

The Journal of RMLA



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*A New Fair! A New Llama and Alpaca Performance & Fleece Show!
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Issue	Submission Deadline	Mailing Date
Spring	February 20	March 20
Summer	May 20	June 20
Fall	August 20	September 20
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Ad Type	Width x Height	Member	Non-Member
Business Card	3.5"x2"	\$15	\$18
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• For ad design, contact Ron Hinds at ad-design@rmla.com or 303-646-1320.

• We suggest ads be submitted in black and white/grayscale at 300dpi.

• Ads must be submitted via email in MS Word, jpeg, tiff or PDF files to RMLAadvertise@gmail.com.

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Many of you know Ron Hinds as co-editor of the Journal. But did you also know that when he wears his RMLA Webmaster hat, he is keeping RMLA moving into the 21st century?



On Page 27 you will see a short article 'All the @s Are Missing'. Ron recently made this change to the display of RMLA members' e-mail addresses. Why the change? Take a look at the article.

Last Spring Marshal Rutledge, RMLA Youth Committee Chair, created an activity form to track the activities of the Youth who are participating in the Youth Award Program (YAP). The activity form was duplicated on the website to give an easy interface for the youth to enter a wealth of data on each activity they have completed. Each entry is also written to a (pseudo) database and the Youth Committee can review it in the form of a spreadsheet.

Just recently Ron has set up two other form pages and databases for the Fairplay Race event.

One is for Volunteer Signup (see Page 7). From the RMLA Home Page you are just a click away from the easy sign up page where you can select what assignment you would like. Once submitted, Ron and Gary get an e-mail to notify them and you get a big Thank You. Later on, we can use this data to verify your choice, send you additional information, and contact you to volunteer next year.

The second database for the Fairplay Races, is from the Registration form (including payment via PayPal). Information will also be used to order race T-shirts. Again, from the RMLA Home Page you are just a click away from signing up for the race of your choice. See the article on Page 7.

Be assured, none of the information from ANY of these online forms will be shared with anyone outside of RMLA.

I expect, knowing Ron the way I do, there will be more wonderful, 21st century changes coming to the website. Thank you, Ron!

Kathy Stanko



WE NEED A COMMITTEE!

From the
RMLA Board

After more than 10 years of commitment, Gary Carlton is stepping down as the coordinator of the RMLA Fairplay Race event. As you know, this is an important RMLA event. It meets the RMLA Mission Statement and gives llama owners a chance to introduce their llamas to



many who know little or nothing about these fine animals. Importantly, the proceeds from the event help cover the premium for the liability insurance that is available for all RMLA events. The Board feels that forming a formal working committee to support the Event Coordinator would be valuable to this event as well as everyone involved.

Therefore, we are looking for 4 or 5 RMLA volunteers to serve on this committee. The committee will work with Gary on this year's Fairplay event so they can absorb some of his knowledge and experience from putting on this event. The committee can then best decide among themselves how to best to organize this event.

Please contact Lougene Baird or any Board Member if you'd like to be part of this important committee. Please note that our hard working Journal Editors are already on board to help with articles and print publicity.

Thoughts from Gary Carlton

Our path through life is sometimes filled with tree roots that stick out above the trail that could possibly trip you when you lose focus and at some point in our lives we all have to decide whether to pay attention or risk falling on our face.

I ran in the Fairplay Llama race in 1999, 2000, and 2001. It was so much fun that I took a leadership role as event organizer in 2002. We had 87 participants in 2002, my first year, and over 230 participants in 2015!. We had about 40 vendors in 2002 and over 180 in 2015. Spectators crowd the town on race day.



So after 10+ years, this is my last year as organizer of this event. I would like to use this year's event to train a new committee to take over in my place. Please, if you are interested in joining this committee, call me, 303-503-1324, or contact Lougene Baird, RMLA President at lougenebaird@hawaiiantel.net or any Board Member.

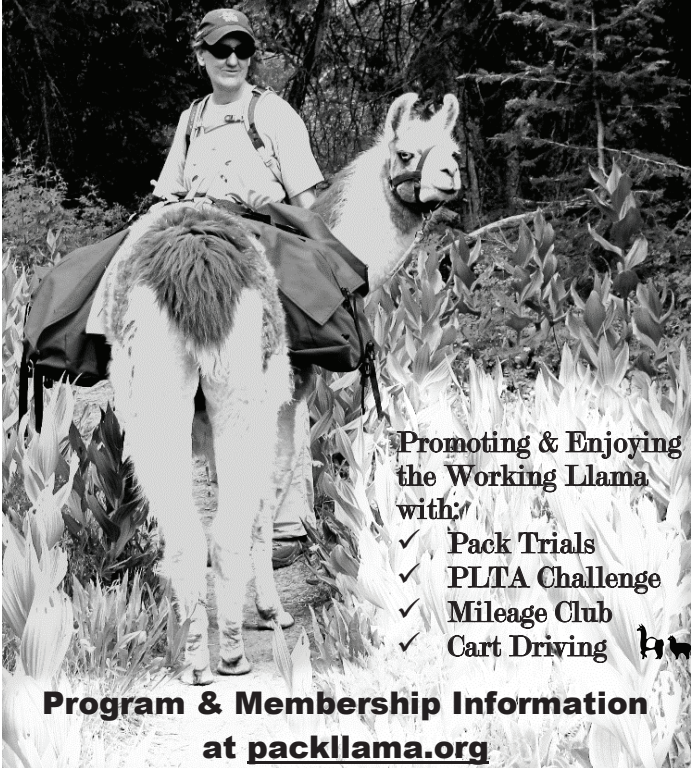
I have always viewed the Fairplay Llama races as fun and a fantastic way to show the public what a llama can do. My first priority has always been safety of the llamas, the racers and the spectators. I look forward to passing on my experience and knowledge to the folks who are willing to continue on.

Thank you many times over to each and every one of you who has volunteered, in a small way or a grand way. I could not have done it without you!



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NEW RMLA Members

RMLA IS ALWAYS GROWING

Cindy Dolan, Sicklerville, NJ

Sherri Brozina, Delta, CO

Lauren & Wayne Sill, Hutchinson, KS

Nicki Creasey, Castle Rock, CO

Deb & Charlie Robinson, Ft. Collins, CO

Al & Susan Unser, Chama, NM

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*

What Happens at the Fairplay Llama Races?



Race day is Saturday, July 30, 2016. Race day registration begins at 9:00 AM on Front Street and the races begin at 11:00 AM. 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. The 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 with help nearby should you have any difficulties.
- 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. Folks can take an enjoyable stroll with a llama to 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.

This year instead of watching someone else head down that trail and off over the horizon please join us in Fairplay for the 34th Annual Pack Llama Race. It could just change your life forever.

- If you have questions, contact Gary Carlton at llama@jmhfarm.com or 303-503-1324.
- To volunteer, go to www.RMLA.com and click the link on the Home Page for volunteering.
- To register for the race, go to www.RMLA.com, click the link on the Home Page for race registration.

The screenshot shows the RMLA website with a navigation menu on the left containing: RMLA, SERVICE DIRECTORY, LIBRARY, MEMBERS, JOIN - RENEW, EVENTS, PRINT PUBLICATIONS, YOUTH, FIBER CO-OP, EDUCATION, and RESOURCES. A note at the bottom of the menu reads: "NOTE: If you have any problems with the use of this website, OR you need to contact someone in RMLA but don't know who, please hit 'GO'". The main content area features a banner for "FAIRPLAY Pack/Walk Llama Race Volunteer Signup" with a photo of a llama race and a "REGISTRATION" button. On the right, there is a Facebook link, a "Visit The (Business) Card Shop" link, and a notice: "April 12, 2016 BOD minutes have been posted." At the bottom right, it says "Visit RMLA's Extensive Collection of Health & Husbandry".

Happenings: Youth Awards Program

By Marshal Rutledge, Chair, Youth Committee

We have completed the first quarter of the year, and I have to say, I am amazed at how many Youth are getting involved in their communities, 4H programs, writing essays and attending llama/alpaca conferences. I enjoy the photos the youth are sending with their events.



Morgan and Derringer - Day of the Day Costume

The NWSS and GWAS had some great obstacles - good job with the photos, everyone. We offered double points on essays and media for two months and several of you got on board



and completed these tasks. At this writing (May) the EPWM Silent Auction with triple points is on the horizon. I hope to see a good turnout for items being offered and bid upon. I will have a report in the Fall Journal.

Shearing season is different for the regions where the kids live. Don't forget to do a write up on your shearing days. And the haircuts you have given in the past, for the cute factor, please send me pictures. A reminder you can write an essay each month and we would like to publish a few of these.



For the months of July and August we will



offer Double Points on the Parades and County Fairs. You have to write up the event, send photos and tell me about your event this year. I want to encourage all of you to attend your local community events, small town parades, ethnic events, things you may not have done in the past, but can jump into this year. The elderly so enjoy our visits and ditto for the kids at the daycares. Look up summer camps in your area and offer to bring the animals for a couple hours. If you can handle the same questions over and over, the kids and families love the animals.

