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The OPMA's "Annual Meeting" was held at Orchard View Golf Course in Ruthven on April 22, 2023 and was well-attended, with **37** people present.

(This meeting is one of 3 (Feb., Apr., & Oct.) which are open to the public and advertised locally, and we usually do have some people attending who want to learn about Purple Martins.)

We did the usual "go-around", when members talk about their colony experiences, ask questions, relate stories, etc.

A presentation was made by Dennis Shady on Purple Martin Housing. He had an ERVA MK12 unit with him for display. (ERVA is the new name for the TRIO line of housing that has been around for a very long time, and most people have seen the familiar green and white aluminum housing in their neighbourhoods.

Dennis stressed the reliability of this type of housing, particularly now that ERVA has made one major modification recommended by landlords throughout North America: punch-outs so that the original 6x6" compartments can be easily expanded to 6x12" by the purchaser.

Features of good ... (for the martins AND their hosts) ... housing were discussed.

Following the close of the meeting, attendees were invited to the area of the Purple Martin housing and feeding tray, to witness a feeding demonstration. As it turned out, April 22nd was the last day of a long stretch of rather good weather, and the Martins were definitely not hungry. But a few people got to flip some crickets and see how it is done. The Martins made some fly-bys and showed off their aerial skills, but didn't need our help that day. The next 2 weeks were challenging to say the least, but that's another story for another day.

OUR FIRST "MARTIN NIGHT"

Our First Ever "Martin Night" was held on Thursday, April 27th, and was a **resounding success with 36 members in attendance**, several having come from a little farther afield (Aylmer & Blenheim)!

As you can see from the pictures (*thank you to Audrey for taking them*), John's colony has a variety of housing, and he has persevered with supplemental feeding to the point that his bluebirds and tree swallows, as well as martins, partake of the offerings.

Not only was there a live demonstration of feeding, with many attendees trying their hand at flipping,; there was also a video presentation in the garage (with coffee and desserts!)







Here is a link to a video posted by John of his birds eating from the feeding tray:
[Feeding Purple Martins May 1, 2023 - YouTube](#)