

1994

RMLA



November

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association



**New Llama Owners on
the Colorado Trail!**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Reid Langerman

With the RMLA Conference behind us and the end of the year's events drawing to a close, we, as an organization, can look back at a very successful year. RMLA is experiencing a very healthy growth with membership topping 550 (23 new members at the conference). We had the greatest number of participants ever at the Fairplay Race and it seems all the other events that we have been involved with have seen this growth also. RMLA members are getting out and showing the public just how great our animals really are. *Caring for Llamas* is going into its 5th printing and the 4-H Books are ready. We are progressing with Camelid Kids with ILA. We are looking into more exposure at the National Western Stock Show which will offer more ALSA performance classes, thanks to RMLA.

With all these great things happening we should ask ourselves, "In what direction do we want RMLA to go in the next year and the next several years." The RMLA Board is looking for any and all input from our members on this

topic. I know there are quite a few of you who have good ideas so write or call one of the Board members to let us know what is on your mind. Remember, this is your organization. We, as a Board, want your opinions, otherwise it will be what the five of us decide.

This year the Board is planning to meet in different regions so that more members can participate. The first meeting was on November 6th in Durango. Sorry we met before the Newsletter could announce it but we were in a hurry to start the year! Topics at this meeting included: National Western Stock Show Participation, Camelid Kids contract with ILA, whether or not to support the Llama Strategic Planning Group, future new RMLA sponsored events.

I saw a lot of positive energy come out of the conference this year and I hope that this same type of energy can stimulate the whole llama industry.



ALL ABOUT OUR FRIEND LU WILLIAMS

By Bobra Goldsmith

The only unhappy news to surface at our recent RMLA Conference was that llama lover and long-time RMLA member Luanne Williams had undergone cancer surgery on Thursday, September 29, the day of our pre-Conference clinics. It was also announced that Lu would have to sell her entire herd because of this illness, the cost of treatment, and not being able to look after them herself. Her kind neighbors cared for the llamas throughout this initial period.

The good news is the Lu's surgery went well and she has started a program of chemotherapy which will last several months. But in her usual plucky way, Lu has faced the fact that she MUST sell all her beloved llamas. Nevertheless, when her health is better, she

still wants to be involved in the llama community with the friends she has come to cherish over the years. (Lu was our elections chairman for several years.) She welcomes calls from friends, she says, and doesn't mind questions about her health, though, to quote Lu, "I need my friends and their help, but I don't need any pity!"

Many people attending the RMLA Conference saw the portfolio of pictures of Lu's herd, which I brought to the conference and expressed interest in them. Since the Conference, Lu's llamas have been moved to my farm, Rocky Mountain Llamas in Longmont, where they may be seen. Lu's herd is a small, but well-crafted group of llamas issuing from

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN LLAMA & ALPACA ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DEADLINES FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

January Issue <i>December 1st</i>	July Issue <i>June 1st</i>
March Issue <i>February 1st</i>	September Issue <i>August 1st</i>
May Issue <i>April 1st</i>	November Issue <i>October 1st</i>

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership year runs from January 1 through December 31

Adult Individual Membership: \$30.00 (One vote, newsletter, directory entry)

Farm or Ranch Membership: \$50.00 (Couple or two individuals associated with one business; two votes, newsletter, directory entry)

Junior Membership: \$10.00 (18 or under; no vote, receives newsletter and 75% reduction in conference/show fees; must have adult member sponsor.)

RMLA also provides an extensive lending library of books and videos to members.

For further information please contact Judy Sealy

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The information contained in this Newsletter is not intended to be a substitute for qualified professional advice. Our readers are encouraged to consult with their own veterinarian, accountant, or attorney with any questions concerning their animals or business operations. RMLA is not responsible for any losses resulting from a reader's failure to heed this caution.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 21-22: 10th Annual National Western Stock Show; Denver, CO

The Performance Classes will start at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday night. Halter Classes will start at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. To receive the Premium Book, contact the NWSS, 800-336-NWSS (9677). The deadline for entries is December 1st.

June 8-11: Estes Park Wool Market; Estes Park, CO

A fiber festival in the Rockies. Come and enjoy a fun and educational four days. Workshops will be held on June 8 & 9 and contests, demonstrations, vendors and animal shows on the weekend, June 10-11. For more information contact: Estes Park Wool Market, Fairgrounds, Post Office Box 1967, Estes Park, CO 80517, 303-586-6104.

June 10-11: Wool Market ALSA Llama & Alpaca Show; Estes Park, CO

A wonderful 2 days of friendship and showing our beautiful animals. Come and enjoy the premier llama and alpaca show. The llama show has more ALSA classes for adults and youth than any other show in the country. If you have any questions about the show, just call Jo Riley, 303-823-5409 or Lougene Baird, 303-688-5445. If you have any ALSA related questions, call Jo Riley, ALSA, 303-823-0659. Hank Kauffman, from Ohio, will be the Head Llama Judge and Virginia Christensen, from Nevada, will be the Alpaca Judge and second Llama Judge. We will have 2 classes competing in the arena for most of the two days. This will allow for shorter days and a quicker show. Look for the Premium Book in February and send in your registrations quickly. Remember, as in the past, stalls will be assigned according to the entry postmark.

THE TAX-MAN COMETH . . .

by Jo Riley

Bobra Goldsmith was just recently audited for Colorado Sales Tax on her llama operation. She got the surprise of her life. According to Tammy L. Sorensen, Senior Revenue Agent, Bobra is liable for sales tax on all sales of llamas for the past 3 years.

Ms. Sorensen admits that the Regulations are not clear but her Supervisor want to "follow the letter of the Regulations and not the intent."

Years ago, Bobra was told to pay Colorado Sales Tax on all geldings and has done this over the years. What is new is that she now has to pay Colorado Sales Tax on all breeding stock.

In a very simplified way the Regulations that are being followed (or not followed depending on the interpretations) are as follows:

Regulations 26-114.4

(5) All sales and purchases of neat (the book says neat not meat!) cattle, sheep, lambs, poultry, swine, and goats: all sales and purchases of mares and stallions for breeding pur-

poses . . . (more about fish) are exempt from taxation under part 2 of this article.

Regulation 26.114.6

(6) All sales and purchases of feed for livestock, including horses or poultry . . . are exempt. (Horses were added effective July 1, 1980.)

Regulation 26-114.6

"Livestock" means domestic farm or ranch animals such as cattle, sheep, swine, goats, **llamas**, rabbits, horses, and poultry. "Livestock" does to include animals such as dogs, cats, and birds kept as pets for pleasure and recreation.

The Board of Directors of RMLA have been notified as to this problem. We are hoping we can get the Regulations changed to include llamas and alpacas in the exemptions for breeding stock without going to court. If any of you have any information about this issue, please call Bobra Goldsmith, 303-530-5575.

1994 RMLA CONFERENCE -- PARTICIPANTS

by Kristin Baird

There were 152 participants at the Longmont, Colorado Conference, held the weekend of September 29, 1994. As part of an effort to provide increasingly better Conferences and meet the needs of RMLA members more fully, a survey form was included in each registration package. Members were requested to take a few minutes to complete the survey form and drop it off for later evaluation.

A relatively high 26% of the participants took the time to think about the Conference and respond to the survey questions. This was the first time that RMLA had undertaken a Conference survey and the results contained some surprises as well as some food for thought in planning the next Conference.

Members who want to have a voice in planning the next Conference should indicate their willingness to serve on the Conference Committee. It is not too early to begin planning a bigger, better, more exciting Conference! Contact Cheryl McCutcheon, 505-378-4503, and become a part of the process!

As pointed out in an accompanying article, the 1994 Conference was a success financially as well as in the eyes of the participants. But on to the survey results:

Some 75% of the respondents said they heard about the Conference through the RMLA Newsletter or as a result otherwise of being a member of RMLA. The next highest response was that they had heard about it through word of mouth. This is an important tool for future Conferences to use: tell members of the llama community about the Conference and supply them with registration forms and materials.

There were three pre-Conference clinics: Neonatal, an ALSA Show Clinic, and a TTEAM clinic. All of the respondents who attended these clinics stated the clinics were what they had expected when they signed up for them; that they were worthwhile; and that they should be offered again.

Overwhelmingly, all attendees at the 20 different seminars said that the seminars were good

and should be offered again. High on the list of favorites were: nutrition, ill thrift, llamas 202, unabashed shearing, fiber preparation equipment, male/female reproduction, llamas 101, my llama won't get pregnant, felt making, wool combing, and basic llama training. The responses to basic classes like nutrition, genetics, pregnancy, and general llama health were the most well-received. This is heartening, as the industry is learning new information, and is in a constant state of advancement in the care of alpacas and llamas. To find that owners are eager to learn new information when seminars such as these are offered is a real incentive to offer them in the future, bearing in mind that education about our animals is something of concern to us all.

The three panel presentations were well received: ask the vet was the most well attended, but choosing the right animal and packing systems were both responded to favorably.

Respondents recommended unanimously that these panel subjects be offered again.

This Conference was somewhat different than those in the past, in that the price of the Conference included all the meals. There was concern on the part of the planning committee as to whether this would affect attendance by making it appear the Conference was expensive. But, it was felt that by including meals, those in attendance would have more reason and opportunity to stay together, share ideas, and join the camaraderie of being with people they had never met or hadn't seen for a while. In fact, it turned out that meal times were great opportunities to sit and share stories and information and participants were almost reluctant to return to the seminar rooms!

82% of the survey respondents said that meals should be included in the Conference fee. Very positive comments were made about the food both from the standpoint of quantity, quality, and variety. "Grazing" was great! The Conference fee, for reference, was \$75.00 excluding the cost of food. 95% of the respondents said this price was right. (Remember inflation in the future!)

1994 RMLA CONFERENCE (CON'T)

An option that is under consideration is the idea of holding "mini" Conferences in different areas, with either the same speakers traveling to different locations to share their knowledge with local llama and alpaca owners or different speakers at different locations. 70% of the respondents thought this was not a good idea, preferring the opportunity to meet with and discuss business with everyone in RMLA.

Some ideas for future Conference offerings from the members who responded are:

• For future (presently non-llama) owners -- a very basic course. The question is: how do we reach those people? RMLA members could forward a list of possible owners to the office for inclusion in the mailings about future conferences, recognizing that many people might be reluctant to purchase without knowing more; attending a Conference could help them learn.

- Increased emphasis on fiber, vet care, ethics, training, and packing
- Shelters, fencing for different terrain, feeding systems, watering systems, heaters, etc.
- Driving and grooming demonstrations
- A preparation and ring class for performance classes,
- Fencing and corrals - building and designing
- How to market llama and alpaca by-products (fiber, manure, etc.)
- Talks by long-time breeders and owners - a sharing of their knowledge
- Range and pasture management -- current trends and those based on experience
- Guard llama seminar

- 4-H clinics - for leaders and 4-H members
- New and controversial topics and speakers (Roling was one offered at this Conference)

- Marketing

Some suggestions were received regarding the formats and covering Conference costs:

- Open more sessions to the public -- such as packing demonstrations and courses
- Get the word out to members about the benefits of attending -- it's not the same old things
- Videotape the seminars and offer them for sale at reasonable prices to RMLA members and others in the alpaca and llama community
- Keep Conferences in central locations and at reasonable prices (members who attended one of the seminars at each of the offered times found their cost per seminar to be just about \$8.00 per session)
- Send a mailing about the Conference to all members separate from the newsletter
- Bring in that guitar player
- Schedule the Conference so there is no conflict with Shows or the Taos Wool Market
- Get newspaper coverage to promote public sessions and get new members
- Have flyers available for members to hand out to ranch visitors, llama buyers, etc.
- Use a telephone tree to orally inform all members about the Conference
- Announce the dates of the Conference at least a year in advance so members can put it on their busy schedules and plan to attend.

A BIG THANK YOU

by Jane Stout

Just a short note to thank everyone involved in the RMLA Conference '94 in Longmont, Colorado. To all of you who worked so hard to make the Conference a success and the seminars informative; we appreciate your ef-

orts in a job well-done. Our only complaint was not being able to go to each and every seminar. We look forward to the next Conference.

Do You Feel Lost in the Crowd?

LANA Can Help You Stand Out

LANA stands for **Llama Association of North America**. However big and over encompassing that may sound, **LANA** is about **you** and **your llamas and alpacas**. **LANA** is about the individual, the family, the rancher, the people who know llamas and alpacas first hand. The people who make this industry something more than just business. **LANA** is personal.

LANA's annual conference is focused on the new comer—to meet and feel he/she has made a new friend in getting to know some of us who have been in llamas or alpacas for awhile. The conference is for sharing, learning, and most of all, absolutely most of all, to have fun with our animal partners.

For those of us who sell llamas and alpacas, **LANA** helps promote them. To help those who do not yet own llamas or alpacas to see and learn what makes our normal friends the special creatures they are.

LANA's Newsletter helps to share information among members and others in the lama community. It helps all its members communicate ideas and brings us all in our distant places, closer together.

LANA's Board of Directors and other dedicated volunteers strive to improve and update the benefits that **LANA** provides its members—take notice of the consistent low cost of being a **LANA** member. And, to help ease the burden of even that, the newest benefit through **LANA** membership, is the group discounts negotiated with providers of goods and services. With these discounts, you can save many times the cost of **LANA's** annual membership fee (call for details).

