one may forget to stay current. I too have been tardy in dues paying to some of the many organizations I have belonged to over the years. When I sent the electronic Show Catalogs out they were batched with notes informing the recipients of their current MSPA membership status. Hard copy recipients had their membership status noted on the address label. If you are not paid up 2018 or longer, please consider renewing. We need your support. And if you do not get current this may be the last bulletin you receive this year.

I am sure that many of you have already paired up your birds for the season, if not for real at least on paper. Best wishes to all for a successful season. See you at the MSPA swap and meeting March 24th.

PLEASE PAY YOUR 2018 MSPA DUES

Many of the MSPA members from 2016 and 2017 have not paid their 2018 membership dues. As Tim Kvidera pointed out in his report above, the dues are really inexpensive and support a great organization. We are an all volunteer organization and not one penny of your dues goes to anything that isn't supporting the pigeon hobby. Please use the form on page 11 of the Newsletter and submit your 2018 dues today! MSPA dues expire on December 31st of the year. Unless you are currently paid up for 2018, or beyond, this will be the last bulletin you will receive.

Anyone that is not current when the Spring 2018 Newsletter is prepared in May will not receive one. You also will not receive the member rates at the spring swaps. Thanks a million in advance for renewing!

If you are not yet a member for 2018, we would invite you to continue your membership with the MSPA by sending your dues to Patti Dietzel, 12355 134th Street, Cologne, MN 55322.

MSPA Treasurer's Report Executive Summary current through February 17, 2018 Respectfully submitted by - Patti Dietzel, Treasurer

Account Information Minnesota State Pigeon Association Trust Checking & Savings Accounts

Business **Checking balance** - \$2,219.05
Pending Withdrawals/ Debits \$0.00
Pending Deposits/ Credits \$130.00
Available Balance \$2,349.05

Business Market Rate **Savings balance** - \$3,091.69
Pending Withdrawals/ Debits \$0.00
Available Balance: \$3,091.69

Total - \$5,440.74

Out of 100 MSPA memberships, 63 members are current on membership dues.

MSPA Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2018 Pot Luck Meeting
Submitted by - Patti Dietzel

MSPA Members Meeting:

It was decided to have a spring and fall swap. Dates are tentatively: March 24 and Sept 29.

We need to get a hold of Randy at the fairgrounds to reserve dates. Paul was asked to do this, the sooner the better.

Need to have Ardy put in newsletter if dates are booked with Randy. Should also utilize social media and pass out flyers at New Ulm show on Feb. 3rd.

It was considered to give MSPA current members a free pass into swaps and non members would pay \$3. However, anyone with a carrier or cage (empty or full) would pay \$1 per cage or carrier.

It was discussed that we need verbiage that states appropriate containers are required to transport/handle birds. Amy N suggested the following statements: Must have ventilation, Solid, firm form construction. Suggested to have Ardy put this in the newsletter also. This was brought up due to an incident in California.

It was voted and passed that the MSPA can spend \$75-\$100 to replace the trailer jack on one of the trailers. All we need is the man power now.

It was voted to send an additional \$100 to the Legacy fund to bump us into the Ruby section of \$500.

Discussion of bus: Paul will look into the short bus.

The validation of MSPA election ballots was conducted.

Meeting Adjourned

Pot Luck dinner was served!

New Requirements of the 4H Poultry State Fair Committee
Submitted by - Patti Dietzel

Today our local 4H office sent out a mass email with the new requirements that the 4H Poultry State Fair Committee has implemented. Below are the new changes:

Pigeon Bands: Pigeons must be identified by permanent seamless leg bands # by May 15. The bands must be entered in 4HOnline.

In the past, we did not document pigeon or dove band numbers until we arrived at the county fairgrounds. State guidelines are requiring exhibitors to document what birds they plan to exhibit by MAY 15.

Pigeons - Breeding pairs must have previous year's seamless band or older on
Dove - Breeding pair must have previous year's seamless band or older on
Young birds must have current year's seamless band on

ALL Pigeon and Doves must have their band number identified by May 15, submitted online through a digital identification database.

