



**Redwood Empire Cage Bird Club  
Since 1991**

**PURPOSE:** To join together people who share a common interest in keeping cage birds in captivity. To educate members and the general public in the best care, keeping maintenance and breeding of cage birds. To support bird conservation.

**This Month's Meeting  
September 22, 2011**

**PRIDE NIGHT**

*It's time to show off your kids!*



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## **LETTERS to the EDITOR**

*Letters to the Editor are  
always welcome. Send your  
comments or suggestions to:*

*RECBC  
Attn: Newsletter  
P.O. Box 6232  
Santa Rosa Ca. 95406  
or  
email me at  
glenti@comcast.net*

*Please  
Newsletter Editor*

### ***INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN OUR NEWSLETTER?***

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RECBC, the officers, the publication and it's staff assume no responsibility for claims of advertisers in the publication or for the quality of goods and/or services the advertisers provide. Persons with substantial claims against publication advertisers may submit them to the Editors.

Please mail commercial and early bird ads by deadline Sunday after the General Meeting.  
RECBC - Newsletter  
PO BOX 6232  
Santa Rosa, Ca., 95406  
or email: dshore@shorebirds.biz for Commercial Ads and glenti@sbcglobal.net for Early Bird Ads.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

George Lentini (13)  
(707) 528-1065  
glenti@comcast.net

### VICE PRESIDENT

Earl McEnaney (13)  
869-1229

### SECRETARY

Karyn Paulson (13)  
(707) 996-9769  
kmp@vom.com

### TREASURER

Linda Karnstedt (12)  
(707) 566-1366  
Linda.karnstedt@medtronic.com

### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Cheryl Cattan (13)  
(707) 664-8965

Donna Shore (13)  
(707) 585-7524  
dshore@recbc.net

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Advertising, Publicity and Membership

Donna Shore (707) 585-7524  
dshore@recbc.net

### AFA Delegates

Bev Mager (707) 795-8804  
Karyn Paulson (707) 996-9769

### Club Librarian

Cheryl Cattan

### Hospitality

Carolyn Rawlinson (707) 778-9269

### Newsletter Editor

George Lentini (707) 528-1065  
glenti@comcast.net

### Photography

Members

### Raffle

Cheryl Cattan (707) 664-8965

### Outreach Program

Earl McEnaney & George Lentini

### Website

Jackie Turner

### Welcoming Table

Bev Mager



## Calendar of Events

**September 22nd:** Pride Night

**October 9th:** RECBC Bird Mart

**November 17th:** Pot Luck Holiday Dinner\*

**December:** No Meeting

*\* Please note our November meeting occurs on the 3rd Thursday of the month, due to Thanksgiving taking place on the 4th Thursday of November*



## BIRDIE BUCKS

Birdie Bucks are distributed by our Raffle Chairperson, Cheryl Cattan, at club meetings and events.

You can earn Birdie Bucks by:

- Donating to the meeting raffle table
- Bringing food to share at meetings
- Volunteering at events (i.e. Apple Fair, Home and Garden Show, and the **RECBC BIRD EXPO ON OCT 19TH**)

*Birdie Bucks may be redeemed for Raffle tickets at any meeting.*

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## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

The Gravenstein Apple Fair was a big success. This was the first year we were scheduled to talk about Exotic Bird Care. The event organizer had a professional photographer there taking pictures of our birds. Boy, did we have a crowd of people visiting our booth both days! I want to thank the following people who helped make this all possible: Bonnie Scheffler, Linda Karnstedt, Stephen Williams, Bill Jackson, Pat Delaplaine, Robin Lyon, Jill Richardson, Chloe Baskin, Millie and Jack Heart, Carolyn Rawlinson, Evelyn Namm, Luis Pacheco, Earl McEnaney, Callen Scheffler and his friend Cameron.

Our next **BIG CHALLENGE** is the EXPO in October!!!

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The Bird Expo and Craft Sale is our largest fundraiser event of the year – and it can't be a success without the help of the RECBC members!

Here is how you can participate to make this event a success:

- ✦ Volunteer to work at this event.  
Call Bonnie at 546-1776
- ✦ Contribute or solicit raffle items.  
Call Cheryl at 664-8965
- ✦ Encourage Bird and Craft vendors to rent a space. (\$65.00 for a 10' x 10' space).  
Call Bonnie at 546-1776
- ✦ Help with advertising.  
Call Linda at 566-1366 or George at 528-1065
- ✦ ATTEND THIS EVENT AND SUPPORT YOUR CLUB!!

