

The M.A.P.R.



Lawn Show and Barbecue
July 1990

Massachusetts Association of Performing Rollers Newsletter

Joseph J. Testa President-Founder

Mark J. Thompson Sec/Treas.- Co-Founder

Volume 1 issue 4

Roller News

August 1990

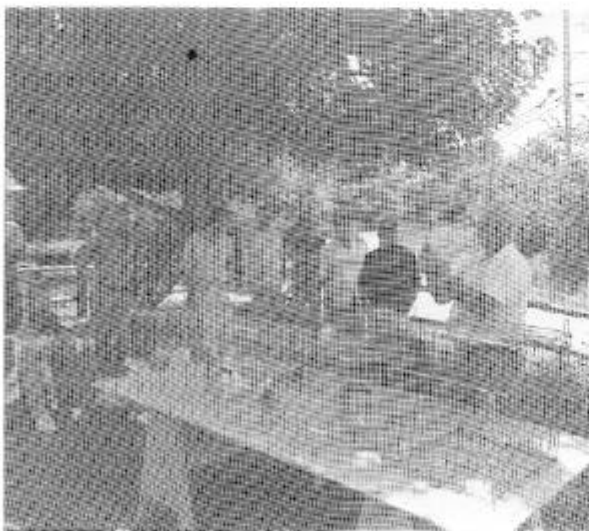
Lawn Show and Barbecue

by J. Testa and Mark Thompson

First we would like to thank Joe and Margie Bahosh for putting it all together at their home, to make the M.A.P.R. the club's first lawn show a total success. The attendance was more than we expected, food was excellent, and the birds were beautiful. Ed Lampert, and steward Paul Dernier doing a professional job of judging and handling the birds. And all the members participating in making that show run smooth.

Joe did a top notch job at the grill and Tom Dunne added to the steak, hamburgers, salads, and tons of other goodies with some fresh caught fish. Julia Child, EAT YOUR HEART OUT.

The weather was perfect, and everyone had an excellent time. We will be looking forward to having an even better turn out at our winter show. The details will be in the October issue. So to all the members of the M.A.P.R. good luck with the competitions, and keep up the good work with making this club a fun organization.



Ed Lampert judge birds as members looks on.



Ed Lampert takes a close look.

Official Bird Show Results

Young Hen

1st	NBRC-90-U702	Black Check	Charlie Hickey
2nd	PR-90-9223	Red check badge	Richard Ernst
3rd	PRC-90-9204	Red check flights	Tom Dunne
4th	ARC-90-1557	Black speckle	John DeCosta

Young Cock

1st	PRA-90-C642	Black Self	Steve Hickey
2nd	NBRC-90-0453	Silver	John DeCosta
3rd	PRC-90-9205	Silver Bar	Tom Dunne
4th	PRC-90-9243	Red check flights	Tom Dunne

Old Hen

1st	NBRC-89-222	Blue check badge	Charlie Hickey
2nd	ARC-42	White	John DeCosta
3rd	NBRC-0973	Yellow	Cliff Tainter
4th	NBRC-89-231B	Red check bald	Steve Hickey

Old Cock

1st	8833	Blue bar white flights	Mark Thompson
2nd	NBRC-84-8248	Red check	Charlie Hickey
3rd	NBRC-87-283A	Red bar white flights	Steve Hickey
4th	9-61-84	Black badge	Joe Testa

We would like to thank Ed Lampert for his time in judging the birds , and Paul Dernier as steward in the show. Thank god, I didn't get writer's cramps while filling out the entry sheets M.T.

August Meeting

J. Testa

The August meeting was about rules and regulations. Again, Steve and Elissa Buonopane put out a spread, excellent food, excellent hospitality, excellent creative day.

Tempers flared. Arguments settled. A club is born. With standards, guidelines, understanding, everyone attending voiced their opinion. Everyone had an opportunity to participate.

To add to something that can only become better. We have established our flying and judging rules, and regulations, this club is a competition organization.

Whereby members want to put the Birmingham Roller where it should be, in a class by itself. And to do that, the goal must be set high. But I want to remind members this club is also an organization for all roller fanciers. Because we show our birds, and we are trying to get people who enjoy this hobby, for whatever reasons, to participate, to enjoy and share in all club activities, this is not a competition flyer club only.

So I don't want to have members feel intimidated or discouraged. Because they may or may not fly competition, and with that established, we can continue with the results of our meeting.

