

Journal
OF THE **RMLA**

February
1998



ROCKY MOUNTAIN LLAMA AND ALPACA ASSOCIATION



*Serenity Lane's Blue Belle
LW Blue Boy x Iman JF*



SERENITY LANE LLAMAS

"Fine South American Breeding & Show Stock ~ since 1984"

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In This Issue:

CALENDAR OF
EVENTS **6**

1997 RMLA Conf. **8**
in Montrose.

Are There Aliens in
Elbert County, CO? **17**

 **WHEN
NATURE
CALLS.... 35**

FIBER TALK 20
A New Column

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
FIBER POOL UPDATE **26**



JOHNE'S ISSUE **39**
RESOLVED

The Alpaca and
Llama Symposium **30**

The
Thowaway **43**
Threesome

1998 RMLA Spring
Mini-Conference in
Castle Rock, CO **!** See the insert
in the center.

AND.....

1998 NWSS Scarf Project	15
Nellie Newcomer	24
RMLA Library Book Review	31
Latest News from ALSA	32
1997 EstesPark Wool Market report	35
Just for Kids!	36
ILR Press Release	41
RMLA Library Update	46
New Members	48
Journal Media Kit	53
RMLA Membership form	54

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

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Other Volunteers

<i>Librarian</i>	<i>Marketing</i>	<i>Bookstore Manager</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Journal Editors</i>
Sharon Herbold 15350 Highway 83 Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (719) 495-3092 (719) 495-3092 fax skh@ix.netcom.com	Bart Anderson 17253 CR 7 Platteville, CO 80651 (970)535-4041	Jan Redenbarger P.O. Box 7096 Golden, CO 80403-0100 (303)642-0140 (303)642-1602 fax jredenba@ix.netcom.com	Bob & Barbara Hance 11818 W. 52nd Ave. Wheat Ridge, CO 80033-2032 (303)422-4281 (303)422-3568 fax hancelama@worldnet.att.net	Ron & Marie Hinds 38620 Cnty Rd 29 Elizabeth, CO 80107-8702 (303) 646-2665 (303) 646-2654 fax sdfllama@bewellnet.com

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<http://www.llama.org/rmla>

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Editors: Ron and Marie Hinds Associate Editors: Jan Adamcyk, Marilyn Arnold, Stanton Lacher & Gail Segreto, Candy & Tracy Montgomery

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
* May 1998	April 1
September 1998	August 1
November 1998	October 15
January 1999	December 1
March 1999	February 1
* May 1999	April 1
July 1999	June 1
September 1999	August 1
November 1999	October 15

* Promotional Issues

Note new address for Journal Editor.... see above!

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NOTE: The information contained in this journal 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.



**Indian
Peaks
Llamas**

**We appreciate
the confidence
you've shown in our
breeding program.**



**Pheasant
Hill Farm
Llamas**

**Thanks for your purchase
of these llamas in 1997:**

David Ruska
Greeley, Colorado

Janice Haines
Lafayette, Colorado

Marla and Jim Miles
Franktown, Colorado

Terry, Steve & Zach Lynch
Longmont, Colorado

Donna Scott
Broomfield, Colorado

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1 PHF Sadie
2 Bred to Cadfael

3 PHF She's Somethin' Else

4 IPL Bali
5 PHF Arabelle

6 IPL Sedona
7 IPL Kachina Dancer
8 IPL Peppercorn

9 PHF Chaco

10 PHF Tsunami
11 Bred to Cadfael
12 PHF Cadfael's El Nino

PHF Bramble x PHF Imogene

PHF Solomon's Seal x PHF Clementine

Yogi Bear x IPL Shawnee
PHF Solomon's Seal x PHF Velvet

IPL Camacho Chief x MGF Sweetgrass
Gandy Dancer x IPL Shawnee
MGF King Midas x IPL Kachina Dancer

PHF Solomon's Seal x PHF Blackberry

Verago x PHF Tiger Lily

Cadfael x PHF Tsunami

INDIAN PEAKS LLAMAS

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BETTER THAN ONE"**

PHEASANT HILL FARMS

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Boulder, Colorado 80301-4937
800-465-2567 or 303-666-9437

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 28 - March 1, 1998, **Charlie Hackbarth Pack Clinic**, Riverside, CA. Contact: Wally Baker (909)685-6778.

March 27-29, 1998, **Shear Pride Llama Sale and ALSA-sanctioned Llama and Alpaca Show**, Red Mile and Tattersall's Sales Pavilion, Lexington, KY. Large, excellent facility all under one roof. Private treaty sales, Herdsire showcase, Wool fashion show, Wool demonstrations, Vendors, Educational presentations, Farm promotions. Catch spring fever in Kentucky! For information: David Gaines/Keith Adams 502-633-2972 or Kathy/Dave Taylor 502-477-2901 or Marlene Turner 606-223-5808 or write Shear Pride Llama Sale, PO Box 98, Waddy, KY 40076

April 17-19, 1998, **Charlie Hackbarth Pack Clinic**, Crawford, CO. Contact: Terry Mowbray (970)921-3040. (Maximum of 16 people)

April 18-19, 1998, **1998 RMLA Spring Mini-Conference**, Castle Rock, CO, Douglas County Fairgrounds. See the center of this issue for information, speaker topics and registration form. In case it's missing call (303)646-2665 or e-mail to sdflama@bewellnet.com.

April 25, 1998, **Amigos de las Llamas - Llama Private Treaty Sale and Bazaar with Fiberfest**, Gold Country Fairgrounds, Auburn, CA. Llamas and alpacas for sale. Vendors, food, music, packing and wool demos - wool products and equipment. Held in conjunction with several local guilds. Covered facilities in case of showers. Open 9-5, free to public. Contact: Kriss (530)273-2998 or Shannon (530)273-2568.

May 30-31, 1998, **2nd Annual CAL-ILA Sponsored Northern California Llamas and Alpaca Show**, Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley, CA. Contact: Lora Crawford (209)632-6891 or Sandi (Burt) Wilson (530)432-8137.

June 4-7, 1998, **Conference of Northern California Handweavers (CNCH)**, Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley, CA Weaving, Spinning, Basketry, Felting, Cords, Speakers, Fashion Show, Demonstrations, Galleries and Commercials. Contact: Terry Nelson (530) 273-8687 or registrar at P.O. Box 2782, Sparks, NV 89432-2782

June 5, 6 & 7, 1998, **Estes Park Wool Market - ALSA sanctioned Llama and Alpaca Shows**, BIG Wool barn. Lots of demonstrations. The largest Llama show in the country! Large Alpaca tent. Come and see the llamas and alpacas at this beautiful mountain setting. For information contact Estes Park Wool Market, Linda Hinze at (970)586-6104. For alpaca events contact: Rob Leonard at (303) 648-3630 or Cindy Cruz at (719) 275-4710. For llama events contact Lougene Baird at (303)688-5445.