We have a great group of kids in the RMLA Youth Program. And we love to show off everything you do.



Ask The CSU VET Team

By the Vets, Residents and Interns of the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital

By Robert J. Callan, DVM

Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital

What vaccinations are recommended for llamas and alpacas?

Vaccine administration is common in llamas and alpacas to help prevent against selected diseases. One study published in 2006 indicated that 88% of llama and alpaca producers vaccinated their animals for clostridial diseases.

However, there is very little literature on specific vaccines or vaccination programs for llamas and alpacas. In addition, there are no vaccines currently labeled for llamas and alpacas in the United States. Thus, most vaccination programs are based on common practices in small ruminants such as sheep and goats as well as practices that have been established in the camelid industry.

Although unpleasant to look at, the photos show the gruesome results of not vaccinating.

The following information discusses the common vaccinations in the West. Although unpleasant to look at, the photos show the gruesome results of not vaccinating.

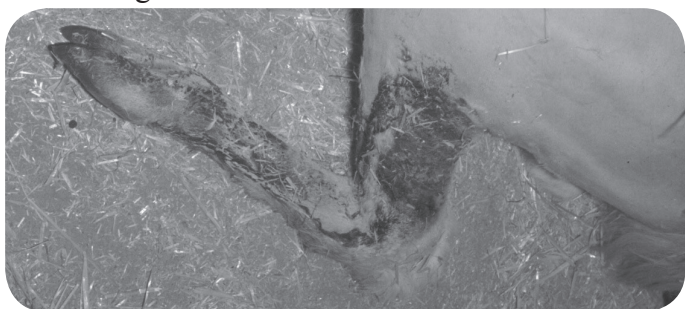


Fatal Clostridial infection of a surgical incision following cesarean section.

Clostridial Vaccinations

Vaccination against *Clostridium perfringens* Type C, D, and *Clostridium tetani* (tetanus) is routinely recommended in llamas and alpacas. *Clostridium perfringens* C&D can cause fatal GI disease in llamas and alpacas. Livestock are exposed to these bacteria from the environment where they gain access to the GI tract and can overgrow, releasing toxins and causing highly fatal disease such as gastroenteritis or enterotoxemia. Tetanus, caused by *Clostridium tetani*, is also a highly fatal disease in camelids. There are many different vaccines that immunize against these organisms and they often go by the general name of **Clostridium CD&T vaccines**.

Recommendations for CD&T vaccination vary a bit based on personal preference. In general, we want to start vaccination within the first 4 months of age. If the dam is on a regular vaccination program, then



Fatal Clostridial infection following a dog bite wound on the leg.

Dam CD&T Vaccination Status	Vaccination Protocol for Cria
Dam is NOT vaccinated with CD&T	Vaccinate cria in the first week of life and then again at 4 weeks. Vaccinations can be repeated at 3-4 week intervals up to 4 months if desired.
Unknown vaccination history in the dam.	Vaccinate cria in the first week of life and then again at 3-4 week intervals until 4 months of age.
Dam is vaccinated against CD&T	Vaccinate cria at 3-4 months of age and again in 3 to 4 weeks.

Ask The CSU Vet Team continued on next page

she will pass some protection on to the cria through antibodies in the colostrum. It is also possible that these antibodies will interfere with early vaccination of the cria (<2 months of age).

However, if the dam is not vaccinated against CD&T, then it is prudent to start vaccination of the cria soon after birth. Sometimes you simply don't know the vaccination status of the dam. The table below gives vaccination guidelines for these three different scenarios.

See table, bottom of previous page.

In spite of which protocol you use, it is **ESSENTIAL THAT FOR THE INITIAL CD&T VACCINATION OF A CRIA, AT LEAST 2 DOSES OF VACCINE ARE ADMINISTERED 3 TO 4 WEEKS APART** in order to stimulate a proper immune response.

Along with Clostridial CD&T vaccines, there are also Clostridial 7- and 8-Way vaccines. These vaccines provide protection against clostridial infections of muscle and other tissues. These tissue infections can occur following puncture wounds, bite wounds, contaminated injections, or even surgical wounds. These other Clostridia spp. can overgrow in the tissues any time the tissue is damaged and has reduced blood supply.

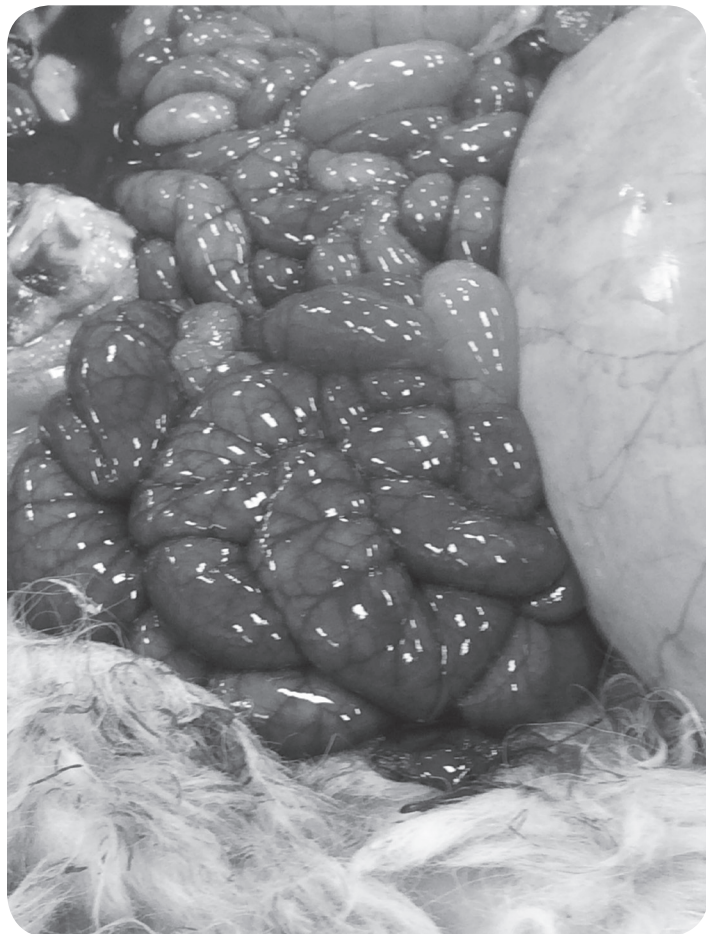
While commonly used in cattle, they are not used as commonly in camelids and small ruminants. These vaccines would be used instead of CD&T. A common vaccine used in camelids that covers the intestinal and muscle infections as well as tetanus is Covexin 8.

Rabies Vaccination

Rabies is a fatal neurological disease that occurs in mammals. Skunks are the primary reservoir of rabies in the Rocky Mountain area of the country. The prevalence of rabies in skunks has increased in this region, particularly in Colorado over the last 5 years. If you are raising llamas or alpacas in a region with endemic terrestrial (non-bat) rabies, then rabies vaccination should be considered, particularly if the reservoir species is regularly seen in your location.

The map shows the distribution of rabies virus in the U.S. From Monroe BP, et.al. (2016). Rabies surveillance in the United States during 2014. J Am Vet Med Assoc 248(7): 777-788.

Information on rabies status can be found both at the CDC and at state public health web sites. CDC



Rabies National Surveillance: <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/location/usa/surveillance/index.html> and Colorado Rabies Surveillance: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/rabies-data>

Currently, there are no rabies vaccines labeled for llamas and alpacas. If you and your veterinarian choose to vaccinate your animal for rabies, we recommend using one of the vaccines approved for sheep such as IMRAB Large Animal. Animals can be vaccinated after 4 months of age and should receive an annual booster vaccination. Booster vaccinations are best administered in the early spring prior to skunks becoming more active after the winter.

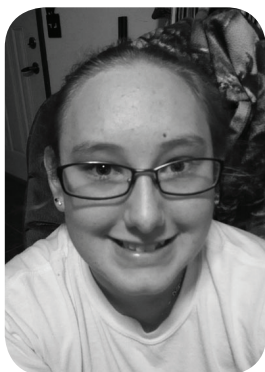
West Nile Virus

Clinical West Nile Virus (WNV) infections in camelids seem to be less common now than when the virus first moved into the Rocky Mountain area. One theory for this is that immunity from initial vaccination or natural subclinical infection provides sufficient protection from clinical disease, even though animals are regularly exposed each mosquito season.

Ask The CSU Vet Team continued on bottom of next page

Essays by Kaitlyn Winter, RMLA Youth

Editors' Note: As part of the Youth Awards Program, Youth earn points by writing and submitting essays. We are pleased to publish the following two essays by Kaitlyn Winter. Thank you, Kaitlyn



Llama Behaviors

Characteristics of llamas and alpacas make them one of the most unique animals that I have seen. Llamas and alpacas are protective animals. To protect their herd, they use the sense of defense. To defend the rest of their family the llamas use their legs and spit.

