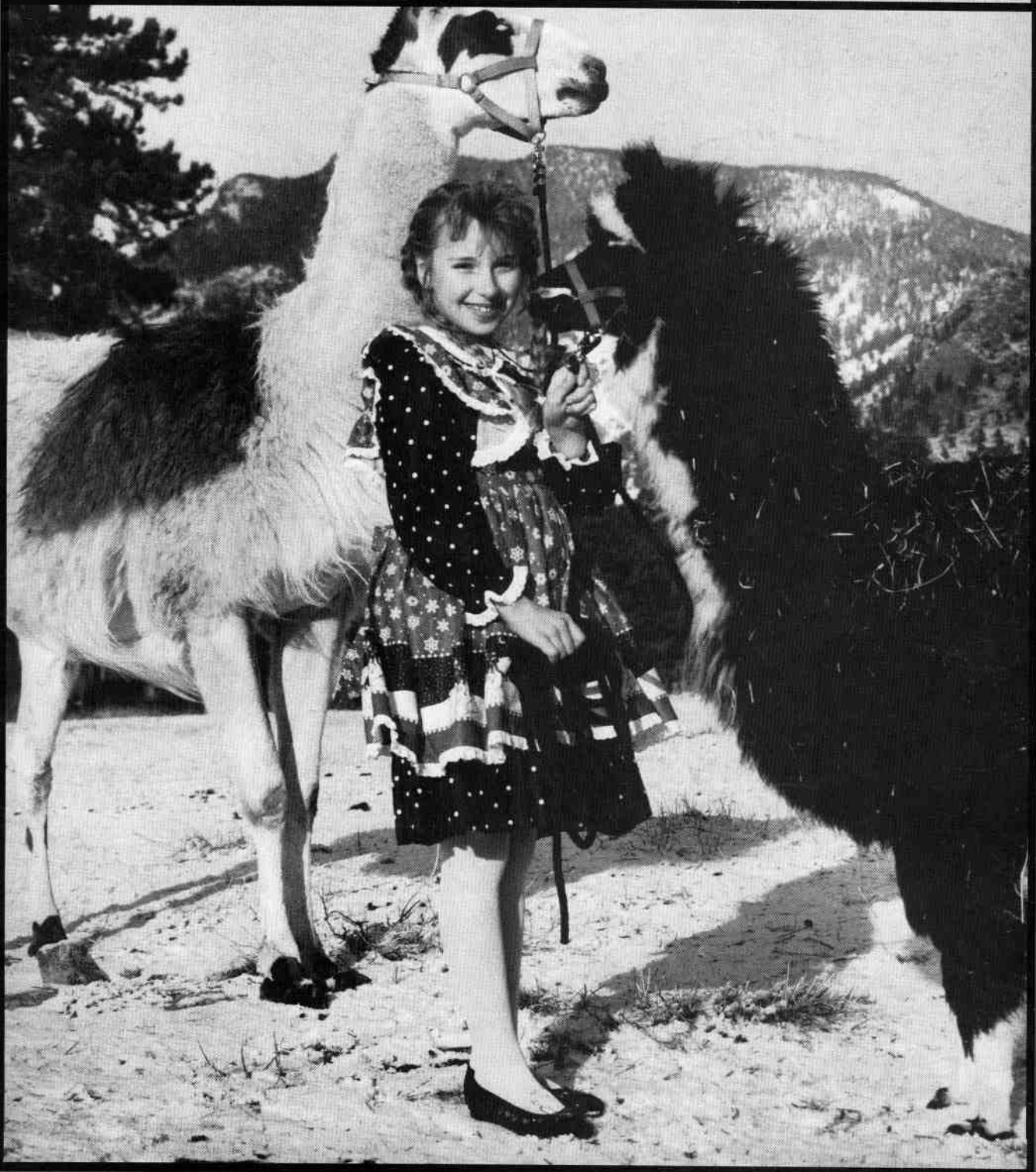


May  
1996

**RMLA**

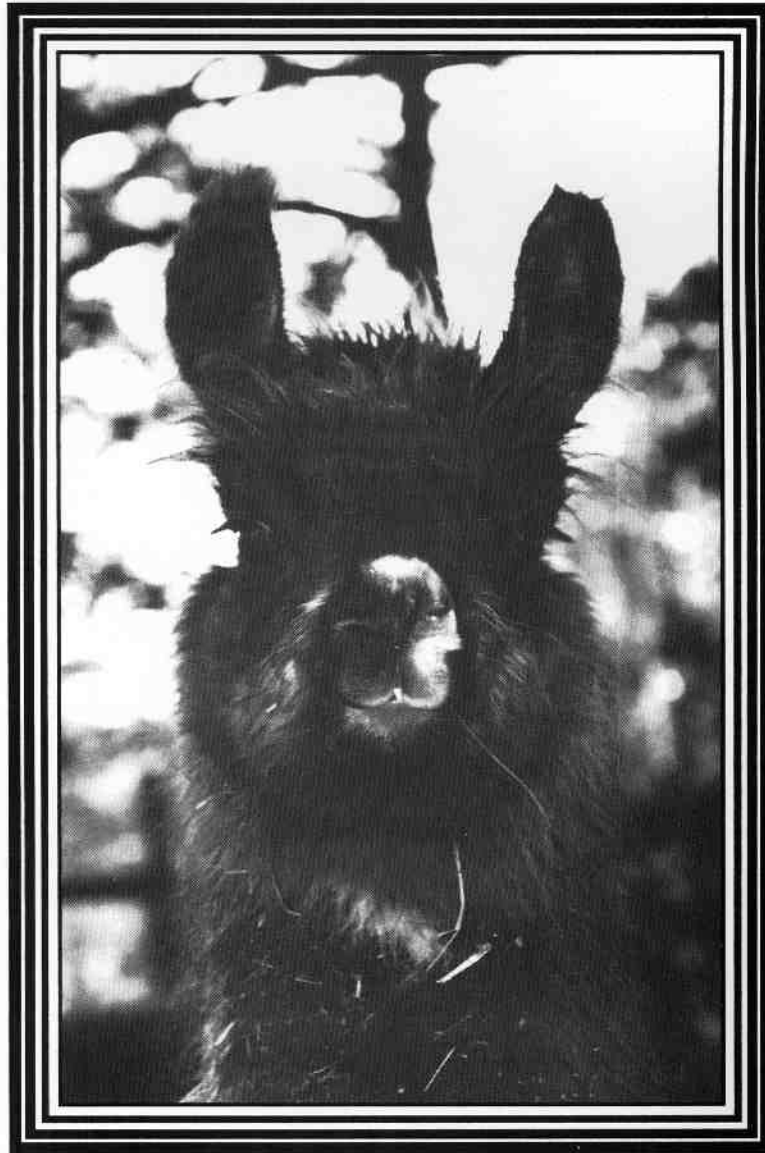


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|--|--|----|
| <b>In This Issue.....</b>                        | Llamas in the News .....                     | 38 |
| Calendar of Events .....                         | ALSA Judges Sharing Pork .....               | 39 |
| Johne's Disease Update .....                     | Llamas can be Raised in a Limited Space..... | 43 |
| President's Message .....                        | Just for Kids .....                          | 47 |
| A Momento of my First Encounter with Llamas..... | Packing Systems - Series I .....             | 48 |
| Nellie Newcomer .....                            | Estes Park Wool Market .....                 | 51 |
| Have Modem, Will Travel .....                    | The Snow Will Soon be Gone .....             | 53 |
| Make Mine a Short Stack .....                    | Fashion Forecast for Llamas .....            | 55 |
| Preparing for a Criá's Birth .....               | Camping Cuisine .....                        | 58 |
| Where am I Going? .....                          | New Members .....                            | 60 |
| You be the TTEAM Trainer .....                   | RMLA Library Report .....                    | 61 |
| Hay Selection .....                              | Classified Ads .....                         | 64 |
| Llama Shows - Fun and Educational .....          | RMLA Membership form .....                   | 66 |

**Newsletter** February issue ..... December 25th      August issue ..... June 25th  
**Deadlines** May issue ..... March 25th      November issue ..... September 25th

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**NOTE:** 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 reader's failure to heed this caution.

# “Calendar of Events”

*It's going to be a busy summer!*

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

This is 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. There is a large barn to house llamas or 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 2 & 3, 1996.

## **May 24-27: John Mallon Clinic; Boulder, CO**

Rocky Mountain Llamas and Pheasant Hill Farm are sponsoring the 2nd annual John Mallon Clinic in Colorado. Friday, May 24th Level I, Saturday, May 25 Level II, Sunday, May 26th Show Clinic, Monday, May 27th, Level I. Also free learn-to-shear clinics. For application forms or more information, contact Bobra Goldsmith, 303•530•5575 or Sharon Beacham, 303•666•9437.

## **May 25-27: Annual Country Farm Tour and Sale; Junction City, OR**

This is a perfect opportunity to learn more about raising alpacas by viewing them in their own comfortable surroundings. Three alpaca ranches will be featured with animals for sale from four local breeders. For more information and directions contact any of the following: April's Acres Alpacas 541•998•8176, Diamond Alpacas 541•998•2875, or River Rock Ranch 541•683•5159.

## **May 25-27: Intensive Alpaca Herd Management Clinic; Charlottesville, VA**

Featuring Dr. Fowler, Marty McCree, Antoinette Brewster and Terry Bailes. Learn all you ever wanted to know about the management and training of alpacas at Lanark Llamas and Alpacas. Call Antoinette Brewster at 804•293•2887 for more information. Space is limited.

## **June 7-9: Estes Park Wool Market Llama and Alpaca Show; Estes Park, CO (Fairgrounds)**

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. 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. The Alpaca events, sponsored by the Alpaca Breeders of the Rockies, include two mini-seminars with an ALSA fleece competition, Alpaca show, agility sweepstakes and dinner at the Aspen Lodge with guest speaker. Contact Marie Hinds for Alpaca events at 303•841•4889 or Linda Hinze at 970•586•6104 at the Fairgrounds. See related ad on pg 8 and article on pg 51.

## **June 8-9: COLA Show and Sale; Bend/Redmond, OR**

Central Oregon Llama Association Annual ALSA Show and Sale, held at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds in Redmond. Educational Seminars about llamas, packing, shearing, guard llamas, 4-H, etc. For registration or more information: Call Terry Dwyer 541•382•2168, or write "COLA", P.O. Box 5334, Bend, OR, 97708.

## **June 12-16: The 5th Annual AOBA Conference; Denver, CO**

The alpacas and seminars will be housed in air-conditioned comfort at Currigan Exhibition Hall. Vendors - Seminars - Auction - Paca-Pac for kids - Alpaca Show and more!! For more information, contact the AOBA office at 970•586•5357, Fax 970•586•6685 or e-mail at KENAOBA@AOL.COM

## **June 13-16: The 15th Annual ILA Conference; Columbus, OH (Convention Center)**

The 1996 International Llama Association Conference will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in the heart of Columbus. For registration information contact ILA at 303•756•9004, fax 303•756•8794

## **June 28-29: FIRECRACKER '96; Salem, OR (State Fairgrounds)**

7th Annual West Coast Llama Sale. Informative clinics, Performance Jackpot, hoedown & barbecue. For more information, contact Dick or Pat Wickum, Firecracker, Inc., 21325 Finn Road, Sheridan, OR 97378. 503•843•2765 505•843•3030 fax, Firecracker office: 1•800•876•8816. See ad on page 29.

## **July 5-7: Australian Alpaca Association Seminar 1996**

Held at the Sea World Nara Resort on Queensland's famous Gold Coast. Fibre workshops, genetics, reproduction and birthing clinics, farm management, and a slide show of Peru's Vicuña roundup. For more information contact Alan Cousill, Pucara Alpaca Stud, Point Addis, Near Geelong, Vict. Australia. Ph. 011/61-52-63-3436, Fax: 011/61-52-63-3364.

## **July 13 & 14: Four Corners Llama and Alpaca Bazaar; Cortez, CO**

Held at the Montezuma County Fairgrounds. The Bazaar will include a Fun Day, Demonstrations, Private Treaty Sales and lots more. For information please call Ted Earley 970•327•4511.

## **July 25, 26 & 27: Hinterland Walkabout II Sale; Sisters, OR**

Sandy Mubarak will give a presentation on Fiber Evaluation and Use on the 25th. Kay Patterson will have a presentation on



the Breeding Program at Hinterland. The auction is July 27th. Contact: Kay Patterson 541•549-1215, Fax 541•549•LAMA .

**July 27: Fairplay Pack Llama Race; Fairplay, CO**

If you're racing, or just watching, this is an event you don't want to miss. A 3 mile pack llama race and other llama events is sure to provide a Saturday of entertainment. Contact Bob and Ginger Ferris at 719•395•2372.

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

Cool, covered open sided barns and lots of space to make a great farm display is available. The show welcomes all youth to come for a wonderful time. Show starts at 8:30 A.M., barns available the afternoon before the show. Mary Beth Hartsough has accepted our invitation to be your ALSA Judge. Contact Lougene Baird, 303•688•5445 or Marie Hinds, 303•841•4889 or e-mail at RONLAMA@AOL.COM for information. Qualifier for the ALSA Central Regional Championship Show.

**August 9-11: Great Lakes Alpaca Expo / FIBERFEST; Kalamazoo, MI**

The Expo will be held in conjunction with FIBERFEST '96. The forum, FIBERFEST's education arm, will be held just prior to the Festival on August 7,8 & 9. For information on classes, exhibiting, or showing, contact Jayne Wick at 414•377•8420.

**August 11: Laramie County Fair Llama Show; Laramie, WY**

ALSA sanctioned youth show; halter class, packing, open obstacle & PR and more. Contact Dick Beach at 307•634•3638.

**August 16-18: Colorado State Fair ALSA Llama Show; Pueblo, CO**

ALSA sanctioned and RLMA sponsored event. Youth Classic show; public relations, obstacle and more. Plan to attend. Contact Chris Brown at 719•784•3220.

**September 6 - 8: MLA Lamafest; Kalamazoo, MI (fairgrounds)**

Llamafest is moving! The same great show and sale is moving to a new date. Sponsored by the Michigan Llama Association, Llamafest will include an ALSA show, llama sale, Miss Llamafest, workshops, Pet-A-Lama and more. For information contact Terry Wortz, 616•623•3366 or Sue Frambes at 517•857•3787.

**September 7: New Mexico State Fair - ALSA Youth Llama Show; Albuquerque, NM**

A first time event! Both 4-H and Open Youth will compete in same classes. Age divisions from 9 to 19. There will be 21 classes. Classes will be \$7.00 with payback to 6th place. For entry forms and fair book call Edwina Barela, 505•265•1791. For class descriptions, contact Superintendent Karen Reyer, NM Girls Ranch, General Delivery, Lamy, NM 87540 or (home) 505•466•6280 before 8AM, (Office) 505•466•7459 8-12 1-5 M-F, 505•466•1409 fax. Wally White will be the judge. (See September 21st and 22nd below for continued NM State Fair llama events)

**September 13 & 14: The Northern Rockies Llama Classic; Bozeman, MT (Gallatin Co. Fairgrounds)**

Beginning at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, 90 select llamas and alpacas will be offered for sale. Other events include: John Mallon Clinic, packing clinic, Exhibit Booths for buyers and browsers, wool demonstrations, Social, and complimentary Barbecue. For more information, contact Jonathan Blacher, 406•587•8077, Fax 406•586•5687 or e-mail JONATHAN@ALPINET.NET See page 15 for ad.

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

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 Witttrup, 719•683•2834. Don't miss this new event. This is a qualifier for the Second ALSA Central Regional Championship Show in 1997.

**September 20 & 21: RENO EDITION '96; Reno, NV (Reno Livestock Events Center)**

1st Annual Reno Invitational Llama Sale, 2nd Annual "Best of the West" ALSA Llama Show. For more information, contact Dick or Pat Wickum, Firecracker, Inc., 21325 Finn Road, Sheridan, OR 97378. 503•843•2765 505•843•3030 fax, Firecracker office: 1•800•876•8816.

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

This is a qualifier for the Second ALSA Central Regional Championship Show in 1997. Premiums will be awarded. Separate halter class for Alpacas. Contact Edwina Barela at 505•265•1791 or NM State Fair, P.O. Box 8546, Albuquerque, NM 87198.

**September 28 & 29: Taos Wool Festival; Taos, NM**

A wonderful place to learn about fiber. RMLA will have a booth for consignment of fiber. Come to Taos for a great time!

**October 3-5: RMLA Conference '96; Longmont, CO**

Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Return to 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. Pre-Conference Clinics will include an ALSA Show Clinic, a full-day Packing Clinic with a short hike in the National Forest, and a Photography Workshop. Registration Packets will be mailed in August!



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
GOVERNOR'S CABINET

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor  
Cary G. Peterson  
Commissioner

350 North Redwood Road  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-3087  
(801) 538-7100  
(801) 538-7126 FAX

February 7, 1996

**Thank you Dr. Marshall  
(and Daryl)!**

Mr. Daryl O. Wood  
PO Box 297  
Oak City, UT. 84649-0297

Dear Mr. Wood:

This letter is in response to your inquiry about the possibilities of llamas spreading or transmitting Johne's disease to big horn sheep and elk. I am aware of your questions regarding the use of llamas in the national parks of Utah. It is my understanding that the National Parks Service has taken management steps to eliminate llamas as an approved pack animal within several national parks in southern Utah.

I have not personally spoken with the management of the National Parks Service, however I have been told the reason they are prohibiting llamas from the national parks is because of a perceived disease threat from Johne's disease to the animals in the park. If I understand the current research material correctly, there is a grand total of four llamas in the United States which have been shown to have Johne's disease. Likewise to the best of my knowledge, there is no research that shows this disease is transmissible to big horn sheep or elk from llamas.

Speaking in terms of risk assessment and epidemiology, I believe the ban of llamas from national parks is a poor decision on behalf of the National Parks Service. It is my impression that the National Parks Service prefers to have llamas banned from the park for other reasons, and is using this medical statement about Johne's disease as an excuse to do so. It is difficult for me to understand why such medical decisions are reached for the state of Utah, without the input from Utah veterinary medical regulatory officials.

In summary, I do not believe that medical science supports the ban of llamas in national parks. Thank you for your inquiry. If I can be of further assistance, please call me at 801-538-7160.

