

The Journal of RMLA



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Journal Submission Dates, Ad Rates and Specifications

Issue	Submission Deadline	Mailing Date
Spring	February 20	March 20
Summer	May 20	June 20
Fall	August 20	September 20
Winter	November 20	December 26

Ad Type	Width x Height	Member	Non-Member
Business Card	3.5"x2"	\$15	\$18
1/4 Page Horz.	7.5" x 2"	\$24	\$36
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1/3 Page Vert.	2.5" x 10"	\$35	\$48
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Full Page	7.5" x 10"	\$78	\$117
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Proof Reader - Marilyn Arnold

Simply said: commas drive me crazy! And I am not sure that Ron even knows what a ‘comma’ is (LOL)! And



if truth be known, all punctuation can be a mystery to me; hence I have five or six books to help me out. As co-editor for content, I am more concerned with reading articles for clarity (yes, punctuation helps with some of that, but I do miss a lot). For Ron, he is more concerned with lines, layout, and translating photos to incredible grey scales.

So, when Marilyn Arnold volunteered to proof read for The Journal, I gave a HUGE sigh of relief and said ‘yes’ immediately. Here is Marilyn’s take on proofreading.

Proofread - the definition according to Webster’s is as follows: to read and correct mistakes in (a written or printed piece of writing). My proofreading days go back to the days when I taught English in high school. Part of the reason I want to proofread for The RMLA Journal comes from my desire to make sure that things are grammatically correct, a pet peeve. When listening to the news many newscasters will use the word “I” with a preposition which is grammatically incorrect. ‘I’ can only be used as a subject, and never with a preposition.

I enjoy working with a great team on The Journal and enjoy “giving back” to the llama community.

Thank you, Marilyn, for being part of The Journal Team.



Cover Photo:

Al Ellis honored with 2016 Bobra Goldsmith Leadership Award with Mr Spock looking on. See article page 21.

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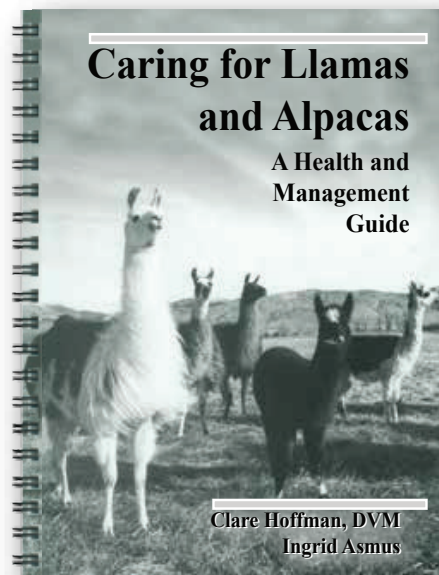
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RMLA Youth Rock!

By Marshal Rutledge, Chair, RMLA Youth Committee

The RMLA Youth Program is up and running for 2016. All Youth who have been members and have paid their 2016 dues, Welcome back. To the new names I see for 2016, Welcome aboard. The deadline for joining the 2016 program is April 15th.

As each of you have seen, the variety of ways to earn points is listed on the RMLA website (www.RMLA.com). Some of you have submitted points for this year, but don't let that deter you if you haven't gotten on board yet. This program runs for the entire year of 2016. Details are on the website.

I would like to encourage each of you to find/make/create/ask others for something that can be donated to the Estes Park Wool Market Silent Auction. This is one of the fundraisers used to reward members of this program at the conclusion of the year. 2015 offered personalized banners and the famous engraved belt buckle to the overall High Points winner.

And as an extra incentive, from May 15th to June 10th, triple points are offered for items donated to the YAP Silent Auction. Now keep in mind that these items should be of \$15 value and greater. I plan to be there to collect the items, set up and monitor the event. If you have items to send and are not planning to

attend, contact me, ask another RMLA member, check with a RMLA Board member or take photos and send notes with the items.

And here is the special offer I told you about in the Winter Journal. Beginning April 1, 2016 and continuing through May 30th, YAP Committee is offering double points on the following 2 items:

1. A 200 word essay on Camelids submitted to the Youth Committee by June 1, 2016.
2. A media interview for the radio, TV, or newspaper. Submit something to your local social media

and see if you get published. This should be done in April or May. This can be a simple Llama Alpaca Education 101 to help advertise an event coming up in your area or to bring attention to the education of our animals.

Looking for a great 2016 with all the YOUTH, see you

along the trail. Keep your YAP entry points coming. I am here to help or to answer questions: Marshal Rutledge, RMLA Youth Chair, (402) 366-9303 or mrut11@hotmail.com.



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Thank you for your continued support, it's very much appreciated by the readers and RMLA.

Thank You!

Upcoming Lama Handling Clinic

By Mary Vavrina, Chair, RMLA Education Committee



One of the fundamentals of a good relationship is communication. If you've ever wondered what was going on in the woolly head of your lama and wishing you could communicate better with your animal, you're not alone. It would be wonderful if lamas could learn our language, and some of them indeed seem to know what we're thinking, but on the whole, it's easier for us to learn 'lama'.

Marty McGee Bennett has been speaking llama and alpaca for many years, and she shares her knowledge at CAMELIDynamics clinics held worldwide. Marty brings a wealth of experience and qualifications to her work with camelids, including a B.S. degree in Animal Behavior. Marty's foundation in TTEAM, (The Tellington-Jones Every Animal Method) and application of the principals of balance and leverage make her methods a popular, enduring, and scientifically-sound training and handling system for camelids.

RMLA is sponsoring a CAMELIDynamics clinic in Wellington, Colorado on April 16 and 17. Held at Karen and Robert Kinyon's Double K Diamond Ranch, the two-day clinic will begin

with the basics of lama behavior and respectful communication. The second day will build on the first, exploring herd management and efficient yet gentle handling methods. Trimming toenails, giving injections, trailering, conquering obstacles, and raising respectful youngsters are some of the topics



From attitude

...to cooperative dude

to be covered. It will be a terrific opportunity to learn from someone who has spent her professional life improving the care and handling of llamas and alpacas and educating camelid enthusiasts. Please go to www.RMLA.com/clinic for details.

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I took my llama on a three mile walk/trot today—first time to try the new leading techniques. What a difference a little handler training made! Slack in the rope the whole way! My touch just kept getting lighter! He understands (and so do I)! Thanks so much from both of us!

—Ed from Colorado

Because of my work with you I had a much better experience in the ring. I came away with a couple of ribbons for each boy but that doesn't mean nearly as much to me as the behavior of my animals. One of my boys was so well behaved in the show ring that the judge commented to me about his excellent behavior.

— Terry from Missouri

Yesterday, did nails. Well, let me tell you the animals were totally accepting and did extremely well with me using the balancing techniques I learned and breathing. The gal doing the trimming couldn't believe the changes in the pacas! I was thrilled about the whole experience! YIPPEE!!!

—Kathy from California



www.camelidynamics.com

Packer Training

by Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay, Chair, RMLA Pack Committee

Just as not all humans are born as long distance runners or great swimmers or powerful football players, not all llamas are born packers.



Just like humans, though, they are born with a brain equipped with learning potential. Llamas have a very good memory and an interest and curiosity to learn new things. When Domingo, my lead llama, arrived on the ranch in 2010, he was a blank slate and he was bored. As an intelligent being, he wanted to occupy his mind and so he opened the very first knot I used to tie him to the trailer. He was visibly excited to have solved this mystery. I look for that inquisitiveness in llamas when I train them and almost all of them have it.

Of course, llamas need to have the “body” to pack. I do not necessarily mean size. The main thing to look for is in the llama’s body. It should be well put together; for instance, be balanced when it comes to the length of the back in relation to the length of the legs. A wide chest usually leads to swaying when walking and the pack will move from side to side. So a narrow chest is more suitable and makes carrying a pack more

comfortable for the llama. Llamas’ legs should be straight and feet and knees not turned out or in. This is just common sense and there are charts and books written about this. Other than that I have had medium sized llamas in my group who packed just as well or better than large ones. Size doesn’t matter – attitude does!

Training is important and has three major, indispensable components: patience, consistency, rewards. Before I even think of putting anything on a llama’s back, I touch him wherever and whenever I can. The best time for that is winter when the llamas live in close quarters, are restricted by snow and come into the barn for hay or out of bad weather. This gives me the opportunity to touch and talk to them and otherwise ask nothing of them. I reward them with grain. Being able to touch a llama everywhere also has the advantage of examining his body or treating wounds when he is injured or the vet comes to vaccinate.

The next step is shearing. My packing



season starts in July, so I shear in June. Shearing is a great training tool as well and the next step up in desensitizing. I shear my llamas standing up, of course. I have a simple “chute” from the John Mallon days. The llama can still move around but is restricted by

metal bars. Shearing subjects the llama to being touched all over his body. I talk little, touch a lot and reward good behavior.

continued on next page

Next comes leading the llama on walks, preferably with a buddy. That is fun. We stop a lot and graze, and look around. There has to be something in it for them.

