

Cochins International

December 2008

President's Report

Hello everyone! This will be my last article as President of Cochins International. We are in the process of getting together ballots to be mailed out after the beginning of the year, and if you are interested in running for President or Vice-President or any of the Director's positions please let me know. It's an all volunteer force that runs our club, so please consider stepping up to the challenge and keeping our breed club as one of the best going.

I am also working on placing the National Meets for 2009. You will see additional information in future articles in the Poultry Press. You'll find a listing of the National rotation in the newsletter. Keep this rotation in mind if you think a show in your district would like to host a National Meet in the future.

Cochins numbers seem to be holding steady in the show halls, with many reports of



Super Grand Champion of Show, APA National, Ventura, CA – a black bantam pullet by Sheryl Butler

Cochins taking top honors at some of the larger shows. Congratulations to Sheryl Butler on her big win with a Black Bantam pullet at the APA Annual meet at the Seaside Feather Fanciers Show in October.

It's almost breeding season, and I've already started evaluating my birds to determine which will be used in which pen for the 2009 season. As some of you may already know, I am working on Self-Blue Cochins (in addition to other breeding projects). I have an f1 batch of Self Blue splits to Black that show much improved type over their Self-Blue parents. I will be putting together a photo log to show my progress along the way, and will post that on my website over the winter. For the f2 generation I will have to hatch 100 chicks from the f1 splits bred together to get 25 Self-Blues. We'll see how it pans out.

There is some renewed interest in some of the lesser seen varieties in both Large and Bantam Cochins. I know that Dennis Wollard and myself are going to hatch some Golden Laced Large Fowl this year. Matt McCammon now has some Buff Columbian Cochin bantams and so there will be at least two of us working to improve them. I've had several requests for Buff Columbians, but have not been able to fill them because the males don't carry the correct saddle markings just yet. Hopefully between Matt and me we can make some good progress over the next couple years. John Burgess has made a nice start in Birchen Cochin Bantams and has been showing his first generation birds this fall. The type is right there and the color needs some tweaking, but they are looking good. I encourage you to take up the challenge of a parti-colored variety. You don't need to
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Officers

President

Tom Roebuck Jr
26341 Old Mill Rd
Unionville VA 22567
(540) 854-0881
tomroebuck@cochinsrule.com

Vice President

William Ziehm
3166 Beebe Rd
Newfane NY 14108
(716) 751-9400
Hummingbirdfarm1@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Jamie Matts
283 State Hwy 235
Harpursville NY 13787
(607) 693-3433
mattsjt@aol.com

Directors

Canada

Hans Maas
185 Woodland Rd, Box 8, RR#4
Rosenheath, Ontario KOK-2X0
(905) 352-3797
hans.marlenemaas@sympatico.ca

West Central (IA, MN, MT, NE, ND, SD, WY)

Mark Peterson
RR1 Box 185
Amboy MN 56010
(507) 674-3651
markap@hickorytech.net

Northeast 1 (CT, ME, MA, NY, RI, VT)

Donna Lamb
208 Center St
Groveland MA 01834
(978) 374-2481
lamb@psicorp.com

Pacific (AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, UT, WA)

Bill McGee
128 Catrina Ct
Sparks NV 89436
(775) 425-2912
wcmcgee@prodigy.net

North Central (IL, IN, KY, MI, OH, WI)

Kendra Aldrich
12948 Ring Rd
St. Charles MI 48655
(989) 865-6702
kima53@sbcglobal.net

Northeast 2 (DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV)

Rich Barczewski
6827 Underwoods Corner Rd
Smyrna DE 19977
(302) 659-1211
rbarczew@desu.edu

Southeast (AL, GA, FL, MS, NC, SC, TN)

Judy Gantt
701 Casar Lawndale Rd
Lawndale NC 28090
(704) 538-3276
jgantt@earthlink.net

Southwest (AR, CO, KS, LA, MO, NM, OK, TX)

Bernita Miller
300 N Franklin
Windsor MO 65360
(660) 647-2474
bmiller@iland.net

International

John Burgess
10738 Harley Rd
Mason Neck VA 22079
(703) 339-5359
jdburgess@verizon.net