Sincerely,

*Michael R. Marshall DVM*

Michael R. Marshall DVM  
State Veterinarian  
Director of Animal Industry

MRM/mjj

cc: Governor Michael O. Leavitt  
Commissioner Cary G. Peterson



# Johne's Disease Update

By: Ron Baird, RMLA Research Committee Chair,  
Plum Valley Llamas • 2210 Pine Wood Road • Sedalia, CO • 80135 • 303•688•1887

The long-awaited conference on Johne's Disease in Lamas took place at Colorado State University on March 12th. It was a very well attended meeting, both in terms of the veterinarian and scientific community present as well as quite a number of lama owners. From the public sector, representatives of the B.L.M., conference co-host along with CSU, and the National Park Service were present. The latter expressed regrets that Walter Dabney, Canyonlands Superintendent, was not present "due to an unavoidable schedule conflict".

Among the presenters of scientific papers regarding Johne's Disease in lamas, wildlife, cattle, and other animals were the leading experts on the subject. These included Dr. Ellen Belknap of CSU, Dr. David Getzy of CSU, Dr. Elizabeth Williams of the University of Wyoming, and Dr. Sue Stehman of Cornell University in New York State.

What emerged from the presentations was a clear picture of the conditions that accompany Johne's Disease. This is a disease associated with filth. The *Mycobacterium Paratuberculosis* bacteria from infected animals is shed in the feces. An animal, for instance a cow, with the disease in its clinical stage may shed millions of bacteria in a single bowel movement. Good herd management practices should, for this as well as other disease reasons, always involve the prevention of dung pile buildups. Dr. Stehman, in particular, delineated case after case of poor herd management practices that she had witnessed in dairy cattle herds infected with Johne's Disease. These range from feeding on the ground to using the same shovels to handle both feed and manure to housing uninfected animals next to infected animals.

Another important picture that emerged was some indication of the existence of Johne's Disease in wildlife. The Mount Evans and Grant herds of big horn sheep in Colorado have Johne's. One sus-

pected source was a transplantation years ago of mountain goats. The Tule elk herd at the Point Reyes, California National Seashore is endemic with Johne's Disease. The herd is thriving and some discussion is underway about culling it. A Connecticut study has shown herds of white tail deer having subclinical levels of Johne's Disease.

Dr. Harvey Moon, an independent scientific observer of the conference, was asked to summarize the day's presentations and discussions. He captured the spirit as well as the essence of the discussions very well, pointing out the salient arguments and facts.

- The NPS claims decisions relative to banning or not banning is a prerogative of each individual manager.
- Transmission of Johne's Disease is by high dosage, high exposure, not casual contact between species.
- The llama industry is a high growth industry. These are high value animals, therefore their health is of concern to their owners, who could be expected to follow good sanitary practices.
- Johne's Disease has occurred in four llamas, in three herds in three states. The diagnosis was by rather conventional techniques. Laboratory tests for Johne's in other species worked for llamas. The fact that there have been only four cases out of perhaps 100,000 llamas shows it is not a widespread situation in llamas.
- Public policy will have to go along with imperfect information. In fact, there is more incidence of Johne's in free-ranging wildlife than in llamas.
- Conditions for transmission must be perfect: continued exposure to *M. Paratuberculosis* bacteria, high levels of the organisms, and fecal matter.
- Concern on the part of the National Park Service that free-ranging herds would not be acceptable for transplantation is a management concern, not a wildlife concern.

*Johne's Disease, cont.*

Johne's is a disease of filth that takes years to develop - repeated exposures to high doses, a long maturation time after that, high animal concentrations, and possibly the inclusion of other factors such as stress.

- The consensus was that the risk of transmission of Johne's Disease to wildlife, by llamas, was exceedingly low. An animal sick enough to transmit the millions of *M. Paratuberculosis* that would be needed to infect would be so sick as to be unable to pack.
- There was no discussion of "zero" tolerance. There was no argument that the risk level isn't low. The use of Canyonlands as a "control" area (suggested by NPS) was not considered a valid experimental design by Dr. Moon. Other NPS managers, according to NPS representatives at the conference chose not to follow Canyonland's

action, based on an examination of the scientific data among other things.

Personal observation:

The above summary was prepared from my handwritten notes. When transcripts of the recorded comments are available in the future, as part of the Llama Legal Defense Fund's efforts, there may be some variations in the way the comments are time coordinated or stated precisely by the speakers.

I have received indications that, based on the conference evidence presented, the B.L.M. will not propose the banning of llamas from lands under its control. The result of a B.L.M. policy along those lines would mean no Federal governmental agency supports such an action.



If you drink, don't drive. Don't even putt.

*Dean Martin*

# Apaca Breeders of the Rockies \*

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Estes Park, Colorado  
June 7th, 8th and 9th, 1996



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- ALSA Show
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- Alpaca Sale Tent
- Fleece Judging

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- Dr. LaRue Johnson "Genetics & Ethics of Camelid Breeding"
- Mike Safley - "Economics of Alpacas"
- On-Going Tent Demonstrations
- Wool and Veterinary Topics

Friday Evening Dinner at the Fabulous Aspen Lodge  
Guest Speaker: Chris Switzer

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Parker, CO  
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\* Formerly Alpaca Breeders of Colorado



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Cheryl McCutcheon • Carousel Farms • P.O. Box 57 • Ruidoso Downs, NM • 88346-0057 • (505)378-4503

It has been a long winter and we are all ready to get out and enjoy our llamas with our family and friends which is what all of this is about anyway. Sometimes it is so easy to get caught up in "issues" and gloss right over the very reason we all are associated with one another.

Let us all strive to get back to the basics. We need to remember that our animals come first in our every day thoughts. Their proper care and treatment is most important. We encourage you, as you hike or travel with your llama friends, to make sure they are safe and protected. Act smartly to keep them from danger.

As I reflect on the John's issue that has faced the entire industry, I am thankful that a very wonderful and heart warming thing has happened. Folks all over the nation have come together to work on solving this problem that could still have a devastating effect on all of us....everywhere. This should be a clue to all of us that we can work together successfully and now step ahead into other areas where we all need to work together such as other health problems and governmental problems regarding tax and zoning issues.

Do what you are able - donate time and money and energy. We all have something special to give.

But most of all....have fun with your animals. Use them every chance you get. Share their wonder with those that do not know llamas. Plan to be a part of a parade, visit schools and nursing homes. Teach all those in your reach about the animals that give so much to us.

The entire board is so excited that the new *Caring For Llamas and Alpacas* is now ready for distribution. You will find many new updated items. Plan to give one to all new llama owners.

The RMLA Conference '96 is really shaping up and we are all excited about coming together this fall in Longmont, Colorado. Mark your calendar and plan to be there.

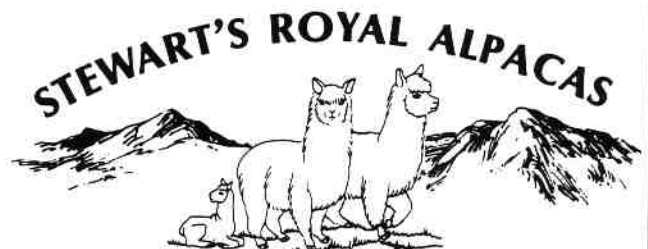
Until then, enjoy your time with your creatures!

Cheryl



Harold & Sharon Herbold  
Lauren Herbold-Webb  
15350 Hwy 83  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
(719) 495-3092  
(800) 484-9739-WOOL (9665)

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190 STEINMEIER  
CANON CITY, CO 81212

Hey, Just a  
big Thank Ya!

*Thank You*

Much Obligated

*Gracias;*

**THANKS FOR JO (& BOB)  
RILEY FOR AN OUT-  
STANDING JOB AS  
RMLA NEWSLETTER  
EDITORS  
1991-1996**

*Merci beaucoup!*

Two hugs from me.



## A memento of my first encounter with llamas.....

By Maggie Merrill, 9270 Inspiration Drive, Parker, CO 80134 303•840•4797



memento of my first encounter with llamas sits on my desk—a photograph of my work group at the top of Keystone Mountain along with 2 guides and Captain and Lucky. That was three and a

half years ago during a team building hike I had selected from a brochure. It simply seemed the most interesting of the activities offered. During that adventure I was impressed with the llamas' calm presence and their sociability, especially with each other.

One thing led to another and the next thing I knew I was spending a weekend at Ray and Gail Record's bed & breakfast in Cedaredge, Colorado. Ray gave me a basic education in llamas. Spending time around a herd, including crias, left me with no doubt that *someday* I would be a llama owner. Of course, after that experience we began to see llamas on the trail, in pastures, even riding in vans on the highway! We made a point of going to our first Denver Stock Show just to see the llama performance.

Later that year during the summer, my husband Russ and I were driving around with a stock show brochure in hand, looking for llama ranches "just for fun" and hoping to find someone willing to talk with us about llamas. Jerry Dunn was outside cutting her grass so we stopped to meet her and see her llamas. She very kindly spent lots of time with us, giving us tips about choosing our first llama.

During that same summer, several women at my workplace developed some potentially life-threatening illnesses. One by one, each of those women regained her health. Their situations served as a reminder to me that putting things off is not always the best route—especially when it comes to mat-

ters of the heart. Because we lived in a suburban setting, we didn't have the space for llamas. What to do? Boarding was the perfect solution.

We ventured back to Ray and Gail Record's bed & breakfast for another weekend and met 4-week-old Silver Streak and 2-week-old Whiplash. What a pair! Best friends and opposites in many ways.



### Silver Streak, Whiplash....and Maggie

One was totally black in color, curious, active, and woolly. The other was silver gray and white, cautious, calm, and had shorter wool. We had been warned about falling in love with crias since llamas can change so much during the first year or so. But our hearts led us in the right direction. We made a down payment and a couple of additional visits during the months prior to the crias being weaned. We were the first to hand feed "the boys" and they actually seemed to remember us! Ray understood how eager we were to watch them during those first months and made a precious video for us.

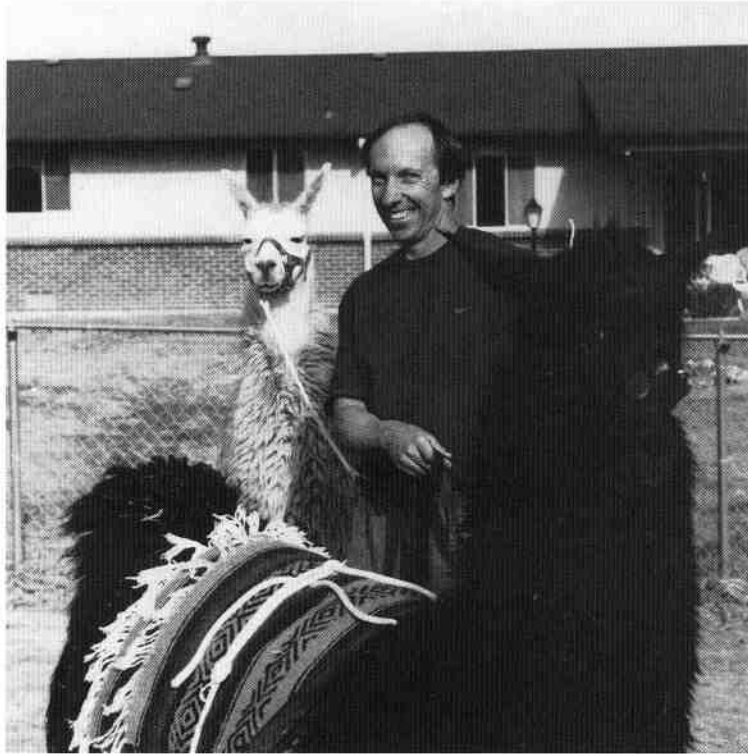
We got to work finding the right place to board. After only a few phone calls, we found Marie and Ron Hinds in Parker. They met our criteria and, most important, they had the *enthusiasm*. We knew they would love the opportunity to help us with two weanlings. All went wonderfully well, and about six months later we bought a place with a few acres for Silver Streak and Whiplash. Ron and Marie helped us clean up after the horses and get the property ready for llamas.

We have had "the boys" at our place for about 7 months now and it is difficult to

imagine we ever had a life that didn't include llamas! Our main goal is hiking and packing, so that's the direction we are headed with training. Although we usually work with both animals at

the same time, sometimes we work with only one. At different times, each of the llamas has gone to the catch pen and picked up his halter and lead, then looked at us as if to say "Hey, I'm supposed to be doing this, too!" They have definitely made us believers in their ability to think.

Looking back, it probably was a bit of a risk buying llamas so very young. Fortunately, the breeder really worked with us to understand what type of animal we wanted. In addition, he knew his herd very well. Besides working with a knowledgeable and caring breeder, what else did we do



Russ and 'the boys'.

right? Boarding with people who possess both knowledge and compassion. Reading, reading, reading about how to train. And finally, buying *two* llamas instead of one. That has doubled the fun!

h

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## Nellie Newcomer asks: "What is the difference between a llama and an alpaca?"

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Barbara Hance answers:

"First; if you can see them together, you will see a size difference; alpacas are about 36" at the withers. An adult human can usually look into the alpaca's eye; most llamas look down on us. Next, front to rear, llama ears are banana-shaped; alpaca ears are spear-shaped and somewhat shorter. Alpacas have wool on the head and on the cheeks; llama heads are more visible. Alpaca incisors continue to grow, unless cut or broken; llamas' teeth do not. Most llamas have a double coat a fine undercoat and an outer coat of coarse(guard) hair which helps shed water and vegetation. Since they have been domesticated to be pack animals llamas tend to shed which causes matting. Alpaca fibre has evolved over many centuries to be quite fine and if guard hair is present it also is usually very fine. Alpacas do not shed. Alpaca backs are slightly rounded and they carry their tails low and tucked in. Llama backs are very flat with the tail carried high.

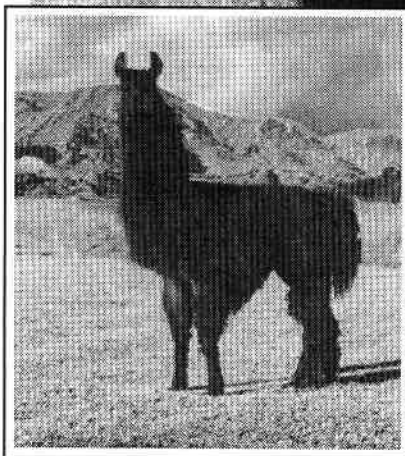


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## Have Modem, Will Travel

A mailing list for alpacas and llama owners, veterinarians and other interested parties has been established. This new form of communication allows members of the list to send an email message to a specific address. This message is then sent out automatically to all members of the list.

Email is fast becoming more widespread in our society because of its ease of use and speed. All you need to join the mail list is a computer and a modem, and an email address of your own which is available from Internet providers as well as through the major on-line services such as Compuserve, America On-Line, Prodigy and MSN. It is also very inexpensive because most of these services can be reached from a local number, even in rural Maine. The list has been active for about 8 months and already the following subjects have been discussed: Pregnancy Testing Questions, Packing, Problems/Questions, FTT, DNA, homemade remedies for bare noses, etc. and results, Training, Predation, and much, much more. The topics of conversation are endless as new people join each day. List participants include alpaca and llamas enthusiasts from the world including US, Australia, England, Ireland, Canada, and Europe.

There is no charge for the service which has been established to help educate and facilitate communication among alpaca and llama owners. It is an educational forum only with no posting of sales lists or products available allowed. Expect between 25 and 50 messages per day.

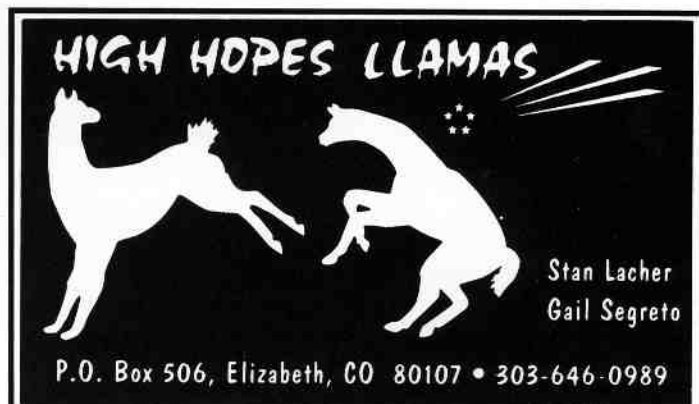
Anyone who has an email address can join this mailing list. Send email to [majordomo@maine.com](mailto:majordomo@maine.com), in the subject line include the following words: Subscribe alpaca-llama followed by a space and your email address. Unsubscribing is just as easy. All is explained when you get your first email message. You do not need a WEB Browser to join, just an email address. The list is brought to you by Cindy and Tim Lavan, Chase Tavern Alpacas, Bowdoin, Maine.

Thanks to Karen Conyngham, Barton Creek Llamas in Austin, TX who also helped with this article. This subject will be greatly expanded in future issues. Try the a-l list, it's the best thing to happen for these animals since vaccinations. *ed.*



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# Make Mine a Short Stack

By Jerry Dunn • Bear Track Farm, Llama Training Center • Golden, CO • 80403-1707 • 303•277•1129

**W**e are continuously looking for different ways to provide experiences for our llamas during the off packing season in the mountains. We still manage to get the llamas out for some kind of experience every weekend close to home along the front range during the heavy snow season. We frequent the Jefferson County Open Space Parks, Colorado State Parks, local green belt areas and playgrounds.

It seems like we always have too many llamas to get out on the trail, so new ideas are created to challenge the apprentices and the llamas. Even though there is a rotation system set up, it tends to degenerate as the kids spend more time with a favorite llama. Most recently the Bear Track Farm apprentices have developed the "short stack" to help maintain the rotation and have fun while they are working.

The "short stack" is a two llama pack string. The front llama wears the pack and carries the all important lunch and water bottle. The trailing llama wears no pack and is clipped in through a carabineer on the pack and to the leading llama's halter with a stringing rope. The stringing rope has a swivel clip at each end with a small loop that fastens into the carabineer. This makes the rope long enough for the trailing llama to almost touch his nose to the ground. A rope any longer, for an inexperienced handler or llama, is pretty difficult to manage. If the planned hike turns out to be a short one, the lead llama may wear a surcingle rather than a pack and the trailing llama's rope strung through a carabineer on the d-rings to the halter.

