



President: Chad Bishop	pres@atlantakoiclub.org
Vice-President: Kevin McDonough	vp@atlantakoiclub.org
Secretary: Cheryl Jacobs	scribe@atlantakoiclub.org
Treasurer: Angie Jones	money@atlantakoiclub.org
Equipment Manager: Alan Puch	stuff@atlantakoiclub.org
Membership: Melanie Onushko	membership@atlantakoiclub.org
Auction Chairs: Alan Puch	stuff@atlantakoiclub.org
Diane Giangrande	koishow@atlantakoiclub.org
Koi Show Chairs: Diane Giangrande	koishow@atlantakoiclub.org ; koishow@atlantakoiclub.org
Chad Bishop	pres@atlantakoiclub.org
Pond Tour Chairperson: Melanie Onushko	tour@atlantakoiclub.org
Public Relations Chair: Cheryl Jacobs	pr@atlantakoiclub.org
AKCA Director: (vacant)	
Volunteer Coordinator: (vacant)	
Newsletter Editor: Bob Chaffer	editor@atlantakoiclub.org
Webmaster: Diane Giangrande	wizard@atlantakoiclub.org
Koi Rescue: Chase Tomkosky	rescue@atlantakoiclub.org

October, 2020

By the Pond

Greetings fellow AKC members!

No one's happier than me for some cooler weather! Although our koi seem to be smiling also :)

First, a special "thank you" that must be mentioned: to Diane Giangrande and Dr. Chad Bishop (AKC President) - who submitted the detailed surgery video about a growth inside one of Diane's young koi. Although Diane's young koi did not survive, she along with Dr. Bishop provided us an uncommon and intense view of some of the unfortunate aspects we deal with in raising koi. Thank you both for making this possible.

For those of you who missed any of the previous videos, they are now visible on the AKC YouTube page - Search YouTube for: Atlanta Koi Club Organization

Our next meeting this Sunday, 4PM is certainly one of the most important meetings of the year! Again, we'll be zooming this meeting - selecting the next group of professionals leading our AKC into 2021! Please make some time to attend and share your voice. One positive pre-cursor is that the Atlanta Falcons are doing so poorly that if you, like me and my wife Rhonda, are a Falcons fan, there's a good possibility that you won't be missing much at the end of the game anyway! We look forward to seeing/hearing you this weekend!

As your AKC VP, please remember that I am here to serve you - let me know if I can help in any way.

(Throwing each of you an elbow bump and virtual hug)

Stay safe, healthy, and watch out for the hungry raccoons and travelling herons!

Best wishes,

Kevin

Your AKC VP

Hello AKC Pond & Fish enthusiasts! :)

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!!! We need your voices, input and vote for the Upcoming AKC Elections scheduled for Sunday, October 18th @ 4PM.

The great news again is that you can do this from the comfort of your own home! No driving required (Thanks COVID!) You just need internet access!

But we really do need your input to continue to move our club forward. Please take the time to join, talk, laugh and vote!

Below is the link to attend the AKC "Zoom" meeting scheduled for Sunday, October 18th @ 4:00PM

**You'll receive an additional email reminder in the next two weeks*

****To join the meeting, have your computer/laptop or mobile device ready SUNDAY, October 18th @ 4PM EST**

*****TO JOIN THE AKC ZOOM MEETING - click the below link at 4:00pm on Sunday, October 18th*****

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84732163242?pwd=TTNZNEdjWUxiNSt4UjhGWG9iaGN0UT09>

Topic: Atlanta Koi Club - Main Focus will be ELECTIONS

***Passcode* (you'll need to enter this passcode upon entering the meeting): 341113**

****SPECIAL NOTES:**

(A) everyone's microphone will be "muted" upon joining the meeting - please don't be offended - this will help keep us from having background noise and keep everyone from speaking over others. Remember, this is a learning curve for many of us and we will unfold and change as necessary!

(B) Presently, there is a maximum limit of 100 participants (100 computers/laptops/mobile devices that can view the meeting at the same time). IF we achieve maximum capacity, don't worry, we plan to make the video meeting available to any member who isn't able to attend.

See you on-line!