Now it is time for the blanket on the back of the llama. I hold the blanket out for the llama to sniff. Then I introduce a belt that fastens the blanket snugly on the back. Hmm, that is different. Ears will go back and the llama may step around a little. Just move with him and be calm. When I put the belt around his mid-section, I attach a rope at the end of the belt (I use one of those broad belts you use around your over-stuffed suitcase) and let it fall on the ground on the far side of the llama. I move it to my side with my foot, then pick it up, remove the line and close the belt. Now the llama feels something snug. We walk around a little. Piece of cake! Reward.

Next session, I move right into the saddle. No need to repeat the blanket. The llama knows. He's got this down. I use my soft (Shasta) saddles for training. I remove the back cinch and the crupper belt that goes under the tail. Those come later. I let the llama sniff the saddle, rub it across his chest, let him sniff again. He'll back up a little. It is important to let the llama's mind absorb these new things in his own time. Patience. I put the saddle slowly on his back, move it back and forth gently so he feels and hears the fabric. Same happens to his buddy, who is tied to the trailer next to him. They observe each other. It helps. They are in this together. Again, I tie a line to the cinch, let it drop on the far side of the llama, move it to my side with my foot, pick it up, slowly. Then tighten it, but not too tight. Same happens to the buddy. Wow! They look

at each other, their minds working. Reward by letting them relax a bit and feed a little grain.

Now we walk with the saddles on. Feels weird but it does not hurt, so it's okay. The other llamas watch from the other side of the fence. They cheer them on. They've been there, done that. I do short session to not stress the llamas and return them to their herd. That's their reward: the demanding human leaves them alone. I come back tomorrow and continue with front and back cinches.

I am consistent with how I saddle, which side I saddle from. It helps the llama to fall into a comforting routine. Soon, I add empty panniers, make them rustle, flop around. Then pillows to fill the bags, then books for weight. Now it is time for the first training trip to Yellowstone. We load into the trailer, we unload, put a light saddle on, and go hiking. Fun!

Soon, the big day arrives: a real trek. The rookies walk the trails in line with the experienced guys, one behind the other, with ears forward and tails high; tasting the delicious grass of the wild, sleeping under the stars, hearing cranes call in the morning. This is it. They now belong to the club. They have a job that occupies their minds and speaks to their hearts. They now are officially pack llamas.





Jerry Dunn
Bear Track Farm
Llama Training Center
303-277-1129 beartrak@q.com



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2016 National Western Stock Show



By Judy Glaser, Superintendent

Photo credits: Becky Leach and Edward C. Mullner II - *Thank You!*

The llama show at the NWSS complex once again was successful. I always feel that this being the opening show of the year and that it needs to be memorable. Numbers were up in both the Fleece Show, Halter and Performance. We had exhibitors showing for their first time and ones that came from far away.

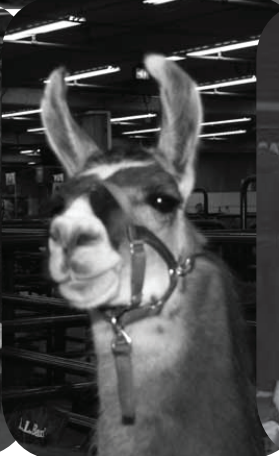
The Steaming Bean Mining Camp was the theme for the Performance Show. We had a hospitality banner for the Camp at the exhibitor check. We had a mining tunnel and props that were all mining related. An "ole" miner forty-niner even showed up! (Hint: You'll have to ask Wally about that!)

Participants in Youth Performance received special awards: embroidered bags, buckets with silver vinyl lettering and buckles. Look for some of the awards in shows yet to come this year! These additional awards can only be given with the help of the llama community and others. Thank you to all.

Thank you to our judges, Phil Feiner, Cheryl Juntilla and Deb Yeagle. Big 'thank you's' go to the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association, Karen Kinyon, Carlos Mendoza, Marcie Saska-Agnew, Bill and Kathy Budney, Kim Sawyer, Wally and Cheryl Juntilla, Rob and Jill Knuckles, Sonja and Chris Boeff, Patti Morgan, Roy and Becky Leach, Bailey Volock, Mary Wickman, Teri Baird, Ed Mullner, Erin Dorsey and the tireless folks in the Livestock Office.

Personal thanks go to my husband, Kurt. You are a saint!

Get your mining gear on because the Steaming Bean Mining Camp will be back for the 2017 show!

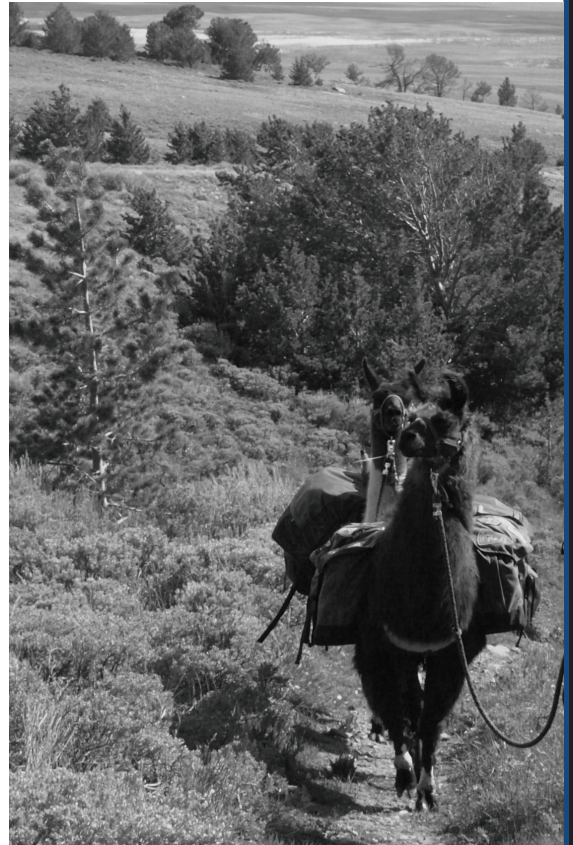


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Camelidynamics, Computers and Camelids

By Marty McGee Bennett



Like it or not I spend as much or more of my time at a computer these days as I do working with camelids. Based on many conversations I believe I am not alone. Computers are a fact of life; our vocabulary is peppered with new words that didn't exist even twenty years ago. People often come to camelids from disparate walks of life, many with no previous livestock experience but a wealth of life experience—much of it on the computer. When I am teaching a workshop, I often think in and use metaphors and analogies as a way of helping people relate to the handling and training concepts I am teaching.

I began to think about how the problems and solutions we encounter on our computer screens hit the handling nail right on the head (metaphor intended)! Who hasn't been caught in "screen saver" mode with mouth hanging open and eyes a bit glazed, how many boomers are feeling like the sum total of their life experience is leaving their brain/hard drive a bit full and in need of "defragging."

While struggling with a computer issue the other day, I made the decision that I was not going to fix the problem and could live with a "work around." Later that day I was having lunch with a friend and alpaca breeder. We were discussing a male alpaca she owns; we will call him "Oscar." Oscar has been to several sessions of Camelidynamics Camelid Camp. Camelids come to camp for four days with their name clearly marked on their undies, and their favorite snack. The human students work with the assembled animals and amazing transformations take place with both four and two-leggeds. The last day is "parents'

day" and the owners arrive in the afternoon to pick up their animals, learn what we have been working on and how to continue where we leave off.

While Oscar has made progress in many areas, his basic issue of extreme halter resistance persists. It occurred to me that a "work around" was not only practical but also the best and safest course of action. Tackling a problem like this head on (pun intended) with repetition is akin to picking a scab or to use the computer metaphor is just exactly like the endless loops we find ourselves in when



the same warning window appears each time we execute the same set of commands. It is no more logical to assume that an animal will magically change with rote repetition than to think that a computer will fix itself just because we are frustrated and want it to.

Just as with a computer if you don't like what you get when you hit a key, don't keep hitting that key.

The more we humans insist on getting a halter on by wrestling and fighting, the more we unwittingly teach the alpaca to resist more effectively. Oscar is an animal that is determined he will not wear a halter unless he has no other choice. He is a big male, is very strong and agile and is extremely frightened. My guess is that he is the victim of a particularly unpleasant early



continued on next page

haltering experience. With no ill intent perhaps he was forced into a halter that didn't fit and then experienced a disastrous experience while wearing it. A young animal wearing a halter that doesn't fit that panics on the lead or is tied to a static object can easily pull the halter off of the nose bone. In this case the halter can compress the cartilage and partially or fully block the airway. When animals can't breathe they panic and struggle, ironically needing even more of what they can't get: AIR. When this happens accidentally it is unfortunate; however, the deliberate training practice of haltering weanling alpacas or llamas and tying them to a fence to let them "sort it out" is not a safe training shortcut in my opinion. The downside risk is creating what I call a "drowning victim."