The kids determine their own stack based on experience, compatibility, and "what if?" We always carry extra tack in case a stack collapses! It is so much fun to watch the kids and llamas negotiate obstacles as a team. The kids learn to be alert to their animals at all times. Llamas learn to follow a rope and respond to obstacles with the lead llama. The kids tend to praise their llamas more frequently and it also becomes a way they can praise themselves for doing a good job as part of a team.

The first time we attempted this arrangement we hiked a trail in the open space with eight llamas and found it to be a rather mundane exercise due to the lack of obstacles on the trail. The next time we took ten llamas and went to a green belt near the farm that has a variety of obstacles including small jumps, low branches, trails, bridges, and interesting water/mud crossings. The laughter and exclamations flowed easily as we walked. Some



**Ben Riggs with Talavi and Silver Bullet, Gabi von Roedern with Kaubo and Tintero crossing bridge.**


of the silliest moments were the "poop stops". The llamas would twist around, turn in opposite directions to find just the right spot! Eventually the kids and llamas learned to move through the variety of obstacles smoothly. It only took one



*Make Mine a Short Stack, cont.*

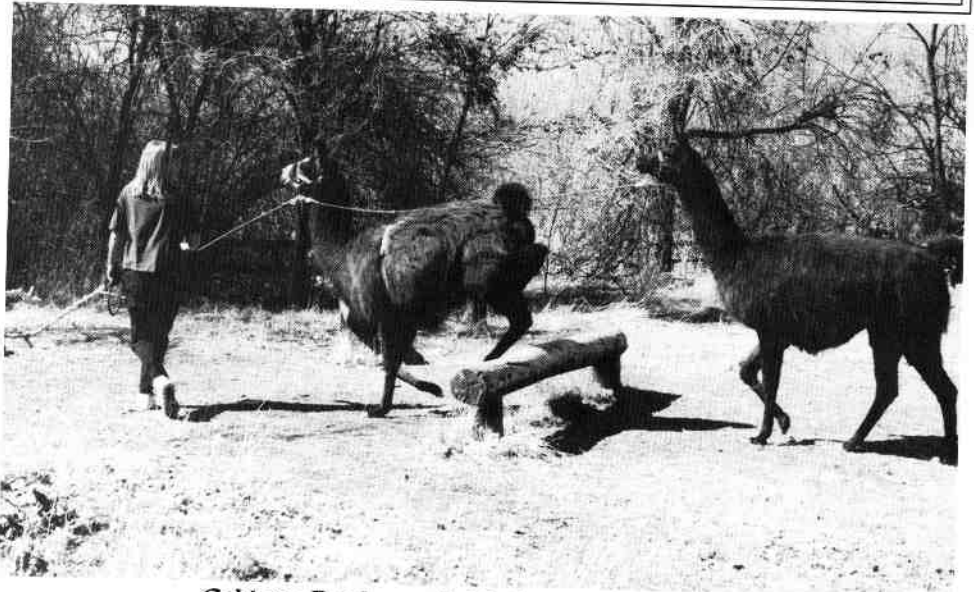
time for someone to learn not to turn around and watch their llamas negotiate a muddy water crossing. Mud washes off easily!

The hike in the green belt was only a couple of miles. Shortly after noon we stopped for lunch in a big open field near the bass pond and staked out the llamas. We sat on a giant log and enjoyed the sun and the view of our llamas and chuckled about some of the predicaments the younger llamas had experienced. After lunch a couple of kids decided they needed to flipflop their stack because a trailing llama would keep trying to pass the lead llama or the lead llama would refuse obstacles. To help make the hike smoother packs were switched and we continued our loop back to the trailer. The switch worked out well

Over the years we have taken a lot of short fun hikes, but this experience was by far one of the more enjoyable ones. This will definitely be a "remember when" — 

**Veni, Vidi, Visa. (Translation: We came, we saw, we went shopping.)**

**Jan Barrett**



Gabi von Roedern with Kaubo and Tintero..... Jumps



Ben Riggs with Talavi and Silver Bullet weaving through trees.



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# Preparing for a Cria's Birth

By Stanton Lacher • High Hopes Llamas • P.O. Box 506 • Elizabeth, CO • 80107 • 303-646-0989

This is intended to serve as a partial list of the tools that should be a part of every llama breeder's birthing kit. Most llama females have no trouble giving birth on their own.

I subscribe to the theory that simply having these tools as part of your kit prevents the need to use them. The Murphy's law that applies here is that whichever one of these tools that you don't have is probably the one you will need most. Be a scout, "be prepared".

## Vet's Phone Number & Alternate Phone Number

Your veterinarian's phone number posted by your phone simply makes sense. The potential for getting suddenly very busy during a problem birth exists: having it handy for someone else who gets wrangled into phone duty makes things easier. True believers in Murphy will have an alternate vet posted in case your specialist is unavailable. Vets are very busy professionals and may be away from the phone, on a cattle call or simply unable to respond to your emergency. A backup vet is a good thing to have when possible.

It is important to have not only a vet's phone number, but also a good working relationship with one. Your vet should know your llamas and their medical history to help you evaluate their health.

## Self Education

Knowing what to do in an emergency is part of being prepared. Having a copy of "Caring for Llamas" [or Caring for Llamas and Alpacas] or Dr. Johnson's Neo-Natal Clinic video and notebook is a valuable resource. Reading and watching these resources make them even more valuable. Get acquainted with these materials prior to an emergency. The video in particular is a bit lengthy to be viewing during the actual event. It is said that a little knowledge can be dangerous, however, self education does wonders in a pinch.

## 7% Iodine Solution

It is essential to treat the umbilical area to prevent infection.

## Vaccinations

Llama moms should get a CD&T 4-8 weeks prior to their

due date. Our program is:

- vaccinate Mom with 3cc's CD&T 4-8 weeks prior to her due date
- vaccinate cria at one month with 1cc CD&T
- at 2 months - 2cc's CD&T
- at 3 months - 3cc's CD&T
- at one year - 3cc's CD&T

If Mom does not get vaccinated, newborn gets 1cc each of C&D antitoxin and tetanus antitoxin. Check with your vet as to what is appropriate for you.

## Special Emergency Items

As indicated earlier, most births go smoothly on their own. Special emergencies occasionally occur and having a few extra supplies as part of your kit is a good precaution.

OB lube, sterile elbow length gloves, vet wrap, sterile scrub pads, Betadine scrub, feeding tube, and goat colostrum (large size syringe for getting colostrum into feeding tube) are all part of my emergency kit. Most of these items are easy to acquire, although colostrum can be more complicated. Good quality goat colostrum is the first milking from a doe who has been properly vaccinated and well cared for. Raw colostrum is preferred but carefully pasteurized is acceptable. Colostrum has a long shelf life in the freezer and should be located in advance of birthing season, frozen and stored. Finding some in your freezer and defrosting it properly is much easier than finding a goat farmer in an emergency. The value of colostrum has been discussed in other articles. A short explanation is that it is an essential component for developing a strong immune system in newborns. Goat colostrum is a good substitute for llama and should be used in cases where there is not an ample supply of milk in the first 24 hours. My point is to get some, keep it frozen, don't have a home without it.

## Patience and Positive Attitude

One of the most valuable tools in your birthing kit is a positive attitude. Birthing emergencies are infrequent. Don't make it worse with negativity. Good vibes are contagious and will spread to your birthing team and even your llama patient. Being self educated, having the tools you need and staying positive will stack the odds in your favor.

*(Stanton is past president of RMLA.)*





## Saint Patrick's Day Parade, Denver, CO

On Saturday March 16th, the 34th annual Denver Saint Patrick's Day Parade took place. The weather started out cold and cloudy (even snowy in some places!) but soon turned wonderfully sunny! A big THANK YOU to everyone who came out and participated in this RMLA event!

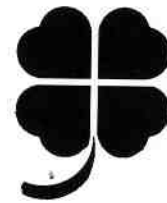
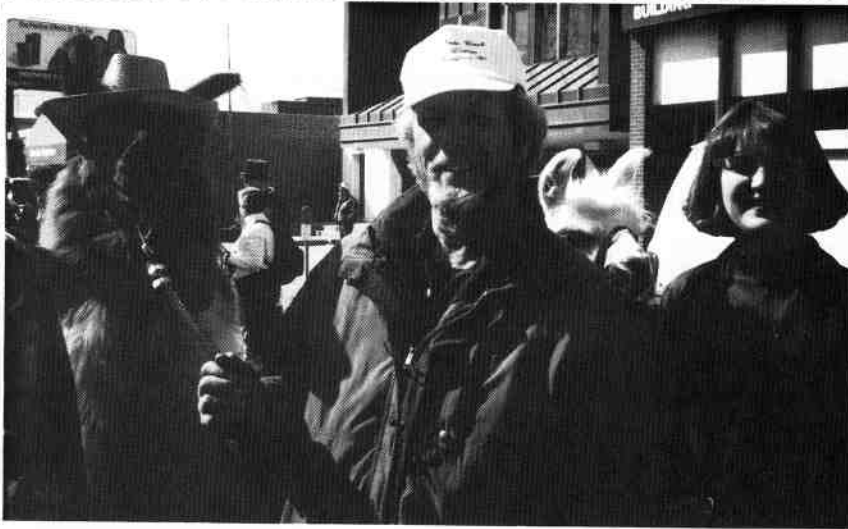
- h Jim Haas with the Big Shot.
- h Sue and Heather Grimm with The Great Mr. Mutumbo and DLLC Union's Grant.
- h The Herbold Family and their llamas.
- h John and Sharon Beacham with Rocky and Picacho's Tejedora.
- h Letha Ochs with The Dali Llama (and friends with the candy!)
- h Sharon, Carly, and Jaclyn Loner with their wonderful alpacas
- h Bonnie Brae, Johnny Rocket and Sir Titus.
- h The Romens Family and their llamas.
- h Rick, Casey, and Kelly Schoenman.
- h Claudio Guerra.
- h and everyone in the Baird clan.



St. Patrick's  
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## "Where Am I Going?" Thoughts on stud selection and other ramblings.

By Bill Brown • Serenity Lane Llamas • Woodland Park, CO • 80863 • 719•1687•1224

My, how we have evolved as an industry! It seems like only yesterday if you wanted to buy a llama, you had to buy two and you probably would have to travel great distances for the privilege, after being placed on someone's waiting list to buy the first available pair. Today we are living in a virtual supermarket of llama ranches. There are llamas of different color, lineage, country of origin, wool length, status in the show circuit, etc., etc. - practically next door to every one of us. This supports the theory of "a llama in every back yard" and the ever growing popularity of our friends. It also poses many interesting questions and challenges for those considering llama ownership.

Each newcomer to our industry is faced with a whole plethora of choices and an avalanche of information. The new entrant as well as those who are established in the industry periodically need to ask themselves "where am I going" with my herd development as a breeder, packer, pet owner, serious or casual show person. In order for us to reach that apex that we may be seeking, we need to have a plan.

In 1984, Donna and I joined the then small ranks of happy llama owners. We purchased a pair of fifteen month old llamas that we thought were "real pretty," Not being armed with the knowledge and information available to today's buyer, we waded in quite blindly, not really knowing where we were going. What we did have was an insatiable curiosity and fascination for these wonderful animals. After a couple of years and the addition of several more animals, we realized we had been bitten by the bug. Thus were the humble beginnings of Serenity Lane which was known as Beast of Burden Llamas at that time. We were at that stage located near Nederland, Colorado.

For several years we were operating in the mindset of an infant llama industry. If it was healthy, conformationally appealing and not unpleasant to be around, it was good for your herd. As the industry evolved, and more selective breeding was being practiced, a different generation of llama began to enter the market. (This is a point that I will not undertake as there are many opinions of whether or not we have improved the

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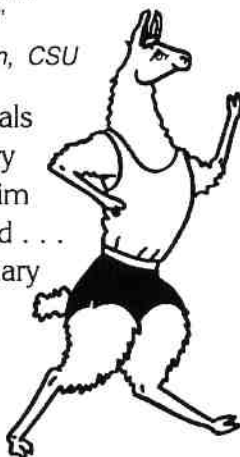
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quality or altered the age old genetic path of the llama. (Personally I will go with the first opinion.) During this progression, it became obvious to many that a realignment of our thinking and selection process was in order. It was also becoming very clear what an important role that the lowly male was playing in the advancement of our herds. Imagine that.

This brings me to the as yet undefined topic of this article. What path does a new entrant to this industry follow? After asking yourself all the essential questions in regard to what your desired goal is in this new field, endless research and numerous farm visits, it's time to select your animals. My intent here is not to direct your shopping spree, but to help you explore the available methods of reaching your goal.

Let me address the two obvious route options I see to developing a herd that meets your end result expectations. Assuming you are trying to assemble a prime group of animals, you may follow the quickest and most expensive route of researching the market and purchasing top quality show, breeding or athletic type performance animals. The second and probably most often followed route is to select good, average quality foundation stock and follow the slower process of upgrading through breedings to superior quality sires. This route may take several generations to reach the desired goal but allows you to custom tailor the most prominent traits or qualities which you desire in your herd.

Does one need to buy a nationally known stud to advance their herd? Absolutely not. Does one need to buy a stud at all when first starting? This is a question to be answered on an individual basis when planning your herd. Points to consider; am I starting with one or two females which can better be served by purchasing outside breedings from a good stud or do I have a number of females which can cost effectively justify a herd sire purchase.

There are many excellent studs available today for purchase or to purchase outside breeding services from. To purchase a proven stud of good lineage may be cost prohibitive or cost ineffective for the new breeder or the smaller farm wishing to upgrade their herd. Which course we follow should be determined by where we are trying to go. Do we want to be a contract breeder, servicing not only our own herd but the breeding needs of other people's animals? Do we wish to maintain a small, select group of animals which we

can breed to a number of different outside sires for much less than an initial purchase price of one good sire? These are just a couple of considerations worthy of your attention when faced with this important decision.

"To buy the factory or rent their services?" Many new owners ask us this question. We recommend new owners buy females first and invest their money in the best stud services available to them. Don't worry about buying that grand sire until you know where you're going with your breeding program and have a sufficient number of females to warrant your own male. Diversity is a wonderful advantage when building your foundation herd and that is an automatic benefit of purchasing outside breedings to several different males during your growing stage.

Some final considerations in choosing the male of your dreams; consider the possibility of leasing a stud for a period of time. (This is often an option if you are trying to cover multiple females with one outside stud.) If you are considering the purchase of an expensive sire, you may want to explore the advantages of co-ownership through a partnership. The other possibility, and one with the highest degree of uncertainty, is to purchase the juvenile male offspring from a well known, proven herdsire. This requires a great deal of research into the lineage of both dam and sire and is still no guarantee that you will end up with an adult male meeting the needs you have targeted.

Whether you are buying a herd sire or buying outside breeding services, there has never been a larger or more spectacular field of stars to select from. Anything less than the best may be counter productive to reaching your goal.

One of the most important lessons we have learned since our humble and blind beginning twelve years ago, is that we need to be flexible and open to changes in our industry. Setting goals and having a definite plan is very important and something we need to stay focused on. The unforeseen change to our lives, herd or business plan is awaiting us around each bend in the road. How we meet these changes may determine how we fare as successful breeders and individuals.

There are many factors we need to look at when selecting a good sire. I have not ventured into those areas of consideration due to the number of articles available to guide you in your search for a good herd sire. Hopefully I have accomplished my mission here in presenting a few different means of reaching your goal.

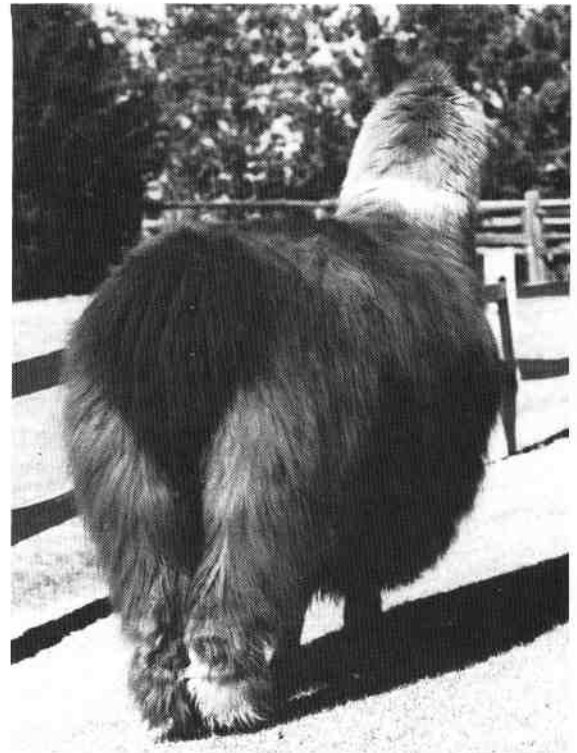




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# You Be The TTEAM Trainer: An Exercise in Deduction (Part I)

By Marty McGee • 500 N. Guadalupe C366 • Santa Fe, NM • 87501 • 505-983-0775

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TTEAM training philosophy recognizes the fact that all animals have the ability to think and to reason. We believe that the major factors causing negative behavior are pain or a lack of understanding. Our TTEAM tool box is filled with a variety of tools and approaches to common and not so common training challenges. How you use your tools and techniques and in what order is not a matter of A-B-C-D. TTEAM is a creative approach that requires innovation and flexibility.

The dynamic between a llama and his handler is highly individual. It is difficult to generalize about how to handle any given training situation. The context of the llama's behavior is very important. The llama's background and the personality of the handler are important factors. In some cases I will insist a llama come forward onto or into an obstacle using a variety of tools. In other cases I will stop with partial compliance or switch to a different task all together. My ultimate goal however is the same- understanding and cooperation without fear.

Let's look at two different llamas in the same situation and see how the TTEAM approach works for both. The following scenario is designed to encourage you think about what is really going on between the llama and the handler. Before you read the TTEAM solution, think about all the details as you decide what you would do if faced with the same situation.

**The Situation:** Two different llamas walk up to a four by eight foot sheet of plywood laying on the ground. Each llama stops at the edge of the plywood and refuses to come forward. You are teaching the clinic. What do you do?

