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2010 Brahma National Frankenmuth MI. go to [fowlfest.org](http://fowlfest.org)

# American Brahma Club Handbook

As most may have heard either at the National in Shawnee or through past scanners, we are in the process of putting together a new Handbook for the Brahma club. This is something that is way past due being the last one was printed in 1988. We won't be able to accomplish this task overnight but need to get this done this year.

Kim Aldrich has already started getting some prices and it is not as bad as we thought but still is going to be expensive from the standpoint of a small organization like ours. Our hope is that through selling ads we will be able to pay for the printing. The ads are going to be in two sizes only: half-page will be \$50 and a full-page: \$100. I know this sounds pretty high but remember the last handbook is 21 years old. That's awfully cheap advertisement broken down over that many years. Hopefully it won't be that long before the next one is done but this is not something the club can afford on a regular basis.

Along with advertisements we need everyone to dig through old articles, books, magazines, etc. and help us find really informative things that you think a new or long time member would find helpful. This will be a major undertaking for everyone involved but hopefully something we will all be proud of in the end.

Please consider placing an add, this will be the make or break to this project.

Chad Spence  
ABC President

**Jay's Family Bantams**  
**113 Blakley Rd. Butler PA 16002**  
**724-553-0610**

**BRAHMAS BANTAMS IN LIGHTS AND BUFF**  
**BRAHMA STANDARD IN LIGHTS AND DARKS**  
**COCHINS BANTAMS IN BLACKS AND WHITE**  
**ASSORTED OTHERS BANTAMS**  
**BIRDS FOR SALE**

## ABC PRESIDENT CHAD SPENCE

Well a new year has started and where has the time gone. Lots of changes have happened with hopefully more to come. As everyone knows Kim Aldrich is our new Sec./Tres. after a long and successful tenure from Sandy Kavanaugh. I will stop here and thank Sandy for all she has done in promoting the Brahma Club and the Brahma breed. She is the main reason the club is where it is today and I hope that we can take Sandy's work forward from here and make her proud. I'm excited about working with Kim and I think he has a lot to offer the club and a real passion for exhibition poultry especially Brahmas.

The 2009 Brahma National in Shawnee , Oklahoma was a success in many ways. The club raised a little over \$300.00, brought in some new and renewed members and showed the southern part of the U.S. some top quality Brahmas. You will find the results further along in this scanner.

The 2010 National has been set for Frankenmuth , Michigan on October 9th & 10<sup>th</sup>. This should be another fantastic northern national. I'm already setting up my vacation for a trek to the great white north and look forward to seeing old acquaintances and meeting new ones. So set up those breeding pens for early birds and make plans on being there.

As in the past couple of years we are hard at work on the 2011 National and hope to get an early jump on getting this voted on and ready to announce at the 2010 annual meeting. So be watching your scanners and please voice your opinion.

One goal we set every year and that is to be more prompt about getting the scanners out to everyone and this year is no different. We are going to try our best to keep everyone informed and that is best done through our scanner.

For sometime now we have needed a new American Brahma Club Handbook and that is going to be a top priority this year. And that reminds me we are going to be selling ads for the Scanner and for the Handbook. They are both good deals and remember, the last Handbook was around for about 22 years. That is a really good deal in advertisement.

Things looked a little gloomy there for a while but I feel like I am starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel. I appreciate everyone that has played any part in helping with the club from members to officers and ask that you keep up the good work. Don't be bashful in calling on any of the directors or officers if you have any questions or ideas, we for sure don't know it all.

Thanks

Chad Spence ABC President

Okay, here goes!

Well, this is a first for me, I can tell you that! It's the first time I believe I've addressed the best breed club in the world as a regular member instead of the "Goofy" Secretary! No worries, I'll always be as goofy as ever, but since the club is now in the more capable hands of my good friend Kim Aldrich, we should experience a wonderful new growing phase. And he's not goofy at all, so we're gonna be all right!

Chad Spence, the rock that's held this club through some mighty hard times, appointed Kim as Secretary this January, as that office cannot go vacant. Too much is at stake for our club, and even the Fancy in general to allow any down time. Kim has offered his services for us in the past, and in taking up the office of Secretary/Treasurer, is really doing his part for our club. Many thanks to both Kim and his wife Kendra, as they are truly a working team for the club. What one may not know, the other does, and our club will greatly benefit from this dynamic duo!

This year should see some positive changes for our club. Hopefully, the bantam Blacks should finally be rightfully placed in the APA Standard of Perfection, as their Revision Committee has worked tirelessly to align the ABA Standard's accepted breeds into the APA's Standard. It's only a matter of time before the paperwork is completed, the deposit on new text made, and our gorgeous little Black featherfeet will take their rightful place amongst the Buffs, Darks, and original Lights. This will be a big deal for many of us who have admired the Black bantams for so long. Thanks in the most part goes to Greg Williams, who has spent the last 30 or so years perfecting these little gems into the prime examples of purebred Brahmas that they are.

Another positive change I see for this coming year in the club is the fact that it seems we have more young folks wanting to learn more about poultry in general. Much of this may be due to the increasing interest in urban and suburban populations learning to grow a small garden, wanting better eggs, and the wonderful possibilities that go with raising poultry. More young people means an expanded Fancy, and that benefits all of us.

At the opposite spectrum of age, there are many older folks who know have the leisure time to pursue a hobby they really enjoyed many years ago, but due to family and work, didn't have the finances or time to keep their hobby going. Now, with children out of their nest, they can make a bunch of little ones and put chickens in them! What a great way to spend your day- taking care of little critters who will dote on you and actually listen to what you have to say. Not too many parents can honestly say that about their own kids, can they?