Drowning victims are petrified of "THE HALTER" and will hurt themselves and anyone who tries to make them wear one; and just like Oscar they are often very reasonable with other aspects of management. Once haltered Oscar is a dream to lead, easy to trim toenails and surprisingly once in balance he will accept the TTouch (a pleasant massage like technique used for both desensitization and to reinforce a human animal bond) all over his face, nose and mouth. However, despite being comfortable with handling around his head, issues that involve a HALTER or surprise movements around his head will cause this fellow to react suddenly and violently and he has connected more than once with the head of a person working with him.

'Work Arounds' Can Be Helpful

We can't simply decide to never touch this animal again—it is time to accept a work around! I firmly believe many issues can benefit from a "work around." For example, when alpacas or llamas become absolutely unreasonable and determined that they will not allow a human to touch their legs, I teach people to trim toenails while the animal is standing on them

or even when sunbathing (see photo.) Simply use the nippers to trim off the over grown part of the toenail without picking the foot up at all. Trimming toenails on the ground is a compromise to be sure but a perfectly fine "work around" and a perfectly acceptable alternative to a knock down drag out fight. Trimming toenails or giving injections when animals are breeding is another work around that is preferable to physical restraint and force. A word of caution: You might not want to do this with an inexperienced male. And I always give them 10-15 minutes but I have trimmed toenails on both the male and female with no problem. I know of a woman in Australia who had a very difficult male who had a chronic eye problem and she used a barren female and let him breed so that she could easily treat his eye on a regular basis.

Using a sedative when doing things that animals cannot tolerate without high levels of restraint is another "work around" that is absolutely reasonable and can be far safer in the long run. In order for a camelid to let go of "looped behaviors", we must figure out a way to get the job done without doing things that reinforce the behaviors we wish to eliminate.

In the case of Oscar (and many more drowning victims that I have had the opportunity to work with), he is easy to lead and very cooperative AFTER he is haltered. In this case I suggested two choices to Oscar's owners.

1. To put a halter on and leave it on. In some cases, the best way to do this may be with a sedative. Once haltered we must periodically check the safety and comfort of the halter and make sure that the pasture is as safe as it can be, i.e., no hooks or wire left sticking out, etc. This is not a perfect solution but is a good option for an animal that must be shown or transported and a halter is required.

2. Use a different way of managing that doesn't involve a halter. As it turns out this is a perfectly fine solution for Oscar.

continued on next page

My suggestion for this fellow is to manage him using containment. Oscar can be led using a long lead rope attached to a collar placed as high on his neck as possible. This provides a reasonable amount of leverage and control. He can also be wormed, receive injections and be shorn without using a halter. If he is to be used for breeding, the female can be brought to him or the owners can use a laneway to herd him to a neutral breeding pen or use a combination of a lead rope attached to the top of the neck offering a reasonable amount of leverage and laneways to get him where he needs to go.



There are other computer metaphors that can help us understand our decidedly animate companions.

- System freezes: Ask an animal for too much too soon, or to do too many things at one time and we over load the system (think high strung weanling at a huge show) and it freezes. It is more efficient and safer to do periodic maintenance and ask for less... but when the system freezes there is nothing to be done but shut down and begin again. Backing up to much easier tasks with an animal can help to re-boot. When working with animals that are very resistant to having their toenails trimmed, I will often ask the animal to pick up and IMMEDIATELY put the foot down. I repeat this 15-20 times per foot before asking the animal to allow me to hold the foot up for even a second or two. Repetition of this SUCCESSFUL behavior will build lost confidence in the handler and reboot the behavior.

- Fixes: When attempting to diagnose a problem, it may be better to address one thing at a time instead of the more the scattershot approach we often take to problem solving. Trying too many fixes at the same time may result in a system crash or if you do manage to fix the problem you won't know which fix or

combination of fixes did the trick.

- User error: Computer problems are just about always a result of user error but we humans love to swear at and blame the machine. The same thing is true of our relationship with our animals...handler error is the cause of 99.9% of the difficulties we have with our

wooly buddies and just like a computer, animals don't lose any sleep over our decision that it is their fault! The sooner we realize that we bear the responsibility, the sooner we can set about figuring out the solution.

- Garbage in garbage out: As wonderful as a computer is, the quality of the output is only as good as the input.

Handle your animals well and you train them to do good things, handle your animals badly and you train them to do bad things. Using methods that are unkind and disrespectful seldom result in a truly good solution.

- Incompatibility: Load a MAC program on a PC or try to use a program that is too big for the capacity of the RAM and incompatibility becomes a problem. Some animals and some owners are just not a good fit and there is no shame in making that decision. One person's bane can be another's blessing. Some animals do better in a large herd, others in a small herd. Some camelids are not cut out for the show ring regardless of how lovely they look. Some males are too aggressive to live in company; others are too easy going to be good breeders. Some females are not good mothers. Some animals are not appropriate for new owners. Recognizing and then accepting that you have an incompatibility issue can give you peace of mind.

That just about exhausts my list of computer comparisons. I think I will say so long, happy handling and go outside on this beautiful day to spend some quality time with my llamas and alpacas!

Watch for future articles in *The Journal* from Marty McGee Bennett. Or contact her at www.CamelidDynamics.com



GOLDEN PLAINS LLAMA CONFERENCE

By Geri Rutledge & Patti Morgan



The annual Golden Plains Llama Conference was held on February 13th in McPherson, Kansas. Attendance was wonderful: 14 youth and about 30 adults. It is great to see so many kids involved.

Valarie and Mindy from Shepherd's Mill taught kumihimo braiding and everyone learned how to braid a lead rope.

The group then watched the National Geographic PBS broadcast on the history of llamas, alpacas, vicuna and guanacos. The video showed hundreds of animals in the country side of Peru. Everyone was amazed at the history and near extinction of the camelid family. And watching the process for hand shearing 200 animals in a day made everyone thankful for electricity and shears!



Patti Morgan organized several craft projects for the kids. Zach Young (age 11) taught finger weaving in the morning and Patti Morgan taught needlepoint in the afternoon. Ten youth participated in the poster contest, which included an oral presentation for each poster. The posters will be saved and taken to Kansas State Fair for the llama exhibit.

The group enjoyed lunch and conducted the annual meeting. Discussion on the ALSA Grand Nationals included information on the new facility and how the Golden Plains Llama Association plays a major role in the production of the event.

Good job to everyone who contributed to the silent auction for the Youth awards to be given in May. This was a fun and informative weekend. Thank you to everyone who participated as a volunteer or an attendee. Thank you to our sponsors: RMLA and GPLA.

P.S. The National Geographic PBS broadcast on DVD is available from the RMLA library. Go to www.RMLA.com and click on the Library tab.



What is the Hope



By Gary Carlton, Organizer - Strasburg, CO

Every August for the past 29 years, runners from all over the world have participated in the Leadville 100. The 100-mile race originates in Leadville, CO, climbs to Hope Pass, and then back again to Leadville. The run must be completed in 30 hours or less. Runners are selected by a lottery system. In years past those who did not get selected to run, have volunteered to help along the race course. They just want to be there and to give back.

The Aid Station is located at 12,000 feet, in a clearing just below the Hope Pass summit. Ken Chlouber founded the race. He knew RMLA member Dee Goodman and contacted him about using llamas to haul supplies up to Hope Pass for an aid station. Well, Dee volunteered to not only haul supplies, but to run the aid station as well. Hence, the Hope Pass aid station was born.

Today, the aid station is staffed by volunteers from several organizations led by the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association. They set up a medical tent, dining fly and a cook tent. Because of the location water must be collected from Little Willis Lake at the base of Mount Hope. During a typical race the site uses over 600 gallons of water.

There are a number of aid stations located along the way. But the Hope Pass Aid Station is the only wilderness aid station that cannot be reached by vehicles. In fact, it is the largest full service wilderness aid station on the planet for this type of event. We also have a medical tent with a doctor and four EMT's and about \$25,000 worth of medical equipment, including oxygen, IV drips, heart monitor equipment, EKG's and much more. We treat 50+ runners every year for sometimes life threatening issues.

Being the largest wilderness aid station worldwide brings runners from around the globe just to see Hope Pass and we have made friendships worldwide as a result. We had volunteers from five countries last year, some of them were returns from the Netherlands. Just being on Hope Pass is a magical experience.

The Ultimate Pack Trip

On race day, it takes about 40 volunteers to keep a 1,000 runners and their pacers moving through the aid station in a timely fashion. However, a great deal of work happens the week before race day. We would love for you to join us. Here are some things to think about:

For a list of Volunteer Opportunities, turn to the top of page 18.

It is 3.6 miles from parking lot to Hope Pass with an elevation gain of 2,400 feet. So you need to be in pretty good shape physically.