LANA Membership Application

- Owner Membership**one yearincludes one vote plus full rights and privileges\$30.00
- Owner Membership**three years ...same as above for a three year period\$75.00
- Breeder Membership** ..one yearincludes all rights and privileges of Owner Membership\$60.00
.....plus being listed on Breeder List (sent to all inquiries)
- Breeder Membership** ..three years ...same as above for a three year period\$150.00
- Youth Membership**one yearmust not be over 18 years old.....\$15.00
.....includes all mailings and listing in directory....
.....does not include voting privileges

Note: The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st.

NAME(S) _____

RANCH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ FAX NUMBER _____

Call Virginia Christensen at (702) 265-3177 for a membership packet or write to:

LANA, PO Box 1882, Minden, NV 89423.

CONFERENCE YOUTH PROGRAM

by Michele Abbott

This year I had the wonderful adventure of putting together a youth program for the RMLA Conference. Besides trying to come up with something interesting to an age group that could be quite diversified, it was a challenge to come up with something a little original that was not a repeat of previous conferences. After some brain storming and a lengthy phone conversation with none other than Dee Goodman, this is what we decided:

. Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the wool room, we had carders of several different varieties, spinning wheels, a loom, and an endless supply of wool. Ready and waiting with my helper, Linda Ivy, we greeted our youthful participants. Four kids were enrolled, all boys. With a little anxiety about the interest boys would have in carding, spinning, and weaving, we began. They loved it! Starting with carding, they couldn't wait to feed the wool into the machine, turning it with a vengeance. We blended some colored wool and came up with the exact color that they wanted. They took turns and were nearly in a shoving match to see who could card next. They listened intently to any and all instructions that we gave them.

Now we were on to the actual spinning of the wool they just created. Nothing like moving parts to catch a boys attention. They were amazingly adept at learning a very complicated art. After a very short time and turns at a much coveted seat at the wheel, they were spinning. There were times that I was sure I saw smoke coming from that wheel that had probably never been peddled like that. Our last task at spinning was to ply the wool they had just spun. No problem for these four experts.

By now Linda had the loom set-up and ready for her first customer. Their mission, if they chose to accept it, was to make a mug rug. They picked their own color schemes and it was all over but the weaving. They made some wonderfully nice weavings of their own design. Give kids a chance to create and they will.

Any spare time they had was not once filled

with horsing around. They were either at the carders blending colors and experimenting with different ideas, at the wheel spinning some more, or at the loom watching what was going on there. We couldn't have asked for a more attentive or creative group of kids.

We were off to Pizza Hut for lunch and back at 2:30 for a slide show with Dr. Tim Thompson. Tim is a vet from Platteville, and a friend to many of you. He had a variety of slides that addressed veterinary issues: fencing, feeding, poisonous plants, events of nature that could effect llamas, crias, and several other topics that were not only food for thought for these kids, but a source of some very humorous comments from these young minds. Tim held their attention for the entire presentation and spent some time at the end to answer questions and listen to their stories. They really seemed to enjoy themselves and Tim's selection of slides couldn't have been better for this team.

At 3:30 Charlie Hackbarth was ready to show these boys how to saddle and pack a liama. Three of these kids have llamas and one is going to have them in the near future. Charlie took them step by step through saddling, including having each of them doing the cinches and knowing how tight to make them and how to tell when they are not tight enough. He showed them how to pack and weigh the panniers and how to put them securely onto a llama. They were not sure at first about reaching under a liama for any reason but soon had it down pat. By the time Charlie had finished, these boys had saddled and unsaddled a llama single handed and were proud of it.

These boys, by now, were ready to share the adventures of their day with their parents and get their hands on some food.

Saturday found us at the base of the Flatirons above Boulder getting ready to take these guys and their assigned llamas on an all day hike. With lunches, jackets and rain gear in hand, they were ready to saddle up the llamas and load their panniers with the necessary items to go packing

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THE NEW SUBJECT AT THE CONFERENCE: ROLFING

by Bob Riley

A good conference should cover the basics of the llama industry for the new owners, like nutrition, breeding and training. There should be some meat to it like advanced packing, uses for fiber and the latest on Guard Llamas. But we felt there should be something NEW that might be considered way out on the fringe for even the old hands of the llama industry. Rolfing by Briah Anson was the something new!

Briah began with an explanation of what Rolfing is and how it began. One could write an entire book on this subject . . . and Briah has! But for most of us a simple explanation will suffice. Rolfing is the realigning of the connective tissue of the body. The procedure takes a minimum of 10 one-hour sessions over a 10 week period. It should not be confused with a session with a Chiropractor or even deep massage. She showed slide after slide of before and after photos of people who, in some cases, had severe structural problems. The results were very dramatic. Follow-up photos years after the treatment showed the long-lasting effects.

In addition to Rolfing people, Briah has rolfed many animals as well. She had before and after photos of a rider and her horse. Both were out of alignment and demonstrated poor conformation. After Rolfing, both the rider and her horse appeared to flow together as one as they moved.

We viewed a tape of Indian Peaks Camacho Chief. In the tape, Alaine Byers, owner of Chief, acknowledged that the Chief displayed poor conformation. She read a letter from CSU that explained that Chief was suffering from a long-lasting lower back injury. A video was made of Chief before and after Rolfing. It should be noted that due to time constraints, Chief was rolfed for only one day for several hours. This was hard on the Rolfer and the llama. But even under less than ideal conditions, the results were very positive.

After viewing the tape, an old veteran of the llama industry, who has observed Chief as being "sickle hocked," remarked that, although he still felt chief's conformation was not perfect, it was much improved.

A question was asked whether a genetic defect could be cured and Briah felt that it might, although at this time could not give a definite yes. Someone else asked if genes could be altered by Rolfing so

that a genetic defect was not passed onto the offspring. I was sitting there quietly listening when that question was asked and I thought, "of course not"! But to my surprise, and the surprise of most of us in the room, Briah said that may be possible and indeed there was some evidence that may be the case.

It is times like this I remind myself that there was a scientific fact that was endorsed and proven by the scientific community, endorsed by all major universities, government and scholars. That fact is that the world is flat . . . prior to 1492. So, I will be keeping an open mind on the subject of altering genes through Rolfing, but for now we will be breeding the old fashioned way.

After her talk, even those who had been skeptical of Rolfing were asking for the name of a Rolfer in their area. Those of you who missed Briah's discussion of Rolfing truly missed a thought provoking session.



Briah rolfing one of Jerry Dunn's llamas at the Conference.

AN EXPERIENCE WORTH SHARING

by Rob Price

I finally found the time to sit down and put together an article that I have wanted to write for a long time. I thought it may be of interest to the readers of this publication to hear some of my family's experiences and triumphs.

We began our "llama" experience back in October of 1992. On a mild fall night, my mother, who has been raising llamas since 1989, came to the door of our temporary rental house and told my daughter she had a surprise for her and that she needed to come outside to see it. We honestly had no idea of the magnitude that this surprise was going to have on our lives. We all went out to find her pickup and stock trailer parked in front of the house. Peeking over the side of the trailer, there he was, the first of what I now hope to be many wondrous llamas. We really had no place to put him at that time because we were in the process of having a new home built, and it was going to be at least two months before we could move in. But, as you may guess, as soon as my daughter Tiffany (age 11) saw the surprise, there was no turning back. My mother told us we could buy the llama from her or if we didn't want him, she would keep him for her own. Well as I said, the decision had been made as soon as my family (Teri, my wife; Tiffany; and Aaron, my son) and I saw this llama.

The term "Dude" was the "in" word at the time for the kids and since that was the name the prior owners had been calling him, we decided it fit him well. Thus, my daughter came up with the name "Little Dude" for our new llama. We purchased the llama from my mother, but were unable to take possession of him until April of 1993, after moving into our new home and building a pen and shelter for him. At that time, the first 4-H llama club was just forming in Weld County. This is when the work and fun began. Tiffany was voted in as the charter president of the club which, thanks to the help of all of the leaders and club members, ended up being a time of enjoyment, rather than a struggle.

We began our training by haltering our feisty llama for the first time in late April and, as you may expect, the drag was on. He typically would set himself or run like a maniac in all directions trying to free himself of this new and terrifying device we had put on his face. We were extremely fortunate to find that Little Dude was a fast and willing student of the many lessons he was about to learn. We borrowed a TEAM training video from my mother and together, as a family and a llama, we began learning the finer points of training.



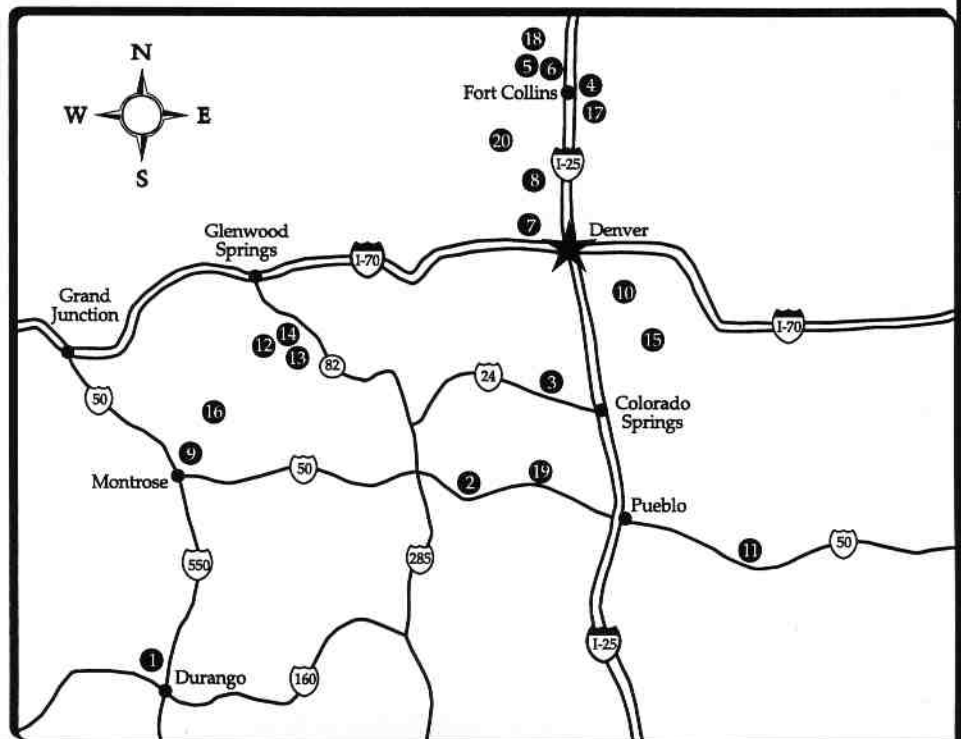
**Tiffany and
Aaron Price
with winning
ribbons
from the
Weld County
Fair
August 7, 1994**

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Alpaca Breeders of Colorado

1. **Chester and Beverly Anderson**
LAPLATA ALPACAS
2886 County Road 308
Durango, CO 81301
(303) 247-1720
2. **Ron and Linda Batt**
BELFRY ALPACAS
P.O. Box 9
Coaldale, CO 81222
(719) 942-4697
3. **Bill and Donna Brown**
SERENITY LANE LLAMAS & ALPACAS
15293 W. Highway 24
Woodland Park, CO 80863
(719) 687-1224
4. **Doug and Judy Brown**
MARQUITA RANCH ALPACAS
5028 East County Road 40
Fort Collins, CO 80525
(303) 221-5421
5. **Neil and Anita Eckstrom**
THREE HAWK RANCH ALPACAS
2720 Stove Prairie Road
Bellvue, CO 80512
(303) 498-0729
(800) 221-9798
6. **Michael and Robbie Guidry**
COTTONWOOD FARM
LLAMAS & ALPACAS
3709 West County Road 50
Fort Collins, CO 80521
(303) 482-0350
7. **Bob and Barbara Hance**
HANCE RANCH
11818 W. 52nd Avenue
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033-2032
(303) 422-4681
8. **Walter and Helga Hantscho**
Contact: Bobra Goldsmith
ROCKY MOUNTAIN LLAMAS
7202 N. 45th Street
Longmont, CO 80503
(303) 530-5575
9. **Tom and Anne Harper**
LOG HILL LLAMAS & ALPACAS
3868 Ouray County Road 22-A
Montrose, CO 81401
(303) 249-2516
10. **Ronald and Marie Hinds**
SERENDIPITY FARM
LLAMAS & ALPACAS
9349 N. Tammy Lane
Parker, CO 80134-7511
(303) 841-4889
11. **Gary and Maggie Johnson**
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1500 Washington
Rocky Ford, CO 81067
(719) 254-4358
- * At the Lazy-O Ranch:
1907 Snowmass Creek Road
Snowmass, CO 81654
(303) 927-3818
- *12. **Mary Goodman**
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(303) 927-2484
(305) 576-4709
- *13. **Julie Otis**
SNOWMASS ALPACAS
(303) 927-3199
- *14. **Mike and Don Skinner**
NORTH AMERICAN ALPACAS
(303) 927-2591
15. **Robert and Susan Leonard**
LIONHEART ALPACAS
P.O. Box 600
Kiowa, CO 80117
(303) 648-3630
16. **Linda Lindsey and Steve Wolcott**
INCA TREASURE ALPACAS, LTD.
P.O. Box 6
Paonia, CO 81428
(303) 527-4586
17. **Teri Phipps & David Schieferstein**
FIREWEED RANCH
35005 Weld County Road 41
Eaton, CO 80615
(303) 454-3142
18. **Scott S. and Susan L. Scott**
ALPACAS OF COLORADO
6011 Alpaca Trail
Bellvue, CO 80512
(303) 493-5732
19. **Charles and Helen Stewart**
STEWART ROYAL ALPACAS
190 Steinmeier
Canon City, CO 81212
(719) 275-2701
20. **Phil and Chris Switzer**
SWITZER-LAND ALPACAS
P.O. Box 3800
Estes Park, CO 80517
(303) 586-4624



AN EXPERIENCE WORTH SHARING (CON'T)

One of the first things we were told was that llamas are social animals and they need a companion. Since Tiffany had caught a lamb in the catch-it-lamb contest the prior summer, we put Little Dude, the catch-it-lamb, and a lamb we purchased, together as pen mates. Dude was unsure of the lambs, but the lambs thought of Little Dude as a big mom. As soon as we put them together for the first time, the lambs began chasing Dude around the pen trying to make friends. Within minutes, Dude and the lambs were best of buddies.