Membership Chair

Matt McCammon
Rt#2 Box 98M
Bloomfield IN 47424
(812) 384-3777
Jackie@wispaninternet.com

(just a couple more on the next page)

Directory Chair

Tom Roebuck Jr
 26341 Old Mill Rd
 Unionville VA 22567
 (540) 854-0881
 tomroebuck@cochinsrule.com

Newsletter

Jay Smith
 1702 Alice Dr
 Penngrove CA 94951
 (707) 664-1455
 jayalansmith@gmail.com

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work on 3 or 4 varieties, but just one additional variety would go a long way to getting more varieties in the show hall.

I am looking forward to a nice Cochin Bantam class at the ABA National in a few weeks. I am taking 21 Bantam Cochins myself, and a handful of large Cochins too. It should be a fun weekend.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. I want to say thanks to everyone for your years of support. It has been fun being your President, and I look forward to many more years in the fancy. I will still be supporting Cochins International in any way I can, but have decided to focus a little more on the fancy from a local perspective, and have taken the post of Show Superintendent and interim Secretary for the Virginia Poultry Breeders Association, and I am also running for District Director of the ABA for District 5.

We'll see you in the Cochin Aisles!

Tom

**Vice President Note**

Hi All,

As many of you know I will not seek reelection for vice-president. I would like to thank all the members for your support and I pledge to still work to promote our breed. If anyone would need something, I am available to help. Always a good day to discuss Cochins. We have a very upstart club and much of it is because of the efforts of our out-going President Tom Roebuck. We certainly owe him much gratitude! I am sure the new officers will continue to promote this club and the breed it represents. Many thanks for all the work that is done in support of our club.

Bill

Secretary/Treasurer Report

Well where has the fall gone? It's hard to believe anymore how fast time flies. It seems like yesterday I was turning my incubator off and now it's time to turn it back on. For those who know me well it really was like last month when I turned it off but oh well it's an addiction.

I have set my breeding pens up for 2009 and the birds are starting to lay pretty well. I hatched a bunch more large fowl this year than I have in the past and look forward to getting a few more out early in 2009. I am kicking myself for raising more large fowl with the price of feed. It went up to almost double what I paid last year and is slowly going down. But for me I can't put a price on the enjoyment I get from watching those big cochins walk the yard.

I had the opportunity to judge a few shows this fall. The cochins were represented ok, not the numbers that I remember in the past, but there were a few good birds here and there. Being that I raise cochins I tend to be a little more critical of them when judging. I am really looking forward to judging the Ft Worth Stock show in January, should be a nice break

from the cold weather I hope. I was able to show at a couple of fall shows as well and I was pleased with how well my mottleds placed. But whether it's judging or showing I really look forward to catching up with old chicken buddies. That is by far the best part of this hobby for me. It's not if you win or lose, it's the memories made with the friends you have made over the years.

Our treasury is doing well, staying right around \$4000. Things like newsletter costs, National awards and poultry press ads have been paid since last newsletter.

Well I guess that is all for now. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and can reflect on a good 2008 and hopefully an even better 2009 is just around the corner. Until next time, take care.

Jamie

National Meet Rotation	
2009E	Canada
2009W	West Central
2010E	Northeast I
2010W	Pacific
2011E	North Central
2011W	West Central
2012E	Northeast II
2012W	Pacific
2013E	Southeast
2013W	Southwest

NE District II Report

The Northeast District II continues to remain active in spite of the variable A.I. Testing rules that we have across our district. Nice shows were held across the district this fall and I had the opportunity to attend the Virginia Poultry Breeders Show in Glen Allen and the Maryland Poultry Fanciers Show in Frederick this fall. I also was able to show a few birds at the York County Poultry Fanciers Show in York, PA but I could not attend that show personally.

I plan to continue to place meets where ever there are shows that would like to have one in the district and if you are traveling to a show and want to make sure they have a meet, just give me a holler and I'll make sure to send the paperwork off to the show management.