June 10-14, 1998, **Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association Annual Conference**, Ruidoso, NM. This years theme is "Criation of a Lifestyle". As usual this will be bigger and better than last years event. For more information contact the AOBA office at P.O. Box 1992, Estes Park, 80517 (970)586-5357 or kenaoba@aol.com

June 17-21, 1998, **Llama Association of North America LANA EXPO '98**, Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds, Quincy, CA. Thursday and Friday: Seminars, Show, Wool & Training Clinics, Pack Performance Trials. Saturday and Sunday: ALSA Show, that is open to the public. Camping on-site, hiking along the Feather River, family oriented. for information call: Nelson Leonard (541) 830-LANA, or Debbie Ullrich (530)832-6362. For Show information call: Marilyn Milton (541)899-8097.

July 26, 1998, **Elbert County Fair Open Wool and Fiber Show - Elbert County Fairgrounds, Kiowa, CO**, Entries accepted 7/26/98, noon to 6pm. \$1.00 per entry. All classes are open to all wool and exotic fiber growers in Elbert County and elsewhere. For more info contact Valerie Cortinovis (719)541-2550 or C.J. Prince at (719)347-2510 (cjprince@bewellnet.com)

August 3, 1998; **Douglas County Fair Open Wool and Fiber Show**, Castle Rock, CO, Douglas County Fairgrounds. Entries accepted 3:00 to 6:00 pm. For more information contact Judy Kieca at (303)841-3794.

August 31-September 3, 1998; **California State Fair ALSA Show**; Sponsored by CAL-I LA
Contact: California State Fair, Attn: Livestock Office, Jay Carlson, P.O. Box 15649, Sacramento, CA 95852, (916)263-3010, Or call: Sharron Griffith (530)878-1040 or Lora Crawford (209)632-6891.

October 10, 1998; **Amigos de las Llamas - Llama Private Treaty Sale and Bazaar with Fiberfest**, Gold Country Fairgrounds, Auburn, CA. Llamas and alpacas for sale. Vendors, food, music, packing and wool demos - wool products and equipment. Held in conjunction with several local guilds. Covered facilities in case of showers. Open 9-5, free to public. Contact: Kriss (530)273-2998 or Shannon (530)273-2568.

About the cover.....

Our family began to explore options for predator control before we ever welcomed our sheep to our farm, Running Deer Farm. We raise natural colored and white Corriedale sheep for hand spinning wool, breeding stock, and locker lambs. We had only to listen to the howling on a summer's night to know we would need someone good to guard our flock. Several raids on the chicken coop confirmed this fact.

We explored several options, ranging from guardian dogs to llamas. There were a lot of good choices and our decision was difficult. We feel we have made an excellent decision for our animals.

We first became interested in llamas as an option at the 1996 Estes Park Wool Market. Indeed, some of the research available there indicated a lower predation rate with llamas as opposed to dogs. Llamas were intriguing to us. We were finally able to narrow our choice to two Great Pyrenees dogs or Spats the llama. After meeting Spats, the only decision was when to pick him up.

He was leery of the sheep in the beginning. After all, he had never seen them. We kept him in a corral by the barn with two of our friendliest and most gentle sheep. After several weeks, he was ready and willing for the whole flock. Everyone has adjusted well.

We feel the true test has come this winter. Our flock is wintering in pens close to the barnyard. Spats is of course in with the sheep. The chickens in the next pen to the newborn lambs did not fare very well in our eyes (the coyotes did well). But our vulnerable newborns were safe and sound with Spats! Needless to say, we were thrilled that the newborns were not lambchops-on-hoof however sad we were about the poultry.

When the lambs were born, we were amazed at the reaction that Spats had. With the birth of each lamb, he calls to them in a voice filled with gentleness. When baby Caroline was just minutes old, Spats was by her side and was allowed by mother Bessie to help lick her lamb clean (*the cover*). The lambs now play underneath and around him. He reminds me of an indulgent Grandpa watching the little ones play!

We are very pleased with the addition of this magnificent animal to our farm.



Spats

Pictures and story by
Stacy Millet
3551 County Road 146
Elizabeth, CO 80107
(303) 646-9921

The 1997 RMLA Conference in Montrose

By Bob Riley • Boulder Ridge Llamas • P.O. Box 1189 • Lyons, CO • 80540 (303) 823-5409

The Annual RMLA Conference in Montrose, Colorado was a great success. We were hoping for 30 members to attend and would have been delighted with 50. Over 90 members attended representing the old hands in the llama community to members who had just joined the RMLA family this past year.

Mary Pendergast, long time RMLA member, gave an in-depth presentation of how to care for a llama. She used the RMLA book, "Caring for Llamas and Alpacas" as her outline. When giving examples of the proper way to care for the animal she relied heavily upon her practical experiences of dealing with large herds. Mary's presentation lasted two and half-hours in the conference room with another two hours the next day at the ranch of Shor and Mac Eisle with hands-on demonstrations.

Mike Brown is relatively new to the llama business but he has rapidly become one of the fiber experts in RMLA. Mike works in the Taos Wool Mill in Taos, New Mexico and has been involved with the RMLA Fiber Co-op. His presentation on the methods of processing llama and alpaca fiber to ensure a finished product of the highest quality was very enlightening. Mike went on to explain the uses of the different types of fiber and its estimated commercial value. We learned that guard hairs when properly processed and sold to fishermen who tie their own flies, actually has the one of the highest price per ounce.

On Sunday morning we all met at the Eisle's ranch. Scott Everhart gave a demonstration on how to shear a llama. Charlie Hackbarth gave his outstanding presentation on how to pack with a llama. Jerry Dunn and Jan Redenbarger held a class on how to show your llama in the show ring.

Annual Meeting

Saturday evening after dinner the annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association was held. Two new members joined the Board: Bruce Ellis is our President-Elect and Jan Redenbarger is our Secretary and Bookstore Manager (Caring for Llamas and Alpacas, 4-H manual, etc.). Jan is a very detail oriented person and has an interest in expanding the bookstore. Bruce's background is as a consultant and he will be our in-house expert on using the internet as our information highway. All of us on the Board of RMLA are involved in showing and are avid packers. We are hoping to hold one of our quarterly meetings camped out in the backcountry. The RMLA membership will be invited.

