

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LLAMA AND ALPACA ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 7-19, 1992:

RMLA Display at National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colorado.

More information on page 3.

January 12-15, 1992:

Llama Show at National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colorado.

ON-GOING WOOL COMMITTEE

An ongoing WOOL COMMITTEE is being formed so that each conference will have a wool room plus spinning demonstrations for the public. Spinning, knitting and weaving should be included at all llama events . . . this is another "use" for our animals and another way to enjoy them.

A "Spin-In" is planned for RMLA members during next year's conference. Join Sally German, Chris Switzer, Ginger Ferris, Karla

Goodman, Nancy Umbach and Sharon Beechem.

If you're interested in being part of the Wool Committee activities, call or write:

Ginger Ferris
Post Office Box 292
Buena Vista, CO 81211
719-395-2372.

Inside This Issue:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ■ <i>President's Letter, 2</i> | ■ <i>Library Notes, 11</i> |
| ■ <i>Nat'l Western Stock Show, 3</i> | ■ <i>Service Directory, 12</i> |
| ■ <i>SW CO Llama Network, 5</i> | ■ <i>Membership Dir., 13</i> |
| ■ <i>Fairplay Llama Race, 8</i> | ■ <i>Fun Run, 14</i> |
| ■ <i>Wes Maus Mem., 10</i> | ■ <i>Speaking Veter., 16</i> |

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT: *LLAMA DAMA DO*

Now, there's an exuberant greeting Yogi Bear style! It reflects my mood about the llama industry. Many of you who know me, know that I was a little depressed by ranch manager troubles, the price slump resulting from the war and economic recession, and general burnout from overcommitment. The conference was like a shot in the arm. It helped remind me of how much fun llamas are and how wonderfully energetic and enthusiastic llama breeders are. I also feel like the indicators are there for a positive turn around in our industry. I am getting more calls than ever from people thinking of buying their first llamas. The Celebrity Sale was a success with prices for average llamas holding steady. The prices for high

dollar llamas fell, but I think that was due to the lack of breeders propping up other breeders. Entry level prices are reasonable and that is good for business. Let's treat new buyers right. They are our advertising and an investment for the future.

Llamas are such special creatures that they sell themselves and as our base of owners expands, the demand for llamas will increase. I am looking forward to a year of promoting the end use of llamas and of expanding the awareness of llamas among the general public.

Let's roll up our sleeves and spread our enthusiasm.

Sally

MARKETING LLAMAS AT A SCHOOL

By Mary Hance, Barbara and Robert Hance

Barbara, Bob and I were invited to Vanderhoof Elementary's "International Day" to represent South America with our llamas. We took Starking and Cocoman, arriving in time to mingle with a departing kindergarten class. There were many squeals of delight over being "kissed" by a llama.

We were provided with a shade canopy, a roped-off area for the llamas, water, and a microphone so we could be heard over the Scottish delegation (a bagpiper) next to us. We spent about three hours with various class groups, giving each one a short presentation and the opportunity to get a closer look at the llamas and to ask questions.

We brought with us a changeable display board which included a map of South America (the camelid countries are highlighted), pictures of llamas and alpacas, fiber samples (I included sheep, alpaca, llama, and angora rabbit, and am expanding with camel, cotton and whatever else I can get my hands on!), and pictures of our new baby alpaca.

We have been to three functions with our llama(s) now, and feel that this is an excellent opportunity to educate the general public and to recruit new llama devotees, and it's fun too!

*Hance Ranch Alpacas and Llamas
Wheat Ridge, CO*

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

By Dale Pettigrew

It's time to be thinking about the National Western Stock Show in Denver, January 7-19, 1991. RMLA was "invited" to have our display (which was very successful last year) in the newly remodeled Hall of Education, 3rd floor. Although expensive, the '91 RMLA Executive Board decided that this is such a substantial public relations opportunity that we should take advantage of it. So, RMLA will have two 10' x 10' booth spaces; one for our standing display and one pen for llamas. The spaces are in a prime traffic area, across from Casa Bonita and the public lounge. Poultry, rabbits, the wool show, Ranchland, Coors sponsored art gallery, and other specialty exhibits will be on this floor. RMLA and llamas will get lots of exposure, considerably more than last year.

RMLA NEEDS YOU to help man the display! We need two people and two llamas to occupy the display each day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., January, 7th to 19th. We can change llamas and humans every day. **Two** vehicle passes per day will be provided (this means that you get entry to

the grounds and you get to park in back of the Hall of Education). Any llama entering NWSS grounds must have a health certificate. If you would like to do some PR work for RMLA and your ranch, fill out the box below and send it to Mary Pendergast by December 15th. You can sign up yourself only, your llamas only, or yourself and your llamas, for as much time as you can give. If you live far away from Denver but are coming to participate in the llama show, January 12th to 15th, sign up for some time during those days.

P.S. The Llama Show at NWSS will be held January 12th to 15th. Same format as last year. This year you will get a premium book with the entry forms only if you send a written request or call NWSS, 303-297-1166. Do not expect any improvement in conditions. However, if enough persons petition Tom Stromberg, Horse/Livestock Manager, more carts for cleaning stalls on check-in might be provided. Send your petition to: Tom Stromberg, Horse/Livestock Manager, NWSS, 4655 Humboldt Street, Denver, CO 80216.