As part of the lamb training, we were required to exercise them by walking and/or running them from one to two miles each night. It really helped the lambs and Dude to go on these nightly walks together. What started out as a real dragging contest for all three of them, soon turned into an enjoyable, relaxing time for everyone. This was the beginning of our obstacle training with Little Dude. As we would walk down the ditch road, we would introduce him to new and, sometimes very challenging obstacles; everything from a small cement ditch to jump over, to crossing a ten foot wide, full irrigation ditch on a two-by-twelve bridge. To my surprise, Dude actually crossed the large ditch with less incident than jumping

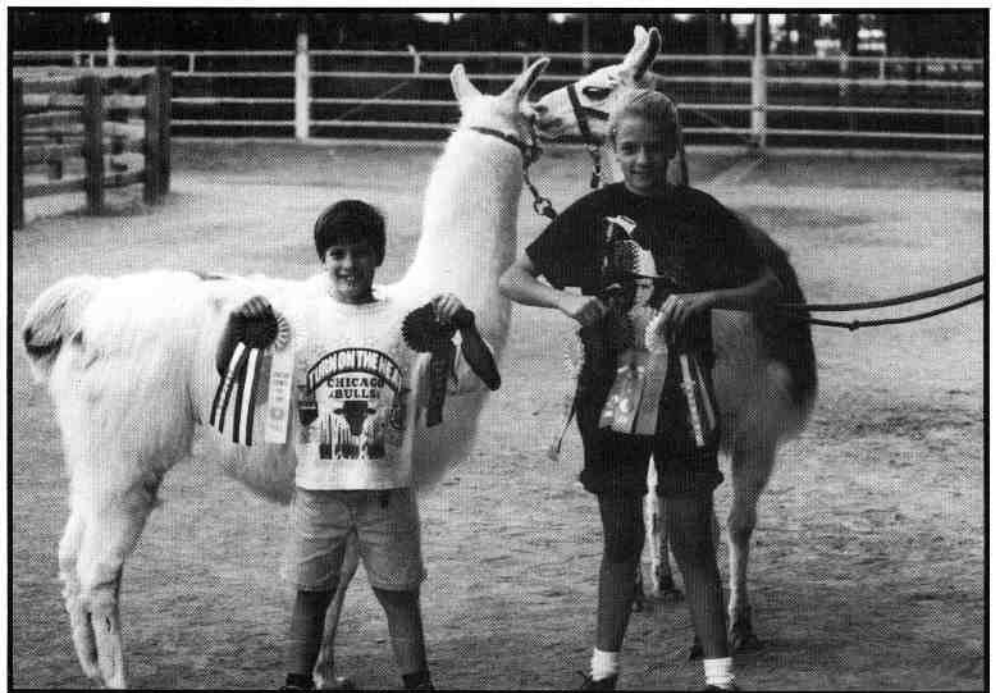
over the small cement ditch. With a lot of talking and coaxing, he sure-footedly walked across the bridge. On the other hand, when it came to crossing the small ditch, he set himself and would not proceed. He was on one side and I was on the other pulling for all we were worth. Then suddenly, he decided to come. To my surprise, I was right in his landing path. Wham, he hit me and knocked me to the ground. Since then, I have learned to stand to the side. But, more importantly, he has learned to cross the ditch with hardly a notice.

We didn't have a whole lot of training time prior to the first show of the season which was the Estes Park Wool Market in June. This wasn't the first time that Tiffany had shown a llama, because she had shown her grandmother's llamas for her in January at the National Western Stock Show. But, it was the first time to show her own llama and the training that they had both done. Well, the two months of hard work paid off. Tiffany came away from Estes with a first in Junior Showmanship even though Dude was a little unsettled during his first big show.

In a short month and a half after Estes, the local fair was already on us. This was a tough

**Tiffany with
Patches
Aaron with
Little Rock**

**Boulder County
ALSA Youth Show
August 9, 1994**



Continued on page 14

HOLIDAY FIBER PROJECT

By Sharon Beacham

Here's an easy and fun holiday project—a good way to use alpaca and llama fiber that's too short for spinning. It can be felted into Christmas tree ornaments or small toys. This would also be a good craft project for school-age children.

First, pull out any coarse guard hairs; they resist the felting process. Also remove any debris you don't want included in the final product. Card six to eight hand carders full of fiber. It only takes one transfer between the carders to get these short fibers into parallel alignment. Keep the small carded batts separate from each other. If you are using coarse or uncrimped fiber, it will be necessary to add sheep wool during the carding process until you have a blend that will felt easily.

Make a hot soapy solution using one tablespoon laundry *soap*, such as Ivory, to each two cups of water. If you are making several ornaments, a slow cooker set on low will keep the water at the right temperature.

Pull one batt in half crosswise. Roll a half between your palms into a round shape. Dip it into the hot water, then continue to roll and squeeze the ball between your palms until it becomes firm and holds its shape. Dip it back in the hot water several times and increase pressure as the ball starts to hold together. This will take about a minute. Wrap the other half of the batt around the ball, dip, roll, and squeeze until it adheres and becomes firm. It might take two minutes to get this next layer to felt. Use more hot water and pressure if it doesn't want to stick. Add more layers until the ball is the size you want. Use fiber that has been dyed a bright color for the

outer layer if you like. Or, make a design with colored yarn wrapped firmly around the ball and felted to the surface.

Rinse the ball in plain hot water, squeeze out as much as possible, and set aside to dry. Speed up the drying process by putting one ball, or several, in the toe of a nylon stocking. Tie a knot to hold the stocking tight around each ball. Put in the clothes dryer and leave for several cycles.

A solid felt ball makes a good toy for a child or cat. It will bounce when thrown or float in the bathtub. Make several for someone who likes to juggle.

Use the above procedure to make tube and oval shapes to glue and/or sew together for toy alpacas, llamas, dogs, humans, etc. A small, flat matt of felt can be cut into shapes for ears or other details. Small noses or mouths can be made by snipping the surface with sharp scissors tips. You may need to felt the cut surfaces with a fingertip, or seal with a product such as Dritz Fray Check. Use glue to fasten short lengths of guard hair for wigs.

Decorate the ornament or toy with waterproof felt tip markers or embroidery stitches. Use an old, stiff toothbrush to make the surface fuzzy.

If you plan to make a lot of Christmas tree ornaments, you can save time and reduce the weight by using Styrofoam balls for the centers. It will take three to four layers of fiber to cover the Styrofoam evenly. If the first layer is wrapped around the "equator", the second should cover the "poles", for best results. Glue and pin a loop of yarn to the top for hanging on the tree.



BARKMAN BENEFIT

Thank you and RMLA for your generous donation to the Barkman Benefit. It is with the help of people like you and your organization that events like this can be successful. Please forward our thanks to everyone involved.

Again, thanks.

Warm Regards,
Bob Dal Porto
Herald, California

Editor's Note: This was a benefit that Llamas Magazine organized for Paul Barkman who is seriously ill.

AN EXPERIENCE WORTH SHARING (CON'T)

time for the family, but would turn into a rewarding one as well. It was now time to say a final tearful farewell to the lambs, which was a new experience for all of us. It was also the first time for all of the kids in the 4-H club to really compete head to head with each other. Everyone who had anything to do with the llama program should have been proud and pleased at the success of the show. Everyone may not have won a ribbon or trophy, but the club and the county, in my eyes, were all winners. This was the end of the first chapter in what, I hope, will be an excellent project for 4-H throughout the country. Tiffany came away from the fair with a trophy as champion in Showmanship and a ribbon for reserve champion in Obstacle class. It was nice not having to say a final farewell to the animal you had worked so hard training, but were instead able to keep him and further his training, as well as the kids, in the following year.

Since Dude no longer had any pen mates, we decided that now would be a good time to purchase our second llama. In fact, he came to live with us the day after the kids had shown their llamas at the fair. (Boy, were we in for a real surprise!) The new llama, Patches of Light, was quite a change from what we had been used to with Dude. The first thing he did, when put into the pen, was run full speed into the five-foot horse fence on the far end of the pen. He then turned around and ran back full speed into the gate. We still aren't absolutely sure why he did it, but we think that it was probably Teri's potbellied pigs, which are in the pen right next to the llamas, that spooked him.

We thought he was all calmed down, so we proceeded to take Dude out of the pen and into the garage where we could groom him, because Teri was supposed to be going back to the fair for Ladies Lead. Well, I just happened to look up, and there was Patches walking by the window. He had either charged the gate and forced it open or had somehow undone the chain which we used to secure it. (Looking back now, I would say it was the latter. We have found that Patches is

very adept at using his mouth to do anything from untying himself and all the other llamas to removing blankets that we have put on the others to keep them clean.) Not trusting him to be left alone, I spent most of the afternoon sitting out back with him on a lunge line while Teri took Dude back to the fair for her show. We spent several restless nights after that, looking outside periodically to make sure that Patches was behaving himself, until we decided that he was finally comfortable with his new home.

Because of time constraints, timing, and an extra day between shows, due to the way the National Western Stock Show was set up in January, we did not attend in 1994. But, we were still very active in January, as we purchased our third llama, "Cheyenne Prince" and in February, our fourth llama, "Redrock Tyler". Cheyenne was seven months old and Redrock was eight months old at the time of purchase. Neither llama had ever had any training done with them, and so, were as wild as they come. It took two of us to even get them into the trailer to bring them home. We were prepared for the worst when we brought them home, but, to our pleasant surprise, neither of them had a bad experience in getting acquainted with Dude and Patches or their new surroundings.

Cheyenne and Dude were taken on as Tiffany's 4-H project for the year and Patches and Redrock were taken on by Aaron (age 8) for his "first ever" 4-H project.

We began working with all four of the llamas whenever the weather and time permitted; mostly weekends when we could take advantage of the warmest part of the day. It wasn't until the first of April that we were really able to start spending a lot of time in training again.

We have found that each of the llamas has a very distinct personality. Dude is majestic, and typically well behaved. Patches is the comedian and mischief maker. Cheyenne is outgoing and pushy and Redrock is shy and leery. Redrock has really been the biggest surprise to all of us, as he was the hardest to get acquainted with and

AN EXPERIENCE WORTH SHARING (CON'T)

seemed to be the hardest one to train. But, he and Aaron have become very close and work very well together.

Before we knew it, June and the annual Estes Park Wool Market were quickly on us and it was time to see if our training had paid off. We had gone from zero training on the new llamas to what we hoped would at least be enough to not embarrass all of us. Aaron went into the show ring for Showmanship with high hopes, but came away a bit disappointed at not placing. But, the Leading Llama 4-H Club was still very well represented with Tiffany and Dude placing first in Showmanship and Chris and Clint Swain, from the club, right behind her in second and third places respectfully. It was a very good start to a very rewarding weekend. Dude placed first in Novice Public Relations, Cheyenne placed first in Junior Public Relations and, in total, we came away with three trophies and nine ribbons. We now had about six weeks to do some additional training of the kids and the llamas before the Weld County Fair.

We were not to be disappointed at the Weld County Fair as once again the llamas and the kids performed extremely well. It was Aaron's turn this time to shine the brightest as he won overall champion with Tiffany right behind as reserve champion for overall show points accumulated. Tiffany, Chris and Clint repeated their performances from Showmanship at the Estes Park Wool Market with Aaron coming on strong with his first placing in Showmanship at fourth place. Aaron went on to place first with Patches and second with Redrock in Obstacle and third in Public Relations with Redrock.

We barely had time to catch our breath, when three days later it was off to the Boulder County Fair (an ALSA show) where again the kids and their llamas had a huge success. Chris Swain was champion this time in Showmanship, Tiffany was reserve champion and Aaron was third moving up one more rung on the ladder. Aaron and Redrock were the champions in Public Relations with Tiffany and Dude in third and Tiffany and

Cheyenne placing fourth. Tiffany and Dude also took top honors in the Junior Obstacle class.