First we agree that Joe Bahosh will be our promotional and advertising director. Taking on the responsibilities of sales, club T-shirts, hats, emblems, etc.

Tom Dunne and Steve Buonopane will be competition officers, co-judging, and competition stewards. Setting up zones and responsible for working with judges in transportation and coordinating competition times and place.

Charlie Hickey and John Dushinski will be grievance officers, along with Paul Dernier to rule on any grievance or charges brought by any member. All

grievances must be in writing, to all three officers.

A hearing will be established to express any grievance. Any member expelled from this club, for whatever reasons. The final decision will be decided by the three officers mentioned, along with the president, and sec-treas. Creating a five member vote. Both parties to any grievance must be present at the hearing. Future coordinating officers will be appointed to represent thier zones or state. Any officers, coordinators who cannot fullfill his/her position must present in writing, their intentions, to the president, and sec-treas of the M.A.P.R.

Our Connecticut representative will be, Ronald Sloan of Winsted, Conn. Ron has been recruiting new members and promoting the M.A.P.R. in his state. We are at the present time looking for a Rhode Island area representative to organize our southern borders.

Tom Dunne will be our New Hampshire State representative, and will promote club goals and interests. And recruiting new members from the New Hampshire area.

Any members of the M.A.P.R. who feel they can contribute their time and talent or organizational expertise in any aspect in the development of this flying club. Please get in touch with Mark Thompson, Sec. Also, I am looking for breeding methods, or any inbreeding or linebreeding experiments that have been attempted by any of our members. This material will be used in future newsletter articles. J.J. Testa, Pres. M.A.P.R.

Understanding Competition Rollers

by

J.J. Testa

From Joe Houghton's Book

"A guide to The Development of Performing Rollers "

It might be more appropriate to title this chapter, "The good, bad and the ugly", for unfortunately flying roller competitively contains all these elements. That is not to suggest there isn't a great deal of good that can be accomplished through competition. There can be. But, at the same time we would be remiss to shy away or bury our heads in the sand and not acknowledge some of the negative aspects as well, and try to avoid them if possible.

Simply due to the fact we are competitively pitting our birds and efforts against a fellow competitor is situation enough to cause friction, where otherwise there would be none. Egos are often easily bruised and many need continual massage and adulation. I'm sure our situation is no different than that of any effort that pits one against another. But it's a shame that we have those individuals who seem to have their feathers ruffled easily, and won't play the game unless we use their rules.

Competitions are governed by rules. Those should address and promote quality performance. For if they do not, the whole competition is a fraud and no benefit to the sport, or the fancier who competes. Rules aren't meant to be easy. They should focus on those aspects recognized to be the most difficult, yet achievable parts of quality performance. It's a plateau when we produce the quality spinner, but its far down on the rung when we compare it to producing a kit of spinners even though that should be our goal. Rules that encourage individual birds performance are okay, as long as it's an individual bird competition. Kit performance is just that, performance in the kit, in concert, all together. Having 100% performance, coupled with individual quality of the birds involved in the turn is an admirable goal, even though it's one extremely difficult to achieve even for the fancier of lengthy experience. Nevertheless, anything less as a goal is going to produce something less.

What we are talking about here comes down to challenge. The challenge presented trying to couple the right type of birds, with proper housing, handling, and training to the eventual climax of producing a kit of rollers which are a credit to the breed. It's not an easy task, it isn't meant to be.

Rules are nothing more than guidelines by which we insist that a kit operate within. The wider the limits, the less overall quality that is going to be generated. The bottom line regarding stringent rules and acceptability for kit performance is that there are many fanciers in the sport who are flying, year after year, good kits within these rigid

(Understanding continues next page)

parameters. So it can be done. It's not an impossibility.

It's so easy to take the low road and make excuses as to why a kit should be allowed to do this or that, or allow for less than quality rolling because we are just starting out, or we've got so many young fanciers who cannot produce 20 bird kits, or what have you. They're all just excuses and vain attempts to mask the reality of the situation which is, it's easier not to accept the challenge.

A good trainer can take a kit of lesser quality birds and make them presentable. A poor trainer with quality birds can make them a disgrace. Learning how to handle a kit of rollers, keying on what works and what doesn't, understanding what quality is and what it isn't are all the marks of a good roller flyer.

Accept the challenge provided through competition, do your best, and most of all keep paramount in your mind that roller keeping and flying is an ongoing educational process that none of us ever graduates from.