**Trilly** (not her real name) is a four year old female that was bottle raised by a brand new llama owner and was then used extensively for PR. In the course of her PR work Trilly was exposed to a variety of footing, obstacles and strange surfaces including plywood. At about two years old she began to refuse to cooperate. Her owners tried to force her to continue and eventually gave up because Trilly began to spit at people. Trilly essentially retired herself from PR work. Trilly doesn't mix with the other llamas and stays off to herself. She used to hang out with the humans but

stopped doing that after the first bout with shots and toenail trimming which was a nightmare and has continued to be. Her owner is tentative and unsure of herself and her ability as a trainer.

As Trilly stood at the brink of the plywood her eyes were focused; she was breathing rapidly but regularly. She appeared to be aware of her surroundings- looking at other llamas and humans in her area. When asked to come forward Trilly shifted her weight to the rear and grew roots. If the handler pulled on the lead rope harder, Trilly leaned so far back that she almost sat down or she would evade the obstacle by using her weight and cutting to the side. She liked grain and would eat vigorously and would even eat grain on the plywood but was unwilling to come forward in exchange for grain. We tried parading other llamas over the plywood so she could watch and no dice-not even one of Trilly's tootsies were going to make contact with the dreaded plywood.

**Ranier:** (not his real name) is a yearling male who has spent most of his life running with his buddies in the field. Ranier is handsome and is going to be a stud when he grows up. He graduated from nonTTEAM halter training 101 with his class- he would stand very still in the corner to be haltered and would not offer a fuss when the halter was slowly slipped over his nose. On walks he consistently blew up violently and got away from his handler. Ranier did not seem to be getting any better and his behavior was very frustrating and dangerous; it was difficult to predict what would set him off. His owner thought that Ranier was both stupid and stubborn. She couldn't understand why he was so good for his halter training and so awful once he was on the lead. His handler owned many llamas and was very experienced in her way of training. My experience of her was that she was rather rigid in her training approach. As I watched Ranier's owner leading him around I noticed that she would tense her body and hold her breath any time they passed a potential object of concern.

His handler's approach to the plywood was to avoid any eye contact, thinking it would scare Ranier, and to pull him over the plywood quickly and get it over with

Marty McGee, cont.

before he blew. Her feeling was that Ranier had ridden to the clinic in a trailer (he was dragged into the trailer that morning with considerable difficulty) and therefore had at least some experience with strange surfaces. In terms of being frightening she thought the plywood was much easier than the trailer. In her mind there was no excuse for his disobedience. She thought repetition was the answer to the problem. Her idea was to force him over the plywood five or six times.

When faced with the plywood Ranier stopped at the edge and then attempted to back away. He did not seem to be aware of anything other than the plywood. He stood with his neck fixed in an upright position. His ears were up, his tail was up and he was drooling. He would not eat grain when it was offered, had a glassy fixed stare and mostly held his breath. When the handler pulled harder on the lead rope Ranier blew up and bolted away.

**Let's Think About It:** Would you handle these two llamas the same way? What would you do with Trilly? What is the real issue with her—is it the plywood? Is she afraid? If so, of what? Is she stubborn? Should we drag her across the plywood? After all, she has done it before! Do we need to prove something to her? If so—what?

What is going on with Ranier? Is he thinking? Is he behaving instinctively, if so how do you know? If he “gets away” with not walking on the plywood will he become more and more stubborn? Why was he so good about haltering and so bad about leading? Ranier is going to be an intact breeding male. Do we need to prove to him who is in charge?

## The TTEAM Approach:

**Trilly:** Trilly had learned to control her human and was doing it from a thoughtful place. I would say that she is afraid- but not of the plywood. She is afraid of human control. Trilly senses that her handler is nervous and doesn't know what she is doing and so Trilly doesn't feel safe. She was spoiled as a young baby is confused about how she fits into the world. She was burnt out on extended human contact in her PR work. She doesn't get along with the other llamas (kind of a social nerd) and she doesn't respect humans. She wants to be in control.

To be sure, by refusing to cooperate with her handlers she has brought a lot of her anguish right down around her own llama shoulders. In my opinion punishing her was only going to harden her position. I felt that it was really important for Trilly to walk on the plywood and I didn't want to drag her over it. When a llama is dragged across something with the neck low, nose extended, front legs braced and weight fully over the rear quarters I don't believe they are even aware of what is happening. The llama's mind becomes as blocked and braced and his or her body.

We got Trilly on the plywood by using a stout pole. (No, we didn't hit her with it!) I had two helpers stand at either end of an 8 foot pole. Wood or metal works. Strong PVC is okay but it must be very stiff. I asked Trilly to come forward with a signal (I did not try to pull her over - I only gave directional signals.) My helpers kept the pole perpendicular to her rear end and urged her forward with the pole when I asked them to. I mostly used the pole to keep her from bracing and to keep her from cutting out to the side. I wanted her to walk on the plywood on her own- not to be pushed onto it. It worked. Once on the plywood we fed her grain while she stood there and thought about the positive consequences of cooperation with a human.



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*Marty McGee, cont.*

We repeated the process two more times, each time Trilly became more willing and the pole was less of a factor. Each time she got a few bites of grain while standing on the plywood. Three times was plenty. When the exercise was over, a bunch of us were standing around by the plywood discussing the situation. I had Trilly on a long lead, just letting her relax and eat grass. No kidding... she walked on to the plywood on her own and looked at the group of us like she wanted some grain-we obliged.

You may be wondering how to handle a situation like this alone. If you have a "Trilly" get some help. Some situations call for more than one human- this is one. You can use this same technique for loading a reluctant llama into a trailer or van.

**Ranier:** I would not elect to use the pole to get a llama like Ranier over an obstacle. It would be too overwhelming and would probably provoke a blow up. Ranier relied on his instinctive responses i.e. flight-fight-freeze responses and was not able to think his way through a situation. This is why he never seemed to learn and was thought to be stupid, stubborn or both. What we did with Ranier was ask him to walk up as closely as he could to the plywood and to lower his head and come out of his flight-fight-freeze posture (nose and neck held stiffly upright). We asked him to lower his head using gentle downward signals. When he lowered his head, I instructed his handler not to hold it down. If Ranier wanted to raise his head she just asked him to lower it again. Once his head was down he was able to relax, think and actually see the situation. He was able at first to sniff the food and eventually to eat a few bites off of the plywood.


We brought out a second piece of plywood and made an aisle way between the two pieces of wood. We walked Ranier through the aisle. (For a complete

description of the process refer to the July/Aug. 1993 issue of Llamas.) After a successful trip through the aisle we closed the aisle way a bit. Eventually we would bring the two pieces of plywood together. We stopped the exercise without Ranier actually on the plywood. However, he was breathing, eating and much more with us. His eyes were focused and he was becoming more and more confident.

His owner was very open to the new approach and could see that Ranier was plain ol' scared of both the plywood and of her. She understood that the instinctive responses that were giving her such trouble now, were the same ones that she was using to her advantage in her haltering approach. As long as Ranier didn't have to move and could stay frozen-no problem. The trouble started with the walks because he couldn't stay frozen and walk at the same time. Instead, he went into either the flight or fight response- bolting and running away. Ranier didn't have any ideas about "getting away" with anything, he just wanted to feel safe and that meant away from the people and the plywood. I wanted him to become more confident about both objects of his fear. If we had dragged him over the obstacle three or four times, he would have eventually decided plywood is okay. What would he have decided about his handler? Although Ranier didn't step on the plywood that day, to his owners surprise he loaded in his trailer very quickly and without force.

Sometimes I feel at bit like Sherlock McGee when I work with llamas and their people. The process is individual and there are also patterns and predictable outcomes. With practice you will begin to think TTEAM. You will know what questions to ask and the answers will jump out at you. Viewing llamas with behavioral problems as puzzles, not problems, makes the process of training them more interesting and a lot easier!

*(Part II will be in the next issue.)*

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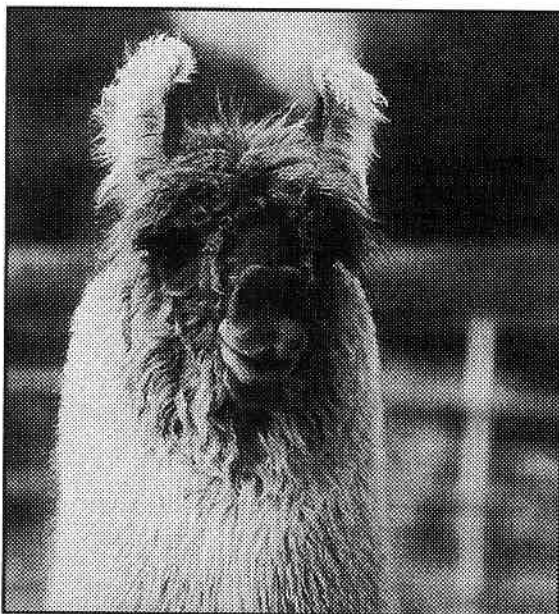
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# HAY SELECTION

By Bob Hance • Hance Ranch • 11818 W. 52nd Ave. • Wheat Ridge, CO • 80033-2032 • (303) 422-4681

**E**ven an old-timer may have difficulty selecting good hay. It might help to know some of the things that happen from the standpoint of a hay producer.

If the field is flood irrigated it is very difficult to make ditches that will allow an even coverage of water. The edges frequently are raised sometimes due to the plants that are there or many times just because of the flooding process. The edges may receive more water or less water than the rest of the field and if there are plants (weeds) that like these conditions they will thrive. Most "weeds" are not a problem but some contain toxins and often the heavy leafing does not allow for good drying.

When we cut the field we start at the outer edge so we don't smash the grass. Most cutter bars are at the right of the tractor so the first and sometimes the second row does get smashed somewhat, and doesn't always get cut. Then, when it is raked, the outside row becomes a double row (two rows together). This outside row takes longer to dry and may also have more weed growth, so if it is not thoroughly dry, it can mold.

There are also areas where different varieties of grass like the conditions, and thrive. Maybe there is underground water or symbiotic plants such as mushrooms. These patches can also mold if not properly dried.

Here on the Front Range of Colorado it is usually very hard to divine the weather conditions, and avoid rain for 4 to 5 days so we can allow for proper drying. If it does rain on our hay, it must be turned (re-raked) to start the drying process again. When the leaves are exposed to the sun they lose the nice green color that we like to see in hay. Most of the nourishment is still there. If we have to turn more than twice it usually becomes cow hay. After it is baled, a light rain does little damage, but heavy rain can soak in from the top and the bale can draw moisture from the ground. These bales would need to be broken open and dried again to even be useful as cow hay. Beef cattle can tolerate hay that is less than first quality.

As a buyer, you want lots of leaves that are a nice gray-green (blue-green) color. The hay should smell somewhat like fresh cut grass. Wheat color means it has been exposed to the sun. Dark brown-gray is not good, it may be moldy. It is important to find a hay producer or dealer you can work with. Most will readily replace moldy hay. If not, find a new source!

To find out the "TDN" (total digestible nutrients), the hay must be core sampled and lab tested. Dealers can probably give you the names of testing labs in your area. The labs usually provide the core cutter and instructions about obtaining proper sample(s). "TDN" is important to know because animals have difficulty with excess nitrates. Some plants produce nitrates when stressed with too much or too little water. Dairy cattle operators usually test corn plants in the field, before purchasing, because of the nitrate problem.

The recommended hay for llamas and alpacas is **good quality grass**. The selection and problems described apply to alfalfa as well, for you horse owners. The animals will eat the leaves first and often leave the stems so, don't waste your money buying hay with small amounts of leaf.

Good health to you and your animals.



*Bob Hance, and his wife Barbara, have been llama and alpaca owners since 1990, and hay producers since 1980.*

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2nd Place - Light Wool Male Yearling - Rainbow's Lyon King  
1st Place - Medium Wool Male Adult - Polar Plus  
Reserve Champion - Medium Wool Male - Polar Plus  
1st Place - Heavy Wool Male Two Year Old - Shazam  
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## Donley & Delores Gardner - Mansfield Texas

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5th Place - Medium Wool Male Adult - K.U.L. Rhammus  
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## Bobra Goldsmith - Longmont, Colorado

1st Place - Light Wool Female Yearling - Rocky Mtn. Spruce  
Grand Champion - Light Wool Female - Rocky Mtn. Spruce  
1st Place - Light Wool Male Two Year Old - Rocky Mtn. Buccaneer  
Reserve Champion - Light Wool Male - Rocky Mtn. Buccaneer  
2nd Place - Medium Wool Male Yearling - Rocky Mtn. Shimmer  
3rd Place - Advanced Pack - Rocky Mtn. Bounce  
5th Place - Advanced Obstacle - Rocky Mtn. Bounce

## Mary Beth & Joe Hartsough - Platteville, Colorado

2nd Place - Medium Wool Male Adult - GLL Java  
2nd Place - Heavy Wool Female Yearling - Llamarage's Celia  
Reserve Champion Heavy Wool Female - Llamarage's Celia

## Gretchen Kauffman - Castle Rock, Colorado

6th Place - Intermediate Youth Showmanship  
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## Heidi Kauffman - Castle Rock, Colorado

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## Levi Kauffman - Castle Rock, Colorado

3rd Place - Youth Costume  
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## Terry Mowbray - Longmont, Colorado

3rd Place - Heavy Wool Female Juvenile - N.R. Rana

## Rick Steadham - Las Vegas, New Mexico

4th Place - Heavy Wool Female Yearling - Casino Belle  
1st Place - Advanced Obstacle - Dominga  
3rd Place - Advanced Obstacle - Nicolo  
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Reserve Champion Performance - Nicolo

## John & Jane Stout

4th Place - Young Pack - Winsome Winchester

## Carol Ann Tallmon - Burleson, Texas

1st Place - Medium Wool Female Yearling - India's Anna Jones  
1st Place - Medium Wool Female Adult - April Spirit  
Grand Champion Medium Wool Female - April Spirit  
1st Place - Heavy Wool Male Yearling - Dixie's Wild Rebel  
5th Place - Heavy Wool Male Yearling - Mister Calico Magic  
7th Place - Heavy Wool Male Yearling - Alabaloo  
Grand Champion Heavy Wool Male - Dixie's Wild Rebel  
2nd Place - Heavy Wool Female Juvenile - High Time

## Alissa Veuthey - Colorado Springs, Colorado

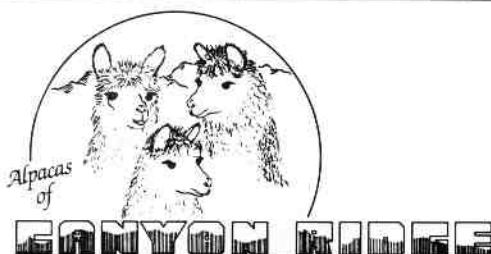
1st Place - Youth Costume

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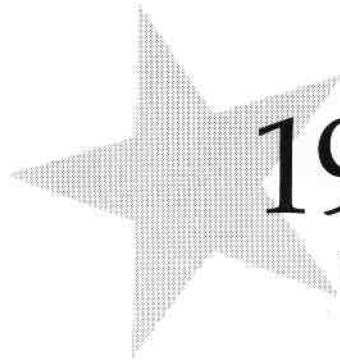


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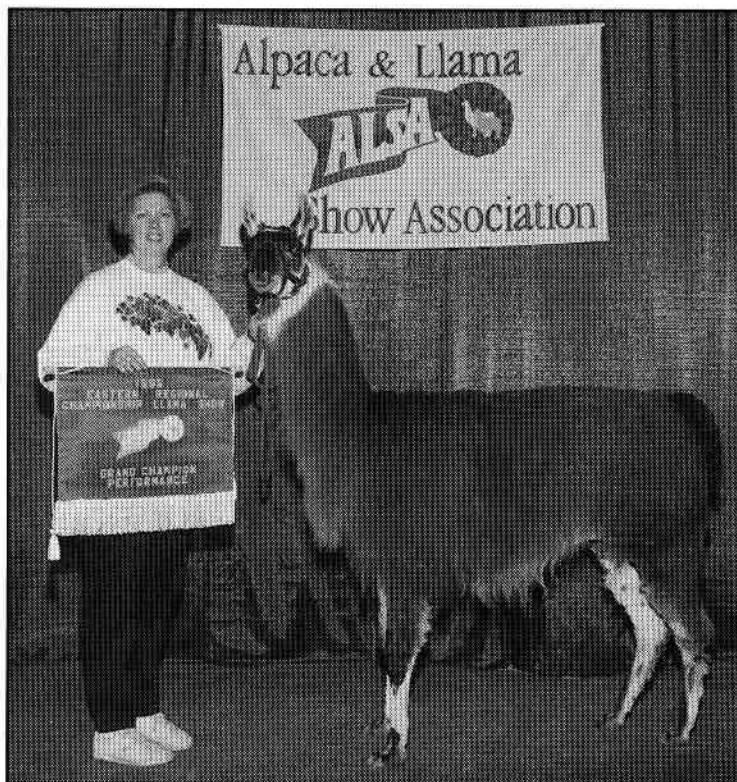


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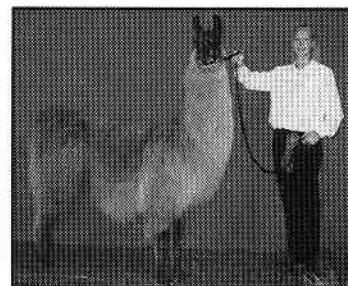
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# LLAMA SHOWS - FUN AND EDUCATIONAL

by Mary Beth Hartsough • Lamarage • P.O. Box 574 • Platteville, CO • 80651 • (303) 785-2463

People seem to have a fundamental need to show off their prized possessions. They really like to gather with one another and see how "mine compares to yours". People will show anything - - from livestock to pets to cars to flowers to art. So it was inevitable that, as the numbers of llama owners increased, that llama shows would come into being.