# TREASURER REPORT

by LINDA KARNSTEDT

## AUGUST 2011

### INCOME

Membership	\$ 204.00
Raffle/Meetings	\$ 33.00
<hr/>	
Income Total:	\$ 237.00

### EXPENSES

Newsletter Printing	\$ 157.53
Membership/Directory - misc	\$ 9.32
Speakers Expense	\$ 114.55
AFA sponsorship	\$ 200.00
Insurance	\$ 946.00
Donations	\$ 500.00
Bird Mart Hall	\$ 850.00
Bird Mart Insurance certificate	\$ 200.00
Special Events (Safari West)	\$ 40.00
<hr/>	
Expense Total:	\$ 2,009.87
Ending Bank Balance for July	\$ 7,715.16



## REFRESHMENTS

If your last name begins with G-L, please bring a refreshment to this month's general meeting!

**THANK YOU For Your Tasty Treats!!!**

# Upcoming Bird Marts: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

## **October 9, 2011 - Exotic Bird Expo & Craft Sale Redwood Empire Cage Bird Club**

Sonoma County Fairgrounds, Garrett Building,  
1350 Bennett Valley Rd. Santa Rosa, CA. 95402  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Children 12 and under free  
(when accompanied by an adult)

NEW: Craft Vendors

<http://www.recbc.net/index.htm> for more info or  
contact Bonnie Scheffler at (707) 546-1766

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Saturday, Oct. 16th - Capitol City Bird Society annual  
Bird Mart - Placer County Fair Grounds in Roseville, CA  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm. - beautiful prizes!

Visit <http://www.capitolbird.org/> for more information

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Sunday, Nov. 20th - San Jose Bird Mart - Santa Clara  
Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Rd., San Jose  
Pay and Free Parking

Adults: \$8; Kids 6-12: \$2, under 5 free

For more information, visit

<http://www.sanjosebirdmart.com/calendar.htm>

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New Members

*Melissa Miller  
and Family*

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# Minutes of the Board

## August 25, 2011

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**Present:** Cheryl Cattan, Linda Karnstedt, George Lentini, Earl McEnaney, Karyn Paulson, Bonnie Scheffler

President George Lentini called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the July board meeting were approved.

**President's Report:** George reported that Dr. Scott McDonald will be at his house on September 1<sup>st</sup> to service RECBC members' birds. George thanked Karyn for gaining access to the AFA website's "club resources" section for future newsletter material. Karyn agreed to work with Bev to deliver a 20-minute report to the club at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting about what they learned at the recent AFA meeting. George wants to recognize members' birds' birthdays [or dates acquired] in the newsletter and will begin surveying members for their birds' names, species and appropriate dates. He will also see that our set-up procedures for the Gravenstein Festival are written down. George delved into the costs involved in attending the AFA meeting and board discussed reimbursing the attending delegates the full amount of registration, currently \$180, if they make a report to RECBC.

**Treasurer's Report:** See separate page. Linda assured the board that she monitors club expenditures regularly and compares her spreadsheet with the budget. If budget changes seem needed, she will bring up issues at a meeting. Admission income for the Safari West meeting totaled about \$325, and the board moved and approved donating \$500 to Safari West.

**Outreach Program:** Bonnie announced that the Bird Mart, being the club's largest outreach activity, has already generated a few booth requests. Robin Lyon will back up Bonnie and learn the procedures. Linda has already documented procedures for Bird Mart publicity, which she will begin in September. George and Earl will travel to the Roseville Foothill Bird Fanciers Mart on Aug. 28 to entice vendors there to come to our Bird Mart Oct. 9. George thanked all for attending the Gravenstein Fair and interacting with many attendees. We were invited to set up an educational booth at a Petaluma school's Halloween Festival, which will be pursued. Flyers for our Bird Mart were passed out to possible appropriate vendors at the Gravenstein Fair.

**New Business:** The board discussed the reduced attendance at Safari West this year and may consider visiting every other year... or negotiating driving tours for annual updates about the animals. The "Exotic Bird Mart and Craft Sale" will become the title of our Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> Bird Mart. George will get the club's Bird Mart banners updated and work with Earl and Steve to post them throughout the county after Sept. 15. Bonnie recommended sending out \$1-off-admission post cards to this year's attendees in 2012. So vendors won't have to leave the Mart at lunch, Linda will look into whether there will be a food vendor at the fairgrounds on Oct. 9 or arrange a pizza committee.

