



# Plymouth Rock Quarterly

Early Fall 2009

Vol 2 Num 2

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## Breeding Columbian Plymouth Rock Color Pattern

By Mike Michael

First of all, I don't feel myself to be an expert on breeding Columbian Color Pattern. I'm sure there are others with more years of experience raising Columbian Rocks than myself. I have raised Columbian Rocks Exclusively and will tell you what has to this point proved to give me the best color results.

With the color of the Ideal Show bird in mind, after we study and read our ABA and APA standard lets keep this statement in our thoughts. There is a tendency to disregard indistinct contrast between Black and White sections of the plumage. "There should be no blending of the two Colors." This statement comes directly from the ABA standard under the heading of color remarks. I keep this statement in mind while breeding for my ideal color patter.

I keep a different bird or birds in my breeding pen to help achieve the ideal color pattern we want in our show bird. I cull for color first and type or shape second. Now before getting too shocked at this statement, I will try to explain. I want color and type, both being very important to me to have on my show bird. But, with two of my birds being equal in type in a class, I have seen that 1<sup>st</sup> place spot escape me because of a color pattern fault. As it should have been in that sce-

nario . We then give our judges more to look at and take into consideration in what I call a 'marked variety" of bird over a "self colored bird".

Let's get back to the breeding pen and what works for me on breeding Columbian color pattern. First and foremost I select the best colored male possible from my line at all times. I believe genetically that color is produced from our male bird. He will implant the color in your line as long as you stay with in your strain. I then select the best type or shaped females because I believe the female genetically produces the type.

I match my breeding pens together by the color of my females in three areas- Wing, Back (saddle) and hackle. Now keep in mind what I said, My male bird is the best proper colored bird possible from my strain, so I rely on his abilities to properly put the color on the hatch from the breeding females I have selected in the three color areas that I have mentioned above.

A) Wing-I've found with a richer color of black in the primary and secondary feather, with no blending of white, contributes to the rich black tail we desire in our females and the rich greenish black color we so desire in our males. I also feel

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# Presidents Message

Hello to all club member from Washington State, we sure have been having a hot stretch of weather for us in the Northwest. Temps over a hundred for awhile now and hit a high of 108 one day a few weeks back.

The Plymouth Rock National as most club members know by now will be held at Columbus in November 2009. Secretary Bob says the club is in good shape money-wise and membership continues to rise, for some reason we still have good established breeders who haven't paid their dues. These members have been dropped from the club rooster.

We hope to have two members selected by the committee to join our Hall of Fame by years end. So if you have a top Candidate in mind

send his or her name and a summary of the breeder to Secretary Bob.

The qualifications are listed in this newsletter; this should not be a personality contest ,but a nomination of one of our chosen few who have served our club well over the years as a member and a breeder of Plymouth Rocks. The committee to review the can dates will be Top Rock Breeder Tom Corey from Ohio and Secretary Bob Blosl and myself. Some of the qualifications come from our late old Hall of fame friend Shelby Harrington.

Will close in Saying have a great fall with those Plymouth Rocks.

Jim Volk  
360-978-6414

## Vice President's Message

Greetings all!

I hope the summer finds you with a barn full of growing Rocks and future show winners. It has been a cool and dry summer here in North-western Ohio and we could use some rain. It will not be long and our 2009 Plymouth Rock National will be here in Columbus, OH. More info can be found at <http://www.ohionational.org>. Here is their bid and we need to be thinking about Judges for our meet.

*"The Ohio National offers \$150.00 in awards to be dispersed at the desire of your club the only restriction is that all monies be dispersed at the Ohio National show. The Ohio National will provide your club with a meeting room, and a club table for you to promote the Plymouth Rock Fancier's Club of America and to sell or raffle any items your club sees fit to do.*

*The Plymouth Rock Fancier's Club of America will have first choice to choose from the list of judges that the Ohio National will hire for the 2009 show. The judge for this show has been*

*voted on by the internet members because of the shows deadline and it will be Jeff Halbach.*

If interested we could raffle off some items or birds to raise some funds for the Club. We have had some success with this in the past. I have been asked to judge so I will have limited time to be at the club table and could use some help. If interested, let me know so we can have the table manned for prospective members.

Secretary Blosl has announced that the Club will be having elections this year. Because of other commitments, I will not be running for an office this time around. I feel the club is on solid ground and doing well and it's time for some new blood. It's your chance to make a difference and keep the Rock Club at the forefront of the hobby. Hope to see everyone this fall, plan to be at several shows all over the US either judging or showing! Have a great summer!