It takes 35 llamas and 5 mules from Half Moon Outfitters to get the 3,000 pounds of gear to the top. We are capped at 35 llamas on the mountain by the Forest Service. In other words, you don't need to bring a llama. We need volunteers to help load and lead the 35 llamas.

Not comfortable doing that? Then we need volunteers to set up camp: the tent, the cooking station, and run the water purification and hauling system – more about that in a bit.

This year's race is August 20, 2016. What a great vacation in the high country. We go up

4 days before the race and it takes 2 days to build the aid station and get 30 five gallon jugs of water pumped and ready for the start of the race. We pump, filter, and chlorinate about 700 gallons before it is over, all which must be carried the ¼ mile from creek to aid station on llamas at 90 pounds per load.

Vicky Foster and Gary Carlton arrive at Twin Lakes base camp on Sunday, six days before the race. We meet with the race organizers during that week and move supplies from the warehouse in Leadville to the base camp, then sort the supplies into appropriate llama-carrying weight for transport to the top. This event is the ultimate pack trip.



Pass Aid Station?

Safe Drinking Water Is Crucial,

By Tom Blackwood *(Retiring after 9 years!)*

The water source for the aid station is Little Willis Lake, about ¼ mile from the aid station. It takes two llamas to carry the water system to the site since it is about 130 pounds.

More than 5,000 pounds of water are collected, purified and hauled to the aid station per race! Llamas are

used to transport the water from the water system to the aid station up the hill. Each llama carries about 90 pounds of water. On race day the water system runs almost continuously from mid-day until 9 p.m. when the last runners come by the aid station.

The process to collect and purify the water has evolved from hand pumping using heavy car batteries to lighter-weight gel-pack batteries to the current system that uses solar to recharge the batteries. In addition to the filtration step, the water is chlorinated to arrest any bacteria that may be present.

The water from Little Willis Lake is triple filtered so that particles above 1 micron are removed. It is also chlorinated to about 2 ppm free chlorine.

The water system is similar to the types of systems used for trailer camping. A battery powers a small water pump. The inlet of the pump is protected by

a filter that goes into the water source. A weighted filter is usually all that is required. This system uses a large pleated filter with a plastic mesh that can be

weighted down with rocks into a stream. We have plenty of those in the mountains! The pump discharge is then filtered in two stages. Using two stages reduces the load on the final filter. Without this approach, the filter would have too much

pressure drop and require more changes. Jim Osmun had developed this system and ran it for many years.

There have been a few improvements and changes over the past few years. The filters have been upgraded to a pleated cartridge style to give more filtration area and a solar panel has been added to increase the production rate and extend the run time on the batteries.



Can You Operate the Water System?

Tom Blackwood has been operating the water system for 9 Years! He has retired now. THANK YOU, Tom

This system runs on both battery power and solar, it is a series of filters and pumps that will need an individual who has a background or knowledge in both electrical and hydroelectric pumping systems. Just about anyone can run the system when everything goes smoothly, but when the system takes a right turn and needs a fix with parts on hand, it needs someone who is confident in what they are doing. Are you this person?

Tom will train you. Please read the accompanying article on the system and e-mail Tom at trblac@att.net for more information.

The operator does not have to be a RMLA member. So, if you know of a very special person who is just waiting for a fantastic opportunity, please pass this information along.



Hope Pass Aid Station continues on next page

Hope Pass Aid Station Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to transport equipment, set up the aid station and provide food and water on race day. What would you like to do?

- Transport equipment from the storage facility to the base camp.
- Sort equipment into safe loads for the llamas.
- Load supplies onto the llamas and lead a llama to the aid station. (one-way trip: 3.6 miles with an elevation gain of 2,400 feet).
- Set up the aid station.
- Operate the water system (see accompanying articles on page 17).

However you want to help or if you have questions, please contact Gary Carlton at llama@jmhfarm.com or 303-503-1324.

Training is available!



The legendary "Race Across The Sky" 100-Mile Run



is where it all started back in 1983. The race where legends are created and limits are tested. One hundred miles of extreme Colorado Rockies terrain — from elevations of 9,200 to 12,600 feet. You will give the mountain respect, and earn respect from all. Over 600 runners have already signed up for 2016.

So what does the race have to do with RMLA and Llamas?

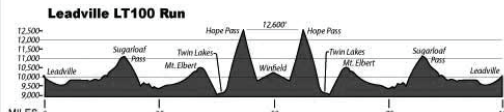
There are 12 well-stocked aid stations along the 100-mile route. At the highest point (12,600 ft.) along the route just below Hope Pass is the only station you can't drive to.

RMLA has helped by providing the volunteers, effort, llamas, packs, food, and water for the last 29 years. Volunteers arrive 6 days (8/14) before the race to help pack in 3,000 lbs of gear and walk the 35 llamas and 5 mules (provided by Half Moon Outfitters) 3.6 miles and an elevation gain of 2,400 feet to the Hope Pass aid station. You'll be spending a few nights at the Top o' The World so bring your serious campin' gear.

Right now they especially need folks to pump, filter, and chlorinate about 700 gallons of water from a creek 1/4 mile away and pack the llamas to carry it back, at 90 gal/trip, to the aid station. Because of so many racers from around the globe, there will be medical supplies and serious medical equipment (e.g. EKGs, oxygen, heart monitors) along with a Doctor and 4 EMTs.

The Race website is: <http://LeadvilleRaceSeries.com/>

To volunteer: Contact Gary Carlton llama@jmhfarm.com or 303.622.6306



Visit RMLA's Facebook Page to read more on the race including the link to the race website.

www.facebook.com/RockyMountainLlamaAndAlpaca



Youth Lama Project Manual

The Youth Lama Project Manual is designed to coordinate with Lama 4H Youth Projects.

A youth lama project requires a commitment from you! Your llama or alpaca will be learning, and you will too. In the 30 pages of information you will learn:

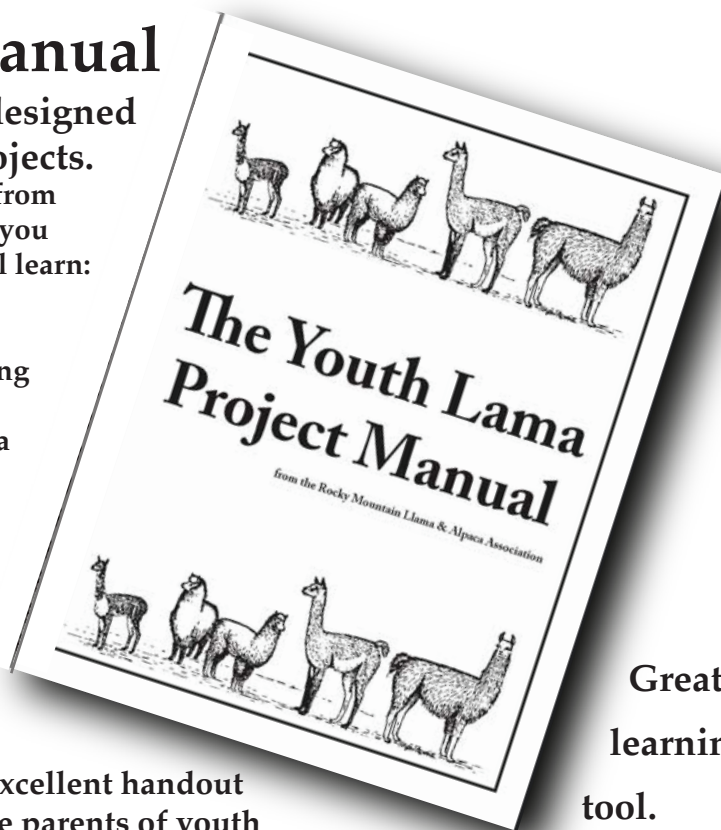
- responsibility in feeding and caring for your animal,
- discipline and patience in your regular training sessions

You will know a sense of accomplishment in a job well done and be able to take pride in yourself and your llama. And you will enjoy a lasting relationship with a well-behaved companion animal.

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Hover your cursor over 'PRINT PUBLICATIONS' and select 'YOUTH PROJ. MANUAL'



An excellent handout to the parents of youth visitors to your ranch.

Great learning tool.



HOW TO CHOOSE AND PREPARE A FLEECE FOR SHOW?

by Karen Kinyon - ALSA Fleece Judge

This information is designed to help llama owners select and prepare llama fleece to show. There are more and more opportunities to show llama fleece and it is an excellent way to promote one more important aspect of raising llamas. Shearing and showing llama fleece also promotes the continued good health of our herds by keeping them comfortable during the hot weather. A fleece can be shown at more than one show, so it is good fleece management to prepare a fleece and show it throughout the entire show season. The Alpaca and Llama Show Association (ALSA) is now awarding points to all fleece classes just as they do for Halter and Performance.