Using their legs to kick the predator, they ward the unwanted guests off. This is one reason why most llamas and alpacas don't like being sheared or having their toes nails trimmed because they then have no way to defend themselves.

Spitting to ward off predators is another method. The spit is usually targeted at other animals or predators -- not people. The spit that comes out of their mouths is the contents of the stomach, which is the food they ate that day. When llamas and alpacas spit, they will give you multiple signs beforehand. The warnings are as follows: an angry look, glare in their eyes, ears are laid back, and they raise their head back. After these warnings are given, then the llamas will spit. Pregnant females will spit to ward off the males.

The spitting is a way of defense, but also to communicate with each other, they have multiple sounds. Humming is the most common. Llamas and alpaca will hum when they feel uncomfortable or nervous. Mothers will hum to their crias to have them come to their side. Some other sounds that llamas and alpacas make are shrill, an alarm cry, clicking or gurgling

and clucking/orgling. The clucking and orgling sound happens when the males are breeding the females.

A Bit of Lama History

The origin of llamas and alpacas is very interesting, and so is the reason these animals came to America.

Alpacas and llamas are native to South America. The llamas, the name for the South American Camelids, started their life in North America when there was a huge landmass connecting the countries together. Llamas moved south into South America about twelve thousand years ago. Some of the countries where llamas originated were Peru, Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina.

Not only do llamas and alpacas live in South America, but also so do Vicuna and Guanaco. The Vicuna and Guanaco are related to the llamas and alpacas. They are part of the Camelid Family. Camels are also among the animals in the Camelid Family. Camels are like cousins to the llamas and alpacas.

Llamas are the largest Camelid, and to get a llama the Incas bred Guanacos. The llamas were bred as pack-carrying animals to carry items over the mountains in South America. The llamas were first imported to the United States in the 1920s. Alpacas were domesticated over six thousand years ago. These animals were created out of Vicunas to produce fiber. Alpaca fiber is very soft and has many uses. In 1983-1984 the alpacas were imported to the United States of America. The alpacas flourished due to their fiber quality. Two wild species still live in South America: Vicunas and Guanacos.



Ask The CSU Vet Team continued

In endemic areas, WNV readily infects both llamas and alpacas. However, llamas seem to be less susceptible to clinical disease than alpacas. Infection in alpacas can result in fatal neurological disease. There is very little, if any, information on safety or efficacy of current WNV vaccines in llamas and alpacas. Vaccination for WNV in endemic areas should focus on animals up to 2 years of age to provide them with protection against disease.

Without specific safety and efficacy data, it is recommended to follow the label recommendations for horses when using these vaccines in llamas or alpacas. Clinical observations in the Fort Collins area suggest that after 2 years of age, annual natural exposure provides sufficient immunity to make the risk of clinical disease in llamas and alpacas very low. Annual vaccination for life may be indicated in very valuable breeding stock in endemic areas.



LLAMA TREKKING IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

by Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay, Chair, Pack Committee

I have always thought of bird song as the best greeting of the new day that nature ever devised. And so it is befitting that I should awaken on this morning to the song of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a small creature with a big voice. I gratefully extend this moment before opening my eyes and snuggle deeper into my sleeping bag. Oh, the joy of waking up in the backcountry of my favorite place on earth: Yellowstone National Park!

The llamas are quietly chewing their cud and their ears perk up as they watch me crawl out of my tent. The grass is wet with dew and the clouds are streaked with orange. The colorful bumps of the tents dot the edge of the forest. The word “peaceful” comes to mind. We are finally here again, on a llama

between July 1 and August 31! Right smack in the middle of the time that pack animals are permitted in the park. To avoid road insanity, long lines at the park entrances,



or bison jams, I use the trailheads that are located alongside highway 191 on the park’s West side in Montana. Highway 191 connects Bozeman to Big Sky and West Yellowstone. It is in the park, but it is a regular highway. No entrance booths, no geysers, no bison and not too many tourists.



This area of Yellowstone is the “Northwest Corner”, my favorite for llama packing. And so I trundle down highway 191 with the llamas in tow without stress. We notice the trailheads on the East side of the road such as Dailey, Black Butte, Specimen Creek and stop at our favorite, Fawn Pass, where we have space for the trailer in a large parking lot.

The Fawn Pass trail leads us into Yellowstone’s wilds, through open sagebrush country, through

trekking adventure. We are out in the natural world, in the wind and the rain and the sun, under the stars with llamas and people, and in the company of wild animals. We are here to get away from the burden of the modern world, deadlines and shopping malls, traffic and commitments. We are here to reconnect with our own wild soul. The llamas, of course, are the medium, the inspiration and the help we need to get our gear into the wilderness.

Yellowstone National Park received a record visitation of 4.5 million people in 2015. I guess that at least 2.5 million people crowd the roads

forest, across a few small streams and Fan Creek which swells to knee depth early in the packing season. We enjoy sweeping vistas at a lunch break. Hawks soar overhead. A beaver lodge tells a story. Tracks of bears and mountain lions appear at our feet in the dried mud. Deer watch the llamas go by.

The llamas stop to alert us to a grizzly mom with two cubs who stands up to figure out this line of humans and llamas from the distance. We have long left the occasional hikers and fishermen

continued on next page

Llama Trekking in Yellowstone National Park, continued

behind. Now we walk high above Fan Creek which winds unconstrained through a lush valley far below us. Our spirits soar with the hawks. The llamas look ahead, over our shoulders, into the distance.



I have packed with llamas in Yellowstone for about 20 years, the last 10 years in earnest as a commercial llama packing outfitter. Those times in the backcountry with the llamas have been the best of my life. The comradeship with llamas and people and the intimate closeness to the wild fills me with joy on each trip and reminds me why I live here. While looking after the guests and their needs, I make sure the llamas are enjoying the trips as well.

My favorite campsite is about 6.5 miles in. Its designation is WC3. It lies tucked off the main trail a bit, giving us privacy, a meadow for the llamas, and a small creek close to camp. We have all we need.

Campsites have to be reserved ahead of time with the Yellowstone Backcountry Office. Non-outfitters have to watch a video on how to behave in bear country when picking up the permit, which complicated things a little when you plan to use trailheads that are not inside the park proper. In this case a trip to West Yellowstone, just down the road, needs to be planned.

This morning, as all first mornings in this campsite, I visit the circle of round stones not far from my tent and think about those who have

camped here before us, a long time ago. I can see why they liked this spot. Then I make my way into the core camp where our food bags hang high up on the bear pole that, as in most stock sites inside the park is fastened between two tall trees. I am looking forward to my coffee, which tastes so much better in camp than at the office!

Later, as the sun bathes the meadow and the llamas' backs with warmth, I think about the times we have camped here and the experiences I will never forget: that bull moose that came to visit the llamas, who sent him trotting back in a hurry, and that grizzly whose hump we saw moving along the main trail above the tall grass while we were enjoying our dinner. And I think about how I heard the voice of the one who camped here a long time ago, just outside my tent one evening. As for the llamas, I think they like this trail and this camp. They know it well by now and settle right in.

This is a special place, a wild place and a wonderful home camp on a llama pack trip. If



you come here one day, please treat it with respect. You will have a great time and may experience unexpected things. Who knows, the Ruby-Crowned Kinglet may just sing for you in the morning!



hw



Yellowstone Llamas

Yellowstone Llamas, the original llama outfitter in Yellowstone National Park, has been operating in the park for over 25 years. Treks are customized and will fit almost anybody's priorities. Our llamas are gentle and easy to handle, our guides experienced outdoor enthusiasts.

Join us for a trek of a lifetime!

www.YellowstoneLlamas.com - llamas@yellowstonesafari.com
406-586-1155

RMLA Fiber Booth at Fairplay Burro Days

By Sandy Lockwood



On Friday, July 24, 2015 the RMLA Fiber Booth was set up as part of the 3-day Burro Days Event. The booth took up two spaces on the Fairplay library lawn. It was set up using the 10 X 20 garage tent from the trailer. Inside, one corner was used to display camelid and RMLA educational materials. This was a very wonderful learning experience for visitors who also attended and participated in the llama races on Saturday. Yes, these are our very own Fairplay Llama Races.

Saturday started out as a beautiful day and we had lots of visitors. I was able to pass out journals and pamphlets and made quite a few sales. The wind picked up in the afternoon and it looked like rain but it stayed just cloudy through closing. Sunday started out cloudy with drizzles periodically. By noon the winds were blowing at gale force and I was having a hard time holding the tent down. Although I had some sales in the morning, the winds were making people leave. Visitors were light all afternoon. At approximately 2:30 p.m., we ended up taking the tent down or risk it ending up in Kansas. We sold product out of the plastic tubs until closing. Despite the wind and rain, the fiber booth managed to close with a profit.

