

Junior Scholarships and Awards Banquet

Rhode Island Pigeon Club held their annual banquet this past January where the funds collected go to the Junior Flyers' Scholarship Fund. At this banquet, the year end trophies are also handed out.



Center table at RI Pigeon Club

Bob Mink, the club's race secretary, and his family have been putting on this function for seven years now. His wife, daughters,



Bob Mink

their husbands and the grandchildren put the dinner on one or two times a year over the winter months. Sometimes a steak fry, sometimes a ham and beans supper, a bird auction, a raffle and always ending up with a bingo game. All the money collected from these functions is put into the bank and earmarked for the junior members. Over the seven years, 14 juniors have been participating in this program, which has distributed to date, in the form of certificates and actual checks, \$22,000.00.



Raffle table at RI Pigeon Club

During the coming racing season when a junior member succeeds in besting the other junior members they are awarded money from this account in the form of a scholarship certificate. At the end of the racing season these certificates are handed out at the award's banquet to each successful junior flyer. When the junior flyer turns 18 they are awarded all the money accumulated from these certificates, along with the interest earned over the years. For the juniors going on to college or just out into the working world it is a great way to give them a head start in life.



David Gagne, Jim Luiz and Matt LaRocque



Jeff Okolowicz

A number of the junior members turned 18 this last season, so they received their money that had been collecting in the form of CD's since they began flying in the club. The four recipients, Jim Luiz Jr. (Jet Stream Loft), David Gagne (Delta II Loft), Matt LaRocque (Matt's Loft) and Jeff Okolowicz (Jeff's Loft) received a total of \$12,725.00 in bank checks.

Present junior members receiving additional new certificates this year (2006) for a total of \$1225.00 was Nick Zerves (Little Greek) and Dennis Ortiz.



Nick Zerves



Dennis Ortiz

The 2006 Rhode Island Racing Pigeon Club Old Bird race awards were distributed as follows:
135 mile OB - Kell's Loft
200 mile OB - Joe Oliveira



How much do you want?

- 200 mile OB - Goldie & Son
- 300 mile OB - Jim Lewis Loft
- 300 mile OB - John Doyle
- 300 mile OB - Ron Schilinsky
- 350 mile OB - Autumn Wind
- 400 mile OB - Goldie & Son
- 500 mile OB - Autumn Wind
- 600 mile OB - Ron Schilinsky



A side table of fanciers after the meal and awaiting the raffles and bingo game

- 500 mile Nom. Yearling - IF 05 S 771 - Larini Loft
- OB Short Average Speed - Jim Lewis Loft
- OB Long Average Speed - Autumn Wind
- OB Overall Average Speed - Jim Lewis Loft
- Champion OB - AU 02 FR 146 - Autumn Wind
- Champion OB Loft - Armand Dube



Another side table of fanciers after the meal and awaiting the raffles and bingo game

- The 2006 Rhode Island Racing Pigeon Club Young Bird race awards were distributed as follows:
- 100 mile YB - Joe Salpietro

100 mile YB - Joe Kogut
135 mile YB - Dick Lacroix
200 mile YB - Jeff Costa
200 mile YB - Ocean Grove
250 mile YB - Pigeons Cafe
300 mile YB - Dick Lacroix
200 mile YB - Jeff Costa (1 Bird Special)
200 mile YB - Glen Lawton (Quilitzsch Bond)
YB Average Speed - Pigeons Cafe
Champion YB - AU 06 FRBB 138 - Jeff Costa
Champion YB Loft - Dick Lacroix
and
Overall YB & OB Average Speed - Jim Lewis Loft

Congratulations to all and especially to the junior members whom we wish all the best in their future endeavors in life wherever it may lead them. They may not come back to pigeons as they move on, but we hope the pigeon club experiences have taught them something useful in life.