SELECTION: As we look at our herds and think about fleeces to show, some important aspects should be considered. For shorn and walking fleece classes, fleeces are judged on many qualities. Fleece divisions are Double Coat, Single Coat and Suri. Age divisions are Juvenile (5-12 months), Yearling (12-24 months), Two-Year-Old (24-36 months), Adult (36-60 months), and Mature Adult (60 months and older). Fleece is judged on cleanliness and preparation which are two variables that we, as owners, can control. Other factors are tensile strength and condition, fineness and hand, percentage and fineness of guard hair, style and architecture, luster and uniformity.

Select a fleece that is silky and soft and has a uniform staple length of 3-8 inches. Look for crimp and luster as well as tensile strength and condition. When you pick up a lock and snap it between your fingers, you should hear a distinct twang and the fibers should not break or crackle. Color is important because llamas come in such a wide variety, so choose a color that you enjoy. Make sure you select a fleece that has no evidence of insect infestation as this can cause a fleece to be disqualified.

SHEARING: Shearing can make or break a show fleece. Make certain you know how to shear properly

and use equipment that is in good working condition. About 3 days before you plan to shear, use a livestock blower to remove as much dust and debris as possible. Keep the nozzle far enough away to avoid tangling the fleece. It is okay to use a grooming aid to make it easier to brush out remaining debris. Use the blower to distribute the spray into the fleece. Allow the fleece to dry before brushing. Use a soft slicker brush and clean only as deep as the debris, not all the way to the skin. Give the llama a bath to remove all evidence of grooming aid and dirt. Do not use any conditioners on the fleece after it is washed.

No fragrance of any grooming aid should remain as this is **GROUND FOR DISQUALIFICATION!** The fleece should smell like a llama or have no odor at all. If the llama is bathed before grooming, some time should pass so that the lock structure is reformed. Keep the llama on green grass or the cleanest surface possible while the lock structure reforms. Hand pick any debris before shearing. Care should be taken during shearing so that there are no second cuts. Only the full blanket should be exhibited. Judges prefer to see more of a fleece than just a tiny bit that has been over-skirted.

It should be noted that when entering a Walking Fleece class, all grooming should be done prior to arrival at the show. Do not wash your Walking Fleece entry, especially right before judging. Judges cannot judge wet fleece. We want to see the walking fleece entries as natural as possible and we realize that we can't raise llamas in a bubble.

SKIRTING: Skirting is done on a "skirting table". This can be made from construction fencing or chicken wire stapled to a square or rectangular form made from 1"x2" boards. It can be any size and can rest on saw horses. Spread the shorn fleece out, placing the cut-side down on the table. Remove any leg, neck, belly and weathered backbone fleece. Put

continued on next page

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Show off that Gorgeous Fleece... continued

this in a bag marked "2nd Quality" and send it to be made into felt or rugs. Discard any mats and areas that may have urine or feces. Remove any sections that are less than 3 inches long.

What you have left on the screen is the prime fleece. If the fleece came apart during shearing, follow the same procedure a small section or handful at a time. Do not pull guard hair. Do not trim off weathered tips.

Follow show management instructions about tagging and labeling. Check the current Alpaca and Llama Show Association handbook for information needed to enter your fleece. All requirements for showing in Shorn or Walking Fleece classes are in the current Handbook and must be followed. Even if not showing in an ALSA-sanctioned show, follow these guidelines as this is the common standard for showing llama fleece

Now, you have performed all the steps to control the cleanliness and preparation of your show fleece. Once the fleece is prepared it is ready to enter. Have some fun and show off those gorgeous fleeces!



2017 RMLA Wall Calendar!

Photos are now being accepted for consideration for inclusion in the 2017 RMLA calendar. Photos may be sent to the Calendar Committee c/o Dick Williams, P.O. Box 1070, Plains, MT 59859 or bc1lama@blackfoot.net.

We've had some outstanding photos submitted for past calendars and would really like to see the quality continue. Always looking for seasonal photos (Christmas, Valentine's Day etc) but we would also like to see photos of a variety of activities with llamas. Camelids and kids are always welcomed!

What do you do with your llama? Please show us.

Don't forget to reserve your business card ads – space on a first come basis. Ads are still only \$20 each and may be sent to the same address.

Al Ellis Honored with 2016 Bobra Goldsmith Leadership Award

By RMLA Board of Directors

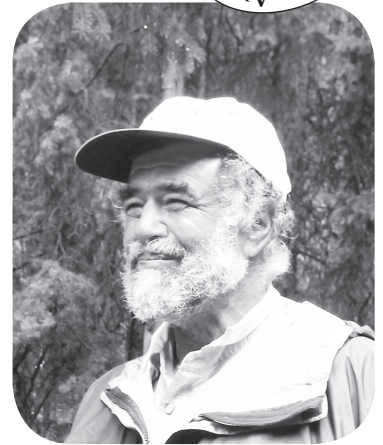


The Bobra Goldsmith Leadership Award was originated to honor Bobra by recognizing an RMLA person, or persons, who have demonstrated a similar passion and a love for educating the community about llamas and alpacas.

Al's level of commitment to llamas and llama owners is second to none. As a breeder of the Classic Ccara llama, Al shows a depth of knowledge, care and concern for both the animals and the people who either purchased an animal from him or just experienced the joys of packing with llamas in the Wind River area of Wyoming.

As a film producer/photographer Al began using his pack llamas in support of fantastic wildlife photography in association with Rod Eastman in the '80's and produced the excellent film "Llamas and Cameras" with Rod in 1990 documenting their use of llamas in their film making as well as a basic tutorial on the use of llamas as pack animals.

Al has operated a highly successful commercial llama packing business in the Wind River Range of Wyoming for many years. During this period – in addition to introducing countless clients to the backcountry of Wyoming – his outstanding string of classic pack llamas, along with his skill as a packer, convinced many people to join the llama community as recreational packers.



Al has been a constant participant and/or organizer of many llama events over the years – notably the Pack Festival in Silverton, CO in 2011 and the Ccara Conference in CO in 2015. He has written numerous articles for The RMLA Journal as well as Backcountry Llama. Always at the heart of Al's work is sharing his knowledge about llamas and packing and his care for llamas and their owners.

The Board was excited to select Al Ellis to receive the prestigious award which honors Bobra Goldsmith and what she stood for in the llama industry. Thank you, Al.



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Ask The CSU VET Team

By the Vets, Residents and Interns of the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital
Compiled by Kathy Stanko

Question: Last year, on one day, I had two llamas that were trying to deliver. The cria's necks were bent back so far that they could not deliver naturally. I took them to my trusted vet. Both crias died. My vet said that he may get one of these in a year, never two on one day from the same farm. Both mothers were healthy. Any reason why this would happen, and if so what can be done.

Response from Dr. Amy Kunkel

Unfortunately, there are no specific external factors that routinely lead to malpositioning of the fetus at the time of birth. You were just extremely unlucky to get TWO in the same day. In cattle, malposition with the head retained is related to large sized calves, and this is probably also true in camelids. About the only thing a breeder can do to try to reduce this risk is to mate males that tend to give smaller birth weight crias to the smaller dams. In camelids, having a head back is one of the most frustrating fetal malpositions to correct. You did the right thing by calling the veterinarian immediately, and we encourage anybody who finds a cria in that position to seek veterinary assistance as soon as possible! Because of the long neck in camelids, even with training and experience these sometimes cannot be resolved and a Caesarean section would be required to deliver a live baby.

New breeders hoping to learn more about the birthing process or seasoned breeders looking for a review should consider asking a local veterinarian for a run-down of the normal birthing process, when to intervene, and how to intervene. Neonatal clinics are



periodically offered at Colorado State University and cover these topics for producers.

When dystocia due to malposition occurs the longer the delay to provide assistance, the more the uterus contracts down around the fetus and the harder it is to correct the malposition. One aid that can be very beneficial is to administer epinephrine to the dam. Epinephrine acts as a tocolytic and relaxes the uterus, creating space for the fetus to be manipulated. Infusing lubricant such as carboxymethyl cellulose into the uterus can also help dilate the uterus, increasing the space for manipulation. When a malposition cannot be successfully corrected, there are two alternatives for delivering the fetus; a fetotomy, or a Caesarean section. Fetotomies are generally not performed unless the fetus is determined to not be viable or to save the life of the dam when a fetus cannot be delivered. Removing the head like your veterinarians did is a form of a fetotomy. If the fetus is still alive, then a caesarean section may be elected.

As frustrating as dystocia can be to correct, the most important thing is to know when to reach out for help! Being timely to have the issue corrected is the best way to get a live cria and healthy dam.