Don't make competition a life and death matter. It should be fun. Learn to accept criticism. A majority of the time you already know your weak points, and having someone point them out is no big deal! It's too bad when a fine group of individual birds has a bird out, and they fail to score sufficient to win the competition. But, at the same time, the group of birds that conforms to the rules as a kit are entitled to their just win! Having birds out, birds down early, roll downs, etc. all things we are subject to. It benefits us all to eliminate those potential problem birds from our kit.

Change the rules, make them easier, and you just reduce proportionally the overall quality. History has given us the insight, let's not disregard the known results.

Conclusion

There is no reason whatsoever why we cannot have a good kit in the air and a fine family of rollers. But it won't happen by chance, you have got to work at it, just like everyone who has had some success has worked at it. When you fly competition, remember there is only one winner and many losers. Learn to win humbly and lose graciously and just try harder the next time. The key to any competition is having your competitors leave knowing you breed velocity spinners.

J.J. Testa

Rules

1. Handler has five minutes to call time, once birds are released. No coaxing once time is called.
2. Handler has a second five minutes grace period during the fly. Clock will be stopped, and restarted when handler calls time back in.
3. Birds flying out of sight will not be judged. Handler may use his/her five minute grace period, at this time. Clock will be restarted at end of the five minutes time out. Birds will not be judged until kit is at reasonable distances.
4. Birds flying out of kit formation, judging will be stopped until the bird returns to the kit.
5. Kit competition is scored by turns, 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, and full.
25 - 50 - 75 - 100 - respectively
6. Minimum for kit competition is 15 birds - 20 maximum
7. 15 bird kits, cannot receive a full turn score, since a 3/4 turn is usually 15 birds out of 20. 75 points.
8. Rolldowns , 100 points will be deducted from the total score.
9. Deep spinners will be given ample time to return to kit. But must show the effort to do so.
10. All competitions will be 20 minutes.
11. Handler may use his/her five minute grace period for any reason. Hawks, birds out of sight, interference, homers & Etc.
12. Any bird landing before 20 minute time period. 50 points will be deducted from total score.
13. Any kit landing prior to the 20 minute competition time will be disqualified
14. First and foremost. Flying competition should be fun.

Scoring - Judges

Tentative judges: John Spuria, John Dushinski, Mark Cavahlo, and Rich Huard

1. Kit tightness, overall good behavior, and Rhythm. Judges must use a 1-10 point system, or good, fair & poor in that category. Good being 10 points. Fair, being 5-7. Poor, 0-5. Points to be added to total score at end of fly.

2. Spinning, birds are being judged on a turn basis. 1/4 turn 25 points. 1/2 turn 50. 3/4 turn 75. Full turn 100. Birds that are consistent deep clean spinners, returning to the kit with style, can be given an extra point for that effort. From between one and three points maximum, that being left to the judges discretion.

3. If birds are tumbling, flipping, twizzling & pieplating, in the turn. The judge must score the turn on its merit. Judging only the spinners in that turn.

4. Sport birds. birds flying away from the kit, only to return immediately, spinning into the kit, will be considered a kit bird, and should be judged for his spinning ability, and excitement.

5. Judges must have the knowledge of competition rules. Must be fair and impartial in judging, must judge the kit for its spinning, kitting, and overall excitement frequency.

6. Judges may be M.A.P.R. members, it is up to the competitor to accept who is judging his birds, and may pick a judge from the judge pool or whoever is available and competent to judge flying competition rollers.

Members will be notified in advance of all competitions, in regards to who is available to judge. And at that time, will have the opportunity to make that request. In regards to who will judge his birds.

A Day With Cliff Tainter

by J. Testa and Mark Thompson

One of the first members to join the M.A.P.R. Gave Mark and I an insight into what can be accomplished with one pair of birds. Cliff had the opportunity to pick up a pair of yellow checks from the late, Stan Plona, about nine years ago. Cliff has produced over 50 beautiful birds from this pair. It is a family of birds unique in color and ability in the air. I don't think I have ever seen a family of birds so close in body style, and color. That it was impossible to distinguish one from the other.

Cliff has introduced only one other bird into his family in all those years, Cliff flys his young birds from two kit boxes. Each holding 20 to 24 birds, the boxes are design the standard of tight and dark.

Cliff has shown the enthusiasm we need from our members, attending all the club functions and meetings contributing to the club's goal, of flying competition rollers, Mark and I enjoyed a day with Cliff, visiting with member Paul Dernier and future member Ed D'Amarino. We stopped by Fred Madden's house and watched the video of Cliff's birds and an interview we recorded with Paul Dernier.