We then had a short break, of a week and a half, prior to the Colorado State Fair (an ALSA show). We let the kids pick which llama they wanted to take, limiting each to only one, because we felt it was too far to haul all four llamas in a two-horse trailer. Tiffany choose her old faithful Dude and Aaron chose Redrock. It was the first time any of us in my family had ever been to the State Fair and, I must say, it was really a great time. Not only the showing of the animals, but the entire fair was very enjoyable.

Tiffany redeemed herself in Showmanship, placing first with Aaron advancing one more step and placing right behind her in second. Obstacle was a bit harder on them this time with neither of them being able to back their llamas efficiently (something we need to work on) and so they placed sixth and seventh.

This has definitely been a year to remember. We have been very fortunate in showing our llamas. But, if I had to select a high point in our experiences with the llamas, it would have to be the time at the State Fair when we were walking the llamas for exercise and an elderly lady in a wheelchair asked to pat Little Dude. She stroked him softly at first, admiring Dude's thick soft wool, not knowing how he would react. Dude leaned his head down touching hers and blew in her ear. She then wrapped her arms around his neck and began to cry saying, "I always wanted a beautiful animal like this one". This was a reward far more precious than all the ribbons and plaques received throughout the season.

I know that the kind of success we achieved is probably rare, but I truly hope that all the kids who are now participating in either 4-H or just showing in ALSA shows, find that the rewards are not only in winning, but in working with these wondrous, gentle animals.

We look forward to seeing all of you in the coming years and welcome anyone to come see us at the shows or at our home, the Little Dude Ranch.



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

by Lougene Baird

The 1994 RMLA Conference was attended by 134 llama and alpaca lovers! These attending had the opportunity to participate in one of the three outstanding pre-conference seminars. These were all at their capacities and those attending got the Conference activities off to a great start. During the Conference itself on Friday through Sunday, 19 dynamic speakers shared their alpaca, llama, medical, packing, and other knowledge freely with all who were present.

A special welcome to the 26 new members of RMLA who made up approximately 20% of the Conference attendees.

The silent auction, held Saturday at the banquet, was a resounding success. An amazing 42% of the items offered had tie bids and were thrown open to bidding at the Banquet. A spirited bidding followed. Proceeds from the silent auction eventually totaled over \$1,400 for the benefit of RMLA.



PRE-CONFERENCE ALSA SHOW CLINIC

by Lougene Baird

This ALSA Show Clinic, conducted by Howard Kerstetter, was attended by twenty llama owners interested in learning how to correctly show an animal as well as how to select the best animal to take into the Showring. The morning session was filled with valuable information such as how to assess an animal's soundness and conformation. The positive and negative traits of llamas were explained and participants taught how to look for these before their future purchases as well as their use as a guide to selecting show animals.

The class then learned how these traits affect llama conformation and movement. Standing with an animal in the Showring was explained as

being just a small part of what is looked for in halter classes. The way in which an animal moves reveals much about its conformation and soundness, which is why an understanding of positive and negative traits in the bone and muscle structure is so important in selecting the animals to be shown.

The afternoon session was spent outside the classroom, working with several llamas with slight to obvious conformational problems. The class enjoyed the opportunity to actually observe, firsthand, some of the negative traits that were discussed earlier in the classroom and see how these traits affected the movements of the animals.



Dear Stillwater Minerals,

Thank you so much for sponsoring and providing the ribbons for the Boulder County Fair Llama ALSA show. It was another great experience for the kids to further their show and training experience.

It is people like you who make the shows possible.

Thanks again, *(Left to Right)*

Tiffany Price and Little Dude

Aaron Price & Little Rock

Clint Swain & Matchless

Chris Swain & Lucky Chance



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RMLA DISPLAYS

by Jim Osmun

The new RMLA booth went into service at the Estes Park Wool Market. Other showings included the 4-Corners Llama and Alpaca Bazaar, the New Mexico State Fair, and the RMLA Conference in Longmont.

The previous booth is being used in the form of two table-top displays with new shipping cartons. These displays are easy to ship, quick to set up, and can be used where the large new booth will not work. The table-top displays still need some renovation, new pictures and graphics. One of the booths was returned with significant water damage to the case, the accessories suitcase, and pictures.

The displays are an important part of our public relations program. We need the talent, suggestions, and contributions from our members to improve what we now have. The booths need more new photographs and improved graphics.

Your help with this on-going project will be greatly appreciated.

PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS

Photographs were displayed at the RMLA Conference. A panel of three judges selected the winners:

First Place Sharon Beacham

Second Place Mark Fisher

Third Place Pat Miltzer

Thanks to Judy Sealy, Jan Redenbarger, and Kathy London for your entries. All the photographs will become a permanent part of the RMLA displays for everyone to enjoy.

I am sure there are thousands of winning photographs in albums, drawers, and closets that we could use in the displays. They are very much needed for our THREE displays.

We still need more photographs for our booth. Please contact Jim Osmun, 303-457-2787, and share your wonderful photographs. If you have any questions, just call Jim and he will explain who easy it is to help!

CONFERENCE EXHIBITS

by Jim Osmun

The 10 commercial and 16 ranch display spaces were full and running over with products and information. The facilities were very nice. The exhibitors did a great job by providing lots of products attractively displayed.

The commercial displays surrounded the RMLA booth. Chris Switzer had the complete RMLA library displayed on 24 feet of table space next to the RMLA booth. The registration table and raffle display were included in the exhibit room.

The main hallway was used to provide four-foot table-top ranch display spaces. Everyone had attractive displays as a result of extra effort to deal with the limited space. Thanks for the cooperation and absence of complaints.

CONFERENCE MUSIC

by Jan Redenbarger

After an informative day of seminars and workshops, conference attendees were entertained Friday evening by Manuel Molina, Peruvian guitarist. The Latin flavor of Sr. Molinas guitar blended beautifully with the "substantial grazing" of the llameros gathering. A thank you to Dee Goodman for supplying the sound equipment.

TTEAM CLINIC REVIEW

Marty McGee, assisted by Dale Pettigrew and Jerry Dunn, taught ten students and seven llamas the basics of TTEAM training. The full day clinic, at Pheasant Hill Farm, focused on stress-free handling techniques. During the morning session, Marty demonstrated how to overcome resistance to haltering, initial work with untrained yearlings, and correct halter fit. After lunch, the participants practiced on inflatable giraffes and then tried their new catching and haltering skills on llamas. Finally, each student experienced how it feels to wear a halter and be led. It's doubtful that any of them will ever fit a noseband too low or yank on an alpaca or llama's head! They left the clinic with books, training equipment and renewed respect for llamas' intelligence.

RMLA CONFERENCE SILENT AUCTION

by Mary Beth Hartsough

The silent auction held at this year's conference was a great success. Our heartfelt thanks to the donors of the thirteen items in the auction. The total received from the auction was \$1,997.00, designated to go to either medical research or the Youth Fund. The highlight of the auction was the announcement of the successful bidder for the young male llama generously donated by Dan and Ellen Schreiner. Tom and Sandi Hardilek had the winning bid of \$1,000.

The fact that there were tie bids on several items served to liven up festivities at the banquet dinner on Saturday night. In order to break the ties, an impromptu live auction took place. Our thanks go out to our illustrious master of ceremonies, Ron Baird, and to the auctioneer (?), Dee Goodman. Of course, we cannot forget the efforts of our strong-arm, umm, Ringmen - Brad Riley and Steve Kyriopoulos. For those of you who were not there . . . you really should have been there.

Just as impromptu was a hastily put together fund raiser of sorts to benefit fellow llama owner Lu Williams, who is seriously ill. \$147.00 was raised as Dee Goodman decided, on the spur of the moment, to auction a strange looking hairpiece made of llama guard hair and that gawd-awful wooden llama we've all come to know and hate that was used for years in the traveling RMLA educational display.

These are our most generous donors:

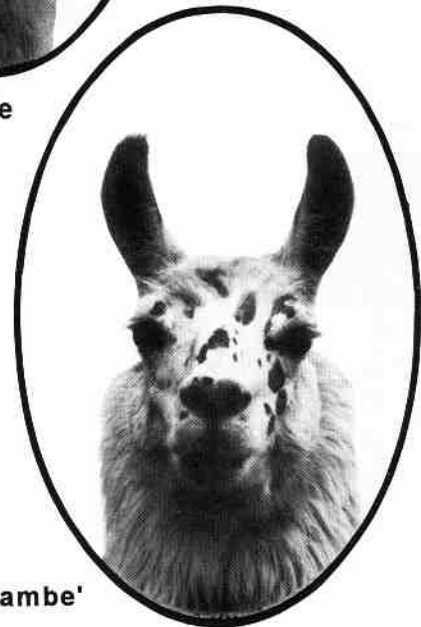
Dan & Ellen Schreiner
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MARKETING

by Linda Kyriopoulos

Most of us are aware of the marketing techniques useful in selling our llamas, but many llama owners are not following the sale through completely. If you are selling to a new buyer, it should be your responsibility that they are educated about the care of llamas. You can provide the new owner with lists of llama-related periodicals, addresses for equipment catalogs, and names of organizations which distribute useful information. Be available and willing to answer questions. Educate them about the necessary vaccinations, haltering techniques (I hope you have provided a halter with the llama!), normal behavior, berserk male syndrome, and if selling a bred female, give plenty of information on labor and delivery! Most of us care about the llamas we sell, and want them to be cared for intelligently. The time you spend will also prevent other llama owners from cursing you under their breath! On many occasions I have been bombarded with questions by a new llama owner who has bought their first llama elsewhere and hasn't been provided with any information. I don't mind helping these folks, but I wonder why the individual selling the critter was so apathetic. One woman frantically left a message on my answering machine saying, "I just picked up this llama, and I don't want to let him out of the trailer until I know where I can buy a halter and what shots I need to give him!" She left him in the trailer for four days until I was back

in town. Why didn't the seller deal with these issues? Do some llama owners even give a strong impression that they don't want to be bothered, so that their customer feels like they need to call someone else with whom they feel comfortable? If I have a good experience dealing with a particular individual, I am more likely to buy from them again. If the experience was lacking, I will most likely take my business elsewhere. A friend had a horrible experience a couple of years ago after an auction. They were excited to finally buy their first female llama. When they encountered the owner after the sale, they were appalled by his behavior. He told them he didn't want to be bothered answering questions because at the price they paid for the llama they were "stealing her"! He was very rude and indignant and their excitement was crushed! Many of the other breeders at the sale were made aware of this man's attitude, and hopefully it has directly affected his business. That type of behavior was inexcusable. Some people may even be driven away from llamas completely if they encounter such individuals. Let's make sure that we are just as friendly after the sale as before. Remember, anyone you encounter may be a potential customer, or repeat customer, and they'll tell their friends about their experiences, positive or negative! News travels fast; make sure it's good news!



MISCELLANEOUS CONFERENCE INFORMATION

John Beacham and Jerry Lee arranged for the tent that was set up in the hotel parking lot. It was used for packing and training demonstrations and to shelter several llamas and alpacas during the day. John purchased, installed and removed the green "grass" carpet that covered the asphalt and super-

vised putting up and taking down the tent.

Sharon Beacham drew the llama for the conference logo, ordered the tote bags and, as RMLA Treasurer, made deposits, paid bills, and wrote a report. Three of the conference planning meetings were held at Pheasant Hill Farm.



NWSS LLAMA FIBER SHOW

Judy Brock, NWSS Llama Fiber Judge, has provided the following information:

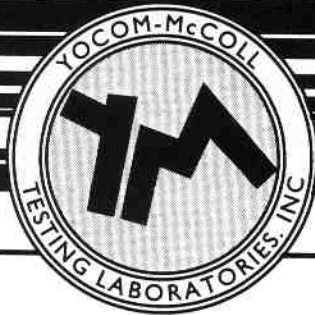
Fiber may be removed by brushing or shearing (RMLA Newsletter, May, 1994). It may be cleaned by hand picking (Newsletter, March, 1994), carding, combing, or a combination of these methods.

Send \$12 for each entry, along with your other show entries, to the NWSS, by December 1, 1994. *The three llama limit does not apply to the fiber show.* You may enter as many as you like.

Send one to two ounces of clean fiber for each entry, by Dec. 1, 1994, to: Judy Brock, 10028 South Turkey Creek, Morrison, CO 80465.



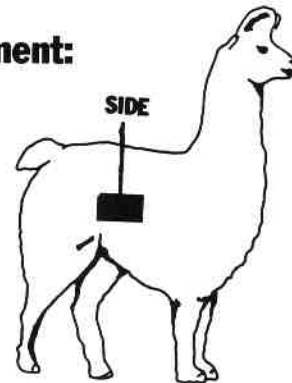
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NOTES FROM RMLA NEWSLETTERS IN THE PAST:

by Erma Hast

From the Year of 1987

January: RMLA participated in the llama show at the National Western Stock Show, Denver, with 121 llamas and 40 owners registered. Committee Chairpersons were grace Shaddeau and Mary Mauz.

ILR presented proposed by-laws to its members for ratification. First organizational meeting of ILR will be May 15, 1987, and will include the election of the first Board of Directors.

March: Sandy Chapman was hired as General Manager for ILA with headquarters in Denver, CO.

Terry and Kathy Price of Phoenix, AZ, published the first issue of *Llama Life*.

ILA just published its newest brochure "Feeding Llamas" by Dr. LaRue Johnson.

Dr. Johnson will be taking his Pre-Natal Seminar on the road under the auspices of ILA.

