



# American Racing Pigeon Union

## Pigeon Tracks

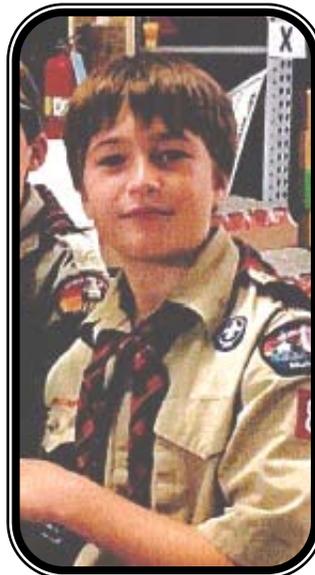
# 2016 Winners!

**Max Gardner**  
2016 AU National Youth  
Race Winner



Max is part of the 4-H Thunderbirds group in Washington. He just joined last year!

**Jesse Randolph**  
2016 Junior  
Contest Winner



Jesse just joined last year as well. He did a lot of research to prepare his winning essay.

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**Winter**  
**2016/2017**

Jesse Randolph, Winner of the 2016 AU Junior Membership Contest.  
By Thomas Strand, AU Youth Ambassador

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

2016's Youth Race Photos

ENTER THE 2017 AU NATIONAL YOUTH RACE  
Karen Clifton, Executive Director

20th Annual Youth National Race APPLICATION FORM

Students vs Teacher Race

**Contact information:**

American Racing Pigeon Union  
PO Box 18465  
Oklahoma City, OK 73154  
1-800-755-2778, toll free  
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# Jesse Randolph, Winner of the 2016 AU Junior Membership Contest

By Thomas Strand, AU Youth Ambassador

Being the AU Youth Ambassador this past year has been fun for me, because I get to talk to so many bright and talented, up-and-coming, youth members. One such member is Jesse Randolph, who entered into the 2016 AU essay contest in early November. This year's essay contest turned out much better than last year, going from zero entries to four entries. The topic this year was "pigeon health and care".

Jesse's winning entry contained twenty-two pages of hand-written cursive writing, with twelve pages of pictures, turning out to be so long that it can almost be referred to as a book rather than an essay.

The entire essay was broken down into chapters covering topics including, feeding, water regime, ventilation, baths, and over-crowding.

I called Jesse to ask for a short interview and quickly realized that Jesse had much more to say than I had expected. This is what Jesse had to say:

Q: How old are you?

A: I am ten years old.

Q: Why did you decide to en-

ter the essay contest?

A: My parents do not have enough money to buy a pigeon clock for me, so during my racing season, I used a racing clock that was loaned to me by a member in my club. Then I found out that the award for winning the AU essay contest was a pigeon clock. So I entered the contest, won, and now I have my own pigeon clock.

Q: How long did it take to do all the research and then write this "book"?

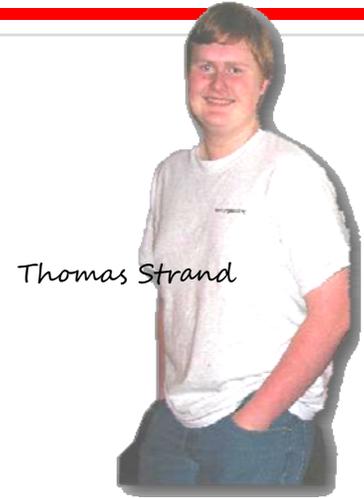
A: It took about a month or two to do the research. It was kind of enjoyable to do.

Q: How many different reference sources did you use?

A: I really like to do research. I read all of the informational pamphlets from the AU. I also looked around online a bit. Past that, I got information from other pigeon flyers.

Q: Did you intend for the essay to turn out as long as it did?

A: No I did not intend for it to turn out so long. I just kept doing research, and there was so much information to be



had, that each subject ended up being a page to a page and a half.

Q: Why did you decide to use cursive to write your essay?

A: I've been learning it in school and so my parents said I had to use it.

Q: How did you feel when your essay won?

A: I was very excited, and so surprised, I had thought about other contests, and coming close and not winning. After all that doubt, it was amazing to hear that I had won.

Q: Have you received an award for winning yet?

A: I first received a plaque, and a few weeks later a racing clock was sent to me from

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Jesse Randolph, continued

*(Continued from page 2)*

Siegel's. I called Siegel's and thanked Ed Minvielle personally. And for these I am very thankful.

They said yes, and that's how I started racing pigeons.

Q: How long have you been racing pigeons?

A: This is my first year racing

season.

Q: Do you have a favorite pigeon?

A: Yes. Even though my dad said that I shouldn't, and that if I did, that bird would probably be the first bird that would stray. I named my favorite bird Snowcone, and I still have him.



Q: How did you get started in pigeon racing?

A: I was talking to my parents about NASCAR and racing cars when my dad told me about how when he was younger he and his dad had raced pigeons. "Racing pigeons" I thought. So I did some research on pigeon racing and found that pigeon racing looked pretty fun. I asked my parents if I could build a pigeon loft and race pigeons.

pigeons.