Sadly, the fiber booth will not be at Burro Days this year. I am unable to continue to run the booth by myself. Perhaps we can have it again another year if volunteers are willing to help. Thank you to RMLA for supporting the booth at Burro Days in past years. And many thanks to those of you who have helped run the booth in previous years.



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Thank You!

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

HOPE PASS AID STATION

ON THE LEADVILLE 100 MILE RUN

By Gary Carlton
Strasburg, CO

August 20, 2016

When the heat of summer has reached its peak, a high altitude get-away can be a relaxing experience. The alpine setting of Mt. Hope, near Leadville, will leave you smiling while taking in the panoramic views. While the walk up this trail may end up being a hard-earned smile, the results might just leave you feeling quite relaxed for the rest of the summer. Hope Pass is a collection of feelings that affect everyone on the mountain in a unique way but one thing is certain, you will come back down a different person. AND, you can have all of this while becoming a member of our super unique team known as the Hopeless Crew.



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.



What Is Hope Pass and why are we there?

Hope Pass is the highest and most remote aid station, sitting at around 12,000 feet, along the trail of this Leadville 100 Mile Race. Every piece of gear must be hauled up to the top of the mountain on the backs of our pack llamas. Our duties on the mountain include, but are not limited to:

- hauling all supplies,
- building the aid station once we arrive,
- filtering and purifying over 700 gallons of water that is also hauled 1/4 mile from the creek to the aid station for the runners,
- helping rescue runners who are having a bad day,
- helping with the medical needs of the participants, and
- cooking and serving food for 800 runners as they pass through on their journey during the race day.

Why not make 2016 the year to take a step in a new direction? Make Hope Pass your summer destination for a recharge. For more information or to volunteer, contact Gary Carlton 303-503-1324 or llama@jmhfarm.com or Vicky Foster 303-591-6199 or ylfoster@aol.com

Yes! Fresh Water!

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.

Tom Blackwood has been operating the water system for 9 Years! He has retired now. THANK YOU a thousand times over!

Welcome John Sant, John, from Arkansas, has agreed to manage the water system. John has a medical background. John also has 37 llamas and is a PTLA judge. We are excited to have John on board this year. Congratulations, you are now a member of the Hopeless Crew!



Looking Ahead for Safety

By Marc Page

Today's column is about safety around the farm for both animals and people. First, let us talk about insurance. I have spoken to many farmers who were unaware that their home owner's insurance does not cover their livestock or farm activities. In fact, your insurance company may drop you as a customer if they find out you have livestock. When there is a problem necessitating a claim is not the best time to find this out.

Farm insurance policies can cover everything from livestock mortality, farm equipment, barn structure replacement and farm accidents. Liability insurance is important for injuries to the public that might occur when people visit your farm. Without the proper policy, if an injury occurs to anyone visiting your farm (an example would be a child getting kicked by your llama), you could lose your entire farm if a liability suit were to be filed.

Beyond making sure you have the proper insurance, there is much one can do to avoid harmful issues in the first place. There are always many accidents waiting to happen. Our job is to observe and address potential problems before they cause trouble. What follows is but a short list of potential problems.

FENCING

We often say the only fence that is not suitable for llamas is barbed wire for obvious reasons. Woven wire, the type often used on sheep farms where we place many guard llamas, can present a special problem. The squares are in graduated sizes starting at 4" x 4" at the bottom to 8" x 8" at the top. The danger arises when llamas push their face through to get the always greener grass on the other side. Once the ears go through they are stuck. I once rescued such an animal that had obviously been there for hours as her fiber was felted to the wire.

If your fence boards are nailed to posts, know that over time llamas rubbing against the fence will cause the nails to loosen and back out. It is common practice to place wooden fence boards on the inside of the posts so they are not pushed off by animals rubbing against them. This can pose a danger to the next llama that wants to scratch along the fence. Every so often walk the fence line with a hammer to make sure you have no exposed nails. You might also try using a galvanized screw in each board so that nails are not the issue. In an emergency, green panels make great fence repairs.

I try to walk my fence line at least weekly, especially in the growing season or after a storm. Keep an eye out for poison plants. While walking the fence line, I down branches or branches overhanging my fence or pasture.

BARN AND SHEDS

All glass that is accessible to the animals should be replaced with Plexiglas and then covered with chicken wire. All power outlets should be of the ground fault type which means they will trip if they become wet. Hay mangers are fine, however, never use net bags which are often used for horses, as llamas can and will get their heads stuck in the net while accessing food.

Don't overlook the barn fans. They work hard and dirt, dust and cobwebs can build up fast. This can cause them to overheat. This is the second cause of barn fires, right after using heat lamps for baby chicks. Run the fan at low speed while you blow it clean, using a Circuiteer or a leaf blower and don't forget to wear a mask while doing this.

PATHWAYS AND LLAMA MOBILITY DURING WINTER MONTHS

If you have ever watched a group of 10 or 15 llamas walk in heavy snow between two points you might marvel at the way they travel in single file. This is called rope walking and, if you try to follow their path, you will have great difficulty as you will have to place one foot in front of the other. Over time this path becomes very hard and icy. Try to widen paths that are frequently used with a shovel or tractor. Then apply sand without salt. This will make for safe passage for everyone.

There are many other hazards, some that may be specific to only your farm. We have giant snapping turtles, gopher holes, rabid raccoons, poison plants, hunters, deer, moose and coyotes just to mention a few. I hope these few examples will motivate you to look around with a fresh eye towards safety.

*Reprinted from The GALA Newsletter,
Vol. XXX, No. 1, February 2015.*



CLASSIFIED ADS

BLADE SHARPENING SERVICES

We sharpen clipper blades, hand shears, scissors, & toenail nippers. For details, e-mail or call Paul or Karen Schwartz, ChanTar Llamas at chantar@fiberpipe.net or 307-672-5144. We appreciate your business.

Stars-n-Stripes Show

By Jim Rutledge



The Stars-n-Stripes show was held on April 30th in Waco, NE. The youth were excited for a new year and the start of the show season for many of them. The judge, Cathie Kindler, came from Georgia: She was assisted by Mike Swanson from Iowa. The two of them did an awesome job with the exhibitors.

The weather leading up to the show was rain, so we had automatic water hazards. The day of the show was great for sharing the love of the camelids and seeing how the kids and animals have changed over the winter.

The exhibitors who attend this show are thankful for the ability to make it affordable to families. The Camelidkids did a potluck lunch with enough food for a 3-day weekend. The

barn was heated thanks to our clerk Amy; she was thinking! And the judges had pop up tents just in case the drizzle of rain happened once we moved outside. By the afternoon the sun was out and the kids were in full roar playing in the 'water hazards'.

After the exhibiting was complete, the group was able to learn simple things that can add a few points. They were reminded to think about their approach and to understand what the number of attempts means. Tips for getting new animals out for the first time and putting on a pack for the first time were given. It was so much fun watching those little juveniles just follow the kids anywhere. The teenager "showmances" were back, the same little groups, and we love watching these kids grow up.

The best part is being with friends, catching up and planning the year, i.e. what shows shall we go to this year, who shall we take and the ultimate goal - get qualified for ALSA Grand Nationals.

Thanks to the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association, Alpaca Llama Show Association and the Camelidkids 4H Group who all helped Jim and Geri Rutledge put on another great show.



Stars and Stripes. Youth!



'Showmances'



Another year... in the books.



Learning from a Tragedy

By Kathy Stanko

Excerpted with permission from the Humming Herald, Spring 2016

original article written by Ruby Herron, Figment Ranch

On March 5, 2016, a tragedy occurred at Figment Ranch in Cypress, Texas that changed lives forever. Two of their animals were brutally killed. From this incident there are a number of things to learn should an event such as this happen to you or in your area.

1. Cruelty affects not only animals but jeopardizes the community in which the incident occurred. Due to the overwhelming evidence that animal cruelty is linked to violent crimes against people, the FBI implemented a new policy on January 1, 2016. This policy requires law enforcement agencies to report animal cruelty cases to the National Incident Based Reporting System ("NIBRS"). It is hoped that by elevating these cases to the federal level, shared leads, data and other information will assist in the local prosecution of animal cruelty cases.
2. Figment Ranch is managed as a business. Every animal at Figment Ranch (show animals, a boarded animal, a rescue animal, a stray or even a pet) is documented. Every animal has a name and it can be identified.
3. Photos of each animal are taken on a regular basis because their physical appearance may change from time to time with age, shearing or the seasons. These photos do not need to be registration quality pictures but the photos do need to accurately depict the animal. Many of the animals have a microchip but this is not essential because updated photos are maintained showing the progress and appearance of an animal as well as accurately worded descriptions.
4. Accurate health records on each of the animals as well as herd maintenance records are kept. This information not only provides a working file for the vet but it is an indicator to third parties about the level of care given to the animals.
5. Establish a solid relationship with your veterinarian. In incidents like the one at Figment Ranch, he or she may need to accurately communicate his finding in a court of law.
6. Monitor commercial and residential growth in your area. Establish relationships with those around you including the local realtor. This network is valuable in gathering information, keeping a watchful eye and providing support when needed. These relationships take time to develop and may change. However, this type of collaboration can yield positive results which might not have otherwise been available.
7. When at all possible, it is important to establish and maintain a relationship with local law enforcement as your community develops. These are the very people who can come to your ranch quickly. As part of any investigation, it is critical that you maintain regular contact with local law enforcement and provide information to them as it becomes available to you.