June: Rocky Mountain Pack Llama Festival was held in Ashcroft, 13 miles south of Aspen, CO.

July: Chama Llama Race in Chama, NM.

Don and Jodi Sleeper hosted a "Novice Llama Packing Workshop," which included a trip to the Pecos Wilderness, New Mexico.

RMLA members provided pack llamas for transporting food and equipment for trail crews working on the Colorado Trail, a 450 mile trail connecting Denver and Durango. This trail traverses some of the most spectacular scenes in Colorado. Llamas were used at Durango and Fairplay.

The Colorado Trail passes through at least 5 National Forests and crosses the Continental Divide twice. The RMLA llama packers hauled over 2-1/2 tons of food and equipment to many different trail crews and covered some 400-plus llama miles. Project started in 1973.

5th Annual Fairplay Pack Llama Race in Fairplay, CO. This is a grueling 3-mile course at 10,000 feet altitude. 46 runners competed this year ranging in age from 10 to 60 years old.

Hosted this year by John Waddle of Crested Butte. Jim and Luanne Hook, the hosts for the first four, are pursuing other interests.

July 31-August 2: Wind River Llama Rendezvous in Lander, WY, included a judging and show standards seminar.

August: Dr. LaRue Johnson of CSU is gathering a herd of 20 young llamas (about 6 months old) for a comprehensive two-year nutrition study. This project will focus on the growth performance of castrated and non-castrated males receiving two distinct levels of dietary protein (10% and 20%).

Peter Nichols of Clark, CO formed the Colorado Llama Packers Association to assist commercial llama packers with advertising and marketing. The Colorado Board of Tourism is working with Peter on this.

September: Jerry Dunn and Bobra Goldsmith have been invited by the Colorado Driving Society to participate in a day-long driving event in Parker, CO. It is quite an honor to be asked to take part in their event.

October: ALSA conducted a judging and show seminar at Estes Park, CO. Officers: Re-elected President, Wally White; Secretary, Erma Hast; Treasurer, Sandy Hackbarth; and elected Vice President was Jodi Sleeper.

October: RMLA Conference in Estes Park, CO, hosted by Jerry Dunn and Alaine Byers. Theme: Llamas by our Design.

RMLA Logo contest resulted in original logo with some changes.

DONATION TO GALA

Dear Folks at RMLA,

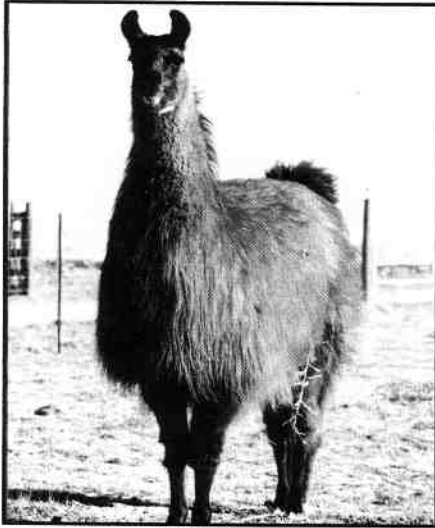
Our Conference Committee sends thanks for your donation to our raffle. The *Caring for Llamas* books are a terrific and popular tool. I'm sure people will stuff the raffle jars!

Thanks for your kind support.

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4-H MANUAL . . . IT'S DONE!

by Dee Goodman

The second edition of the Youth Llama Project Manual has been printed. After months of writing, rewriting and editing, we finished with special thanks to Sharon Beacham, Ingrid Asmus, Lynne von Plutzner, Dr. Tim Thompson, Dr. Paula Thompson, Ron Baird, and Penny Flick. Plus a big Thank You to all of you who patiently waited for the book.

The Youth Project Manual is just \$3.00 per copy which includes shipping. This price is at cost. The Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association has agreed to publish this book, but it was done in cooperation with the Alpaca and Llama Show

Association (ALSA), International Llama Association (ILA), and Llama Association of North America (LANA) all for the good of our future, our youth! In the next year we hope to finish the companion Youth Llama Project booklets which include: Packing, Showing and Showmanship, and Fiber Fun all in the same easy to read format.

To order the Youth Llama Project Manual, at \$3.00 each, or *Caring for Llamas* at \$20.95, postage paid, call RMLA at 303-345-6632 or write us at:

Dee Goodman
Post Office Box 542
Akron, CO 80720

THANK YOU, JUDY SEALY . . .

Judy Sealy is Secretary of RMLA. She is serving her third year on the Board of Directors.

Judy was born in Ohio and grew up in the suburbs of Cleveland. After graduating from high school, she left the Cleveland area. She has worked as a legal and an engineering secretary. In the early 1980's, she was an administrative secretary for Martin Marietta in Denver, Colorado.

Judy and her husband, Curt, have four children. Their two sons, who are good friends, are serving together in the U.S. Navy. One daughter has graduated from college in Denver and their youngest daughter lives at home and is attending Mesa State College.

Curt is a civil engineer with UMETCO Minerals, a part of Union Carbide Corporation. He is involved in the environmental clean up of mill tailings.

Seven years ago, Curt and Judy moved to the Grand Junction, Colorado area. Their ranch - Grand Valley Llamas - backs up to the Colorado National Monument. From their home, they have a view of the monument and Grand Mesa.

Judy's volunteer time is important to her. She makes certain she has time every month to visit nursing homes and work with mentally disabled adults. She formed a girls' 4-H llama group, all the members of which show at county fairs and work on community service. Her 4-H girls worked with Camp Quality - a retreat for children with cancer - and taught the children how to maneuver the llamas through obstacle courses and make crafts that revolve around llamas and their fiber. Judy is particularly happy about this effort.

Judy is also involved in the Mesa County Humane Society and has just completed one year on the board of that organization.

Judy says "Llamas are really my life - everything I do revolves around llamas...computer work, reading, volunteering, travel, vacations are scheduled around llama events - and llama people are the best in the world." The Sealys were encouraged by Erma Hast to attend the 1989 RMLA Conference in Steamboat Springs. It was there they bought their first llama, Gannett, at the Conference auction with the proceeds from their purchase going to the Wes Mauz Memorial Fund.

As Secretary of RMLA, Judy spends an esti-

ated 20 hours per week in front of her "Mac". An entire room of her home is dedicated to the computer, bookcases, filing cabinets, and stacks of information regarding RMLA. As the membership renewal season begins, Judy finds that in November and December her volunteer hours increase to 30 to 35 hours per week.

Each person who requests information about our organization receives a package from Judy. The package contains newsletters, service directory, RMLA information, membership application, and fact sheets on alpacas and llamas. All new members receive this package as well as the owner/breeder directory and a RMLA Library list.

Judy is also in charge of mailing our RMLA newsletter. When the UPS truck arrives with boxes of newsletters hot off the press, Judy meets her personally set goal to have each member's newsletter in the mail within 24 hours.

RMLA has a minimum of 4 Board meetings each year. Judy has never missed a Board meeting.

Judy is grateful that her husband, Curt, gives her time and has the patience to encourage her to pursue her many hours of work on behalf of RMLA.

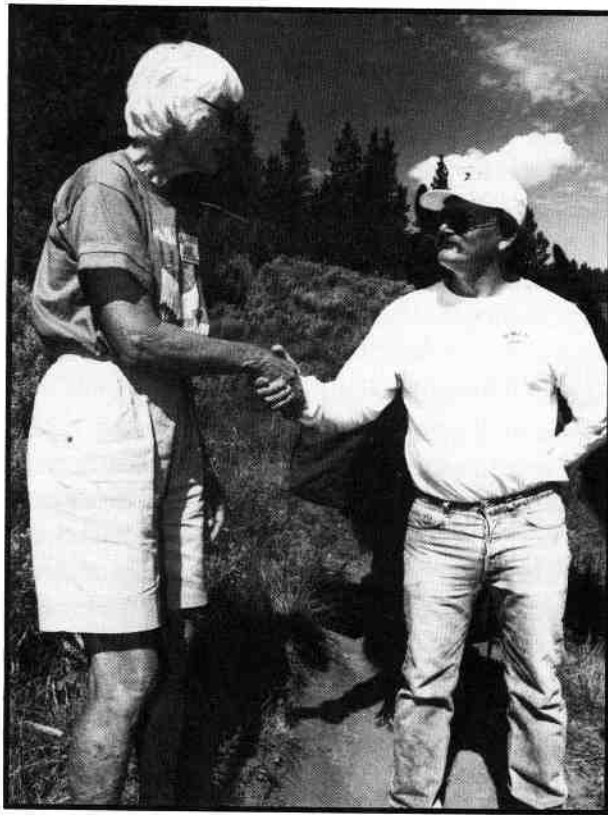
AND WE, THE MEMBERS OF RMLA, THANK YOU, JUDY.



Judy with Uncle Sam



CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL-DONE

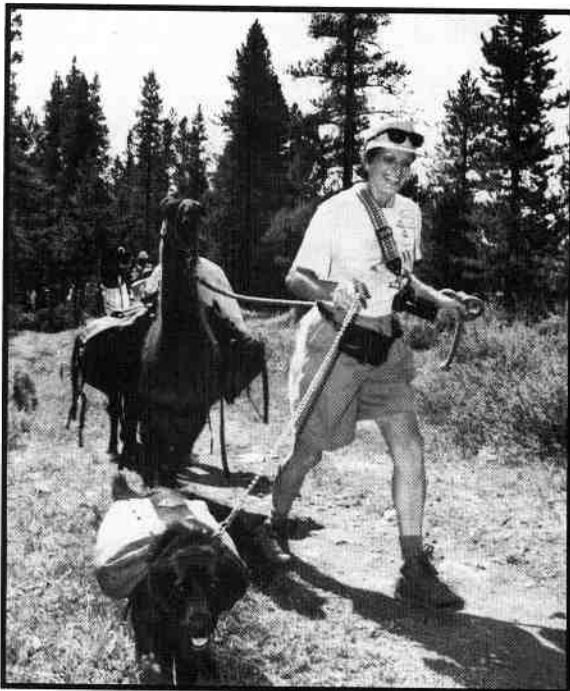


**Reid congratulating
Gudy Gaskill**

by Bob Riley

Gudy Gaskill, who is credited with getting the Colorado Trail built and is affectionately known as the "Mother of the Colorado Trail," is congratulated for a job well-done by RMLA President, Reid Langerman. Reid, along with 14 other RMLA members, attended the dedication of the Gold Hill Trailhead just 2 miles north of Breckenridge on August 20. Looking on as the ribbon was cut were members of the Colorado Trail Foundation, officials of the Forest Service, and, of course, llamas brought by RMLA members Reid, Sharon and John Beacham, Dee Goodman, Lougene Baird, Pat Militzer, Jim Osmun, Steve, Jackie, Elizabeth Qualizza and Brad, Laura Evans, Jo and myself. Reporters for the news media were there to cover the historical event.

After the ribbon was cut, a short hike was taken on the Colorado Trail that stretches 470 miles from Denver to Durango. The llamas carried everyone's lunch up to a meadow overlooking Breckenridge. RMLA members gave all the non-llama owners an opportunity to lead a llama. Once again, the question "what do you do with a llama" was answered.



**CT member walking
with "No Ears"**



**Lunch munchies provided by
RMLA members**

CINDY ROSS AT THE CONFERENCE

by Bob Riley

Over 100 people filled into the auditorium on Friday evening to view a multimedia presentation of a family's life on the Colorado Trail with llamas. This was the night the public has been invited, but Conference attendees would have to wait until Saturday night. Those in attendance were from the Colorado Trail Foundation, people from a mailing list, compiled by Stan Ebel, who have shown an interest in llamas and Boulderites who saw an ad in the paper purchased by Stan Ebel. They held one thing in common . . . a love for the mountains of Colorado


The room grew very quiet as the first slide was projected onto the large screen. Cindy was using two projectors that faded from one picture to the next. Background music included titles such as, "Live each day like you mean it" or "A kid in the wild." My favorite was a segment about the

relationship of Cindy's daughter, Sierra, and her love for her llama, Berrick. The music in the background was an old tune by Elton John, "Friends." This really touched me and summed up why so many of us have llamas.

The slide show lasted over an hour with a question and answer session afterwards. The questions ranged from "What do llamas eat?", "How much do they carry?", and "Where can I get one?" This was truly great P. R. for llamas.

Cindy will present her show over 20 times this fall to different groups all over the country. RMLA can be proud of their effort in supporting Cindy, her husband, Todd Gladfelter, and their two children, Sierra and Bryce, in their llama trek through Colorado.





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DR. LARUE JOHNSON'S NEONATAL CLINIC

by Bobra Goldsmith

It was several years since Dr. Larue Johnson had given his Neonatal Clinic close to home, here in Colorado. Fortunately, for 15 eager llamas and alpacas owners, some from Utah and New Mexico, as well as distant corners of Colorado, this clinic was offered as a pre-Conference activity. It was hosted by my husband, Ulo, and myself, assisted by Diane Solomon, at our Rocky Mountain Llama farm west of Longmont.

At 7:30 in the morning LaRue and his daughter, a vet tech, and Butch Taylor arrived with a pick-up load of plywood and other lumber, several frozen fetuses, an air compressor and other essentials. The fetuses were placed in a large water tank to thaw, while LaRue and Butch proceeded to assemble the plywood and other items into simulators for the wet lab where the students would practice delivering babies in various positions of dystocia. Meanwhile, I made the final set-up of the two projectors and screens required for simultaneous presentation of slides in the lecture portion of the class.