At first, many breeders scoffed at the idea, saying shows were nothing but a beauty contest. But soon after the first few shows, owners began to realize what other livestock breeders have known for a long time - what a great tool the shows could be. They were great for helping to educate the public about these wonderful animals - - demonstrating how easy they were to handle for toddlers on up to senior citizens. Shows have proved to be one of the most effective marketing tools there is for the llama industry. As shows grew in popularity, so did the sophistication level. We demanded more knowledgeable, better-trained judges. The shows were educational for breeders also, in learning what to look for in conformation and soundness and developing a keen eye for correct structure. The shows were an excellent method of showcasing what a well-trained llama is capable of and demonstrating the intelligence and composure of these elegant work animals. The shows were a perfect answer to the oft-heard question, "what do you do with a llama"? We also found it was a great excuse for a bunch of crazy llama-lovers to get together and share stories and ideas, solve problems, renew friendships and just plain have fun! For those interested in gathering more information about camelids before taking that first step in buying, what better place to have access to numbers of breeders and owners - - all in one place, and all eager to expound on their favorite subject!

The formation of ALSA (Alpaca and Llama Show Association) was an important step forward for the llama community. It showed one and all that llamas are definitely not a fad - - they are here to stay - - and llama owners and breeders are serious about doing what is best for the animal. ALSA ensures consistency and a high standard of quality for its shows; ALSA also stresses humane treatment, safety and ethics for its sanctioned events, and, as a democratically run,

open-membership type of organization, provides an association that is responsive to the needs and concerns of the llama industry. Through its youth program, ALSA is also helping to educate and encourage the next generation of llama owners and breeders. Consider signing up for the next ALSA show clinic offered in your area. There is no better way to find out "what the judge is looking at". Become an ALSA member and help ensure the forward progress of our industry.

So the next time you see a llama show scheduled near you, whether as exhibitor or spectator, by all means go! And join in the fun. Bring a friend (or two) and show them why llama people are the best people there are!

*Mary Beth and Joe Hartsough have been llama breeders since 1984, currently caring for a herd of approximately 40 llamas. Mary Beth is a certified ALSA Level III judge.*

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# LAMAS IN THE **NEWS**

No, Llamas (and Alpacas) do not bite, but according to a network prime time TV medical drama show, they do. A llama bit a small boy and he was in the hospital for treatment. The alpaca-llama chat group over the internet was buzzing on that subject for at least a week. Some llama owners even wrote letters and sent e-mail to the network. *Llamas, alpacas, goats, and quite a few other animals do not have any upper front teeth (incisors) to bite hard enough to put anyone in the hospital!*

A recent article in the Review-Journal newspaper in or near Daryl Wood's home in Oak City, Utah covered an interesting story, considering the llama ban.

You see, some taggers (vandals with spray paint cans) "tagged" some rock faces some 24 miles west of Las Vegas in Red Rock Canyon. The Las Vegas Kiwanis Club was instrumental in getting the cleanup work started.

A few hikers and tourists were stunned at the sight of four llamas carrying sand, sand blasting equipment and water up Lost Creek Trail along with 20 men, women, children and BLM Rangers. Their job was to erase all of the paint from the rock faces. The llamas along with their owners the Danny and Vikki Riddle family, were among the helpers that day. The Red Rock Canyon is a National Conservation Area.

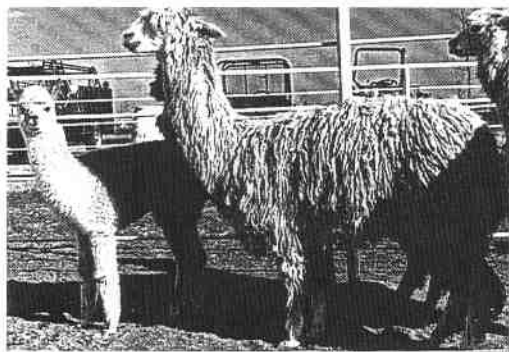
Thanks, Daryl for the article. *ed.*

SIDE  
BAR

A special Thanks to Jerry Dunn for an outstanding job as Superintendent of the Llama\* show at the '96 National Western. \*(198 llamas and 2 alpacas).

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## ALSA Judges Sharing Pork

By Howard Kerstetter • ALSA Llama Level III and Alpaca Judge

Kahura Uyu Llamas • 2050 Ward Road • Bozeman, MT • 59715 • (404) 586-3191

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SHOWRING.

**H**ave you heard the comments about ALSA judges winning shows only because they are judges?

“The judges have agreements among themselves to reward one another by always placing animals of fellow Judges.” “You have to be a judge to win around here!” “So and so is a close friend of the judge, so he/she always wins.” And worse — some much worse.

On behalf of my fellow judges, I have decided to comment on the above kinds of statements being made by some individuals. Such statements, not based on how the judge performs at a show in relationship to the rules and regulations in the ALSA Handbook, serve no value for improvement of the system or the judge, and merely serve to perpetuate pettiness and distrust.

ALSA has set up a procedure through which its judges are evaluated. This evaluation of all judges by the Judges' Committee is a very important part of ALSA's commitment to its membership. Comments which lead to improvement of the system and/or judging quality — violations of Handbook rules, inattention to safety factors, consistent improper explanations regarding placements, or PATTERNS of poor judgment obvious to many persons — are dealt with by the Judges' Committee.

The committee informs each judge of all evaluations submitted concerning that judge without revealing the names of the evaluators. When PATTERNS of criticism emerge, the judge is advised by the committee to carefully study his/her behavior. The committee has the authority to recommend additional training, issue a reprimand, or, in cases where improvement is not forthcoming, recommend revocation of a judge's license. With that in mind, let me address the statements made in the first paragraph by asking of you, the readers, a few questions.

First, what would you think of a judge who took animals into the show ring and consistently placed at the bottom of each class? Would you trust that judge to be judging your animals in other shows?

Wouldn't you, on the contrary, EXPECT JUDGES TO KNOW WHAT ANIMALS NOT TO ENTER IN SHOWS? I submit that judges, by the very virtue of their having been trained with regard to how a conformationally correct animal looks and moves, should be more discerning than most owners. Therefore, I would expect judges who enter their animals in shows to critically evaluate their herds and choose carefully which animals to exhibit before their fellow judges.

Second, do you think marketplace value and show ring value are one and the same? Apparently there exists some confusion in this regard. Unfortunately, the two are on different value scales.

The marketplace is based on what the animal is worth to the buyer and the seller, and when agreement is reached, it is said to be good business. In the show ring, however, the FINANCIAL VALUE OF THE ANIMAL AND PERSONAL PREFERENCES HAVE NO BEARING WHATSOEVER TO AN ALSA-TRAINED JUDGE. How much was paid for the animal, who owns it, who bred it, how beautiful someone believes it to be, how curved the ears, or its color, are examples of factors and characteristic which are NOT considered in the ALSA show ring.

Third, do you feel and look the same way every day? There are several variables operating for every animal and every owner that have significant impacts on the outcome of a show. These factors, which are far beyond the purview of the judge, include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Each show has a different group of animals from any other show, and competition may be stronger or weaker than previous shows. Therefore, an animal that placed first in a show last week may not be able to place this week, and vice-versa.

(b) The attitude of the animal being shown can vary from day to day and even from hour to hour. Just as in all mammals, the llama or alpaca may be enthusiastic or not, feel proud or not, be

*ALSA Judges, cont.*

affected by other animals in the arena or in the stalls, etc., and may not show as well as a result of such interactions.

(c) Animals mature at different rates, just like humans. As a juvenile, the animal may be correct, beautifully balanced, graceful, with great presence and style. Six months later, the same animal may be in a growth spurt, and — like any teenager — look out of balance, move awkwardly, seem hesitant or overly aggressive, and consequently show poorly.

(d) The human handler affects the animal in countless ways. If you are joyous or irritated, open and expectant or dour and disenchanted, calm or nervous, the lead rope acts like an umbilicus to the animal. Your attitudes can run right up the rope, transmitting your moods and attitudes to the animal, affecting the way that animal performs in the ring. This synergism is very apparent to those who have worked for many years with animals.

Finally, are you a member of ALSA? Do you

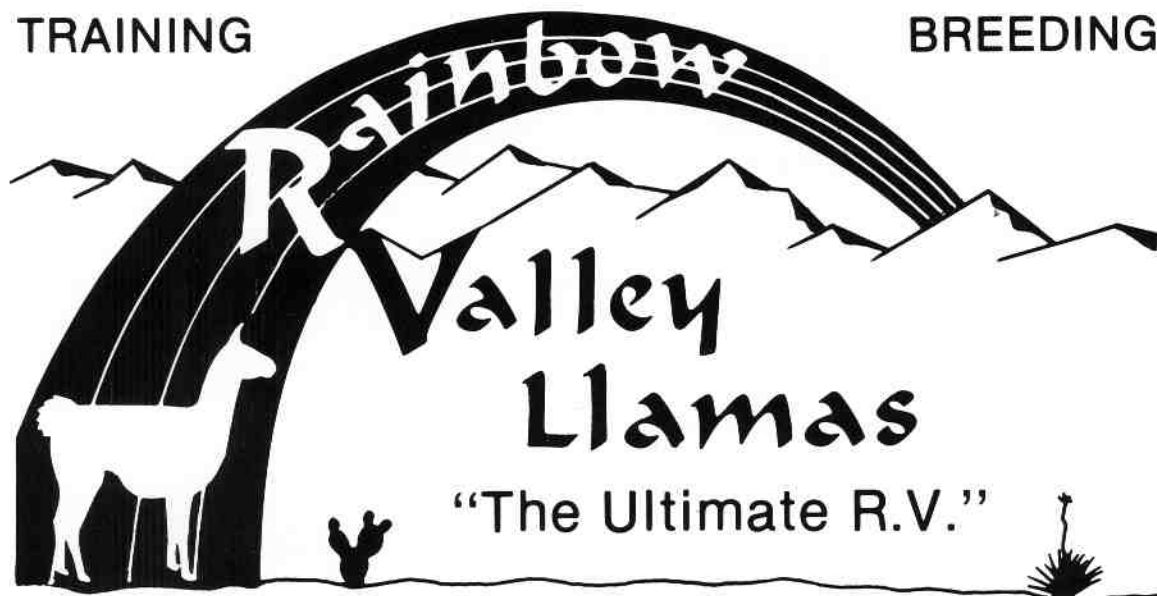
know the rules and regulations contained in the ALSA Handbook which governs ALSA shows?

Most of the people showing in ALSA-sanctioned shows are still not members. Since they do not have a Handbook, they may not know or comprehend what ALSA judges are looking for in a well-conformed and sound animal. Usually, these individuals have not attended an ALSA show clinic to learn about ALSA's judging program. This seems to be a rather shortsighted approach to those individuals who have taken the time to enlighten themselves on the "rules of the road."

How can you know what a judge is looking for if you don't know the criteria upon which they must base their decisions? I am sure you can understand that the process of selecting a show-quality animal is quite different in a trained/experienced person versus someone who has little knowledge of show ring guidelines. Is there any wonder then, why the outcome may appear skewed when

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*ALSA Judges, cont.*

viewed from the position of the uninformed observer?

Here let me segue into the ALSA Show Clinic program. The current format for all ALSA show clinics covers all subjects taught to judges, except that judges receive more in-depth instructions on how to make verbal comments concerning placements, information regarding contracts and employment, ring procedures, and additional hands-on judging practice.

The main body of information regarding conformation, including identification of body parts, concepts of soundness, positive versus negative traits, movement, ALSA show classes, factors which affect the showing of lamas, moving and stationary show positions, performance classes, obstacles, packs, rules, and performance criteria — ALL OF THESE GUIDELINES ARE TAUGHT IN ALSA SHOW CLINICS.

Therefore, I am constantly amazed that there is not an overwhelming demand for ALSA show clinics in every part of the country. This information is readily available but is not easily absorbed or integrated without some training and practice.

In closing, let me make one thing very clear. When individuals broadcast prejudicial statements which impugn the personal integrity of a judge, such as the statements enumerated at the beginning of this article, we as judges become suspicious of their motives. Are they truly interested in the welfare of the lama industry and lama shows in particular, or are they merely covering up for their own hidden agenda?

We judges must be thoroughly professional in carrying out our duties and must not allow personal preferences to interfere with the stated guidelines upon which we judge animals. By the same token, owners and handlers must be equally professional in their criticisms of judges in order for the lama industry to remain viable.

Howard Kerstetter is one of the founding members of RMLA. *ed.*





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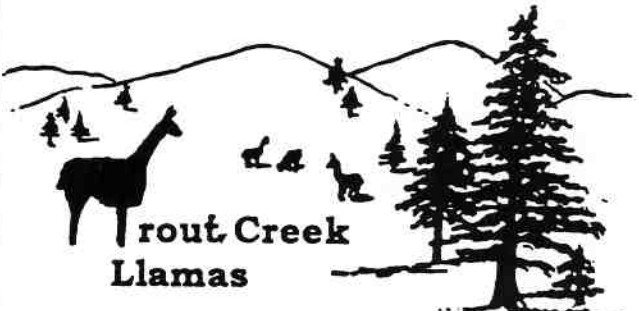


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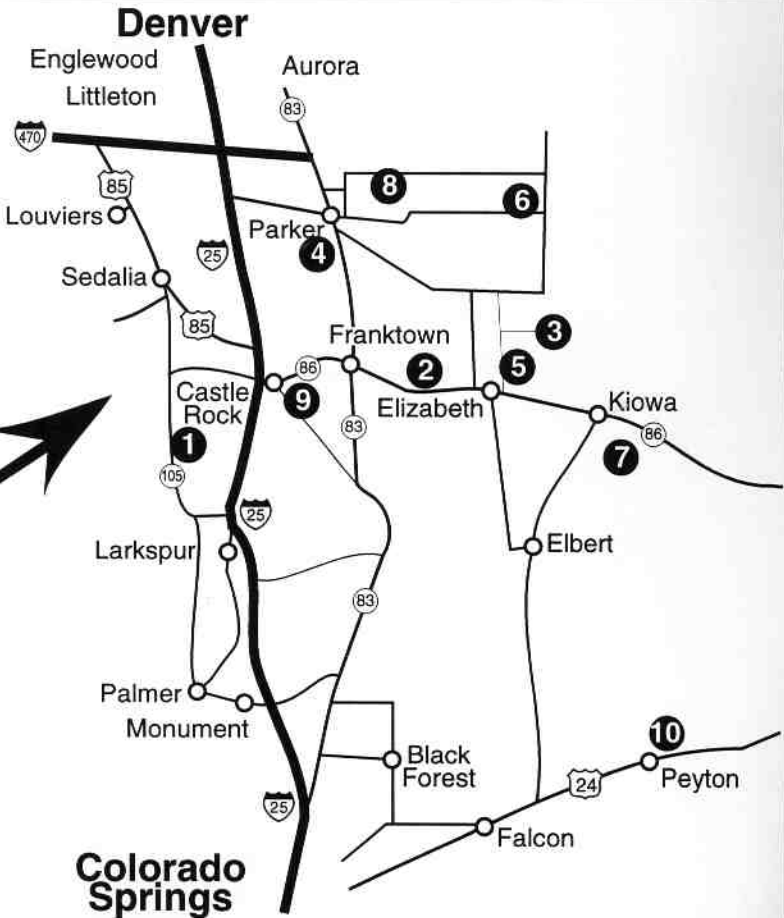
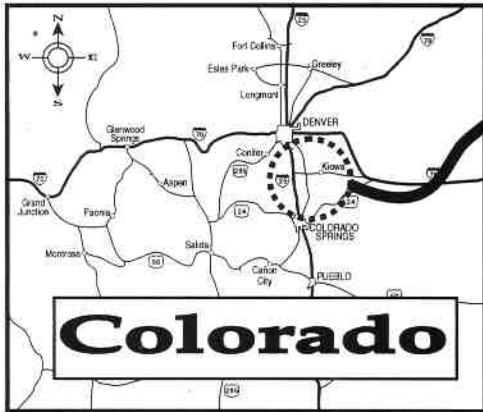


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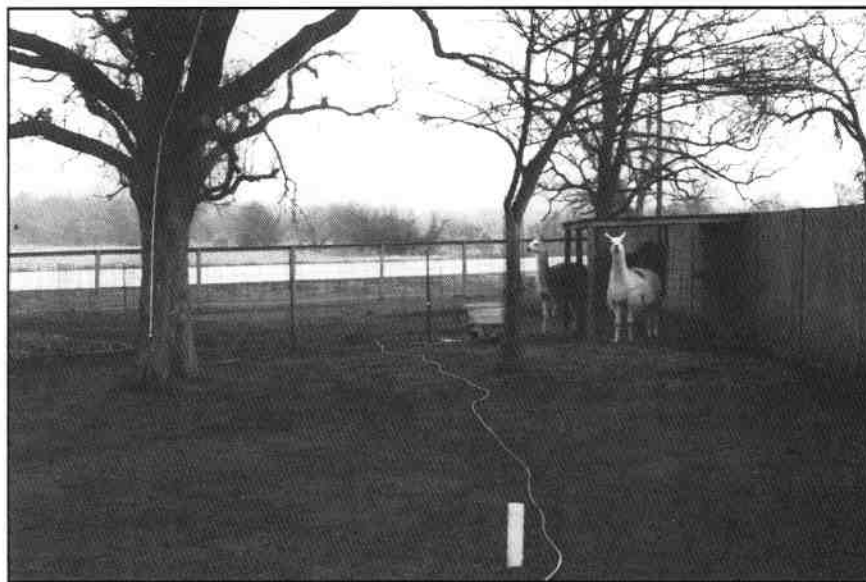
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## Llamas Can Be Raised In a Limited Space

By Donley Gardner, Diamond Oaks Llamas, 7890 Dick Price Road, Mansfield, TX 76063 (817) 572-5140

To me one of the most enjoyable aspects of owning llamas is introducing them to people that have never been around llamas. Most become quickly enamored and want to take one of the lovable, fuzzy creatures



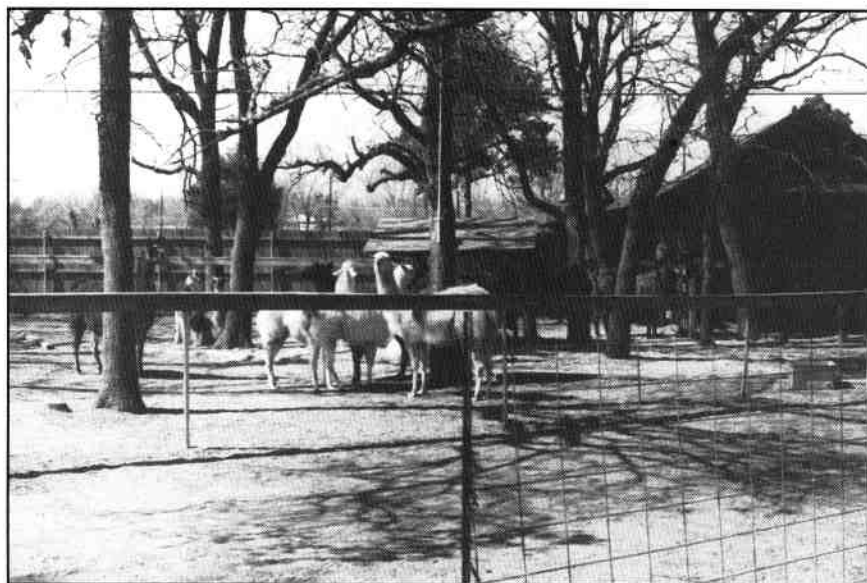
home with them. That was certainly the reaction that my wife and I had the first time we were up close and personal with one.

