



*I.F. Interview for 2010 Champion Flyer – By Charles Barbieri*

## PAUL SIMONIK

*1st IF Hall of Fame 5-25 Lofts 2010 Old Birds*

*IF-09-SCR-4216 “Haven”*

*14th Champion loft Old Birds 2010 5-25 lofts*

### The beginning:

It all started in 1976 with Simonik brothers Paul, John and Bob. That year, the family of Paul Simonik who resided in the small Northeastern Pennsylvania community of Peckville, decided to keep racing pigeons. Back then the Scranton Pigeon Club still had something like 30-40 active members. Winning in this club was really an exceptional feat which he only accomplished one time during his initial start into racing his birds. It is a fact that almost the whole neighborhood and most of his relatives and friends were racing pigeons with Paul on a race day by merely joining him at the loft. After all, that was in a time when there were no computers and other electronic devices to speak of.

Paul, who was 28 at the time, started racing pigeons (like so many fanciers before and after him) that were given to him from an older fancier in the neighborhood. Then, after a short time in the sport Paul had a work related injury which disabled him so he moved to Florida for the next 30 years where he kept a few pigeons for his enjoyment but did not compete.

In 2006, Paul then moved back to Pennsylvania and returned to the pigeon sport after abandoning it as a young man. He was hooked on the fascinating hobby and sport of racing pigeons and was determined to learn as much about modern racing pigeons as possible in order to start his own successful loft. His return to the sport, met with some ups and downs, but mostly disappointments. Paul understood that in the pigeon sport it is dedication, and doing everything for the pigeons 365 days a year! He knows that whoever wants to win in the old bird or young bird series or to stay at the top of the race sheet has to sacrifice his time to give proper care for the birds every day.



Paul decided to rebuild the loft in his yard. The loft soon increased to a larger loft with two sections for young birds, two sections for widowhood cocks, two sections for the breeders and a feed room/office. He shares this loft with his brother Bobby, who races his own family of birds in a different club and different combine.

In 2007, Paul obtained a few choice youngsters and breeders from his good friend of 30 years, Paul Walsh of NC and formerly from his club in Pennsylvania. He had the vision of competing in the convention races and one loft races, which Paul feels is the top of the premier races in our sport. Paul went to NC to stay with the Walsh's to learn the proper day to day care and handling of his team, learned all the new modern racing systems that were not available in the 70's and was introduced to Tony from [www.PigeonPlus.CA](http://www.PigeonPlus.CA) for his medication needs.

This old friendship proved the advantage Paul needed. Immediately, he had success with a small team of pigeons. He began to enjoy weekly racing accomplishments by winning many club races and a few combine races. His victories in out of town races were also a success.



He bred equal first place winner in the October 19, 2008 Black Eyed Susan Futurity Race in Baltimore Md. One of his birds won a club race for Dr. Dave's loft of Brain-tree Ma. Paul entered two birds in the 2010 Flamingo One Loft Race in which  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the birds were lost but Paul's two entries were still remaining in the 250 mile race. In that November 19, 2010 race, his bird clocked equal first at the flamingoic.com race in which the bird was a little slow running into the trap. Paul bred the 4th place bird in the 2010 MAO Race in New Jersey.

IF-09-SCR-4216, Paul's IF Hall Of Fame Champion Bird, is related to the above birds which were bred from his Walsh breeders. He named this champion "Haven" in honor of his former fishing boat that he had in Key Largo. As a young bird he flew 1,223 miles taking many 2nd and 3rd club position but no firsts. As a yearling "Haven" started out racing on the natural system in which his first race he flew home to eggs and took a first club position. After three races of flying natural to the nest "Haven" was put on the widowhood team. He flew a total of 2000+ miles and 7 of the 11 concourse races. He was 6th LLC 150 miles, 1st LLC at 410 miles and,

13th 320 miles 2nd 410 mile equal 1st LLC, 24th LLC at 270 miles. "Haven" is truly a champion and the best bird he had ever owned. For the 2011 breeding season, he will mate him to his full sister, and hopefully his young will be flying machines just like their Dad.

Paul would like to thank the IF membership and officers for these 2010 awards. Undoubtedly, many hours of effort have been spent to compile the IF Awards on a national basis. Thank you to the IF for the opportunity to participate in the awards and special thanks to Charlie Barbieri for putting this article together. I hope the IF keeps getting bigger and stronger.

Yours in the sport,

Paul Simonik  
(570) 561-9555



**Paul Simonik Loft**  
**IF-09-SCR-4216**  
**"Haven"**  
**1st I.F. Hall of Fame 2010**  
**5-25 Lofts 2010 Old Birds**