By 9:00 a.m. everything was ready and the students had arrived and were getting acquainted over coffee and donuts. The morning was spent in the lecture with LaRue's detailed discussion with slides of the different ways of managing the

breeding of llamas, the anatomy of the males and females, and the birthing process. Finally, LaRue demonstrated the various kinds of dystocias, using a flexible llama "toy" and a cut-a-way of a simulated uterus. Questions from the students brought up additional points throughout the lecture.

A catered lunch was served in the shade on the north porch, while llamas and alpacas in the pasture grazed on the assembly with some interest. Following lunch, students went to the barn, donned plastic aprons and obstetrical sleeves. By means of the simulators with the llama fetuses, they learned how to diagnose the various malpositions possible during a difficult birth and could practice the necessary techniques for delivering a baby in those circumstances. Another short period of lecture followed the work in the wet lab.

Some of the students had owned llamas or alpacas for several years, other were quite new owners. All felt they had gained a much better understanding of all aspects of breeding and birthing llamas. In addition to gaining so much through his knowledge and expertise in llama care, Dr. Johnson said the proceeds from this clinic would be given to llama research.


LU WILLIAMS (CON'T)

some of her carefully chosen early stock, combined with some selected breeding to known sires. There are eight females and eight males, plus the newest arrival, a woolly baby male born to Peach, daughter of Silver Phantom, by Robertson's Blackhawk.

Since their arrival at Rocky Mountain Llamas, Diane and I have found that all the animals have good basic training and are easy to handle for toenails and general maintenance. They all loaded easily for transportation and are pleasant to be around. This has been a well-cared for herd with excellent bloodlines, good conformation, and dispositions. Anyone thinking of starting a herd or adding to a present herd would do well to look at these animals and the younger off-

spring, who show what sound breeding can do. Call Bobra or Dianne at Rocky Mountain Llamas at 303-530-5575 to make an appointment to see Lu's herd.

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BIC ENCOUNTERS 1 AND 2 (BEARS-IN-CAMP)

by Jan Redenbarger

This was a hot, dry and scarce food for wildlife summer. We planned a llama pack into the Wind Rivers of Wyoming in August. The summer had been especially dry so that open campfire bans were in effect in almost every national forest in the Rockies. When we arrived at the trailhead we were greeted with warnings that the bears were also very prevalent in the area. So, no fires to burn the garbage and extra precautions to avoid bear encounters.

The week had gone really well. We changed our planned route from the area that had the most bear activity, according to returning hikers, and hiked into another drainage. There were six people in our group and four llamas: our three and one rented llama. The llamas were working well although the lead llama seemed more alert or nervous than on previous trips. There was plenty for them to eat, but not much of the lush grass that we usually find in the high country. We set-up camp near the end of the valley that we were exploring and had two great days of hiking to the top of Jackass Pass and fishing the holes in the North Fork of the Popo Agie. We thought we should move camp, but the warm afternoon of fishing and swimming with the kids made us lazy and we decided to move early the next day. After a great dinner of fish and curried rice we all retired to the tents. Without a campfire, bed time came earlier since star gazing was a bit chilly with just a cup of tea to keep you warm. We tethered the llamas around the tents at night so that we could hear if anything disturbed them. The kitchen was a distance from the tents and the hanging food and garbage were even farther away. At 2:15 am (digital watches with lights can really illuminate a tent) Jim said, "I heard the rope snap! Do you think I should get up?"

I said, "Let's wait until we hear something else." At that time our First Alert alarm system went off with two of the four llamas alerting right at the tent door! Well, I'm wide awake. Jim was dressed and out of the tent with his head lamp on and fly fishing tube in hand. Our friends Charlie and Connie were out of their tent in similar attire: headlamps, fishing cases and umbrellas. Jim

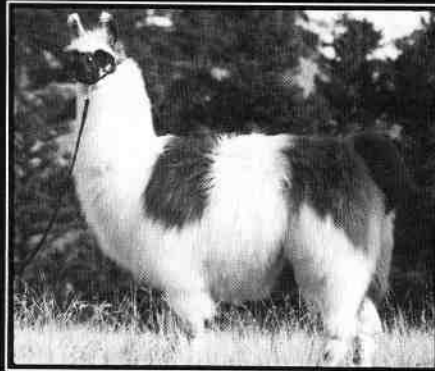
returned from the kitchen area with a very surprised look on his face and leading our rental llama. He had stepped away from the tents and this thing leaped through the air and brushed his shoulder. Talk about adrenaline! Then he saw the tether line. Our borrowed llama had pulled his stake loose and was running around camp, probably looking for a human. I secured the llama and Jim and Charlie went to look at the hanging food to see if it was still there. Next thing heard was "You-bear-get out of here!" and Jim and Charlie were beating feet back to the tents. "It's a BIG black bear in the tree where the rope is tied and it's yanking on the rope and spitting". We collectively decided to stay by the tents and listen for the panniers and garbage to crash to the ground, but nothing happened. Our son asked for a play by play from inside the tent and our daughter never woke up. Time passed so slowly: 3:00 am. Our First Alert alarm systems laid down and resumed cud chewing. "I guess the llamas aren't too concerned any more. The bear must be gone". We decided to look at the food in the morning. Might as well go back to sleep. Right! I looked at my watch every half hour waiting for 5 o'clock to roll around and listened to every microscopic sound. I tried to rationalize myself to sleep, but no luck. When I got up Jim already had the water boiling. Did I sleep after all? The food was still hanging from the rope we had suspended between two trees, albeit a little lower. The rope that Jim heard snap was our tarp bungee that was over the kitchen. I picked up the tarp and found a perfect bear paw print from our pre-dawn friend. We moved camp early that day.

Our other bear encounter was in the FlatTops Wilderness Area. The FlatTops is my favorite area to llama pack in the state. We did this trip out of Sweetwater Reservoir last year and wanted to go back this year to enjoy the wildflowers, fields of Forget-Me-Nots and butterflies. The last two days in we decided to hike out halfway so that the last day we would be back to the vehicles by midday. It would be my daughter's 5th birthday and she wanted to swim at Glenwood Springs. Me too. The last night in we hiked down Turret Creek and

Continued on page 41

MC Hammer = Star Maker

★★★★★★★★★★★★



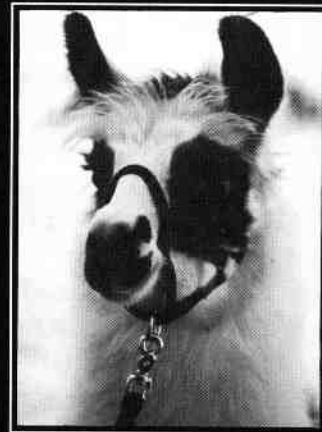
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THE ULTIMATE MEASURE OF LOVE

by Sandi Burt

Editor's Note: During July, following the devastating Glenwood Springs Fire, I was looking out my office window and saw flames on top of the mountain to the north of us. We prepared to evacuate and protect the house. We never were in immediate danger but it was the closest I ever want to be! Later I read the following article in the LANA news and was touched. Not only is it a story about love but has great, practical advice for all of us.

Sometimes it's hard to describe what love and caring really is. I have a story to tell that conveys my definition. Don and I were returning from our Gold Country Llama Association meeting on Sunday, August 7, from the Battista's home near Auburn, when our daughter, Tristin, called on the car phone and told us there was a major fire near our ranch. As we entered Grass Valley, we could see the large plume of smoke towering over the town and all of the memories of the 49er fire of 1988 returned. We had been evacuated from that fire also. As we raced homeward, we could see the fire planes and helicopters circling above. When we arrived at the house, Tristin had already turned on all of the sprinklers in the pastures, had driven all of the stock from the dry pastures into the barn, and was putting halters on the llamas. Even in those hectic moments, I marvelled at her cool head and efficiency.

Immediately, the phone started ringing; everyone wanted to help. The Brooks' Ranch was in immediate danger and they needed help fast. Don hooked up one of the trailers and took William Rounds, Jr. up to the Brooks'. Once the llamas were loaded, and the trailers were heading out, Don said the flames were about 100 feet from the property. The Brooks had females inside the trailer and the males were tied to the back, so they had to drive slowly. In fact at one point, the flames caught up with the vehicles and they had to drive through them. Back at our ranch, I received a call from neighbors who said they were going to Elaine Inglis' ranch since she was alone with her llamas and might need help. Elaine was only a half mile from the Brooks'. Meanwhile, the Rounds' were bringing their llamas from next door down to our place and suddenly people started pouring in. The Dudas and Jennifer Johnson seemed to know exactly what to do. They were haltering and dragging

llamas from every direction up to the front of the house and tying them to every post and tree they could find.

Panic was starting to creep in when we realized we only had one small trailer left at the ranch. Suddenly Don, with our four horse trailer, and Grant and Shannon O'Conner appeared with a van and trailer attached. Loaded in minutes, Grant volunteered to drive our trailer and Shannon followed with a full van and trailer. Then we received devastating news on the phone. There were approximately ten rigs waiting to help us out on highway 49 but the CDF wouldn't let them in! All of the roads were closed to livestock equipment coming in. You could take them out but you couldn't return.

Since the Dudas had already left with the small trailer, we had NOTHING left but our store van. Billy, our ranch foreman, and the guys came up with a brilliant plan. I was told to load the van with llamas, go out to the highway, but not to cross the blockade line! When I approached highway 49 and slowed, I could see all of those wonderful llama folks waiting at the corner. I swung into a driveway and was surrounded by Greg and Sue Sykes, (from Marysville!), Carter and Sue Ames, Phil and Linda Reitz, Joan and Pete Thompson, Lynn Beadles and Lon Ilanke (Maria was home acting as a central phone base.) These folks came from as far away as Auburn and Lincoln! They all grabbed a lead and headed for their rigs with llamas in tow. Helen Gibson and Lynn rode back with me to load up another bunch.

We had beat the system by ferrying back and forth. I headed back, we met Joanna Boer and Georgia Dow who had sneaked in on a back road. Marilyn Miller now swears her standard van is a four wheel drive vehicle, since she came in on a virtually impassable road trying to get to Joan

Continued on page 32

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THE ULTIMATE MEASURE OF LOVE (CON'T)

Mayerle's ranch nearby. Lorene Grassick was able to sneak in by telling the officers her mother was ill and in the area.

We loaded another group and returned to the highway to be met this time by the Battistas, the Brooks (who had returned to help others), Lois and Jerry Sykes and the original crew who had returned for a second load.

At last all of the animals were out except for Elaine Inglis' llamas who were in a stock trailer at the neighbors. So off went Grant and Shannon to rescue that group! By this time, the fire fighters were getting a handle on things and the fire was slowing.

Our hosts at the horse ranch were absolutely delighted with the llamas and couldn't believe we could put so many females in one arena. We had to do that since we didn't know all of the dams and crias and we didn't want to risk separating them. Unknowingly, we even had a young intact male in there. Not to worry though; all he wanted to do was to get away from all of those spitting women, and kept standing by the door until he was noticed.

Even in the face of possible disaster, there are still things to make you smile. Our "Cheech" is a guardian gelding for the females. When he noticed that we were loading all of his beloved gals, and leaving the guys for the last loads, he performed the most bizarre behavior. He rolled on his back with all four feet in the air. We ran over, thinking the worst and even rocked his legs back and forth. Still, he wouldn't get up. Finally, Don put a lead rope on him, assured him he was going with the girls, and he happily jumped up and beaded for the "girl trailer." Someone laughingly said he was probably showing his belly so someone might think he had a teat too!

The next evening, after the loss of twenty structures and almost 600 acres, the fire was fully contained, Elaine Inglis, Eileen Rounds and myself were finally glad to come home to our own beds. We decided to wait to move the animals back until the next morning since everyone was so exhausted. But guess what? The next day, here were helpers AGAIN! Helen Gibson had organ-

ized some of the first crew and Madeline Johnson to help us move sixty head back to their homes.

It was interesting to hear from the news media that "The llama community was very organized in the evacuation of their animals" and I think we even impressed a few of the local authorities too!

Repeatedly, I have been reminded of the camaraderie of the llama community, and once again I have seen it in action. This to me is a true measure of love and caring. All of us are so lucky to have friends such as these.

I hope readers can benefit from our experience. Remember, once out, you may not be able to return! It really helps to have all of the small ranchers move their animals to one central staging area. This way, the vehicles can be used to their best advantage. Get together with other llama owners nearby and **FORM A PLAN!**

Know the back roads that the authorities might neglect to close. Have a halter and lead rope for every llama on your ranch. Especially the CRIAS. They become confused and no one needs to be chasing them. EVERY llama on your ranch should be trained to load in a van or trailer. They may be moved in an unfamiliar vehicle. Have in mind a final destination, obviously not down-wind from the fire.

Establish an exchange area where outgoing vehicles can stop and lead animals to waiting rigs on the other side of barricades. Every member of your group should have a map of the area with ranches and roads highlighted. If you hear of a fire near your friends, don't wait to be called, head directly out to those most in need. You might be able to get in before authorities close the road. However, never put yourself in danger!