Matt Lhamon  
VP, PRFCA

# Secretary's Message

For the past two months, our District Directors have been working hard to complete the Meets for their Districts and I would like to take this time to thank them for their service. Many members of Specialty Clubs do not realize what sacrifice members make to be their District Directors and the many hours per week they volunteer to make sure their districts have shows to go to, write their messages for their newsletters and to help the beginners who are starting out in their districts. I am happy to report we have a new District Director for District Four and he is Mike Michael of Montgomery, Michigan. Mike has been breeding an excellent strain of Columbian Plymouth Rock Bantams and has helped many members get started in this wonderful color pattern. Mike showed at the first Top of Ohio Poultry Show held in Bellefontaine Ohio a few weeks ago where he won Champion SCCL, Reserve Bantam of the Show and latter went on to win Reserve Champion of the show on a Columbian Pullet. One judge told him it was not only one of the best Columbian Rocks he has ever seen but one of the nicest colored Columbian females of any breed he has handled. Mike also wrote an excellent article for our next newsletter on how he breeds Columbian Plymouth Rock Bantams

and this article will be one that people will follow for years and years to come.

Also, we have worked hard to open up a new region to Plymouth Rocks and set up some shows and that is in Canada. We have a District Meet set at the Eastern Ontario Open Poultry Show Nappanee Ontario and it is the site of the APA Canadian National. Frank Goodfellow is helping us get this District Meet off the ground. This show is going on October 17-18 2009. We look forward to a good showing of Plymouth Rocks at this show and hope many of our Canadian Rock Breeders will show and then show an interest in joining our club. I want to thank Frank Goodfellow for assisting us and helping us set up this meet and we hope other Canadian shows will contact us so we can put on other meets in Canada later in the year.

We have several items that we would like to inform you of and I will just try to go through them one at a time and they are as follows: Our President Jim Volk has put together a committee for selection of future Hall of Fame Nominees. If you have a member who you would like to nominate to the Hall of Fame committee

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## District 1 News

There will be a State PRFC meet at the Central Maine Bird Fanciers Show on Oct. 5th. that would be a State meet.

One of the secrets to breeding any variety is numbers, and it's really no secret. It's easy to put the basic pattern of Columbian or Silver Penciled or whatever, on a bird but it's another thing to refine it and that can be done in a big way with numbers.

But then once you get a line established it's

difficult to bring in new genetics without upsetting what you have already perfected.

That's why the old timers with lots of space would bring in a female and make a few test matings to see what might happen rather than to bring in a male and upset the whole system with a lot of unwanted crosses.

My Columbian Rocks should be getting more attention from me, but as time goes on you just do the best you can with the time you have.

## District 2 News

Hello from District 2

I hope all is well with everyone, it's hard to believe that summer is almost gone and the fall shows are almost upon us. We have been having some hot weather here locally the young birds have been keeping us busy watering. I hope everyone has done well at the fairs this summer and have had a good hatching season and have those champions on the way. We didn't get started as soon as we would have liked this spring but we did have good hatches on the whites, barred and blacks but not as well on the buffs as we would have liked seems every year there is one variety that we don't have as good a hatch as the rest. We just set our last hatch of the year as we wanted to get some chicks out of our spring show birds I am not tracking the feed bill if I did I probably would have to quit.

I would like to congratulate the newsletter team they have been really good and I like the idea of emphasizing a different variety each time. We have been getting a lot of requests the past couple years on the color birds and they are beginning to do well at the shows. As far as upcoming meets most of them have been

set for the fall season the district meet will be held at the Twin Tier show in New York on Sept 7<sup>th</sup> I have listed below what we have so far hope you can support as many as possible. Until next time best of luck at the shows and please remember to support the youth they are our future.

God Bless,  
Greg English

Twin Tier Poultry Club Bath, NY District 2 Meet  
September 7<sup>th</sup>  
Northern NY Poultry Fanciers Waddington, NY Special Meet  
September 14<sup>th</sup>  
Eastern NY State Poultry Assoc. Cobleskill, NY  
State Meet September 28<sup>th</sup>  
Rochester Poultry Assoc. Mumford, NY Special Meet  
October 5<sup>th</sup>  
Yankee Fall Classic Syracuse, NY Special Meet  
October 18-19  
Uniontown Poultry & Farm Products Assoc. Uniontown,  
PA Special Meet October 17,18,19  
York County Poultry Fanciers Assoc. York, PA Special  
Meet Oct. 25-26  
Maryland State Poultry Fanciers Assoc. Fredrick, MD.  
State Meet November 1-2  
Virginia Poultry Breeders Assoc. Glen Allen, VA Special  
Meet November 22

## District 3 News

District 3 is doing well in the way of growing in numbers of shows entertaining a Plymouth Rock Club meet. I have called show secretaries and generally have had good results. If any members can help me get a meet at any shows you attend, please let me know who to contact. We do need more contact information in North Carolina and Florida, please.