We would like to thank Linda Kyriopoulos for serving two years on the Board, first as President-Elect and then a year as President. Linda was able to view each opportunity from more than one side and always had the needs of each member at heart. Thank you, Linda, for a job well done.

Julie Messick has also completed her two-year term as Secretary. Julie's greatest contribution to our organization was her efforts directed toward better organization of the sales and distribution of Caring for Llamas and Alpacas and the 4-H Youth Manual. We brought the process up-to-industry standards for the benefit of the authors and your organization. Julie is now spending much more time with her family and developing her new business. Thank you, Julie, for the many hours spent for RMLA.

Judy Sealy is retiring as Membership Committee Chair. Judy has given many years of devoted work to RMLA. She served two terms as Secretary and over the past two years has spent a great deal of time develop-

Continued.....

.....guard hairs when properly processed and sold to fishermen who tie their own flies, actually has the one of the highest price per ounce.

FROM EWE TO YOU

Hand Processed Fibers • Handspun Yarns • Classes
Custom Spinning and Weaving



1998 Spinning and Knitting Class Schedule

Beginning Spinning:

Mondays-	February 9, 16 & 23
Tuesdays-	April 7, 14 & 21
Wednesdays-	June 3, 10, & 17
Thursdays-	August 6, 13 & 20
Wednesdays-	October 14, 21, & 28

Learn to spin your own two ply yarns while experimenting with woolen and worsted preparation techniques on a variety of wool. \$50.00 includes wool samples, handouts, use of equipment during class. Learn on a spinning wheel or drop spindle.

Sock Knitting:

Wednesdays-	February 4, 11 & 18
Thursdays-	April 2, 9 & 16
Mondays-	June 15, 22 & 29
Tuesdays-	August 11, 18 & 25
Thursdays-	October 1, 8 & 15

Use your own handspun to create a unique pair of socks while knitting in the round or knit flat. (socks will have side seam.) \$40.00 includes your choice of pattern. Other materials needed are 4 double point size 4 or 6 needles or 2 straight needles and approximately 4 oz of wool yarn. Material available for purchase.

Beginning Knitting:

Wednesdays-	March 4, 11 & 18
Thursdays-	May 7, 14 & 21
Mondays-	July 13, 20 & 27
Wednesdays-	September 2, 9 & 16

Learn how to design and knit your own scarf using 10 different patterns combining the knit and purl stitches and keep you edges straight. \$50.00 includes pattern and handouts. Other materials needed are any size of needles appropriate for your wool weight and approximately 6-8 oz of wool.

Spinning Alpaca & Llama:

Monday-	March 16th
Tuesday-	May 19th
Wednesday-	July 29th
Thursday-	September 18th

Learn to spin your own luxurious alpaca or llama yarns and blending techniques. \$25.00 includes fiber samples for blending and handouts. Other materials needed - Wheel or drop spindle, hand cards.

Choose from 4-5 class sessions times per topic to fit your busy schedule. All classes sessions are 2 hours each, for 3 consecutive weeks. Exception is for Spinning Alpaca/Llama, a one 2 hour session, in the evening from 6-8 PM in my home. Have fun learning in a relaxed atmosphere surrounded by fiber. Class size is limited to 4 students for personalized attention. Payment not less than 2 weeks prior to class date reserves your spot. Cancellation 2 weeks prior to class time will receive full refund, otherwise 10% will be withheld. Special class time can be scheduled if a major conflict occurs one class night. Wheels available for rent for \$20 with class.

Call for Directions: _____ Linda Dull • 5128 County Road 142 • Elizabeth, CO 80107 • (303)646-9245 voice/fax

This area intentionally left blank just to draw your attention to the fact that *your* business card isn't here!

Hey, \$10 will put it here, it's the best llama and alpaca advertising deal you can get anywhere!

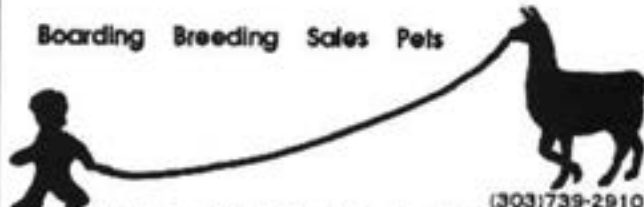
Computers are useless, they only give you answers.

-Pablo Picasso

Sit with a pretty girl for an hour, and it seems like a minute; sit on a hot stove for a minute, and it seems like an hour—that's relativity.
-Einstein

LOST BOYS RANCH LLAMAS

Boarding Breeding Sales Pets



Laurie Matyre 1600 S Quail Run Rd. Watkins CO 80137 (303)739-2910

RMLA Conference... cont.

ing the duties of the Membership Committee. After six years of dedicated service to RMLA, she has resigned but not stopped volunteering. Judy is now serving on the Board of the Grand Junction Humane Society. We thank Judy for the countless hours given to RMLA and hope that when you see her at various functions you, also, will thank her. She has been a major contributor in helping RMLA become the organization it is today.

Jim Osmun spent several years in charge of the RMLA displays. Jim went along quietly in his work getting the displays to many events each year. He also kept the displays repaired, restocked and ready to be shipped to the next event. Jim's efforts went a long way in telling nonmembers about RMLA and the wonderful animals that we all enjoy. Jerry Dunn is now in charge of the displays and the events to which they travel. Thank you, Jim Osmun, for years of excellent work for RMLA.

A thank you for our great volunteers who continue to keep RMLA going.

Sharon Herbold continues to do a wonderful job managing the RMLA Library. If you have any books that are late, please send them back to Sharon. There is a waiting list for some videos and books. The Library is one of the most complete in North America for Camelids. Use the Library - Sharon enjoys her work! Thanks, Sharon, for getting out all of the requests, making repairs on books and keeping our Library up-to-date.

Sharon Herbold is looking for volunteers to review the publications in the library and write a short paragraph describing its story line. This can be done at your own pace and may involve several people. This information will be used in a new brochure and on the internet to help everyone to find the most useful resource.

Bob and Barbara Hance are the new Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee. They have already taken over the duties. You may have noticed their name on your membership renewal form. Barb and Bob hope to expand

the committee to more members. If you would like to help them in workings of this committee, please give them a call. (You'll find their address and telephone on page 4).