We had just moved into our new house on a 1.2 acre lot. Since my wife was into spinning and weaving, we already had angora rabbits and two pygora goats so she could harvest fiber to spin. We decided that we could handle one llama with the space that we had. We rationalized that it would be another source for fiber for her to spin. So, why not? We bought a cute little three week old male from our friends that raised and introduced us to llamas. Of course, we could not bring it home until it was weaned so we would visit it whenever we got a chance.

Before this little guy was weaned, we heard of a good deal on a female and decided that we could

handle two as easily as one so we bought her. For the next couple of years, we enjoyed our two llamas immensely. We decided to breed our female. Even though we were very inexperienced with these wonderful creatures, we recognized that the cute little three week old llama that we had bought was not an animal that God would want reproduced - he really grew up ugly. We went to a breeder and bred our female with very nice results.

About this time, we became acquainted with one of the llama industry's most respected breeders. We developed a close relationship and he became our mentor. With his assistance and guidance, we have developed a herd of about a dozen llamas that have represented us very well at the various llama shows that we attend. But this article is not about that. As I mentioned, we have a herd of about a dozen llamas and yes, we still only have 1.2 acres. It is



not an ideal situation and I do not recommend that anyone do it. In fact, we feel that it's time to move our program to the next level and are

*Llamas Can Be Raised In Limited Space, cont.*

presently looking for 20-30 acres to move to sometime in the next few months.

Handling 10-15 llamas in a small area presents some unique challenges. We have no pasture for them to graze. Therefore we are very good cus-



tomers at the local feed store. We have an excellent nutrition program that was developed by a physician who in the course of his medical practice, was interested in nutrition and carried that interest over to his llama program. I do plant rye grass in the winter and they enjoy that but it is impossible to plant and grow grass for their summer pleasure. I have our yard divided into several pens and have shelters for them. We rotate areas to expand pens so that all of our animals - especially the young ones - get exercise. We inoculate and worm on a regular basis - just like other breeders. We have plenty of shade for protection from the heat - a significant problem in Texas. I also have a hands on procedure related to the heat index which seems to be effective. Other than totally depending on the feed store, our situation is not unlike many others. Our animals are healthy - in fact our veterinarian, who takes care of ten to twelve herds ranging in size from 1 to 150 llamas, will tell you that we have the healthiest llamas for which he cares.

When I am at a show and wandering about


introducing my animals to the public I frequently hear "I would love to have one but I don't have room." I chuckle especially at those who have more space than we have. I tell them that you can certainly raise a llama or two in a relatively small area. Those that I consider sincerely interested, I invite to come to our place and see for themselves.

Some of you larger llama breeders might be disturbed by the thought of having a dozen llamas on 1.2 acres (actually less because our house takes up part of that space) but you shouldn't be. Our animals are thriving, our breeding program is thriving and we are having a ball

I do tell people who are truly interested in having a llama or two (I always encourage two) that limited space need not be a deterrent. Of course they should live in something larger than an apartment and they should check their local livestock ordinances about yard critters. I hope that those of you that are looking for homes for those young, pet quality males will recognize that the potential market is greater than you think. It doesn't have to be limited to those who have acreage. Who knows where it will lead?



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PHOTOS BY ROB BUSSARD

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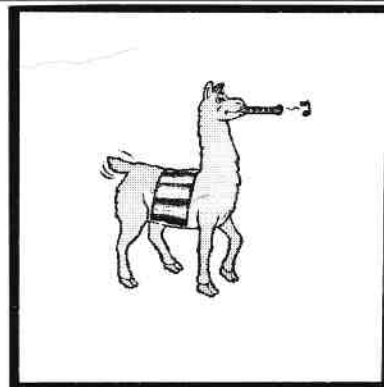
# Just for Kids!

by Linda Kyriopoulos, Sterling Springs Ranch, Mt. Sterling, Utah 801•245•3529

## Hey kids!

**Deidre Baird of Plum Valley Llamas in Sedalia, Colorado sent some information about llamas and two relatives which she found on the computer encyclopedia program, Encarta. She would like to share this interesting information with you!**

**LLAMA**, common name for a long-eared South American semi-ruminant mammal. Male llamas have been used as beasts of burden in the Andes Mountains for more than 4000 years. Llamas migrated to South America about 3 million years ago from North America.



**GUANACO**, common name for a species of wild South American semi-ruminant (cud-chewing) mammals. The Guanaco is found on mountains and plains in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Paraguay. The Guanaco takes to water readily and has often been seen swimming from one island to another. These fast running animals are usually tall and slender.

**VICUÑA**, a semi-ruminant mammal belonging to the Camelid family. The animal is native to the Andes Mountains in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. The Vicuña is the smallest of the Camelid family and has the finest fiber coat. Vicuñas have a cinnamon-colored coat, white underparts, a pale cinnamon face and a bib of long, white hair on the chest. This animal is protected and on the endangered species list.



Thanks for sharing, Deidre!

Edited to reflect most current information, *ed.*



# Ecopack

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The Ecopack is a lightweight, commercial grade, field-tested llama pack. Llama outfitter David Harmon developed, tested and now uses the Ecopack in his llama packing operation, Ecollama. The Ecopack is a three-piece, soft frame pack system consisting of a saddle and two detachable panniers.

## Saddle

The Ecopack saddle is lightweight yet very durable canvas that breathes. The load is kept off the llama's spine by two foam strips sewn into the saddle along the llama's loins. The saddle features pannier hooks for quick and easy pannier attachment.

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The breast strap and crupper, connected to the saddle with nylon webbing and fastex buckles, are padded leather to reduce chaffing.

## Panniers

The Ecopack panniers are made of very durable cordura nylon which is lightweight, easy to clean, water resistant and virtually rip-proof. The panniers are 9" deep, 16" high and 20" wide. One side of each pannier has zip-in foam pads to protect the llama's ribs from sharp objects. Top drawstrings and fastex buckles allow easy loading. The panniers each have a sewn-in metal

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## Specifications

Colors: green, blue, brown, black, gray, florescent orange, red (other colors by request).

Price: \$290

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## About Ecollama

David Harmon has offered fully guided llama pack trips in Western Montana since 1987, through Ecollama. He developed the Ecopack specifically to meet his needs as a commercial outfitter. David also assists his wife, Amy Rubin Harmon, with their llama breeding business, Llama Ventures, which specializes in breeding large llamas with excellent conformation and disposition.

This is the first in a series of articles on llama packing systems. You're welcome to send in your article about your pack system.

Limit it to 400 words and no photos please. Postmark determines who is in the next newsletter.

Editor reserves the right to edit articles for content and length.

Take time for all things: great haste makes great waste.

*Benjamin Franklin*

Wisely, and slow. They stumble that run fast.

*William Shakespeare*



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### *ESTES PARK WOOL MARKET: A Value-Packed Experience*

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The Estes Park Wool Market is a learning and networking festival. Its events brochure is an ideal resource for adding value to all wool products. It features in-depth wool workshops on spinning, weaving and felting such fibers as angora, mohair, cashmere, dog, llama and alpaca. There are classes on blending, drafting and combing these fibers. There are hands-on learning experiences for dyeing, blending and designing with fleeces, rovings, batts, and yarns. There are even Japanese braiding and rug-making classes. There are several spinning events, a sheep to shawl contests, a karakul specialty show, as well as llama, alpaca and sheep fleece competitions. There is a fashion show spot-lighting American hand-crafted woolens. Last but not least, there are livestock competitions with goats (pygora, cashmere and angora), sheep (karakul, colored and white), rabbits as well as llamas and alpacas.

Among the Estes Park Wool Market sponsors are Schacht Spindles, Interweave Press, Colorado Wool

Growers Association, the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association and the Alpaca Breeders of the Rockies.

The Alpaca Breeders of the Rockies (ABR) is hosting an "Investment Seminar" by Mike Safley and a "Genetics and Ethics Seminar" by Dr. LaRue Johnson. ABR will host an alpaca wool products booth in the vendor's barn. RMLA will have a llama wool booth as well. The alpaca sale tent will provide demonstrations and a livestock exhibit. There are socials with other wool growers, and a festive banquet at the Aspen Lodge for the Alpaca community. ABR is sponsoring a farm hospitality program to pasture alpacas between the Wool Market and the AOBA Conference.

For information about the Estes Park Wool Market contact the following:

Linda Hinze at the EPWM Fairgrounds at 970•586•6104  
Llama Events: Jo Riley, 303•823•5409 or Lougene Baird, 303•688•1187.

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RMLA is offering advertising space in the Conference Notebook. There are two categories of advertising. The Section Tabs will have ads printed on each side. If you want a photo in your ad, this is the place to advertise. The other pages in the notebook will be xeroxed and will not be the same quality as the printed pages.

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# The Snow Will Soon Be Gone

By Michael Brown • P.O. Box 17271 • Boulder, CO • 80308-0271

It was a long week for me. Every day of this March week I was up at four AM to be at work by six. On three of the five nights, I didn't get home until after eleven PM — Handweaver's Guild meeting, dye workshop, community knitting. I was beyond tired. The weather report called for snow and high winds this Saturday — another typical day for this season where I live at 9000 feet. But on this Saturday, sunlight unhampered by clouds woke me. It's nice to know

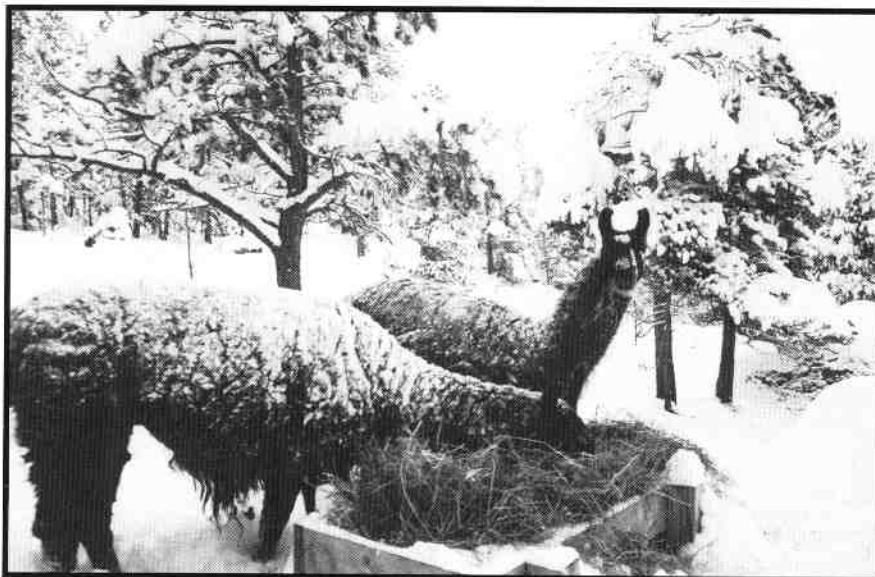
there are a few things we have no control over. I looked out the window and knew this was going to be a golden day.

My exhaustion not yet shaken off, I ate a leisurely breakfast and did some reading over a cup of warm tea. I was going to take my time today. I wanted to relax

and enjoy it. The sun through the window warmed me in a way it hadn't done for months. Looking out of the south-facing window, I saw two bluebirds — the first I'd seen this spring — sitting atop the cedar houses I made for them two years ago. Although I knew that the spring snows were not over yet, that we would be dumped on several more times before June, there were now only small patches of snow dotting the wet fields glistening with the melt of February's snow and still brown with the grasses of last season. Whether this wonderful sight triggered the release of hormones, whether it forced my brain to dredge up similar pleasant scenes from my past, or whether it made me aware of the cabin fever I probably suffered from, I do not know, but something deep within told me it was time to go outside.

I still needed boots to protect my feet from the soggy ground that just a few days ago was covered in a deep layer of frozen snow. I brought a hat, but I didn't need it; into my pocket it went. I'll bet it was 60 degrees — a

heat wave for this place this time of year. After tending to Shelly, my angora rabbit, I was ready to tend to the llama herd — Chester and Boggs — acquired last June. On most mornings, I usually find them busy eating hay sticks left from the previous day's feeding or munching pine needles from trees in their pasture, but today was different. Today they were standing in front of the gate, something they rarely did. In their own fashion, they were speaking to me. Had they felt the



same stirrings I had felt sitting in the cabin that morning? Did they have a touch of 'pasture fever'? It was a beautiful day indeed. I decided not to feed or water them just yet, because I knew that what they wanted was something we were unable to do for months — go hiking.

Into the catch

pen I herded them. They seemed at ease. They seemed to be happy to experience a truly pleasant day after months of subfreezing temperatures and gale-force winds, of frozen water and uncooperative hay that blew away before they could eat it. They, like me, knew the worst was over.

I was curious to see if all the time I spent training them last year had been wasted, if they had regressed to an untrained state due to lack of reinforcement. My worries were ill-founded. They eagerly responded to my requests and calmly allowed me to do with them as I pleased. Even Boggs, who last year required many patient weeks before he felt comfortable about being haltered and many patient months before he would calmly allow me to pick up his feet, responded with a faultless nonchalance. And Chester, who at first regarded grooming as some form of Peruvian torture, stood patiently as I gently ran the brush over him removing the surface sticks and hay. But what was more astonishing was that they both kushed on

command — something we had been working on at the end of last season but hadn't perfected. I was both proud of them and of myself; all of my efforts had not been in vain. They had remembered our times together last year, and after the long and arduous winter, they were willing to put up with my silly requests if only I would take them hiking.

Having haltered the llamas, I attached their lead ropes, and off we went. Down the little hill in front of our cabin, through the now marshy field to the west, and onto the dirt road that led to a nearby trailhead, we sauntered. I was smiling, and so were the llamas. With delight and confidence, they crossed the streams and jumped the logs they balked at when first encountered last year. I could see by the way they held their ears erect, by the way they strutted, by the lift of their tails that this is where they wanted to be, that this is what they wanted to be doing. With a little conditioning, these three year olds would be ready and willing to pack the trips I only dreamed about last year.

On our way back to the cabin, we met a group of boy scouts who, for about one hour, questioned me about the llamas: Did they spit? How old are they? How much can they carry? Do they bite? Can we pet them? What do they eat? And on and on and on . . . The boys asked the same questions I had patiently answered countless times last year when meeting people on the trail, but this time my answers were spiced with conviction. Last year, I was reciting what I had read; this year, I was speaking from experience. Last year, I was hoping that what I said was true; this year, I knew it was. I sincerely defended and promoted llamas without realizing it at the time. My answers flowed warm and sincere because they rested on a foundation Chester and Boggs and I had built together during the past nine months, a foundation that became more tightly mortared and buttressed with every passing day. I silently thanked the scouts for unwittingly reminding me of all this.

I gave the lead ropes to one boy who said he wanted to own a llama some day. Sporting the biggest smile I'd ever seen, off he went around the field and through the mud and over the snow with Chester and Boggs, delighted with all the attention they were getting.

We took our leave from the scouts, and as I walked back to the cabin trailing two very happy llamas, I realized how much they mean to me. All those questions asked by the scouts dredged up pleasant feel-

ings and enthusiasms I harbored last year but had forgotten or misplaced over the long winter. Our hikes to high mountain meadows carpeted with wildflowers, the surprised looks on their faces when I finally coaxed them to do something they were wary of, their ecstasy over eating dandelions, all this and more came rushing back to me. I walked silently thinking about the first trip we would take, anticipating the fun we would have, anticipating the new lessons we would learn together.

Back at the catch pen, I took off their ropes and removed their halters. A warm and gentle breeze had picked up, and I took off my jacket. I couldn't leave them just yet. A handful of oats in thanks was given and received with gusto. I picked up the brush and gave Boggs a few long strokes down his neck. To my surprise, the brush came away loaded with gobs of fiber — free from debris, free from guard hairs. I brushed his neck some more, and again the brush was loaded with clean fiber. Having tortured myself for the past two months preparing a poor quality llama fleece I had picked up cheaply, having all but given up on llama fiber, I realized that it can be exquisite. Within ten minutes, I had a bag full of it.

I gave Chester and Boggs their rations of hay, and I filled their buckets with water. Warmed by the sun, their thick coats ruffled by the breeze, they ate and drank. Bluebirds perched on the edge of one bucket and bent low to sip from it. I sat on the nearby rocks and watched the llamas as they placidly ate their hay — the choicest pieces first.

The clouds moved in, and I rose and left Chester and Boggs, remembering to take the bag of brushings. I went into the cabin, made a cup of tea, and spun Bogg's fiber into some of the best yarn I have made. While admiring the yarn, I noticed that the snow began to fall.





