

1995

**RMLA**



November

**Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association**



Support RMLA and be one  
of the first Lifetime Members.

*Please see pages 5 and 26 for more information.*

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RMLA



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## Deadlines for the Newsletter

February Issue ..... January 1st  
May Issue ..... April 1st

August Issue ..... July 1st  
November Issue ..... October 1st

## RMLA Committees

Committee	Liaison	Chairman
<b>Finance</b>	Bob Riley	Bob Riley
<b>Continuing Education</b>	Cheryl McCutcheon	Jan Redenbarger
<b>4-H &amp; Youth</b>	Linda Kyriopoulos	Linda Kyriopoulos
<b>Marketing</b>	Bob Riley	Jim Osmun
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<b>Research</b>	Bob Riley	Ron Baird
<b>By-Laws</b>	Cheryl McCutcheon	Jo Riley
<b>Publishing</b>	Lougene Baird	Newsletter: Jo Riley
<b>Fiber</b>	Julie Messick	Sharon Beacham
<b>Membership</b>	Cheryl McCutcheon	Judy Sealy
<b>Library</b>	Lougene Baird	Sharon Herbold
<b>Events Committee</b>	Julie Messick	Chair Open
	<i>Front Range Events:</i>	Dee Goodman & Karen Buxton

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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

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## **January 6 & 7: National Western Stock Show; Denver, CO**

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A wonderful ALSA Show at the National Western. The Superintendent is Jerry Dunn, 303-277-1129. This is the first year for Jerry at the helm. She is organizing the show and working with the Stock Show management to guarantee a wonderful show. If you have any questions, just call her. This is a qualifier for the First ALSA Central Regional Championship Show in Oklahoma in March, 1996. See article on page 23 for more information.

## **May 24-26: Intermountain Llama Classic; (Memorial Day Weekend) Logan, Utah**

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Intermountain Llama Classic and Rendezvous sponsored by the Utah Llama Association and RMLA. Fifth Annual, ALSA Sanctioned Llama Show. The Judge will be Ron Baird of Sedalia, Colorado. A great outdoor setting for a Rendezvous. A large barn to house llamas or bring your lodges and camp with your llamas on a nice grassy shaded area. Contact Daryl Wood, 801-846-2525 or Linda Kyriopoulos, 801-245-3529. This is a qualifier for the Second ALSA Western Regional Championship Show in Reno, Nevada in November, 1996.

## **June 8-9: Estes Park Wool Market Llama and Alpaca Show; Estes Park, Colorado**

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Come and enjoy the beautiful Rocky Mountains and participate in the largest Llama and Alpaca show in the World. A full ALSA Sanctioned Llama and Alpaca Show with lots of fun and competition. See article on page 13. For more information on the Llama Show call Jo Riley, 303-823-5409 or Lougene Baird, 303-688-1187. This is a qualifier for the Second ALSA Central Regional Championship Show.

## **August 6: Douglas County ALSA Youth Llama Show; Castle Rock, CO**

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This wonderful show is focused on youth and will be held during the Douglas County Fair. Cool, covered open sided barns and lots of space to make a great farm display is available. The show welcomes all youth to come and have a wonderful time. Show starts at 8:30 a.m.; barns will be available the afternoon before the show. We are excited the ALSA Judge Mary Beth Hartsough has accepted our invitation to be your Judge. Contact Lougene Baird, 303-688-5445 or Marie Hinds, 303-841-4889 for registration information. This is a qualifier for the First ALSA Central Regional Championship Show in 1996.

## **September 14 & 15: LOCC Fall Classic ALSA Llama Show; Colorado Springs, CO**

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ALSA Sanctioned and RMLA Sponsored. Indoor Arena, 400 Stalls, Held at Penrose Equestrian Center, Halter and Performance Classes, Adult and Youth Classes, Outdoor races and Obstacle Course. For information, contact Mark Wittrup, 719-683-2834. Don't miss this new event. This is a qualifier for the Second ALSA Central Regional Championship Show in 1997.

## **September 21 & 22: New Mexico State Fair ALSA Llama Show, Albuquerque, NM**

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This is a qualifier for the Second ALSA Central Regional Championship Show in 1997.

## **September 28 & 29: Taos Wool Festival; Taos, New Mexico**

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Taos Wool Festival is a wonderful place to learn about fiber. RMLA is planning to have a booth there for consignment of fiber. See article on page 12.

## **October 3-5: RMLA CONFERENCE '96; Longmont, Colorado**

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Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Return to beautiful Longmont, Colorado. Enjoy a beautiful Autumn weekend at the foot of the Colorado Rockies and the best RMLA Conference ever! The emphasis will be on marketing and fiber. We are planning Pre-Conference Clinics to include Training, an ALSA Show Clinic and a full day Packing Clinic which will include a short hike in the National Forest. More information will be in the February Newsletter.

## President's Message

by Cheryl McCutcheon

I want to begin by thanking the following people for all the support they have shown during the past year. A special thanks goes to our Board Members: Reid Langerman, President; Daryl Wood, Vice President; Judy Sealy, Secretary; and Lougene Baird, Treasurer. Thanks for a terrific job.

I want to thank Dee Goodman for handling the distribution of *Caring for Llamas*, and for all the work he and Karla have put into the *4-H Manual*. Thank you Chris Switzer for all of the time you have contributed to the RMLA Library. Also, thank you Sharon Herbold, for continuing the excellent service our Library has provided. I would also like to give a big thank you to Jo Riley for all of the work she puts into the RMLA Newsletter.

I am looking forward to a great year with our new Board: Linda Kyriopoulos, President-Elect; Bob Riley, Vice President; and Julie Messick, Secretary. Lougene Baird will be continuing her two-year term as Treasurer. Judy Sealy has volunteered to continue taking care of Membership. I feel this is an excellent group of people to work with all year.

I want all of the RMLA members to feel free to call any of the Board members at any time if you have any questions or suggestions for RMLA. RMLA is only going to continue to exist if the members support it. Make your needs known. We are all volunteers and we need your input. Let's strive to make this the best year ever for RMLA.

Take care!



## Communication Bureau

by Jerry Dunn • Bear Track Farm • Golden, Colorado • 303-277-1129

RMLA is planning a new service for our members . . . a Communication Bureau. It will list members who are interested in various activities. After this is developed, many more activities can be added in coming years. We need to hear from the membership about your interests and needs.

The plans at this time are to include each activity in the Service Directory. If you are interested, please sign up for your favorite (s) on the Membership Form.

Are you interested in visiting schools, libraries, community events or giving packing demonstrations

but didn't know how to get started? A Communication Bureau is being established for llama and alpaca owners who are available to make visits in their community and packing demonstrations.

Requirements: **Enthusiasm** for the llama & alpaca community, **Interest** in kids and individuals in your community who would benefit from your information.

If you have any questions, call Jerry Dunn.



### ***RMLA Membership Renewal Time***

1996 RMLA Membership Forms and Service Directory Forms are being mailed first class to you. Support your organization by returning promptly.

**Membership Year ends December 31, 1995.**

**Starting in 1996, we have a new Lifetime Membership Category.**

*See page 26 for more information.*

**Depending on the Membership Category you choose, free business card ads and 1/4 page ads are included with the membership.**

We will publish the "Owners and Breeders Directory" by February 1, 1996.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Judy Sealy • RMLA Membership • 593 19-3/4 Road • Grand Junction, CO 81503

# North America and the Lamas

by Gerald Grellet-Tinner

*Editor's Note: Libby Boyd, Editor of the South Central Llama Association Newsletter, the Humming Herald, sent this article to me. She felt RMLA would be interested in it. We thank her and also the writer, Gerald Grellet-Tinner.*

Friday, July 29, 1994, I was invited, along with 4 other fellow students, by Dr. Ernie Lundelius, to visit a site in Waco, Texas. We saw 19 mammoth skeletons, from juveniles to old bulls. But one of the fossils wasn't a mammoth, and its skull was missing. Immediately, despite its incompleteness, Ernie Lundelius, director of the Vertebrate Paleontology Lab of University of Texas, Austin, identified it as a *Camelops*. Without hesitation, he said, "Look at the splay out of the distal end of the metapodials." Indeed, we had a 28,000 Years Before Present (YBP) *Camelops*. The age is determined by carbon dating of the collagen from the bones of the mammoths found at that site. 28,000 YBP corresponds to the Rancholabrean age of the Pleistocene epoch (see the Table on the next page).

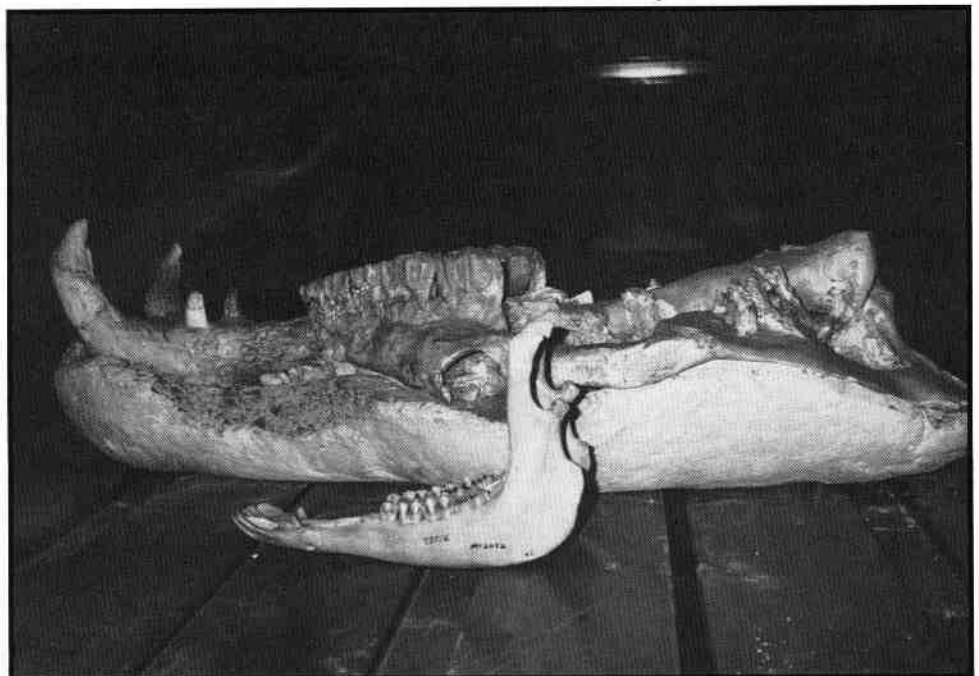
The *Camelops* is one of the 3 species that survived, in North America, until the end of the Pleistocene, where the fossil record of the camel family stops 10,000 YBP. The fate of these Cameloids in North America has been very similar to the one of the other gigantic mammals at the end of the Pleistocene-mass extinction. The phenomenon represents, by itself, one of the biggest documented controversies in paleontology. On one side we have the "human overkill" hypothesis by Paul Martin; on the other side we have the environmental degradation and destabilization of the ecosystem by Ernie Lundelius.

Cameloidea could be regarded as a "made in USA" product. The fossil record gives us the first Cameloid skeleton in the Eocene strata (see the Table), which is about 40 Million Years Before Present (MYBP). It was a North American Cameloid of the species of *Poebrodon* that was still a hoofed animal.

But during the Miocene, the hoofs were replaced by the pads as we know them today. The fossilized footprints demonstrate not only the presence of pads, but the typical pattern of limb movement of the Cameloids, generally described as pacing. At this point, it is important to explain the relationship between the various orders. A species such as *Lama* belongs to a genus, which belongs to the family of Camelidae, which is in the suborder Tylopoda, which is part of the order Artiodactyla.

From the ancestral, small *Poebrodon*, in the Eocene, we witness through the fossil record a great speciation starting in the Miocene, finishing in the Pleistocene. More than 20 genera have been accounted for. All were adapted to the savana ecosystem. Indeed, North America, during this period of time, is characterized by giant plains with a somewhat constant temperature and humidity. Some of the species had individuals that looked more like giraffes than lamas. They have reached as much as 15 feet in height (*Oxydactylus*), or some were massively built animals (*Titanotylopus*). The Pleistocene species were mingling with giant bison, mammoths and mastodons, and being preyed upon by *Smilodon* (sabertooth cat) and *Arctodus* (a bear dwarfing our polar bear).

Continued on page 8



In the foreground is a contemporary llama jaw. Behind it is the jaw of a prehistoric ancestor from Pleistocene.

# The Geologic Time Scale (Ages in Millions of Years)

Eras of time	Periods of time	Epochs of time (Cenozoic era only)	Age (millions of years)	Duration (millions of years)	Major biological events
Cenozoic	Quaternary	Recent		2	Extinction of large land mammals in northern hemisphere. Evolution of human beings. Rapid shifts in marine and terrestrial communities in response to four major glaciations.
		Pleistocene			
	Tertiary	Pliocene	2	23	Extensive radiation of flowering plants. Extensive radiation and evolution of mammals. Co-evolution of insects and flowering plants. Dominance of gastropods and pelecypods in the oceans.
		Miocene	5		
		Oligocene	25		
		Eocene	38		
		Paleocene	55		
Mesozoic	Cretaceous		65	79	First flowering plants. Extinction of terrestrial, marine, and aerial reptiles. Extinction of ammonoid cephalopods. Initial radiation of primitive mammals.
	Jurassic		144	69	Gymnosperms (cycads, conifers, ginkgos), ammonoid cephalopods, and dinosaurs dominant. Radiation of marine reptiles; first birds; flying reptiles.
	Triassic		213	35	Depauperate marine faunas; dominance of ammonoid cephalopods and mammal-like reptiles. Origin of mammals; origin of dinosaurs.
Paleozoic	Permian		248	38	Extinction of trilobites, blastoids, many other marine invertebrates. Dominance of mammal-like reptiles. Decline of amphibians. Evolution of fusulinids.
	Pennsylvanian		286	34	Origin of reptiles. Evolution of fusulinids. Algal-sponge reefs and banks. Extensive coal-swamp forests. Many primitive insects.
	Mississippian		320	40	Echinoderms and bryozoans dominant in the oceans. Amphibians on land. First appearance of coal swamp forests.
	Devonian		360	48	Extinction of many marine groups. Oldest land vertebrates. Many corals, brachiopods, and echinoderms. Extensive radiation of land plants and fishes.
	Silurian		408	30	Oldest land life—land plants, scorpions, and insects. First jawed fishes. First large reefs.
	Ordovician		438	67	First diverse marine communities. First vertebrates—jawless fishes. Dominance of brachiopods, bryozoans, corals, graptolites, nautiloid cephalopods.
	Cambrian		505	85	First metazoans with skeletons. Dominance of trilobites. Marine faunas of low diversity. No known land life.
	Precambrian	Proterozoic		590	3520
Archean			2500–4000		



## North America and the Lamas (cont.)

Because a large number of *Paleolama* specimens have been found on the same site, and because the specimens ranged from juveniles to adults, it was possible to estimate the life expectancy of a *Paleolama* at 10 years based on the crown wear of their molars. This life expectancy is reasonably similar to the one of a contemporary wild Lama. In order to explain why the Lama disappeared from North America, I need to bring up some new facts.

