

2008 IF Pigeon Convention

“Play Misty for Me”

That should have been the theme song for the 2008 IF Convention race sponsored by the Rhode Island Racing Pigeon Club. The weather bureaus indicated it would be cloudy, but clearing. Well, just the opposite. The birds had a clear start, but halfway home the weather socked in with low ceilings, fog and mist, the whole day. On the bright side, everything else went off beautifully.

Thursday's registration was a good time to catch up with old friends in the hotel's hospitality room where there was coffee and pastries served. From there people checked into their spacious hotel rooms and prepared for the evening's events. The men went to the pigeon club to view their race entrants and the shipping of their birds. At the club they had a full buffet dinner and great conversation about their birds, their clubs back home and all the issues facing pigeon fliers today. Old friendships were renewed as well as new ones were made, all with anticipation of the next day's race.



Discussing the entries and their race chances



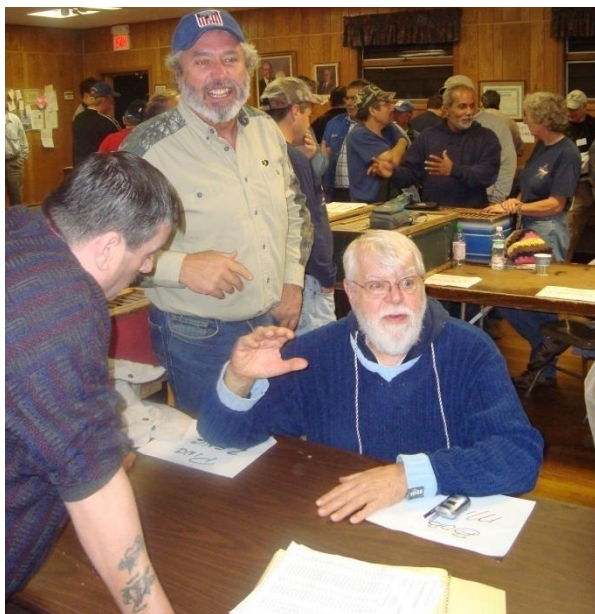
John Gallagher, Bob Colantonio and Jim Luiz



Ardi Fahadi and David Knightes



Dan McLaughlin and Dr. Ruben Lanckriet



Martin Ward, Bill Husey and Dr. Piaget



Bill Adams, Steve Dunne and Chuck Houghton



Jim Berdis and Ed Abromoski



Ray Sebastiao, Joe Kozol and Gene Pimental

The ladies went to the Greenwich room for a delicious buffet dinner including yummy deserts, a cash bar with Ryan the bartender, Christine a psychic card reader and games of wacky bingo. The bingo games, with Mr. DJ (Ralph Watson), were played for envelopes of cash, gift cards, and a few silly prizes. The games were a case of late arrivals winning most of the prizes, unlike a pigeon race.

On Friday morning it was off to the loft visitations. John Lopes Loft in Raynham, MA was a great place to visit with his outstanding records in the Greater Boston Concourse. The second loft visited was that of Jimmy Luiz, (Lewis & Son) known for his fantastic records in both Rhode Island and the Southern New England Combine. After the visitations, it was back to the club for another buffet and then off to the loft of your choice to await the race birds.



John Lopes Loft



Jim Luiz Loft

The Ladies went to Providence Place on Friday for a day of shopping and site seeing. In the late afternoon they boarded the bus to The Mohegan Sun for an evening of entertainment, gambling and shopping.

After a long wait three birds were finally clocked up north in the loft of Dick Lacroix. As it turned out, these were the only birds clocked in a day. The first bird was bred by Walt & Dan Gregoruk, second place was bred by Mike Ganus and third place was Deb Ganus's bird. Dave Gage clocked the first second day bird, bred by Matt Reilly, while Dick Lacroix had the fifth place bird bred by Vincent Poorpora. See race results for a complete listing of arrivals.

Saturday the ladies were off to historic Newport with all the exquisite seaside shops and eateries. They took a tour of the Breakers Mansion and went on a wine tasting tour of Newport Vineyards. No tour actually due to the rainy weather, but a great tasting time.



The Breakers



Newport Vineyards

The men went to the club for a great seminar provided by Dr. Ruben Lanckriet of Ursel, Belgium. The open question format was very informative for all. Due to the late arrivals in the race the top 25 finishers wouldn't be auctioned off until a later weekend, but Dr. Lanckriet had shipped over ten birds to be auctioned off, so the attendees didn't miss out on a high quality pigeon auction. The bloodlines of the birds were primarily of Gaby Vanden Abeele, Carlos Gyselbrecht, as well as Emiel Denys, Brugemann Brothers, and Jos Thone.

Saturday night was the Big Banquet Night with plenty of fine food, drink and entertainment. All attendees had a great time of talking with old and new friends alike, while being entertained by hypnotist/comedian Jim Spinnato, the music of Mr. DJ (Ralph Watson) for great dancing and your listening pleasure along with the drawing of many great door prizes. The next morning was filled with many goodbyes and plans to see each other again next year at the 129th IF Convention to be held at the Perth Amboy Pigeon club in New Jersey.

- Mike Becker