Of course, the only bird to have, (in my unbiased opinion,) is a Brahma. There are loads of choices to pick from- Large Fowl or bantam, Darks, Lights, Buffs, Partridge, Blacks, and even now are some available in the Large Fowl in the striking Silver Laced variety. Don't tell me that you can't find a colorful Brahma! Plus, their personality stands out so much on the Brahma- the friendliness of the birds, especially the males, is a trademark of the breed. It doesn't matter whether you prefer the giant, economy size Large Fowl, or the personal sized bantam, Brahmas are known for their extroverted proclivities and their positive attitudes.

Put them in a show cage, and you'll see majesty in the making! The regal lift of the noble head, beetle brow obscuring the harsh lights of the show room, the wide fanned and medium length tail, the heavily feathered shanks and full, round bodies will catch any judge's eye in a heartbeat. And may well catch many hearts, as well. How many of us have walked away from such a bird in a show and not wished they could take them home? Count me among the many!

Before closing, I just had to say thank you to so many different people. During my time as the Goofy Secretary, I've met more folks than I ever imagined possible, and they were all great poultry people. From the day Doris Robinson generously gave of her time, travel expenses, and computer know-how, I've had other poultry folks lending me a helping hand. And not once did they ever ask for interest! I've believed in trying to give back the goodness I've received, but I'm so far behind now, I'll never make it! I've had the honorable privilege of serving under Doris, Danny Williamson, Steve Jones, and Chad Spence as Presidents, and let me tell you- it wasn't easy at all for them!

Those of you who know me realize I can be a single minded, (you may read that as stubborn,) tenacious, never-shut-up-about-it old lady. These poor people knew it too, and never once smacked me on the head, even though I probably deserved it. They led our club through some rocky times, but we're all still here and the club is still growing. As long as all of us work together for a common goal, we can attain any heights. We need to remember that, because even with all our differences, we are much more alike than we are different. At least, we poultry people are; the rest of the world is a mystery to me!

Do yourself and the Fancy a favor- get to a show, ask what you can do to help. Start up a 4-H poultry club in your county, build a local poultry club in your area. It could be for both open and junior, or either. Just do something to help the Fancy keep going. Buy a Standard, either the APA or the ABA, or preferably both. Buy one as a gift, and start a new career for a future poultry man/woman. Just do something to help this wonderful pastime that has meant so much to many of us. I think the Kentucky state motto says it best of all: "United we stand; divided, we fall."

Yours in the Fancy,  
Sandy

Visit our web site! It's located at [www.theamericanbrahmaclub.org](http://www.theamericanbrahmaclub.org)  
This is a new site and should be up shortly.

WEB SITE: could use HELP in setting it up. Email me at  
[kima53@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kima53@sbcglobal.net)

## District #1 REPORT

Hello, my name is Jay Yobst and I am from Butler, Pennsylvania. I raise Cochins, Brahmas, and numerous other breeds of poultry. I have raised poultry my entire life and have been the leader of our local 4-H club, Butler County Poultry Club, for 15 years. I was also the Vice President and Director of various other poultry clubs in the past. Feel free to call or write to me regarding the club or poultry questions. I recently showed my poultry at the 94th

Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, PA. At this event, there were over 1,800 birds; there were 50 Brahmas bantams and 12 large fowl Brahmas. We had a very nice display of Brahmas there. There were 18 Buff Brahmas in the show; Best of Variety and Best of Breed went to Jackson Faulkner with a Buff Cock. Reserve of Variety and Reserve of Breed went to Jay and Kim Yobst with a Buff



Cockerel. Thirteen Light Brahmas were on exhibit, Best of Variety went to Jack Tickle with a Cock and Reserve of Variety went to Jay and Kim Yobst's Cockerel. In addition, there were 7 Dark Brahmas bantams. Best of Variety went to Jackson Faulkner with a cockerel and Jack Tickle took Reserve of Variety with a Cock bird. There were 12 large fowl which included 6 Light Brahmas. Best of Variety and Best of Breed in the Light Brahmas category went to Jack Tickle's Hen and Reserve Variety and Reserve of Breed went to Jay and Kim Yobst's Hen. Also, there were 4 Buff Brahmas large fowl, Best of Variety went to Jack Tickle with a hen and Reserve of Variety went to Jay and Kim Yobst also with a hen. There were 2 Dark Brahmas large fowl. Best of Variety and Reserve of Variety was won by Jack Tickle with a Hen taking Best and Reserve taken by a Dark Cock Brahmas. We had very enjoyable weather this week and they did a very nice job with the show's set-up and the handling and care for the birds. We greatly appreciated all the hard work that went into such a nice display.

Yours Truly,

Jay Yobst  
113 Blakely Road  
Butler, PA 16002  
724-553-0610

## District 2 Director's Report

These are things not normally seen in Florida during the winter as in the rest of the country.

1)Thermometers showing temperatures reading in the teens; 2)People bundled up with winter jackets, hats, scarves, and gloves; 3)People roaming through Wal-Mart looking for winter jackets, hats, scarves, and gloves; 4)Windshields that have to be defrosted; 5) People scraping their windshields; 5)People being able to see their breath when the exhale; 6)People slipping and falling on the ice; 7)Drinking a whole lot of hot chocolate to warm up instead of iced tea or bottled water to cool off; 8)Rosy cheeks from cold weather rather than sunburn. Well, whoever was at the American Brahma Club District Meet in Lake City, Florida, the weekend of January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> saw all the above and more. However, as cold as it was, we all had a good time despite the cold. The Florida Poultry Fanciers Association put on a wonderful show, as usual. There were people from Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Texas, and more, so I guess they felt right at home. Danny and Norma Padgett did the great job that they always do which included feeding us a light meal on Friday night and a nice hot meal for lunch on Saturday, but most of all, making us feel welcome and glad that we were able to come to the show.

As far as the rest of District 2 goes, I hope all is well with you and your Majestic Brahmas. Now that the hectic holidays are over with for another year, we can start to get our breeding pens going. We still have a few more shows coming up in the southeast because once the summer comes, it is just too hot until the latter part of fall is here. I usually try to keep up with all the meets, but if there is one you attend on a regular basis, feel free to email me to make sure that I have granted an American Brahma Club meet.