Q: Will you please tell me about your racing season?

A: My racing season was short, but it was still awesome. I fly with the MOB (Mobile Pigeon Club). The first race I won, and then I took third loft in the second race. At that point I didn't have enough pigeons to continue racing. I have high hopes for next years' racing

Q: Do you have any other pigeons left after your racing season?

A: I started the season with seventeen pigeons and I have three now. Snowcone was sidelined after his first race, but at least he got to race.

Q: Does anyone else in your family fly pigeons?

A: My dad, grandfather, and great grandfather all used to fly pigeons but currently it's just me.

Q: How did you get a loft?

A: My parents and I all pitched in to make a loft of our own. We went and visited other fliers' lofts to look at designs, then mom and I went about building a loft.

Mom is the carpenter in the family. At one point dad realized that while the loft had

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Jesse Randolph, continued

*(Continued from page 3)*

ventilation and still protected the pigeons from the weather, there was absolutely no way for the pigeons to get into the loft. Mom fixed the problem by skillfully cutting a hole in the side of the loft for a landing and bobs.

Q: What is your favorite part of racing pigeons?

A: One of my favorite parts is hand feeding pigeons, and my other favorite part is racing and watching my pigeons come in. I live in a housing complex area so when my pigeons arrive, first they go to the trees, a few moments later they go to the roof of my house, and finally after that they go to the loft where they go in.

After my interview with Jesse, I talked with Jesse's dad, William. He thanked me for doing the interview with Jesse and said Jesse's eyes had lit when I called asking for an interview. William also told me a story about when he and his father flew pigeons. This is the story.

William: Back when I was a young man, I was given two pair of fancy pigeons from the feed store that I worked at. I really wanted to have these

pigeons, but I knew that my parents wouldn't let me keep them. So I took two wooden crates and put them on top of our house without telling my parents. That is where I kept my pigeons, feeding them with spilled grain from work. I had them on the roof for many months, until winter!

One day I went up to the roof to find that it had snowed so heavily that night, I could not find the crates. I rushed into the house and confessed what I had done and that the pigeons were in trouble. My father flew up on to the roof and started frantically digging through the snow. It wasn't long and father had found the crates and four comfy and cozy pigeons looking out at us.

From that moment on the family officially had pigeons. Father built a coop and we got some racing homers to start racing, which was fun, but after a while I started to lose interest and I went on to do other things. My father on the other hand, continued to race pigeons by himself. He got very good at racing his birds, and he won a lot of races too.

As I got older I would help father fly pigeons by cleaning lofts, putting this and that in the water, and when I learned to drive I would help train the pigeons down the road. One thing I loved to do was pull countermarks, but it was very serious business, because we lived in a housing



## Jesse Randolph, continued

*(Continued from page 4)*

complex and there were probably forty to fifty lofts in our complex so races would lots of times come right down to the thousandths of seconds. Well one day my father and I are waiting for the pigeons, and the pigeons are already late when we see a lone pigeon flying toward our loft. Father trapped the pigeon and I scrambled under the trap, pulled off the countermark... and dropped it. My father's face turned red like a tomato, and I knew that I was in trouble and that we had just lost the race. I later found out that we had lost the race by three seconds.

There was another race where we waited the whole day for pigeons to come in, it was almost totally dark out and we had just given up hope that any birds were going to show up that day and were heading into the house when I hear a little "thump" on the roof. I said to Dad, "I think a pigeon came home!" and we raced back up the ladder to find that a pigeon really had come in at the last moment. We still didn't win the race, but it was pleasing to still get a pigeon on the day.



We had a lot of fun racing over the years and we continued to race pigeons for many years.

I wish Jesse and his family the best of luck with his future of flying pigeons. And may the winds of fortune always fly in

his favor.

*~ Thomas*

**AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION  
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**



**Complete ALL questions & return with bio & a current photograph postmarked no later than 6/1/16**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE ATTENDING IN THE FALL: \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE LEVEL: FRESHMAN\_\_ SOPH\_\_ JUNIOR\_\_ SENIOR\_\_ GRADUATE\_\_

FIELD OF STUDY: \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE GPA (as of the completion of the last semester – provide proof)  
\_\_\_\_\_

HOBBIES/CLUBS/COMMUNITY PROJECTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

HONORS RECEIVED (not required - include copies of certificates, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE FINANCIAL NEED: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU AN AU MEMBER OR RELATED TO AN AU MEMBER? INCLUDE AU ID NUMBER  
\_\_\_\_\_. IF RELATED TO AN AU MEMBER, EXPLAIN: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION ALONG WITH A BRIEF BIO/ESSAY WHICH IN-  
CLUDES:  
EDUCATIONAL GOALS  
PROFESSIONAL GOALS  
WORK EXPERIENCE  
COMMUNITY SERVICE INVOLVEMENT – HOW DO YOU GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY?  
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR ACHIEVEMENTS  
**MUST HAVE A MINIMUM B AVERAGE & BE 23 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

# 2016's Youth Race Photos



Mark Rozwadowski hosted the race at this awesome loft.



These local birds were auctioned to raise money for City of Hope.