Must have seamless band and be identified by May 15

I have the fliers that came out with the email.

Patti Dietzel

952-303-9948



Dis and Dat
Submitted by - Tim Kvidera

In the Fall 2017 issue of the MSPA bulletin Gail Peterson authored a thoughtful article on needing to maintain diversity within your flock to ensure the ability to improve the family through selective breeding. His article was titled *Yin and Yang of Pigeon Breeding* and dealt with maintaining a harmonious balance within the breeding colony using the natural variation and breeder's selection. I will translate these oriental terms into Midwestern, don't ya know, to..... Dis and Dat.

Ideally one would like to have a loft full of fantastic, perfect birds. Each a clone of the standard for the respective breed. But the perfect bird, let alone a loft full of them, does not exist. Inbreeding will enhance the probability that the birds within the family are more and more alike, but that does not necessarily make them better and better, they are just the same. How do we make them progressively better?

The common theme in most selective breeding programs is to improve the family by mating complimentary birds that bring their strong points to the pairing while not reinforcing their weaknesses by having the same faults. You mate a bird strong in **Dis**, and good in the rest, to one strong in **Dat** - hoping the youngsters will get some of each of the Dis and Dat stuff; and little of the poor stuff. One term often used for this system is point blend mating.

You pair a bird with an especially good head and average body to an exceptionally good bodied bird with an average head with the thought being some of the youngsters will end up with both a good head as well as a good body. A bird with good color, but weak feathered, paired to a strong feathered bird with so-so color. A deep, slow roller to a short, tight, fast spinner. An over marked bird to an under marked one. Etc., etc... You try to blend the good points from one parent with the good points of the other parent expecting that some of the offspring will be good in both traits. Just as the Yin and Yang interact to make the whole, **the Dis and Dat come together to make the WOW.**

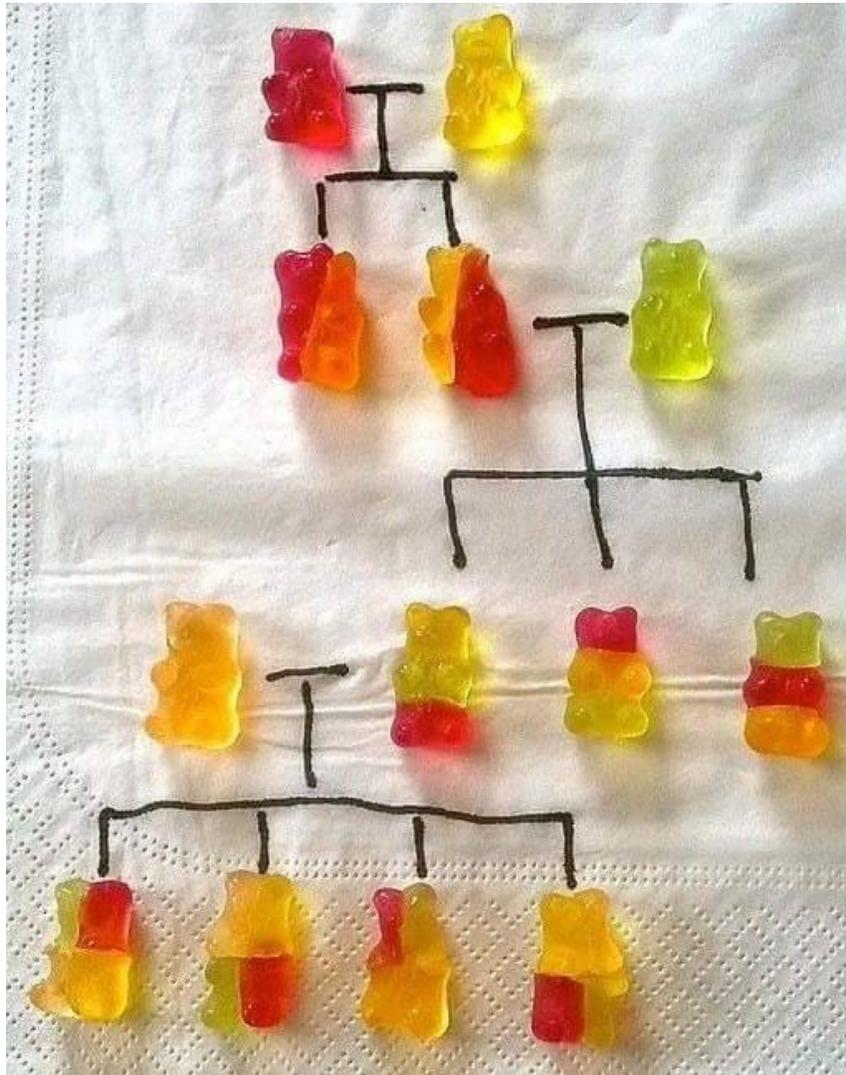
Most, if not all, standards for the respective breeds have a requirement of the breed features being in harmonious balance while desiring those breed features to be