I am going to list the shows in February and March to which I have granted meets so far. If you need information on any of the shows listed, and you can't get in touch with the contact person, feel free to email me at [nicolas951@gmail.com](mailto:nicolas951@gmail.com) and I will see what I can find out for you.

### **Florida**

#### *Special Meets:*

March 27, 2010 Central Florida Poultry Breeders Association Spring Show  
Turner Agri-Civic Center, Arcadia, Florida  
Contact:-Valerie Hirvela [vhirvela@tampabayrr.com](mailto:vhirvela@tampabayrr.com)

### **Georgia**

#### *Special Meets*

March 13, 2010 Carpet City Bantam Club-2 Shows, 2 Special Meets  
Dalton, Georgia  
Contact-Jeff Wilson 1-706-695-7092

### **North Carolina**

#### *Special Meet*

#### *State Meet*

March 6, 2010 OEGBCONC Unifour Allbreed Show  
Rowan County Fairgrounds, Salisbury, NC  
Contact-Neil Mahaffey 1-336-403-8640

Enjoy your shows, set up those breeding pens, and Happy Hatching! Susan Nicolas, District 2 Director

## CHECK YOUR LABELS FOR EXPIRED DUES

Vote on the 2011 National due March 15, 2010

## DISTRICT THREE REPORT

It's that time of year, to set up your breeding pens. For some, it's still a little early. For others, you already have chicks, peeping in your brooder. I'd like to start, by explaining what I look for, in birds, when I set up my breeder pens. I like to look for a big, wide male, with a nice contour, to the tail, wide skull, wide diamonds, in saddle. What I really like to look for, is a wide wing feather, as a wide wing means a wide feather, on your birds.

In females, I like to look for a big a female as I can find. The females, give you the type and size, and they really do. I was always told, the male gives you the color, and the female the type. I have found this to be true.

Last year, I had a male, which threw nice males (male line), but the females looked like crosses, between Light and Dark Brahmas. I decided to keep the females, because they had extremely nice type and tremendous size. I used a male, which had nice color, but a little light in under color, and crossed these females with him. Every single offspring, male and female, had the correct color. I think the females contributed to better color in the male diamond, and all the females were clean in their backs.

As you may have notice, in this Scanner, we have a new Secretary/Treasurer, my husband, Kim Aldrich. He has been working extremely hard, on the Scanner. He has been working, hand in hand, with our President Chad Spence, to come up with new ideas, to increase our revenue. I personally want to thank Chad for sticking with the club, in good times and bad. He has pulled us thru many difficult times, and never given up the ship. Thank you Chad for all your hard work.

I also can't forget Sandy Kavanaugh, for her many dedicated years, to the American Brahma Club. Sandy has written an article, for this Scanner, and I am sure Kim will be after her, to write something now and then.

We welcome any articles and information, our member can provide. Rick Sindermann, noted Standard Light Brahma Breeder, has graciously contributed to this Scanner. I really enjoyed reading his comments on breeding Brahmas. Rick has raised some exceptional Standard Light Brahmas, which keep improving year after year. I can't say enough about Rick's Brahmas. I hope to see Rick, at this year's Brahma Nationals, which will be at Frankenmuth MI, so everyone can see what all my bragging is about his birds.

Spring shows are just around the corner, and we hope to be able to attend a few shows. The best to all, in this upcoming hatching season.

Kendra Aldrich  
District 3 Director

**Greetings from District 4. My name is Dennis Brandt and I am the new guy in town. A bit about myself, I started in the Fancy as a youth in 4H many moons ago. Because of school and being out of the country I was out of the Fancy for some time. I have been back with the chickens for the past 4 years and am an active member of the Pacific Northwest Poultry Association. Part of my duties with the club are being on the show committee as a promotion person behind the scenes. I am also working with many of the backyard poultry enthusiast in the city of Portland, Oregon and the surrounding metro area. The law allows people to keep up to three chickens-none that crow. These folks love their birds as much or more than anyone in the fancy and some have even moved to the country to be able to expand into the Fancy.**

**I have been working with Buff Brahma Bantams from the Bill Bowman line for the last three years and even after winning Best of Breed Brahma Bantam Class of 25 at the Northwest National/ABA Semi Annual Meet in 2009, I feel as though I still have much to learn. Pairing up those breeders that will produce those star wins. Culling, my least favorite word, but very necessary if one wants to improve the breed.**

**Now is the time to fire up those incubators to hatch all the eggs those busy hens have been laying. I hope that all of you have lots of luck with your birds and all those little peeps.**

**Please feel free to call me anytime with any news you would like me to relate, or questions I might be able to answer. My email will be up by the time the next newsletter goes to print, so for now I rely on snail mail and phone calls which are always welcome.**

**Your friend in the Fancy**

**Dennis Brandt  
AKA "Dennis the Chicken Man"  
2738 N. Holly Street  
Canby, Oregon 97013  
503-709-3064**

## DISTRICT 5 REPORT

by Dee Mejstrik

New Years greetings from D-5 y'all! It is now the second week in January and we have been in a heat wave here at my farm since Monday, today the high is in the low forties!! Woo-who, we are having a heat wave and I am counting down the days till first day of spring! ☺

After the winter we have had I am more than ready for spring, and I am looking forward to all the firsts of 2010.

Like the first blossoms on the apple trees and the sight of the crocus & tulips pushing thru the snow & bursting into bloom, & the first tiny peeps from my first hatch of lil' feather footed chicks. And of course, I am really looking forward to the first poultry shows in district five.

January 9<sup>th</sup> was a Special meet at the Blue Bonnet Classic in Collage Station, Texas & January 23<sup>rd</sup> was the State Brahma meet at the show at Ft. Worth, Texas. I tell you what, only in the southern most states in this district can we have a chicken show in December, January or February. I sure do envy my Texas Brahma buddies; I would love to be able to host a chicken in middle of winter. Up "nort" here we are usually buried under mountains of snow & this winter has been especially snowy. We have had couple of storms that closed schools & roads & left us snowed in for days on end!