I've been impressed with the quality of the birds that I've seen at most of the shows with some outstanding examples of our cochin breed in both the large fowl and bantams. It seems as though every judge is looking for something just a little bit different but when you have classes with decent quality, it definitely makes the judges jobs more difficult.

This is an election year and while I am willing to serve an additional term as NE District II director, I am also willing to step aside should someone else want the job. It is a good experience to give something back to the club and being a district director requires that you write an article a few times per year and that you send out meet paperwork to the shows in the region. I use the Poultry Press as a guide and send meets to the shows that advertise in the press each month.

Consideration is now being given to the 2009 district meet. If you have a suggestion for where that meet should be placed, Spring or Fall in 2009, drop me or the next district director a line to let them know your feelings. Until next time, get those breeding pens ready and raise some real champions.

Rich

Southwest District Report

Greetings from Missouri. Very cold here this morning, 19 degrees but no snow.

It was a great fall for shows in the southwest district, with good turn-outs at most. We are looking forward to spring, can't hurry it enough. I have lived in Missouri all my life and I still don't like cold weather. We have the incubator going and already hatched out a few chicks.

My 5 1/2 year old granddaughter showed a new variety at one of the shows here. We called them straw, very pretty, so now every time she comes over, out to the chicken house she has to go to see her birds.

There will be some great shows coming up here in the SW district this spring – Pryor, OK in March, Hutchinson, KS, and Sedalia, MO in April and some I haven't heard from yet. I will run for district director again this time. But if anyone else is interested in it, I will step down. Hope to see you all at the upcoming shows.

Bernita

North Central Report

Fall shows are in full swing. The second week of October, we held our Frankenmuth Fowl Fest show. The weather was great, and we had 1400 birds. The show continues to grow each year, and the building and all the birds, made for a great weekend.

We attended the Belvedier IL show in September. The weather rained all weekend, but the Standard Cochins were out in full force. The top Cochin standard breeders show at this show, and the numbers were impressive. Roland Doerr showed a large number of standard cochins, in many varieties.

The Ohio National show in Columbus had great numbers, appeared to be around 5500 birds. It's nice to see the numbers up at

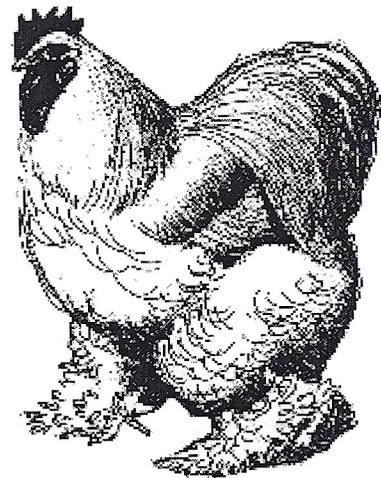
the Poultry shows, and I hope they continue to increase with each coming year.

I will not be running for reelection for District 3, so if you might be interested in getting more involved with the Cochin International Club, please consider volunteering for this position. We sold out of cochin bantams, a few years ago, but we are slowly getting back into them. We purchased five Buff Standard Cochins from the Van Fleets in September, and recently a pair of buff cochin bantams. I have also been hounding Tom Roebuck for some of his buffs, so it looks like we might just get back into the cochins. We have raised bantam Brahmas and Standard Light and Dark Brahmas for the past few years. Best to All and a Great Fall show season.

Kendra

It's that time... Get your dues paid

(check your mailing label to know when your membership expires)

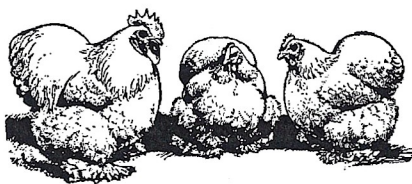


Canada Report

Hi everyone. The show season in our District for the year has come to an end. The last show was in Woodstock Ontario on December 13. The 'Colwyn Championship Showcase' show was held on September 27-2008 in Fergus Ontario. Ralph Beamer & Bill Ziehm judged the poultry and waterfowl classes. Both Judges made very favorable comments in regards to the quality of poultry being exhibited. The Colwyn show is being considered by many Fanciers as the highlight of the show season and rightly so. Colwyn should be congratulated for all the time and effort they spend to make the show most enjoyable year after year, with special attention given to the Junior section and promoting the same. A total of 26 Cochins were exhibited. Overall Champion Cochin black YF Bantam went to Stephenson & Thompson. Overall Reserve Champion Cochin white OF Standard went to Jean and Paul Homer. Best of Breed Cochin Bantam Black YF went to Stephenson & Thompson. Best of Breed Standard White OF went to Jean and Paul Homer. Congratulations to all exhibitors and winners for making this show a truly great show.