Ask The CSU Vet Team continued on next page

NEW RMLA Members

RMLA IS ALWAYS GROWING

Gerald & Tracy Pecka - Wilber, NE

Anne Hart - Berthoud, CO

Nathan, Christina, Christian (Y) and Malachi (Y) Abel - Liberal, KS

Kris & Earl Paige - Livermore, CO

Jim & Sarah Barba - Henderson, CO

Becky, Roy & Caitlyn (Y) Leach - Elizabeth, CO

Welcome!

Additional information, farm name, phone, address, etc. can be found on the website under MEMBERS.

NOTE: Before youth members under the age of 18 are listed, a signed release is required from a parent or legal guardian. You can find a link for further instructions and that form at the top of the members page on the website. *Thank you*

Question: Should I supplement my llamas and alpacas with Vitamin E and how should I do this?

Response from Dr. Robert Callan

Vitamin E is a very important vitamin for all mammals. Vitamin E is a fat soluble vitamin and refers to a group of several similar compounds. The most biologically active form is alpha tocopherol. Vitamin E functions as an antioxidant and helps protect tissues and cells from damage by lipid radicals that can occur with injury or inflammation. Muscles and nerves are particularly susceptible to damage from lipid radicals. White muscle disease is a serious condition most often seen in young animals resulting from free radical damage to muscles. It is called white muscle disease because the large muscles that are affected appear pale at necropsy. The condition is caused by deficiency in either selenium or vitamin E. Free radical damage to nerves can result in weakness and inappropriate movement of the animal. There is also some evidence that it may be related to phrenic nerve (i.e, the nerve that innervates the diaphragm and controls breathing) damage resulting in paralysis of the diaphragm and acute onset of severe respiratory distress.

Vitamin E also plays a role in many other cellular functions and is important for proper immune response. Subclinically low levels of vitamin E may be involved in decreased immunity in individual animals or herds. In our practice at CSU, many patients with clinical coccidiosis, skin mite infestations, and tooth root abscesses are vitamin E deficient. We have had reports from owners of improved fertility, improved strength and survival of neonates, decreased tooth problems, and generally improved health in their herd following additional supplementation with vitamin E.

In the Rocky Mountain region, selenium is generally adequate in our forage diets, but vitamin



E is often deficient. Vitamin E is most abundant in freshly grazed green forages. In the Rocky Mountain region, good pasture with fresh green forage is often limited and thus the diet of llamas and alpacas consists of grazing forages that are dry (not lush green), or feeding dry hay, both of which have reduced levels of vitamin E compared to fresh green forage. Thus, we often see herds that are deficient in vitamin E. Vitamin E status in a herd can easily be evaluated by taking serum samples from several animals and submitting these for vitamin E analysis. We recommend sampling at least 5 animals within a common group to adequately determine herd status.

Because of the common finding of vitamin E deficiency in llamas and alpacas along the Rocky Mountain region, we encourage vitamin E supplementation as a standard nutritional practice. The simplest way to do this is to ensure that vitamin E is provided at an adequate level in a vitamin and mineral salt that is provided directly with feeding, or free choice. Based on several herd investigations, it appears that these vitamin and mineral supplements should contain 5,000 to 10,000 IU Vitamin E per pound of supplement when fed to llamas

and alpacas in our area. This is in addition to the vitamin E that the animals are getting from pasture forage, hay, and other pelleted supplements or grain mixes. One challenge with vitamin and mineral supplements is that not all animals like them and intake can be variable through the herd. To help even the consumption across all of the animals, you can mix the vitamin and mineral supplement 50:50 by volume with raw wheat germ. Raw wheat germ can be purchased online in 50 lb bags (search raw wheat germ 50 lb).

When we see clinical cases of vitamin E deficiency, we generally supplement the animals with either an injectable vitamin E supplement, or daily oral vitamin E. The recommended oral dose is 10 to 20 IU vitamin E per kg body weight administered once daily for a month.



The 34th Annual RMLA Fairplay Llama Race/Walk

Saturday, July 30, 2016

By Gary Carlton, Organizer - Comanche Creek Llamas - Strasburg, CO



I find that our path through life is sometimes filled with tree roots sticking out above the trail that could possibly trip you when you lose focus. At some point in our lives, we all need to decide whether to pay attention or risk falling on our face!

For those of us who are lucky enough at some point and time in our existence, we find a year that may just define an entire lifetime. And 2015 could have just possibly become that year for me. Over the past several decades both the Fairplay Llama Races and the Hope Pass Aid Station events

have become very close to my heart. And to have both of them surpass anything that I could have ever dreamed possible in the same year has created a sea of mixed emotions within me over the last several months.

As I review in my mind the successes that we, i.e., RMLA, had in 2015, I cannot help but wonder "Can we rise above the impossible? Have we reached the summit? Have we only just begun?"

So, please join me once again to help make the 2016 Fairplay Llama Race/Walk a huge success for everyone: humans and llamas alike.



What Happens on Race Day?

My main goal since day one has been to replicate what it might be like if you were out on the trail with a pack llama while in the safety of a controlled setting where help is nearby should you get into trouble while out on the course.

Race day registration begins at 9:00 AM on Front Street and the races begin at 11:00 AM. You can pre-register by going to www.RMLA.com, click on the events page, then print the registration form under the Fairplay Llama Race.

We run three different heats on race day, beginning at 11 AM and usually ending around 1:30 PM.

- The first and oldest is the Pack Llama Race where all llamas must have saddle, panniers, and 30 pounds of gear. The object of this heat is to make it through the course and to the finish line as quickly as possible.

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Time to Get Outside and Move!

By Lisa Wolf, President - Pack Llama Trail Association

Winter has passed...well mostly, so it is time to get outside with your llamas and move. The Pack Llama Trail Association (PLTA) is a group of people dedicated to the safe and humane use of the working llama. The support and educational opportunities provided by the group are intended to include all aspects of the working llama: packing, driving, hiking, and public interactions. All llamas and their owners are encouraged to participate.

The Pack Llama Trail Association (PLTA) is a nonprofit corporation created in 1999 under Idaho code. Its mission is to preserve and promote working llamas by offering education to PLTA members and the public about breeding, raising, training, care, and safe and humane uses of working llamas as companions. This is a volunteer organization created, managed and run by the effort of numerous generous individuals.

The PLTA has come a long way since the first llama races in Idaho that spawned the creation of pack trials and the beginning of the organization. The first Pack Llama Trials were held in 1995 with 234 entrants! Standards and protocols for pack trials have been refined through years of on-the-ground testing. Numerous llamas have demonstrated their abilities and received their certificates, but there is more to our mission than certifying packers.

Our newest program is The PLTA Challenge, a non-competitive obstacle course that is designed to provide education, camaraderie, and an introduction to the packing environment using natural obstacles in a natural setting.

The Challenge is not a mini-pack trial. Rather than being an examination of a llama's skill against strict standards, as the pack trial is, this event provides an opportunity to engage with other packers and handlers in a stress-free environment that supports learning and fun.

In the company of a Trail Master who selects the course and obstacles, llamas and their handlers

negotiate a course that provides for exchange of ideas and training concepts and an opportunity to increase both the llama's and the handler's skill in a natural setting.

The requirements for a Challenge course are open-ended thus allowing a wide selection of venues. There may be no obstacles at all, or there may be as many as ten per mile. The course may be as long or short, as steep or flat, as easy or rugged as planners

choose, as long as the basic criterion of a "realistic packing environment while allowing for variations in conditions that are peculiar to different parts of the country" is met.

The choice of how far the llama hikes, whether it carries weight, and what obstacles it negotiates are left to the discretion of the handler. Participants are allowed to undertake as much of the Challenge as they choose and still receive acknowledgement for their effort.

No one fails a Challenge. Llamas can attempt obstacles they have not experienced before and will not be eliminated from participation if they do not complete them. At the discretion of the Trail Master, Challenges can be used to teach handlers and their llamas the proper way to negotiate obstacles. The

Trail Master can also allow participants to help select obstacles during the event.

Participating llamas earn points for the distance covered, elevation gained, amount of weight carried, and obstacles successfully completed. These points are compiled and displayed on the PLTA website. At the end of the year, each llama receives a certificate stating the number of points achieved.

For more information on this program and others offered by the PLTA, go to www.PackLlama.org. See you on the trail!



Report on the US Animal Health Association 2015 Annual Meeting

Compiled by Karen Conyngham, ILR representative to the USAHA Board of Directors and Dr. Pat Long, Alpaca Owners Association

The 119th annual meeting of the US Animal Health Association was held in Providence, RI October 22-28, 2015. Camelid veterinarian attending this year's meeting was Dr. Pat Long, representing the Alpaca Owners Assoc. on the USAHA Board of Directors. Over 1,000 people attended this year's meeting. The plenary session topic was "The Future of Livestock and Poultry: Food Security for the Next Decade".

USAHA is an international forum where producers join state and federal regulators and researchers/scientists from a wide variety of specialties to discuss issues affecting the health and welfare of livestock species and wildlife. The annual meeting gives the camelid representatives a chance to talk with state veterinarians, US Dept. of Agriculture, Animal Plant & Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) personnel and researchers about issues of concern to the camelid community.