Medical Research . . . A New Direction?

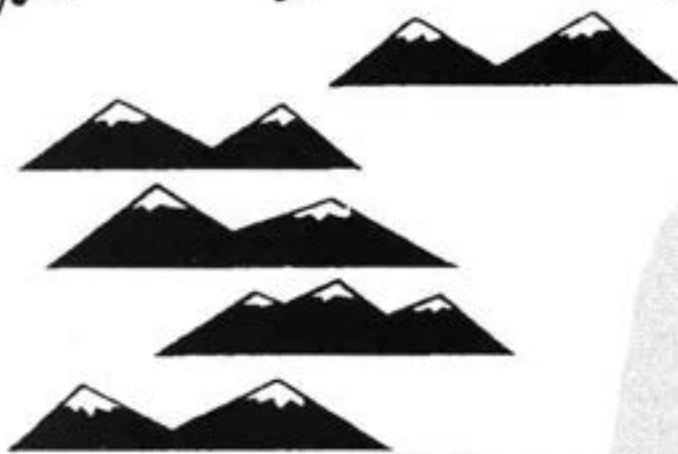
As many of you know, RMLA has been one of the largest contributors to Lama medical research in past years. Just ten years ago very little was known about the proper care of llamas and how they differed from other livestock species. During that time the Llama Medical Research Group (LMRG) was formed and hundreds of thousands of dollars of llama community money has been spent to learn more about our speechless brothers. Each year the LMRG collects proposals from various researchers across the country. There may be as many as 30 proposals presented. The LMRG then selects from those proposals those that are most relevant and then ranks them. This past year Dr. Brad Smith and Dr. Michael Collins submitted a proposal for Johnes Disease Research. Everyone should know that Johnes is a disease of filth and if you want to control it, you just separate the feed from the dung.

Llamas are not susceptible to Johnes because it is believed they are 'modified' ruminants. Proof that Johnes Disease is not of concern to llamas or alpacas can be found in the statistics. Only two confirmed cases have been documented in North America, with two more suspected cases. Four cases out of a population of 125,000 llamas and alpacas put llamas in the category of a non-carrier. The LMRG is proposing to spend \$26,000 on Johnes research in the next 12 months.

Your Board feels that if a disease that affects so few animals commands that sort of attention, then just maybe we have already covered most of the needed llama and alpaca research. This has forced us to reevaluate our priorities and ask ourselves could we spend our research funds (about \$5,000) in a way that might have a more positive benefit to the animal and its owner. An example might be a "New Lama Owner Starter Kit," with information that llama and alpaca

Continued.....

Apaca Breeders of the Rockies



A World Class Livestock Investment with a Twist.

3rd Annual Rocky Mountain Alpaca Roundup

**at the Estes Park Wool Market
June 5-7, 1998**

+Alpaca Sales Tent +Fleece Judging
+Agility Sweepstakes +Demonstrations
+ALSA Show +Classes
+and Much More

**Come Feel the Future
in Estes Park, Colorado**

*for more information visit our web site at www.cria.com/abr
or call (303) 648-3630*

*The Wool Market is located on the south side of
Hwy 36 across from Lake Estes at the Stanley Park Fairgrounds.*

owners need in order to care for their animals. We could gather information from our membership as to topics they feel are most relevant to proper care of their animals, relying upon on past research studies, and our own book "Caring for Llamas and Alpacas." RMLA has a long tradition of supporting llama medical research and your Board takes a change in direction very seriously. We need your comments and suggestions before a final decision is made.

Survey

The last item on the agenda for the meeting was to take a survey of what those attending the RMLA annual meeting felt were of the highest priority. Attendees were asked to assume that RMLA had unlimited funds to spend on one project, what should that project be? We used the unlimited funds idea to open up the field of virtually unlimited possibilities. Without consulting with anyone else, they were asked to write down on 3 X 5 cards one idea. We were looking for original ideas and it was explained there were no wrong answers. The cards were then taped to a wall and the participants were asked to take the cards and arrange them in categories. The group "Advertising" had the highest number of cards under it. Second was "Fiber," not surprising after Mike Browns earlier presentation. And third was "Research." This is evidence that our members still feel that the health and care of our animals is of a high priority. *(The results of this survey is tacked on at the end of this article.)*

Alpaca and Llama Symposium

In past years the International Llama Association has hosted Llama Assembly and it has been held in January in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This was billed as a gathering of llama associations and interested individuals.

From Llama Assembly the Llama Medical Research Group, Canyonlands Task Force, Lama Legal Defense Fund, and three unification committees were formed. The last unification committee formed was the Llama Steering Committee that gave its report last January. RMLA has had a representative on all those committees.

This year at the suggestion of the ILA, a new committee was formed from the participants of the Llama Steering Committee (AOBA, ILA, ILR, LANA and RMLA) to plan and host a new Llama Assembly. To include the alpaca community and to reflect a new less "political" direction, the committee elected to change the name to "Alpaca and Llama Symposium." To make it more accessible, the location was changed to Kansas City, Missouri.

The agenda for Saturday morning will include a discussion on ethics to be lead by Dr. Berney Rollins from CSU. Dr. Rollins spoke at the last ILA conference and has received rave reviews for his presentation of ethics as a life-style. Saturday afternoon will be devoted to promotion and marketing of llamas and alpacas. Charlie Mouser, an internationally recognized marketing and advertising consultant, who loves llamas, will lead this. He is quoted as saying, "People buy llamas or alpacas with emotion, then justify the purchase all the way home with logic." His philosophy on selling a llama or alpaca is a lot like getting married... there is a lot of hand holding before you say I do. The second speaker on promotion and marketing is Rick Evans, an alpaca owner and breeder from New Mexico, with experience in putting together business plans and marketing strategies. He feels his approach to marketing is best suited to the small to medium size breeder on a budget. Rick has recently gained a great deal of experience in the successful marketing of camelids while serving on the AOBA marketing committee. Sunday morning will be reports from AOBA, ILA, ILR, LMRG and Canyonlands Task Force.

The marketing part of the Symposium is a topic that corresponds with the survey taken at the annual meeting. RMLA members are invited and may participate in all aspects of the meeting. We encourage you to attend, the meeting will be held in Kansas City, March 13 and 14.