March & April are the "show months" for the D-5 states of Missouri, Louisiana & Arkansas. I have placed a State meet & a Special meet at the Mo. State Poultry Association's spring show at Sedalia, Mo. on April 18<sup>th</sup> as this show is always a double show.

The judges this year will be Pat Malone, Gary Overton, James Miller, & David Johnston. For more info contact Bernita Miller: [bmiller@iland.net](mailto:bmiller@iland.net). Other meets at D-5 shows are pending so check with each club's show secretary.

As always, if you are planning on attending any shows in district 5, please contact me & I will make sure the show secretary has a Brahma Club meet placed at that show. Thanks!

Then in May is the one show I never miss, the United Poultry Fanciers & Cornhusker Poultry Club's Annual Spring show at Avoca, Iowa. Always held on Mother's Day weekend, this is always a two-day double show and it is a very family friendly show. Both CPC and UPF will host Special Brahma club meets. Judges for Bantams will be Pat Lacey & James Miller and judges for large fowl & water fowl will be Bart Pals & Dennis Thompson. For more information or to request a show book you can contact the show secretary, Diana Dahir, at 712-485-2412, or you can let me know and I will be sure you receive a show book.

Well that is the about all that is 'new' for district 5 so far this New Year. I hope all y'all are also ready for spring & I hope to see everyone at show with a Brahma club meet this year. Holler back anytime ~ y'all know how I love to Brahma babble.

Take care & God Bless!

*Dee*

Partridge Brahma

By Dee Mejstrik

This will be year five for me for breeding the Partridge variety of Brahma large fowl. I blame my obsession with Partridge Majestic Ones on my good friend Susan Nicolas, aka the District 2 director in Florida. I was perfectly content to breed & show my Buff Brahma for many years, but after Susan posted photos of her Partridge Brahma, I just had to add the exquisite mahogany beauties to my flock of buff beauties. One look & I was hooked on partridge!

Thanks to Susan I began my quest with a young pair of partridge that Susan transported all the way from Florida to the Brahma National at Bay City Michigan in a wire crate in the back seat of her car. Each morning that weekend we would gather fresh fruit from the breakfast bar at our hotel & head out to Susan's car to hand feed the two of them. I had never met a more pampered pair of chickens in all my life, nor a more loving and devoted Brahma momma as my friend Susan. It is amazing what great lengths we dedicated Brahmaholics will resort to in the pursuit of our hobby, isn't it?

I hauled my two new partridge babies all the way home to Iowa in the back of our Suburban & they quickly adjusted to farm life here in Iowa. I continued the daily ritual of hand feeding fresh fruits to them here at my farm which I am convinced helped them get over their homesickness! After watching them for about a week & getting to know them I decided on names for my two partridge beauties, Sonny & Grace.

That first summer I ran all my Brahma on the same pasture as I wanted to get as many pullets hatched out as possible.

I ended up with several buff/partridge crosses by fall, as well as some light out crops. I kept all of the pullets and kept only the best partridge cockerel, who I named Sol. The best of the pullets

would be my breeders that second spring while all the others went into my laying flock. By the way, my loyal egg customers prefer farm fresh Brahma eggs two to one over those white leghorn eggs. ☺

The second year I set up breeding pens and used Sol in one pen and then purchased a partridge cockerel from Aaron in Nebraska for my second breeding pen. Aaron's Brahma were from stock imported from Europe, and that cockerel I named Darrell. It is fascinating for me to see each new crop of chicks, as I can spot which are sons of Sol and which are from Darrell, even to this day. That year I entered my first young trio of partridge Brahma at the National in Iowa City, Iowa.

The following year's hatch saw several buff/partridge cross pullets again along with several good type cockerels before tragedy struck – my flocks came down with Laryngo. We cancelled all plans for fall shows & attending the National and began vaccinations. This was a very hard, not to mention expensive lesson to be learned. The next year I continued to vaccinate and cull my flocks and once more canceled all plans for the fall shows. That year I was blessed with my second two true partridge pullets. Faith was the spitting image of her mom, Grace, very dark partridge color & good type, while Hope was more of a golden partridge color. Sadly, I lost my Grace that fall, suddenly and without warning.

Last year (2009) I ended up with four partridge pullets and twice as many cockerels. Two pair are now in Minnesota in the hands of Karen Meyer, whom I met at the NSPA show in Lincoln, NE last November. The other two pullets are awaiting delivery to Kim

in Wisconsin, as soon as the weather breaks and I can do a road trip.

Because of the Laryngo we had to depopulate all adult breeding stock on our farm so I will again be starting basically from square one once more in 2010. I will be hatching from just two pairs of Partridge Brahma once again, so I am praying for patience, and I need it in abundance.

But I am very excited about the growing number of breeders working on the partridge variety and I am looking forward to this next year of breeding & hatching my Partridge Brahma. I get calls and emails all the time from folks wanting to buy eggs or chicks or adults. This is an exciting time for the Brahma club and I am looking forward to 2010 being the best year yet for Partridge Majestic Ones and the American Brahma Club.

I am always anxious to chat with my fellow Brahma buddies who are as addicted to the Majestic Ones as I am, especially those working on the partridge Brahma ~ you can call me at (712)527-5224, or write me at: [deemejstrik@aol.com](mailto:deemejstrik@aol.com) ~ so holler back any time y'all.



Sonny



Grace ~with Percy, a Buff hen



Sol

2010 BRAHMA NATIONAL FOWLFEST.ORG

## District 6 Report

Hopefully this will be the last "Scanner" I receive in my post office mail box.

Although above comment may surprise or alarm, its actually signals the now way we will be informed and bound as members. Amongst its arsenal of good things and reasons to be a member, the "American Brahma Club" (ABC) is headed towards eventually operating a fantastic website -- rendering our "Scanner" obsolete.