Due to unforeseen circumstances I will not be able to resume my responsibility as District Director any longer and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Cochin Fanciers for your support, and a special thanks to all the individuals for taking the time to fill out the show reports and submitting them in a timely fashion. Again many thanks and all the best.

Hans



Northeast District I Report

Hello from New England. As of this writing, the NE1 district fall shows are all done; unfortunately the New England Bantam show was cancelled, but will hopefully be back on track in the spring.

As I write this, a cold winter wind blows and reminds me how we need to help our birds through this difficult season. First, make sure the birds are not subject to any drafts as that is a major cause of sickness. Also, I keep my birds inside during the winter where moisture can accumulate, which is another major contributor to sickness. I keep a window open at the top and run a fan out the other side of the coop. This seems to provide enough ventilation to alleviate the problem. Finally, make sure they have access to water; it can freeze up quickly, leaving them with nothing to drink. I welcome any other interesting information you may have that I can share with our members.

Below are some fall show results that I am aware of who held CI special meets and the NE1 District meet at Boston Poultry Exposition in North Oxbridge, MA.

NE1 District Meet Boston Poultry Exposition (11/2/08) There were 59 cochins entered (44 bantams and 15 large fowl). In bantams; BB and RB went to Bill Ziehm with a black pullet and a black cockerel respectively. The remainder of the class: Whites, 12, BV and RV on a cock and cockerel by Bill Serrine, Buff, 19, BV to a pullet by Bob Hawes and RV cock to Robert Lightfoot. Bill West won Best and Reserve Asiatic with two large buff Cochin cockerels – an impressive sight on champion row I might add! Best and reserve Junior Cochins went to Aron Leighton with two white pullets. Congratulations to all the winners. I'd like to thank Dorothy Dickinson, Bob Hawes, Ted Howes, Bill Serrine, Jamie Matts, Bruce Clapp, Robert and Sarah Lightfoot, Linda Blackman, and Norman Rau, for their contributions to our district awards. With your generosity, we were able to present winners

with \$170 in awards. I'd like to give big thanks to the show secretary, Stephen Blash. He made sure our district meet was a success and even provided tee shirts to our winners. I'm sorry I do not have any photos of our winners yet. If I receive them, I'll include in the next newsletter.

Eastern NY State Poultry Assoc. Show,

Cobleskill, NY 9/28/08 Bantam: BB- Buff Pullet- Tom Roebuck and RB-Mottled Pullet- Jamie Matts. In large fowl, BB and RB with a Buff K and White P respectively - Tom Roebuck. In Bantams, Black BV K- John Beauchamp, RV H- William Serrine; White BV P- Tom Roebuck, RV P- John Beauchamp; Buff BV P - Tom Roebuck and RV H - Donna Lamb; Blue BV - Tom Roebuck; Mottled BV and RV P - Jamie Matts; Partridge BV K - John Beauchamp, RV P - Tom Roebuck; Barred BV K- Tom Roebuck. In large fowl, Black BV P- Jamie Matts and RV P- Kate Morreale; White BV P- Tom Roebuck, RV H- Kate St. Amour; Blue BV and RV H- Chris Armstrong; Partridge BV- P- Tammy Delong. Thanks to Shari McCollough for supplying me with these results, I'm afraid I'm getting more forgetful as I get older.

Linda Blackman and Bob Hawes were kind enough to provide me with results for the fall **Central Maine Bird Fanciers** show that I was not able to attend. This show was also in honor of Norm Rau as he retires from the fancy so I was especially disappointed in not being able to attend as I wanted to wish him the best. BB was won by Bill Serrine on a White K and RB to a Buff H by Bob Hawes. BV black hen by Linda Blackman, and Best Blue to Norm Rau on a pullet.