Shows with meets in the 2009 fall are:  
**Alabama** - Clanton, Oct 17 (State), contact Brent Davenport, 205-755-2467

**Arkansas**-Fayetteville, Nov 7(double Specials)  
Contact Ann at [contact@SkyBlueEgg.com](mailto:contact@SkyBlueEgg.com)

**So Carolina** - Clemson, SC, Nov 21 (State)  
contact Anthony at 864-369-0909.

**Louisiana** - Haynesville, Nov 21 (Special)  
Contact Jim Crain at [jacrain@chilitech.com](mailto:jacrain@chilitech.com)

**Georgia** - Hartwell, Dec 12 (Special)

*(Continued on page 5)*

# District 4 News

There is a new Poultry Club in District 4 - Feathered Friends Poultry Club . Their first show will be in Columbus, Ohio May 1st, 2010. I am putting a special meet there.

I think I noticed a couple of shows this fall that's not covered yet. I will be checking them out this week. I will also try and get all the winter and Spring show covered before January. Maybe with any luck I will get them all covered by then.

I also went down to the White River Show this last week-end and have already put a special meet with them for 2010.

I have been already talking about 2010 District meet with some of the Breeders that I see at shows and those I get chance to talk to outside of the shows. I have been having some good reports on the Kentuckiana Poultry Club by some of these breeders.

I also got a chance to Talk to the President of that club at the show last week-end and he says their club would love to have the District meet. It would be nice to see it in Kentucky.

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**Tennessee** - Tenn Valley Fair, Sept 9 (Special)  
Wilson Co Fair, Aug 22 (Special) contact  
Ronnie atrronnied@aol.com  
Tenn State Fair, Sept 11 (Special) contact  
Ronnie at rronnied@aol.com  
Lawrence Co. Poulty, Lawrenceburg, Nov 14  
(Special) contact Shelia at Show-  
bird62@aol.com

I am looking forward to this fall with shows to judge in Alabama, Arkansas and Illinois, and others at which I can show.

Its summer and I have pens full of young Rocks. Some are looking pretty good and others, well, all I can say about those is it's culling

Please give me your thoughts on this if you would.

The following are the show reports from some of the shows in District 4

Large Fowl Plymouth Rocks-  
Barred – 20 birds – BV (Best of Variety) by D&H Poultry (Bill Hershner), Mt. Gilead, OH  
Silver Penciled- 14 – BV by Tim Bowles, Lucasville, OH

Columbian – 7 – BV by Jerry Powell, Urbana, OH

Buff- 18 - BV by D & H Poultry  
Partridge – 4- BV by Tim Bowles  
White – 11- BV by Bud Hudson, IL

Bantam Plymouth Rocks  
Barred – 19 – BV & RB by Josh Griffin, Parker City, IN

Silver Penciled- 9 – BV by Tim Bowles  
Columbian – 21 – BV by Gale & Tony Lahr, Bluffton, IN

Buff – 3- BV by D & H Poultry  
Partridge- 7 – BV by D & H Poultry  
White – 17 – BV, BB & Res. SCCL by Rick Bond, Morgantown, IN

time. Culling this time of year is important, even though, it is difficult to cull young birds beyond the basic culling for toes, combs, etc. Some birds will show a severe lack of development, while others are growing so much, you can almost tell they will be too big.

I think summer is a good time to pay attention to particular feeds, nutrients, etc., in order to produce good feathering and proper colors. A big problem, at least at the Crain farm, is lack of space to properly separate the birds as I should. But, we have to keep trying, and telling ourselves that next year, "I won't hatch so many babies."

Yes, next year!

# District 5 News

There comes a day in summer when I am as glad to turn off the incubator as I was to turn it on late last winter. That day sometimes comes as early as Memorial Day and has been as late as July 4. This year it was June 29. I have known people who hatch almost year-round, but there are no shows to go to in my area from May until late September, so birds reaching peak condition in those months wouldn't get to leave the farm. Also, I have been vaccinating for fowl pox for the last few years, as we tend to have mosquitoes in the fall. I like to be able to do all the birds at one time, so the youngest need to be at least six weeks old and still have several weeks after vaccination before I want to take the older birds anywhere.

The rock bantams have done double duty for me this year. About 15 years ago someone asked me if our rocks were good setters. My answer at that time was no, although I clarified that my caging situation then was not conducive to broodiness. Many were in wire-bottomed cages, and I did not encourage setters as we frequently had problems with snakes. We since have changed to more solid bottomed or ground pens and added extra nesting places. Thankfully, this year the snake situation has not been much of a problem. I seemed to have an abundance of call duck eggs and several willing hens, so I gave it a shot. I got better hatch percentages on the duck eggs over incubator settings until really hot weather arrived. I also raise cochin bantams and I have to say I think the barred and white rock hens did slightly better than the cochin hens, although the cochins seemed to be able to better cover an extra egg or two. Even as I write this in early August, I have a barred hen that keeps trying to hatch two pecans she found!