On behalf of all RMLA members, I want to thank Ruby for sharing this information. I hope the information will spur our members to follow these steps to be better prepared should something tragic happen. A heartfelt wish for healing and resolution to all at Figment Ranch.



Cover Photo:

Morgan Barba with Derringer at the Great Western Alpaca Show. This show is held each year on the first weekend in May at the Denver National Western Stock Show Complex.

What's the Premise?

By Marty McGee Bennett

When you train an animal you begin with a set of premises. Some of the common assumptions about training animals include...

- You must be dominant
- The reason animals resist is because they are trying to win
- If there is a winner there must be a loser
- Repetition is the key to training
- Animals don't think; they are only creatures of instinct
- Llamas don't like to be touched

What happens if some, or all, of your basic premises are inaccurate? How does this affect your interpretation of the behavior of the animal



you are working with? How does this affect your behavior? Will you ever get the results you want or expect if you begin with a false premise?

In his book, **The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People**, Steven Covey offers an example of what happens to your effectiveness when your basic premise is not accurate. Imagine that you are trying to find your way around a strange city and someone has given you the wrong map. It wouldn't matter how well you could read a map or how hard you tried or how good your sense of direction, you would not be able to find your way around. If your basic premise about the motivation of your animal is incorrect, it won't matter how hard you try, how much time you spend training, or how dedicated you are — you will have a more difficult time being successful.

I ask students at clinics if they want their llamas to like them and the answer is almost

always 'Yes!' Often people will spend lots of time training their animals and are confused about why their llamas still don't come over to them to visit and seem to want to stay out of reach. They assume that if they work hard enough and are consistent that their llamas will eventually trust them.

I then ask the students to trade places with a llama as he or she is caught. I ask them to imagine how it feels to be trapped in a corner, grabbed around the neck and held still against their will. Most people understand immediately why their llamas stay right at the end of a human's fingers and do not feel comfortable when a human reaches out. Most llamas caught in this traditional way will also get up as soon as humans enter a barn and steer clear of humans in general. If you establish that catching happens in a small catch pen and you let your catch pen do the "holding", you will find that your llamas can relax around you and ultimately seek you out for companionship and other perks...



Allow me to go WAY back in time to the early 80's, i.e., the stone age in llama business. One of my favorite llamas "Betty" lived with me at Zephyr Farm from the time she was a weanling until she died at age 15. Betty gave me great insight into the issue of premises. For the first

continued on next page

five years we had llamas we would feed them an individualized serving of grain twice a day. Each morning and evening I would catch and halter Betty, then tie her and feed her a bowl of grain.

I would have to go through the same routine every time I did it: cut her off, hold her around the neck, and chase her nose around for a minute or so to get her to put her head in the halter. Thankfully I am tall and Betty was short. Twice a day for three years I did this.

Betty's behavior never changed AND neither did mine.

You would have thought that eventually she would have come running and put her nose into the halter. She never offered to come over for any attention and would never let me touch her unless I caught and haltered her first.

About this same time, I learned of Linda Tellington-Jones and her enlightened approach to working with animals and began rethinking my approach to llamas. I realized the impact of my practice of cornering and holding them had on them. I also began to rethink the premise that llamas don't like to be touched. I experimented with some of the touching I learned from Linda with surprising results. The llamas not only didn't dislike being touched, but all indications were they enjoyed certain kinds of touch a great deal. At the same time, I changed my catching approach I coincidentally stopped the twice a day feed regiment another premise-nutritional requirements- I decided wasn't necessarily true for our llamas.

Betty's behavior took a dramatic shift. She stopped running away when I got near her and she began soliciting attention. I learned where she liked to be touched; she particularly loved a good back and belly rub and scratch. Being a bit overweight Betty hardly ever offered to run anywhere (except away) but now she would

run — well, waddle very quickly over to me in an open field if she thought she would get a back scratch.

What happened? I didn't train her to come over. I didn't spend any more time with her. In fact, I spent much less time with her and I



stopped feeding her, yet her behavior took a dramatic turn in a positive direction. Lightbulb: my basic premise had been wrong. I assumed that the only way that I could catch a llama was to corner him or her. I thought llamas didn't like to be touched so I never touched Betty thinking that would please her.

She remained steadfastly afraid of her halter and frightened of being cornered. I thought llamas naturally stayed at arms' length and I never questioned the impact of my behavior on hers. I could have cornered her from now until doomsday and Betty never would have changed her behavior because my map was wrong.

Another example of good intentions that take you in the opposite of your intended direction is the common practice of reaching out to stroke a llama as he or she walks past you. I would call my llamas in from the field for food and the llamas had to walk through a narrow opening past me to get in to the barn to get their food. I would insist that my llamas would have to submit to a touch on the back — thinking that the llamas would accept and like the touch eventually. This is based on the premise that repetition is the key to changing a llama's behavior. My llamas adapted to this unwanted touch by learning to run by me really fast, twist their body out of the way and some would refuse to come into the barn at all. I have found that it is much more successful to acknowledge to the llama that you will not touch them on their off time without warning and only in a context in which they feel prepared and

continued on next page

What's The Premise? continued

safe. Initial touching is best done in a catch pen.

When I begin to ask about touching in an open field I use a three step approach. I walk to just outside arms' length and stop, then look at the llama's balance and expression to determine if they will stand their ground if I move closer. If I think they will, I take one or two steps closer. I keep my arms at my side. If the llama is still standing I will reach out to touch. If the llama withdraws that is fine, I try again later. My aim and premise is that for the llama to trust me he must know that he has the option of protecting himself by moving away. Once the animal knows that he is safe, he then becomes comfortable with my approach.

I do not mean to suggest that the sole motivation of training is to make your animals like you. Domestic animals live in our world. There are rules of acceptable behavior. We take care of animals and have them in our lives for a purpose. It is perfectly reasonable to expect animals to cooperate. Llamas are curious and intelligent. If

we can create an environment in which lessons and human interaction are mostly interesting and relatively stress-free, isn't it a reasonable premise that they would come to enjoy their time with us? What I have found is that some of my original assumptions about animals and why they behave the way they do have not turned out to be true for me. I find that I can be more creative, more flexible, more tolerant and still manage and train the animals in my life effectively.

Knowledge can be the biggest block to learning if it relies on a premise that isn't true. Keeping an open mind about what you are told about animal training is difficult. People can be very authoritative about what is true for them. Sometimes it can be useful to forget conventional wisdom, begin with your own premise and see if you see things differently. Each day is a new beginning in an animal's world, and yours.

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



RMLA Library at Your Fingertips

By Dick Williams, Chair, Library Committee

It's summer and sometimes it is just too hot to be outdoors. Consider checking out the RMLA Library for llama books, videos and articles. The library is free to members. It contains a variety of information for adults and children on topics such as grooming, fiber and fiber processing, housing, packing, health, training, driving, stories and more.

There are more than 300 titles. Here is just a sampling of titles from the children's section:

- **COCHA - The story of an Uru Indian boy who lives on a Floating Island** by Elizabeth Bowne, 1990
- **COME ON LET'S PLAY - An Educational Coloring, Activity and Story Book Featuring Llamas & Alpacas** by Deb & Dan Lange
- **A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SENOR WALLY** by Lynn Jacobs, 1993, Llama & Alpaca Assoc. of N. Dakota
- **DREW AND LULU** by Candy Harris Phinney, Ladybug, July 1998
- **A GHOST AT HORSE CREEK** by Jeri Massi, 1989

To see a complete listing of library materials, go to www.RMLA.com and click on the Library tab. Follow the link to request your item(s). Or, scroll down to see the list of items available, then request your item.

Coming soon to the Library: Bob and Barb Hance donated most of the past years' Journals. At the moment they are in the hands of Ron Hinds being scanned. When complete, these titles will be available online.

Hint: use the search feature on the RMLA Home Page to search for 'anything' that is on the website.

Questions: please contact me, Dick Williams at bcllama@blackfoot.net. Thank you and enjoy.



WOW! WE HAD FUN!

Inspired by Gary Carlton

Written by Kathy Stanko

Have you ever been the organizer or host for an event? Then you know what it takes to pull it all together; typically, weeks and often months. Months of planning, thinking, writing lists, making countless phone calls, etc. As Gary Carlton wrote to me a while back “people show up on the day of the event to have some fun. I wonder if they have any idea what goes into making an event happen?” Yes, we are back to weeks and months.

Some examples may help.