Just a Few more Ideas for Fun

This is the time of the year when everyone can involve themselves in special activities with their llamas and alpacas. The list might include: visiting nursing homes with cookies and cheer, 4-H groups can write holiday plays that include their animals and present them at schools or retirement homes, put reindeer antlers on your llama or alpaca. Put on a pack and have your animal wear them to pass out candy canes at an elementary school. One neighborhood is doing a walk, drive, and ride with all kinds of animals for Christmas caroling. There will be a bonfire at the end with hot chocolate and marshmallows. Some are driving their llamas in a holiday carriage parade with horses, mules, and donkeys. Deliver your packages to friends in the neighborhood via your llama. Offer a curbside photography booth taking pictures of kids with your llamas and donate the funds to your favorite charity. Celebrate a solstice with a moonlight walk with your friends and potential llama owners!

These are just a few ideas, I'm sure you have many more. Let me know what you are doing to close out the year. Call Jerry Dunn if you need help.

Fiber Co-op Booth

A scaled down version of the RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth made a brief appearance at the Conference on Saturday afternoon. Nancy del Pero, Mike Brown, and Sally Rucker did a brisk business before and after the seminars and during breaks. They sold over \$200 worth of hand knit Christmas ornaments, fiber and note cards. This was the final location for the booth in 1997.



Late Breaking News

ALSA has just created the 'ALSA Pack Trials'. This is a new pack performance class that ALSA has been working on for over a year. RMLA will sponsor the first Pack Trials during the Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show. The trials will be held on trails in and around Estes Park.



RESULT OF THE SURVEY. See page 12 for more info.

Promotion (24)


- Promote more public activities with llamas
- Family Education – What do llamas do – what can they do for me? How can we as a family take part in llama activities?
- Market llamas, emphasis on advertising llama fun uses, events, fiber.
- Marketing llamas in commercials and advertisements include pack llama photos in public land recreation info.
- Continuous marketing research.
- Lama marketing (sell llamas)
- Major media exposure with professional agents, writers and promoters.
- Hire Television public relation time.
- Hire a public relations firm to promote local shows and inform general public about llamas and our community.
- Hire advertising agent to do public relation for RMLA events.
- Publicity public relation etc.
- Professional advertising assistance.
- Local and national advertising.
- Public education on desirability of owning llamas and affordability of llamas.
- Market Llamas in such a way that the general public wants to own them.
- Hire a person to be lobbyist and marketers for RMLA.
- Do Bumper Stickers.
- 30 second TV spots on llamas.
- Money for print ads in local media for llama events.
- Advertising budget for public relation on events.
- Promote lama awareness.
- Cable TV show which shows llamas with kids, patterns, backwoods recipes, trip suggestions, etc.
- Develop and sponsor (including paid staffing) referral system on llama services to the community for the purposes of
 1. Linking llama services with needs and
 2. Expanding public awareness of llama uses.

Advertising (5)

- Expand web sites for library and bookstore.
- Hire a lobbyist to lobby congress to make llamas our national beast of burden.
- Hands on public lama expos.
- Educate the public about the benefits of llamas.
- Fund a government relations group to influence policy (i.e.. Travel costs, etc.)

Youth 4-H (5)

- Kids – 4-H, Future llama users.
- Major promotion of llamas as 4-H animals.
- Get more kids interested.
- Packing with kids, need llamas to help carry the load.
- Support 4-H kids.

Continued on the next page... 

Fiber (8)

- Llama wool as a commercial endeavor – could be financially beneficial and give llamas an economic and social purpose – great!
- Fiber education.
- Wool sales support.
- Marketing fiber.
- Advancing fiber industry to being comparable to sheep shear it, sell it.
- More support for wool co-op.
- Research into a machine to clean wool on the animal.
- Market fiber.

Research (16)

- Medical research.
- Research llama as a food source nutritional value.
- Nutritional research.
- Nutrition.
- Nutrition studies.
- Assistance to vets.
- Sponsor llama study scholarship at vet schools.
- Publish statistical study on llama color genetics.
- DNA finger printing to determine llama or alpaca or cross – better than blood typing.
- Survey vets on plant poisonings.
- Information on breeding and handling of Crias.
- Sponsor genetic mapping so breeders will know what to do when recessives start cropping up.
- Neo-natal clinics dystocia, etc.

- Behavioral research.
- Medical research to local college.
- Continue medical research but perhaps a scholarship (future llama vet.?) local to RMLA area university.

General Education (10)

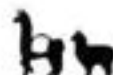
- Develop and fund costs of distributing a high quality Llama / Alpaca Starter Kit to be offered on the Internet (RMLA web-site) and other places.
- Basic printed information for new members.
- Small education symposiums.
- More education.
- Hands-on education class and seminars.
- Educational seminars.
- More llama fun days.
- Creative, fun social events with llamas.
- Increase size of library.

Rescue (2)

- "Llama old folks Ranch" (for llamas) to take abused or unwanted older llamas. NO MEAT END PRODUCT.
- Support Colorado Llama Rescue. (See page 44)

Therapy and Miscellaneous (3)

- Llamas in mental health and children's health actives.
- Old folks nursing homes.
- Research into the use of llamas in therapy, definition of wool characteristics, true description of the value of llama meat and other end use studies with verifiable benefits for owning llamas.



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1998 NWSS SCARF PROJECT

At the 1998 National Western Stock Show, a new trend has started. The Stock Show committee decided that instead of trophies, handwoven scarves made from llama would be awarded. It was a wonderful and very satisfying project that involved many in the RMLA llama community. Millspun yarn from the 1997 Llama Fiber Pool was distributed to three weavers.

The wool was contributed to the Fiber Pool by Colorado State University, Dr. LaRue Johnson, Tom Van Velson, Sharon Beacham, Karen Kinyon, Marilyn Scott and Becky Scott.

The weavers were Mike Brown, Karen Kinyon and Chris Switzer.

Thirteen scarves were woven to the specifications of the Stock Show Committee, but the weavers were encouraged to create their own designs and to have fun with the scarf project. These scarves were then awarded to the Champion Llamas of the Llama Show at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. Now the owners have a warm handwoven Llama scarf to enjoy for years to come. We hope the trend continues and that many handwoven llama scarves will be awarded in the future. If you would like more information on this project, please contact Karen Kinyon at (970) 484-6241, Double K Diamond Llamas, doublekdiamond@juno.com.



The 1998 NWSS Scarves

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25 lbs, \$29 50 lbs, \$55

Supplement #2:

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

25 lbs, \$29 50 lbs, \$55

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New 9th Edition ALSA Handbook

The new 9th edition (1998) of the Alpaca and Llama Show Association Handbook is out. Here are some of the highlights..... some old rules, some new. Become informed..... get your own ALSA handbook.