Let us remember that the last of the cameloids were part of the mass extinction during the lower Pleistocene, but obviously they had time to migrate prior to this event.

North America has been isolated from South America since the end of the Cretaceous (65 MYBP). Consequently, no great faunal interchanges took place until new continental connections were reestablished. This occurred 5 MYBP. At that time some of the cameloids did expand into Eurasia to give rise to the living Bactrian camel and the dromedary. Simultaneously, *Paleolama* and *Hemiauchenia*, but not *Camelop*, did follow a newly created route between the west of the Andes and the Pacific, which was connecting Texas to Colombia. These two genera were the "parents" of the living camels in South America. The camelids were not the only family to utilize the intercontinental links, which allowed an important exchange of fauna and sometimes created havoc by introducing new predators or by introducing competitive feeders in a new ecosystem.

In conclusion, North America had fathered the camel family, as well as the horse family, both of which disappeared from our continent, only to be reintroduced 10,000 years later by the worst predator on earth: Man.

### References:

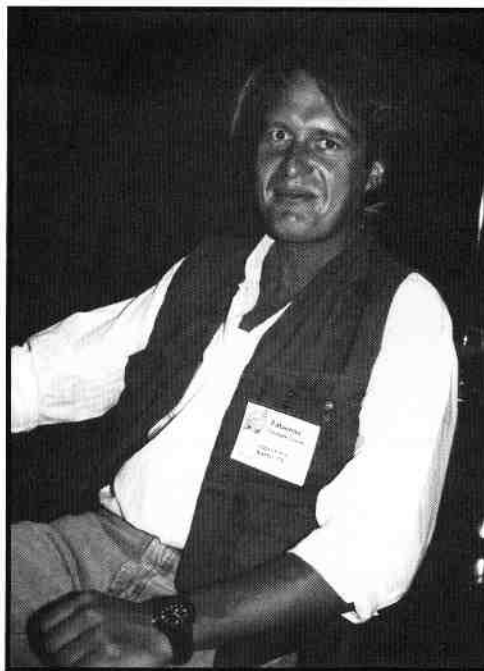
I thank Dr. Ernie Lundelius for his help and advice.

Marshall, Butler, Tedford. *Calibration of the Great Faunal Interchange.*

R. Carroll. *Vertebrate Paleontology and Evolution.*

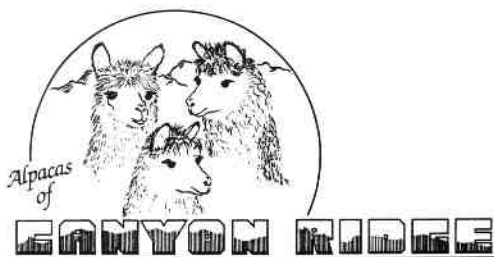
Paul Martin. *Quaternary Extinction.*

D. Webb. *Mammalian Faunal Dynamics of the Great American Interchange.*



**Gerald Grellet-Tinner**

*Gerald Grellet-Tinner has been involved with geology or paleontology since the age of 12. He became an expert in gemology and precious metals. His interest in paleontology drove him to purchase exotic animals in order to conduct comparative studies. As a University of Texas student working toward his doctorate, his main interest is the evolution of Dinosauria viewed through its reproduction and nesting behavior.*



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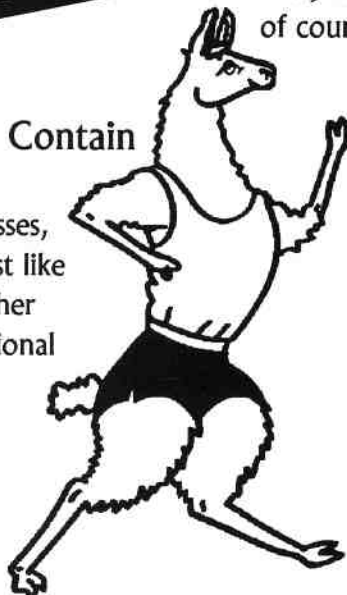
Stillwater Minerals is the first widely accepted quality vitamin and mineral supplement based on llama research. LaRue

Attention: RMLA Members  
Stillwater Minerals Supports RMLA Research!

We are pledging to donate \$1.00 for each 25-pound bucket and \$2.00 for each 50-pound bag sold to an RMLA member. Remember, this is in addition to the donation to llama research that we have always done. It is important to support Llama and Alpaca Medical Research. Just remember to mention when you are ordering our great supplement from Stillwater Minerals that you are an RMLA member!

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### Llama-Min 103

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### Llama-Min 104

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# Heel Rover - Means Llama Beware

By Jerry Dunn • Bear Track Farm • Golden, Colorado • 303-277-1129

Our llama hiking trips are primarily on trails in Open Space, Colorado State Parks, and National Forests along the front range. During these hikes we nearly always encounter other trail users on bicycles and hikers/joggers with their dogs. In this area of the front range horses and llamas do well using the same trails. The "happy hiker" with the family dog is the one who requires serious attention.

Leash laws exist in wilderness areas, state parks, and established recreation areas, including camp grounds, and parking lots. The leash law does not apply on maintained trails of the national forests except where designated by a sign. Dog owners are asked only to be courteous and responsible for their dog when meeting other hikers if there is no leash law. Being courteous and responsible are not always an option for some hikers!

We hike in small groups of three to five people with llamas. Six to ten beings in a group, some with woolly bodies, can be very intimidating for Rover who only gets off the family couch to commune with nature on weekends. Rover's reaction may be characterized by trembling, growling, yelping, and the unexpected lunge at the llama to grab a nose or a bushy tail. Rover's owner may instinctively give the command, "heel," and jerk on poor Rover's collar or choke chain. Rover frequently looks confused by the command because he has never been to an obedience class. His owner knows the term because he heard it used on TV. Surprise! The command falls on uneducated ears and it is the llama and handler who need to beware and take immediate action.

In most cases dog owners on the trail will move off the trail and allow us to pass and reassure their dog as we move along. However, the other segment of the population hasn't a clue how to maintain their dog in unusual situations or they seem to not care and become very indignant about our presence. It is for this last group that we have developed a few techniques of trail training and enforcement directed at Rover, not his owner.

When hiking in a group the first person in line who spots a dog, first alerts the group then asks the hiker with the dog to contain their dog because we will be passing with llamas. We all stop to give the dog owner time to collect the dog. In some cases if they do not move off the trail we ask them to step off

the trail so we can go by. A moving llama seems less intimidating than one standing eye-balling the dog. Never let the dog greet the llama by touching noses! Some llamas just naturally would love to attack Rover on the spot, especially if he is ill mannered. In cases where the dog owner is less cooperative we all pick-up a trail enforcer (identified as an easily thrown rock). I find the left handlers in our group to be the most accurate because their throwing hand is away from the llama and the right hand is holding the lead rope. As we pass the dog and it's owner the rocks are dropped in front of them.

Occasionally we are surprised by a loose dog. Immediately we form a tight group (an old musk oxen trick) and shout very loudly, NO, repeatedly until the owner takes charge. The group shouting usually startles the dog and he turns tail and runs back to the owner. Dog owners who are responsible about their dogs are thanked by everyone as we pass and remark on the good behavior of the dog.

If you are one to hike alone with your llama your techniques of protection may vary. Picking up a rock seems futile when you have a 60 pound dog lunging at you and your llama. Shouting NO repeatedly does work. You may want to consider carrying pepper mace. I would not recommend pepper mace if you are in a group because it's too easy to spray it on people and llamas in your group during the frantic moment. Other defensive tools may be a squirt gun filled with ammonia water, a big stick, or a screw picket from your panniers. The screw picket is not recommended because it is too short and too difficult to dig out of the panniers in an emergency, but it can sure scare the dickens out of the dog owner! Taking the family's well trained dog along on your hike is an option. Dogs like dogs!

Whatever you do, after encountering an ill mannered dog, do not have a discussion with the dog owner about the behavior of his dog. You have embarrassed him enough by yelling at his dog. You have addressed the immediate problem which was the dog. The owner needs more training than your emotional trail rhetoric can render.

When hiking in the mountains or the foothills become familiar with the regulations before hitting the trail. Being a knowledgeable and prepared hiker can be much more fun.



# Day Trippers! 4-H Kids Take a Hike

by Mary Beth Hartsough • Lamarage • Platteville, Colorado • 303-785-2463

On Sunday, October 1, members of the Leaping Llamas 4-H Club of Boulder County, Colorado, participated in a trek through one of Northern Colorado's most scenic areas. Kids, parents, and a wide assortment of llamas left the Lion Gulch trailhead

in late morning for a great hike made even better by the cooperation of Mother Nature. Club members participating were Spring, Summer and Brittany Lillie, Matthew and Heidi Anderson, and Jeff Hartsough; three newcomers, Colleen Scherlock, Andrea and Michelle Vendegna; parents Bart and Mary Anderson, Bill and Judy Lillie, and Mary Beth Hartsough.

Weather for the outing couldn't have been better. It was a beautiful Fall day that forced all of us into removing sweaters and jackets only 5 minutes into the excursion. Although we had thought the timing couldn't have been better for observing the golden aspens in the high country, this year's unusual weather delayed the changing of colors. What should have been peak viewing turned out to be just the bare beginning of a tinge of yellow in the trees. Nonetheless, it was a great day to be outdoors enjoying each other's company and having fun with our llamas.

The group had been hoping to make it far enough up the trail to get to the historic Homestead Meadows, where old cabins from a century gone by still stand as tribute to the early pioneers that settled the region. Due to our late start (and gnawing hunger pangs of several teenagers) we didn't quite make it that far. Oh well! Another hike for another day!

The three new club members had never handled

llamas before and were given "loaners" from other farms. We also had several young llamas (under 1 year) who were brought along for training and experience. Four pack males ranging in age from 2 to 10 years carried a sumptuous lunch, soft drinks, water

bottles, jackets, sweaters, cameras, and first aid kits.

The trail offered quite a variety of terrain and proved to be a great training hike (for man and beast!). There were some steep switch backs, boulders to step over, narrow foot bridges, small streams,

*Continued on page 41*



**Left to Right: Andrea & Michelle Vendegna, Mary Anderson**



**Left to Right: Jeff Hartsough, Colleen Scherlock, Michelle & Andrea Vendegna: Taking a Break on the Trail.**



## **Newsletter Thoughts and Deadlines**

by Jo Riley • Boulder Ridge Ranch • Lyons, Colorado • 303-823-5409

In past years, there have been 6 bimonthly issues of the Newsletter. This year we reduced it to five and beginning in 1996, there will be 4 quarterly issues. It will be published in February, May, August and November.

There are several reasons for this change. My time as Editor is very scarce since I became General Manager of ALSA. Sharon Beacham has volunteered to edit the Newsletter for over 2 years and I very much appreciate it. Lougene Baird has spent time gathering articles. It takes well over 100 hours to produce each issue of the Newsletter.

The other important factor is the cost. We do not have enough advertising to support six issues. The intent of the Newsletter is dissemination of information among the membership and we need it to be self-supporting. Out of 600 members of RMLA, very few contribute articles or buy advertising. The decision was made to cut quantity instead of quality.

I have been doing the Newsletter since July, 1991 and it is time for a change. I have committed

to the RMLA Board to continue through the end of 1996. To continue past 1996 I would need lots of help. Two things need to happen: RMLA should form a committee to solicit ads (members have to be willing to support the Newsletters through ads) and a committee to solicit articles. There are many things going on in the industry and people are involved but few will write articles. We can edit articles but they have to be written by the membership.

If you would like to serve on one of the Committees, please call. We will talk one of the members into chairing the committee and then it will be off and running. Please volunteer. I hear that people appreciate the Newsletter but now I need help. Your Newsletter is an important part of RMLA. It would be too expensive to hire someone to publish it. Volunteers are important.

This is your Newsletter . . . Your organization . . . Support it and it will grow.



## **RMLA Fiber Co-op at Estes Park and Taos**

by Sharon Beacham • Pheasant Hill Farm • Boulder, Colorado • 303-666-9437

In an attempt to help RMLA members market their fiber, RMLA will provide funding for booths at the Estes Park Wool Market and Taos Wool Festival in 1996. This is our chance to show the fiber community how wonderful our llama and alpaca fiber is for their needs. The managers of both events have already been contacted.

The booths will be for the consignment of llama and alpaca fiber, garments, and other hand-crafted articles. Fiber may be packaged in ziplock or other suitable plastic bags. It can be just as you sheared it, but it is suggested that the fiber be carded and processed into roving or batting. All llama and alpaca fiber will be accepted, but it should be clean in order to present it at its best.

Fiber and finished goods will be on consignment with the proceeds going to the consignor if they work in the booth. If someone consigns without working, they will receive only 2/3 of the proceeds. The remaining 1/3 will be divided, on a per hour basis, among the people who do work.

Setting prices will be up to the consignor. A representative fiber sample may be sent to the RMLA Fiber Committee to be evaluated for quality, condition, and cleanliness. They can also suggest a price range and supply a list of the Federal Trade Commission regulations for labeling hand-crafted items.