Cheryl asked George to run a notice in the September newsletter asking members to bring raffle prizes for the Bird Mart (or meeting) to the Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. She also requested help with the Mart raffle, and Bonnie said she would bring a Bird Mart volunteer sign-up sheet to the Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Old Business:** Linda has procured a computer and projector for Bonnie Zimmerman's Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> talk. By-law pamphlets were passed out to all board members.

Submitted by Karyn Paulson

# 49<sup>er</sup> PET



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## Open Position

Calling all potential Board Members!

We have a wonderful opening for a new board member. Some of you may be thinking "what is so fun about being on the RECBC Board?" Well, ask anyone on the board what they like most about being a board member and you will get all different answers. The common theme, though, is "fun and rewarding". Don't miss out! See any Board Member for more information...

Please Please Please

## EARLY BIRD ADS



**In Home Bird Sitting Service:**  
(707) 585-7524 or email  
Donna Shore at [dshore@recbc.net](mailto:dshore@recbc.net)

General Meeting Place

**Animal Care Center**

6470 Redwood Drive

Rohnert Park, Ca.

Behind Red Lobster and Olive Garden

Take RP Expressway Exit from 101

4th Thursday of the month

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10% discount on cages and supplies only to RECBC members.



2011  
**Exotic Bird Expo**



*Sunday - October 9, 2011*  
*9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

- 
- ✦ Birds for Sale
  - ✦ NEW this year: "Craft Vendors"
  - ✦ Bird related items (toys, cages, etc)

General Admission \$7.00; *Children 12 & under free*  
*(must be accompanied by an adult)*

**Please, No Dogs Allowed!**

Sonoma Fairgrounds - Garrett Building  
1350 Bennett Valley Rd. Santa Rosa Cal. 95402

For Booth Space contact Bonnie at (707) 546-1776

I had a most marvelous surprise this weekend. I called up my former Volvo mechanic about getting my 1968 142S a professional valve adjustment and we ended up talking about parrots. Specifically Cotta told me about the amazon parrot that he and his wife Tina had 'inherited' some months ago by way of their daughter and her long-time boyfriend. A few minutes into the conversation I inquired what was the bird's name?

"Kona," he replied.

I could not believe my ears! "I know Kona," I told him excitedly. "A Yellow-Fronted Amazon baby I sold to the couple who used to live on the street above us some nine or ten years ago."

To cut a long story shorter, Cotta explained that their daughter Whitney had been a long-time companion of the original man who purchased Kona, and that the psittacine had fallen in love with her so much that she had taken him with her when the two friends parted ways. Now their daughter was living in another location and her parents "inherited" the parrot. Not an unusual situation in a pet bird's life to be sure; but I calculated that Kona had had at least six different home surroundings (i.e. avian *mental realities*) in three locations on the Big Island Hawaii since birth nine years before.

That is a lot of changes forced upon a handfed pet bird in a modest period of time! When the owners asked me to come in and counsel them on Kona, trim his "dagger-like" toenails, and perhaps give them some clues to gender, I fully expected this yellow front to exhibit some aggressive or dysfunctional behaviors due to all that early shuffling around. It's particularly hard on young parrots to be re-homed many times.

A few days later, I left early morning and drove the hour and a half to the auto repair shop and checked in, while waiting for Tina to bring Kona down the mountain for me to meet. When she brought the carry cage into the office, I took off my 'scary' baseball cap, gave a quick perusal to the green hookbill, and promptly uttered my sharp "Krrrruk" yellow front contact call.

Was I surprised when Kona perked up, flashed her eyes and instantly responded to me with musical greeting murmurs! Incredible. It had been nearly a decade since this psittacine had heard me call to her, and yet she remembered it and hence me! I have met other former handfed birds of mine after long

periods of time and they seldom respond instantly to anything I do or say, preferring to mistrust me and stick close to their primary caregivers.

We opened up the top of the cage; I stuck out a finger and said “up,” and just like that Kona climbed up, moved on to my shoulder, flared her tail and “meowed,” then began to gently preen at my hair. I was enthralled.

You know, it is usually not a very smart idea to let a strange amazon parrot climb onto your shoulder, especially not with the owners right there talking to and about it. Necks, cheeks, eyes, ears, just to name a few sensitive skin spots are all extremely vulnerable to an amazon’s notorious spontaneous jealousy or tantrum fits—serious beak bites being the typical outcome. One time only, decades ago, I let a former amazon pet on my shoulder from its new owner—the nasty cheek-bloodying I received taught me a permanent lesson and the same situation has never happened since.