If you do not have Internet access I still see the "Scanner" arriving with your traditional post office mail for the foreseeable future, but now, for those ABC members, like me, that have access to the ABC website our world has become more informative in real time.

I don't know who the person or persons were behind the ABC website for several months up to early February 2010, but I know there were costs and expertise and a whole lot of thankless volunteering involved. To you my compliments for a great job and thank you - thank you - thank you!

At this writing our President Chad Spence and Secretary Kim Aldrich have their sleeves rolled up toiling to introduce yet another ABC website bigger and better than ever.

So, what am I going on about you ask?

Well, with a newspaper, even a daily, news is gathered and reported, letters to the editor are added, advertising is produced and pasted, and then its printed - the publication is locked in the moment it "went to bed". Yes the newspaper, like the "Scanner" is eagerly anticipated and read and informative. And there is no argument that any organization or business absolutely must have a material connection with its members or customers.

However, what a website offers over the print medium and what has me so excited are the possibilities.

I acknowledge there are real dollar costs to a website, and the website viewer, by hook or by crook, pays for Internet service - usually on a fixed cost basis. But there is no paper/ink printing cost, no postage to pay, no waste to eventually be disposed of. In other words, a printed and mailed newsletter like the "Scanner" is wasteful and inefficient in these modern times.

For those of you that have not visited the ABC websites of the past and present, there are photos, and "forums" where a website member types a question or comment and website members in turn answer or respond, and there is also general news and show listings. It's a place to go when you wish to see what's happening in the Brahma world - in living color.

The purpose of a website is to sell and inform or inform to sell or sell to inform.

In the case of the ABC the cycle might start with a great website full of timely information that people are seeking. Having the information that people seek creates "traffic" to the site. Information might include links to other informative websites, answers to questions about the Brahma breed and its husbandry, photos of what Brahmas should look like according to the APA and ABA standards of perfection, photos of breeder operations, breeder listings of particular varieties that might have stock for sale, show listings and results, exhibitor point standings. Everything would be available so that any person in the world with an interest in poultry in general and Brahmas in particular would find useful to satisfy their initial interest or search.

Of course if every bit of information on the website is free then why would a person pay the modest fee to be an ABC member? Well, an ABC member might have a password that allows them into a "members" section of the website.

In this members only section there might be requests from the general public (using the free areas of the website) seeking to buy breeding stock, expanded details on the breeder points standings such as what breeders have garnered the most points with bantam Buffs in the past two years, ABC officers and directors would each have a forum (blog) to inform and interact with their constituents, show results with photos would appear here first before being available on the free pages, video clips of educational topics like selecting breeders and show prepping could be presented, and voting for ABC Nationals and officers and directors could also be accomplished for minimal if any cost - director meetings and annual general meetings could be staged on-line too. And what about a library consisting of scanned printed Brahma material (Scanners) from bygone years? This of course is only a partial listing.

The website would have a range of options for members to be "tickled" by the website via e-mail when new information appears. Maybe you want an immediate e-mail when show results are posted. Or you might want a weekly update if there are new "threads" appearing in the director and officer blogs. How about an instant e-mail when someone seeks to buy your breed?

Once viewer traffic reaches certain levels then the ABC can demand ad revenue. Initially an ABC member would have the privilege to advertise their poultry yard for an annual fee - a simple breeders listing with a link. If the website is attracting large numbers of "hits" then maybe the feed and/or equipment vendors might seek ad space. If the site begins attracting ever greater numbers than it will begin moving higher on the "search engine" (like "Google") topic lists attracting more significant attention and possibly advertising.

Of course a professional website requires expertise and lots of volunteer hours and there are costs. These people are key and we need them.

ABC members, even if they can just e-mail would contribute greatly by sending a message from a show at coop in regarding numbers of Brahma exhibitors and variety counts. Later in the show they might

submit the judging results and maybe add photos - maybe videos!  
Imagine the ability to see show results in real time.

Breeders with a respectable digital video camera could record some lessons in feather quality or what the judge is looking for. There are hundreds of things members with no above average computer skills could do to contribute to the value of the website to encourage traffic.

Other members could contribute by offering anything and everything they have in print on Brahmas for scanning to .pdf files - in compliance with prevailing copyright laws of course - for the on-line library.

For the expertise and the costs, well, I believe we have to find the volunteer expertise first and then carefully build to provide funds to pay costs. But with luck and volunteers of all kinds the ABC will have a fantastic self-sustaining / self-serving website long into the future to promote the great Brahma breed.

\*\*\*\*\* END OF MESSAGE  
\*\*\*\*\* David Stuart 3893 Scotchmere  
Drive RR 2Glencoe ON CanadaN0L 1M0 519-287-5763 (New York time)  
davesturartguelph@yahoo.com

## VP ERIC MOORE

As I write this article the snow is flying and the temperature is about 15 degrees. This has been a crazy winter as far as the weather is concerned. It has been -10 degrees one week and 60 degrees the next.

Well the 2009 brahma national is now history. It turned out to be a decent national with the numbers in pretty good shape. I wish more of our membership could have joined us, but the weather again played a big factor. Thanks to everyone who donated items, money and time to make it a great success. Thanks also to Tony and Gale Lahrs, for traveling all the way from Indiana to show with the southern crew. We had a good visit and enjoyed talking brahma. Congratulations to all the winners.

Thank goodness it is almost spring. This is my favorite time of the year. I enjoy putting together my breeding pens and setting eggs. I would rather hatch and raise birds than show. My goal is to have some chicks out by the end of February so they will be ready for the 2010 national in Michigan. I can't seem to get with the program when there is 6" of snow on the ground.