exaggerated. Tall wide crest on a short cobby body. Large, full, fanned tail on a refined, small, round body. Full, well rounded, large muffs with short wings and tail.

Within the loft there will be variations in the different breed specific traits bird to bird. As Gail noted in his article, not all peas within the pod are alike. But, which are the most useful ones in a breeding program? You need to have, and use, birds with extremes. Birds that are almost at fault for being too good in an aspect than what is required by the standard. Use the ones that greatly excel in their specific trait/s which are good elsewhere. Blend that bird with a bird that excels where the other one is just good.

A good family of birds with some variation, which has individuals who excel in specific traits, when properly blended, will achieve superiority. Until that is achieved, making them all the same will only achieve mediocrity.

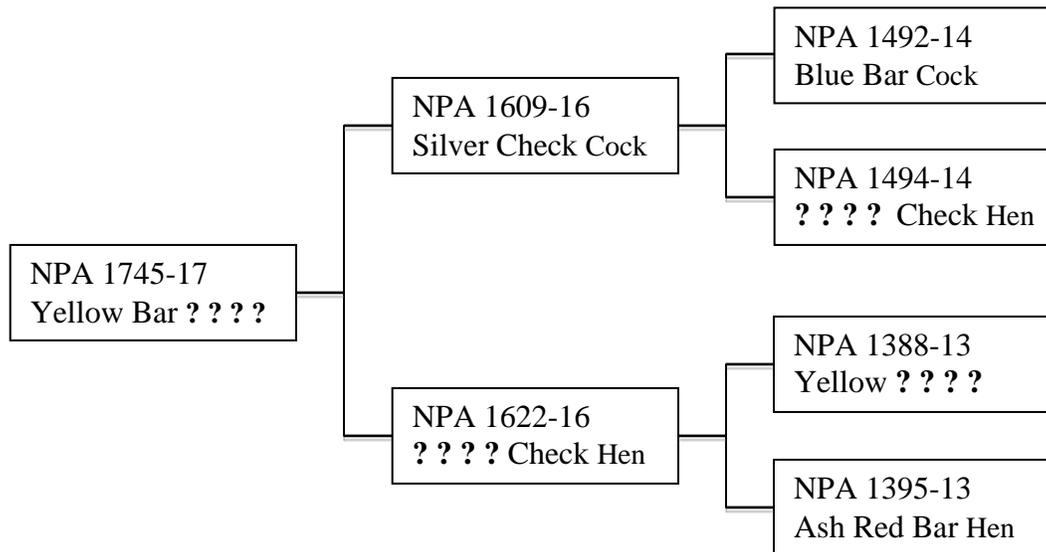
Gummy Bear Genetics



Picture provided by John Johnson and Gail Peterson

Pigeon Pedigree Puzzler

NPA Newsletter Winter 2018



Assume that all the birds in the two-generation pedigree above are the products of individual breeding pens so that we may be 100% confident that the parentage, as shown in the pedigree, is correct. The pedigree gives a (fictitious) NPA band number for each bird, as well as indicating its color, pattern, and sex --- with four exceptions, as listed below.