Stay safe,

Kevin McDonough

“Your AKC VP”

MEMBERSHIP Melanie Onushko

The nominating committee (Sandy Lloyd, Gary Montalto, Stan Voje, Chad Bishop) came up with names for the positions of President, Secretary and Equipment Manager. The people who have accepted the nomination are Diane Giangrande for President, Kim Munie and Bob Chaffer for Secretary and Marlon Tiller for Equipment Manager. Please join the Zoom call on October 18th To vote for the candidates. We will hear from the candidates and then vote. We must have a quorum, so it's important that you log on. See you on the October 18th, 4 pm!

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We have 9 sponsors who are graciously promoting our club. Please consider using them for all your pond needs.

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VOTING

We will be using a voting service called NemoVote on October 18th to hold our Officer election online. Gary Montalto researched extensively for an online dedicated voting app designed for non-profits. He eventually found NemoVote, and convinced the company to allow us to use their service pro-bono. Based on your Club membership (individual or family) each member will receive an email from NemoVote with a link and unique password that will allow you to log on and vote anonymously. The candidates will each speak on the Zoom meeting, and then we will open the voting.

WINTER IS COMING!

It's that time of year again to prepare your koi for winter.

Make sure your water is pristine. Consider a few extra water changes to make sure there is zero ammonia.

Continue your small water changes throughout the winter.

Cover your pond to keep leaves out and protect slow moving koi from predators.

Some people do a Broad Spectrum Disease treatment BSDT to kill off any parasites in the water.

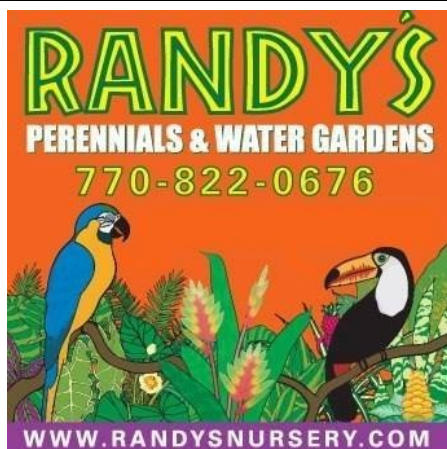
As the water temperatures drop below 50, you will notice koi barely eat the food you put in. That's when it's

The Atlanta Koi Club was on TV!

PBS's GEORGIA OUTDOORS televised several ponds on October 9th . Among the ponds displayed were the ponds of Hal and Susan Brown, James Lu, and Melanie Onushko. It is hoped that they will include more ponds in future telecasts. Congratulations to our very own TV personalities, but it is hoped that this publicity doesn't go to their heads!

Please remember our Sponsors:

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How to feed Koi in the Winter

This article was written by Ken Austin, a K.O.I. instructor, for the SKAPA Club Newsletter. Notes added by Karen Pattist.

Nighttime air temperatures have become cooler as we approach winter. The coolest weather will be in January. Your pond water temperatures will also get cooler. These cooler temperatures are signals that your Koi now need to be fed differently.

At low temperatures, Koi generally will not eat more than the body needs. As the metabolism slows down the intake of food is gradually reduced. Throwing in more food than the fish consume is poor water quality management. Uneaten food will heavily pollute the pond and bio-converter system even to the point that Koi may be poisoned by the degeneration in water quality. At water temperatures below 40°, the Koi's metabolism is so slow, but it is an old urban koi-keeping myth that food actually rots in their guts and becomes toxic before the Koi can digest it. Koi should actually eat a tiny amount all winter. TINY – meaning a pellet or two each, and only when they are at the surface and looking for food.

There are claims that in winter the type of food given to the Koi should change from an animal based protein to a plant based protein food. Other claims are that an easy to digest hi-carb diet should be fed in winter. The protein content of many of the extruded plant based Koi foods – e.g. wheat germ type feeds, are high in protein. However the plant products are deficient in some of the essential amino acids and can be more difficult to digest. Raw wheat Germ has 26 – 29% protein whereas the finished wheat germ Koi foods have a have around 32 – 34% protein, but wheat germ still lacks essential amino acids.

For water temperatures below 50° , stop feeding your Koi unless it's a pellet or two per WEEK, and then only if they are at the surface. They can go months without eating. Continue to make periodic water changes all winter long and your water quality will improve and you Koi will have a good healthy start when they come out of dormancy next spring.