Keeping fresh water for the birds in summer can be very time consuming, but is necessary for proper development. Automatic watering systems are not a viable option for us right now, as I try to move most of my adult birds outside into shaded pens for the summer. We used to have a couple of neighbor kids that would help with feed and water chores when we were gone, but they are both grown and gone now. As you well know, having to ask someone else to take care of your birds in your absence is full of potential problems. The best solution I

have been able to come up with so far is to add extra bottle waterers for the caged birds, feed generously just before we leave, and give cut up apples or squash to help increase moisture intake. When extra garden produce has run out, I have found that grocery stores often have bargain bags of apples that are too ripe for my family's taste, but the chickens thoroughly enjoy them. If you have a suggestion for making chores easier, why not send it in before our next newsletter? What about when you are gone for a few days? Even if it seems obvious to you, someone else may not have thought of it.

A listing of meets placed in District 5 thus far can be found elsewhere, but I will mention that I had originally placed the Missouri State meet with the Heartland Classic last March in Cape Girardeau. That was later upgraded to the Central Regional meet, so I have placed the state meet with the Southern Missouri Poultry Club fall show, Sedalia, October 18. The District meet will be at the Oklahoma State Poultry Show, Shawnee, Oklahoma, December 13 & 14.

## PRFC District 5 Meets 2009

9-26-09 Red River Bantam Club, Decatur, TX Special  
10-3-09 Tulsa State Fair, Tulsa, OK Special  
10-3-09 Newcastle Poultry Association, Newcastle, OK State meet  
10-10-09 Texas State Fair, Dallas, TX Special  
10-17-09 Roosevelt Poultry Show, New Mexico 2 Special  
10-17-09 Missouri State Poultry Association, Sedalia, MO 2 Special  
10-24-09 Abilene Poultry Association, Abilene, TX Special  
10-24-09 Rocky Mountain Feather Fanciers Double Show CO 1 State, 1 Special  
11-7-09 Four Corners Poultry Association, NM State  
11-7-09 Nebraska State Poultry Show, Lincoln, NE State  
11-14-09 Texas National, Decatur, TX Special  
12-12-09 Oklahoma State Poultry Show, Shawnee, OK District

## District 6 News

Our hope right now, is that nothing escapes their pens. Corn fields surround nearly every farm in the heart of the mid-west and corn is currently about 6 foot high. It would be very difficult to find a lost bird.

County fair time has begun. I love the fair season. (When I grow up, I would like to join the carnival.) In MN the 4-h children show a breeding pen of two pullets and a cockerel, no old birds. They may also show laying pullets, (brown or white egg producing) or market chickens. In addition they may show geese, turkeys, ducks, guineas, and pigeons.

It is fun to travel to the different counties and see how the county seems to specialize in one area. For instance, one county may have 30 pens of egg production, and 2 breeding pens, and 5 market pens. Usually that means there is not a poultry breeder in their county, but there might be some commercial laying operations. The next county

fair you attend may have 15 breeding pens of high quality stock, 2 market pens and 4 egg production pens. Then you know you have come into a competitive area of breeders, and it is usually a really fun show to attend. Really interesting to watch and learn.

Our plans for the fall 2009 show season are tentative, as there are so many variables, (depending on how the chickens look, how the crop has progressed, how the rest of the families needs are balanced etc) but our intentions are to attend the MN State Fair, the Illini Poultry Show, the Wisconsin International Show, the Brown County Show, the MN State Show, and we are giving some consideration to the Northeastern Poultry Congress.

We meet so many interesting people at these shows, it is fun to pick up one new show each year, to challenge our navigation skills, and learn something new.

## District 7 News

Hello to all Plymouth Rock Fanciers!

Weather seems to be the topic of conversation among poultry breeders, at least in the California Central Valley. We had a mild June with some light rain and now July has been straight days in the 100's. The weather has caused some confusion for the birds, not sure what season it was, and then the heat really wipes them out. I use fans, misters, and evaporative coolers on the 90 degree and higher days and make sure plenty of water is available.

I did manage to get away and take a couple of quick vacations. We enjoyed fishing at June Lake off 395 and a scenic train ride through the Sierra Nevada. It is nice to have reliable care takers so a person can get away once in a while.

I only lost one bird, wouldn't you know one of my favorites-it always seems to be that way! A young

cock choked on the pelleted feed. I have been interested in a smaller pelleted feed but I have to drive 120 miles round trip to get it.

Most everyone has put away the incubators for the year and are concentrating on the young flock. I had good hatches this year but it required a lot of work. As a 7th grade science teacher I really enjoy the science aspects of embryology and hatching but I also really appreciate the summer off to raise those chicks! I am having a lot of fun!