I wish everyone a great hatching season and hope you raise a champion.  
Eric

## District 7 Report by Mike Spencer

Hi Folks: I have just finished serving with the committee to sponsor the National Pigeon Association Grand National Pigeon Show in Salt Lake City. What a big job. As many of you know I have been showing and breeding Old German Owl Pigeons the last 8 years and will continue to do so. Several years ago I quit breeding my Brahmas because I was concerned about the affect my crowing roosters were having on the neighbors. I had a few very polite complaints so I decided rather than risk not being able to raise anything at all – to let my Brahmas go. I have really enjoyed my pigeons and have developed a nice show line. However, I had a neighbor a while back ask me what had happened to my chickens. They had really enjoyed my chickens and missed hearing them crow. It reminded them of their childhood. I have missed them as well. I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation poultry breeder and chickens have been a part of my life. I have decided to breed some Brahmas again. I will test the water and just keep a few and see what happens.

There is not a better breed than the Majestic Brahma. When I first started in the show game I raised Cornish Bantams to some good success. That was back in 1966. They have become increasingly hard to breed over the years particularly in cold weather climates. Not so with the Brahma Bantam. They are fertile, active and do well in colder weather. You don't have to worry about the combs freezing. Not only are they a great little show bird – they also make a great little utility bantam. There is always lots of competition and they have come into their own winning best featherleg often. That distinction , when I started showing bantams belonged to the Cochins.

We should all talk our neighbors and friends into owning some. Many communities are becoming more friendly to chickens in the Backyard. I have often pointed them out to neighbors who want to have a few laying hens in the yard. They could have a few extra eggs and an exhibition hobby at the same time. I also point out that bantams take less room and eat less feed.

There is not much to report from my district this go around. We have a small district with only about 10 members. I have known Phillip Urutia up there in Idaho for a long time. Mike Johnson and I have bumped into each other in the show room for years. He has done well with his Leghorns and ducks. Now he has the Brahmas. I would like to throw a challenge out there to sign up a new member. We could double our ranks in no time at all. Please forward any news to me that you might have in our district so that I can report it in this column. I would also like to entertain ideas for a district meet this year. You folks in Colorado would have a perfect location. You have the most members in the district and you are closer to the mid-west where we could invite some of Brahma friends there to show with us. Let's put the Brahmas back on top in our district. Send me a note if you have some ideas. My e-mail is [mike.spencer@comcast.net](mailto:mike.spencer@comcast.net).

Hope you all have a good hatching season. I will be putting eggs in the incubator soon. There is nothing more fun than to watch some new born chicks in the brooder. Mike

## Submitted by Rick Sindermann

It is that strange time of year again. Along with the excitement of that new discovery, that bird that I have been waiting years for comes the uncomfortable realization that it is time to let go of the less desirable creatures that I have no desire in keeping. It is the dreaded time to cull. This is probably the most nerve wracking time of the year.

Which birds to keep and which to whack, is probably when a successful breeder is differentiated from all others. Breeding programs are made or broken as decisions are made as to what to keep and what to let go of. There is no definitive line to observe. There are no hard and fast rules to observe.

The standard becomes a direction rather than a destination. I have to remember that there is no perfect bird, nor has there ever been one. I do love it when there is a standout and I pick him up and my arms are delighted in his weight and substance, his dark slate under color, his clean and wide primaries, his deep umber eye color umbrellad with a wide brow and crowned with a small pea comb. When the bird is a standout it makes my decision making easy.

These are the birds that are beyond my dreams when I can't believe a brahma could possibly hold my attention as long as this one does. It makes my going to the barn and doing chores in the dead of a Wisconsin winter worthwhile. It brings a restful moment to my soul as I catch sight of him from the corner of my eye. It makes opening another bag of feed less painful as grain prices sore.

Ugly birds are equally easy to deal with. We eat them. Birds with bad wings, crooked toes, crow heads or just not hardy are discarded with disappointment and relief. Not only do they provide the family with food, there is nothing more revealing about the anatomy of a bird than seeing them without their feathers or dissecting their organs and seeing the health of their livers or the size of their heart or the girth of their vent area. I learn a lot and pray that they come back as better birds so that they may live out full and productive lives.

It's the birds in the middle group that cause the greatest duress. Which of the mediocre birds do I keep? I am at a point that I do not keep anything that doesn't have some redeeming quality. I need these birds to be extremely good in some aspect, (i.e. a great head, terrific width of wing feather, extreme size) something that makes them standout. At this time I also have to think about what I have to mate them up with. Is there something I have that will compliment this particular bird.

Culling is nothing I take lightly. Slaughtering even less so. I just don't like letting anything go off the place that I wouldn't keep for myself, unless they are going strictly for pets. It just isn't doing the breed any good to perpetrate bad birds.

My family eats chicken and I would rather have them eat something that I know has been fed good feed and allowed to be outside while they lived a very contented life. I think it very inhumane to keep more birds than the farm can comfortably handle, inhumane for the birds and for me.

In part raising good birds is a numbers game. I raise between one hundred and one hundred and sixty birds a year. Keeping the top twenty percent, I hope to and have been able to see pronounced improvement year to year.

# Brahma Club Points

## HALL OF FAME

Bill Bowman-104.5

## MASTER BREEDER

Arbuckle/Rust-26.5

## BREEDER AWARD

John Neff-24.5

Spence/Williams-23.5

Larry Dye-20.5

Kim and Kendra Aldrich-19.5

Darlene Hobbs-19.5

Larry and Mark Peterson-18

Sugar Hill Poultry-15.5

Susan Nicholas-13.5

Danny Williamson-13

Gale and Tony Lahr-13

Alan Feagley-11

Dave Anderson-10.5

Eric Moore-10.5

## OTHERS

Jim Wheeler-9.5

Ken and Mary Aho-9

James and Janet Swanson-8.5

House of Champion-8

Bob and Dee Mejstrik-7.5

Dan Delaney-7

Rick Thornburg-5

Phil Bartz-5

Dale and Mary Siegenthaler-  
4.5

Charlie Vaughn-4

Kami Ebersole-3.5

Susie Shaw-2.5

Diana Delaney-2.5

Bill and Linda Squire-2.5

Steve Wotjkowiak-2

Hens Haven-2

Daniel Frey-Shaw-2

Tim Lindenborn-2

Jeff Wolffe-1.5

Don Gibson-1.5

David Stuart-1.5

Danny and Norma Padgett-1.5

Bob Giles-1

Paul Maye-1

George Beyer-1

Merl Rynearson-1

Anna Robinette-1

John and Gina Banks-1

Michael Miller-.5

Jay's Family Bantams-.5

Ken and Mary Learn-.5

Byron and Linda Kershaw-.5

Nadine Thornburg-.5

Barca Poultry-.5

Katelyn Beckman-.5

Craig Pate-.5

Fred and Doris Hatten-.5

Brice Wonders-.5

Ron and Barb Yochum-.5

## **“Early Brahma Breeders”**

By  
Don Emery

(As written in a  
letter to Susan Nicholas)

