

## Vice President's Message

The 2007 Des Moines show is over & the numbers were down, as were all the shows this year. At our January meeting, Rick reported we were in the black on the finances of the show, just barely. There is an area of the report that bothers me & always will. And that is the amount we spend for hired help. I know not everyone is capable of helping & I understand that. I just feel we could trim this expense down. With the use of a fork lift we have taken the hard work out of setting up & tearing down. This year, we are starting a fund drive. Each member has the opportunity to donate \$\$ from one pair that he raises & sells and designate the proceeds toward the hired help costs.

I have a story to share...

Each year Dennis & I bunk together at the Louisville & Des Moines shows; our wives many years ago decided they had enough of midnight bus rides to NYBS & a 2 or 3 day show at DM. The past 2 years, my friend from Ft. Madison bunked with us Friday night. Well, Saturday those 2 friends said they were heading home Saturday afternoon before dark. So about 11:30 that night after we had packed the semi with coops, plywood & stands, I headed for my motel room. Upon arriving there I found a large dog kennel full of pigeons. I wondered which buddy gave me a box of birds; that does happen. At the time of the night, a person shouldn't wake up too many 'buddies'. So, quick shower, then hit the bed. At home about 3am, I start my day - checking my e-mail, news, weather & sports. So about that time Sunday morning, I did the same in the motel room. Well, pigeons must be light sleepers also, so I had a box of birds awake & making pigeon noises. Just hope my neighbors were sawing logs & didn't hear them. At 8 am, it was time to head home. I called Rick & he knew nothing about these birds. So I went to the front desk & somebody put them in the wrong room. They turned out to be Bob Nolan's & Jerry Kern was to take him & his birds to the airport at 11am.

I would like to thank Don Delaney for his leadership of the club the past several years. I look forward to working with Larry, as well.

I would also like to thank all those who voted for me for the Howard Hart award.

Soon it will be spring and we can start raising those babies!

Harold C.

## ISPA MEMBER PROFILE

I am 43 years old, and my wife is 40. I have worked at the Iowa State Training School for Boys since 1987. Crystal works at a blow molding factory that makes garden sprayers. Not sure when I got my first birds but I know I had them when I was 7-8 years old. They were just barn pigeons

that we caught in my uncles barn. My dad used them for eating until I found out that I was eating some of my pets! My folks bought some Lahores when they were on a trip to MN. and they were the first Breed I had. Over the years I have had many breeds. Some I can remember would be English

Trumpeters, Nuns, Helmets, WOE Tumblers, Modenas, and Flying and Show Rollers. I also had several breeds of poultry and water fowl over the years. We showed Buff Orpington in standard and bantam for a few years but found the poultry shows somewhat boring. When we moved to town in 1998 we gave up the poultry. The rollers I have now are decedents from these birds I had 30+ years ago. My wife Crystal and I have been married for 20 years and it was Crystal that was the one that got me started showing birds back in 1987. She worked with the wife of a guy that had pigeons and we showed

for the first time at the Central Iowa Pigeon Club in Marshalltown, Iowa. Crystal is very active with the hobby as well and she helps with the birds and goes to the shows with me. She has even cleaned the loft a few times!1987 is the year that we started in Chinese Owls which is our main breed today. In 1989 we had a tornado near our home and lost all the lofts and nearly all the birds. We decided that if we were going to remain in the hobby we should get better quality birds so in the fall of 1989 we

purchased several pairs from the top breeders. By 1991 we had the honor of having our first NYBS champ. We earned our Master Breeder Award in Chinese Owls in 1999. I have been an officer in several clubs over the years(Central Iowa Pigeon Club, Iowa State Pigeon Assn, National Chinese Owl Club) and am at present the Election Comm. for the National Chinese Owl Club. I am a Certified judge of Chinese Owls as well. Our loft is 12X26 with 14 individual breeding pens, 2 6X8 and 1 5X8 section that are used as open loft pens. We usually breed from 14-16 pair of Chinese Owls in Blue, Ash Red, Silver, Ash Yellow, Brown in their various patterns. We also have White selfs and Baldheads. We use baldhead rollers as foster parents when needed. The Chinese Owls raise their own just fine but on

occasion we use them to pump a few extras out of the better pairs. We also have MF plain head Helmets and will be getting WOE Tumblers and Portuguese Tumblers this year. We have always tried to get new breeders interested in Chinese Owls here in Iowa but it seems the other breeds are to popular

here. I recently sent 2 pair of our CO's to a man in South Africa as he seen my birds on the internet and wanted to get some. I felt quite honored to have someone from another country ask for my birds. Well, that's it in a nut shell! Looking forward to seeing our extended family of pigeon people at the upcoming shows!

Jeff Butler