Finally, Bob Hawes provided me with some Cochin results for the **Fall Little Rhody** show. Bob won BB on a buff pullet and Bill Serrine won RB with a white cockerel.

I hope everyone who reads this has noticed the buff Cochin wins. Progress is definitely being made on this variety. The only remaining show for the NE1 area is the Northeastern Poultry Congress, to be held on February 17 and 18, 2009 at the Eastern States

Expo in Springfield, MA. This is a CI NE1 Special Meet. Please visit www.poultrycongress.com for more details.

Have a great holiday season and start cranking up those incubators - the spring shows will be here before you know it! And as always, feel free to contact me with any comments and questions: lamb@psicorp.com - 978-374-2481. Wishing you a successful hatching season.

Donna

International Report

Season's Greetings to All.

Even though winter is just setting in good here in the USA, some breeders have already set eggs and hatched some chicks in hopes of having finished birds ready for the Fall 2009 Show Season.

The United Kingdom National Show was held 29-30 Nov 08 in Stoneleigh with approximately 40 entries (large fowl). The Best Cochin was a Cuckoo Hen. The Federation Show will be held 20-21 Dec 08 in Safford.

In Germany, International Cochin Day was a great success with about 200 bantams and 15 large fowl entered. Over 100 birds were presented for sale and all were sold. Competitors and visitors were present from five (5) countries.

The Dutch Club Show is planned for the 2nd weekend of December in the city of Enschede and the German Bantam Club will conduct its Club Show the 2nd weekend of Jan 09 in Oyten, near Bremen. Arjun Warnshuis has sent entries in for the Dutch Show and is planning to attend the German Show.

Also in Europe, five (5) cochin clubs (Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria and Holland) have combined to produce a cochin calendar for 2009. This lovely and useful

calendar will be sold in Europe with the proceeds going to the sponsoring clubs.

From Romania, Bobo Athes reports that in early November, a large poultry show was conducted as part of an Agriculture Show in Bucharest. It was actually more of an exhibition and sale since the entrants were not actually judged. (NOTE: Bobo's article and photos follow this one.)

As a reminder, Cochins International welcomes articles and information from all our members and friends in other parts of the world at any time.

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! Regards to all,

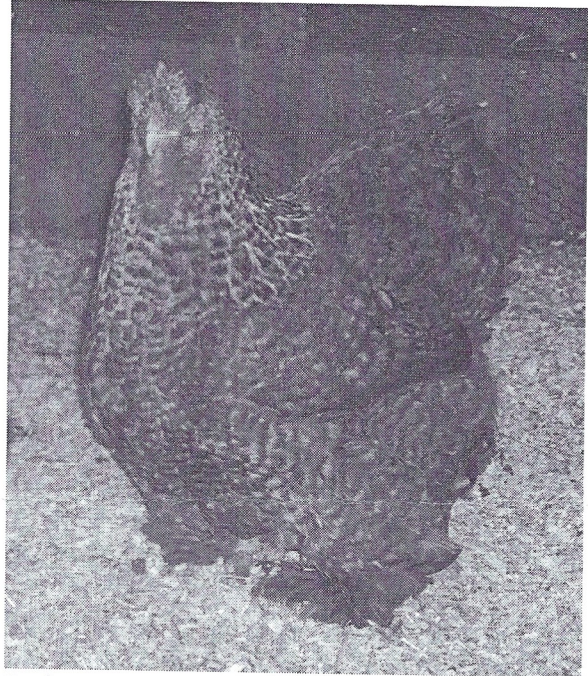
John



Golden Quail large fowl from Bobo Athes

New Color Varieties in Standard Cochins

(Editors note: the color of these birds are gorgeous in full-color. Hopefully we can get them up on the Cochins International website) Usually, when one thinks about Large Cochins, the Buffs, Whites or Blacks are the first which come to mind. Varieties like Partridge or Mottled are not as common as these three, and the Barred is seldom to be seen. Not to mention show-quality Silver-Laced or Gold-



Cuckoo Partridge from Bobo

Laced Cochins. Perhaps the main reason discouraging the breeders in any attempt with these colors is a simple fact: one can hardly equal the type and size of Large Buffs or Large Blacks. If you add the difficulties in creating the right color pattern, you have the whole picture of breeding these varieties.

