

The Pigeon Race – Background



Surry Sunrise Rotary Club beginnings . . .

The Pigeon Race is a fundraising event for the Surry Sunrise Rotary Club in Mount Airy. It had its beginnings in 2016, when Surry Sunrise Rotarian Steve Norman introduced his club to the idea. He suggested that the club host the pigeon race and sell tickets for \$100 each. Each ticket holder would be randomly assigned a pigeon and the first bird back to the loft

would win its ticket holder prize money.

Norman races pigeons and had learned about a successful fundraiser that other pigeon racing clubs had organized. He felt it was something the Surry Sunrise Rotary Club could do with his loft's pigeons. The club adopted the idea and Flight for Kids "took off". The club decided that all proceeds would go to the 2 local school district's food insecurity backpack programs. These programs send food home with students who may not have enough to eat over the weekends and holidays

In the first year of the event the club was able to donate \$4,000 to each school district and in the second year an additional 100 birds were added to the race which enabled more money to go toward the children in need. In the second year of the event, the club excitedly gave \$8,000 to each school district. In 2018, the event's third operation, the Club Chair presented a goal of \$25,000 to the club. With no more birds being added to the race, that meant the community and local businesses would be needed to meet this lofty goal. They did not disappoint! Through generous donations, the club was able to meet its goal of \$25,000. The event was not held in 2019.

About Racing Pigeons and the Race . . .

- Racing Pigeons are assigned a unique alphanumeric number by affixing a leg band with a bar code soon after birth.
- Each Racing Pigeon has a unique band that identifies them by their number and scans them into the loft as they cross an electronic pad at the loft entry gate. Scanning is automatic and cannot be controlled by any human interaction.
- On Race Day, September 19th (or the next available clear day in the event of bad weather) 200 Racing Pigeons will be released simultaneously from the Charlotte Motor Speedway (100 miles from their lofts). Lofts are located within the City limits of Mount Airy which will be monitored by the Surry Sunrise Rotary Race Team.

The Pigeon Race and Furnitureland Rotary . . .

The Surry Sunrise Rotary Club offered to this fundraising opportunity with other Rotary clubs in our Rotary district.



- Surry Sunrise Rotary will be selling 200 tickets for \$100 a ticket for their fundraiser, but each club can sell as many tickets as it chooses, at whatever price the club would like to charge.
- Since the Racing Pigeons return to different lofts, their calculated speed is based on the exact distance and fastest time they traveled to determine the winner. On race day, once the race results are confirmed by the race club (who has the absolute say in the finishing order of the top 5 birds), the winning bird numbers will be posted on the Surry Sunrise Rotary Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Surrysunrise/>)
- It will be each club's responsibility to notify your tickets buyers and the winners. Each club can structure the payouts to winners in any way they wish.
- The Furnitureland Rotary Club is taking advantage of this event. Furnitureland Rotary Club are charging \$20 per chance. Pigeons are available on a "first-come" basis.
- In the event of any conflicts or questions, the decision of the Race Team for Surry Sunrise Rotary will be final.

The Pigeon Race – Furnitureland Rotary Club's Details

- The Pigeon Race is scheduled for Saturday, September 19 weather permitting. In case of inclement weather the race will be rescheduled.
- At 6:00AM on the day of the race 200 pigeons will be released at the Charlotte Motor Speedway and will make their way back to their lofts in Mount Airy.
- The race is officially administered by the Surry Sunrise Rotary Club.
- The Surry Sunrise Rotary Club will provide the official race results to the Furnitureland Rotary Club and the winners of the prizes will be announced at the club's meeting on Monday, September 21. All are welcome to join the zoom meeting to learn the identify of the top 50 pigeons. A link to the September 21st Furnitureland Rotary club meeting can be found at <http://FurniturelandRotary.org>.

To order your Pigeon, click for details . . .

[Order a Pigeon](#)