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## Fashion Forecast for Llamas

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

This spring's well-dressed llama will wear a coat that's soft, fine, clean, lustrous, strong and uniform. Felted mats, weathered tips and accessories such as seed heads, pine cones, or finely ground vegetable matter are definitely "out." (Photo 1)

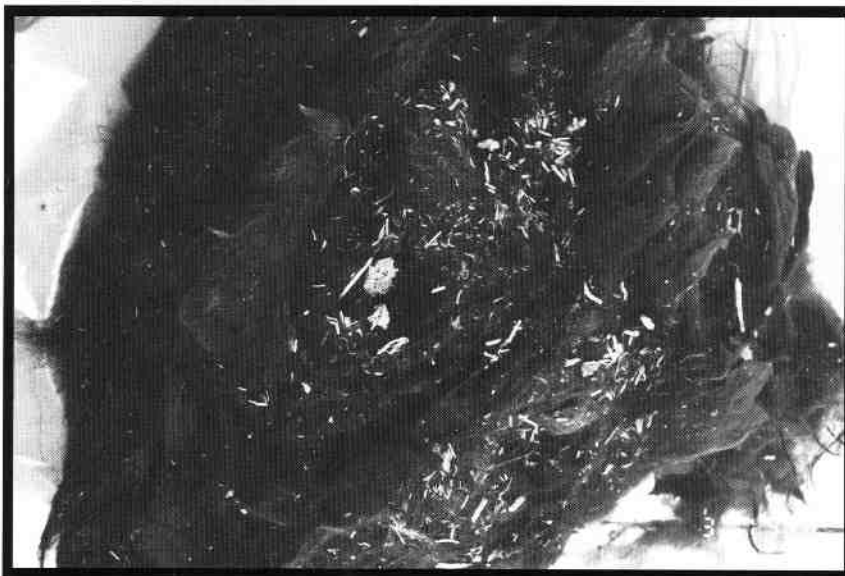


Photo 1: OUT. Excessive amounts of vegetation, mats and weathered tips. Tackle it only if you're already a little crazy.

By summer, the fashionable llama, with help from its owner, will shed its heavy winter coat for one that's short, airy, and heat-stress free. Its well-grown and harvested fleece will be sold to a hand spinner, weaver or other fiber artisan. The llama that attends shows will want to try a sporty barrel or lion cut. A naturally short-wooled llama is always in style. It's easy to brush its coat to perfection.

It's time for the llama community to move off the "worst dressed" list and join their alpaca cousins in the "Top 10" category. If your llamas aren't candidates for this honor, there are things you can do to help them look and feel their best in any season. These will result in the production of a quality product that fiber artisans will seek out.

Let's review the factors you can control:

**Nutrition:** Good nutrition includes *quality* of feed as well as *quality*. Fat llamas produce fat fiber. The opposite fiber extreme, "starvation fineness," is weak and brittle.

**Environment:** Eliminate weeds that produce seed heads or stickers. Avoid wood shavings or bark dust; use sand for bedding and in rolling areas. Provide adequate protection from sun, wind and wet weather.

**Stress:** Parasites, barking dogs, frequent transportation to shows, excessive grooming, and lack of training to accept handling are all possible sources of stress. Gelded males often produce the best quality fiber because they're not subject to the stress of breeding, pregnancy, or lactation.

Your decisions can also affect the following:

**Fiber condition:** The ideal llama fleece represents no more than two years growth. This is the time it takes a cria to grow its maximum coat or an adult to replace a full shearing. Once the maximum growth point is reached, the fiber just hangs there, matting, weathering, collecting debris and making the llama uncomfortable. (Photo 2) The prime fiber length for hand or machine spinning is 3 to 6 inches. Excessively short or long fiber requires special handling. At high elevations, or in cold climates, it will be necessary to leave 2 inches of fiber on the llama to prevent sunburn and start next winter's coat. With this in mind, a common-sense rule is to shear whenever the undercoat is 5 to 8 inches long. Unless you can pull the mats apart with your fingers, discard them.



**Fiber quality:** The rougher and denser the llama's guard hairs, the softer, finer, and more crimped its undercoat will be. Llamas



Photo 2: OUT. Overgrown, matted and dirty. This was a soft, fine textured fleece several years ago. Brittle, weathered tips.

bred to produce long, fine-textured guard hairs will have discernibly coarser, smoother undercoats - an almost single-coated fleece. No matter where in this range your llama falls, it's best to allow the guard hairs to do their intended job of protecting the undercoat. Brushing disrupts this protection, breaks the finer fibers, and allows dirt and debris to work below the surface. To groom your llama for a show, or other public appearance, limit your cleaning efforts to the surface. Only when it's time to harvest the fiber should you do a thorough job of removing the accumulated "crust". Then brush out a short undercoat, or shear anything more than 5 inches long.

During the shearing process, separate neck, belly and leg fiber from the prime areas on the sides. You should also remove the

debris-laden strip along the backbone. Felt makers can use this shorter, coarser fiber after it's cleaned. Remove guard hairs from a shorn

fleece by holding the cut ends of the fiber and pulling them out of the shorter undercoat. Use scissors to trim and discard any sunbleached, weathered tips. Turn the fleece over and remove any second cuts to the felting pile. (Photo 3) Do this pre-processing work on an elevated piece of hardware cloth so dirt and debris can fall away. Bag and label everything !

To test the wearability of a fleece, put a cut lock under your collar to keep it next to your skin for a while. Is it sweater, hat, or rug quality?

**Cleanliness:** Ask yourself, "How much



Photo 3: OUT. Full of second cuts, coarse guard hairs, fine debris. Salvageable only with hours of work.

time would a *reasonable* person spend cleaning this fleece?" It might be best just to cut it up



for garden mulch, birds' nests, insulation, or padding.

To help salvage a dirty fleece, staple two 4 foot squares of plastic mesh, with 1 to 2 inch openings, to frames of 1 x 3 wood. Sandwich a dirty fleece between the mesh and lean the frames against a saw horse. Use your blower, on the cut side only, to remove the debris. Keep the nozzle about 2 feet away to avoid making tangles. (Karen Kinyon invented this method while working with 35 fleeces shorn from the CSU research herd.)

Find your May, 1995, RMLA Newsletter for a list of commercial fiber processors who accept small lots. (Call me if you don't have it:

Taos Wool Festivals. You and your llamas are well on your way to leading this year's fashion parade!



Photo 5: IN. This is a single coated alpaca fleece needing only the weathered tips cut off and debris shaken out. Many llamas have comparable fleeces.



Photo 4: IN. Minimal debris, matting, and guard hair. Good, consistent fiber length. Worth your best efforts.

303-666-9437.) They can card your fleeces and make them into batts, roving, or yarn, if you'd rather not do this yourself consign your fiber and finished products to the RMLA Fiber Co-op booths at the Estes Park Wool Market and



**Advertising is the rattling of a stick inside a swill bucket.**

*George Orwell*

**Few things are harder to put up with than a good example.**

*Mark Twain*

# CAMPING CUISINE

by Stephen Long • Silver Creek Cockatoos • P.O. Box 682407 • Park City, UT • 84068 • (801)647-3671

Packing with llamas is a wonderful way to enjoy the back country. Llamas relieve us of the necessity of carrying heavy packs, and are excellent trail companions. With the help of our llamas, we are able to carry many items into the back country which we would normally leave behind on a conventional back-packing trip. One of the most useful additions I have found is the Dutch oven.

A Dutch oven is a very versatile cooking tool. With it, you can cook just about anything, from breakfasts to dinners, from main courses to deserts. Once you have enjoyed a back country meal from a Dutch oven, you won't leave on a pack trip without one!

There are several different types of Dutch ovens on the market. They range in size from eight to twenty two inches in diameter, and are made of either cast iron or cast aluminum. I use the cast aluminum Dutch ovens while I llama pack because they are considerably lighter than cast iron. The twelve inch model is the most popular, allowing you to prepare main courses for up to 10-12 people. Since I pack by myself, or usually with no more than two or three other people, I prefer to use a ten inch oven.

While you can cook with your Dutch oven over an open fire, I find it easier to pack charcoal briquettes for cooking. For a ten inch oven, 6-8 briquettes on the bottom and 8-10 briquettes on top allow for moderate to hot temperatures in your oven. For a twelve inch oven, use 8-10 on the bottom and 10-12 on top. You can add or subtract briquettes as needed to regulate temperatures. I pack an additional 8-10 briquettes for each meal, and start the extras halfway through cooking so I can add the new briquettes as the original briquettes burn down. This allows me to keep a consistent temperature throughout the cooking of a meal. I also use a fire pan for cooking, preventing the briquettes from leaving burn marks on the land. Fire pans are required in some no-fire areas. Check with the BLM or National Forest Service for their requirements if you plan on packing in areas with fire restrictions. Carrying

briquettes for cooking does add additional weight to the pack load, but it allows you to camp with less impact on the land, and your loads will get lighter with each successive meal.

**Silver Creek Cockatoos**  
*"The only love money can buy!"*



Stephen P. Long  
Aviculturalist

P. O. Box 682407  
Park City, Utah 84068  
801-647-3671

Christy R. Long  
General Manager

Cleaning your Dutch oven after the meal is a simple procedure. First, remove any left-over food (if you have any left-overs...I rarely do!) and wipe out the inside of the oven with a paper towel. Place the oven back on the fire with the lid on. After a short while, remove the oven from the fire and scrape the inside

clean with a metal spatula. You may also use crumpled aluminum foil for scraping. A pair of leather gloves is useful at this point as the oven will still be hot while you are cleaning. After scraping the inside clean, wipe down the entire oven with grease, then place it back on the fire for a few minutes. This procedure cleans and reseasons your oven, and it will now be ready for the next time you need to use it.

Just about any recipe can be adapted for your Dutch oven. The following are a few of my favorites that are easy to prepare and are sure to please everyone on your next pack trip. I try to prepare as much as possible of the meal prior to the trip, and I seal portions in individual zip-lock bags. This makes the meals easier to prepare and you will have less mess around camp, an important point if you are packing in bear country! Two important things to remember with your Dutch oven are not to let the fire get too hot and always keep enough moisture in the oven.

## CHICKEN AND POTATOES

- 4 Boneless chicken breasts
- 4 medium to large potatoes
- 1 onion
- 1 red pepper
- 1 green pepper

Slice or dice the onion, then sauté in one table-spoon of grease until clear. Cube potatoes, then add

*Camping Cuisine, cont.*

potatoes and chicken breasts to oven with a cup and a half of water. Cover and cook for about 45 minutes, adding salt and pepper to taste, then dice the peppers and add to oven. Cook for an additional 15-20 minutes, then serve. Keep a close watch on the amount of water in the oven. You will probably need to add an additional 1/2 cup or more during cooking to keep moisture in the oven. I will sometimes add a can of beer in place of the water for a slightly different taste. Serves four.

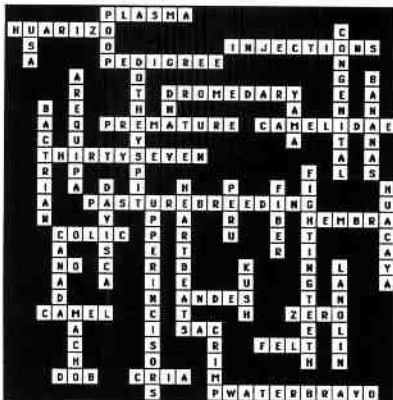
**HEARTY BREAKFAST**

- Eggs
- Sausage or Bacon
- Frozen Hash Browns or potatoes

For this meal, I use 2 eggs, 3 links sausage/3 slices bacon, and one medium potato/one handful frozen hashbrowns for each serving.

Cook sausage/bacon until almost done, then remove from oven and drain excess grease. Slice potatoes and place in oven with 1/2 cup water or add hash browns, cook until almost done then place sausage/bacon on top of potatoes and break eggs over the top of the meat. Cover and cook about 10 minutes, or until the eggs are done.

These are just two of the recipes I used on my trip this month into the Grand Gulch Primitive Area in southern Utah. Not only did I have the opportunity to explore many ancient ruins and view magnificent rock art panels, I also explored some new recipes with the Dutch oven. The only bad part of the trip was the extra five pounds I put on because I was eating so good! I heartily recommend using the Dutch oven for meals on llama packing trips. If you try it, I'm sure you'll agree that it is the best eating you've ever done on a pack!



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Welcome to the following new members. We've reached 500 in membership and are still going strong!

By Judy Sealy, RMLA Membership

---

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Kemmerer, WY 83101-1339

**Candy Retmier**

BAR 'R' LLAMAS  
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*continued.....*



## New Members, con't.

### David Shoulders

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### John Stephen

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ROY-DEE'S  
P.O. Box 137  
Mesa, CO 81643-0137  
(970)268-5242 FAX (970)268-5842

### Carman S. Tighe

BETHEL ROCK YYAMA COMPANY  
P.O. Box 483  
Kiowa, CO 80117  
(303)621-2556

*Farm name added  
from Feb. issue*

### Ron Thomas

Box 1842  
Socorro, NM 87801  
(505)835-2118

### Barbara H. Lewis & Randy Welfl

HCF 77, Box 91  
Thermopolis, WY 82443  
(307)864-2878



## RMLA Library Report • From Sharon Herbold, RMLA Librarian •

Pikes Peak Woolies • 15350 Highway 83 • Colorado Springs, CO • 80921 • (719) 495•3092

The list of materials that are in the RMLA library has recently been updated. This new list will be included with the 1996 Membership Directory. Presently, in the library there are:

|   |           |             |                                |
|---|-----------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 61 Book titles                          | 38 Videos | 64 Articles | 47 Wool related articles/books |
| 37 Children's collection articles/books |           |             |                                |

- ☞ The videos are by far the most popular items in the library, especially with new members.
- ☞ A waiting list is maintained for all items in the library. If something you request is not currently available, your name will automatically go on the list for each item requested.
- ☞ There may be a current waiting list, as is the case for most of the videos. Your name will be added to the list and the video sent to each person on the list in the order that each item was requested.
- ☞ There are times that as many as five or six members are on waiting lists for some of the more popular videos. For this reason, it is very important that you return all videos within the two week check out period. Others waiting for these items are very disappointed when they find out that an item that they need is not immediately available.
- ☞ We will be ordering second copies of some of the more requested videos. These should be available soon.
- ☞ The library has had several donations of money this year. A book has also been donated to the children's library.
- ☞ Thank you very much for these donations. These thoughtful gifts will allow RMLA to be able to order some of the materials needed for your use in the library.

### RMLA Video Library: Packing Videos:

The RMLA Library has some wonderful videos for those of you who would like to learn more about how to pack with your llamas. Two of them that will be especially helpful for the beginning packer are *All About Llamas - Let 's Go Packing* and *Five Star Llama Packing*. The first, which is produced by Taylor/Gavia Communications, is a basic guide to packing. This video will show you how to choose your packer, how to train him, and what kind of pack systems there are to choose from. *Five Star Llama Packing*, featuring Stephen Biggs, Stanlynn Daugherty, Bobra Goldsmith, Francie Greth-Peto, and Tom Landis, is a bit more intense and in depth than *Let 's Go Packing* simply because there is input from five commercial llama packers. The videographer, Kelly Hart, is also a llama businessman. Something that I found particularly helpful was that this video comes with a table of contents which tells you where certain subjects are on the tape. This is great, especially if you tend to wander around while watching videos (I'm famous for doing this). Both of these tapes will certainly get you well on your way to hitting the trail!

I have a friend who is obsessed with fishing. He even wants to be the narrator on one of those fishing shows. If you know someone like this, borrow *Fishing the West* with guest Jay Rais. Not only do you get to see the beautiful Idaho back country, but also llama versatility as a pack animal, llama-hair fishing flies, and some nice looking trout. Who knows, if you show this to the fisherman enough, you will have "hooked" him on llamas!



## 1996 RMLA Service Directory

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Erma Hast, one of RMLA's treasured founding members, has reported that all information for the 1996 RMLA Service Directory is in and has been sent to the printer. A total of \$2,220 in ads were purchased by members this year.

She says that the directory is "truly a good money maker (for RMLA) and also provides a great service." Erma has worked on what is referred to as the RMLA Yellow Pages for many years and is delighted with the continued support of the membership.

The Service Directory was the idea of Peter Nichols, Elk River Valley Llama Company, Clark, Colorado. Peter was President of RMLA in 1983 and 1984, and Erma was the Secretary-Treasurer at that time.

The "Yellow Pages" have been successful from the very beginning. It is an excellent and inexpensive way to get your name out to all new llama inquires, and especially now our members have the additional opportunity to have their business card included. It is an inexpensive form of advertising.

Our members will enjoy this photo of Erma and Bernie Hast. It was taken in January 1996 on their 47th anniversary. Their children joined in their celebration with a gift of 47 red roses.

Thanks to both Erma and Bernie for the years of service they each have given to our organization and the industry.



Bernie and Erma Hast - Montrose, Colorado

## From the Newsletter Staff:

**W**e are excited to be your newsletter staff. We are looking forward to working with each and every one of you. We know everyone has some knowledge to share or a story to tell. We encourage you to write them down and send it in with picture(s). Printing of articles is based on space availability and date of receipt.

As you may or may not know, being the editor of the RMLA Newsletter is not exactly a walk in the park. If you don't believe it, talk to Jo Riley.

With that in mind we feel compelled to discuss some of the old rules and a few new rules up front regarding advertising, classifieds and articles for the newsletter.

### ❖ Advertising:

All advertising must be the correct size, as stated in the newsletter or you will be charged at the rate of \$25/hour to remedy the problem. If you need an ad type set/art work designed for placement in the newsletter, send us what you have and what you want to do and we (Ron) will work up a top quality ad at a reasonable rate (especially if you're advertising in the newsletter).

While we are talking about advertising, if you are not already, please consider advertising in your newsletter. Our goal is to make the newsletter self supporting, i.e. the advertising pays for printing and mailing costs.

### ❖ Letters to the editor(s):

This is a new column. Any and all letters to the editors will be accepted, however, we reserve the right to edit them for content and length. Any letters sent anonymously will automatically be filed in the 'round file'! All other letters (good and bad) may appear in this column. Be careful what you say to the editors, it may end up as the printed word!

We have an internet e-mail address and you are welcome to use this medium to communicate with us, articles, letters to the editor, etc.

If you have any unsubstantiated comments about the work being done, remember this job is totally volunteer and any of these comments will result in asking you to volunteer with the newsletter in some way.

### ❖ Q and A (Questions and Answers):

Another new column invites you to send in questions about llamas and the staff will try to round up the appropriate individual(s) to respond to your question.

### ❖ Articles:

Articles are what make this newsletter. The written word is primary to the operation of any publication. The article should not be advertising for a product or your farm. If we feel the article is closer to an ad rather than an article, it may never get published.

### ❖ Nellie Newcomer:

A new column that will cover some of the basic llama subjects primarily for new llama owners.