Extremely helpful is having someone, slightly outside of the area, to man the phone and help coordinate efforts. For someone just heading into an unfamiliar area, it's great to be able to call one person who is being advised as to what roads are open and what is happening on the inside. For us, a cellular phone is a necessity.

Finally, be prepared!



MEMBERSHIP NEWS!

By *Judy Sealy*

RMLA has reached and surpassed all past membership figures and attained a total of 550 members! Our growth will continue to excel with all our great members who have expressed to others the benefits they have received through RMLA. Keep spreading the story!

The "new member list" for November does not represent all those who joined RMLA during the conference. Those individuals will be listed in the next newsletter.

Robert S. Raymond

2515 Arkansas
Lawrence, KS 66046
913-841-8534

Rita London

675 Brentwood
Palisade, CO 81526
303-464-5626

Bob & Cathy Dewald

6537 Vesuvius Rd.
Evergreen, CO 80439
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Rachel Tanner

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JUNIOR MEMBER

Douglas & Judy Brown

MARQUITA RANCH ALPACAS
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Fort Collins, CO 80525
303-221-5421

Jim & Karen Conyngham

BARTON CREEK LLAMAS
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Austin, TX 78746
512-328-8715

Pat Marquis

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Bellville, TX 77418
409-865-2998

Donna Bowman

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Grand Junction, CO 81502
303-242-0468

Mindy Simon

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David McCutcheon

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Barbara Wingert

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June McCutcheon

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Kris Hill & Valerie Young

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Telluride, CO 81435
303-728-9698

Ron Batt

P.O. Box 9
Coaldale, CO 81222
719-942-4697

Jack & Linda Kutscher

SNOWCREST LLAMAS
83 Jed Smith Rd.
Ward, CO 80481
303-459-3568

Doug Severson

6613 Dublin Loop W. #3
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
719-531-9160

Jeannie Flavin

SANTA ROSA ALPACAS
25788 Richmond Hill Road
Conifer, CO 80433
303-838-7513

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Jennifer Shotwell

460 Foothill Road
Hollister, CA 95023

LET'S SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

If you know of new or potential llama owners who don't belong to RMLA, please send their names and addresses to **Judy Sealy**. She will send them a membership packet.

TELEVISION MARKETING

On September 8, the Denver public TV station, Channel 6, aired a new program called the "Spirit of Colorado." The first show included alternative livestock.

Alpacas were featured as part of the program with Phil & Chris Switzer at their farm, Switzer Land Alpacas & Llamas in Estes Park, Co. A variety of alpacas showing different colors and ages were shown. Chris did a little spinning and weaving. Alpaca fleeces and finished garments were displayed. Interviewer, Larry Roderick, did a great job with good questions for both Phil and

Chris.

Llamas were featured at Jack Robertson's ranch west of Denver, Green Valley Ranch. Jerry Dunn demonstrated packing and training. Judy Cox-Sample showed spinning llama wool. Jack expressed many positive points about llamas throughout the section.

Also shown during the program were buffalo, ostriches and emu, plus raptors. The "Spirit of Colorado" is on Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. Be sure to watch it.



LIBRARY NOTES

by Chris Switzer

Articles:

- "Alpaca's Selection" by Don Julio Barreda, Peru - seminar text - September 1994.
- "An Exotic Creature Makes a Useful Change in Careers" by Barbara Holland (*Smithsonian* magazine, August 1994).
- "The Land at the End of the Earth" by Brian Pinkerton (*Llamas* magazine, Nov/Dec 1993)
- "Llama Trek" by Stuart Rosenberg (*Taos Focus* magazine, summer 1994)
- "Ulcers in Llamas & Alpacas" by Dr. Karen H. Baum (*Llama Banner*, June/July 1994)

Video:

- Treasure of the Andes (PBS program) 1993

Wool:

- *Socks* edited by Rita Buchanan & Deborah Robson (Interweave Press, 1994) - donation by Leah Dewald.

In September, I volunteered to do "Story Hour" after school at our local library. Phil

helped me bring a llama and an alpaca so the kids could see them up close and tell the difference. I pointed out physical things and they all touched their wool. Then, we went inside the building to read several books. I chose *Llamas* by Helen Kienlen and Lois Sandercock for the younger children. Then, I showed pictures from *The Llama* by Gail La Bonte and *Llama* by Caroline Arnold. Finally, I read *Tonight Is Carnival* by Arthur Dorros. A basket of wool, a knitted hat and woven scarf, a wooden flute from Peru, plus a costale with rope from Peru rounded out "show-and-tell" and gave the kids a chance to touch things. The two librarians asked the most questions. It was a fun time for all of us!

This sort of thing could be done for a preschool group, Brownies, Cub Scouts, 4-H groups and even summer camp. Just let me know ahead of time and I'll send books for the appropriate age group.

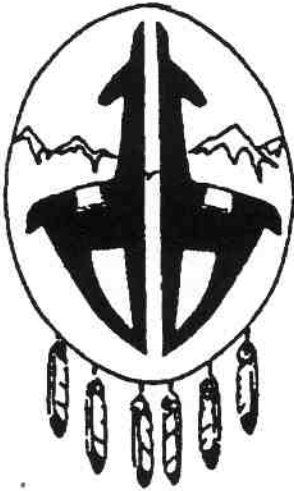


NOTICE: CARPET FOR SALE

The green "grass" carpet, used in the tent at the conference, is for sale. Proceeds will go to the Special Events fund. The carpet has been washed and looks like new again. It makes a good cover for a show stall or trailer floor; manure pellets sweep up easily. With flakes of straw underneath

for absorbency, urine will run through and leave the surface relatively dry. It is offered below cost: \$2.00 per running foot. The carpet is 12' wide; there is a total of 100' available. It can be cut and delivered to your stall at NWSS. Call John Beacham, 303-666-9437.





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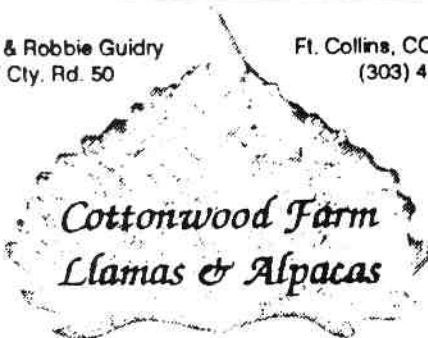
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and
LLAMAS**

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(303) 586-4624

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Estes Park, CO 80517

MINUTES OF THE RMLA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

October 2, 1994

Conference Center, Raintree Plaza Hotel, Longmont, Colorado, 9:15 a.m.
Board members in attendance: Reid Langerman, Sharon Beacham, Judy Sealy,
and approximately 60 RMLA members.

Membership Report: Judy Sealy announced that RMLA membership has exceeded all previous numbers with a current total of 550. Members who joined during the conference, and those who renew before the end of the year, will be credited with 1995 membership. Membership forms for 1995 will be included in the November newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon Beacham distributed a statement of assets and liabilities, current fund balances, and explained various fund activities. Jerry Dunn, representing the RMLA Foundation, reviewed youth fund scholarships and loans. RMLA currently provides three scholarships.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Research: Available Research funds now exceed \$10,000. Reid Langerman listed projects in need of funding including Brucellosis, Meningeal Worm, Immunodeficiency, Choanal Atresia and the Impact Study. Dee Goodman and Dale Morris discussed the history of funding and the need to support the Impact Study by Jay Rais. RMLA has committed \$2,500 and ILA \$5,000. Other organizations and activities have brought the total close to the \$20,000 that will be needed. The study, comparing the impact of llamas and horses on trails and vegetation, will be conducted by the Forest Service and Federal Government. More information, and a request for membership input, will be included in a future newsletter.

4-H: The revised Llama Youth Project Manual is ready to distribute to 4-H and FFA groups. Composition of companion manuals will begin in January. Our goal is to have the Manual officially accepted by the National 4-H organization. Karla Goodman suggested members help by giving llama demonstrations, getting kids involved in group projects, and familiarizing county fairs with our animals. Howard

Kerstetter suggested writing to event managers to compliment and thank them for supporting llama projects and demonstrations.

Pack Festival: Charlie Hackbarth described the Pack Festival which was held near Steamboat Springs. Fifty llamas and friends participated in family events and a cooking contest. The emphasis was on packing and having fun!

Estes Park Wool Market: Show Superintendent, Jo Riley, announced that Virginia Christensen and Hank Kauffman will judge the 1995 show. She requested volunteers to "get involved and join the crew to help".

Cripple Creek Red Light Run: Jim Osmun reported a good turn out. The parade, race, costumes, and kids' competition provided a good family day and visibility for llamas. Sally German was responsible for a great event! There is a need for more help next year.

Fairplay Pack Llama Race: Dee Goodman, organizer, said there were 68 participants. The new "walkers division" was a great success. The race is held in conjunction with a Burro race and Mountain Man Days and attracts 3,000 to 4,000 spectators. Some of the kids who were spectators were loaned llamas to participate in "Llama Lunacy".

New Mexico State Fair: 50 llamas attended. Reid Langerman reported that it was a successful event.

Four Corners Bazaar: This new program, held at the Montezuma County Fairgrounds in Cortez, Colorado, included demonstrations and a private treaty sale. Approximately 500 to 600 people attended.

Education Seminar, 1995: Reid Langerman announced that an Education Seminar will be held at Steve Komadina's Vista Hermosa Farm in Corrales, New Mexico. He would like to find three other locations to host regional

MINUTES OF THE RMLA MEETING (CON'T)

seminars. Volunteers are needed.

Newsletter: Jo Riley, Editor, requested that members submit articles.

OLD BUSINESS

By Law Change: A proposed By Law change was discussed and passed. Article IV, Section 4.2 (New Version) now reads: "Term of Office. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall hold office until the installation of new officers. The President-Elect shall hold office for one year and the following year assume the office of President. *The officers shall assume office on October 15th., following their election.* One person cannot hold two offices simultaneously."

National Western Stock Show: A three member Advisory Board has been established. Members are Bobra Goldsmith, Dee Goodman, and Dr. Tim Thompson. A questionnaire survey of stock show participants helped to determine guidelines for the Board. Stock Show management has been cooperative. The Llama Show has been moved to the last weekend of the Stock Show, RMLA will be in charge of performance classes, a limit of three llamas per exhibitor has been established, and stalls will be cleaned. Dr. Tim Thompson's recommendations have resulted in healthier housing for our llamas. Jerry Dunn recommended we have more events for kids. Howard Kerstetter suggested preliminary judging so that only the best would go on to the show ring, thereby saving time. A lengthy discussion of the cost of having the RMLA

booth at the Stock Show resulted in a member offering to write an article for the newsletter requesting membership input.

NEW BUSINESS

Caring for Llamas: Revisions and corrections have been made in preparation for a fifth printing. Cost for 2,000 copies will be \$6,200. Dee Goodman is mailing both *Caring for Llamas* and the Youth Project Manual from his home.

ILA Assembly: Funding of the 6 member Strategic Planning Group and future Llama Assemblies was discussed. Dale Morris provided a recap of the purpose and goals of the work done for the growth and benefit of the industry. A newsletter article will be written to provide more information and request feedback from the membership.

Officers: Reid Langerman announced the new officers for 1995: Reid Langerman, President; Cheryl McCutcheon, President-Elect; Daryl Wood, Vice President; Lougene Baird, Treasurer; and Judy Sealy, Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT

David Dunn, of Whitney, Jones and Dunn, acted as facilitator of a short session of conference reminiscing, ideas to improve future conferences, and suggested goals for the Board of Directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Sealy, Secretary

h

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED . . . HERE WE COME!

Be sure to pick up a November 14th copy of Sports Illustrated. There will be a story about Bill Redwood's racing llama, Clancy.

The article includes information on Clancy's amazing records at the Fairplay Pack Llama Race, the California Llamathon, and, of course, RMLA's Llamathon.