Dear Susan,

I thought I would sit down and write you about the old time breeders I can remember and what they raised. I know I will forget some. Most of the ones I knew were on the East Coast. This is where at one time the best breeders of Brahmas both Std. and Bantam were located.

Wilson Chadderdon from New York state raised Light Braham Bantams back in the 50's and 60's. He worked with O. Fayne Whitney on Light Brahma's.

O. Fayne Whitney from Mass. was great breeder of Light Brahma Bantams, won at most all shows he attended. Could win with males or females. Fayne also developed the Columbian Rock Bantam.

Frank Utterbach from Virginia work with Light Brahma Bantams also. Won at several leading shows in the East and South..

John Freeman was from PA., was Pres. Of the Brahma Club. Also was an outstanding breeder of Standard Light Brahmas and worked with Buff Standards. Had some outstanding Buff Bantams.

Ken Scarlett was also Pres. Of the Brahma Club and longtime Secretary. He was from York , PA. and worked with Standard Light Brahmas.

Harold Miller and Ronald Behney were known through out the country as Behney & Miller. Showed some of the best in Light, Buff and Dark Standard Brahmas. Showed at Ohio National as well as many other shows in Eastern U.S. Lived in Lebanon , PA. , most of the Standard Brahmas today can be traced back to their bloodlines.

Granville Geake of PA. raised and showed Standard Buff and Light Brahmas and worked other breeds of poultry also.

John Kriner, Jr. of PA. worked with Dark and Buff Brahma bantams. Was a stringman who showed throught out the East. The Dark Brahmas that I have can be traced back to his work with the Dark Bantams. John an old Dutch man was a man of many words and no B.S.

Melvin Bollinger of PA. was another breeder of Dark Bantams. Did not show to far from his home in Eastern PA. , but always showed some outstanding Dark Brahmas.

Clifton Smith of Bloomsburg , PA. showed at several shows and had a good string of birds which included some of the best Dark Brahma Bantams I have seen to date. Always winning top honors.

Henry Miller ( Blue Stream Farm) Lebanon , PA had one of the largest collections of Waterfowl and Poultry in the East. He was a very well known judge, Breeder and showman. Raised and showed many kinds of waterfowl and poultry. A breeder of Standard

Brahmas and other Standard fowl. Many breeds of poultry today can be traced back to his work and breeding.

George Warga out of New Jersey work with Light Brahma Bantams. Won at almost any show he attended, outstanding female line of Light Brahmas. I personally showed with George many times.

Sugar Hill Poultry-Brian Knox of N.H. After purchasing O. Fayne Whitney's flock of Light Brahma Bantams did an outstanding job of breeding and showing the Light Bantams. Most all of the Light Bantams of today have some blood from Sugar Hill.

Robert Arbuckle of Kansas has done an outstanding job at breeding some of the nations top Light and Buff Brahma Bantams. Also worked with Darks winning top honors at any show he attends.

Jimmy Rust of Texas along with his life long friend Bob Arbuckle, this team of breeders have put the Brahmas at the forefront of the poultry world. Jimmy a superb conditioner of birds along with Bob have done an outstanding job.

Jim Burns of Minn. Has showed and worked with the Standard Brahmas for some years. Jim has showed at various shows and won top awards.

Larry & Mark Peterson of Minn. , this team of brothers have done outstanding work raising Standard Light Brahmas. Some of the very best Light Standards have come from their farm. They have won many awards through out the United States .

T. Lloyd Faubel of New Jersey raised and showed some of the best colored Light Brahma Standards to be found anywhere. Lloyd was a Master Breeder

of the Standard Lights and showed at Boston and Madison Square Garden at the really big shows of that time. Lloyd helped out countless breeders with birds and breeding tips.

Jerry Bradshaw of Ill. Was a true breeder of outstanding Buff & Light Bantams. Won at various shows and helped out countless young people with birds.

Dave Faulkner of Kansas was an outstanding breeder of Buff Brahma Bantams. Showed at various shows through out the Midwest . Always on top with outstanding birds. Bill Bowmans birds were direct descendants from the Faulkner line, showing outstanding heads and type.

American Brahma Club  
By-Laws and Revisions  
Dated: 2009

**Article 1** The official name of the club shall be the American Brahma Club with membership open to all Brahma fanciers, regardless of race, creed or sex.

**Amendment to Article 1:**

At the annual meeting in Claremore, OK, November 1983 it was proposed to carry any member over the age of 70 and who had been a member in good standing, as a lifetime member. A lifetime member would not be required to pay dues and would receive all benefits and voting privileges. The amendment passes one deserting [sic] vote. Member approval by the majority of the Board of Directors of the club.

**Article 2** The placement of District and State Meets are the responsibility of the district director. It shall be the director's responsibility to spread the District Meet out to cover his entire district and serve as many Brahma exhibitors as possible. (See Article 4, para. E)

The National Meet shall be placed by the general membership by mail ballot. The Secretary shall secure as many bids as possible and present these bids in the form of a ballot to be returned before the annual meeting.