### ❖ Llamas and Alpacas:

This organization is all about llamas and alpacas. Although the newsletter audience is primarily llama owners, it is to the benefit of RMLA that alpaca owners also become members. These two species are so very close to each other in what is covered in the newsletter it seems only natural that alpaca (only) owners be members too. It is beneficial that all of us work together.

### ❖ Membership Application Form:

An RMLA membership form will be printed in *every* issue. Instead of placing it in the middle, which increases printing costs, it will be inside the body of the newsletter. If you don't want to cut a hole in your newsletter, make a copy of the form for your neighbor. We'll make sure nothing of any great importance is on the backside if you do use the scissors.

### ❖ Medium:

Articles, letters to the editors, Q & A, and other written words that don't require a check can be sent via e-mail or fax (in addition to other means). Communications by fax have to be scanned and converted back to text. It's very difficult if the fax is not of good quality. Faxes sent by a computer result in the best image. All faxes should be double spaced with minimum 16 point characters.

### ❖ Summary:

Will accept articles, etc. from virtually any source: Mail, fax, e-mail, computer floppy disks (Macintosh or DOS/Windows, 3 1/2" only), all the major word processing systems. All photographs can be color or black and white (color is preferable). Color copies of color photographs are *barely* usable. Black and white copies of photos are not usable.

Advertising pictures, including logos sent by fax, are also unusable. *Do not* send pictures in a digital form, i.e. on computer disk.

OK, let's get on with it. We all have *just about* taken care of the NFS llama ban, what's next? .....Let's All Help Keep It Movin'.....

Sincerely,

### The RMLA Newsletter Staff (in alphabetical order)

Marilyn Arnold, Dancing Llama Ranch

Sharon Beacham, Pheasant Hill Farm

Bob and Barbara Hance, Hance Ranch

Ron and Marie Hinds, Serendipity Farm

Stan Lacher and Gail Segreto, High Hopes Llamas

Maggie Merrill

Candy and Tracy Montgomery, Prima Llama Ranch

.....and The RMLA Board of Directors and many other outstanding volunteers.



# CLASSIFIED ADS



**USEFUL LLAMA ITEMS:** Halters, Leads, Grooming Supplies, Blowers, Shearing Equipment, Scales, Chutes, Laboratory Services, Veterinary Supplies, Llama Thermometers, Weather vanes, Farm Supplies, Manure Spreaders, Signs, Carts, Harnesses, Cria Kits, Fly Control, Minerals, Llama Watches, Check lower Midwestern prices and shipping costs. Rapid service, Brochure: 3540 - 76th., Caledonia, MI 49316, 1•800•635•5262. 4/96

**FOR SALE:** 5.10 yak; 5.10 llamas; 5.10 elk; 5.10 miniature donkeys; 5.10 wisent. Jerry McRoberts, Nebraska 308•884•2371. 4/96

**MT. SOPRIS LLAMAS UNLTD:** Sopris Pack Equipment, Halters, Hay Feed Bags, Wool Apron, Quick Straps, Cria Warming Shawls. Plus: Books, Videos, Information Articles, Cards, Stillwater Minerals, Grooming, and Llama and Alpaca Care Products. Free Catalog: Females and Trained Packers for Sale. Pack Clinics 1•800•767•7479. 4/96

**ALPACAS FOR SALE:** Reasonable priced quality weanling, yearling, and pregnant females - Suri & Huacayas. Bravo Bravo and Rose Gray bloodlines available. Also have bred Llama. Chuck or Helen - Stewart's Royal Alpacas, 190 Steinmeier, Cañon City, CO 81212 710•275•2701. 4/96

**HERD LIQUIDATION:** DOME ROCK LLAMAS has 5 females, 1 stud quality male and 1 gelded male. Excellent bloodlines, correct conformation. Priced separately or as a package. All offers considered. Also for sale, 5 x 10 x 6 insulated trailer \$2,500. 719•689•2382.

**SPINNING LLAMA AND ALPACA:** 44 page book by Chris Switzer. Sections on Origin, Fiber ID, Cleaning and Collecting, Shearing, Preparation, Blending, Dyeing, Spinning, Marketing and Selling, Storage of Wool, and Projects. \$10 plus \$1.60 postage and 3% Colorado Tax. Chris Switzer, Box 3800, Dept. R., Estes Park, CO 80517. 1/97

**FOR SALE:** Female llamas, yearlings and bred three year olds. One all white with gorgeous wool. Her daddy was MC Hammer! Show quality, wonderful wool, good dispositions. Reasonable prices. Please come see for yourself. Free 6-months of boarding with purchase. Call Pat in Boulder, CO for more information 303•494•8219. 8/96

**BANANA EARS REPUBLIC:** Thinking about Llamas? Beautiful bred females for sale. Also a MUST SEE cinnamon colored female weanling, destined to be a star. STUD SERVICE to RASPUTIN a great bargain at \$350.00. All Llamas and services with ranch guarantee. Give us a call at 303•838•5619. See you at the Estes Park Show. 8/96

**ADVERTISE IN THE RMLA Newsletter,** It's a great way of getting the word out about your farm or ranch and your special crias, studs, females, Llama and Alpaca equipment. *Thanks!*

**UNBELIEVABLE OPPORTUNITY:** How about a trade? Quality herd of llamas. Females bred to CAMEO's NAUTILUS; LIVORNO offspring: Packing age males; Young girls. Includes "Nauti" and an outstanding 2 year old herd-sire prospect out of SAROS (multi-long wool champion). I will trade for mountain/foothills property, alpacas, equipment such as a pasture vac, scales, nice trailer. Other ideas? Give me a call. Will also consider sale of all or part of herd. Financing and delivery available. Contact Carol at CASTLE LLAMAS 970•484•3537.

**LOOKING FOR A GREAT SUMMER/FALL '97 CRIA?** T.J.'s Blackhawk (great wool, perfect conformation, fantastic presence) is willing to make your dream come true. He has sired many great looking kids. Call now to book a breeding. A BIG THANKS to Betty Robertson for sharing such a wonderful llama with us. If you can't wait a year for your own female's offspring, consider an extremely handsome, intelligent, curious Blackhawk son born 7.14.95. Give us a call. Cria Creek Ranch, 303•526•1425. 8/96

It isn't easy being green.

*Kermit the Frog*

**SDF Graphics**  
(.....Serendipity Farm)

Satisfaction  
Guaranteed

|                       |                        |                         |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Business Cards</b> | <b>Brochures</b>       | <b>Labels</b>           |
| <b>Maps to you!</b>   | <b>Forms</b>           | <b>Special Graphics</b> |
| <b>Logos</b>          | <b>Ad layout</b>       | <b>Drawings</b>         |
| <b>Stationary</b>     | <b>Stickers</b>        | <b>Newsletters</b>      |
| <b>Envelopes</b>      | <b>Camelid Clipart</b> | <b>and more.</b>        |

Ron Hinds  
9349 N. Tammy Lane  
Parker, CO 80134-7511

(303) 841-4889 Voice  
(303) 841-7635 Fax

RONLAMA@AOL.COM e-mail

Member: AOBA, RMLA, ABR, ILA, ARI



# List of Advertisers

|                                      |        |  |            |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--|------------|
| Alpaca Breeders of the Rockies ..... | 8      | Pettigrew, Dale ; TTEAM Training .....     | 36         |
| Alpacas of Canyon Ridge .....        | 32     | Pheasant Hill Farm .....                   | 18, 34, 35 |
| Black Forest Llamas .....            | 45     | Pikes Peak Woolies .....                   | 9          |
| Boulder Ridge Llamas .....           | 34, 35 | Plum Valley Llamas .....                   | 42, 68     |
| Burning Mountain Llamas .....        | 13     | Prima Llama Ranch .....                    | 37, 42     |
| Cache La Poudre Minerals .....       | 18     | Quakey Brake Llamas .....                  | 25         |
| Cottonwood Farm Alpacas .....        | 59     | Rainbow Valley Llamas .....                | 40         |
| Cria Creek Ranch .....               | 37, 41 | Rolling Rock Llamas .....                  | 28         |
| Firecracker '96 .....                | 29     | Sasasta Star Llamas .....                  | 33         |
| Front Range Llama Treks .....        | 42     | SDF Graphics .....                         | 64         |
| Golden Ridge Llamas .....            | 44     | Serendipity Farm Llamas and Alpacas .....  | 42, 46, 54 |
| Grand Valley Llamas .....            | 49     | Serenity Lane Llamas and Alpacas .....     | 2, 32      |
| Hance Ranch .....                    | 28     | Shor-Mac Llamas .....                      | 41         |
| High Hopes Llamas .....              | 14, 42 | Silver Creek Cockatoos .....               | 58         |
| Hillcrest Llama Ranch .....          | 25     | Silver Sage .....                          | 17         |
| Hollybrook Farm & Llama Ranch .....  | 27     | Sterling Springs Ranch .....               | 31         |
| John Mallon Clinic .....             | 51     | Stevens Llama Tique and Suri Alpacas ..... | 30         |
| Lamarage .....                       | 22, 37 | Stewart's Royal Alpacas .....              | 9          |
| Laughlin's Exotic Ranch .....        | 42     | Stillwater Minerals .....                  | 23         |
| Lazy B Llamas .....                  | 42     | The Outback Connection Llamas .....        | 17, 42     |
| Lionheart Alpacas .....              | 42     | Trout Creek Llamas .....                   | 41, 67     |
| Log Hill Llamas and Alpacas .....    | 27     | Winding Trails Llamas .....                | 37         |
| Mile High Alpacas .....              | 42     | World Class Farms .....                    | 38         |
| Northern Rockies Llama Classic ..... | 15     | Yocum-McColl Fiber Testing Lab .....       | 59         |
| Overland Trail Llamas .....          | 50     |  |            |

**Tell them you saw their ad in the RMLA newsletter!**

## Camelids - General

**ACROSS**

- 1 Fluid portion of unclotted blood.
- 2 Offspring from alpaca female and llama male.
- 5 Shots
- 6 A recorded or known line of descent.
- 10 One hump camel.
- 13 Before its time.
- 14 Family name, official classification.
- 15 Number of chromosome pairs.
- 22 A breeding method.
- 24 Adult female.
- 25 Abdominal pain.
- 26 Answer to xx.
- 29 Mountain Range.
- 30 A cousin.
- 32 Registered vicuñas in NA.
- 33 South American Camelids (abbr.)
- 35 Matted fiber.
- 36 Date of birth.
- 37 Baby.
- 38 Vet and expert in camelids.

**DOWN**

- 1 - - - - Petrol.
- 3 South of Canada.
- 4 Hereditary
- 7 The question most asked.
- 8 White City, Peru.
- 9 Ear shape of llama, pl.
- 10 Deoxyribonucleic acid. (abbr.)
- 11 Llama, phonetic.
- 12 Two hump camel.
- 16 Sawed off at about 2 1/2 years old.
- 17 City and state; Veterinary Genetics Laboratory.
- 18 60-90 per minute
- 19 SA Country.
- 20 Hair.
- 21 Alpaca type, with crimp fiber.
- 23 Teeth camelids don't have.
- 25 North of USA.
- 27 Sit down.
- 28 Purified Wool wax, from sheep.
- 31 Adult male
- 34 The natural curl in fiber.

Answers on page 59

# Newsletter Advertising Prices and Ad Sizes

## Display Ads:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Full Page: 9-1/2" x 7" .....   | \$65.00  |
| Full Page Inside Cover .....   | \$80.00  |
| Back Cover .....   | \$50.00  |
| 1/2 Page: 4-3/4" x 7" .....  | \$40.00  |
| 1/2 Page Back Cover (Two Color) .....  | \$115.00 |
| 1/4 Page: 4-3/4 x 3-1/2" .....   | \$20.00  |
| <i>10% Discount for 3 consecutive Issues for above <u>SAME</u> Display Ads</i> |          |
| Business Card: 2" x 3-1/2" .....   | \$10.00  |

**NOTE: ALL DISPLAY ADS MUST BE CAMERA-READY AND THE CORRECT SIZE.**

**If you need typeset/art work done, contact the editor for rates.**

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD FOR CORRECT SIZE!**

## Classified Ads:

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

**Mail all Camera Ready Ads to:**

**RMLA Newsletter**

**9349 Tammy Lane**

**Parker, CO 80134-7511**

*(Faxes are not usable for ads.)*

**For all other communications  
you may use:**

**Fax 303-841-7635**

*(Double space and enlarge fonts sent by fax)*

**e-mail**

**RONLAMA@AOL.COM**

**Ron and Marie Hinds, editors**  
**Phone - 303-841-4889**

- Please make checks payable to RMLA.
- B&W or color photos may be used, color is preferred
- Graphic design and typeset for ads is available for additional fees. Contact Ron Hinds for more information and rates.

# Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

## Membership form

### Membership Types

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Individual adult \$30.00/year (1 vote, newsletter, directory entry)
- Farm/Ranch \$50.00/year. (Couple or 2 individuals with 1 business, 2 votes, newsletter, directory entry)
- Junior \$10.00/year (18 or under, must have adult member sponsor, newsletter and 75% reduced conf./show fees as encouragement to participate.)

Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Ranch \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if Junior) \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Specify Sponsor if Junior membership City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Please include, Zip+4 reduces postage costs

|                          |         |              |          |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------|----------|
|                          | Females | Intact Males | Geldings |
| Number of Llamas owned:  | _____   | _____        | _____    |
| Number of Alpacas owned: | _____   | _____        | _____    |

**Fill out form and mail with your check to:**

**Judy Sealy, RMLA Secretary**

**593 19-3/4 Road**

**Grand Junction CO, 81503**

### Expertise /Interest

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breeding (BR) | <input type="checkbox"/> Training (TR)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Driving (DR)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sales (SL)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Products (PR)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Boarding (BO)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wool (WL)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Research (RE)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Judging (JG)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Packing (PK)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Leasing (LE)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Brokering (BK) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify _____ |   |
| Packing (COM'L PK) _____               |  |   |

### Committee Interest

- |  |   |                                      |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance             | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing          | <input type="checkbox"/> Wool        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Ed.      | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominations/Elect. | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Packing             | <input type="checkbox"/> Research           | <input type="checkbox"/> Performance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 - H               | <input type="checkbox"/> By-Laws            | <input type="checkbox"/> Library     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify _____ |   |                                      |

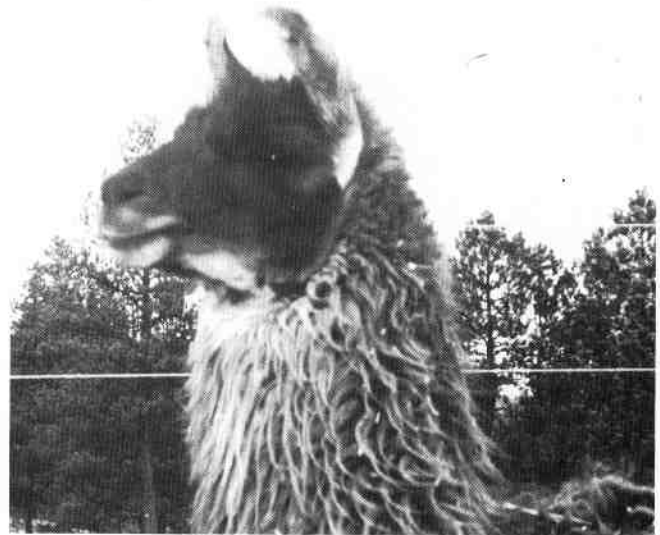
Volunteering in RMLA is very rewarding, you meet some great people and you get to do some humming along the way.



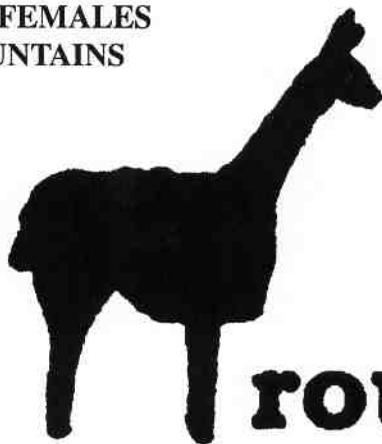
# RED CHIEF

**BREEDINGS TO PROVEN BLOODLINES**

**LIVE BIRTH GUARANTEE**



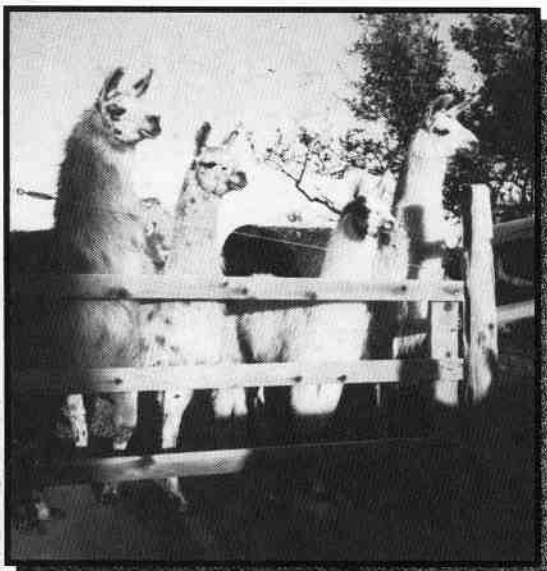
**BOARDING MALES & FEMALES  
IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS**



**Four Creek  
Llamas**

**RICK & JAN CUMMER  
P.O. BOX 6848  
WOODLAND PARK, CO 80866  
303-647-2429**

# Plum Valley Llamas



*We are always happy  
to have visitors*

*come see us!*

*Outside breedings  
and  
a wonderful Tab  
son available...*



ALSA Grand Champion Kahura Uyu Tabernash

## Plum Valley Llamas

The Bairds –  
Lougene, Ron  
Kristin and Deidre

Sedalia, Colorado Phone: 303-688-5445  
80135-8444 Fax: 303-688-6814

*ALSA Champion lines ...  
for every need ...  
... at reasonable prices ...*

RMLA  
593 19-3/4 Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Kansas City, MO  
Permit No. 6035

Jim Opperman  
12185 West 13th Ave.  
Golden CO 80401-4303

Address Correction Requested

Dated Material  
Do Not Delay in Delivery, Please!