Getting a few laughs out of that. Cliff I believe will be flying this year, and like everyone else, he is a little apprehensive, this being the first time we are flying competition, but we will all learn from this experience. So until then Cliff, Mark and I enjoyed your company, it was an excellent day. Keep them flying.

Mark and Joe

Members

The M.A.P.R. has established the first total record keeping dept.

For information regarding pedigree and pigeon registration. Similar to the A.K.C. O.F.C., organization for dogs. This will be nationwide, and will assist fanciers in purchasing, selling and establishing a family of birds with pedigree registration, pedigree certificates are high quality, with certified M.A.P.R. National Birmingham Roller Seal of Recognition, each certificates will cover up to fifteen generations. With band numbers, date of birth, color, markings, performance, titles, competition results, breeder, tattoo number, and complete background on the bird. Also will assist in locating strays, mailing list of band numbers of lost or found birds nationwide. Membership in this organization for M.A.P.R. members will be three dollars per bird.

Also available will be best stock bird record keeping dept. For fanciers to establish their family of birds. To keep track of purchased or birds sold, culled, and exchanged. Applications will be sent to members, by Dec. 90.

Pedigree certificates for five generations, Six dollars. Ten generations, Eight dollars. 15 generations, ten dollars.

Remember

M.A.P.R. bands will be available to members for 1991. Speciality band numbers will be availbale upon request, initials, or mark bands also, must place your order before Nov. 90. Bands will be different colors each year.

We would like M.A.P.R. members to band M.A.P.R. on their birds.

Something for Roller History Buffs and Comments Thereon by Hans Roettenbacher *(Continued from July Issue)*

Evans didn't fold up the PRC. In the May/June 1961 Bulletin, he had this to say:
DEFINITION OF A PENSOM ROLLER WHEN CLUB WAS FORMED AND COMMENTS" BY Bob Evans

Raymond L. Perkins, one of the original founders of the Pensom Roller Club, collected a majority of the early imported Birmingham type Rollers shipped to this country by Wm. H. Pensom. And by 1942, he and J. LeRoy Smith owned 99% of the birds brought over by Walker, Schlattman, Buckley, Teesdale and Riches; and Perkins had recorded the breeding particulars on all these birds by tracing them through several English fanciers' lofts including Mr. Pensom's, back to the loft of Harry Bellfield in most all cases; and he published this information in the Pensom Roller Book, which will be republished in your bulletin in the near future. Perkins thus established a pedigree system covering this family of birds to be used by members of the club that he and Joe Hein of Portland, Oregon, called on the writer to form, which I did.

"The definition of a Pensom Roller as stated by Perkins at that time was to be, 'A bird that can have its parents traced back, free from any out-cross, to one of the pairs of imports to this country of that family of Rollers, or birds in Bill Pensom's loft at the time.' in addition we would now have to include other birds of the OLD BLACK COUNTRY ROLLER STRAIN that Pensom later brought to this country when he moved to America, as he brought over quite a few more of the same family-blood, and also those birds imported from him by Chandler Grover and ???????

"In order to keep this strain pure; members were required to sign an application blank, restricting them to this one family of flying Rollers; agreeing not to cross them with other blooded birds, to band them as Pensoms, and to furnish pedigree records on all birds sold or given away upon request, as the club was formed with this purpose in mind.

"Perkins was a leading member of the United Roller Club which sponsors breeders of many different strains of American Rollers, as were many other PRC members, but there was no club friction between the two, altho there was some individual opposition to the new club at first. Both clubs have continued to grow as time passed, as present membership rosters prove.

"There is no question but that some breeders over-value pedigree papers. No one can succeed in becoming a high grade Roller fancier by making pedigree matings. He must

(History continues next page)

learn to select the good from the bad regardless of pedigree records, and know the right kind when he sees or when he has it in hand even if blindfolded, in addition to what he sees the bird do in the air. However, he values highly the knowledge he has of the background of his best birds that turn out to be champions in the air, as it helps him to establish a family in kind, and those fanciers who have stuck to one family of birds in his own loft are the ones who turn out to be successful. Those who are always bringing in new birds from several other lofts really never knows what they have for sure, and never will. Our best fanciers keep perfect records. Those who do not and cannot give honest breeding particulars on birds sold do not belong in this club, and usually do not.