- Judy Glaser starts planning the National Western Stock Show in October, an event that occurs in January. She needs sanctioning from ALSA, sponsoring from RMLA, coordination with the Stock Show managers, judges, ribbons, prizes, volunteers to help during the days of the event. But where are the volunteers during the months of planning? Judy puts it this way: “Any help, no matter how small is one less thing the Super doesn’t have to think about.”

- Gary Carlton begins planning for the Fairplay Races (an annual July event) about mid-December. He needs RMLA sponsorship, coordination with Fairplay officials, 70-80 ‘volunteer’ llamas, folks to handle dinner at the Llama Camp, prizes, T-shirts, and volunteers to be at the check points along the course to keep it



safe. Then the few days prior to the event, the race courses must be set up, sound systems set up, obstacles put in place, prizes gathered up.

- Karen Kinyon recently hosted the 2-day Cameli-dynamics Clinic at her ranch. So meals needed to be planned, barns cleaned and adjusted for the trainings that would happen there; house cleaned, and her studio/classroom, looms and all, taken down and moved. Fortunately, she had a number of friends to help. But who was there to clean the carpets after 27 people traipsed through her house for two days, take out all the trash, and put the studio/classroom back in order?

These are just three examples. On page 5 of the Winter 2015 Journal is a list of all the events from that year. Just imagine that every organizer and host on the list had a similar amount of work to do so we could all enjoy the event.




Truly Amazing

Is what the volunteers & contributors of Southwest Llama Rescue can accomplish. *Help Is Always Needed: your time and money go a long way.

* Contact SouthwestLlamaRescue.org or SouthwestLlamaRescue@yahoo.com or P.O. Box 405, Mountain Home, TX 78058 *Designate SWLR as your charity at Smile.Amazon.com • GoodSearch.com • iGive.com

• GoodShop.com and EBAY.com



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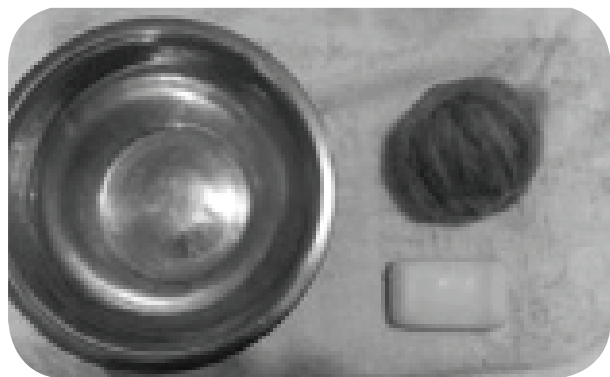
Make Your Own Felted Soap!

by Emaly Leak

Reprinted from the GALA Newsletter, November, 2015

This is a wet felting project, so you'll want to set up in an area that can get a little wet. If you're careful, you can keep it from getting too messy, but a towel or two comes in handy. (If you're doing this with kids, it is helpful to work outside.)

All you need is a bowl of hot water (just cool enough that you can stick your hands in it without being uncomfortable), a bar of soap, and some carded fiber. You can use batts or roving.



To start, wrap your fiber around the bar of soap. Make sure to cover the entire bar, even the corners.



Wrap lengthwise and widthwise, overlapping a few times. Don't be alarmed if the fiber is very thick, it will compress during felting.

Now it is time to wet the fiber. Dunk it in the bowl of hot water and squeeze until all of the fiber is soaked. Then start rubbing. Remember that wet felting works because the hot water opens barbs on the fibers, and agitation locks those barbs together. Rub every bit of your fiber bar, occasionally dunking it

back in the hot water to keep it warm. If you have a textured wash board (or something similar that you don't mind getting wet), that can speed up the process. Rub and rub until the fiber sticks together and is hard to pull apart.

When you are satisfied with the texture of your soap bar, rinse it in cold water. Obviously you can't rinse out all the soap like you would with a traditional wet-felted project, but rinse until all the hot water is gone.

Lay it somewhere to dry, and then you can start using your felted soap bar! The soap will slowly wear away, just like it would without the fiber. When the soap has been used up, cut a slit in the fiber and use it as a bowl or pouch!



Emaly Leak has been raising and breeding llamas for show and fiber since 1999. Her farm, Autumn Hill Llamas & Fiber, is located in Norwich, NY. She blogs about the llamas and fiber-related topics (www.AutumnHillLlamas.blogspot.com).



IT'S ALL IN THE LAYOUT

By Gary Carlton, Fairplay Event Coordinator

The Fairplay Races are along a 3-mile course that is marked and monitored. The course begins on Front Street, goes down in the woods along the river and back up into town. Yes, depending on river height and flow, there can be as many as three river crossings.

Help is needed on Friday July 29th to lay out and mark this course. This is a lot of fun but two people are really needed to get it accurate for the races. We certainly do not want the racers to be scratching their heads while they figure out which way to go!

Please contact Gary, 303-503-1324, if you have questions. To select a volunteer assignment go to the RMLA.com home page,

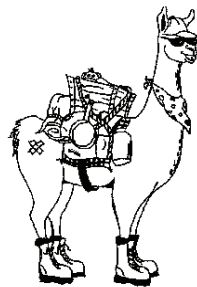
And thank you!



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Lothlorien Llamas

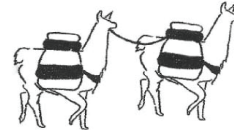
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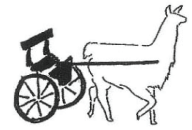
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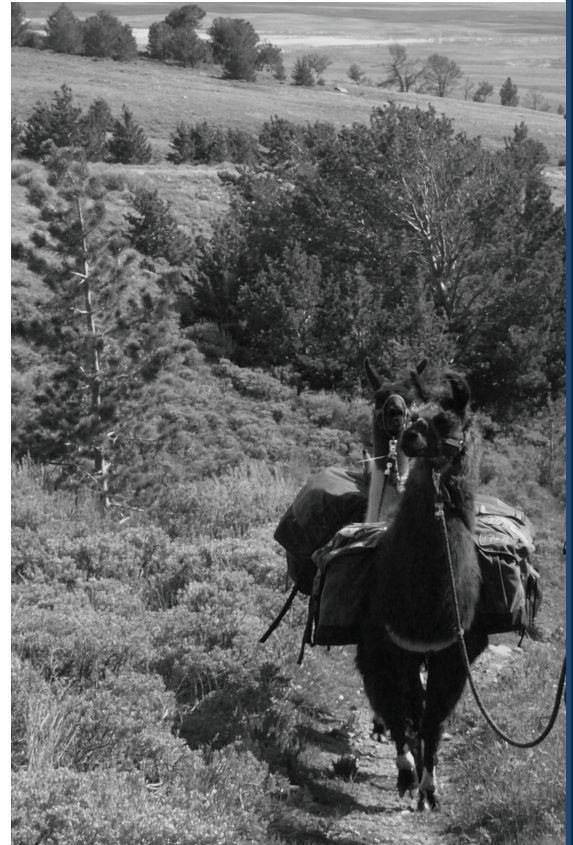


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MENTORING: Rewarding and Fun

By Mary Vavrina, Chair, Education Committee

With escaped llamas appearing in a less-than-an awesome light on Twitter and the evening news, the need for mentors for new llama owners seems more apparent.

Anyone who has an understanding of llamas knows how intelligent and domesticated they are, but new owners often say they think llamas are not very smart, or that they're wild and unpredictable. This happens frequently with guard llamas.

People unknowingly set the llamas up to fail, and then want to get rid of the llamas because, "they won't guard." While it's true that not every llama is suited to be a guard, if people just had a basic understanding of the camelid mindset, they could put their animals in the best situation possible and go from there. This could help keep many llamas from ending up in rescue or worse.

The Education Committee is still looking for input from RMLA members as to what a possible Mentor Program for new camelid owners should look like. If you have suggestions, or would like to volunteer to mentor new owners in your area, please contact Mary Vavrina at mary@rockymtllamas.com or 303-530-5575.



CameliDynamics™ Clinic a Success



In mid-April, 24 students from North Carolina to California and even Canada attended the CameliDynamics Clinic presented by Marty McGee Bennett. Many attendees were RMLA members and many were new camelid owners. The foundation of Marty's teaching is safety; kindness, respect for the animal; efficient for the handler, and FUN.



We learned many things and we certainly laughed at ourselves as we tried the new techniques. The photos demonstrate just some of what was learned. Read Marty's articles in past issues of the Journal for more information or go her website, www.CameliDynamics.com.

We want to thank our very gracious hosts, Karen and Robert Kinyon for opening their home and ranch in Wellington, CO to us for the weekend. Thanks also go to Mary Vavrina, RMLA Education Chair, for bringing this clinic to Colorado. And we want to thank RMLA for supporting, promoting and sponsoring the clinic.

And from Marty McGee:

"Hello All, I think the weekend was a success in all ways. Everyone pulled together and we didn't let a cranky mother nature do anything to spoil a wonderful weekend. Karen and Bob went above and beyond! Kathy Stanko you are a master at keeping all parties up to speed and communicating. Mary Vavrina you are the power point queen in my book!