This will be a trial year for the booths. Details are still being worked out and the RMLA Fiber Committee may make modifications. Ideas and suggestions from all the membership are welcome.

See your May, 1995 RMLA Newsletter for a list of commercial llama fiber processors, or contact the Fiber Committee.

Remember to save all the fiber after you clean and shear (or brush) your animals. We will need a large supply to make this project work.

Please call Karen Kinyon, 970-484-6241, or Sharon Beacham, 303-666-9437, if you want to be involved.

# Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show

by Lougene Baird • Plum Valley Llamas • Sedalia, Colorado • 303-688-1887

Well, we did it! We were the largest show in North America last year. Wow! Not only were we the largest but we feel that several dozen volunteers did a great job with the show. It was very satisfying to have very experienced (not necessarily old) exhibitors tell us it was the best organized show they had attended.

So much for reliving last year. On to the plans for 1996! Classes will be the same except for driving. Since there were no exhibitors, we have decided to eliminate driving. With this off the class list the schedule can be better planned.

We finally have been able to arrange for a casual dinner on Saturday. The shelters across the street to the East have been booked. Now we are looking for a caterer. If anyone would like to help, just call. We will try to keep the cost as low as possible. We want everyone there to chat and get to know each other.

Even though many people have enjoyed and been very successful with the Private Treaty Sale, we have decided to eliminate it this year. So start on your own marketing plan now.

One of the great advantages of showing your animals is marketing. Through ALSA you can record your llamas and gain points toward a Recognition of Merit or a Championship. ALSA has made a change because of strong feeling among the membership. Members feel it is unfair that non-members get the

privilege of showing without supporting the organization that makes it all possible. As of March, all exhibitors must be members of ALSA to participate in an ALSA Show or pay \$10.00 per ranch at each show. I strongly suggest joining ALSA in January so you get all the benefits of membership this includes the Handbook (containing the rules), *Showing*, Directory, discounts on all clinics plus being able to record llamas.

Most of the committee chairs are filled for the Llama Show, but we need your help. If you would like to volunteer, please call me, 303-688-1887. We will put you in touch with the Committee Chair and you can work out the details.

As General Manager of ALSA, Jo Riley hears many tales about shows around the country. There were 17 ALSA shows in Ohio this year. One show started at 5:00 p.m. and lasted until 3:30 a.m. To demonstrate the willingness of Ohio people to show at 3:30 a.m., 29 people showed in the last class. 32 were entered . . . only 3 no-shows! Another show lasted longer than the arena lights! The last two hours of Performance Classes were run with car lights shining into the arena. At Estes Park, just as any show, all is not perfect. Remember those two Ohio shows. We do live in the lap of luxury!

Snow may be on the arena floor as you read this, but warm sunny days of the Estes Park Wool Market Llama & Alpaca Show will be with us soon.



## Lila West

July 18, 1927 - Oct. 8, 1995

This last month, the llama community lost one of its most colorful and best loved members. Lila West, recently of Woodland Park, passed away October 8 due to heart failure at the age of 88.

Lila greatly enjoyed taking her llamas to all of the shows in the Region and was known as a dedicated and tireless worker, always quick to lend a helping hand. She will be remembered with great affection for her style, sense of humor, zest for life, and unwavering friendship to those of us who had the pleasure to have known her.

At the time of her death, Lila had recently begun a move to a new ranch near Delta, Colorado, with her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter.





# RMLA Research Committee Report

by Ron Baird • Plum Valley Llamas • Sedalia, Colorado • 303-688-5445

## Viral Vesicular Stomatitis

This probably is the health or medical concern that most affected our members during the past year. Breaking out in southern New Mexico in April or May, it has been spread into Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and Texas. The outbreak may have been imported from Mexico. It spread to some cattle, some horses and only one llama of which we are aware.

However, the outbreak has cost the llama industry and members of RMLA in particular. The cost was not in the one llama we know was infected, but in canceled show and difficulty in traveling. In one instance a member traveled over 1,000 miles to a show - only to be turned away by the State Veterinarian who claimed the state of origin was under a total quarantine. This was NOT the fact of the matter, but likely due to ill-informed medical officers of the state in question.

The disease may have spread from Southwestern Colorado to the Front Range, despite a frost. Cases are now reported in El Paso county (Colorado Springs) and perhaps Elbert County. The State Vet of Colorado has been unwilling or unable to say what the affect animals are.

I think we should take this outbreak as a prime example of the reason RMLA and its members need to support the area of lama medical research more vigorously. We need to determine, and put to rest official worries or suspicions, the susceptibility of llamas to diseases common to other animals. Otherwise, we are going to find ourselves with our backs to the wall - as the industry is relative to John's Disease in southeast Utah - and the markets for our animals shrinking in response.

I would cite one other general example. A rabid llama at Auburn University bit her cria (and Dr. David Pugh). She had been infected by a raccoon. She died, her cria eventually died of other causes, Dr. Pugh never was infected. Yet in Connecticut, llamas must be kept behind impenetrable fences because of the fear they can transmit rabies. There is no approved rabies vaccine for use on llamas. What would we in the West do if rabies breaks out here? Confine our animals? Take chances on unproved vaccines? Have to get permits to move our animals off our land as they do in Connecticut?

We need more active funding for medical research. It is in the best interest of all RMLA members.

## Medical Research Activities

RMLA expended \$5,000 on research activities during fiscal 1995. All of the funds were invested in research under the auspices of the Morris Animal Foundation. We investigated Morris before the committee unanimously decided to use them as a conduit for funding medical research. Morris has been funding companion animal medical research for over 40 years, beginning with dogs and then expanding into cats; horses; and, more recently, llamas.

Morris uses a process involving extensive screening of medical research project proposals. The surviving proposals are reviewed by the Llama Medical Research Group, of which I am a member, for their value. The proposals are ranked by their benefit to the lama community and this becomes the final criteria for their funding. Morris then funds the proposals, in the order of their ranking, as money is forthcoming from the lama community.

Of great importance to RMLA and the entire lama community is the process Morris goes through once a proposal is funded. Each calendar quarter, the researcher is required to submit a written report of his progress. Morris's scientific panel, consisting of Deans of veterinary schools, evaluates the progress. If it is deemed unsatisfactory, the researcher must bring his work into the proscribed standards before additional quarterly funding is forthcoming. Each research institution funded is visited every year to insure their standards of care, competency, and other factors. Each year, on-going research is re-evaluated by the scientific committee and the Llama Medical Research Group before funding is continued. This can cause a project to risk losing its on-going funding due to a scarcity of funds.

This process is good insurance that RMLA is getting what it is paying for: no progress of a satisfactory nature, and no more funding. No final report within the appropriate time (one year is allowed for a report to be published in a scientific journal and then it is released regardless), and final funding is withheld from the researcher.

A number of projects were funded partially with RMLA monies during 1995 through this process. These were: 1. A study of sustained release ivermectin for the prevention of meningeal worm, 2. juvenile llama immune deficiency, 3. choanal atresia, 4. The pharmacokinetics of Gentamycin in Llamas, and 5. A study of the minute chromosome in llamas in relation to embryo death and genetic defects.

Continued on page 15

## Research Committee Report (cont.)

The study of coanal atresia is very meritorious. It is an attempt to find genetic markers that can be used to determine its existence before breeding, let alone birth. The Oregon State University researchers have established a surgically altered herd for breeding purposes and have been prepared to breed it in the on-going effort to trace the gene markers. Unfortunately, barring great success in fund raising in 1995 and 1996, the effort will not be funded through Morris this year as two other studies have been deemed more important to the llama community.

These are the development and use of monoclonal antibodies to characterize the immune system in llamas (Washington State University) and the study of vitamin D deficiency in relation to the development of tickets in camelids (Oregon State University).

Little information is currently available concerning the immune system of llamas. This lack of knowledge has severely limited the investigation of llama diseases including the recently recognized immunodeficiency syndrome of juvenile llamas. The project will develop a panel of monoclonal antibodies specific for llama leukocyte differentiation molecules. Using these antibodies, cells from healthy llamas will

be characterized to determine "nominal" values. The development of this panel of antibodies will enable the determination of immune responses to llama diseases and various types of therapies.

Abnormal bone growth is a commonly diagnosed problem in young growing llamas and is usually related to a specific nutrient deficiency. Rickets is one example of metabolic bone disease seen in young, growing animals where the growing bones are unable to grow and properly mineralize. Data indicates this could come from a dietary deficiency of phosphorus or a vitamin D deficiency. The study proposes to determine if there is a seasonal influence on vitamin D concentrations in camelids that explains the seasonal observation of rickets. It will help determine an appropriate rate of vitamin D supplementation to maintain normal calcium and phosphorus balance to support normal growth.

### Non-Medical Research Activities

RMLA expended an additional \$5,000 on research in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service through Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute.

*Continued on page 16*

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Rust Appaloosa

Carousel's Rip Van Winkle x Kolob Madeline  
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David & Kristy Heide

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Quality offspring of both boys are now available.

## *The Thank You List*

Jerry Lee ..... Fairplay  
Karen Buxton ..... Fairplay  
Reid Langerman ..... Fairplay  
Mary Summers ..... Fairplay  
Scott Everhart ..... Fairplay  
Vikki Everhart ..... Fairplay  
Lila West ..... Fairplay  
Doug Severson ..... Fairplay, Leadville 100  
Roger Miller ..... Fairplay  
Lougene Baird ..... Fairplay  
Jim Osmun ..... Fairplay, Leadville 100  
Karla Goodman ..... Fairplay, Leadville 100  
Dewain Wood ..... Fairplay, Leadville 100  
Dixie Minear ..... Fairplay, Leadville 100  
Vickey Foster ..... Leadville 100  
Charlie Hackbarth ..... Leadville 100  
Pat Militzer ..... Leadville 100  
John Militzer ..... Leadville 100  
John Stout ..... Leadville 100

## **Herd Dispersal Sale**

Due to the death of my father, we need to disperse his llamas.

- 5 Females: 7 to 12 Years Old
- 6 Females: 1 to 2 Years Old
- 1 Four Year Old Sired by Destony
- 1 Yearling Male by Rasputin
- 2 1995 Crias

*All females have been exposed to the son of Destony.*

### **Sires of the Females are:**

Canadian Heritage • Stage Stop Rasputin  
Feni Bootlegger • Dagwood • Dapple

- Prices start at \$3,000.00
- Any number or packages available

Contact: Don Stone  
Box 583  
La Salle, Colorado 80645  
970-284-6610

## *Research Committee Report (cont.)*

Aldo Leopold, by the way, was a far sighted naturalist early in this century. He wrote, nearly 50 years ago, "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." It is perhaps very fitting that the research center named after Leopold is conducting this research regarding animals - llamas - and their owners." We would love and tend them regarding their impact on the land.

This research is directly studying the impact of llamas on wilderness areas. It is very important as all of us who enjoy hiking, camping, and traveling with our animals are under increasing pressure from so-called environmental groups whose aim is to ban all animals from forests, mountains, the back country and Wildernesses. If we did not understand the impact of the South East Utah Parks Director in banning llamas from all areas under his control - a ban still in effect - then we should understand the current movement.

As more people want to enjoy the outdoors, the more trampled it becomes. There are those who,

like Abbey, (Desert Solitude, etc.) would prevent anyone from visiting anything. Then there are those who believe that if you can't carry it on your back you do not deserve to see it. Well, those beliefs cut into the potential market for our animals in a very potentially serious way. If animals are banned, particularly llamas, it will affect a market segment all of us need: the pack llama market.

The three studies RMLA is co-funding, with other llama organizations and the U.S. Forest Service, directly address the impact of llamas on the "Wilderness". One is comparing the erosional impacts of llamas, horses, and hikers on hiking trails. Preliminary results of this study have indicated hikers and llamas have about the same impact - one/sixth that of a horse. The other studies are establishing the grazing impact and overnight tethering impact of llamas and horses. Already, criteria on one of these (grazing) has had to be revised since initial studies were unable to discern much impact at all.

These are important as they are going to be used to establish regulations for animal use in national lands. We do not need our animals catego-

*Continued on page 42*



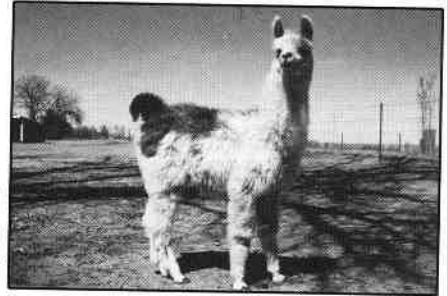
# Llamarage

**Breeders of Champion Show Llamas**



**GLL Java**

**1995 Champion Medium Wool Male  
Estes Park Wool Market**



**Celia  
Female  
Java x Sashay**



**Tailwind  
Male  
Java x Tenacity**

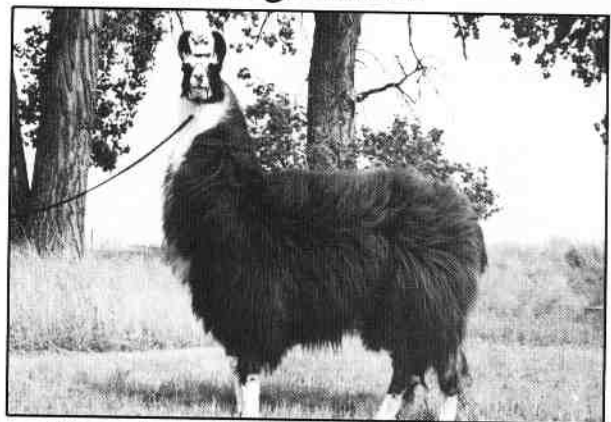
Why do we show? We've been asked many times. Certainly for the fun and camaraderie. Plus, as serious breeders, we realize we can't just say we've got quality llamas - we must show you as a prospective purchaser that we give solid value for the price. Since 1984, we have been working to build a successful breeding program that offers our customers an outstanding product at a fair price. Whether you're a new llama owner or a veteran, we would be happy to help you choose a quality addition to your farm. Whatever your needs - from young or bred females to stud prospect or pet/pack male - we can meet the demand, with a llama that is not only sound and functional, but also beautiful. Come visit with us soon to see the variety of fine llamas available. Stud service offered to either of our outstanding herd sires (both multi-champions!). Live birth guarantee. Multiple breeding discount, 50% discount for champion females.