RMLA DISPLAY AT NWSS

JANUARY 7-19, 1992

I can manage the booth's display on (dates) _____.

with llamas (how many) _____ without llamas _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

DEADLINE: DEC. 15. Send to: Mary Pendergast, P. O. Box 881449, Steamboat Springs, CO 80488.

CONFERENCE IMPRESSIONS

By Kate Booth Doyle

At home now, I reflect on the past weekend in Corrales, New Mexico at the estate of Steve and Penny Komadina. When I close my eyes, I see all of those smiling faces. Everywhere I look, people of all ages are smiling, strolling around the grounds, reaching out to one another and to the patient, soft llamas. I hear laughter and lighthearted chatter, the crunch of a crisp, red apple and the bullroar of Moses, the camel. Early morning brought the screech of peacocks, the huummms of our beloved llamas and that strange whooshing of hot air balloons passing swiftly overhead. The early morning also brought heavy dew dripping off the roofs of the llama barns, watering the honey-suckle vines below.

Does this sound like some tempting advertisement from a travel brochure? Well, it's really what I actually saw, heard and felt each morning as I arose before the full llama-days began. The repose was welcome as the days warmed up in both heat and action - clanging gates, excited llamas humming, owners and caretakers talking and singing to their fine, four-legged, wooly friends.

This is where I really got excited because I love my llamas. I even love other people's llamas! I'm greeted at the stall with bright, eager llama faces ready for the day. My guys are workers. They're well built, well-trained pack llamas and they know their niche. Dick and I halter them and clean their stalls. We offer fresh water and clean feed.

After I've had my early morning llama "fix," I'm off to stimulate my brain with fantastic Dr. LaRue Johnson. How any

person can make dot to dot, x's and y's and \$100 words so incredibly interesting and understandable amazes me! He does just that by blending humor, passion, ethics and science. Thanks again, Dr. Johnson!

The training seminars were exciting in that we had the opportunity to see Marty McGee and Betty Barkman at separate times. I found I could incorporate ideas from both, and I must admit I'm sold on the T.E.A.M. trainings. T.E.A.M. gives me a formula, a "road-map" to a specific end. With my background in Special Education, I guess that type of approach is more familiar to me. Both women were powerful, gentle, intelligent and willing to share what works and does not work for them. I appreciate them both. Thank you, Marty and Betty!

Fun, fun, fun followed with the llamas. I always love those heart palpitations and sweating with llamas on a trail. Running a race is one thing ... adding a camel is downright hysterical. "Look out, Nippet! Here ... comes ... Bigfoot!" Thank you everyone for joining in the fun-race. I again saw smiling faces and a sense of conviviality and cooperation rather than INTENSE competition.

Packing seminars, spinning, Forest Service information, kid crafts, llama driving clinics and basics of llama health maintenance were there. All who wanted to show off and brag about their llamas and what llamas do, sure had their chance!

I thank the New Mexico team for loving their llamas. RMLA and the people of the area showed their love by hosting such a bright spot in the llama world. They

CONFERENCE IMPRESSIONS (con't)

promoted llamas and educated the public according to our BYLAWS ... thank you RMLA members for staying through one of the most efficient annual meetings I recall.

We again laughed and had fun and the bylaws were accepted giving our organization some organization once again.

Have a wonderful Indian Summer.

NEW ADDRESS FOR EDITOR

Jo Riley, newsletter editor, and her husband, Bob, are moving December 9th to Boulder Ridge Ranch, Box 3484, Lyons, Colorado, 303-823-5409.

Bob has planned on living on a llama ranch for 13 years and finally his dream has become a reality.

Joining the family on holidays will be Trey who is graduating in December from University of Kansas, Scott who graduates from SMU in Dallas this May and Brad who is a sophomore at Emporia State University. Brad won his age group at the Fairplay Llama Race for the last 2 years.

CONDOLENCES

Chet Smith, Pojoaque, New Mexico, a longtime member of RMLA and a llama enthusiast, died September 30, 1991 in Sante

Fe, New Mexico.

We at RMLA extend our sympathies to Chet's family.

SOUTHWEST COLORADO LLAMA NETWORK

By Erma Hast

SWCLN met at Tom and Anne Harper's on Saturday, October 5, 1991, for a potluck dinner and meeting. Joining Tom and Anne were Ted and Fay Barley, Judy Sealy, Rich and Marlene Gordon, Carl and Elaine Fisher, John and Phyllis Larsen, Chuck and Shirley Hast, Fred and Sonja Anders, John, Diane and Andrea Wieder, Bernie and Erma Hast, Bill Mickelberry, and Dr. T. C. Dickinson.

Fay Earley is handling the advertising. All llama and alpaca owners wishing to advertise with the group (SWCLN as last year) are asked to contact Fay Earley at 303/327-4511 immediately. The more participating the less costly the advertising. Last year we paid \$100.00 per farm and had good coverage. It is planned to

extend the coverage this year to other areas.

The group also will serve as a support group for the very small llama owner (i.e. 1 or 2 llamas), 4-H members, etc. These people are urged to contact Fay Earley for additional information and to be put on the SWCLN mailing list.

Also, please let Fay Earley know the names of any llama and alpaca owners that are unaware of the support group. We would like to notify all of you for the next get-together . . . probably in early November. Fay's address is: Post Office Box 97, Redvale, CO 81431, 303-327-4511.

There's always great food! And we all like to share our experiences.