- New ALSA Pack Performance Trails class for Llamas has been added for 1998.
- Alpacas entered in ALSA show **must** be registered by the Alpaca Registry, Inc. (or CLRC). *No pending applications will be accepted.*
- Non-ALSA Members **must** pay \$10 per farm for exhibiting alpacas in ALSA shows. Entries in Youth classes are exempt.
- There is a \$3 fee (\$2 for Canadian Shows) for every animal entered in shows.
- Registration papers **must** be sent with the entry to the show to verify age, color and parentage. *(Without it, this can disqualify your entry into the show.)*
- There are some new rules for the show and show manager is getting out the ALSA recap sheets, ALSA collected funds, etc. Includes a list of items required by ALSA following the show. Failure to comply will result in ALSA sanctioning being dropped and registered letters sent out to various people associated with the show.
- Shows with over 30 entries in any one division (in certain classes) must provide for multiple judges.
- And there is much much more.....

To join ALSA call: (303)823-0659 or write to ALSA, P.O. Box 1189, Lyons, CO 80540

E-Mail: alsa@llama.org or web page at: <http://www.llama.org/alsa>

Membership dues are \$35 per year, \$10/year for youth. Lifetime dues are \$500. Membership in ALSA is open to everyone.

ARE THERE ALIENS IN ELBERT COUNTY, COLORADO?

By C.J. Prince • P.O. Box 355 • Kiowa, CO. 80117 • (719) 347-2510 • (719) 347-2696 fax e-mail: cjprince@bewellnet.com

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Are there aliens in Elbert County, Colorado?

No, I don't mean Californians. I mean bonafide extraterrestrials.

For decades the myths persist: UFOs spotted near Kiowa; unidentified flying objects hovering over Elbert; black helicopters raiding the Bijou; vast reports of cattle mutilations; Satanic cults; suspected crop circles.

But really, is it all hearsay or is there a shred of truth buried amidst the rumors?

A couple wanted to buy the land adjoining mine but nullified the contract as soon as one of these idle claims marred their image of perfect country living.

Even though I've seen unidentified black helicopters, I've never seen a UFO. However, I am truly convinced that I may have met an alien.

Late afternoon sunshine streaked through the pines as I stood starrng up at his huge brown eyes. He was aloof but curious. I had the sense that I would never get to know him but that he would know me all too well.

It was just then that I noticed a lambent beam of sunlight shining THROUGH his eye. I saw where it entered and the glow where it existed. I've never noticed this phenomena in humans or other animals before.

That's when my casual suspicion that he might be an alien began to seem like fact. He was here to observe us. His aloofness was protection against intimacy that would mar his judgment. It all seemed to make sense. I was excited.

"Look! He's an alien," I called to the others gathered nearby, rudely oblivious of his feelings. He ignored me. They scurried to notice the sunbeam and verified my observation.

Who is this tall, blonde stranger anyway? No, not a two legged, but a four legged. Could an alien really take the form of a llama? I was convinced that this was the best disguise possible.

So, you think I'm joking.

But I'm not. There is something unexplainable and other worldly about this animal, something remote and splendid. The concept seems plausible.

Basil (as in Rathbone) came here as a guard llama but he brought with him much more. He'd experienced classic llama "training" and could pack a third of his weight up a mountain top as well as pull a cart. I'm sure both might be considered degrading activities to an alien.

The first unusual thing I noticed was how the ewes reacted to him. Karakul sheep are a feisty bunch with strong survival techniques. The introduction of a new animal usually means foot stomping and head butting. None of this behavior occurred when Basil first walked into their pasture.

The ewes looked him over and immediately began to follow him. Even Hannah, the herd queen, seemed enamored of the new protector.

The position and size of a llama's eyes allows him to observe almost 360 degrees. Basil took in everything. His ears rotate to sense the slightest noise. All his senses are highly refined. He tunes into energy fields, monitors intentions and responds accordingly.

Eagerly I shared my thoughts with a friend. "Basil is an alien," I announced. She smiled. The next time I saw her, she loaned me a book: "*Animals...Our Return to Wholeness*" by Penelope Smith.

Right there in black and white is confirmation of what I experienced with Basil. "Llamas are here to enlighten." Of course. I read on, nodding and talking back to the book. An aloof llama may be an alien.

Maybe you think I'm nuts...crazed...over the edge...suffering from Bijou sickness...or having a serious case of tongue-in-cheekness.

This article was printed in (or about) the Nov. 12th 1997 edition of the Elbert County News Reprinted here with permission.

Continued.....

But really, let's take a close hard look at the facts. What dramatic changes have occurred since the arrival of the alleged alien?

Twenty feet of water flooded the West Bijou Creek; toadstools the size of basketballs leapt from the earth; mosquitoes as big as hawks swarmed relentlessly. Okay, maybe I exaggerate here. The mushrooms are only baseball size. The armies of mosquitoes dive en masse but each is only the size of a dime.

However, things have changed on the once dry eastern plains. Coincidence? Synchronicity? Chance?

Llamas and other animals can call us to reach a higher level of personal integrity and spiritual awareness. Whether Basil is from another realm

or from Parker, he certainly is here as a teacher and guide. I am grateful for his presence in my flock and in my life.

And I still think he is actually from outer space.

C.J. Prince raises Karakul and Lincoln sheep in Colorado's Outback and only talks to one alien.

Basil joined her flock after three years at Serendipity Farm Llamas and Alpacas.

You can find C.J.'s always interesting and inspiring words in The Elbert County News on a regular basis under the heading of PRINCELINES.

(Oh, yes, and Basil's 'Mauz' given name is Timberline's Basalt.)

MEGAN PERICH AND DAKOTA

By Judy Sealy • Grand Valley Llamas • 593 19 3/4 Road • Grand Junction, CO 81503 (970) 241-7921 phone/fax

Megan Perich and her llama "Dakota" participated in a two mile litter clean-up with the Grand Valley 4-H Club in October. Dakota carried baskets lined with orange bags and wore the "required" orange vest! The 4-Her's attracted a great deal of attention along the busy highway outside Grand Junction.

Megan has raised Dakota since birth. She trained the two year old llama to pull a cart, play on obstacles and they participated in the Fairplay Llama Race last July. She shares her llama with nursing homes and schools. Megan is also a conscientious worker around our farm. I enjoy her company on our ranch as she helps me with our training, maintenance and clean-up.