**Geronimo  
Male  
Gandy x Mirage**



**Sunday Solace  
Female  
Gandy x Mirage**



**Gandy Dancer**

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*Joe and Mary Beth Hartsough Post Office Box 574 Platteville, CO 80651 303-785-2463*

# Training and Preparing Llamas for the Show Ring

by Brent Kauffman • Timberwind Llamas • Johnstown, Ohio • 614•967•TTTT

Many people have one or even several animals that have been trained to do obstacles and public relations and through using them every year have had these animals take many championships at shows. I'm going to discuss the training of a new weanling llama each year.

Training weanling llamas each year could be summed up in three words: Time, Patience, and Practice. This sounds easier than it is.

When first starting with a llama that has never even seen a halter or lead, we halter slowly and hold on! Once they have settled down a little we take them and tie them to a post - making sure there is nothing on which to hurt themselves. We do this while working around the barn so that we can keep an eye on them. They will end up staying there for at least an hour or until they realize the lead is the boss.

After the llama has decided to succumb to the lead, we take them on a walk. When doing this the llama is not always going to follow right along. When the weanling tightens up on the lead rope you cannot give up. We don't drag the llama but rather wait on it to give in and take a step. One of these walks a day for up to a week and the llama should be leading pretty well.

Now that the weanling is leading, it's time to start training for performance and halter classes and developing trust between the handler and the llama. Before you begin this you need two things. First, you need an area with an obstacle course. Obstacles can be made of many things: bales of hay for jumps, trailers, ramps, a place for backing, etc. Second, you need an open area that is large enough to resemble a show ring.

Training for performance classes can be very trying. No matter how frustrated you may get you must keep your composure and your animals trust. I take one obstacle at a time and make the animal at least begin the obstacle.

Once the llama has been on the obstacle two or three times, it will start to realize that it isn't going to hurt them. This is part of developing a trust relationship with the llama. Now it will let you take it a little further each time. Once the llama is doing most or all of the obstacles you need to practice constantly.

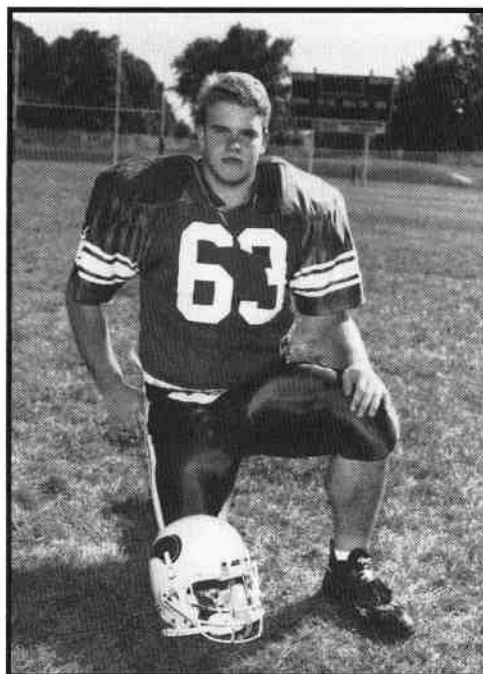
We go about training for halter and showmanship in much the same way. You lead them around and keep their head at your shoulder until they keep it there. Next you work on setting them up with the feet square and the head up and you keep doing this until they set up automatically and stand until you are ready to lead out again. While doing this it is important to talk to and use voice commands with your llama. Using voice commands and talking to your llama in a quiet, soothing voice gives you a step up in the show ring. These voice commands are also important while working on obstacles.

I am a member of the Licking Llama 4-H Club and each 4-H'er gets a new weanling to train each year. The club uses these methods in training and by the end of the year the llamas are very well trained. The club members spend a lot of time with their llamas. They trust them to the point that they follow them anywhere.

The last tip I will give you is to be calm and relaxed before and during each class. This helps your llama be more at ease and this helps tremendously.

Much greater than just winning is the satisfaction of taking an untrained weanling to the point that it is now beating some of the champions that have been used for years.

*Editor's Note: Brent is a Youth member of ALSA and has been very successful showing his family's animals. I thought all youth, and even adults, could learn from Brent's way of training. This is just one of the articles from the younger population in this Newsletter.*



**Brent Kauffman demonstrating his other passion.**





# My Almond Joy

Deidre Baird • Plum Valley Llamas • Sedalia, Colorado • 303•688•5445

Please remember to be careful when trailering and unloading. Accidents happen so quickly.

She was so cute when she was born. It was hard to choose a good name. On the drive home from the North Dakota State Fair, I decided to name her and the babies she would have one day after candy bars. I chose Almond Joy as her name since she had already brought so much joy into my life. Also, she somewhat resembled an Almond Joy candy bar with her brown wool blanket dripping down over her coconut-white wool.

My first job was to train Almond Joy for halter competitions. This meant that I had to train her to stand still for about ten minutes. I also had to get her used to the idea of being groomed. I did this by brushing her regularly.

My next project was to train Almond Joy and myself for showmanship classes. This was more difficult since I had to learn about a llama's body parts, which side of the llama to stand on, how to set-up the llama and how to concentrate on the llama and the judge . . . and try to have a sincere smile!

I started to train Almond Joy for Performance classes. This was very fun work. When you work with llamas when they are young, they trust you.

The last thing I had to learn before taking Almond Joy to her first show was how to load and unload in a trailer. I also learned that during trips it is important to park the trailer where the sun is not in the llamas' eyes.

When Almond Joy was six months old, she went to her first show. This was The National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado. She placed third out of thirty-two animals in her age group. At the Intermountain Classic in Logan, Utah, Almond Joy received first place. Her last show was the Estes Park Wool Market in Estes Park, Colorado. Almond Joy won third place out of thirty-five animals. I was really proud of her! Each time she went to a show she was doing better.

When we went to the Douglas County ALSA Youth Classic, Almond Joy hit her head as we were unloading her from the trailer and she fell to the ground. Almond Joy never stood up again.

We took Almond Joy to the CSU Veterinary Hospital. The doctors were really nice and they took good care of her. They took lots of X-Rays because some of the doctors thought she had a broken neck while others thought she had a broken back. The doctors put Almond Joy in a sling to hold her up. She

could not move her legs or stand up. The doctors thought she would not live much longer and they told us that she was in a lot of pain. Because Almond Joy was my animal, I had to decide if it would be better to put her down or to let her live in pain. I decided to put her down because I thought it would be best for her.

It was a very hard decision to make since I loved her so much. I cried for hours because I knew that I could not let her live in pain. I wanted to go to the CSU Veterinary Hospital to tell the doctor about my decision, but I had to tell him over the phone. This was very difficult for me. All I could do was cry, even though I knew I had made the right decision.

I will always remember Almond Joy. I have many special memories. I am very proud of all of the awards she won. My most special memories are from when we were training. We had so much fun! After she died, I kept her pelt so that I can always feel close to her.

I want to thank Dr. Larson at CSU. And special thanks for all the youth attending the Summer Classic and adults that helped the day Joy was hurt. And especially, Judge Goldsmith for all her advice.

## About the Author:

I am ten years old and I love llamas. We have owned llamas for four years. I spend about thirty minutes to an hour each day working with the llamas. I also love showing llamas. We learn to back, clear jumps, show teeth and lift all four feet . . . not at the same time.



# Monies Available for RMLA Youth

By Jerry Dunn • Bear Track Farm • Golden, Colorado • 303-277-1129

In 1989 the RMLA Youth Education Fund was founded by a committee headed by the late RMLA president Scott Wells. The intention of the fund was to support the enthusiasm and greater participation of youth in a variety of llama/alpaca activities within the industry. Sufficient funds have been raised through fun auctions and donations to support three college scholarships, loans for the purchase of the first llama for three youth, and dozens of stipends for participants in shows and clinics.

Joy Hernbrode was the first recipient of a scholarship. We are happy to report she graduated this spring from the University for Arizona. Heather and Kim Hartsough are the other two people on scholarships and are currently in school. Each person receives \$350 per semester for eight semesters. In return all three of these people have donated many hours of service to the llama community at shows and clinics.

Lloyd Wamsley, T.J. Batt and Brooks Batt received loans toward the purchase of their first llama. They pay interest on their loans quarterly at the prime rate with three years to pay off their loans.

Stipends have been awarded to youth for the National Western Show, Wind River Rendezvous, and the Estes Park Wool Market. The youth are encouraged to help other llama owners and show personnel where ever they participate in return for the money received from the RMLA Youth Education Fund.

## Fund Recipients

### Scholarships

Joy Hernbrode  
Heather Hartsough  
Kim Hartsough

### Loans

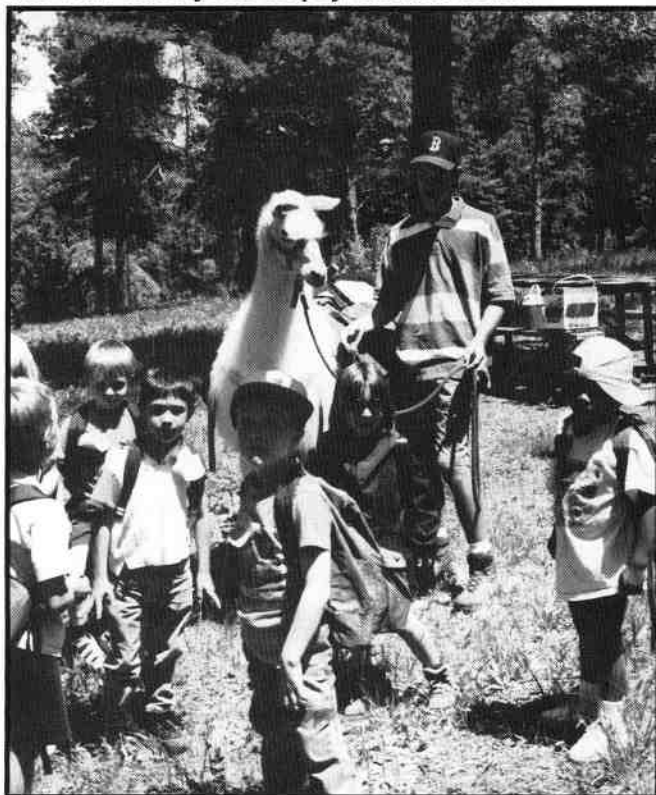
Lloyd Wamsley  
Brooks Batt  
T.J. Batt

### Stipends

Nick DeCicco  
Ginny Premo  
Ben Riggs  
Sarah Lobser  
Gabi von Rodern  
Tiffany Price  
Aaron Price  
Adryan Ritter  
Derick Brown

If you are interested in acquiring funds for your llama activities contact:

Jerry Dunn • Bear Track Farm • 303-277-1129  
14550 W. 50th Avenue • Golden, CO 80403-1707



Lloyd Wamsley with Romeo on preschool class field trip.



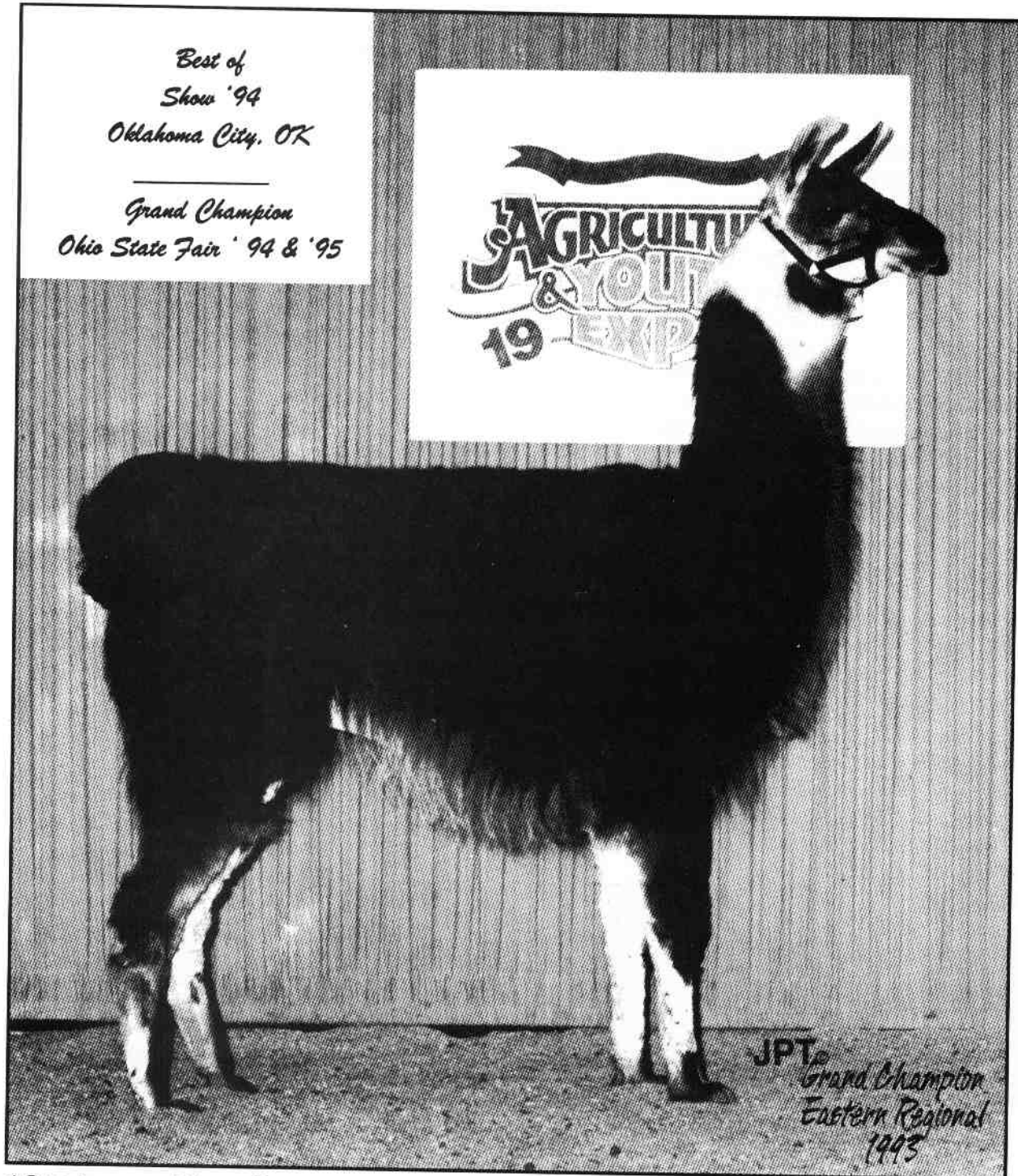
Gabi von Rodern with Tintero



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# Taos Wool Festival Review

by Sharon Beacham • Pheasant Hill Farm • Boulder, CO • 303-666-9437

If you've had the fortune to be in northern New Mexico in the fall, you can immediately envision the intense turquoise blue sky, green and gold cottonwood trees along the acequias, and strings of brilliant red chilies drying in the sun. You might even remember the smell of chilies and pinion wood fires that flavor the air.