I am so thrilled that I can now say that I did a workshop for RMLA! Your organization has been around as long or longer than any other, and it is no wonder as the enthusiasm and organization speaks for itself.."

continued on next page



In this photo we are using 'llama teaching aids' to practice a new catching technique. What is important here: the llama is always looking at his escape route. The human is back behind the llama's eyes.



Have you ever wondered what it feels like to your llama to wear a halter and have someone tug on the lead rope? In this exercise we were able to experience just how the tiniest pull can be felt by the animal. Then we learned the feeling of neutral contact. Amazing just how little pressure you need on the rope to communicate to the llama!



Listening intently as Marty takes us step-by-step through a new way to halter. We were indeed a serious group during this process.

Photo credit: thank you Becky Leach!

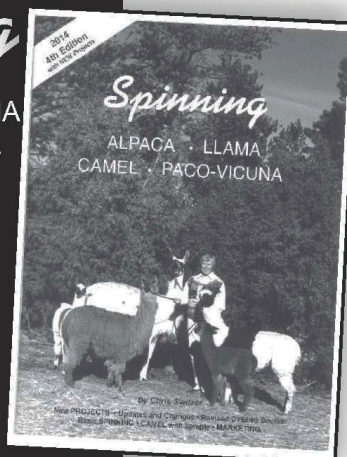


Spinning

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by Chris Switzer

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All the @s Are Missing!

By Ron Hinds, Webmaster

On the RMLA website member's page you won't find an '@' sign anywhere. But do not fret, the email addresses are still there! The @ symbols are displayed as a space.

This change was made to keep our members safe from spammers. Spammer's robots scan websites looking for the infamous '@' sign. When they find it, lo and behold they have found an email address!! Once the @ is found it's very easy to 'gather' the rest of the email address and add it to their spam list. This is not a fool-proof method, but it helps..

You won't find an '@' sign on the RMLA member's page. But the member's email addresses are all there and still work quite well when you click on them!

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.

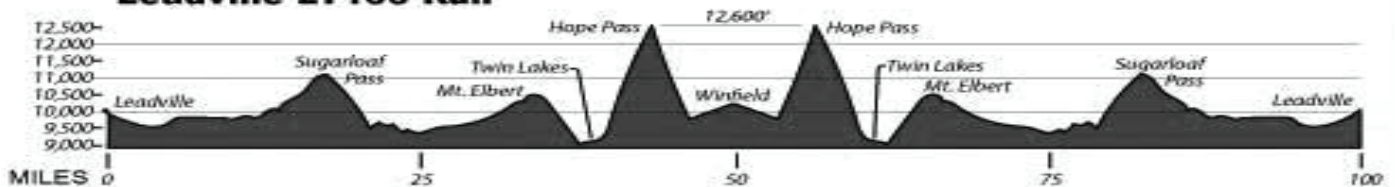
RMLA has helped by providing the volunteers, effort, llamas, packs, food, and water for the last 29 years. Volunteers arrive 6 days (8/14) before the race to help pack in 3,000 lbs of gear and walk the 35 llamas and 5 mules (provided by Half Moon Outfitters) 3.6 miles and an elevation gain of 2,400 feet 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

Leadville LT100 Run



Earth Day | Llama Style

Linda Hayes with Illumina at the Earth Day festivities in Glenwood Springs, CO.



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Photos by Maddie Mason,
www.facebook.com/MaddieMasonPhotography

PLTA Challenge Inaugurated in the Southeast

Contributors: Hank Balch, Susan Gawarecki, and Anne Sheeter

The Pack Llama Trail Association (PLTA) held its first Challenge event in the southeast this year in conjunction with the Southern States Llama Association's annual conference in Flat Rock, North Carolina. Every March SSLA's conference is a jam-packed weekend and a time to gather with friends you have not seen since the last show in the fall.



This year a new event was added. A PLTA-sanctioned Challenge was held on Saturday, March 19. The Challenge is a new activity developed by PLTA for fun and to allow llamas to experience obstacles found along the trail without the pressure of an actual Pack Trial.

Anne Sheeter, the Challenge coordinator, took her spring break to fly out from Oregon to mentor the SSLA in implementing the new Challenge program. Anne conducted the training Friday evening. Seven participated and all completed the test successfully: Hank Balch, Mary Rose Collins, Greg Hall, Tom Rothering, Vickie Sundberg, Karen Oertley-Pihera and Kathy Devaul. These seven represent three different states in that region: North Carolina, Florida, and Georgia.



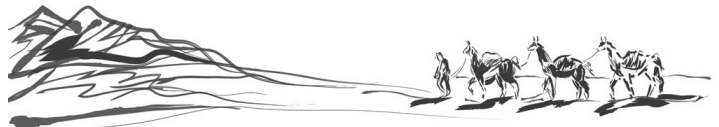
Saturday morning arrived and everyone participating in the Challenge Event was eager to leave the lodge and head for the Henderson County Recreation Area where the Challenge would be held. Sixteen handlers and thirteen llamas participated. Three members of the Henderson County Visitors Bureau also attended to document activities available in Henderson County.

The first obstacle on the Challenge was a rather deep and cold water crossing. The other obstacles included duck-unders, dead fall crossings, mud, backing, and PR when we ran into a group of hikers at the dam. We returned back to the trailhead after hiking a little over four miles. The lodge had prepared box lunches and everyone had developed a great appetite by the end of the hike.

Driving back to the lodge everyone talked about what a great time they had and looked forward to our next Challenge event. We all thanked Anne for providing us with the training and showing us just how much fun a Challenge event can be.



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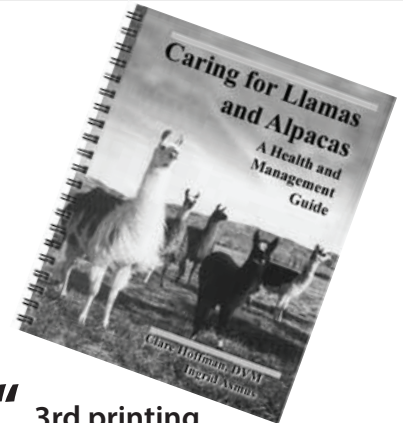
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Getting the Right Llama for the Job

by Linda Hayes

It's easy to fall in love with a llama because of his personality or stunning looks. However, if you have a planned use for that llama you need to consider his suitability before making the purchase.

Young llamas are fun and learn quickly. They are



A white long-wool llama will provide fiber that can easily be dyed.

ideal if you plan to train for performance classes at shows. But if you need a guard llama, they will be totally ineffective until they reach maturity or close to it. So, keeping that in mind let's look at what you should know in order to select the right animal for the job.

Let's start with **fiber**. If you are into spinning, weaving or are a fiber artist, you need to consider the coat of your animal. It's a given that younger llamas have finer fiber. That is, finer than it will be as they age. Some young llamas are born with coarse fleece.

There are older llamas that keep a fine micron into old age. It is rare but it happens. A few ranchers have been breeding for this trait and such llamas sell for a premium. You need to learn how to detect the micron (diameter) of each hair. Thirty microns

and up is useful for rugs and felting, but the prickle factor will be too great for use in garments that have skin contact. Try and find a llama with microns in the twenties.

Some llamas have lots of guard hair mixed in with the finer fiber making dehairing a nightmare. You may want to choose a carra. These are the original short wool llama that we frequently see in pack strings. Often overlooked because of their noticeable guard hair, their undercoat is some of the softest fiber in the world. This soft down can



The carra llama is also called a classic or short wool llama. They have a fine undercoat for fiber and a long stride for packing.

be combed out, leaving the guard hairs intact. No shearing is necessary. Another plus is that the covering of guard hair protects the undercoat and keeps it clean. Another favorite is the silky or single coated animal. While most of these do have fine fiber, it is much harder to keep clean. There are no protective guard hairs.

continued on next page

Getting the Right Llama for the Job, continued

Perhaps you need a **guard** llama. Females three years and older are the best bet. They will not try to breed the sheep or goats as a male and some geldings will. For years people used geldings for guards because females were too expensive.



The guard llama at Figment Ranch in Texas.
Used with Permission

But now that prices have come down it is best to eliminate the chance of potential smothering by using a female.

Every llama owner should learn to identify dropped pasterns. This condition is an unsoundness that makes even guard llamas ineffective. It usually goes along with being over in the knees. A llama that has bad legs will lay around more than normal and won't be as protective as one with correct angulation.

Older llamas make good guards as long as they are healthy, have good eye sight and are sound. Youngsters need to mature before the protective instinct kicks in. Some llamas will start guarding immediately but most need several weeks to feel comfortable with their new home and to bond with their charges. Not every



Pack llamas should enjoy what they are doing.

llama makes a good guard so if you are buying an inexperienced animal, ask if it can be returned if it doesn't do its job.