Note - In CT, the Koi are often not fed (other than a pellet or two) for as long as 6 months, because water temperatures are below 50° all that time! And yet, the Koi grow a bit, and look fabulous in the spring. Why? Because they nosh just a bit all winter on pond algae, which is high in carotenoids – one of the ingredients used in Koi food as a color enhancer. Nature provides her own color enhancers! The cold water also decreases the Koi's slime coat which can make colors appear blurry (although provides the Koi's first line of defense against disease). Between the increased algae consumption and the decreased slime coat – the Koi look fabulous!

Note 2 - Here is what Professor Richard Strange says about food rotting in the gut:

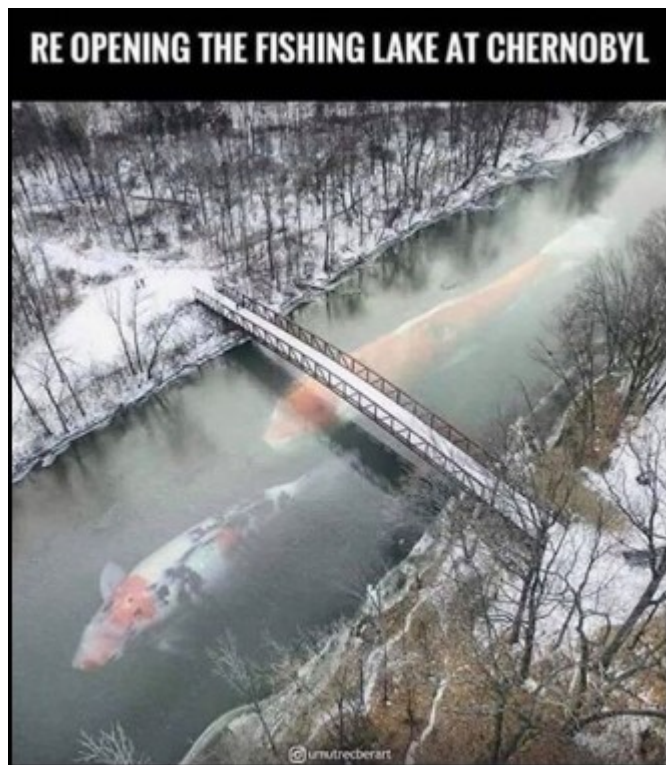
"As for the high protein feed rotting in the gut, I've heard that one before. IMO, it is unequivocally false. It ranks up there with bicarbonate reducing coloration, as a tale with no scientific basis that persists in a segment of the Koi community. In all my years of working in physiology of fishes, I'd never heard it proposed for any other temperate fish. No other aquaculturists change the composition of the feed in response to water temperature. Let's examine the facts. Below 40 is extremely cold for any temperate fish (though they are well adapted for it). No growth occurs and there is minimal feeding. That doesn't mean gut transit stops any more than heartbeat. Also, 40 is refrigerator temperature, not very conducive to rot!

Further, the Koi's gut has a microbiome, just as we do, that encourages certain bacteria and discourages others. A 100 years ago intestinal gas was thought to arise from beans due to "putrification of excess protein in the colon" now we know it is due to hard to digest sugars. In summary, while bacteria are active in all animal's guts, it is a symbiotic relationship best described as digestion, not rot."

Thanks
Professor Strange!

A Handy Tip

If you have city water, and are using a hose to do a water change, ALWAYS use an inexpensive hose timer, so you don't forget and kill the Koi with chlorine.



Recent sighting by Bill Dowden

CARP POX AND YOUR KOI

Article Courtesy of Next Day Koi

submitted by Kevin McDonald

Cyprinid Herpesvirus 1, more commonly known as Carp Pox, is one of the oldest recognized viral afflictions for koi. Carp Pox is easily recognizable by the pencil eraser-sized white, grey, blue or pinkish spots that look like molten candle wax. They usually manifest themselves around the head, shoulders and fins, but can sometimes cover the whole body.

WHAT IS CARP POX?

Carp Pox is one strand of the herpes virus that affects koi. This strain results in abnormal skin cell growth (similar to warts). The virus causing the spots is related to KHV (koi herpes virus), but is a separate virus that has neither the virulence nor the same rate of mortality. Thankfully, Carp Pox will not develop into one of the more serious types of Cyprinid Herpesvirus. The good news is that if your koi is showing signs of Carp Pox, however unsightly it may seem, it is ordinarily not a life-threatening disease.

WHEN DOES IT HAPPEN?