Amendment to Article 2 to read as follows:

The National Meet shall be placed by the general mail ballot. The secretary shall secure as many bids as possible and present these bids in the form of a ballot to be returned before the annual meeting. At the annual meeting in Connorsville, IN 2001 it was voted on and passed that the Board of Directors consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and all District Directors, will vote on the selection of judge for the National Meets.

A) No meet shall be given to a club promoting bantams only or by any club that restricts entries.

**Amendment to Article 2, para. A:**

A special meet only may be placed at a bantam only meet. Voted on and passed at Columbus, OH, November, 1998.

B) All National and District Meets shall be given to fall shows, I.e. shows between October and February of the following year.

**Amendment to Article 2, para. B:**

The time of the year of placement of District Meets shall be left up to the discretion of the District Director. At the discretion of the district Director, the District Meet can be placed at any time of the year, provided the host club meets the other requirements for hosting a Brahma meet. Voted on and passed at Milwaukee, WI, September 1991. The National Meet may be placed at any time of the year. Voted on and passed at Milwaukee, WI, September 1991.

C) District Meets shall consist of at least 2 trophies for Lest Large, Best Bantam and Rosettes for Reserve Large and Reserve Bantam plus a variety ribbon for each color.  
(Cont.)

**Amendment to Article 2, para. C:**

By unanimous vote at the 2005 Annual Meeting, held in Midland, Michigan: ribbons and rosettes would continue to be awarded to those in Junior shows, and for first-time winners in the Open show only. The point system introduced by President Danny Williamson at this meeting will be used for all other wins that are sponsored by the American Brahma Club. (*Initiated January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006*)

**Article 3** The even years shall elect a President, Secretary/Treasurer and directors for districts 2, 4, 6. The odd years shall elect a Vice President and directors for districts 1, 3, 5, and 7. All terms to run for 2 consecutive years.

**Article 4** A) The President shall direct the Club and officiate at all functions. Coordinate and maintain a working relationship with all officers and members. Form and/or appoint any committees that may be necessary.

B) The Vice President shall help in any way possible to assist the President with any duties delegated to him or her.

C) The Secretary shall carry out administrative procedures, answer all correspondence, keep a close liaison with all Directors, and place what advertising is deemed necessary. With the help and aid of the Treasurer, buy or pick out trophies, ribbons, etc. for coming meets. The Secretary shall fill in for Directors who are remiss in their duties or any other extreme circumstances that may arise. The mailing address of the club shall be that of the prevailing Secretary. The Secretary shall also write and see that a new column appears in the club bulletin.

**Amendment to Article 4, para C** to read as follows:

At the meeting in Frederick, MD 1979, the position of Secretary was combined with that of the Treasurer by unanimous vote.

D) The Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting all dues, keeping an up to date membership list, paying all club bills and debts that may be incurred by the Secretary, Treasurer, or President with the consent of at least one other officer of the club.

**Amendment to Article 4, para D:**

The Treasurer shall deposit funds of the club in an account bearing the Treasurer's name and that of the President or some other officer of the club. Voted on at Richmond 1981.

E) It shall be the duty of each director to foster increased interest in the club, promote the Brahma and solicit new members, whenever possible. The director shall place all district and state meets in areas that will benefit the largest number of members and give honest consideration to all offers of host clubs. The director shall submit a written article to the club bulletin.

**Article 5:** There shall be 5 Districts with Directors for each District. The breakdown shall be as follows: (see amendment)

**District 1** – (Eastern) Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia

**District 2-** (Southern) Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi

**District 3-** (Midwest) Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio

**District 4-** (Western) California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nevada

**District 5-** (Southwest) Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Arizona, New Mexico, Missouri, Arkansas, Colorado, Utah

**Amendment to Article 5,**

New Districts were submitted and approved by majority vote at Columbus, Oh, November 1998

The districts will read as follows:

**District 1:** Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Washington, D.C.

**District 2:** Alabama, Georgia, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Mississippi

**District 3:** Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio

**District 4:** Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii

**District 5:** Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, Iowa, Arkansas

**District 6:** Canada

**District 7:** Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota

Article 6 Any amendments to these articles shall require a two-thirds majority at an annual meeting by paid up members eligible to vote.

**Amendment to Article 6,**

This was voted on and passed at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Shawnee, OK.:

Any amendments to these articles shall require a two-thirds majority at an annual meeting by no less than 12 paid members eligible to vote.

Article 7 A sum of monies was donated by the Estate of Wally Besuden. The fund, \$450.00, shall be kept in an escrow account with the interest used to purchase a trophy to be known as the Wally Besuden memorial and given on Dark Brahmas at the annual National meet. This fund will be administered by Kenneth Scarlett, John, Freeman and Robert DeLancy, Trustees. (See Memorial Fund files for additions or any changes)

**CHECK YOUR LABELS FOR EXPIRED DUES**

## Thank You!”

I would like to start this year off right and back up and give some accolades where they are needed. We don't do near enough of this and even though most would rather not be mentioned I would like to do it anyway. I'm sure that I will miss someone and for that I apologize, but these people have had a large impact on the American Brahma Club, now and in the past. These are names I just want all our members to be aware of.

Bill Bowman ( deceased)

Don Emery

Bill Mayer

Larry Peterson(deceased)

Mark Peterson

Barb Piper

Doris Robinson

Sandy Kavanaugh

Don Lee

Steve Jones

Kim and Kendra Aldrich

Susan Nicholas

Dee Mejstrik

Danny Williamson

Larry Dye

Don Gibson

Dale and Mary Siegenthaler

Chad Spence

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**P.O. Box 381**

**Campbell, Texas 75422**

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\_\_\_\_ 2. EASTERN IOWA POULTRY SHOW NOV. 26-27 2011  
IOWA CITY IOWA. 2 TROPHIES, 2 PLAQUES, 200.00 CASH

The American Brahma Club

Kim Aldrich Sec/Treas

12948 Ring Rd.

St. Charles Mi 48655