Packing with llamas has become more popular than ever. While most llamas enjoy an outing on the trail, they will last longer and do a better job if they are built for it. Most outfitters prefer a long striding carra type with sturdy bone and correct conformation. Any softness in the pasterns will just get worse with time and you will have an animal that sits down on the trail and refuses to pack. A good disposition is a plus if you are working with the public but not a necessity. Many a grumpy llama



Notice the angulation of the pasterns of the front legs. Compare this to the upright pasterns of the carra llama's photo.

has excelled on the trail.

Pack strings work best when they are all female or all male. Geldings fit in with both but because they tend to break down in the pasterns before the others, they are losing favor. If you just take a few short hikes and are not going out for days at a time, select a llama you like and condition him to pack the weight you want him to carry. Even short little llamas have been known to pack well once they are in shape.

Ideally it's best to select a short wool llama as you will have less of a chance to deal with overheating while on the trail. Of course all that long wool can be shorn to make them comfortable but too close of a haircut leaves them vulnerable to insect bites. Why not get one that was bred for the job? The carra type was developed for packing work

continued on page 34

How About a Vacation at the Fairplay Llama Camp?



Think about it: 4 or 5 days of just hanging out in the forest at the Fairplay Llama Camp. Nice and cool. Great company: llamas. Why, you ask? The llama camp for the Fairplay races is in the National Forest where many other people also come to enjoy the quiet life. The problem: if Gary Carlton is not in camp, curious folks, and their dogs, can spook the llamas and away they go. Then Gary has to round them all up again



So, if you can see yourself being in camp Wednesday, July 27 until Saturday morning, July 30th (race day), just hanging out and perhaps educating a number of folks about llamas, please volunteer for this assignment.

Bonus: on Friday evening there is a big potluck dinner in camp with other volunteers and race participants. As Camp Superintendent for the three previous days, you do not need to cook! You just get to eat and relax. Such fun!

To volunteer for this 'vacation', use the easy volunteer form that is accessible on the home page of the RMLA website (www.rmla.com). If you have questions, please call Gary Carlton, 303-503-1324.



Directions to Llama Camp

From HWY 9 in downtown Fairplay Turn N N/E on Fourth St. Go 3/4 mile to dead end then turn left on Bouge St. Then go 3.4 miles North and turn Right at forest access road; it will wind to the left and you will end up at a parking lot. Travel through parking lot to forest access road, then go North 2.5 miles along Beaver Creek to Llama Camp. It will be on the left side at the top of a large meadow. There are Llama Camp signs every 1/2 mile from HWY 9 & Fourth Street to guide everyone to camp.

over thousands of years. They are in great demand but if you can find one, you will enjoy your pack trips to the fullest.

Public relations llamas come in all shapes and sizes. With them, it is the disposition that is



A llama used for public relations needs to be comfortable with children.

important. Disposition is inherited. Ask to see siblings and parents when buying. If one is a ‘spitter’ or seems to dislike people, look for another bloodline.

We all love to show off the beautiful suris and long wool llamas and they do make great PR animals. However, I have found that a short wool llama with a coating of guard hair is so very easy to get ready for the PR events that I routinely leave the long wools at home.

Finding a **driving** llama is not as easy as locating one for other endeavors. Here again, disposition is important. Choose a llama that is independent and outgoing – one who is eager to be first on the trail or exhibits independence in the herd. A llama that



Cart llamas can be any type as long as they are willing to move out on their own.

doesn't have these traits will not be useful when hooked to a cart.

They can work when paired in tandem but you are better off with one that is willing to participate right from the start. I prefer a large strong animal with correct conformation. One that is soft in the pasterns will drop them quickly when required to pull.

Driving llamas need to be fully mature to pull weight. They can start their training as youngsters with ground driving and pulling empty carts. You will soon learn if they have the disposition needed to be a cart llama.

Breeding: If you are planning to raise your own llamas you need to do your homework. Learn the best bloodlines, as well as the ones that have exhibited genetic faults. People tend to hide the record of problem animals. Talk to old timers who were around when llamas that sold for hundreds of thousands of dollars produced off-spring without tails or with crooked backs. Studies show records and sale prices. Buy the best you can afford and avoid fads such as certain colors. Buy what you like. Sooner or later that color or “style” will be popular.

Halter Show llamas are a whole other topic. There are so many varieties and classes. To select the best, you must know conformation. If you can attend a judging clinic as a spectator, you will learn to recognize faults that will keep llamas from winning. Finding a mentor in a top showman or llama judge will also keep you from making costly mistakes.

You will see one thread running through my commentary. You must be able to recognize correct conformation. Learn to notice dropped or soft pasterns as well as knees that are too far forward. This is about the only problem llamas frequently get. It is also where I see so many people get disappointed because they did not recognize it in the animal they bought. I'll never forget my embarrassment when I was proudly showing my very first llama only to have the judge tell me he was soft in the pasterns. Until we become educated llama owners, we will miss conformation traits that will keep our animals from performing at their best. Find a mentor, study the literature and attend clinics and seminars. It's all part of the fun of being in the llama world.



All the Way to the Big Island

By Lougene Baird

Simple Hints for Taking Better Photos

By Ron Hinds, Co-editor, RMLA Journal

We get some wonderful photos from our members. And we love to use them. Here are a few suggestions for making those photos even better.

And yes, we know from our own experience that when taking spontaneous photos, especially of animals, you just have to 'take the picture now'.

- Where is the sun? Try to make sure it is brighter behind you.
- Faces: are those smiles looking at you?
- Background: If you have time, look for items sticking out of the animal's body or head. Avoid bright items or anything that would distract from the subject, including indoor windows. There are some problems not even Photoshop can fix.

Keep sending those photos our way. We can use the magic of computer software to enhance as much as possible and for those 'blemishes' that just happen with spontaneity.

Imagine my surprise when I opened my local paper, West Hawaii Today, one day in March to find this article. Isn't it wonderful to have an RMLA member, working with an animal, appearing in our dinky little Hawai'ian newspaper?

Lauren Sill hosted a Pack Llama Trail Association pack trial near Medicine Lodge, KS on the last weekend of February. Michael Pearce, the outdoor writer for the Wichita Eagle, has an interest in all kinds of working animals and when he learned about the pack trials, he wanted to do an article. The AP wire picked up his story and *voilà*, around the world it went. It has been good PR for llamas and their diversity and usefulness.

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
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UNITY MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009 | WEST HAWAII TODAY

ODD NEWS | ANIMAL ATHLETES

Llama owners put their pets to the test on Kansas terrain



Part of the pack llama test including handling obstacles, like deadfalls. They're generally no problem for the nimble-footed llamas. (MICHAEL PEARCE/WICHITA EAGLE/THQ)

THE WICHITA EAGLE (THQ)

BARBER COUNTY, Kan. — Since the days of the Comanche, Kansas' Gyp Hills have been horse country. Many ranchers still depend on steeds to access rugged land for both business and pleasure.

But recently a different domestic animal traversed the red trails, their long, leathery coats rippling in the hard wind while their nimble hooves barely left a track on soft, bare soil.

Llama aficionados came from three states to let their animals do what they were raised to do — be beasts of burden.

Lauren SILL, of rural Hutchinson, was in the lead with Pico, one of her 10 llamas. She described the pack trial as a qualifying event where llamas compete against a standard rather than each other. Once they pass required tasks, pertaining to things like maneuvering obstacles, endurance and elevation climbs, llamas can move up to another classification.

All 13 llamas completed the 5-plus mile course. Nobody was surprised.



Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association
P O Box 1070
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EVENTS CALENDAR BY MARY WICKMAN (EVENTS CHAIR)

For more details and live links, go to www.RMLA.com, select EVENT, and click the title.

- **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, 9, 2016, Because of the Economy Black and Blue Pasture Show**, 2BIT2 Ranch, Florissant, CO. ALSA double point halter pasture show; single point performance show. All divisions offered. Go to ALSA show website for entry forms and information. This will be followed on Sunday at 9am by two free educational clinics, must attend show to attend clinic. One clinic will be 'A How to Show' by Jens Rudibaugh. The second is a walking fleece clinic by Judy Glaser. Contact Bob Burton, 719-355-9355 for more information.
- **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@jmhfarm.com or 303.503.1324 for more information.
- **September 10-11, 2016 Salida Fiber Festival**, Salida CO. The Fiber Coop booth will again be at the Salida Fiber Festival. Contact Jill Knuckles at talltaillamas@bigplanet.com or 970-487-0223 or Cheryl Juntilla at cajwdj@aol.com or 970-640-8028 to volunteer and to become a consigner in the booth.
- **September 24 and 25, 2016 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.
- **October 1-2, 2016, Taos Fiber Festival**, Taos, NM. The Fiber Coop booth will again be at the Taos Fiber Festival. Contact Jill Knuckles at talltaillamas@bigplanet.com or 970-487-0223 or Cheryl Juntilla at cajwdj@aol.com or 970-640-8028 to volunteer and to become a consigner in the booth.