“OLD-TIMER’S” VIEW OF THE CONFERENCE

By Bernie and Erma Hast

Many people undoubtedly think of us as “those old-timers” not only because the years are catching up with us, but especially because the 1991 RMLA Conference, held this year in Corrales, is the tenth we’ve attended. (But then, there have been only ten!) With each one we’ve come home still glad we took the time and made the effort to go.

We like meeting old friends. Everyone looks forward to that! But we like making new friends, too, and that’s always easy at an RMLA Conference because everyone has something in common . . . llamas. Believe us, you never run out of things to talk about at an RMLA Conference.

We go to LISTEN, to LOOK, and to LEARN, too. This year we especially liked LISTENING to Peter Illyn and LOOKING at his wonderful slideshow that took us on a 114 day llama adventure from the California/Oregon border into Canada. Imagine, 1000 miles of Cascade mountain scenery accompanied by llamas carrying packs! You can’t beat that for adventure.

As knowledgeable as you think you are, there’s always plenty to LEARN. There are invariably new and different ways to do the same things. Attending an RMLA Conference sure gets you out of all those ruts you let yourself get into.

During the training demonstrations by Marty McGee and Betty Barkman, we got a new appreciation of how much can be accomplished by using patience and gentleness and plenty of time when working with llamas.

Barbara Goldsmith and Jerry Dunn reinforced our belief that there’s no reason llamas can’t be trained to cart driving . . . they’ll like it and you will, too.

From the standpoint of nutrition we’re glad that Dr. LaRue Johnson reminded us again to quit feeding llamas so much. He

made it clear that all kinds of problems, especially in connection with breeding, can be avoided with proper feeding.

As usual, Chris Switzer, our librarian, made us realize what a wealth of printed and visual material we have available to us simply for the asking. She has everything classified and organized to a professional standard.

Is it time to mention the superlative setting and accommodations at Villa Hermosa Farm, the Komadina’s ranch just outside of Corrales? Every conference we’ve attended has been well organized, well run, and most certainly enjoyable and worthwhile. But this year’s was one of the very best in every detail even though not quite as many members attended. The Saturday afternoon events which were open to the public swelled attendance to a respectable “crowd,” however, and brought a new dimension to spreading the word about llamas. Perhaps because of being smaller everyone somehow seemed more relaxed, the weather was “just right,” the food tremendous. Our hosts, Steve and Penny Komadina and their friend, Reid Langerman, didn’t forget a detail as far as our comfort and that of the llamas was concerned.

Not to detract a single bit from their generosity and gracious hospitality, we’d like to put in a word for another kind of setting. Not everyone has a Vista Hermosa Farm to share. But if you give your organization up to a year to plan, you can do what other groups have done . . . use a public facility (one hired the county fairgrounds) and arrange for speakers. When those are in place, everything else seems to fall into line.

If anyone asks us, “What’s the one thing you’ll probably remember most about the 1991 RMLA Conference?” we’ll have to admit it’s the Fun-Run (see page 14) when a camel and alpacas were in competition with llamas. We’re still laughing!



Boulder Ridge Ranch



Home of Suki's Llamas

Box 3484 1612 Spring Gulch Drive Lyons, CO 80540 Phone: 303-823-5409

(Lyons, Colorado) Effective September 13th, 1991, the twenty-seven (27) llamas owned by Suki Dewey under the company name of **Suki's Llamas** have been moved to Boulder Ridge Ranch in a joint venture with the owners of Boulder Ridge Ranch, Bob and Jo Riley.

"Suki is one of the first people we met when we first bought llamas," said Bob Riley. "We look forward to a long relationship with Suki and her fine stock. We know that Suki is well-respected for the way she raises her llamas ... with kindness and compassion." Suki's llamas will be joining the six llamas already at Boulder Ridge.

It is easy to see from their llamas that Bob and Jo understand both the business and hobby sides of owning llamas," said Suki. "Their stock is as wellbehaved as the children we all wish we had. I know that my llamas are in good hands down the road at the Riley's Boulder Ridge Ranch." Suki Dewey has sold her ranch in Lyons and moved into Boulder to be closer to schools for herself and her two daughters. She will continue taking an active part in the future of the llamas.

The Rileys purchased their 57-acre property this summer, after owning a home in Kansas City as well as in Breckenridge. They are in the process of establishing "one" home. In addition to moving llamas and household belongings, the Rileys will be relocating Stillwater Minerals, a company they acquired in April of this year. Stillwater provides minerals formulated especially for llamas and alpacas.

9TH ANNUAL FAIRPLAY LLAMA PACK RACE

By Jerry Dunn

Fairplay, Colorado - Every year I have looked forward to this race with mixed emotions. This year I was relaxed and eager to arrive at the race for this time *Woody, Talavi, Bear* and I were not going to run. This was going to be fun!

We arrived early to offer our help. Wally White, Durango, Colorado, one of the race organizers, asked us to be course spotters to help participants and their llamas stay on course and offer encouraging cheers as they steamed by our station. Since a new beach club and lake had been constructed on parts of the course used in previous years, Wally and Dee Goodman had plotted a new route.

Neophyte Racing Style

Two entrants, newcomers to llama racing, who teamed up after the initial confusing start to prove the Fairplay race can be fun were Susan Shannon and Dorte Dopfer, a German exchange student, whose llama companions were inseparable pasture mates and also newcomers to racing. After their first stream crossing, this quartet reduced their run to an "elevated walk." The women casually stopped to observe the alpine flowers and window shopped their way through the mountain men's rendezvous camp. They seemed to have forgotten that this was a race!