Karen Conyngham would like to thank the officers and members of the Greater Appalachian Llama and Alpaca Association for their most generous financial support to the ILR Government Relations account in 2015.

Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison and Camelids - Camelid Topics Presented at the 2015 USAHA Annual Meeting

Chair: Chuck Massengill, MO;
Vice Chair: Pat Long, NE

Tuberculosis testing in Camelids—International update

By Dr. Sunny Geiser-Novotny, USDA/APHIS/Vs

Details of past reports of Tuberculosis in both Old World Camelids (OWC) and New World Camelids (NWC) along with clinical signs, routes of transmission and necropsy findings were presented. Current status of testing in other countries were presented. Details were given regarding sensitivity and specificity of serology testing options currently available in other countries. While there are very limited reports of Tuberculosis in camelids in the US, there are many reports of TB in alpacas in the EU and in OWC in the UAE, Africa and Pakistan. Research is needed on naturally infected and non-infected camelids with known infection status to determine true sensitivity and specificity of available tests. In the US risk of

transmission to camelids is very low due to low prevalence of TB in cattle in the U.S and no wildlife reservoir (with the exception of MI). Reportable to state vets if [diagnostic] signs are consistent with TB.

Editors' note: In this report, Karen Conyngham (RMLA member) and Dr. Pat Long have compiled information relevant to llama and alpaca owners from the meeting. We thank them for keeping us informed and reminding us that we have representation at this annual meeting.

Alpacas in the Food Chain, Food safety concerns

By Dr. Kristin Haas, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

The desire by alpaca owners to have their animals slaughtered for sale in niche' markets and restaurants is increasing in the Northeast as fewer owners are interested in raising them for fiber and for exhibition/show. Alpacas are not amenable to the Federal Meat Inspection Act and they are not defined as exotic species by USDA-FSIS. As a result, the harvesting and processing of alpacas does not require state or federal inspection, but if that level of oversight is desired by the owner due to market demands, the processes fall under the regulatory jurisdiction of FDA. The FDA/Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition is responsible for protecting consumers against impure, unsafe, and fraudulently labeled foods covered by the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and for assuring consumers that foods are wholesome and produced under sanitary conditions.

The Vermont State Meat Inspection Program maintains an equal-to status and is one of the few in the country that provides state voluntary inspection for owners who wish to sell alpaca-origin food products to niche' markets or restaurants that require inspection. There is a lack of regulatory, diagnostic and best management practice guidance to support alpaca slaughter, and the lacking infrastructure has ramifications for all parties involved, including state meat inspection programs, accredited veterinarians, camelid owners, and the consuming public. Administration of all medications, including dewormers, to alpacas is considered to be an extra-

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...Fairplay Llama Race/Walk, continued from page 25

- Our second heat of the day is the Lama Rama. This event is sponsored by Rocky Mountain Rural Health. This wacky race is run by medical professionals who dress up in costumes. Each team of four participants, dressed in costumes with a medical theme, runs with a single llama. The main goal of this event is to generate awareness of the need for organ and tissue donation.
- Our third heat of the day is the Public Walk of the three-mile course when folks can take an enjoyable stroll with a llama and just get a feel for the wonderful world of llamas at a slower pace. This heat is where we also need the most llamas.

The Llama Lunacy Course for the children is free and opens around noon. Each child who walks our gentle PR llama through the small obstacle course receives a ribbon and a coupon for an ice cream cone at the Silver Scoop Creamery.



Visit the RMLA Facebook Page for continued information.
www.Facebook.com/RockyMountainLlamaAndAlpaca



Report on the US Animal Health Assn, continued

label use and must conform to ELDU requirements. There are no established meat withdrawal times for any of these medications, and there are no FDA-validated tissue residue tests available in the U.S. for use with alpacas. Since alpacas historically have not been considered food animals and their owners often do not have an agricultural background, there is a high likelihood that alpacas slaughtered for meat have not been raised in a manner that minimizes violative tissue residues. Since there are no validated tests that can detect violative residues, it is likely that alpaca meat produced under inspection is entering the food supply with inappropriate levels of multiple medications present in the tissue. This activity constitutes a potential food safety concern.

This situation results in the potential for increased liability for any state meat inspection program that is providing voluntary inspection for the slaughter/processing of alpacas. The collective public

assumption is that meat food products that are produced under inspection and offered for sale at retail or in restaurants are unadulterated, wholesome and safe to consume; this may not be the case with alpaca meat. It is imperative that organized industry counsel alpaca owners about this issue and educate them about best practices associated with raising alpacas for food production purposes. Additionally, veterinarians treating alpacas for illness or providing routine preventative care should take into consideration the fact that some alpacas may end up being slaughtered for human consumption and medicate accordingly. The development of FDA-validated tests for detection of alpaca tissue residues would be ideal.

The presentations (PowerPoint files in .pdf format) are available at:
<http://www.usaha.org/Committees/InfectiousDiseasesOfCattleBisonAndCamelids.aspx>
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Alpaca Fiber as a Green Alternative to Traditional Home Insulation

Originally printed BY JILL SELL for Clevand.com May 23, 2015. Rreprinted with permission.

Alicia Rocco, owner of Alpaca Spring Valley Farm in Minerva, recalls the time she was away from her herd of 22 Huacaya alpacas when an unusual rainstorm struck. She hurried home and found the alpacas in their pasture “drenched like rats.”

“We were apologizing to them all over the place, even though it didn’t really rain long and it turned into a nice sunny day,” said Rocco “We checked on them a few hours later and they were all fluffy and dry. It looked like someone dried them with a hair dryer.”

Alpaca fleece is naturally water-repellent. Fleece, and the fiber into which it is made, is soft and silky, warmer and lighter weight than sheep’s wool and hypoallergenic. For centuries the durable fiber has been used for clothing, blankets, purses, rugs and more. And more recently – home insulation.

Rocco incorporated her Alpaca Fiber Insulation Company of Ohio in January 2014 after working with independent testing labs to document the fiber’s superior R-value. (The “R” value is a rating that determines the insulating material’s ability to reduce heat flow.) Other insulation benefits include the fiber’s natural resistance to fire. Rocco’s fiber is washed, treated with a natural product to protect against insects and made into flat folds or custom fits that can be easily shipped.

Rocco has attended many builder trade shows where her product (in shades of gray or brown and not at all prickly) has attracted many in the industry, especially serious green builders.

“Our problem right now, and which we are overcoming, is that in the United States there

are about 250,000 alpacas. In Peru, there are about three million. There is no problem getting fiber from South America. But here it is a little different,” said Rocco, who runs her business with her niece, Tonya Prosser. “Most alpaca farmers would like something for their fibers. We are using mostly scraps that they would normally throw away. We are trying to find an avenue where we can give them something and



Alpaca insulation was easily installed in one of the barn-like structures on Alpaca Spring Valley Farm in Minerva. The product is easy to cut, soft and not all prickly. Alpaca Spring Valley Farm

still make a profit. We want to get our price down to a more reasonable cost.”

Currently the cost of alpaca insulation is a bit more than many traditional fiberglass batt and roll, blown-in rigid board, expanding spray or pour-in-place insulations, But Rocco said families who are

looking to retrofit or build homes that are healthy and safe for those with asthma, allergies or other conditions feel it is well worth the extra cost.

“We had a contractor install our insulation in one of our barn-like buildings, “ said Rocco, who also owns Natural Approach Farm Store. “He told us how easy it was to install, how wonderful. He didn’t need special protective clothing, anything over his face and just used long staples to staple it to the walls. He called it a godsend compared to what he used to do. It is easy. If I can do it, anyone can.”

Rocco said the fledgling alpaca insulation industry will eventually help all of Ohio’s alpaca farmers. She believes many “have fibers they don’t know what to with.” Some tried burning it, she said, which doesn’t work well. Now there is another opportunity for them. (The Ohio Alpaca Breeders Association reports that Ohio has

continued on next page

Alpaca Fiber... insulation, continued

the highest population of alpacas of any state. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ohio is third behind Colorado and Washington for "alpaca activity.")

"We also have a llama whose fleece is similar to an alpaca's. We will probably start using some of that fiber as well for our insulation. We'll keep our same company name, though, just because we started with our alpacas. For more information about alpaca insulation, visit www.alpacainsulation.com. For more information about alpacas, visit www.OhioAlpacaAssociation.com.

Jill Sell is a freelance writer specializing in home and garden, real estate and automotive. She can be reached at jillsell@en.com.



