

AN EVENT TO REMEMBER!



By: Mo Williams

June 21st 2008 the SRPC-Slidell Racing Pigeon Club hosted a grading/Breeding Seminar by : Bill "The Book" Richardson. We had guests come from Mississippi, Alabama, Colorado, and all parts of Louisiana. Bill's trip went from a 2 day stay to a 5 day stay. Some of the flyers in Lafayette , La. seized the opportunity to take full advantage of his time here. Bill graciously traveled to south Louisiana to grade pigeons for the local flyers in that area. It enabled the fanciers the convenience of not having to travel with their birds. This did not take credit from our event, Book made sure of it. In fact, quite a few of those fellows made the trip to Slidell for the seminar that evening. The grading session was an intense time for many flyers. When a flyer entered the room with his birds to be graded by "The Book" everything seemed to go eerily quiet. Bill himself would be the one to ease the tense fancier. Some birds were a quick no, and some made it to the second phase. He did not candy coat the process. Most birds were average in his opinion, yes even the high price birds, but flyers must remember, a grader is seeking what is a perfect bird to him based on results and experiences of what he has learned from his master teacher and birds that he has tried and proved. He did a back test, wing test, beak pull, and eye examination if the bird did not get a no. Now only "The Book" knows what he is seeking, so it then becomes the decision of the flyer if he wants to use the grade as a tool to select his birds.

We were also privileged to have Karen Clifton – AU Executive Director present. She was truly an added bonus to our event. She and John McSweeney – SW Zone Director did a presentation to educate and inform the flyers of current events in the sport. Mrs. Clifton was a real trooper. She met everyone and served right along side of us. Our club surprised her with a lovely bouquet of flowers when she returned home to show our appreciation for her work.

Our club really aced in the hospitality department. The Hennies (the club ladies) were busy preparing food, drinks, and providing great service to all of our guests. We were very fortunate to have food provided by Kenny Becklehimer. Because of his generosity we were able to

provide our guests with an incredibly delicious buffet of some great Cajun cuisine. We had many compliments from our guests. We accomplished what we set out to do..... we make them happy!

Our event was also filled with other exciting activities. We gave away door prizes every hour and had some great raffles. We even had some added surprise raffles. Tom Wesner donated a beautiful training crate that he made himself to raise money for the AU defense fund. We raised \$170.00. We were very happy to be able to present Mrs. Clifton with this amount. Gerald Hebert also came with a prize. He selected a bird that had been graded by "The Book". I would also like to mention that our GPS raffle went over very well and one of our own was the big winner! Mr. Jim Casey! He was very happy.

One of the highlights of the evening was the bird auction. "The Book" himself provided 6 outstanding horemans that he bred specifically for our event. The birds all sold averaging \$1200.00 each. It was very impressive and very profitable for our club.

All in all our event was a smashing success. When Henry Lindsey and John Miller approached the club with the idea of "The Book" coming, we agreed that it would probably just be a break even event. Little did we know that the event would profit our club by \$3012.00. I would also like to note that "The Book" himself left very \$ happy . Lets just say...he would welcome a return visit and we would love to have him back.

The intention of our club in hosting events is to always have funds to take care of our club members who help to take care of our club. We also try our best to always project a positive image of this sport and to provide opportunities to bring flyers together. This was just another example of how a growing club of 19 members and their families working together for a common purpose can do great things. I am happy to be part of such a great group of people and such a great sport!

On behalf of the SRPC members, I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the following people and businesses who have helped our club to put on such a great event!

Bill "THE BOOK" Richardson Karen Clifton – AU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THE SRPC MEMBERS

John McSweeney – SW Zone Director and his lovely wife Mary McSweeney SLIDELL HENNIES

Donations by: Henry Lindsey Vick Corso Byron and Mo Williams Kenny Becklehimer John Miller Winn Dixie Jennifer Abney Sal and Judy's Boscoli Double M Feed Charlie Godfrey Bob Schmitt Neiltz Myers Carolyn Williams Gerald Hebert Charles Johnson Fred Werner

A special thanks to all of our guests. It was such a treat to meet our friends in the sport!!!