Carp Pox is most often observed in colder fall and spring water temperatures and so is mostly understood to be a cold water affliction. In colder water temperatures, a koi's white blood cell count is naturally lower and without the warmer water that will help to boost the immune capabilities and stave off the virus, it is more likely to occur. It isn't just cold water that will cause an outbreak of Carp Pox, though. Any type of stressor that lowers your koi's immune response will allow the virus to replicate and an episode to occur.

IS IT CONTAGIOUS?

As a virus, the answer is yes. You can mitigate the likelihood of it spreading, though, by keeping the water quality high and properly oxygenated, as well as not overcrowding your pond or tank.

TREATMENT

There is currently no antiviral remedy that exists to combat this virus. As the virus uses normal cellular functions to replicate, the means of stopping it would require destroying the infected cell—which would more than likely kill the host (your Living Jewel). As Carp Pox is mostly non-lethal, the advised course of action is to simply wait for water temperatures to rise. As the immune system's natural processes start to kick into higher gear, it will start to fight off the virus and the spots will "disappear." Even though the spots might not be visible, however, it doesn't mean the virus is gone. Once the temperatures fall (or a stressor is introduced and the immune system cannot handle the destruction of replicated viral cells), the spots will likely reappear. However, over time, as your koi's immune system becomes better at identifying the Carp Pox virus, the response to combating it will gradually become quicker and the outbreak less severe.

PREVENTION

The usual measures of clean water, low fish load and good parameters (ammonia, dissolved oxygen, pH) will help to reduce the stress that can cause the virus. Some enthusiasts introduce Chloramine T into the environment as a precautionary measure to lower the incidence of opportunistic pathogens that might use the Carp Pox as a means to gain a foothold in your otherwise healthy koi.

Varieties/Classifications of Koi

Reprinted from the AKCA Internet Library

Koi are fish. They were originally bred from the common grass carp. Early in the 1800's, the Japanese noticed a red color appearing on some fish. By concentrating on these fish, the first Kohaku (red & white koi) was developed. Today, there are 13 official classifications of Koi. Each classification is based on color, pattern and/or scale type.

A **Kohaku** has a white body with red patterns. There are many terms used to describe each pattern. "**Nidan Kohaku**" refers to a pattern with two red spots. Ni meaning two in Japanese. Thus '**Sandan**' is three spots, '**Yodan**' is four spots and '**Godan**' is five spots.

A '**Sanke**' is a three colored koi - white body, red and black accents. The word 'Taisho' refers to the era of the Emperor Taisho. Showa.

The '**Showa**' is also a three colored koi. But this time the body is black and the accent colors are red and white.

An '**Utsuri**' is a black koi with white (shiro), yellow (ki) or red (hi) accents. 'Utsuri' means reflection in Japanese.

'**Hikan**' means metallic and muji means solid color. This fish has one body color of white (platinum), yellow (yamibuki), orange (orenji), gray (nezu) and a metallic sheen.

Kawarimono. This group refers to any non metallic fish not found under any other classification. Other varieties include 'Karasu' a solid black koi.

'**Kumonryu**' a black and white **doitsu** scaled koi. 'Matsuba' a koi of any color with the center of every scale shaded black, like a pine cone. 'Ki Goi' a solid yellow koi, not metallic. An **Asagi** has blue scales outlined by white and a red belly. A **Shusui** is a doitsu scaled koi with a light blue body and a red belly.

'**Bekko**' means tortoise shell. Bekkos have a body color of either white (shiro), red (aka), or yellow (ki) with black spots on the body with the exception of the head. The head must only have the body color present.

'**Goromo**' means robed. This fish is white with the individual scales in the red pattern outlined in dark blue.

'**Hikari**' means metallic, 'Moyo' means pattern and 'Mono' means group or thing. This class includes all metallic fish not included in the two other metallic classifications.

Gin Rin. 'Rin' means diamonds. Koi in this class appear to have rows of diamonds on their dorsals.

'**Tancho**' is the national bird of Japan. It is a white bird with a red crested head. Needless to say, this fish has a single red spot on its head.