"Anyone selling birds, especially to beginners, should be willing to furnish the buyers with instructions as to how to manage them for best results, if he honestly wishes the buyer to succeed. If he is only interesting in selling a pair or two for the most money he thinks he can the buyer to pay, then forget all about him, he is nothing but a commercial pigeon peddler, and the name 'fancier' is disgraced if used in referring to him.

"This is right in line with what I had so say about the selling of culls in a former bulletin. One pair of rollers to beginner will do him little good, when it comes to Rollers, as we all know. Books and articles giving little if any information as to how to manage Rollers from what we might say 'the cradle to the grave' which is needed instead of a lot of personal horn-tooting, giving the impression the writer is the only one who knows all the answers, and that there is some kind of special god-given ability necessary in order to be a successful roller breeder, is so much hogwash. There is nothing mysterious about the game that any average person cannot master with proper guidance, and that has been the aim of our club; to put this kind of information in the hands of those interested and help them enjoy the hobby. Anyone trying to keep the fancy confused by switching from one idea to another from time to time, due to one contradiction after another of former statements, as has been the case, is doing the hobby more harm than good.

"Statements that birds that were sold could not be obtained from any other source than his, for any amount of money, and estimating the value of same at as much as one hundred and fifty dollars a pair, can be put in the same class as statements about birds rolling forty yards down and forty yards back up, and a certain bird being the BEST hen or cock in the world, as has been made, indicates the author considers all Americans as uneducated half-wits that will fall for such a line..."

How about that? I'm sure you noticed that in the last three paragraphs of his articles Evans was giving the back of his hand to Pensom. Pensom earned that. He wasn't the

knowledgeable roller fancier he pretended to be. But he could tell the difference between keepers and culls. He used to sell off his culls--covered with feather lice, body lice, and, more often than not, carriers of canker. The sales were usually followed by a short letter assuring the novice buyer that those birds had been "bred right" and would do wonderful things for the buyer if they were managed right. (Does that ring a bell for anyone?) Evans used to get complaints about those Pensoms sales. I did too. I don't know how Evans handled them (I suspect he sent the complaining party some of his birds to take the heat off Pensom.) but I used to tell them that they were complaining to the wrong party. Seems that if Pensom didn't know the buyer, his chances of getting birds worth working with were zip. Money wasted.

I have to agree with Evans on Pensom's claiming to have the best roller in the world--some ego trip! (The reference is to a hen, 53/514, photo on p.85 of Pensom's book) Pensom decided that without ever leaving his own back yard. I never received an independent confirmation of that so I never believed the claim either. (Besides, everyone knows that you and I had the best rollers in the world.)

He did hold that #514 hen in high esteem--to use one of his phrases. So why didn't he make dozens like her? Any reasonably competent roller breeder could have done it in four years by following a basic Mendelian breeding program. It takes inbreeding, which Pensom mentioned now and then but never really understood. He was also afraid of it. That's why he kept importing unrelated birds and pinching birds from LeRoy Smith and Stan Plona and others. He was, to the end, a by-guess-and-by-gosh breeder. That method produces mounds of garbage and a few temporary good ones, by chance, every year. The garbage was money in the bank.

Why that surprised and offended Evans, I don't know. He was certainly on notice--considering Pensom's pigeon peddling from England for the first ten years of the PRC--that Pensom was in the habit of making money from pigeons. What Evans evidently overlooked was that Pensom was always between a rock and a hard place financially. So he sold pigeons--and not only rollers. Evans and Pensom were worlds apart, financially. So Evans had no understanding of what was driving Pensom to do the things he was doing. Evans never sold a bird, he gave away hundreds of them, though. He nothing but contempt for what he called "pigeon peddlers." And it hurt him that the star of his club was one of those. And that star exhibit was not about to change.

It would have been different, maybe even better, if Pensom had made some effort to actually develop a "Pensom strain" of rollers, but he didn't even try--in spite of the help he was offered. Oh well, he was good company when he wasn't being so bloody exasperating!

M.A.P.R. Welcomes New Members

Five new members has joined the M.A.P.R.

Ted Fabricius	196 Wampatuck St.	Pembroke	MA	02359
Frank Lavin	P.O. Box 103	Red Rock	TX	78662
Stephen Roper	6 Kaneohe Ct	Townsend	MA	01474
Ronald J. Sloan	52 Lovely St.	Winsted	CT	06098
Robert Prisco	601 Cleveland Ave	Riverside	NJ	08075

Medic Corner

One eye colds

Cause And Treatment

by J.J. Testa

Clinical signs, birds under a year old are mostly affected. Watery eye discharge indicating a conjunctivitis and nasal discharge, due to rhinitis or inflammation of the nasal passages, are mostly constant features of the disease, and some may also show respiratory distress.