My station on the course was at a right angle turn where the course went straight downhill into the dense willows and a serious river crossing. The first 29 runners looked in great shape as they dropped down the hill, but where were Susan and Dorte? Several minutes later they ap-

peared smiling, their llamas chewing their cud as they dropped down over the hill disappearing for several minutes. Now where were they? I ran down to check on them only to find them giggling in the willows, lost! I suggested they could pull off the course if it was too difficult. "Never!"; they would finish.

Although the river crossing looked a bit overwhelming, they hooked elbows and ventured into the torrent. Splash! Dorte did a face plant and came up laughing. On the other side, they paused to congratulate one another for their courage and team work.

When they inquired how they were doing, I reminded them that this was a race and that they should just keep moving.

A few minutes later they showed up again and handed me a water soaked, gritty camera with the request, "Please take our picture, " "You're kidding, you're supposed to be racing!" I took a quick photograph of the foursome. They were having too much fun! This race is supposed to be painful.

The Winners

By this time the front runners had finished, tossed a couple of cool ones down, and anxiously awaited the results, but two people were still on the course.

Woody and I took a short cut over to the finish line to tell Wally, manning the public address system, of the girls' whereabouts. Shortly the ladies were seen at the top of Front Street, arm in arm, skipping their way to the finish line to tie for second

FAIRPLAY LLAMA PACK RACE (Con't)

place in their age division and win a turkey for their spectacular time! Unknown!

The overall winners were: Tim Figgee and *Homer* owned by Bob Sallee of Highline Llamas, Colorado Springs, and Linda Ghent and *No Name*, owned by Great Divide Llamas, Masonville, Colorado. The winning llamas of each human age division received a 50 lb. bag of cracked corn donated by Dee and Karla Goodman.

Thanks to organizers Wally White and Dee and Karla Goodman for all their hard work. A special thanks to the merchants of the Fairplay community and their contributions to the winners.



Frederick & Colette Snoy
7130 Coors Trail NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
505/898-2948

SOME THOUGHTS ON MARKETING

By Dale Pettigrew

This past year I have observed a slow down in ranch traffic and an increased focus on auctions. It makes me sad to see so many llamas changing hands without the (or extremely minimized) benefit of personal contact between buyer and seller. I think most of us care very much where our llamas go, and we try to offer as much information and support as we can to the buyer. Hard to do if you don't even meet the buyer until he walks up to your stall at the end of the auction to load up your llama and head for Timbucctu.

So, I have a suggestion for increasing ranch traffic and/or private treaty sales. Let's put more energy into events for the public, and let's create events that are informative and entertaining; NOT shows (in my opinion, llama shows are boring and not the way to attract new buyers, but that's another whole essay). Participate in the RMLA display at NWSS; organize a display at your county fair or contribute to it if it's already happening; participate in the Show-

case at the Colorado State Fair; run/walk in the Fairplay or Cripple Creek Llama Race, etc. Private treaty sales were organized this past year by the Wyoming Llama Breeders and the New Mexico Llama Lovers (separate events). I don't know how successful they were, but I hope that the sponsors will do them again, making them bigger, better and more effective. They may be slow to catch on, but they will be extremely worthwhile in the long run. If the attraction of auctions to potential buyers is to see lots of animals in one place, then maybe we should figure out how to organize large private treaty sales and publicize them in different regions of the membership. Won't this be a better way to find good homes for our charges who can be great companions but won't ever be showstoppers?

As this year draws to a close, spend some time thinking about what you did or didn't participate in and accomplish, and what you'd like to participate in and see happen in 1992. Then put it in gear!

WES MAUZ, JR. MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The Wes Mauz, Jr. Memorial Foundation was started in the fall of 1989 following the untimely death of Wes the previous spring. The Foundation was originally established with the fond expectation that this would be an ongoing memorial directed toward youth and administered by a small committee within RMLA. It is hoped that, over several years, sufficient funds can be raised to use income from the fund for its various endeavors.

Fun Auctions in 1989, 1990, 1991 and donations brought the Foundation bank balance to over \$40,000.00.

Following are the purposes of the fund's uses as set forth by the committee:

1. **SCHOLARSHIPS** for the purpose of pursuing additional education after high school.

A candidate must have demonstrated an active and continuing interest in llamas while in high school, have a good academic standing and have been an RMLA member for at least the final two years of high school.

Funds would be limited to no more than the first five semesters of college, be dispersed at the beginning of each term and initially be at the rate of \$250.00 per semester. A student must have a good academic standing to be eligible for continued support, and must re-apply each semester.

Funds will be derived from income only of the Foundation (not principal).

2. **STIPENDS** for the purpose of encouraging young people to actively participate with llamas/alpacas at shows, clinics, parades, PR opportunities, retirement homes, and so forth.

Stipends will be used to offset the expense of entry fees, stalls, transportation or other direct expense related to

the event or clinic. Maximum stipend per individual, per event - \$50.00. Maximum number of stipends per individual, per year is one.

Eligibility. Fifteen (15) years of age or younger at the time of the event.

Funds will be derived from income only of the Foundation (not principal).

3. **LOANS** for the purpose of helping young people to purchase a first llama alpaca or equipment (such as a cart, pack frame and panniers, grooming restrainer).

Maximum loan is \$500.00. Minimum loan is \$200.00.

Interest to be paid quarterly at prime rate. Term of loan not to exceed 3 years.