To this vision, add the quaint little town of Taos, with its adobe buildings, mountain backdrop, and swarms of visitors. This was the scene, the weekend of September 30 to October 1, for the Annual Taos Wool Festival. About 60 booths were set up in a huge circle in Kit Carson Park. Many featured sheep's wool, but fiber from goats, rabbits, dogs, alpacas, and a few llamas was also available. One could purchase raw wool, roving, yarn, or finished garments. Several manufacturers displayed and demonstrated fiber processing equipment. Instruction books and videos were also offered. Best of all, one could talk to the people in the booths and learn from them. Fashion shows and live music rounded out the event.

The RMLA booth attracted attention out in the middle of the circle. Plans are underway to return next year with alpaca and llama fiber, roving and garments to sell. Proceeds will benefit RMLA fiber research and marketing efforts. You'll hear more about this activity in future newsletters.

Saturday morning, a group of 18 people gathered in Kristina Wilson's weaving studio, a few miles outside Taos. It was the perfect place to participate in a llama and alpaca fiber grading workshop, conducted by Linda McNamara, of Hillsboro, Oregon. Linda is a nationally recognized expert on llama and alpaca fiber and a member of the ILA Wool Committee. She has over

20 years of fiber experience, combined with observations of her own llama herd and many others in Oregon. She's also co-owner of Llama Yarns of Oregon, the only commercial producer of llama yarn in this country.

The workshop covered every area one needs to consider to produce a quality llama or alpaca fiber product. Herd and pasture management, grooming, shearing, and preparation of fleeces was thoroughly presented and discussed. As an additional bonus, Robbie Guidry and Terri Phipps shared the results of their survey of alpaca fiber processors. Bags of fiber, processed by eleven different companies, were passed around and examined. We enjoyed sunshine, views of the nearby mountains, Kristina's pond and llamas during lunch. The afternoon session focused on grading ten different fleeces for condition, cleanliness, and quality, and comparing the results. We left with lots of notes, renewed enthusiasm, and the good feeling of having shared a worthwhile experience. Some of the group visited the Taos Wool Mill and saw how their machines transform raw sheep wool into roving. The rest headed back to the Wool Festival, the San Geronimo Day Festivities at Taos Pueblo, or the Craft Fair on the Plaza. Start planning now to attend next year's festival, September 28th & 29th.



Linda McNamara teaching in Taos.

# NWSS Llama Show Plans Under Way

By Jerry Dunn • Bear Track Farm • Golden, Colorado • 303-277-1129

This year a new superintendent for the Llama Division of the National Western Stock Show has been identified . . . yours truly. I am really excited about accepting this position to help promote and present one of the best ALSA sanctioned llama shows on the livestock circuit. I have considerable experience in organizing large events and working with llama owners at ALSA shows. Years of participating as a show person will help me to better understand the needs of the participants at the National Western.

We have plans to assist you as soon as you arrive to make setting up more enjoyable. Llamas are the first group of animals to be housed in the horse stalls for the show. 164 stalls with easy access to the arena have been made available to us. Please consult your premium book and your ALSA Handbook for show regulations.

We have a few of our volunteer staff in place, but as you know a show of this magnitude needs many helpers to help it move along smoothly. Please call me, if you would be willing to help, at 303-277-1129. Kinds of positions open are those which in-

volve being a runner during the halter and performances classes, muscle to help move obstacles, two people who can help tabulate obstacle scores for performance. I'm confident that there will be a need for more volunteers so you won't be turned down if you want to help.

We encourage you to bring farm and ranch banners and displays which will educate the general public and prospective llama owners. All animals stalled must be entered in the show. Saturday and Sunday will be busy days with showing and visiting with the public. Remember the llama shows are in the afternoon this year making it possible for a larger audience to attend.

The ALSA judge will be Jodi Sleeper from Ocate, New Mexico, a long time member of the llama and alpaca community.

This is a qualifier for the First ALSA Central Regional Championship Show in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, March 23 & 24, 1996!



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Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show - 1995.

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# We Sent the Bear Packing!

Brad Riley • Boulder Ridge Ranch • Lyons, Colorado • 303-823-5409

Our area has experienced an increasing number of bear problems this year. We lost our chickens and turkeys to a mother bear and her three yearling cubs early this summer and others have had trouble with bear raids both inside and outside their homes. When a good friend of mine informed me that his friend, Dave, had obtained a tag for bear hunting, I was more than happy to give him permission to hunt on our land and help him in any way that I could.

Dave spent all of his free time trying to track a bear. He would come by many evenings after work in addition to spending many weekend hours looking for signs. All of Dave's hard work and persistence eventually paid off. During the last hour of the final day of the season, Dave got his bear. It was a good-sized female, possibly the one that killed our chickens and turkeys.

The bear was killed in the National Forest, about three miles from our house. Since the bear weighed over 250 pounds, I suggested that we use llamas to pack the bear out the next morning. Not only would this make Dave's job much easier, but it would also settle my curiosity regarding a llama's encounter with a meat-eating predator.

Many things went through my head before I embarked on this "experiment." Will the llamas panic at the sight of the bear? How would we go about loading the bear? What equipment would we need? Would we waste hours in this attempt to make things easier for Dave? Another thought that crossed my mind was the fact that Dave had never spent any time around llamas. Being an avid hunter, Dave had used horses on many trips. Since llamas have a bad rap with many horse people, what would Dave think about llamas?

I chose our two largest and very experienced packers to make this trip. Areesh and Mountain Man had just returned from a 400 mile hike along the Continental Divide Trail. I outfitted the llamas in Mt. Sopris frames. Mountain Man wore a set of Mt. Sopris panniers, while Areesh wore a set of custom-made panniers by Larry Sandford. I especially like the large holding capacity of these special panniers. We carried a jar of mentholatum with us. My friend, Doug Simpson, informed me that a glob of mentholatum under the nostrils will prevent a horse from smelling a dead animal. I thought I could try this with the llamas if the need arose.

The three mile walk to the site went flawlessly, of course. I asked Dave to let me know when we were a few hundred yards away. I wanted to be prepared for the worst! We approached down-wind from the bear so that the llamas would be able to smell the bear in advance. I warned Dave to keep a tight hold on the lead rope and told him to just let go if the llamas really panicked.

When we were about 50 yards away from the bear, Areesh caught the scent. His only reaction seemed to be an increased alertness. Mountain Man didn't seem to have any kind of reaction. When we first came in sight of the bear, we stopped to let the llamas take a good look. After two or three seconds, both Areesh and Mountain Man began to eat grass. I decided that maybe they did not see the bear, and we brought them in a little closer. They kept an eye focused on the bear, but didn't seem to have any kind of negative reaction. We finally walked the llamas right up to the bear. They really didn't seem to care. I was very pleasantly surprised!

My plan for loading the bear was to put all of the meat on one llama and the cape, head and our equipment on the other. We cut the meat in half, just under the first rib. This ended up working well, creating a fairly well-balanced load.

I expected the llamas to be a little jumpy or skittish when we actually loaded the bear onto their backs. Once again, there was no reaction from the llamas. We didn't even have to apply the mentholatum; they just didn't seem to care about the bear.

I guess that I had underestimated the llamas' intelligence level. Areesh and Mountain Man must have realized that the bear was dead and, therefore, not a threat to them. I am not saying that a llama would cuddle up on a bear rug, but I must admit that it would not surprise me after this pack trip!

The best part of this "adventure" was that Dave came away with the impression that llamas are very intelligent and easy-going animals. Dave commented on how much easier the llamas were to work with compared to horses. He also said that he might even like to go on long hikes with them some day.



# What Showing Has Accomplished

## for our Ranch

By Ron Baird • Plum Valley Llamas • Sedalia, Colorado • 303-688-5445

We acquired our first llama, a male, in 1992 with the sole idea of using him as a packer. At 50, backpacks had become heavier with the passage of time especially with our very young granddaughter joining us on the trail. Shortly afterwards we decided to purchase a young bred female, with the idea of recovering our investment through the sale of offspring as well as breeding fees.

Nearly a year later, we had a baby boy and no response to our breeding ads. This was despite the fact we had what we considered a very fine male. A junior herdsire had also been purchased at the Fort Worth show for Lougene by her brother.

Ideas were bandied about as to how to improve our ranch visibility and what to do about getting breedings. We knew they would be our only source of llama income for some time, what with only two females. We took it upon ourselves to join ALSA. We bought a pack, borrowed an old horse trailer, and hauled our two boys to the 1993 Estes Park Wool Market. Not having more than a vague idea of what to do or how to do it, we entered our adult male in halter and performance classes. The junior herdsire was entered in yearling halter.

I showed the adult male in halter and took a fifth out of maybe 15 animals. After all, don't you just go out and stand there? I was beaten by youngsters who knew how to show animals to their advantage! The junior herdsire placed last in a huge class. We talked about the day's results over dinner and even discussed leaving that night, thinking the show portion of llama ownership was something beyond our capabilities. I guess the deciding factor in favor of staying was that we had paid the entry fees for Sunday's performance classes.

Sunday started out well. Our granddaughter took second place in costume class with the junior herdsire. My first class was adult pack and we earned a second out of 18. In public relations, we took second out of 22. We were ecstatic. When it came time to line up for obstacle class, our male stood behind the fence, snorting and pawing the ground. It had been three years since he had been in a show and he was loving very minute of it. Eagerly, we ran the course.

After an interminable time, the results were announced. We won the blue ribbon over 29 llamas

and with it, Grand Champion Performance. Our herdsire taught us a lot at Estes and ever since then. He is a performer. He loves shows. We also discovered people had truly forgotten his existence, sort of "out of sight, out of mind", and did not associate him with Plum Valley Llamas.

We bought out our partners, who were unimpressed by the wins and unwilling to invest in any future showing, for the baby and the female we jointly had purchased. This left us with two males; we decided show exposure was the only way to get ranch exposure while we worked on building a breeding herd.

At the next show, we took a second in halter (he had taught me to stand straighter and pay some attention to the way he was standing before the Judge). We ribboned in all performance classes, and were awarded Reserve Performance Champion. Our junior herdsire won the blue ribbon in Young Pack in this, his first performance competition.

The die was cast. Shows became the primary method to promote our herd, ranch, and breeding philosophy - - even though we still did not have any animals to sell.

National Western, Fort Worth, Intermountain Llama Classic, North Dakota State Fair, New Mexico State Fair, and The Autumn Classic in Virginia were the 1994 show schedule. The herdsire was joined in the last three 1994 shows by a pretty, smart, girl out of an old female we had acquired late in 1993. The girl won two Grand Championships, while the herdsire ribboned and won numerous Grand and Reserve Championships, either in halter or performance.

The herdsire made his last Colorado halter appearance at the National Western in 1995, placing first as a 10 year old in a class of 16 adult males. A Grand Champion at halter at Intermountain, Grand Champion Performance at Estes Park, and Grand Championships in halter and performance at the Minnesota State Fair have topped the herdsire's other shows this year. The other animals from our breeding program that we have shown have all won awards, including some in performance by the younger males.

What has it meant for the farm?

First, people now know our ranch name.

Second, we maintain selectivity in outside breed-

Continued on page 41

# RMLA Library Update

by Sharon Herbold • Pikes Peaks Woolies • Colorado Springs, CO • 719-495-3092

The RMLA library recently had an unexpected windfall. The RMLA Board of Directors gave the library the money contributed to the Jack Robertson Memorial Fund. I was able to purchase duplicate titles of our most popular items. I also added new videos and books to the inventory. These items are now ready to be checked out. The new items include:

## Videos:

### **Llamas and Cameras**

**Introduction to Packing**, Wes Holmquist

**Step by Step Shearing for Alpacas and Llamas**: Ted Chepolis

**Ashford Video of Spinning**: Anne Field

**Telepathic Communication With Animals**: Penelope Smith

## Books:

**Fences for Pasture and Garden**: Gail Dameron

**How to Build Small Barns and Outbuildings**: Monte Burch

**Low Cost Pole Building Construction**: Ralph Wolfe

**Building a Multi-Use Barn**: John Wagner

**Treading Lightly With Pack Animals**: Dan Gadland

**Llamas: Their Personalities and Expressions**: Bill Cushman

**Along Came a Llama**: Ruth Ruck

**Before and After Llamas**: Jo Ann McGrath

**Colors From Nature**: Bobbi A. McRae

**Pocket Guide to Cooking in the Great Outdoors**: Earl Shelsby

**Cooking for Camp and Trail**: Hasse Bunnelle

**Campers Guide to Outdoor Cooking**: John G. Ragsdale

The following children's books were donated to the library by Llama Books at Saluda Farms:

**Myth of the Llama**: Jeri Massi

**Ghost at Horse Creek**: Jeri Massi

**Lesser Brother**: Jeri Massi

Any additional titles or recommendations will be appreciated. Remember, videos are checked out for 2 weeks and books are checked out for 1 month. Please help get items to the individual on the waiting list by returning them on time.

**Thanks!**



*A Thank You from Lu Williams,*

I want to thank the membership and especially Dee Goodman and THE THING for the donation to help with my medical expenses. It was greatly appreciated along with the cards and calls I have received.