We always look forward to the California State Fair poultry show held during Labor Day weekend. Many of California's poultry judges and fanciers enjoy showing at this show as we to try to win the coveted Golden Bear trophy.

We are looking forward to the start of the Fall show season, too!

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Here are a few Meets that have been placed for 2009/2010.  
2009

Special Meets  
SeaSide Feather Fanciers 24&25 October Ventura, CA.

Bakersfield Feather Fanciers Nov. 14&15 Bakersfield, CA

State Meets

Four Corners Poultry Assoc. Nov. 7&8 Farmington, NM

Tucson Poultry, Pigeon, & Fancy Fowl Nov. 28&29 Tucson, AZ

2010

Special Meets  
SeaSide Feather Fanciers April Ventura, CA  
Greater Ca. Fresno

State Meet  
Pacific Poultry Breeders' Assoc. Jan 30&31 Stockton, CA

## District 8 News

We have worked hard to open up a new region to Plymouth Rocks and set up some shows and that is in Canada. We have a District Meet set at the Eastern Ontario Open Poultry Show Nappanee Ontario and it is the site of the APA Canadian National. Frank Goodfellow is helping us get this District Meet off the ground. This show is going on October 17-18 2009. We look forward to a good showing of Plymouth Rocks at this show and hope many of our Canadian Rock Breeders will show and then show an interest in joining our club.

Anyone who is a Plymouth Rock Exhibitor in Canada who is reading this message if you will email me at [katz@gultel.com](mailto:katz@gultel.com) I will send you a full Colored Newsletter to your computer so you can see what kind of club we have become over the last 18 months. I want to thank Frank Goodfellow for assisting us and helping us set up this meet and we hope other Canadian shows will contact us so we can put on other meets in Canada later in the year.



**Columbian Plymouth Rock Bantam shown by Mike Michael June 27, 2009  
Top of Ohio Poultry Show-Reserve Champion of the Show**

*(Continued from page 1)*

rich black color of the wing tips contribute to the under color of our birds.

The next thing to watch for is if your male bird's wing color is too black, lacking the white lacing along the lower edge of each primary feather and domination of black in the secondary. We have a tendency to produce a slight amount of black on the shoulder and front part of the wing. According to our Bantam Standard a little black is still acceptable in this area. However, I don't like to see it so; I try to avoid it by keeping the male birds wing bay as ideal in color as possible in most of my breeding males. I will keep at least one male that has a wing bay of black, even lacking in the white lacing of the wing because I find this to enrich body under color where it may be weak especially in the back and saddle area of the bird.

B) Under Color – is described as being delicate slatey blue in all sections. And this is what makes our beautiful Columbian color. But, in the breeding pen if you only breed the ideal color that we want on our show birds, in time you will find your under color getting very light and you don't want this to happen.

Now in your hatch you find a variance in under color from light in color to very dark in color. You may or may not want the very dark under color. This will be determined by what you are trying to achieve in your Columbian color pattern at this time. I prefer the under color to be a little richer than the ideal. I feel it enhances and sharpens the white back body color of the Columbian Rock. It also helps to keep your under color closer to ideal throughout the whole flock.

I've found you can get your under color to dark, then you are going to force your under color up through back and saddle areas. The standard allows 15% of dark spots or mossiness in the back, but with two birds being Ideal in every way, the sharp white colored backed bird is going to place over the other bird.

I have found that to rich a under color, especially in the back and saddle can take away from the white lacing on the top two feathers of the tail on the female bird.

To lighten the under color when I feel its getting to rich I will keep a female in my breeding pen with some white smutting in the primary wing section or a female with ideal standard color to tame down

the strong genetic color that our Ideal male bird is producing.

If I wanted to richen my under color, I would use my male bird in two ways-1) I would cross my ideal color male bird with a rich in color female bird (remember color already locked in to female by your male bloodline). This I have found to richen under color where it is getting to light in color.

2) The second cross I would make to richen the under color I mentioned earlier in this article is that I keep at least one male breeder that is very black in color through his primaries and secondaries with very little white edging to the feather of the wing.

I would then cross this male to a female with as close to ideal under color as possible, or with the female we have noticed having the lighter under color in our breeding pen. These crosses should richen the under color in future hatches.

C) Hackle Color- Hackle color should be lustrous greenish black with a narrow lacing of silvery white on edge of each feather. With hackle feather fluff and shaft being black, with hackle color and front of neck being same on the male and female. Front of neck being White.

If the under color in our birds gets to rich this is where I feel our hackle color can get to dominate in black, that it takes away from the silvery white lacing along each feather. I feel we then start to lose the sharp, crisp, color combination that is so eye-catching of the Columbian hackle color. Also the domination of black in the hackle makes it harder to get the pure white colored head we desire, and also enhances the black spot feathers in the breast area of our birds ( especially in our males). I fell the best way to achieve the proper hackle color is to try and maintain an acceptable under color through our breeding pens.