But what happens with *new* varieties? What if someone decides to create a completely new variety of Large Cochins? Everybody knows that Bantam Cochins can be found in so many color varieties, and everybody enjoys seeing that diversity in shows. But when one mentions a new color in Large Cochins, this is a completely different story. Why is that? Has diversity ever harmed anyone?

Of course, traditional varieties should be preserved, in as many pure bloodlines as possible, but new varieties could greatly benefit from fresh blood and consequently the heterosis effect, having as result huge size, rapid growth and a better immunity to diseases. The “traditionalists” regarding color varieties in Large Cochins seem to forget that if there hadn’t been for careful selection (and in the same time inventive breeding strategies) there wouldn’t have been much difference between the “Buffs” and the “Partridge”. We would have them like 150 years ago: all of more or less the same color, bad in time according to the



Golden Quail hen

present standard, and with no guarantee whatsoever for the quality of the chicks. Why stop the process? And what is the “definition” of a Large Cochin?

I have experimented with Cochin colors myself, and I even showed my version of a Gold-Quail Cochin cockerel at a local show. The judge first thought that it was a badly-colored Partridge Cochin, and then, after being told what it was, he said I should stop wasting my time and that “serious” breeders should stick to traditional colors. In this case, should tradition be an obstacle for evolution? Just to mention,

that Gold – Quail cockerel was the biggest Cochin male in that show (there were somewhere around 25 Standard Cochin males, young and adult), with good type and a nice temperament. Plus, I had 2 or his brothers at home, in the exact same color, with 4 identically colored hens.

In an interview I did with four of the top Cochin breeders in the world – Peter J. Heywood, the President of the English Cochin Club, Tom Roebuck, the President of the American Cochin Club (Cochins International), Ardjan Warnshuis, the President of the Dutch Cochin Club, and Beth and Jerry Smith, National Champions in the U.S.A. – when it was published in the June issue of the *Aviculture Europe* on-line poultry magazine, Ardjan said then when you see a Cochin, size and shape should make you say: **Wow!** And to further make my point, I’ll use another quote from Ardjan: “There is no wrong color on a good horse”.

I think this is the “healthiest” attitude towards creating new colors in Large Cochins – again, while in the same time preserving and improving the existing varieties. I have seen various opinions on this, on several forums, and usually breeders seem to dismiss new varieties,



Silver Quail pair

even using words such as “cull” or “bad colored”. Who can say that a color is “right”? Is there any universal treaty as to how colors

should be judged? After all, the most difficult thing in breeding Large Cochins is making them big enough, in the best type possible.

These birds should first of all be impressive, and I do not think that color could ever be a drawback in this respect. Such conservatory opinions can make more harm than good, while the creation of new colors could bring more visitors to shows, and maybe some of these visitors will also become Cochin breeders. Varietas delectat – Diversity is delightful. Why should it be different with Large Cochins? Maybe the breeders who want to create new colors should be encouraged, not “pushed aside”. Does anyone think that Large Blue-Mottled Cochins are faulty in color? Yet, this is a relatively recent creation. Hopefully, in the years to come, we will be able to admire new varieties of Giant Cochins, with the critical eye of the Cochin standard and the same sense of “beauty” that has led to the present Cochin varieties. Some varieties have already been lost; wouldn’t it be a shame to lose, from the start, something that we haven’t even created yet?

Bobo

And Southeast District (which apparently includes the Pacific Report)

What an adventure the Featherleg Five had travelling 1200 miles to the APA National in Ventura, California.