1. The sex of the Yellow Bar NPA 1745-17 is not indicated.
2. The color of the Check Hen NPA 1622-16 is not indicated.
3. The color of the Check Hen NPA 1494-14 is not indicated.
4. The pattern of Yellow Cock NPA 1388-13 is not indicated.

Solve this puzzle by correctly filling in the blanks in the following statements:

1. The sex of the Yellow Bar NPA 1745-17 must be _____.
2. The color of the Check Hen NPA 1622-16 must be _____.
3. The color of the Check Hen NPA 1494-14 must be _____.
4. The pattern of Yellow Cock NPA 1388-13 must be _____.

See Page **10** for the answers.

A Hip-Hop Ditty 'Bout Shoppin' Online

Submitted by – Gail Peterson

(Tempo about 80 bpm, 4 to the bar, start on the backbeat)

I like to shop online with Amazon
'Cuz I can sit with my pajamas on
An' scroll down the pages *ad infinitum*
'Til I come to one that shows an item
I think I want!

They got everything you'd ever need;
Lots and lots of great books to read
On art and science and world religions,
On dogs and cats and fancy pigeons,
An' that's what I want!

Homer books, full of bars and checkers,
An' for fancy birds, there's Ardy Prekker's
Big yellow book on the Indian Fan-
Tail, of course -- it's terrific, man.
An' it's what *you* want!

An' if you use the search term "*pigeon supplies*",
Y'get a list so long you won't believe your eyes.
An' don't forget where this is comin' from,
It's not Foy's or Jedd's, -- it's Amazon dot com!!

An' when the stuff you want has filled your cart,
You just check out with your MasterCard.
It's easy as pie, so quick and slick
To rack up a debt with an itty-bitty click.

But when I need sumpin and need it soon,
I jus' call in my order to Denny Kuhn.
It's quick as a wink, no muss or fuss,
To shop online at *Pigeon Supplies Plus*.

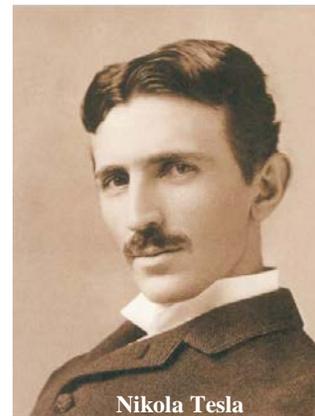
I jus' scan his catalog, make my picks,
Then call 2-1-2-8-4-4-6
(Area Code: 9-5-2).
Loggin' off now, so toodle-loo to you.

-GBP

The Strange and Amazing Nikola Tesla

Submitted by – Gail Peterson

Many famous people have shared our interest in pigeons. (For some examples, see www.rpra.org/famous-pigeon-fanciers/). Nikola Tesla (1886-1943) was probably the strangest of them all. You may be familiar with the name Tesla thanks to the stylish all-electric car by that name, including the sharp red Tesla Roadster convertible soon to be well beyond Mars in permanent orbit around the sun, or perhaps because you've heard that something called a *tesla coil* underlies the magic of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), or maybe you've learned about the new kind of storage battery, the "Tesla Powerwall", that efficiently stores solar- or wind-generated electrical energy for use when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing, or maybe you're aware of the modern advance in the wireless transmission of electricity based on phenomena Tesla discovered a century ago --- or perhaps you've heard the name because of any number of other practical technologies that trace back to the unique genius of Nikola Tesla. Tesla was way ahead of his time, and although we all take 120-volt AC-electricity (his invention) for granted like the air we breathe, modern material science is only now beginning to catch up with many of his most ingenious ideas and make them reality. How big a genius was he? He may have been the greatest scientific mind of all time. Consider this: when a reporter asked Albert Einstein how it felt to be the smartest man alive, Einstein replied, "I don't know, you'll have to ask Nikola Tesla."