In closing, I have given information as to what I do in my Breeding Program to try to maintain proper color in my flock.

As every breeders color situation will be different at the time of setting up your breeding pens, you will have to make your selections beneficial to your success in breeding the very important and very eye catching color of the Columbian Plymouth Rock.

I hope I have been helpful!

please write down a narrative of this member, their accomplishments over the years as a breeder, exhibitor, and or officer of our club and how they have promoted our breed and club to beginners and or juniors over the years. Our President has put together a committee to include Tom Corey of Ohio, Secretary Bob Bloss and himself. Please send all nominations to me by October 20<sup>th</sup> and we will start this process to honor some of our prestige's members of our breed club. There is a article that states the qualifications for the Hall of Fame in the Newsletter that was drafted by our president, Jim Volk

Next on the list of business are nominations for officers for the next term of 2010-11. Anyone who would like to serve as an officer or District Director needs to have their names to me the club secretary by October 1, 2009. The ballots will be printed and mailed out no later than October 20, 2009 by the club secretary. All ballots need to be mailed and in the hands of our Election commissioner John Beauchamp by November 1, 2009.

Next we are taking donations for awards for our National Meet at the Columbus Ohio Show this coming November. Anyone who would like to donate to their favorite colored variety of

large fowl or bantam for this show can contact me and I will add you pledge to our list. I plan to have envelope with each cash money listed on them for the winners and will be handed out after the judging to the winners by District Director Mike Michael. A list of the awards will be in a future featured article in the newsletter.

I want to thank our Clubs 1st Vice President Matt Lhamon for helping get the ball rolling on this task and for getting this National Meet started last year. I also want to thank those who have pledged for the awards so far for our big show in Columbus. We have will a list of the points in our next issue. These are shows that have sent their return show reports to Matt up to about two weeks ago. I want to thank those who have joined our club since the last issue and also those who have renewed this summer who joined during the half way point of the year. Dues will be up for renewal again this January so please plan on to renew as we want to have a good base of members to go into 2010.

If I can be of any help to any of you please call me or email me your needs. I wish you the best this fall and winter at the shows and we will see you again in the next issue.

## **Hall of Fame Qualifications**

By  
**Jim Volk**

1. Must be a paid up member of the Plymouth Rock Fanciers Club with at least 15 years breeding and showing Plymouth Rocks.

2. Active in Club Functions such as committee work, writing articles for the newsletter, District Director or served as an officer in the Plymouth Rock Fanciers club.

3. A Hall of Fame Candidate needs to show his birds to have earned the points towards Master Breeder/Exhibitor status.

4. Consistency is also part of the criteria for this honor, as years of promoting our Rock Breed, by

showing his Rocks helping new breeders, our junior members, and by selling stock, eggs or chicks .

5. Breeders of Plymouth Rocks who Horde there stock (do not help in Promoting the Breed or Club especially new breeders and our juniors) should not be considered for this honor.

6. A true Hall of Fame Candidate should meet most of these Qualifications.

7 The Names of these members voted into the Hall of Fame should be recorded by the Club Secretary.

# Junior Corner

My name is Alexis Anderson, I have shown Plymouth Rocks forever. (I'm 14). My dad showed standard whites when he was in 4-H, so when I became old enough for 4-H, it seemed natural to show something that was familiar within the family. My brother was showing white standards, I begged for white bantams. Now that my brother has graduated, my sisters and I show both the standard and bantams, always white.

My first batch of bantams came from Shelby Harrington, who at that time was living in Delaware, hence my primary male became known as Dover (capital of Delaware). We have a lot of fun naming, and showing rocks. Here in Minnesota we show a breeding pen. The male constitutes 50% of the score, while the two pullets should match like identical twins, as though they came from a double yoked egg, they make up the other 50% of the score. Hence it is very important to have a strong male. I think that the more you work with them, the better they seem to show. It is always easier to work with something that has a name. In addition to Dover, I have won with The Colonel (as in Sanders), The Pistol (as in hotter than), and last year lost Mr. Halbach to an unfortunate accident with my grandmother. This years name is yet to be determined; some depends on his disposition, and looks.

We travel the mid-west to several of the fall open shows. I run cross country for my high school, and we often have weekend meets, sometimes I am not able to go to the shows, but my sisters take my chickens, and show, they have a good time with our grandma.

Some of my "big" wins have been the Minnesota State Fair, both 2007 and 2008. Last year my grandma said, don't get your hopes up, because for one thing I lost Mr. Halbach, and secondly, no one wins this show two years in a row, (except for your dad, who did it in 1985, 1986 and 1987) very, very tough show. Kids from all over the state come here to see and be seen. You come to the State Fair to compete, and do well, you can't come in with the intention of a repeat. . .grandma ate her words. Another big win came this past fall at the Brown County Show where I was awarded, the . . .