The trip originated in Bothell, WA, as our hostess and driver Sheryl Butler lives there. Calesta Rieth, from Spokane, met us at Sheryl’s. A sixteen-foot horse trailer was packed from bottom to top with show birds and sale birds. Several exhibitors also sent birds with us as they had made arrangements to fly down. Rising four hours before dawn, on Wednesday, October 22, our journey began. We picked up

Marjorie Best from Oregon City, OR, and Dottie Truedson from Silverton, OR. Since this was going to be a two-day trip, we stopped at a rest area to feed and water all the birds. A rest area attendant walked up to Dottie and told her we



*Who **are** these strange people????!?? Please, **please** call your local authorities if you know. **THEY MIGHT BE WANTED!** Okay fine, it’s Sheryl, Dottie, Judy, Calesta and Marjorie (not necessarily in that order (sorry, girls))*

would have to clean up the shavings that had spilled from the carriers. Now imagine, we are parked among the “big rigs” that would blow most of the shavings away just by cranking up their engines. The attendant let us borrow a broom and we began to make that parking lot one spic-and-span place! Has that ever happened to you?

After spending one night on the road, we arrived in Ventura at 8 pm on Thursday evening. We would have to wait one more day to make the birds comfy as set-up wasn’t complete. Destination reached!

The scenery along the way was anything boring. I grew up on a small farm and still enjoy living in the country. I learned what a real mountain look like. California is such an agricultural oasis (where watered) and the other is dry wasteland. Such crops as cotton, alfalfa, grapes, fruit and nut trees stretched as far as the eye could see. Thousands of cows in the feed lots – from replacement holstien

heifers to beef cattle destined for our table. Thousands upon thousands of alfalfa hay bales stacked as tall as a five-story building and as wide as a football field. I thought the south had large farms but nothing compared to the vistas I saw through the quarter-inch glass of the '95 red Chevy. I really enjoyed going through the Tejone area, Shasta Mountains and an extremely curvy areas known as "the Grapevine". The show capped Mt Shasta was so beautiful. In contrast, the Tejone area was so dry that it would take 100 acres to feed two grazing cows.

Wow! No better combination to stay on the beach and wake up to see the beautiful flowering tropic plants and the rolling, breaking waves with surfers trying to conquer that expansive flowing water highway. Just four blocks away was the Ventura Fairgrounds which was a first-class facility.

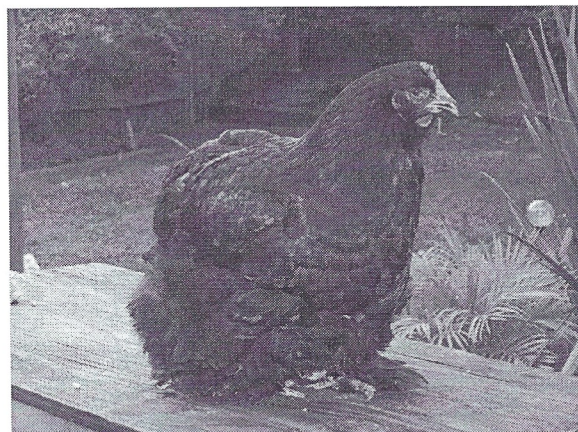
There were 2700 entries with the featherlegs being the largest. There were 132 brahmas, 120 silkies, 110 cochins, 50 d'uccles as well as favorelles in the bantam class. There



Champion Asiatic, APA National, Ventura CA 2008 – a black hen by Doris Vosburg

were 31 large fowl cochins exhibited. Other than the Featherleg Five, it was a treat to meet other cochin exhibitors – Doris Vosburg, Kaitlin and Ed Hartsell, and Kimberly Parker. The junior cochins were part of the open entries but I didn't meet any of them. The cochins were

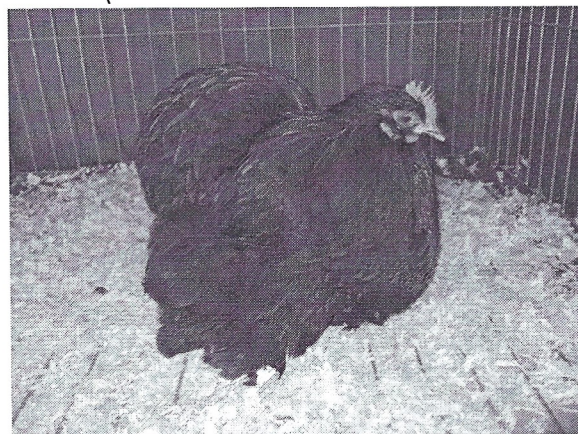
top-notch birds with nice heads, good feather width and balanced bodies. The size was comparable to our east coast bird, at least to mine because I prefer the larger cochins.