Eligibility. Thirteen (13) years to eighteen (18) years at time of application.

The Foundation Committee will place continuing information about the scholarships, stipends and loans in the RMLA Newsletter.

The first recipients of scholarships are Joy Hernbrode and Kimberly Hartsough, both of whom are commencing their freshman year at Colorado State University. RMLA is committing \$250.00 per semester to each with a cap of five semesters.

As of this report, no stipends or loans have been made (primarily because no information about them has as yet been given).

The Foundation Committee believes that it is on a positive track and that with time, and continued fund raising, the Foundation can become a strong arm within RMLA in helping its youth.

Application forms are available from:

Jerry Dunn

14550 W. 50th Avenue

Golden, Colorado 80403-1707

303-277-1129

LIBRARY NOTES

by Chris Switzer

Keep your library lists included in this issue for future reference. New items will be listed in future newsletters. The library budget covers mailing to you, and you pay for mailing back (books, one month check-out; videos, 2 weeks). All books, videos and items now have a UPS address: 381 South St. Vrain, Highway 7, Estes Park, CO 80517 or by regular mail to my Post Office Box 3800.

Suggestions, ideas and donations

(books, items and money) are always welcome.

At each conference I have the complete library on display. This was the 5th year! New items can be looked over and new members can see the entire library. From the Albuquerque Conference, there were 42 checkouts, (18 people) and 9 items sent out since then. There's always good activity. Write or call me with your requests.

New items since the Conference:

- Children: ***The Goat in the Rug*** by Geraldine as told to Charles L Blood and Martin Link, 1976
Gregorio and the White Llamas by Laura Bannon, 1944
- Jr. High: ***Mountains to Climb*** by Richard Wainwright, 1991
- Book: ***An Introduction to Care, Training and Handling*** by Sandi Burt, 1991
- Video: **"Training to Drive"** with Bobra Goldsmith (second copy)
- Wool: ***Australian Locker Hooking*** by Joan Z. Rough, 1982
Hands on Dyeing by Betsy Blumenthal and Kathryn Kreiden, 1988
Homespun Handknit Projects edited by Linda Ligon, 1987
Felting by Marlie Claessen (manual for projects), 1981
Felt Making - Techniques and Projects by Inge Evers, 1987.

It's your library . . . check it out!



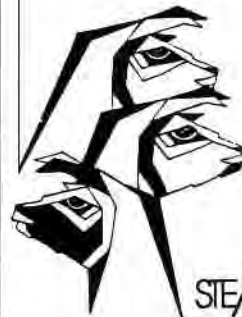
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Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
(303) 879-8132

STEAMBOAT LLAMA RANCH

THE RMLA SERVICE DIRECTORY

The RMLA Service Directory, our "Yellow Pages," is included in every RMLA brochure that is given out. It is an excellent, affordable means of getting your name in the hands of prospective llama and alpaca owners. It is also an important source of association revenue. The Service Directory is published concurrently with our membership period - January 1st to December 31st.

The fee is nominal: \$20.00 for RMLA members for each classification (see form for the 8 classifications offered.) If non-members wish to advertise, the fee is \$50.00 for each listing.

If you would like a copy of the current RMLA Service Directory, please contact Erma Hast, 15251 61.00 Road, Montrose, CO 81401, 303-249-3083.

RMLA SERVICE DIRECTORY ADVERTISING ORDER

Yellow Pages: January 1, 1992 to December 31, 1992

COST per classification: Members - \$20.00 and Non-Members - \$50.00

Check Classification(s):

Breeders Commercial Packing Stud Service Training

Equipment and Supplies Special Services Publications Other

Enclosed is a check for the total amount of \$ _____ for (#) _____ classifications.

Business/Ranch Name _____

Owner Name(s) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number(s) _____

ADVERTISEMENT(S)

1 to 3 lines describing your activity. For additional classifications, attach separate sheet.

Classification: _____

Classification: _____

Mail this form with your check (payable to RMLA) no later than
December 31, 1991 to Erma Hast, 15251 61.00 Road, Montrose, CO 81401.

RMLA



ROCKY MOUNTAIN LLAMA AND ALPACA ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership year runs from January 1 through December 31

Adult Individual Membership - \$30.00 per year (One vote, newsletter, directory entry)

Farm or Ranch Membership - \$50.00 per year (Couple or two individuals associated with one business) (Two votes, newsletter, directory entry)

Junior Membership - \$10.00 per year (Must be 18 or under) (Junior membership would not be entitled to vote, but would receive newsletter and 75% reduction in conference/show fees as encouragement to participate. Junior members must have an adult member sponsor.)