We are just now really starting to work with birds for this season. In/out of pens, watching closely the conditioning, etc.

School is out, there are rocks to be picked . . .both field rocks and Plymouth White Rocks. Lots to do in Minnesota.

## Editor's Note

I have a big favor to add everyone that has email. My computer crashed due to a lightning strike and I lost parts of my PRFC file along with all my email addresses. Could you please email me at [katz@gulftel.com](mailto:katz@gulftel.com) so I can get my PRFC mailing list back together?

Also if you sent any pictures or articles to include in this newsletter and they are not in here, please know that it was not intentional but due to the fact they were lost in the computer failure.

# I Would Like to be a District Director, But I Don't Know How

By  
Robert Blosl

About 18 years ago a Secretary of a major breed club asked me if I would be the New District Director for the club because of the illness of the District 3 Director. I wanted to help him out, but what am I suppose to do? All I ever did was be president of a 4-H club that I started when I was 13 years old and Secretary of a community Jaycee Club that I once belonged to in the 1980's.

The secretary noticed a pause and a hesitation in my voice and said look Robert I will help you and coach you on what to do. You will be perfect for the position. We already have the shows set in each of the states and I will help you choose the District Meet each year and in no time you will have this job down to a science. Well I want to serve this great club which I was once a long time junior member in the 1960's so I said sure I will do it. He was delighted and then I sat down and said to myself how can I live up to his expectations? So that night I got on the phone and called my good friend Dennis Meyers of Wooster, Ohio and asked Dennis what he did for District Four which was the largest District in the Country. Dennis told me what he did for his district and from his advice I performed my duties for my region of the South East United States. In this article I am going to describe what I have learned over the years as a District Director and as being an officer of the Plymouth Rock Fanciers Club.

**Duties of a District Director:** The best description I can give you on your duties of this position of breed club is you need to plan to write an informative article every two to three months for our club newsletter. It does not have to be very long ,but just inform your members what shows are coming up in the future in the different states and their dates. You can also report on a Meet that has just finished, who attended the show, who won best of breed, best variety and any other information that you discussed at the show. You can also sit down at a show with a old timer who is a long time breeder of Plymouth Rocks and ask him how he got started, where he got his start from who helped him as a mentor when he was getting started, what shows he remembers wining at with the highest awards, and tips on breeding rearing and conditioning his Plymouth Rocks. You can sit down with such a member at a table where it may be quiet such as an eating area or outside with your pad and paper and write down notes as you go. I once interviewed a master breeder of mine at a show in Minnesota and had a tape recorder in my shirt to record his comments. I was asking him how to breed a certain color pattern and knew I could not remember everything he told me. It was a

great interview and then latter he invited me to his home to pick up a collection of old breeds club papers and newsletters and I interviewed him for another three hours without the tape recorder. You could also interview a new member or a junior member who is really doing well in your area. If you feel your penmanship is lacking you just send your article to the Club Secretary and they will be happy to correct your grammar ect to make it look except able so you will feel comfortable to what you submitted to the upcoming newsletter.

**Seek and you shall find:** Next on the list of duties is to get your Poultry Press out for a year and look at the shows that are in your region of your district. Also, you can go on line to our web site <http://www.crohio.com/rockclub/> and look under points and you can go back about five years and look at the list that Vice President Matt Lhamon has placed for your district. You can then cut and paste these shows on your Word software program and then print out this list for a reference. Look and see what shows you presently have and compare them to the shows that are coming up and see who you need contact at these shows and ask for a new Club Meet.

**Ask and it shall be given to you:** What I do is get on my computer and email the show secretary and ask them for a State or Special Meet. A good example I was doing the leg work to set up some shows in Canada. I contacted by email Frank Goodfellow from Ontario Canada and asked him if we could have a District Meet at the Eastern Ontario Poultry and Pigeon Fanciers Show. Frank emailed me back and said yes. Then I asked him what other shows that he attends and supports could I contact for District or Special Meets. He gave me a list of two more shows which I was able to get approval from their show secretaries for meets for our club. Then later I asked the big question and that was Frank would you be interested in being the District Director for the Country of Canada and he said yes. I hit the jackpot and reached my goals of getting the Rock Club back into Canada and finding a new District Director. I have asked many show secretaries in the last four months for a show to build up our shows for our other District Directors and not one has told me NO. I had one show secretary who told me he would love to have a District Meet in British Columbia Canada, but he had no one in the region that showed or owned Plymouth Rocks. I told him I could help him get Plymouth Rocks in the hands of anyone who wanted a start and he told me he and a friend want to get a start of large Fowl Barred Rocks and I told him that next spring I would help him get about four dozen eggs to him so they can have a start in

Barred Rocks. So I failed to get a meet with them in British Columbia, but I got a fellow and a friend into Barred Plymouth Rocks and that's what a good District Director or Officer of a club should be trying to do is help others get a start and help them learn to breed the color pattern.