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Alpacas

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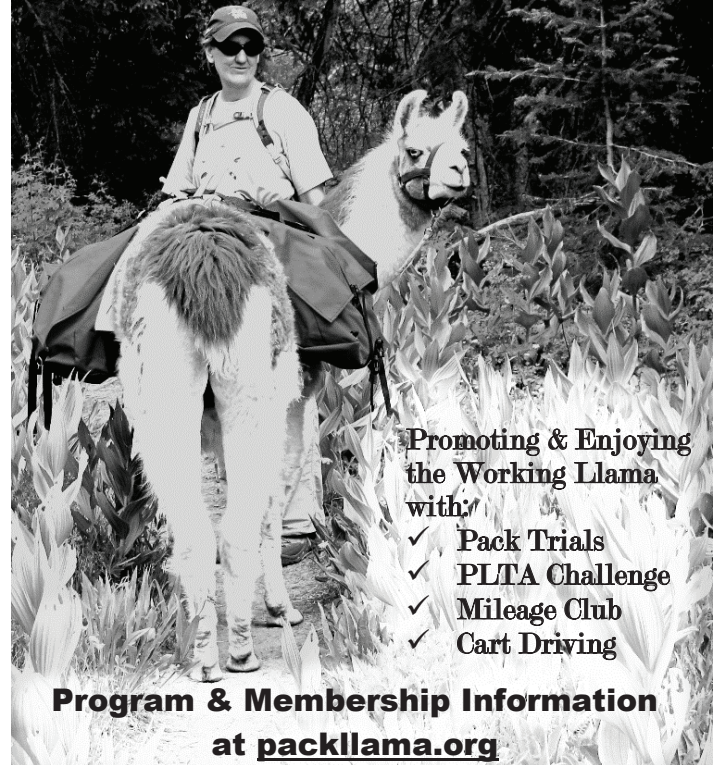
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Just in case you missed it, a volunteer is needed to operate the water filtering system for the Hope Pass Aid Station. Training is available. Safe drinking water is crucial for the aid station. Please see the article on Page 17.

Dear Members, as space allows, one column in each issue may be used for Board, Committee or event announcements. An announcement, limit of 50 words, does not take the place of an advertisement, committee report, article or calendar item. Send your announcement to mllaeditor@gmail.com.

Truly Amazing

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Report of the Committee on Bluetongue and Related Orbiviruses

Chair: Paul Gibbs, FL,

Vice Chair: David Scott McVey, KS

Dr. Eileen Ostlund of the National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames, IA reported just one case of bluetongue in an alpaca from Idaho. The lab used polymerase chain reaction test; there was insufficient viral sample to do the virus isolation test that would have indicated which type of bluetongue this was.

The presentations (PowerPoint files in .pdf format) are available at:

<http://www.usaha.org/Committees/BluetongueandRelatedOrbiviruses.aspx>

Report of the Committee on Parasitic Diseases

Chair: Dee Ellis, TX, Vice Chair: David Winters, TX

Dr. Angela Pelzel-McCluskey, USDA/APHIS, reported on the 2015 vesicular stomatitis (VSV) outbreak.

As of September 30, 2015, a total of 527 VSV-affected premises (New Jersey serotype) have been confirmed or suspected in eight (8) U.S. states; Arizona (36 premises in 3 counties), Colorado (270 premises in 27 counties), Nebraska (21 premises in 3 counties), New Mexico (48 premises in 12 counties), South Dakota (44 premises in 5 counties), Texas (3 premises in 3 counties), Utah (24 premises in 5 counties), and Wyoming (81 premises in 9 counties). At the time of this writing (October 2015), there were 104 premises remaining under quarantine in 6 states (Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming). Weekly situation reports and maps from the incident are publicly available on the USDA-APHIS website. Although no camelid premises were affected, this disease can infect llamas and alpacas.

The presentations (PowerPoint files in .pdf format) are available at:

<http://www.usaha.org/Committees/ParasiticDiseases.aspx>

Report of the Committee on Sheep and Goats

Chair: Amy Hendrickson, WY, Vice Chair: Maggie Highland, WA

Research Update -The Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Unit

D. Scott McVey, Research Leader and Veterinary Medical Officer,

Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit.

The Arthropod Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit's (ABADRU) research mission is to solve major endemic, emerging, and exotic arthropod-borne disease problems in livestock. The Unit completed the move to Manhattan, KS in 2010 and now the ABADRU is well established at the Center for Grain and Animal Health Research (CGAHR). All ABADRU research falls under the ARS National Research Programs: NP103 and Animal Health and NP104, Veterinary, Medical, and Urban Entomology. The areas of research range from vector biology to virus-host interactions.

The potential introduction of Rift Valley fever (RVF) virus (RVFV) is the most significant arthropod-borne animal disease threat to U.S. livestock. A number of challenges exist for the control and prevention of RVF in the areas of disease surveillance, diagnostics, vaccines and vector control. Understanding the epidemiological factors affecting disease outbreak and the inter-epizootic maintenance of RVFV is necessary for the development of appropriate countermeasures strategies. This includes the ability to detect and characterize emergent viruses. Outcomes of current research will potentially identify determinants of RVFV infection, pathogenesis and maintenance in mammalian and insect vector hosts.

Information derived from these studies will also support vaccine development. Vaccine formulations will be developed to improve immunogenicity, onset of immunity and stability to provide better response to outbreaks and prevent RVFV epizootics. The Unit also has a similar, collaborative program investigating Schmallenburg Virus. Note that all camelids are susceptible to RVF and Schmallenburg.

The viruses that cause bluetongue (BT) and epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) are of concern to livestock producers in North America because of 1) the emergence of new serotypes, 2) increased reports of spillover and clinical disease in cattle, and 3) increased spread and adaptation to new geographical areas. For camelid owners, points number 1 and 3 are important as llamas and alpacas are susceptible to bluetongue. The spread to new geographical areas (mainly due to changes in climate) bears careful monitoring.

The presentations (PowerPoint files in .pdf format) are available at:

<http://www.usaha.org/Committees/SheepGoats.aspx>





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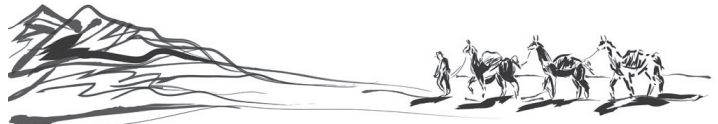
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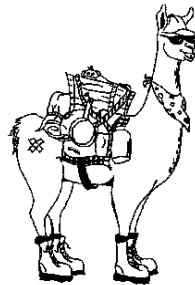
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Postscript from the Journal Volunteers

We hope you enjoyed this issue of the Journal. Again, we had a great time putting it together for you.

THANK YOU,

for the great articles, photos, and advertisements.

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association
P O Box 1070
Plains, MT 59859-1070



EVENTS CALENDAR BY MARY WICKMAN (EVENTS CHAIR)

For more details and live links, go to www.RMLA.com, select **EVENT**, and hover your cursor on the event.

- **April 16 & 17, 2016, 2 day Camelidynamics Clinic with Marty McGee Bennett.** Hosted by Karen Kinyon, Wellington, CO. RMLA members receive a \$25/day refund upon completion of the Clinic. For more information and to register, go to www.RMLA.com or www.Camelidynamics.com.
- **April 30, 2016, Stars and Stripes Show, Waco, Nebraska.** Contact Jim Rutledge, buckshollow@wildblue.net or 402-366-9304.
- **May 21, 2016, Grand Mesa & Kokopelli Classics, Grand Junction, Colorado.** Contact Cheryl Juntilla at cajwdj@aol.com or 970-640-8028. ALSA sanctioned show; Halter, performance and fleece events for llamas & alpacas.
- **June 10 - 12, 2016, Estes Park Wool Market, Estes Park, CO.** Contact Jill Knuckles at talltaillamas@bigplanet.com or 970-487-0223.
- **June 24 and 25, 2016, Camelid Kids Llama & Alpaca Camp, Bucks Hollow Farm, Waco, Nebraska.** Contact Geri Rutledge at buckshollow@wildblue.net or 402-366-9304. Lama camp for all ages, safety training, making crafts and a tour of St. John's School.
- **July 30, 2016 Fairplay Llama Races, Fairplay, CO -** Three great events: Pack Llama Race, Lama Rama & the Public Walk. And of course, the Llama Lunacy Course for children. General public can borrow a llama for the race. Camp with the llamas in the national forest before and after the race. Start time is approximately 9 AM. Contact Gary Carlton at llama@jhmfarm.com or 303.503.1324
- **August 20, 2016 Hope Pass Aid Station Support Crew** for participants in the Leadville 100 mile race. A great deal of preparation goes into getting the aid station and supplies up the mountain and operational prior to race day. Contact Gary Carlton llama@jhmfarm.com or 303.503.1324 for more information.
- **September 24 and 25, Annual PacaBuddies Open House, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO.** Contact Ron Hinds or Elizabeth Cline at www.PacaBuddies.org or 303-646-1320. Learn about the care and use of alpacas. Alpaca products will be for sale.