At this point, things are going well and thanks again to a Super Bunch of People. You are the best!

*Lu Williams*

## A New RMLA Lifetime Membership!

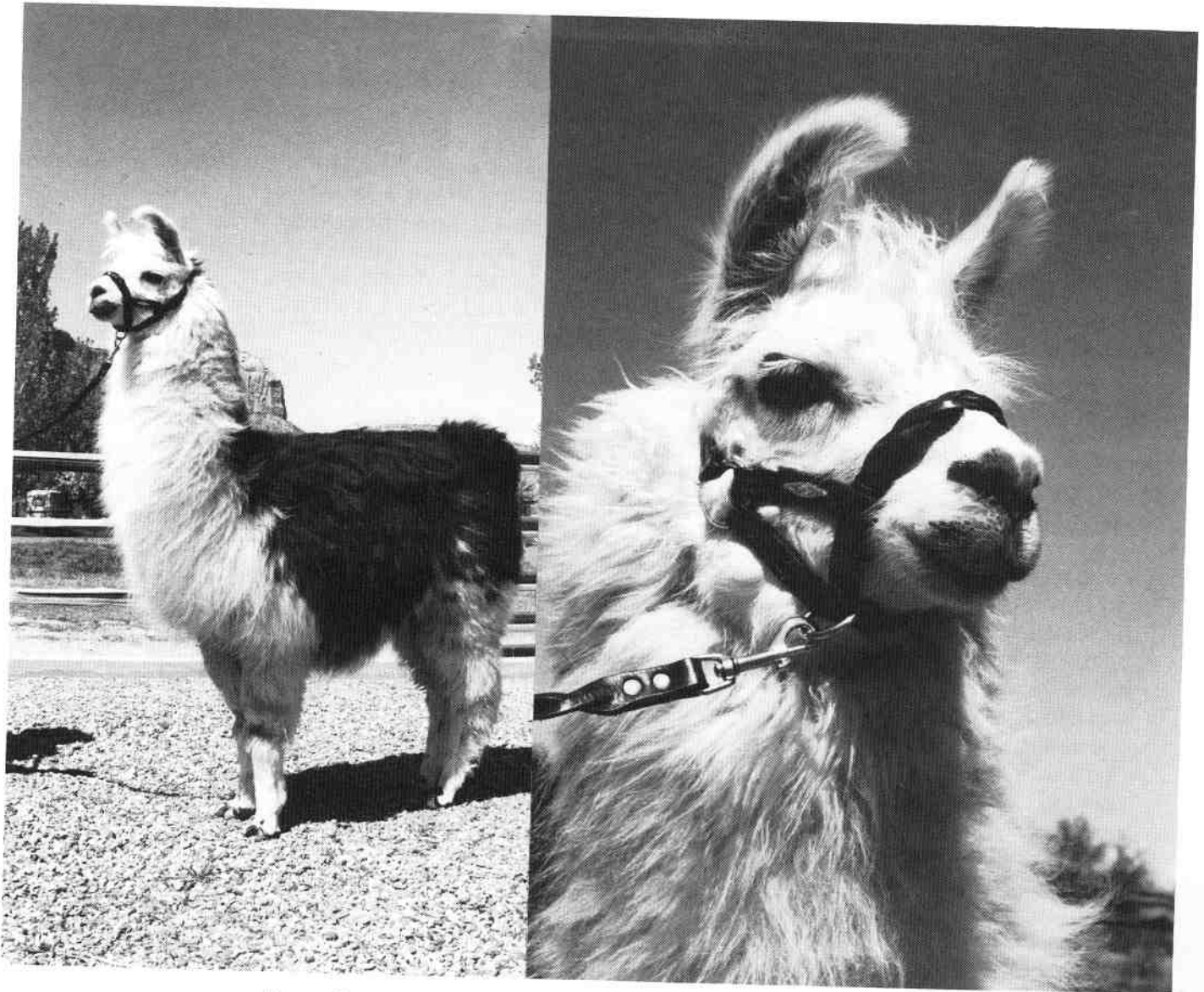
Lifetime Memberships are being offered starting in 1996. For a fee of only \$500.00 two members will receive the following:

Two Votes, Lising in the Membership Directory, Ability to advertise in the Newsletter and Service Directory. In addition, Lifetime Members will receive a free 1/4 page ad in the Newsletter for the first year in the issue of their choice. Plus, as a special incentive to sign up before December 31, 1995, Lifetime Members will receive a 25% discount to the 1996 RMLA Conference. The final wonderful advantage is being listed at the front of the Membership Directory.



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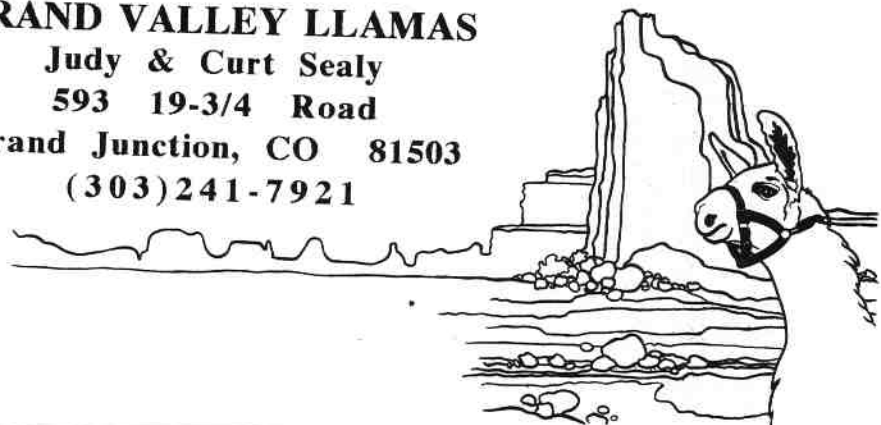
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# The Lucky 13th Fairplay Pack Race

by Dee Goodman • XI Llamas • Akron, Colorado • 970-345-2927

Now I'm not very superstitious. When it comes to ladders I walk under them ... no problem. It's when I'm on top I get hurt. When it comes to black cats walking in front of me ... no problem ... unless the cat runs in front of me when I'm driving. Then it's the cat that has a problem. But when it comes to "13" look out! Just ask me why sometime. And this year I had 2 "13th" events going on. The 13th Annual Leadville Trail 100 and, of course, the 13th Annual Fairplay Pack Llama Race on July 29th. I first thought, "NO, I can't do it." But why not? It wasn't going to be any different from the past years ... was it? Everything should work fine. But then it started. First it looked like Karla could not be at Fairplay. She works at the emergency room in Akron and is on call every other weekend. The person she works with was pregnant and due on July 29th! This was going to be hard as Karla and I always worked together on Fairplay. But soon this problem was solved. So maybe the 13th wasn't going to be so bad. Then the next thing hit. That was Northeast Colorado wheat harvest. Wheat harvest starts most years on the 4th of July and is done within 2 weeks. In fact, the year before we were done by the 4th! Not this year. It was late ... very late. You see for us, wheat harvest is like having all your llamas born within 5 days. So the question was, will we be done by the 29th? It was going to be close, hoping the weather would help, which by this time was a problem at Fairplay. Not so much the thunderstorms but the snow! You see it snowed a lot above Fairplay this Spring. And it decided not to melt before July. Fairplay is at the headwaters of the South Platte River. And the South Platte River is where the llama race is run. Three weeks before the race, I got a call from Ralph Herzog, the head of Fairplay's Burro Days Committee. "Dee," Ralph said, "we have a problem". "So what's new," I said. "The rivers a little high...in fact, a lot of high ... plus fast". "How bad is it," I asked. "Well" Ralph said, "we can't cross it right now and we

guess it's around 5' deep ... plus it washed out the Fairplay Beach. You can't even get to the bridge to get across but it might go down and slow down in 3 weeks". Ralph finished by suggesting we talk in a couple of weeks ... that is if we weren't out on the combine with the wheat. Even through we just started cutting wheat 2 weeks later, I called Ralph. "Now how's the river?" I asked. "I crossed it ... but it was slow going ... and high ... and fast" I asked how high and fast." The good news is now it's only 4' deep. The bad news is it's fast ... so fast that after I put a rubber duck in the river at Alma (7 miles North) it beat me back to Fairplay". So now not only did I worry about harvest being done but how to set the course without everyone going down the river. Thanks 13! But that's not all. At about the same time came the Vesicular Stomatitis outbreak scare. Now we were getting calls to see if the Fairplay race was canceled. After making some calls and finding out more about Vesicular Stomatitis, the race was still on ... we hoped. We finished wheat harvest at 9:00 p.m., July 27th. We left for Fairplay July 28th and found one high and fast river which was suited for a raft race and not a llama race! Ralph and I started marking the course. In past years, this only took 2 hours. But this year we

Continued on page 40



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of your animals this Season...*

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Kristin & Deidre  
2210 Pine Wood Road*

*Sedalia, Colorado 80135-8444*

*Phone: 303-688-5445 Modem & Fax: 303-688-6814*





# 1995 Fairplay Pack Llama Race

## and Lunacy Results

Pro Mens ..... Mark Pommier & Clancy (Bill Redwood)

Pro Womens ..... Diane Ridgway & Redwoods Jamie (David Clark)

Mens 15-24	1. Ryan Padilla & Durham (Stan Ebel) .....	13:23
	2. Jason Brenkert & Bo (Jack Lundt) .....	15:04
	3. Erick Benson & Walter (Jack Lundt) .....	16:24
Womens 15-24	1. Jamie Gray & Willie (Rob Ferris) .....	16:37
	2. Sandy Metzger (LaRue Johnson)	
Mens 25-34	1. Kyle Allinger & Zulu Chief (Terry Price) .....	15:04
	2. Chris Sandalcidi & Lightning (Bill Redwood) .....	16:36
	3. James Alomb & No Ears (Dee Goodman) .....	17:21
Womens 25-34	1. Cindy Miller & Tincup (Dee Goodman) .....	29:06
Mens 35-44	1. Jack Lundt & Montano (Stan Ebel) .....	15:04
	2. Jack Moody & Rusty .....	17:19
	3. Terry Price & Olepi .....	17:37
Womens 35-44	1. Donna Tollis & Jose Muldoon .....	27:25
Mens 45-54	1. Roger Miller & Homer .....	18:06
	2. Tom Land & Bucky	
Womens 45-54	1. Ann Howard & Flannigan (Dee Goodman) .....	32:00
Mens 55+	1. Dewain Wood & Kangi .....	17:19
	2. David Clark & Pirate .....	17:26
	3. LaRue Johnson & Mtoto .....	20:00

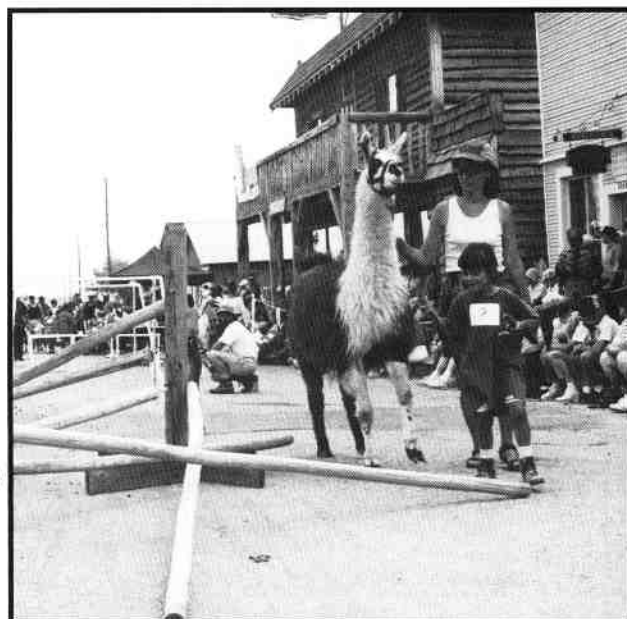
Overall Amateur Mens Winner ..... Ryan Padilla

Overall Amateur Womens Winner ..... Jaime Gray

Second Race of Triple Crown Race Winner ..... Mark Pommier

## Kids' Llama Lunacy

7 and under .....	1. David Goodman (7) Akron, CO
	2. Adison Martinez (7) Ouray, WY
	3. A.J. Donovan (5) Fairplay, CO
	4. Laura Dempsey (6) Bellvue, CO
	5. Rachel Moody (7) Conifer, CO
	6. Sabrina Estrada (6)
8 - 12 .....	1. Scott Coulter (11) Manhattan, KS
	2. Cassandra Nelson (11) Parker, CO
	3. Stefanie Barriere (12)
	4. Deidra Baird (10) Sedalia, CO
	5. Corinne Klueger (11) Longmont, CO
	6. Kelly Murray (11) Breckenridge, CO
13-17 .....	1. Hilary Price (13) Durango, CO
	2. Sasha Slover (14)



A mom helping her child through the  
Obstacle Course

# MC Hammer = Star Maker



## Get of Sire

### First Place, Estes Park Wool Market '95



**AEROSMITH**

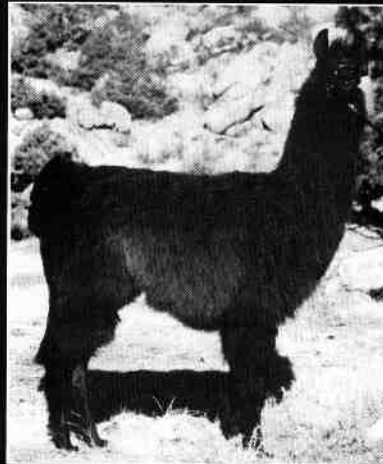
(MC Hammer X Pedraza)

First Place Juvenile Heavy Wool Male  
NWSS '95

Second Place Juvenile Heavy Wool Male  
EP Wool Market '95

Purchased by

Bobbi Wise & Dan Kroupa  
Arrowhead Ranch



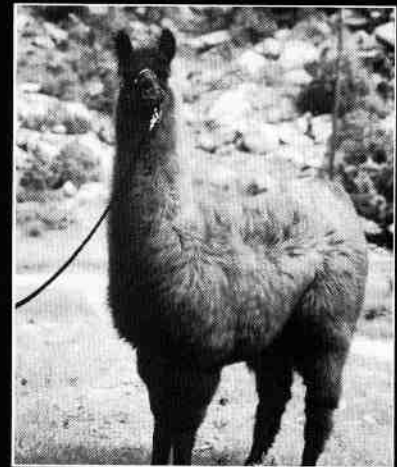
**DIRE STRAITS**

(MC Hammer X Oujia)

First Place Yearling Heavy Wool Male  
EP Wool Market '95

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(MC Hammer X Pepper)

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# 13th Annual Leadville Trail 100

by Dee Goodman • XI Llamas • Akron, Colorado • 970-345-2927

Here we go again. Another 13th Annual event (see 13th Fairplay Race). This time the Leadville Trail 100. This was only the 8th year for the Hope Pass aid station and the 6th year the llamas and us were part of the LT100. We were hoping everything would go well: no rain, no snow, no problems. The Hopeless Crew are such great volunteers it is a joy to work.