_____ Individual Amount Paid \$ _____
_____ Farm/Ranch Amount Paid \$ _____
_____ Junior - Age _____ Amount Paid \$ _____ Sponsor _____

NAME (1) _____ FARM/RANCH NAME _____

NAME (2) _____ PHONE NUMBER (____) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4(PLEASE) _____

Number of animals owned: Females _____ Whole Males _____ Castrated Males _____

___ Breeding (BR) ___ Training (TR) ___ Driving (DR)
___ Sales (SL) ___ Products (PR) ___ Boarding (BD)
___ Wool (WL) ___ Research (RE) ___ Judging (JG)
___ Packing (PK) ___ Leasing (LE) ___ Brokering (BK)
___ Commercial Packing (COM'L PK) ___ Other (Specify) _____

Area of Expertise or interest _____

Check if interested in working in these areas/on these committees:

___ Finance ___ Marketing ___ Wool
___ Continuing Education ___ Nominations/Election ___ Membership
___ Packing ___ Research ___ Performance
___ 4-H ___ By-Laws ___ Library
___ Other (specify) _____

Please mail with check to: Judy Sealy, Secretary
593 19-3/4 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503

THE GREATEST FUN RUN OF ALL TIME!

by Erma Hast

Admittedly the 1991 RMLA Conference held just outside Albuquerque, New Mexico was, as it should be, educational. But lots of fun, too, with special fun this year because everyone had a chance to enter or simply to watch a llama "race" that included Churi, a llama led by 8-year old Elise Switzer and her father, Ken; Sally German ran with Switzers' alpaca K I; and, of all creatures, Moses, a full-grown gangling camelled by Dr. Steve Komadina, his owner.

The event wasn't program-listed but was simply announced over the loud speaker as a "fun-run." There weren't to be any prizes although everyone who raced was to receive a Participant's Ribbon.

Held Saturday afternoon when the public, as well as conference attendees, was on hand. The event resembled a race in name only. Anyone who owned or could borrow an animal to run with could enter. Contestants simply gathered in a loose group at the Club House area. No qualifying heats, no assigned positions. There wasn't even a track or designated route. No starter fired a gun. The racers simply followed instructions to "take that trail across the river, up over the hill, along a ledge, and back again."

When the call came, "One . . . Two . . . Three . . . **GO!**" contestants took off accompanied by much shouting and encouragement from the many onlookers. No official race ever had a more enthusiastic or laughing send-off and although the trail was unmarked, for the most part the racers could be seen from start to finish.

Charlie Hackbarth, leading J.P. whom he had trained for three months, came in first followed by:

Bruce Wallins enticed Totavi

Dick Doyle leading Bubba

Rick Steadham tempted Don Qixote

Dee Goodman coaching Irqita

Jim Tennant leading Hiram

Steve Komadina hassling Moses

Judy Sealy leading Thumper

Sally German urging K I

Kate Booth leading Nippet

Frank Kulow leading Major Cassidy

Roger Miller leading Chippers

Cheryl McCutcheon leading Breezer

Elise and Ken Switzer with Churi in tow

Those of us who were lucky enough to be in or watch this first-time llama/alpaca/camel race will never forget how much fun it proved to be.

The organizers kept their word about ribbons but not about prizes. Both Charlie Hackbarth, the first man to finish, and Judy Sealy, the first woman, received Bolo Ties made from llama "beans."

Without checking birthdates, Elise Switzer was considered the youngest contestant and Steve Komadina the eldest. No one recorded the relative ages of Churi, K I, Moses or any of the llamas!

It was Churi's first race and probably the first race ever held with llamas competing against alpacas and a camel. Fun? You betcha!

A PHOTO FINISH OF THE FUN RUN



Charlie
Hackbarth
and
JP
comes
in first!

Judy Sealy
and
Thumper
wins
first place
in the
women's
division!



Steve
Komidina
and
Moses
shows
up for
7th place!

SPEAKING VETERINARIANISE:

A Practical Guide to Communicating with your Vet

By Brad Smith, DVM, Ph.D.

College of Veterinary Medicine, Oregon State University

I once overheard a colleague of mine respond to the question - "What foreign languages do you know?" - with the answer, "English, Spanish, Veterinarianise, and a bit of French". While many people are comfortable with English, Spanish, and a bit of French, Veterinarianise is frequently more challenging and considerably less familiar. This language is the alphabet soup of anatomical names, obscure diseases, generic drug names, and other equally unfamiliar terms that form the vocabulary of your veterinarian.

Learning the language takes a minimum of four years and starts the day the aspiring student enters the professional curriculum. It begins with memorizing the names of hundreds of muscles, bones, blood vessels and nerves. It

continues with learning the names of seemingly innumerable bacteria, viruses, and parasites including such memorable names as *Macracanthorhynchus birudinaceus*. When he or she graduates four years later, your veterinarian can discuss in great detail the layers of the eye, the fluid dynamics of blood flow, and the action of a staggering array of drugs. Unfortunately in the process of learning this new language, it is sometimes easy for vets to overlook and forget the fact that their clients may be unfamiliar with some of their terminology. To help address this problem, this article is intended to be a practical pocket translation guide to understanding and communicating with your veterinarian. While far from complete, this guide will hopefully help you and your vet start speaking the same language.

ANATOMY - Anatomists are not content to use terms such as the front or top of an animal and have developed their own terminology. Frequently used terms include **DORSAL**, **VENTRAL**, **CRANIAL**, and **CAUDAL**. Dorsal and ventral refer to the top and bottom of the animal respectively, so the dorsal surface of the animal would include the back, the upper surface of the neck and the top of head. In contrast, ventral is the opposite of dorsal and is frequently used to describe the underside or abdomen of an animal. Cranial means towards the head while moving in a "caudal direction" indicates movement towards the animal's rear end.

BELLY TAP - This is not an exotic dance but a slang expression for abdominocentesis - a technique by which fluid is collected from the abdomen. The fluid can provide important information about the presence or absence of an abdominal infection (**PERITONITIS**).