And on top of all that, Tesla loved pigeons. There is reason to believe he kept pigeons as a boy back in his native Croatia, but when he had grown up and moved to America, he did not become a fancier in the usual sense of that word. He truly did love and care for pigeons, though. He regularly fed feral pigeons and would even take injured ones home to his hotel apartment and nurse them back to health. He also tamed many of them, and one of those tamed pigeons meant the world to him. This pigeon and its importance to him are described on the *Tesla Universe* website:



This is said to be a picture of Tesla's Favorite Pigeon

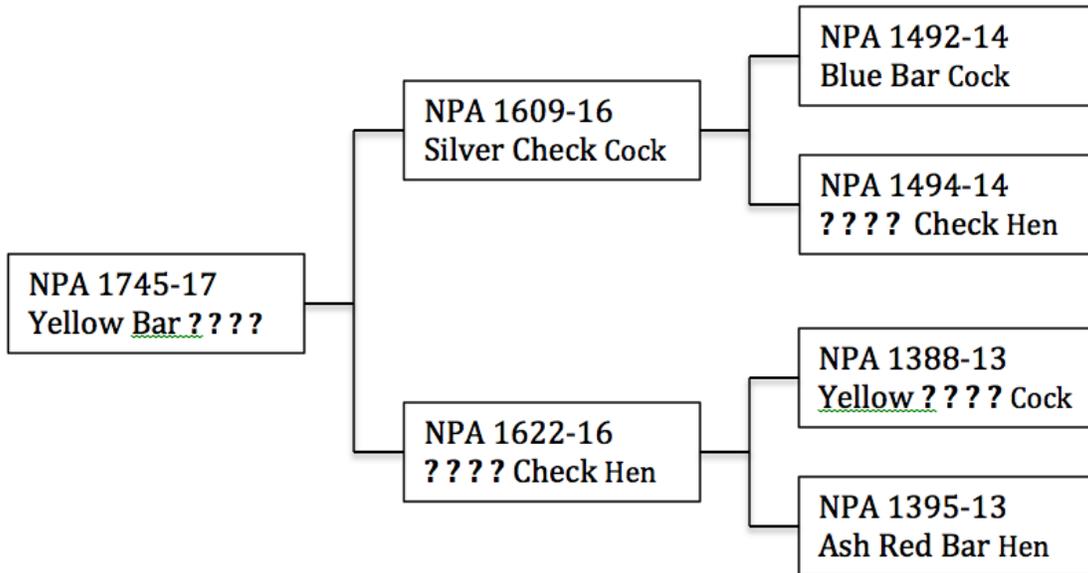
Tesla had many pigeons he fed and cared for, but one, he was particularly fond of. He described it as being a beautiful female bird, pure white with light gray tips on its wings. One night the bird flew into Tesla's room at the Hotel St. Regis, and he perceived that she was attempting to tell him she was dying. Tesla said a light came from her eyes more intense than he had ever produced by the most powerful lamps in his laboratory. The bird then died and Tesla said that at that same moment, something went out of his life and he knew his life's work was finished.

Wow! Now that's what I call an *eye sign*!

-GBP

Pigeon Pedigree Puzzler

NPA Newsletter Winter 2018



The correct answers are:

1. The sex of the Yellow Bar NPA 1745-17 must be Cock
2. The color of the Check Hen NPA 1622-16 must be Yellow
3. The color of the Check Hen NPA 1494-14 must be Silver or Khaki
4. The pattern of Yellow Cock NPA 1388-13 must be Check





**Minnesota State Pigeon Association
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**

Date: ____/____/____ **New** () **Renewal** ()

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: (____) ____-____ **Cell Number:** (____) ____-____

E-mail Address: _____

Bulletin Option: () Read on MSPA web site, () E-mail, () Postal Delivery

Membership Options and Dues:

Individual () \$10.00

Family () \$15.00

Junior () \$5.00

Please note: The membership year is January 1st to December 31st. Any new memberships received after November 1st will be applied to the following year unless specific instructions are provided to apply the dues to the current year.

Mail to:
Patti Dietzel
MSPA Treasurer
12355 134th Street
Cologne, MN