Before I go on, I should tell you what I'm talking about. The Leadville Trail 100 is a race ... a foot race ... where people from all over the world pay to run 100 miles cross-country at high altitude. They must finish the race in 30 hours or less. And there is no prize money awarded to the winners. Most runners participate in the LT100 just to see if they can do it. You think these runners are crazy? I did when I first saw them on TV back in 1988. But then I met some of the runners. These people are not crazy, but well trained not only physically but especially mentally. In other words, when these people set their minds to it, they do it! Even then, running in this part of the country above Leadville, Colorado they can get in trouble. Sudden rain or snow storm, high altitude and the wrong clothes. In the first few years of the LT100, there was no aid station on Hope Pass. This is the highest point of the race, at 12,600', and the longest distance between aid stations. How could you have an aid station there? There are no roads plus you would have to pack equipment in and the crew would have to stay 3 days. So why bother? But then it happened. In 1987, a runner went down and almost died on Hope. Luckily for her, she was found and flown out. It was time for an aid station. The first year they tried horses. But some of the people almost got hurt when the weather got bad. The next year they planned to use army helicopters. But 1 week before the LT100 they found themselves without the helicopters. Karla and I received a call from Ken Clouber, the race director. Ken had run with our llamas in a couple of pack races and we owed him a favor. He asked if we could bring our llamas to get some gear up to Hope. No problem. And that was the start of the Hopeless Station with llamas. It has grown since then not only in the number of runners but in the number of llamas and the great people that own them! This race and the Hopeless Crew has become known worldwide. The Hopeless Crew is now mostly llama folks and a few local Leadville people. Every year the llamas haul up food, tents, radio gear, medical equipment, water pumps, car batteries, O2 tanks, and other gear to help the runners. All in all, the llamas carry over half a ton of gear! We start on Friday morning. Packing up the llamas takes around

2 hours. Then we head up the trail, starting at 9200', and go 4 to 5 miles to the camp which is at 12,100'. There we set-up the the camp which includes 2 very large tents. Someone heads up to the pass with radio equipment while others go down to a lake and start pumping water. The llamas carry about 180 gallons up to the camp each day. The crew must go up and stay for 3 days no matter what the weather is like. And that's why the llamas work so well. They don't go nuts like the horses do when the weather turns bad.

This leads us to the 13th year! First, as at Fairplay, we could not cross the river to the base of the trail like we had always done. We had to use a new parking area. New parking area means an extra 1-1/2 mile hike up. Fun! But at least the weather was good. But not the next morning! Rain! Cold rain! If not for the courage of the fearless crew ... what can I say. But in the afternoon the sun came out! No matter what the weather is like, the runners come through camp. Our aid station is different from the others for there is no runner crew to help them. We do it all. We water them, feed them, fix them in the medical tent, and we get them over the mountain. Many of them come back though on their return trip trying to reach Leadville. This year around 600 runners went through camp. Some did not stop but most did. The best thing was the thank yous!! Even though these runners had just run either 45 or 55 miles; they always said, "thank you." Some even went over and pet the llamas! The last runner left camp at 10:00pm. It was a long but rewarding day. We looked down on the lights of Leadville and thought about the runners heading to Leadville in the darkness and hoped they made it. The next morning as we broke down camp we heard the winning time. It was a slow race with around 150 finishers out of 375 who started. We headed down the mountain to the trailers. From there to Leadville and a good meal not around a camp fire. Soon we all headed home with the feeling we did well! Without the Hopeless Crew some would not have made it back. And without the llamas there would not be a Hopeless Crew. What a special feeling! This is the reason we have llamas! Will we go back next year? You bet! And why not? It's not the 13th any more. A special thanks to all the llama folk that help every year. Without you it wouldn't work and be so much fun!

If you would like to help next year, please call or write Dee or Karla Goodman. The LT100 is always the 3rd weekend of August. We would love to have you there!



## *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
Back Cover: .....	\$50.00
1/2 Page Back Cover (Two Color): .....	\$115.00
1/4 Page: 4-3/4" x 3-1/2" .....	\$20.00

**10% discount for 3 consecutive Issues for Same Display Ad.**

Business Card: 2" x 3-1/2" .....

**All Display Ads have to be camera-ready and the correct size. Ads will be returned if not sized correctly. It costs money and time to reduce the size.\***

### Classified Ads:

Member Classified: (50 words) .....	\$5.00
<i>(For more than 50 words-15¢ per word)</i>	
Non-Member Classified: .....	\$10.00
<i>(For more than 50 words-15¢ per word)</i>	

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**Jo Riley**  
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**303-823-5409**

*Please make check payable to RMLA.*

\* Display Ads can be typeset for you for an additional fee. If you would like information, call the Editor, Jo Riley, and the easy process can be explained.

**Black and white or color pictures may be used.**



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Mary Charlotte White, born October 23, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz.  
*Another llama packer to join the realm!***



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**Lauren Herbold**  
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Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
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*Reg. Corriedale & Colored Sheep*  
*Breeding Stock, Handspinning Fleeces, Market Lambs*  
**Visitors Welcome**



**Four Creek  
Llamas**  
**(303) 647-2429 Rick & Jan Cummer**

# RMLA Annual Business Meeting Minutes

October 21, 1995

Meeting held at the Comfort Inn Conference room, Castle Rock, CO at 10:00A.M. Board members in attendance: Reid Langerman, Cheryl McCutcheon, Daryl Wood, Lougene Baird, Judy Sealy, along with 30 RMLA members.

The meeting was called to order by President Reid Langerman at 10:15A.M. Minutes from the October 2, 1994 Annual Meeting were posted.

Board election results were announced. One hundred sixty nine ballots were returned, with new directors as follows:

President-Elect - Linda Kyriopoulos

Vice President - Bob Riley

Secretary - Julie Messick

It was announced that Judy Sealy will be the membership chairperson.

## REPORTS

**Past Year's Activities:** Reid Langerman reported that Lougene Baird has worked hard refining the management of the Treasury, to operate the Treasury more like a business.

The Rendezvous in Logan, UT was a good event, as was the Estes Park Wool Market, which is now the largest llama show in the country. The Fairplay race was successful, with Dee Goodman in charge of the event.

Chris Switzer resigned as RMLA librarian, and Sharon Herbold has now taken over the RMLA library. Sharon is a professional librarian, and is doing a great job. The Board decided to use the Jack Robertson memorial funds to purchase new library materials, and a plate in Jack's honor will be placed in each book.

RMLA got a foot in the door at the Taos Wool Festival this year, by sponsoring a fiber workshop, grooming demo, and handling demo.

The Board has decided RMLA events need to make a profit or at least break even. Publications also need to break even.

Jim Osmun has been doing a great job with the RMLA Booth; he needs more pictures for it. Members are encouraged to send some.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lougene reported we have \$16,652.41 cash on hand, as of 10/1 1/95. Of that, \$14,227.45 is reserved, as follows:

\$10,000 Caring for Llamas printing later this year \$4,227 for Research

*Major projects that were funded this year are:*

\$10,000 research

\$ 2,100 Camelid Kids newsletter

\$ 6,800 Caring for Llamas reprint

\$ 3,200 4-H manual

Lougene has detailed financial records available; if any member is interested in seeing them, please contact her.

**Finance Committee:** Bob Riley reported that the operating expense appears to be more than income from dues. This is a long-term problem. He feels we need to watch expenses rather than increase dues. We also need to consider how much events cost us, relative to the number of RMLA members that benefit from that event. For example: the Llamathon is very expensive, and benefits only a few members.

**Membership Committee:** Judy Sealy reported that RMLA now has over 600 members: 564 individuals and ranches, and 37 juniors.

**Newsletter:** Jo Riley reported that, due to time and advertising constraints, the newsletter will be cut down from 5 issues to 4 quarterly issues next year.

Jo committed to be the newsletter editor through 1996; after that she may consider resigning, due to other commitments.

She is proposing 2 committees 1) advertising, 2) articles. Jo is having a hard time getting people to submit articles, and very few members contribute advertising.

Articles show the author's name, address, etc., so that when the articles are this as an incentive for people to submit articles.

The membership needs to consider whether they want to continue the newsletter, since its not self-supporting with advertising.

**Library:** Sharon Herbold said several members have been using the library in creative ways; checking out videos to show at events, rather than taking live llamas, and using library information for science fair projects. A number of new books and videos were purchased, thanks to the Jack Robertson Memorial Fund. Sharon added a wide variety of titles, including camp cooking books and some new children's books.

**Fiber Committee:** Sharon Beacham reported they are working on a preliminary proposal for RMLA to have a fiber booth at Estes Park Wool Market and Taos Wool Festival, for the consignment of llama fiber and goods. The Fiber Co-op booths will be for the consignment of llama and alpaca fiber, garments, and other hand-crafted articles. Fiber may be packaged in ziplock or other suitable plastic bags. It can be just as you sheared it, but it is suggested that the fiber be carded and processed into roving or batting. All llama and alpaca fiber will be accepted, but it should be clean in order to present it at its best. Fiber will be on sale, with the money going to the consignor if they work in the booth. If they don't help in the booth, 213 of the money will go to the consignor. The committee can provide interested persons with a list of fiber processors.

Members reported that clean (not necessarily processed) llama fiber should bring \$2.50/ounce, while processed fiber brings \$4-7/oz.

Continued on page 36

# Cache La Poudre



## MINERALS

### Protect your llamas' /alpacas' health and productivity with Cache La Poudre Minerals.

Lamas' nutritional needs are not always met in their pasture or hay. They need:

- Calcium and phosphorus in a 2:1 ratio for good bones and growth. Diets high in alfalfa, fresh growing grass, or grass hay low in phosphorus need additional phosphorus to balance the calcium.
- Selenium for good immune function and prevention of white muscle disease.
- Vitamin E for the absorption and utilization of selenium; together they work as a highly effective antioxidant which reduces the effects of stress and disease.
- Zinc for immune function and healthy skin and fiber.
- Vitamin D3 for normal bone growth, tooth structure, and absorption of calcium and phosphorus.

**Cache La Poudre Minerals provides balanced mineral and vitamin supplements to meet all these needs. In different formulas to complement different feeding situations.**

*Based on llama research by Dr. LaRue Johnson at Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital.*

### We are your best choice because:

- Only the highest quality ingredients are used.
- Essential trace minerals and vitamins are included that are not available in most home-made mixes.
- Convenience: The supplement is easy to use—put it out in buckets or tubs in the feeding areas. The llamas help themselves to it, eating it as they need it. It eliminates individual feedings; and unnecessary protein and calories associated with some pellets.
- Service: Same or next day shipping plus a convenient 800# for ordering and consultations.
- Shipping costs are not built in to our prices. If your order must be shipped to you, you pay only the real cost of shipping. We work hard to help you save shipping costs by bringing CLPM to llama shows, sales, and conferences so you can pick them up. Call us and we'll work to get them to you the most economical way possible.
- **PRICE: Costs less per day than other free choice minerals with comparable guaranteed analysis.**

**CALL NOW TO ORDER**  
or receive a brochure

**800-758-0825**

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#### WHY PAY MORE?

##### SUPPLEMENT #1

Diet: Late or non-irrigated summer, fall or winter pastures; feeding grass hay. Contains a 2:1 calcium/phosphorus ratio and additional Vitamin E.

25 lbs ..... \$29    50 lbs ..... \$55

##### SUPPLEMENT #2

Diet: Late or non-irrigated summer, fall or winter pastures; feeding alfalfa hay, or a grass hay that is low in phosphorus. Contains additional phosphorus and Vitamin E.

25 lbs ..... \$29    50 lbs ..... \$55

##### SUPPLEMENT #3

Diet: Spring or irrigated pastures; feeding alfalfa hay, or a grass hay that is low in phosphorus. Contains additional phosphorus and recommended basic levels of Vitamin E.

25 lbs ..... \$24    50 lbs ..... \$45



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have it ALSA and RMLA sanctioned, and have full adult and youth classes, along with races. The committee is looking into getting corporate sponsors.

## Vision for the Future

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**RESOLVED:** That RMLA will solicit members and compile a Speakers / Resource Bureau list, to be added to the Service Directory.  
Jerry Dunn and Sally Rucker volunteered to help Mary collect names for this project.  
Dee Goodman made a motion, seconded by Barbara Hance, and passed:  
**RESOLVED:** That a basic summary of the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings will be included in the RMLA Newsletter.  
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Messick, Secretary

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# RMLA Board of Director's Minutes

October 21, 1995

The Executive Board met following the Annual Meeting, in Castle Rock, CO. Members present were Cheryl McCutcheon, Bob Riley, Lougene Baird, and Julie Messick.

**Caring For Llamas:** bid Dee Goodman presented 2 bids for printing and typesetting the next edition of Caring For Llamas. After discussion, it was decided to delay a decision for a few days, until a bid could be received from a printer in Kansas City.

**Sponsored Events Discussion:** was held on the need for specific policies and forms for sponsored events.

**Mailing List:** The Board discussed whether or not we should make our mailing list available to

llama-related businesses, and it was decided to sell the list for 5 cents per name, plus shipping & handling.

**Unification:** Bob will work on a draft of a position statement regarding the Umbrella Organization, to present to our members.