CBC - CBC is a shorthand notation for a **COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT** and is one of the most useful diagnostic tests routinely run on a blood sample. A CBC report will include a **PCV** (packed cell volume), a measurement of what percentage of a blood sample is comprised of **ERYTHROCYTES** (red blood cells). In a normal healthy animal, the PCV will vary between about 28% to the mid 40s%. This means that an animal with a PCV of 33 % has 1/3 of its blood composed of red blood cells and the remaining 2/3 by plasma, white cells, and other substances. The term **ANEMIA** is used to describe an abnormally low PCV and is indicative of a wide range of problems.

Other useful pieces of information from a CBC are the **WBC** (white blood cell) and **DIFFERENTIAL** counts. The WBC count is a measure of the total number of white blood cells per cubic millimeter of blood. Both unusually high and low WBC counts are significant, with elevated WBC counts sometimes indicating the presence of an infection. Low WBC counts sometimes also suggest an infection with white cells being used faster than they are being produced. The differential count is a measurement of the relative abundance of the different types of white blood cells. A typical differential would report the percentage of **MATURE** and **BAND** (immature) **NEUTROPHILS**, **LYMPHOCYTES**, **EOSINOPHILS**, **MONOCYTES**, and **BASOPHILS**. Both the relative abundance and absolute numbers of each of the different types of WBCs provides important information about an animal's health.

SPEAKING VETERINARIANISE: (con't)

CHEM SCREENS - Slang for running a chemistry profile on a blood sample. The chemistry profiles are sometimes also referred to as a chem panel. A routine chemistry profile will measure 15 to 25 different substances in a single sample. Ions included in a screen frequently include sodium, potassium, chloride, calcium, phosphorous, and sometimes magnesium. This information is useful for evaluating mineral imbalances and can provide information about a wide range of disease conditions.

Chemistry panels usually also measure a group of liver enzymes that are routinely released into the blood. This group of enzymes are collectively referred to as **HEPATIC ENZYMES** and can provide important information about the functioning of the liver. Certain types of toxic plants, some diseases, and other problems can significantly change the liver enzyme concentrations and is a diagnostically useful piece of information. Additional information includes serum concentrations of **BUN (BLOOD UREA NITROGEN)** and **CREATININE** which can provide information about kidney and liver function.

CULTURE AND SENSITIVITY- One of the common problems encountered in camelid medicine is bacterial infections of the uterus. Before antibiotic therapy is started, it is sometimes necessary to insert a sterile cotton tipped swab into the uterus and then "streak" (smear) the collected material onto the appropriate medium, e.g. a blood agar plate. If bacteria are present on the swab, they should grow and multiply on the plate until sufficient numbers are present for identification in 2 to 4 days. Once a bacteria is isolated, a series of antibiotic impregnated disks will be used to determine which drugs will be effective in treating the infection (sensitivity). A culture and sensitivity is not restricted to uterine infections and can be appropriate for the diagnosis and treatment of other bacterial infections.

DYSTOCIA - This term refers to any difficult birth. Examples would be a cria with a front leg back or a female with too small a pelvis to permit passage of the cria. One of the corollaries of Murphy's Law is that really tough dystocias only occur in your most expensive females late at night when the vet is out of town.

ERYTHROCYTES - A fancy name for a red blood cell.

FECALS - Used as in "lets do a fecal" and usually refers to collection of 20 - 30 fresh manure pellets in order to measure the number of parasite eggs per gram of feces. Results are usually reported as eggs per gram (EPG) of feces. If the fecal samples are not going to be taken to the veterinarian's office within an hour or two, the sample should be placed in a closed plastic bag and refrigerated (but not frozen).

GAUGE - This archaic term is most commonly used in reference to the diameter of needles with the higher the gauge number, the smaller the needle. For example, an 18 gauge 1-1/2" needle is medium sized and would be appropriate for collecting a blood sample from an adult llama while a 21 gauge 1" needle is substantially smaller and would be appropriate for vaccinating a cria.

IgG - This is an abbreviation for immunoglobulin G, one of the circulating immunoglobulins (antibodies) found in all mammals. IgG provides one of the first lines of defense against infection, with adequate blood IgG concentrations being essential for good health. IgG is also present in very high concentrations in **COLOSTRUM**, the antibody rich first milk from the dam that provides initial protection for the neonate.

IM, IV, SQ, IP - This is the alphabet soup describing the multiple ways that fluids and drugs can be administered. IM (intramuscular) injections are frequently administered deep into the muscle on the inside of the rear leg while SQ (subcutaneous) injections are given just under the skin in the same area or behind the front legs. IV (intravenous) injections are usually given into the external jugular vein in the neck. IV injections in the llama can be tricky because the carotid artery lies deep to the jugular vein in most of the neck region. Unfortunately, injections of some drugs into the carotid artery can be fatal. Blood samples are frequently collected from the same vein using a needle and syringe, or a Vacutainer, a sterile tube. IP (intra-peritoneal) injections are administered directly into the peritoneal (abdominal) cavity. IP injections are sometimes used for plasma transfusions in crias with the antibodies being absorbed from the cavity into the circulatory system.

LIBIDO - another word for sex drive. The male with good libido is the one that won't let you shut the gate before he is breeding an open female.

OPEN - Frequently used in reference to a non-pregnant female.