1994 RMLA CONFERENCE REPORT

INCOME

Registration

Full program	100 @ 145.00	14,500.00
Program w/o meals	7 @ 75.00	525.00
Friday only	4 @ 75.00	300.00
Saturday only	7 @ 75.00	525.00
	2 Jr. @ 25.00	50.00
Childrens' program	4 @ 75.00	300.00
	2 prorated	76.25
Saturday dinner	14 @ 15.00	210.00
Miscellaneous meals		85.00
Meals only	3 @ 80.00	240.00

Total Registration

16,811.25

Clinics

ALSA	6 @ 80.00	480.00
	7 @ 50.00	350.00
TTeam	10 @ 65.00	650.00
Neo Natal	14 @ 200.00	2,800.00

Total Clinics

4,280.00

Display spaces

Commercial booths	9 @ 30.00	270.00
Ranch spaces	15 @ 5.00	75.00

Total Display spaces

345.00

Conference Notebook Ads

970.00

Cindy Ross Ticket Sales

93 @ 3.00

279.00

Overpayments

65.00

Miscellaneous (1 Conference notebook)

20.00

TOTAL INCOME

22,770.25

CONFERENCE RELATED INCOME

1995 Memberships	16 Individuals @ 30.00	480.00
	10 Farm/Ranch @ 50.00	500.00
	2 Junior @ 10.00	20.00

Total Memberships

1,000.00

Caring for Llamas sales

9 @ 16.00

144.00

Law sign sales

4 @ 10.00

40.00

T-Shirt sales

133.00

Sheep Guard report

1.00

Total sales

318.00

Total Conference Related Income

1,318.00

EXPENSES

Pre-Conference Committee Expenses

Mileage	431.28
Postage	5.91
Telephone	110.96
Xerox	9.46

Total Pre Conference Committee Expenses

557.61

Conference Committee Expenses

Speakers

Honorariums	4,550.00
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Continued on page 39

1994 RMLA CONFERENCE REPORT (CON'T)

Hotel rooms	1,104.72	
Supplies	50.00	
Travel	1,883.02	
Total Speakers		7,587.74
Food		
Conference meals	6,674.45	
Service charge	1,384.89	
Sales tax	453.83	
Childrens' program	32.44	
Clinic lunches	240.97	
Total food		8,786.58
Promotion		
Printing		
Conference notebook	833.91	
Flyers	248.69	
Postcards	51.25	
Postage	676.81	
Llama Link mailing labels	82.85	
Total Promotion		1,893.51
Tent		
Rental	598.72	
Permit	25.00	
Grass carpet	212.96	
Total Tent		836.68
Tote bags		
130 @ 5.20		676.00
Entertainment		
Manual Molina, Peruvian guitarist	420.00	
Audio Visual equipment	380.00	
Supplies	48.28	
Sales tax license & payment	19.02	
Telephone (final bill not received)	74.77	
Payments		
ALSA, clinic fees		640.00
CSU, Neo Natal profit donation		2,650.00
Refunds		
Overpayments	65.00	
Meals 5 @ 70.00	350.00	
Child's half-day program	40.00	
Total Refunds		455.00
Meeting room, Conference committee		40.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		25,065.19
INCOME LESS EXPENSES		(2,294.94)

Continued on page 40

Want to be part of a fun group of people . . . Join the crew at the Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show. Call Jo Riley, 303-823-5409 or Lougene Baird, 303-688-5445!

RMLA STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES (10/19/94)

LOCATION OF FUNDS

Park National Bank		
Checking Account	753.37	
Money Market Account	<u>21,474.76</u>	
Total Assets		22,228.13

Liabilities

State Sales Tax	29.56	
Assets minus Liabilities		22,198.57

FUND BALANCES

General	(3,479.99)	
Public Education	(4,222.00)	
Member Education	5,231.93	
Research	12,631.32	
Contingency	3,000.00	
Special Events	(9,950.84)	
Caring for Llamas	<u>18,988.15</u>	
Total Funds		<u>22,198.57</u>

Sharon Beacham, Treasurer

RMLA FOUNDATION, INC.

JANUARY 1 - OCTOBER 19, 1994

Balance of funds, January 1, 1994		48,998.77
Receipts in 1994:		
Interest earnings	1,004.01	
Loan repayment - Lloyd Wamsley	137.04	
Loan repayment - T.J. and Brooks Batt	120.00	
Silent auction, RMLA Conference	1,415.00	
Donation to Lu Williams	212.00	
Miscellaneous donation	50.00	
Total Receipts		2,938.05
Expenditures in 1994:		
Stipends and awards	244.00	
Corporation fee and bank fees	38.55	
Scholarship to Joy Hernbrode	700.00	
Scholarship to Kimberly Hartsough	350.00	
Scholarship to Heather Hartsough	350.00	
Disbursement to Lu Williams	<u>212.00</u>	
Total Expenditures		(1,894.55)
Other items		
Loans to T. J. and Brooks Batt		-(3,000.00)
Balance of funds, October 19, 1994		<u>47,042.27</u>
Fund assets, 10/19/94		
Money market account	5,151.52	
Certificate of deposit (due 11/8/94)	<u>41,890.75</u>	
Total funds, 10/19/94		<u>47,042.27</u>

Jerry Thorson-Boudreaux, Treasurer

Please call either Treasurer if you have questions or would like more details.



BIC ENCOUNTERS 1 AND 2 (CON'T)

knew of a great place to set-up camp: off the trail where we wouldn't be seen yet good access to the stream for fishing. The next morning, just as it was beginning to get light our llama "Big Al" alerted. Throw back the sleeping bag, grab the tevas and dive out of the tent. We've always seen something when the llamas alerted. Jim was first out and looking in the direction that Al was. He pointed across the meadow and in a cluster of pines was a bear! It was sitting at the base of some trees, maybe digging. It was hard to tell because the lighting was so poor. One thing - it sure was black. We called to our friend Brad to get up and bring his binoculars so we could get a better view. Brad was slow to rise and my feet were freezing so I dashed back to the tent to get my

socks. Jim got his sleeping bag and our folding chairs. We set up the chairs, threw the sleeping bag over us and watched the bear. How exciting! It was far enough away that we didn't feel endangered, but close enough that we could see it move, probably feeding on grubs and scratching its head. The lighting was getting a little better and finally Brad got out of his tent and came over with the binoculars. He looked through the glasses for awhile then handed them to Jim without saying a word. He headed back to his tent. Jim handed the glasses to me. I looked. It was a stump! Brad turned and over his shoulder called, "You guys did the same thing last year!" Thanks, "Big Al."



Sign-up now for the Service Directory!
Put your Business Card in the Service Directory.
Send in your Membership Form before 12/31/94!
Only 1995 Memberships will receive January Newsletter!

YOUTH PROGRAM (CON'T)

panniers with the necessary items to go packing for the day. Dee Goodman went through some of the important points of packing. He showed them different first aid and emergency items that are a must on an all day trip and set down some rules of safety. With a beautiful mountain and a beautiful day ahead of us, we were off. The colors of fall were a sight for man or beast to behold. Not long into our trek the llamas spotted two deer that seemed to be concerned only about eating. We stopped for lunch at an abandoned homestead and corral. After a good rest and some exploration, we were off on the last half of our trip. At this point the boys were losing steam. Dee and I were able to coax, tease and playfully lecture them into going on. You've heard of a second wind! There was no stopping this crew the rest of the way back. They stopped only when Dee or I needed a rest or for llama potty breaks, which you know

can be quite lengthy. We all had a wonderful day. With aching legs we arrived at the trailer, unpacked, unsaddled and with the rain just starting we were on our way back. About the second curve on the highway, they were out, sleeping soundly the whole way to the Raintree Inn. Once again they were ready to share their adventures with their parents and EAT!

Two great days with four great kids. I got much feedback from the adults that had talked to the kids, saying how excited they were about what they had done, and finally from the kids themselves. It seemed like, all in all, it was a super success and certainly something worth repeating. As the conference came to an end I found myself thinking of new and different activities for the following year. Thanks Linda, Tim, Charlie, Karla and Dee for all your help.



FOR SALE

STEVENS LLAMA TIQUE is now offering several bred females and males of breeding, show and performance quality. Breeding service to several high-quality, out-cross males. Free brochure listing all the equipment we use in our llama business. Specialty llama trailers. Possible terms and transportation. Loren & Judy Stevens, Rt. 4, Box 39, Worthington, MN 56187, 507-376-4230.

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ALPACAS - GREY, RED, BURGANDY MALES. Full males, proven and young \$2,500-\$7,500. Log Hill Llamas and Alpacas, Montrose, CO 303-249-2516.


THREE BRED FEMALES FOR SALE, crias by side (2 male, 1 female) . . . 3 in 1 packages \$4,000-\$5,000. Also, yearling female (16 months old) with initial breeding \$2,500. Log Hill Llamas & Alpacas, Montrose, CO, 303-249-2516.

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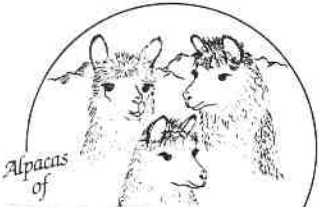
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SPINNING LLAMA & ALPACA, new book, 44 pages by Chris Switzer. Sections on Origin, Fiber ID, Cleaning & Collection, Shearing, Preparation, Blending, Dyeing, Spinning, Marketing & Selling, Storage of Wool, and Projects. \$10.00 plus \$1.60 postage and 30¢ Colorado tax. Chris Switzer, Box 3800, Estes Park, CO 80517.

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PERU TRIP

Walter Bravo is planning a trip to Peru in February (springtime). He will include the Cuzco area and LaRaya Camelid Research Station (10-12 days). An option of extra days at the end includes Coca Canyon and the mills at Arequipa.

Contact Walter for itinerary and costs. 2230 Glacier Drive, Davis, California 95616, 916-756-5919.

SIZES AND PRICES FOR ADVERTISING

DISPLAY ADS:

Full Page: 9-1/2" X 7"	\$65.00
Full Page Inside Cover	\$80.00
1/2 Page: 4-3/4" X 7"	\$40.00
1/2 Page: (Back cover with two color)	\$115.00
1/4 Page: 4-3/4" X 3-1/2"	\$20.00

10% Discount for 3 Consecutive Issues with Same Display Ad!

Business Card: 2" X 3-1/2"	\$10.00
----------------------------------	---------

All Display Ads must be camera-ready.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

Member Classified (50 words):	\$5.00
(For more than 50 words-15¢ per word)	
Non-member Classified:	\$10.00
(For more than 50 words-15¢ per word)	

All classified ads and articles must be typed double-spaced!

Deadline for next issue is December 1st

Please mail all ads and typed articles to:

(Please do not send a FAX.)

**Jo Riley
Post Office Box 1189
1612 Spring Gulch Dr.
Lyons, CO 80540
303-823-5409**

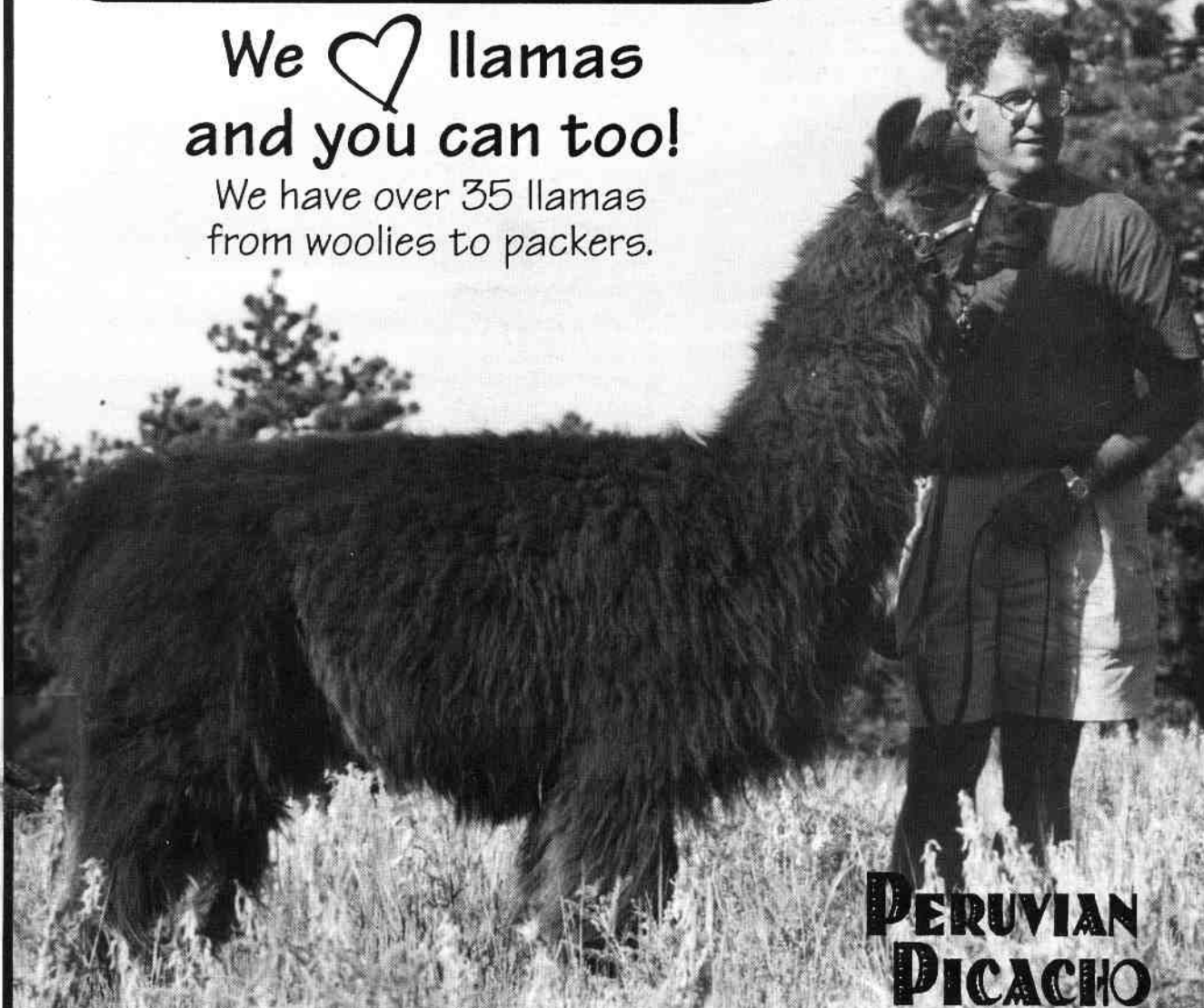
Send the ads in as early as possible! I place them in the Newsletter in the order that I receive them.

Please make checks payable to RMLA.

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