The magician entertained attendees and enlisted the help of area junior members.

## ENTER THE 2017 AU NATIONAL YOUTH RACE

Karen Clifton, Executive Director



The AU is proud to announce this year will be the 20<sup>th</sup> year for the National Youth Race. We hope you will make plans to participate as we celebrate this milestone event. The race is open to all AU junior members.

The 2017 AU Convention will be held in Phoenix and the National Youth Race will take place on Friday, November 17, 2017. Birds will be handled by David McAnally and the race will be flown from about 150 miles (Grand Canyon Station).

All participants will receive a certificate or plaque. The winner will receive a plaque, trophy and be invited to attend the 2018 convention as our guest.

The application is found on the following page of this newsletter and is also available by calling the AU office (800-755-2778).

Applications should be signed by a parent or legal guardian and returned to the office by no later than **March 1, 2017**. As soon as applications are received, we will send

notification advising of shipping details.

**Applications must be received prior to shipment for entry into the race and juniors must be AU members.**

We hope you will participate and look forward to hearing from you soon!

## California Junior Blasts Competition!

A Conversation with California State Youth Race Winner, Ashlan Mayfield.

By Thomas Strand, AU Youth Ambassador

On the ninth of November, 26 pigeons were released 165 Miles from their loft in Bakersfield, California. Those pigeons were the participants of a one loft, youth race, hosted by the CSRPO ( California State Racing Pigeon Organization) and the Bakersfield Pigeon Club. At 12:15 in the afternoon two pigeons screamed into the loft going over 1300 ypm. The lead pigeon of that pair, entering into the loft only thirty seconds ahead, belonged to Ashlan Mayfield, a junior member of the Bakersfield club. Ashlan was asked a few questions via a phone interview. Ashlan an-

swered that she is eleven years old, and has been flying pigeons for five years. She has her own loft with two hundred plus pigeons. Thou, Ashlan says that she is not the only member of her family that flies pigeons. Ashlan's little sister, her father, and even her grandfather fly pigeons. It really is a family tradition. Ashlan does well flying in her club, and has won a few races to prove it. With this latest win under her belt, any number of possibilities are now available to Ashlan. What Ashlan makes of them is completely up to her. Congratulations and Good luck.





## 20th Annual Youth National Race APPLICATION FORM

We hope you will join in the fun. The 150-mile AU National Youth Race will be handled by David McAnally. The race is open to all AU junior members. The race will be flown on Friday, November 17, 2017. All participants will receive a certificate or plaque. The winner will receive a plaque, trophy and be invited to attend the 2018 convention as our guest.

**Applications should be signed by a parent or legal guardian and returned to the office by no later than March 1, 2017. As soon as applications are received, we will send notification advising of shipping details. Applications must be received prior to shipment for entry into the race and juniors must be AU members.**

### APPLICATION FORM

The AU "Youth National Race" is open to all AU junior members. The race will be held during the 2017 AU Convention in Phoenix, AZ (November 16-19). Please print the following:

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CLUB:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby indicate that I wish to participate in the 2017 AU "National Youth Race". I certify that any 2017 young bird I may enter in the "National Youth Race" has been raised and cared for by me.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be unable to attend, but am excited to enter a bird.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to have my bird returned after the race. (Cost of shipping to be coordinated through handler.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature – Junior Member)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature – Parent/Guardian)

Return this application form to the AU national office. It must be mailed to arrive by March 1, 2017.  
Mail to: **American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc. P.O. Box 18465, Oklahoma City, OK 73154**

## 2017 Students vs Teacher Race

### 6 Bird Team \$150

### Multiple Teams Allowed

<b>Teacher Loft</b> 5th Grade Teacher	<b>Bulldog Loft</b> Clarkdale School	<b>Thomas Loft</b> 10th/3rd Grade Students	<b>Clown Loft</b> Mentor for School	<b>Yoder Loft</b> 6th/3rd Grade Students
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Ship Birds to: Clarkdale Middle School  
7000 Hwy 145 S  
Meridian, MS 39301  
601-938-6775

Birds Accepted Feb. - May  
**Do not send birds March 13-17**  
Races begin early October

100 Mile Race	25 pts in 1 pt intervals for top 25	Prizes awarded for top birds.
150 Mile Race	50 pts in 2 pt intervals for top 25	
200 Mile Race	75 pts in 3 pt intervals for top 25	
250 Mile Race	100 pts in 4 pt intervals for top 25	

**Extra Race Bonus:** Purchase Queen City Bands at \$10 each and race in 300 mile club race flown two weeks after School 250.

Contact these flyers for testimonials about our race.

John Hundrup, WA jhundrup@cableone.net	Steve Lawler, WA sjlawler@yahoo.com	Bob Lynch, GA rlynch6904@att.net	Ron Pairan, OH rpairan@avolve.net
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Thanks to all of you supporting our school projects over the years.

Call or email: Ronnie Shumaker 601-938-6775 rshumaker@lauderdale.k12.ms.us

[www.studentsvsteacherrace.com](http://www.studentsvsteacherrace.com)