**Knock and your doors will Open to you:** Next thing a District Director needs to do is communicate with your members. You go to the web site for the Plymouth Rock Club and go to the section for membership and cut and past on word software the list of members that live in your district. Sometimes there will be an email address for these members, but you will have a home address. You can write them a letter and mail it to them or do what I do and go to [www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com) and type in their name and address and locate their phone number on this web site. Then on Saturday and Sunday I call these members and chat with them on my cell phone and ask them how they are doing, how are their Rocks doing and what can I do to better serve you as your District Director or Secretary. At this time is a good time to ask what shows he attends and what show he would suggest for a District Meet next year. Also, who are some of his friends who are breeders of Plymouth Rocks and get their names? Ask him or her if they know their email address or phone number. Then you try to contact them by mail with a letter asking them to join our Breed Club and that you are the District Director for their Region. You can then email me the Secretary of the Rock Club and give me their names and I will email them a colored Newsletter and a letter asking them to join our club or I can mail them a newsletter by first class mail. This is how you get in touch with your members and potential members by computer, by mail or phone call. Naturally, if you go to a good size show such as Ohio National, Lucasville or Indiana State Fair you will meet members and breeders of Plymouth Rocks and you can communicate with them and rebuild relationships with these breeders. In a way as a District Director you and your members are a mini Breed club of Plymouth Rocks. Years ago when Breed Clubs had hundreds and thousands of members they had District Presidents, Vice Presidents and Secretaries along with four members on a board of Directors. In some periods of times in the late 1920s, they had the same officers for each State. It was not unheard of that you could have over 100 members in the 1920s and 30's of our hobby in the State of Ohio alone.

**Conclusion:** In this article I hope I have given you some insight on how to be a District Director of the Plymouth Rock Fanciers Club. If you feel that you could serve as a District Director, but you say I don't show my Rocks I am just a breeder. Well what's wrong with that? I am your Club Secretary and I did not show for over 14 years with my Rocks until last year. When I was the District Director 18 years ago, I never attended a show until I

was Club President in 2000 and 2002. So don't let that hold you back. You may say, I don't have any Plymouth Rocks anymore or I help my Grand Daughter and I don't own any Plymouth Rocks. We have an excellent District Director in Sally Anderson from Minnesota and she does just this support her Grand Daughter and is helping us in District 5 so don't let that hold you back. I have a member who raises Buff Rock Bantams who has never showed in 20 years and he has accepted taking over a District in his part of the country after the first of the year. I told him the State and Special meets are already set up at the few shows they have still left in his district and we have one major show which will be the District Meet each of his two years of his term.

I have seen over the years that District Directors who excel in this position also work themselves to such a level of expertise that they become future Presidents and Secretaries of our Breed Club. If you are a member, Past District or Present District Director you must realize that two, four and up to ten years from now we are going to need Presidents, Vice President and Secretaries for our Breed Club. We as Officers and Directors must look into our crystal ball and realize this must be something we need work on to keep our club at the level that it is today. In sales they talk about keeping your pipe line full for 90 days. If you take your eye off the ball you can run short of clients and have some slow and poor months in your profession if you don't look into the future. I urge you as members to consider this thought **what can I do for my breed club to help it grow for next few years.** Down the road if the Club Secretary or President asks you would you consider being a District you may say sure I can do it. You know what is expected of you as District Director and can perform this position. For two years from reading this article with no fear of what you are suppose to do. I promise you if you learn from other great District Directors that are presently serving our club or former ones of our club that served years ago you will do just fine and provide a great service for our breed club. I can tell you our Success as Officers of this Breed club for the last 18 months is the diligent service and cooperation of our current District Directors.

Our club is sound and in great shape thanks to everyone of our District Directors pulling their weight and writing their messages for your Plymouth Month Quarterly. In fact some of our District Directors have written excellent articles on breeding their favorite colored variety of Plymouth Rocks. A classic example is in this issue the article by Mike Michaels on Breeding Columbian Plymouth Rock Bantams. As your club secretary I look forward working with the current and the future District Directors in the next two years and I know the members of our breed club appreciate your sacrifice of time in serving our hobby and the Plymouth Rock Fanciers Club of America.

## **Membership information**

\$15.00 per year Adult  
\$5.00 per year Junior

Please mail to:  
PRCA/Robert Blosl  
14390 South Blvd  
Silverhill AL  
36576-3313

Please include Name, Address, Telephone Number,  
breeds raised, and email address.

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