SPEAKING VETERINARIANISE: (con't)

PERSISTENT CL - Normally if an animal ovulates but does not conceive, the corpus luteum (CL), a temporary ovarian structure that produces progesterone, will regress (die) within a few days. As the progesterone concentrations decline and the **ESTROGEN** (another ovarian hormone) concentrations from the developing **FOLLICLES** (fluid filled structures containing the egg) increase, the female will become receptive and breeding will occur. Occasionally the CL will not regress even though conception has not occurred and will continue to produce progesterone. Although the animal is not pregnant, the elevated progesterone concentrations will make her nonreceptive to a male. A persistent CL can continue functioning for weeks to months and may require medical treatment.

PLASMA and PURPLE TOP TUBES - The difference between plasma and serum is the presence or absence of **FIBRINOGEN**, one of the critical components of the clotting process. When a sample is collected without an anticoagulant (a substance which prevents clotting), the fibrinogen is converted to fibrin and a clot is formed. In contrast, if an anticoagulant such as EDTA is added to a fresh blood sample, coagulation is prevented and the sample can be used for running a CBC (see above) or making blood smears. Plasma tubes containing EDTA normally have a purple top or cap - ergo - "Let's get a purple top on this gal".

PREG CHECK - A verb used as in "let's preg check her". The English translation is "let's see if she is pregnant". Preg checking can involve palpations, ultrasound, or measurement of serum progesterone concentrations.

PROGESTERONE - A steroid hormone produced by the corpus luteum. The progesterone prepares and maintains the uterus in an appropriate condition for a developing cria. Elevated progesterone concentrations are required to maintain a pregnancy.

RECTALS - Used as in "lets do a rectal" and refers to rectal palpation. The technique involves sticking a gloved and lubricated hand into the animal's rectum and feeling the reproductive tract through the wall of the rectum. Rectals are very useful for feeling the ovaries, uterus, and vagina and are of particular value in pregnancy diagnosis and fertility evaluations. While generally safe, there is always the possibility of the rectum "tearing" or rupturing during the procedure.

SERUM and CLOT TUBES - When blood is collected without an anticoagulant (a compound such as heparin or EDTA), the blood will form a clot within a few minutes. Following centrifugation, the clotted blood will settle to the bottom of the tube and the straw colored serum to the top. The serum is then poured off (harvested) and used for numerous tests. Collection tubes not containing an anticoagulant are frequently referred to as serum or clot tubes. Serum (clot) tubes normally have a red top or cap, hence the genesis of the expression "collecting a red top".

SETTLED - Pregnant. Used as - "She's always settled after the first breeding".

TORSIONS - UTERINE or INTESTINAL - This is a twisting (or torsing) of an organ. Uterine torsions are quite literally a twisting of the uterus along its long axis. A 180 / torsion means that the uterus has done a half flip while a 360 / torsion indicates that the uterus has done one complete rotation. The problem has to be corrected, either surgically or with external manipulation, prior to delivery of a cria. An intestinal torsion refers to a twisting of the intestines which may manifest itself as COLIC (abdominal pain).

TRICHOBEZOAR - A great name for a hair ball, a problem occasionally seen in malnourished crias and other situations.

Many of the problems that arise between owners and their veterinarians can be traced to poor communications - owners not clearly describing previous medical problems, prior treatments, their plans for the animal etc. - and the veterinarian not adequately explaining the nature of the problems, options, expenses, and treatments etc. The best way to avoid misunderstandings is to ask lots of questions and clearly express your wishes and concerns about your animals. As an owner, if you are uncertain or unclear about a procedure, a diagnosis etc - ask for clarification, and don't be bashful about asking your veterinarian to more fully define a term or expression if it is unfamiliar. From a veterinarian's perspective, it is very easy to sometimes forget that all owners don't speak fluent veterinarianise, and to use technical terms to describe a problem. So if you don't fully understand an answer don't be hesitant about asking for a more complete' answer - most vets are happy to spend the time and effort to make sure that you are both speaking the same language.



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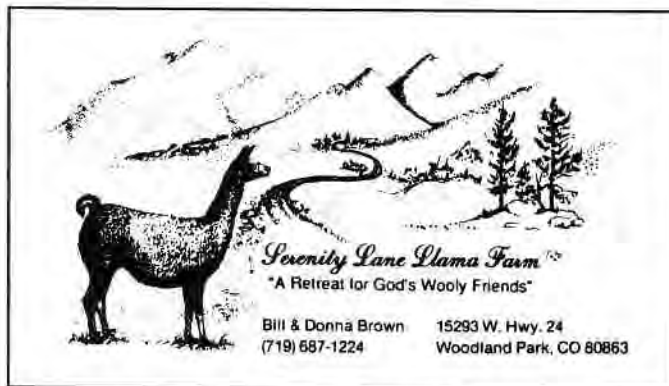
By Fay Earley

Kay Meyer, Day Gould and their seven year old daughter, **Alyson**, are living 7 miles east of Boulder, CO. Dan is Audit Director of State Colleges of Colorado. Kay is Assistant Secretary, C. V. Board of Regents. Day is from Michigan and Kay is from Oregon and Missouri.

They became interested in llamas through reading, National Western Llama events and spending time at Rocky Mountain Llamas. Dan and Kay plan to have

llamas for packing and events. Alyson is interested in showing her llama and hopes to have a girl llama.

Paul and Lea Nordstom live on seven acres located four miles north of Gunnison in the area called Castle Mountain. They came to Gunnison 3 years ago from eastern South Dakota. Paul is a College Administrator. They purchased their two girls last fall from Hast Llamas and hope to build a high quality, well-trained breeding stock.



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Newsletter Editor: Jo Stewart Riley
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