Kohaku - Selecting Young One

by Dr. Arthur Lembke

Reprinted from the AKCA Internet Library

Many people have asked me to help choose fish for them that I think will become a show winner. For this reason, I am writing some articles on what I think people should look for in small koi if they plan on showing them someday. I wanted to write about the kohaku first, because I believe that is the most important fish if you are looking for a future grand champion and it is the basis for other varieties. When looking at a large number of kohakus, perhaps hundreds at a time, the first thing I look for is a white tip at the front and back of the fish. It is preferable to have the red on the head of a kohaku to only go down about as far as the nostrils. Also, the head must have red on it. Don't pick a kohaku with an all white head. Red over the eyes of the koi used to be looked down upon, but in modern times it may come down over the eye. However, I think it is better if the red only comes down over one eye, not both eyes at same time.

The head is generally one of the most important parts in an early koi. Now that you have several koi with acceptable head patterns, I look at the rest of the body. As I said earlier, I also look to see if there is a white patch right before the tail. If at all possible I would like one there, but if all the rest of koi has positive characteristics, this is not as important as the head.

For the body, I look for red that is balanced side

to side and covers 70% of the body. This is so that as the koi grows up, and white comes up, there is still adequate red on the body. The red on the body can be in a zig-zag pattern (inazuma), a three or four step pattern, or anything else that looks eye catching. If the red is straight with no signs of breaking, the pattern may be uninteresting as the koi grows. I also look for koi that are broad at the shoulders, have a large skull, and have relatively large pectoral fins. This generally means the koi will grow larger to compete in shows.

When buying young kohakus, don't worry too much about the color. The white should preferably be snow white but may also pink if it was color fed before shipping. Avoid kohakus with a dirty grayish-white. As for the red, it may be either bright red or orange-red. Many orange-red young kohakus turn a pretty red as they grow. Next make sure there are no red or black marks on any of the fins. A small red patch at the base of the pectorals may be okay. Also, make sure there are no black marks on the body. All red on the body should also be in sizeable patches, not in single scale areas (ie. small red spots).

Last, but not least, take the koi out in a show tub and check for any body defects or signs of disease. If these exist, do not buy the fish no matter how nice it looks. I hope this information can give you some help in selecting kohakus. Who knows? In 7 years you may have a grand champion.

Selecting a Young Sanke

by Dr. Arthur Lembke

Reprinted from the AKCA Internet Library

Selecting a good sanke, when the fish are 4-8 inches in length, is very similar to selecting a good kohaku. The head of the sanke, as in all varieties of koi, is one of the most important things to look at. The head should be the exact same head as you would buy in a kohaku. There must be red on the head and the red should go down to the nostrils. The nose is better if it is white. One eye may be covered in red as long as the red is not over-powering. Red is too over-powering when it covers both eyes. **THERE MUST NOT BE ANY BLACK ON THE HEAD.**

Next look for an interesting pattern of red all the way down the body. Do not pick a koi with only red on the front half or on the back half of the body. If you have followed the above steps, you will notice you now have a good kohaku.

Now we must add the black. It is best if the first black spot is on the shoulder (not on the head). If there is no black until further back on the fish, the head can look too elongated. The rest of the black further back on the fish should be in a nice pattern that is balanced and preferably in the white areas rather than on the red. Some black on the red pattern is all right, but the more black in the white the

better. The black spots are better if not much larger than a quarter and should not distract from the red pattern.

Modern sankes are basically kohakus with a few small black spots placed in the white field. Red should take up about 70% of the fish, the black about 10%, and the rest white.

At an early stage, look for a fish with a lot of interesting red and very little black. Black tends to come out later and if you start with too much black, the black may be too powerful later. The red may be bright red or orange-red because the red can improve with age. The white should be snow white or slightly pink white. Black develops later, so pick one with only a little black that is balanced now. Avoid any sanke that has a lot of small, black, peppery like spots. Pepper-like spots can be a sign of poor quality.

The fins on the sanke should be either all white or white with black stripes. There should be no red in any of the fins. Be careful buying an early sanke with many black stripes in the pectoral fins. These sometimes develop too much black at a later stage.

Again, as in all koi, look for broad shoulders, large skull, and large pectoral fins for good growth potential. Make sure there are no defects or disease on the fish.

Happy koi keeping.

Selecting a Young Showa

by Dr. Arthur Lembke

Reprinted from the AKCA Internet Library

Selecting a young showa is one of the toughest young koi to choose. Showas go through many changes as they grow. Many times the black is very deep and only comes out as the fish grows. For this reason, if you see gray areas, it might not be poor quality white but deep black that will appear later.