Champion Cochin by a Junior, APA National, Ventura, CA 2008 – a black hen by Shelby Macdonald

There were 27 blacks, 20 whites, seven mottled, seven blue, two splash and one partridge in bantams. Bantam frizzle cochins were well represented with 14 black frizzles, 14 white and seven blue frizzles. There were 31 large fowl cochins with blacks having the largest number exhibited with 17.

Sheryl Butler had BB and RB bantam with two equally nice black and white pullets. Doris had BB and RB large fowl on a black hen and cock bird respectively. Sheryl experienced



Super Grand Champion of Show, APA National,

Ventura, CA 2008 – a black bantam pullet by Sheryl Butler

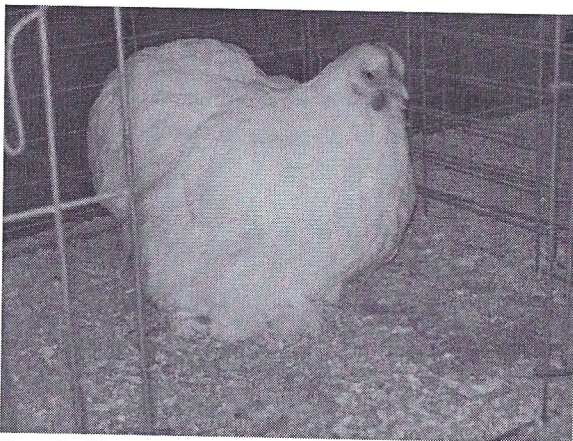
a once in a lifetime moment as her pretty black pullet was crowned Super Grand Champion of the show. Her hard work and dedication to the cochin breed was rewarded.

Doris had Best Asiatic with her large fowl black hen. Congratulations to all the winners.

The trip was also a once in a lifetime experience for me. I would never have imagined that I would be fortunate to have attended a poultry show on the west coast. Thanks Sheryl for making this possible!

On the way back from Ventura, we stopped in Cottage Grove, OR to have lunch with someone that I had only met via phone. Encourager and mentor are two words I would use to describe Bill McGee. He is such a nice person and friend. Bill treated all of us to lunch and we had such a wonderful time talking cochins and visiting. Thank you Bill!

Sheryl and I also attended the Canadian National in Abbotsford British Columbia. Cochins ruled again. Congratulations to Joe Mazur for having best in show on an



Best in Show, Canadian National 2008 – a white pullet by Joe Mazur

exceptional white pullet. I wish I had a barn full like her!

Fall show season has been going strong since the end of October. Shows will taper off December 13 and our focus will be on the ABA

Annual in Lake City, FL. This is a first class show so make plans to visit sunny Florida January 10-11.

The South has lost judge W D Jones, judge Don Juencke, and two fixtures of Lake City, Ken Herring and John Thyssen, in the last year. It should be a great honor and tribute to a person when you can't think of any negative things to say about someone. These four gentlemen were first class all the way, expressing honesty, helpfulness, encouragement and spending time with their poultry friends. Our lives have been enriched by knowing these four southern gentlemen. They will be truly missed.

Hatching? Are you hearing the call of that sweet down covered chick or are you turning your head the other way and saying, "Not interested."? This is a choice we're going to be making in the next month or so based on the growth patterns of our beloved birds. I've heard the call and am acting on that call. Kinda excited to see some little fuzzy balls running around.

Thanks to all the members for supporting the Cochins fancy. Whether by breeding or showing, you've stepped up to the plate and promoted our breed club. As of early December no one has expressed interest in the Southeast director position. I will be glad to serve again and if anyone has any suggestions on how to make our club stronger, please contact me. Thanks for the fellowship!

Judy

**ARTICLES,
PICTURES
(needed for the
newsletter)**