Treatment

There is no special treatment for the virus itself and in the absence of a confirmatory laboratory diagnosis. Cases should be treated as recommended for ornithosis, with the use of tetracyclines, and/or eye ointment, specified for pigeons. These drugs can be obtained in most grain stores.

If any medication is not available in your area. Contact Mark or myself, and we will send it to you.

Classified Ad Section

Custom Built Supplies Basic nest fronts

12" x 24" Doweled fronts
\$9.00 w/hinges
\$8.00 w/o hinges

Or will build to specification

Pigeon Carriers, Doweled tops Cloth,
Soft vinyl or hard sides. Built to specs,
single up to 30 bird capacity.

Kit Release carriers will be available
soon. Call Mark Thompson
Secretary 508-582-6470

Kit of 22 30 day old High
Performance Rollers. Bred from
Joe Houghton's stock. Contact
Tom Dunne, Ph# 603-886-0601
12 Long Ave, Nashua, NH.

Advertising Rates:

Full Page \$25.00 with photos \$40.00
Half page \$15.00 with photos \$25.00
Quarter page \$9.00 with photos \$12.00
\$2.00 per single column inch.

Put your name on your birds. Order
name bands from M.A.P.R. Belgian
plexiglas. Colors white, blue, orange,
pink, green, or yellow. You get 3 lines,
15 letters and spaces per line. Can get
the year, but not consecutive
numbering.

50 bands \$20.00, 100 bands \$30.00.
Allow four to six weeks for delivery
To order, write to: Mark Thompson,
secretary, 871 Mass Ave, Lunenburg,
MA. 01462. For info call: Mark, Ph#
508-582-6470.



603-886-0601



DUNNE'S



WRECKING

Asbestos Removal License

Thomas Dunne
President

Tim Dunne
Vice President

Wanted: Articles for Newsletters

If members have any stories, breeding tips, loft ideas, pictures, training rollers (everyone have different methods!), your family of birds, your loft, helpful hints, letters to the editor, pigeon jokes, and etc. Please send them in, and we will print it. Any pictures sent in, will be returned with out harm. There is no charge to print your articles. M.T.

On Call

by Mark Thompson

I have built a two kit loft with wire floor. Should I feed the birds in the feeders or feeding trough?
Mike Onyon, Haverhill MA

A: I would suggest that you make a feeding board with sides, that will cover 3/4 of the floor area in each section. To feed the birds. Place the board on the floor, hand toss the feed on the board or set the feeding trough on the board, and put the food in it. All the birds will go on the board and eat. This way, less grain is wasted. After feeding the birds, take the board out and clean it for next feeding. Tip: Hang the feeding board outside on the back of your kit loft.

M.T.

In this issue

Official bird show results	2
August Meeting	3
Understanding	4-5
Competition rules	6
Scoring-Judges	7
A Day with Cliff Tainter	8
Members	8
Roller history	9-11
New Members	12
Medic Corner: One eye colds	12
Classified ads	13

Massachusetts Association of Performing Rollers
Presents

The 1991

All New England Championship

The Massachusetts Association of Performing Rollers

Invites

All New England Roller Clubs to participate in our annual fly. Scheduled for Sept. 1991. Applications for entry will be available to all area clubs and their members, Nov 1990. \$50.00 per bird, two bird limit per flyer.

There will be two, 20 bird kit competitions. All birds must be banded 1991. Birds must be shipped by June 1, 1991

Designated handler trainers

Joseph J. Testa, Skycutter Lofts, Pres. Mass. Assoc. of Performing Rollers

Mark J. Thompson, Aerobatic Lofts, Sec. Mass Assoc of Performing Rollers

Both kits compete same day.

1st Place \$500.00 & trophy

2nd Place \$300.00 & trophy

3rd Place \$200.00 & trophy

4th Place Trophy

5th Place Ribbon

Same for second kit. Each kit will be auctioned at end of competition

Videocassettes of the competition will be available from the M.A.P.R.

For inquiries, and applications write to

Mark Thompson
871 Mass Ave
Lunenburg, Mass. 01462
508-582-6470

Joseph J. Testa
398 Mass Ave
Lunenburg, Mass. 01462
508-582-4059