Thank you Megan, for being a devoted, caring llama owner!



Megan Perich and Dakota



The Grand Valley 4-H Club



DEAR ZANTA:

i know your
REINDEER ARE
SUREFOOTED
AND FLEET...
but
so am I!

Power
Ranger



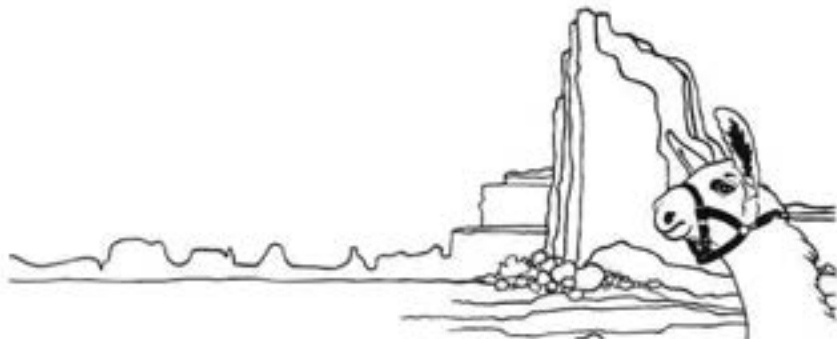
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**MAY YOU ALWAYS BE FILLED
WITH
THE TRUE SPIRIT OF
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Fiber Talk

By Mike Brown • HCR 74, Box 22628 • El Prado, NM
87529 • Tel/Fax • (505) 776-1137
E-mail: brodel@newmex.com

Welcome! 'Fiber Talk' is a new column for the RMLA Journal dealing specifically with llama and alpaca fiber problems, concerns, and issues. It will appear as a regular feature, so watch for it in future issues. In order to ensure that it appeals to at least one person, the format will be 'question and answer'. That is, you submit fiber questions via phone, Fax, letter, or E-mail, and I will answer them in this column.

The questions can be on anything fiber-oriented from micron testing, to processing, shearing, marketing, grading, dyeing, and handspinning, you name it! Now, I wish I had all the answers, and most of the time I'll do pretty well, but when you stump me, I'll do my best to find someone who has the answer and pass the information on to you. So don't be shy!

If (and I can't believe this would ever happen) I receive no questions, then I'll make one up! I know this practice sounds a little dubious, and I'd rather not stoop to this level; so, please send lots of questions.

This being the first appearance of 'Fiber Talk', no questions, obviously, have been submitted. I would have thought one or two of you possessed clairvoyant powers and would have written me. But, alas, nothing has arrived yet. Not to fear though. I will submit the question, under an alias, for this installment.

A Mr. Morton P. Whiplenose, owner of the Lucky Leaping Laughing Llama Ranch, asks the following question:

Dear Mike,
What's the best way to store my shorn fleece? I've heard that paper bags are best, but I have a lot of fiber, and I would need about 200 grocery bags to store it this way. Is there something else I can use? Also, I want to know how best to prevent mildew, wool moths, and carpet beetles in my stored fiber.

Good question Morton!
Let's first talk about these fiber fiends. The troublesome insects are wool moths and carpet beetles.

There are several varieties of wool moths, but because they all look and act similarly, I will lump them all together and describe them as if there were only one kind. The adult moths are very small, under one-half inch long. They fly erratically and are hard to see. What are they looking for? What is the focus of their brief lives? A nice warm, moist, dark, still pile of animal fibers on which to lay their eggs. They are looking for ideal conditions that their 'children' will thrive on. They are being very diligent parents who only want the best for their children, despite the conflict with human interests. Typically, the ideal spot is in a drawer or closet or bag, but the underside of a carpet or the backside of a hanging tapestry often presents ideal conditions. Because these insects require warmth, the summer months are usually more of a problem. In any event, when they find animal fibers with just the right conditions, each moth will lay hundreds of white eggs, each one about the size of a pin point. After a few weeks, the eggs will hatch into hungry beasts, called larvae, about one-half inch long, and they will begin to eat any animal fiber that mom has been so careful to put them on. Their only desire is to eat, thereby damaging, your fiber, and they do this without ceasing. The larvae are what cause the damage to your fiber. After some time, the larvae stop eating, spin a cocoon around themselves, and eventually emerge as moths; thus, the life-cycle is completed. The cocoons and the filaments made by the larvae to anchor themselves to the fiber are often visible as 'cob webs' on the surface of your fiber.

Carpet beetles, although the adult forms are obviously different, have a nearly identical life cycle as the wool moths. The same conditions that appeal to wool moths also appeal to the carpet beetle. The main difference, to a fiber artist, is that carpet beetles can eat silk, whereas the moths cannot.

Our last fiber parasite is mildew. The mildew that grows on animal fiber can be one of many kinds of fungi, a group that contains the mushrooms and also the molds used in both cheese-making and anti-biotic production, for example. So the fungi are not all 'bad'. But when they get into your fiber, they are very bad. The scary thing with mildew is that the microscopic

spores, because they are floating in the air everywhere, are always in any fiber. And it is generally the case that the spores cannot be killed by ordinary means, such as hot soapy water. You see, the growing mildew can be killed, but not the spores; they are always there, always waiting for the right moment to spring into action. This is the problem. The conditions for growth that they like are the same as those for the insects described above. Mildew loves warm, moist, dark, still conditions. Given these conditions, the spores will germinate and the mildew will grow and spread. The good news is that if you store your fiber in a way that prevents moths and beetles, mildew should not be a problem.

Now that you understand 'the enemy' a little bit, let's talk about how to keep them out of your fiber.

When deciding how to store your fiber, you want to avoid creating an ideal growth environment for wool moths, carpet beetles, or mildew. You want to create an environment that will not attract the insect pests in the first place or allow mildew to gain a foothold, an ounce of prevention You have to understand that both mildew and wool-munching insects like environments that are warm, dark, moist, and have still air. Knowing this, the worst way to store your fiber would be in a black plastic bag in a hot and humid attic.

Instead, think of creating an environment that is cool, dry, brightly lit, and has moving air. This is the key to keeping these pests out of your fiber. Only the most 'Rambo' of moths and beetles will battle these harsh conditions and lay eggs. It is far, far more likely that they will turn up their noses and hunt for a better neighborhood to raise their children. And mildew wouldn't even consider this kind of hell.