Start selecting a young showa, as with other young koi, by looking at the head. The head should have all 3 colors (red, black and white), preferably in equal amounts. Best would be to have a good kohaku head with either a lightening stripe or a v-shape in black on the top of the head. Many showas don't develop this until later, so just try to pick one that has good red and white with some black coming out.

Next, look for a good kohaku pattern on the body. It should be balanced and be placed all through the body. Then check to see if black is either present or coming up all over the body. Don't worry if the black is of poor quality at an early age. Black develops later in most good quality showas. It is also okay to have an orange-red at this point because the red gets better as the fish grows.

The next very important thing to look for is the pectoral fins. Ideally, almost all of the pectoral fins, except for the outermost tips, should be black. As the pectoral fins grow out, the black seems to stay the same, and the white area on

the outside seems to spread out. If the pectoral fins are all black at this time, it is often alright, as this too can grow out to have good showa fins. Fins that are not acceptable are fins with any red, all-white fins, or fins with very little black at the base. All other fins should preferably be white, but some black is acceptable. Red is not acceptable in the fins.

Look for a good, strong body, large pectorals, and a disease-free fish. One must know how to pick a good kohaku and a good shiro utsuri to choose a good showa. If you take all the black away on a showa you should have a good kohaku and if you take all the red away you should have a good shiro utsuri.

Another thing to look for in this particular fish is the percentage of the 3 colors to the total fish. The classic showas used to be about 40% black, 40% red, and 20% white. The modern showas, that many judges like, have equal amounts of all 3 colors.

As you can see, the showas are one of the most difficult koi to select at a young age because they change so much as they grow. It is this complexity that makes this one of my favorites of the varieties of koi.

Selecting a Young Utsuri

by Dr. Arthur Lembke

Reprinted from the AKCA Internet Library

Whether you are looking for a shiro utsuri, hi utsuri, or ki utsuri, you look for the same thing. If you plan on showing the fish some day, you should choose a shiro utsuri because they almost always do better in shows.

It is very important to start by looking for a good head. The head of a shiro utsuri should have both colors (black and white) on the head. Do not buy a shiro utsuri with an all black or an all white head. Look for an interesting pattern of black on the head with about 40% black and 60% white. A lightening pattern of black down the face or a black V across the top of the head are favored, but any interesting pattern will do.

A body that is 50% black and 50% white is classical, but a higher amount of white is preferred in current judging. Do not buy an utsuri that is too black. The pattern should be interesting and balanced. All the black should be in large patches and the patches should all extend down to the bottom of the fish. Do not buy a shiro utsuri with a lot of small black spots. Also, look for good quality white. The hard part about all the above things to look for is that in a young shiro utsuri, much of the

black is deep and not finished and the white may still be grayish or yellow.

The pectoral fins of a young shiro utsuri should be all black or have a large patch of black at the base. Avoid shiro utsuris with all white pectoral fins or with just tiny patches of black at the base. Make sure both pectorals match. Many utsuris may have one black fin and one white fin. Do not buy these.

Make sure the utsuri only has two colors. Especially on shiro utsuri, there should be no red spots.

After you have the right head, pattern and fins, make sure you have a fish with a good broad body and large fins. This assures you of good growth in the future. Also check the fish in a tub to make sure there are no defects or disease present.

In selecting a hi utsuri or ki utsuri, the rules are the same. All the comments about white are the same for the red of the hi utsuri or the yellow of the ki utsuri. For these last two, good quality is harder to find than for the shiro utsuri because the shiro utsuri is more popular and more are bred in Japan.

Atlanta Koi Club
Financial Statement
As of September 30, 2020

BEGINNING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE: **\$9,840.18**

INCOME STATEMENT

Income

Total Income **\$0.00**

Expenses

700 Miscellaneous Expenses

795 Misc. Items \$109.16

1300 Membership

1380 Miscellaneous Membership \$100.00

1100 Rent

1101 Monthly Rent June-Sept. (\$185 p/month) \$0.00

Total Expenses **\$209.16**

Month Net Income/(Loss) **(\$209.16)**

ENDING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE: 8/31/2020 **\$9,631.02**

PETTY CASH:

Beginning Balance: **\$136.00**

Income:

2500 Miscellaneous Income

2545 Raffle -
Monthly Meet-

Total Income: \$0.00

Expenses: **\$0.00**

Total Expenses: \$0.00

Ending Balance: **\$136.00**