But with Kona, her body language was so peacefully gentle, so courtingly non-threatening that I immediately was drawn to make an exception and take the risky plunge. I guess that’s a bit like April and her penchant for picking up other person’s *Ara* macaws on the spur of the moment—read the psittacine’s intentions and react accordingly. Just make sure you tune in closely and know what you are doing!

But wait, the story gets even finer...

Cotta and Tina had told me that Kona bird absolutely loathed towels. The last time he had been restrained in a towel to trim his claws, he had fought strongly and growled and bit someone through the towel. Well, before I left home, I went to our blanket chest and got out the old green bath towel that Kona (and all my babies) had grown up under in his nursery basket. I took it along with my nail trimmers and some corn starch (just in case he bled any, though I use a flashlight to see the quick inside a bird’s nails and trim each foot very conservatively so that the pet does not experience any pain).

I put Kona down on top of his carry cage and gently draped the green towel over him, making a contact call and a happy “wheee.” Sitting down with him upright in my lap, he began to coo and make little nesty noises under the dark covering while I quickly did his toenails. What a great bird!

I suspect that the last person to trim his claws was rough,

made him bleed painfully, and likely used the old-fashioned method of turning the parrot upside down instead of doing it with him standing on one foot under the towel while clipping the other. Parrots hate to be upside down, it is an exposed and fearful defensive position and can make any grooming work all the more fretful. It also increases the occurrence of the bird balling up its fist tightly to prevent separate digits from being extended and snipped.

The owners had been referring to Kona as a male partially because of the parrot's love affair with their daughter Whitney. However, it was her under-the-towel behavior that made me begin to suspect that our Kona "he" was in fact a she. Cooing and fluffing in dark cozy places is hardly a male yellow front trait. Besides, the usual adult male amazon of ten years is not nearly so likely to crawl off his owner's shoulder and step up onto a stranger's shoulder without at least some reticence or rather assertive posturing.

Morphologically, Kona was one of those amazons that straddled the borderline between male characteristics like upper mandible size and head shape, and female clues such as immaculate plumage and tailfeather preening in front of someone she chose to show off for. I did a quick pelvic bone check while I was holding her and though not exactly wide and hennish, her cloaca was definitely rounded and capable of egg laying once she came into "heat."

Still, it was her personality and behavior traits that led me to conclude this parrot pet was in fact a female. She was just so 'femininely flirty' and docile.

"Kona is a little girl," I pronounced. And after over 25 years of owning, observing and raising five generations of *A. ochrocephala*, I would have been willing to put money on it.

The upshot of all of this was I got to see the stable end results of a psittacine persona in a baby amazon I had raised and trained many years ago. She was still fully flighted and she had been re-homed several times, yes; but always to a loving household where she could continue to thrive and remain, healthy, friendly, and worldly alert. It certainly does not always work out so well with avian adoptions.

I promised to keep in touch with Cotta and Tina and to send them a group of articles concerning feeding, chewable green plants, and the long family tree of Kona's relatives. EB



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**NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE**

*This information will be published in the directory unless otherwise noted.*



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

PURPOSE: To join together people who share a common interest in keeping cage birds in captivity. To educate members and the general public in the best care, keeping maintenance and breeding of cage birds. To support bird conservation.

Household	Individual	Sr. Household (60+)	Sr. Individual (60+)	Jr. - Under 17
\$32.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$22.00

Membership dues are paid annually. If you have any questions about your dues, contact Donna Shore (707) 585-7524.

Circle type of membership:                      New                                      Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Pet/Breeder

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- P B Macaws
- P B Parrotlets
- P B Pionus
- P B Ringnecks
- P B Rosellas
- P B Australian Parakeets
- P B Other

Mail to: Membership, RECBC, PO Box 6232, Santa Rosa, CA 95406  
 We often need help with various functions for the club (i.e. bird mart/expo/fair, toy-making party, silent auction, outreach program, picnic, etc.) Would you be interested and willing to get involved and participate on occasion? Do you have any specialized talents that you might like to volunteer? Please let us know!



**Redwood Empire Cage Bird Club**  
**Since 1991**

**PO BOX 6232**  
**Santa Rosa, CA 95406**