**Board Meetings:** The Board decided it will meet in January to coincide with Llama Assembly / Stock Show, and at the Intermountain Classic in Logan, UT. Monthly teleconferences will also be held.

There being no further business, the executive session was adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Messick, Secretary

Membership Forms and Service Directory Forms are being mailed first class. Please return before December 31st.  
**Great things are happening next year!**

## **NEW** Lama Chute **NEW**

*A necessity for providing safe care and treatment for your valuable llama and alpaca friends.*



- Safe and humane restraint
- Proven sturdy design • Adjustable
  - Opening side doors for maximum access to animal
- Padded shoulder rests • Non-skid floor mat
- Durable wood construction

\$495 with doors  
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Mike Pettigrew, 800-758-0825  
Overland Trail Llamas, Livermore, CO

## TTEAM TRAINING

*with Dale Pettigrew*

Cooperative, well-trained llamas and alpacas are a pleasure to live with and care for, and **are easy to sell!**

LEARN **safe**, non-forceful, effective techniques to teach your llama/alpaca to halter, lead, load, pick up feet, pack, be groomed or medicated without restraint.

I specialize in changing problem behaviors.

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Host a one- or two-day Clinic (6-10 participants). You get the instruction for free, and you get folks to your ranch to see your breeding program.

Lectures, demonstrations, seminars available for your local/regional llama gathering or conference.

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A lengthy discussion followed, stressing the need for RMLA to help and provide information to those people who own just a few llamas.

Mary Mauz suggested RMLA form a speakers/resource bureau, listing people in our organization who are willing to help others, with a variety of topics (working with special needs people, fiber, etc). A motion was made, seconded by Sally Rucker, and passed:

**RESOLVED:** That RMLA will solicit members and compile a Speakers / Resource Bureau list, to be added to the Service Directory.

Jerry Dunn and Sally Rucker volunteered to help Mary collect names for this project.

Dee Goodman made a motion, seconded by Barbara Hance, and passed:

**RESOLVED:** That a basic summary of the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings will be included in the RMLA Newsletter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Messick, Secretary



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# RMLA Board of Director's Minutes

October 21, 1995

The Executive Board met following the Annual Meeting, in Castle Rock, CO. Members present were Cheryl McCutcheon, Bob Riley, Lougene Baird, and Julie Messick.

**Caring For Llamas:** bid Dee Goodman presented 2 bids for printing and typesetting the next edition of Caring For Llamas. After discussion, it was decided to delay a decision for a few days, until a bid could be received from a printer in Kansas City.

**Sponsored Events Discussion:** was held on the need for specific policies and forms for sponsored events.

**Mailing List:** The Board discussed whether or not we should make our mailing list available to

llama-related businesses, and it was decided to sell the list for 5 cents per name, plus shipping & handling.

**Unification:** Bob will work on a draft of a position statement regarding the Umbrella Organization, to present to our members.

**Board Meetings:** The Board decided it will meet in January to coincide with Llama Assembly / Stock Show, and at the Intermountain Classic in Logan, UT. Monthly teleconferences will also be held.

There being no further business, the executive session was adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Messick, Secretary

Membership Forms and Service Directory Forms are being mailed first class. Please return before December 31st.

**Great things are happening next year!**

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Overland Trail Llamas, Livermore, CO

# New Members

by Judy Sealy, Membership

Linda K. Souders  
ROCK CREEK RANCH  
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Reno, NV 89502  
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Carol Ann Tallmon  
CaroLLlama FARMS  
1705 Burleson-Retta Rd.  
Burleson, TX 76028 (Oct.-Apr.)  
817•447•3509

P.O. Box 625  
Florissant, CO 80816 (May-Sept.)  
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William H. Hein  
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FAX: 702•451•2363

Joan Barriere  
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West Chester, PA 19382

Stefanie Barriere  
1128 St. Finegan  
West Chester, PA 19382  
JUNIOR MEMBER

## Address Changes:

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Continued on page 40

## New Members (cond.)

Lynley A. Nichol  
DREAMWEAVER LLAMAS  
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303•684•6443

Kent Douglass &  
Dr. Meg Cattell, DVM  
DECOLORS LLAMA RANCH  
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Loveland, CO 80538

Forrest Terrell  
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Laurie Mattke  
LOST BOYS RANCH  
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Watkins, CO 80137

Judy Gerzetch  
WILDWIND  
R.R. 1 - Box 124A  
Sherman, IL 62684

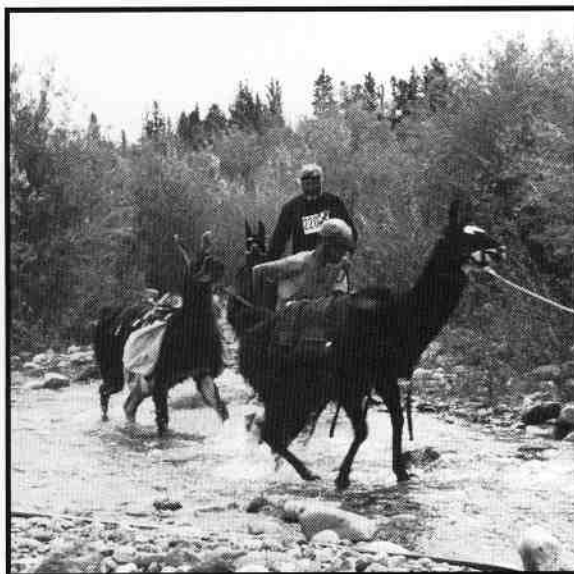
Chris Christenberry  
WHISPERING PINES LLAMAS  
8605 N.W. 121st St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73162

## Fairplay (cond.)

had to have a whole new course. Where to go? How to get down by the river? Could we go up Killer Hill? Could we cross the bridge? After 6 hours of looking, we had a course. Not a good course, but a course. Now, I thought I had beaten good old "13". But no. It was post time. Everyone was set. The llamas and runners were off! Down the street to saddle their llamas. And then it happened. For the first time in 13 years someone got someone hurt when saddling their llama. Then on the course, people got lost. Because racers had to pass each other, the flagging got run over. Everyone did make it back to Front Street although for the first time in 13 years we had to finish the race going back UP the street.

The good news for the weekend was the number of kids that went through the obstacle course; over 50!! And those kids had a GREAT time! Most of them had never even seen a llama let alone lead one. And those are the kids that won! A special thanks to Jerry Lee and Reid Langerman for judging the kids. All in all, I hope everyone had fun and hopefully

next year wheat harvest won't be right before Fairplay weekend, the river won't be so high, there is no rain the day of the race, no one gets hurt, and lots of people show up. We already have one thing going for us, it's the 14th Annual, NOT 13th! And may the next year be lucky!



**Racers enjoying the water!**



**The Kid's Obstacle Course**



## What Showing Has Accomplished (cond.)

ings. In this market, we feel this is good for the people who breed to our stud. Beginning after the 1993 Estes Park show, other owners began bringing their females for breeding. This has now grown into a steady stream of visiting ladies.

Third, we have sold all animals we had available for sale and are in the position of having no animals for sale. Our herd now includes five females and two juvenile males. We have had offers on the juvenile males as well as the several females we have shown. However, we have chosen to retain these animals for use as future show animals to continue promoting the ranch and as breeding stock.

Fourth, we consciously have a program designed toward producing show llamas. Just what that means is different for every farm. In our case, it means acquiring llamas that are conformationally correct, but can also do well in shows, especially females. It means the production of animals that can succeed in shows, exhibiting qualities that would be attributes to any program into which they might be sold. It means producing animals with performance capabilities.

It means producing animals fit to be used for

any purpose. Those whose owners choose not to show them will be desirable companion animals, packers, or fiber producers. In these applications, as for showing, we believe the llamas must have good dispositions, superior conformations, and intelligence.

Fifth, we believe so resolutely in a strong show organization that we have become very active in it. We believe continued show participation will aid in demonstrating the ranch's capabilities to produce animals meeting the above goals. If so, our ranch will meet its goals of selling its animals at prices acceptable to it, while offering exceptional values to the purchasers.

There is one sad note in all this. One day, the trailer will pull out of the drive loaded with llamas for a show. Our herdsire will not be among them, having passed his torch to a new generation. He will, we know, be disappointed because he is a show animal, "gets up" for shows, and teaches whomever shows him. If his offspring have inherited that aptitude, shows and showing will have made it all possible and attainable.



## Day Trippers! (cond.)

and fallen trees to duck under. After two hours of hiking, on the unanimous vote of all teenagers (and also a couple of 6-year olds), the adults were persuaded to stop for the noon meal. Judy Lillie took care of providing the 6-foot submarine sandwich, and everyone pitched in to contribute chips, vegetables, brownies, cookies, and soft drinks. A real feast in the forest! Twin sisters Andrea and Michelle were surprised with their own special brownies with tiny candles to commemorate their birthday that day.

Everyone then had time to climb the rocks and explore the area. A couple of the kids found what appeared to be bear tracks! By then it was time to pack up the llamas and head back out. We all had such a great time together, it was suggested we make this an annual activity for the club, and to invite any and all others interested to come along. So, let us know folks, anyone else want to join us? Maybe if we start a little earlier we can make it to the old homesteads!



Spring Lillie: Bridge Training

## Research Committee Report (cont.)

rized as the "same as horses" - we know they are not. We need them to be recognized for their minimal impact on the land and for their use to be encouraged because of their minimal impact. In the long term, such recognition will help the entire llama industry by gaining for it a healthy foothold in the pack animal business, on both a commercial and recreational level.

Another non-medical research effort has been underway, on an informal and largely unfunded level. This has been directed toward determining what other areas of the country are doing to promote sales and uses of llamas. Some of the results are eye-opening and could produce immediate results for our members. It is suggested that RMLA determine a formal funding arrangement for the study of these by a committee. This could be a sub-committee of the Research Committee or the Public or Membership Committees, or a new committee, which I shall call Sales Development for lack of a better term.

In the course of show and judging travel, medical and newsletter work, and just plain talking to other llama owners around the country, several distinct patterns of sales are being seen. Perhaps it would be timely for RMLA to actively educate its members about these, although to what extent needs to be determined by the Board of Directors. Here are some of the sales areas, some being used in more than one region, that are quite good.

**Guard Llamas:** in Ohio this year, over 10,000 brochures, based in part on the Franklin study supported by RMLA, have been distributed. Sales of about 1,000 guard llamas at basement prices of \$1,000 are reported.

A franchised "guard llama" business has been established back east. People are being trained to promote, train, and sell guard llamas. This could in part be indicative of the success of guard llamas in places other than Ohio!

**4-H llamas:** again in Ohio. This week, I was told "pet" quality llamas are being sold at a minimum of \$800. The ALSA Youth Program and very active 4-H programs back east are requiring large numbers of gelded or young males. I was told last fall by one seller that once a family buys a 4-H project llama, within a few years they are back for breeding females.

Now, a year later, I know that is the case here. What is needed is to actively expand youth programs using llamas. For example, few counties in Colorado have a 4-H program using llamas. Those that do have a very active one such as Douglas, El Paso, Boulder, and Weld. We ought to build a network throughout

RMLA's area - the entire U.S. - to establish, promote, and sponsor youth activities using llamas.

**Packers:** this spring in the Pacific Northwest, trained packers could not be found for under \$1,500 to \$2,000. Some calls were received from people willing to buy, come here to pick up, and resell trained animals. We need to promote that use locally and develop the market in a more active manner.

**Shows:** While this market - show quality, whatever that means - is not for everyone, it may fit the programs of some members. The show circuit is expanding in a nearly geometric fashion and with it a demand for animals that can do well in halter, performance, and youth showmanship classes. There are buyers willing to pay premiums for show trained animals, especially those that have a history of doing well in shows. As I pointed out, this market segment is not for everyone. It requires certain efforts not usually associated with our industry. However, membership in ALSA is soaring this year, shows are at a record high level, and attendance on the part of exhibitors and the public is very high. Some shows are even discussing entry limits. Premium money is growing to a level at which winning pays more than the cost of attending. If this continues, animals capable of winning will be premium items. This is not unrealistic: a horse show in Parker last spring had premium money of \$35,000 and attracted participants from all over the country. Participants in shows at this level are people who pay well for animals they like.

Finally, I would like to touch on a subject regarding research that is too often overlooked. That is *funding*. Llamas are pretty unique animals. They also are poorly understood in terms of their physiology. A rabid female bit her cria at Auburn University recently. *There is no rabies vaccine approved for use on llamas.* Heat stress this summer may have killed over 500 llamas nationwide. It is poorly understood. *Choanal atresia* may be genetic or, as some say, is caused by environmental influences. We all should want to find out which is true and how to protect our herds against it. Knowledge of the *immune system* can help in diagnosing illness and determining the efficacy of medicines, yet practically nothing is known about that. The list goes on and on.

The point is: we need to find a way to fund more research. RMLA has the vehicle. RMLA contributes much money to research. RMLA needs to find ways to expand its vital and nationally recognized contribution to medical research and remain the leader in this regard.



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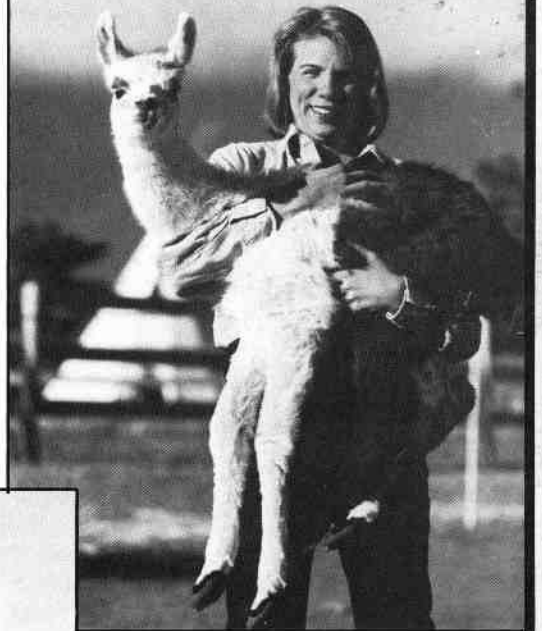




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