With this in mind, one good way to store your fiber is in clear (best) or white plastic bags, loosely tied and with a few small holes poked through the sides, placed in a cool, brightly lit, well-ventilated room. To the extent that you can achieve these preventative conditions you will avoid fiber-nibbling insects and mildew. To really stack the deck in your favor, to help repel the insect pests, you could put into each bag a small piece of cloth containing a few drops of an herbal oil such as lavender, cedar, eucalyptus, or pennyroyal. Keep in mind that these scents are not effective against mildew. If your storage room is small, you could hang herbal sachets on the walls to help repel the critters. And if

you really want to go wild, you could construct a cedar-lined room! Remember that if you do use an herbal repellent, because they lose potency with time, you must replenish them every few months.

Now all this works great if you are dealing with your own shearing and you are certain that the fiber does not contain any moth or beetle larvae or eggs to begin with. If you are storing fleece that is fresh from the animal, it probably will not contain any of these pests. But what do you do if you have purchased fiber with an unknown history or if you have fiber that has been improperly stored? First, if there are no obvious signs of moth, beetle, or mildew damage, you should take the fiber out of the bags and spread it out in the bright sun. Do this for several days if possible. This will ensure you are starting out on the right foot.

If you do see signs of moth or beetle damage, you will have to take more drastic measures. What are these signs? Well, a sure one is the presence of larvae or moths, but they are very small and not always obvious. If you have white fiber, look for the presence of brown/black specks about the size of sand grains; these are bits of larval excrement. Also look for the presence of 'cobwebs' and cocoons on the surface of your fiber. Another good test is to take a lock and look at it. Do you see broken fibers? Pull on the lock and see if short pieces pull away as if the fibers within the lock had been chewed off. Try these tests in several areas of the fleece. It's hard to spot incipient damage; it's easy to spot a full-blown infestation.

Mildew is fairly easy to detect. The musty odor of mildew is very distinctive, and most of you have some experience with it. If your fiber is a light color, you will notice dark patches on the fiber where the mildew is growing.



HANSEN LLAMA FARMS
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(801) 745-3621

Gus & Jeannie Hansen

FiberTalk, cont.....

So suppose your investigation leads you to suspect the presence of moths or beetles or mildew. What do you do? If you were thinking of buying this fiber ó don't. It won't be worth the trouble needed to fix it up. If the damage is moderate to bad, just throw the fiber away, and try to learn from the experience. If you already own it and the damage is minimal, you must kill the little nasties, and there are three ways to do this.

First, you can soak the fiber in very hot water with lots of detergent; rinse well, air dry, and store as described below. This will kill the insects and the growing mildew, but it won't touch the mildew spores. Second, you can place the fiber in below-zero conditions: freezing kills the larvae and eggs. This must be done for several days to be effective. During the winter months, depending on where you live, just keep your bags of fiber in an unheated porch or garage or tool shed. If you live in the warm south, try to find a big freezer. Third, you can place your fiber in a plastic bag (one with no holes in it), add some moth balls or crystals, and seal it up very tightly. After a few weeks the moth balls/crystals will kill the pests. This is my least favorite method because the active ingredient is a carcinogen, but if you have hundreds of pounds of fiber, this is probably the most efficient way to cure the problem. Be sure to do this outdoors, and please wear a mask and rubber gloves.

None of these methods will kill mildew spores. The best you can hope for with mildew is kill the growing parts and prevent the spores from germinating.

Now, before I tell you what I think is the best way to store fiber, I want to briefly discuss the paper vs. plastic controversy. You hear this all the time at the grocery store, 'Do you prefer paper or plastic?' Just like the grocery store customers, fiber artists often get very huffy about which bag is best, and just as with bagging groceries, both kinds of bags have advantages and disadvantages when it comes to storing fiber.

For storing fiber, paper has the advantage of being porous, it will allow moisture to escape. Also, moth and beetle larvae cannot eat through paper, so paper would seem to be a barrier against these pests. On the down side, because paper is porous, moisture can enter the bag. It's not necessarily the case that fiber stored in paper will be drier, especially if you live where humidity is high. Also, the inability of larvae to get through

paper is not really important, mostly because eggs must be laid by the moth on the wool. Typically, the moth flies into the dark bag and lays several hundred eggs on the surface of the wool. When the eggs hatch into larvae, they travel maybe an inch or so during this phase in their life cycle. It would be a very unusual larva, one with a severe case of insect-wanderlust, that leaves the spot where it was hatched and eats its way into another bag. The theory behind using paper bags is that they do a good job of preventing moths or larvae from getting in, and because they breathe so well, damp fiber will dry out helping to prevent mildew. So, I suppose if you have to store your bags in a dark, unventilated, warm environment, then paper might be useful; but on the whole this environment would make me nervous, with or without paper bags. A big disadvantage of paper is that it creates a dark environment, and this is bad. Finally, it's tough to find large paper bags. By the way, cloth bags are very good for storing fiber, but if you've got lots of fiber, it will be hard to find enough cloth bags to put it all in.

Plastic, on the other hand, is not necessarily bad. It has many features that make it very good for storing fiber. First, although plastic is non-porous, if it is tied loosely so that any excess moisture can escape, this is not really an issue. Also, clear or white plastic bags, the only ones I would recommend, allow light through creating a bright, unattractive surface environment, and because this is where the moths or beetles would lay their eggs, this is a big plus. Also, large plastic bags are readily available. On the downside, if black plastic bags are used, a dark environment will be created. Furthermore, if the bag is sealed up tightly (i.e. with a twist tie) then any moisture will remain in the bag. This is bad.

So, paper or plastic? It's up to you! Used properly, either will work fine.

What, then, is the best way to store fiber that is free from these pests? I'm going to describe a method I like using clear or white plastic bags. I think most of you are using plastic, so I want to make sure you are doing it properly. Take a large clear or white plastic bag and in the bottom of it put a small piece of cloth dotted with one of the herbal oils mentioned above. Next, place your well-skirted, dry fleece, loosely into the bag. By not crowding the fiber, you will help moisture migrate from the inside to the outside. Tie the top of the bag with some kind of knot that keeps the top open yet

prevents the fiber from falling out. I like to make two 'ears' opposite each other, and then I use these to tie a square knot. It does not really matter how you do it, just so long as you leave it open enough so that the fiber can breathe. I also like to poke my finger through the plastic several times around the bottom perimeter of the bag; this will help it to breathe. The bag should be clearly labeled with the type of fiber, when it was sheared or bought, etc.

The next decision is where to put the bags. Remember, you want a place that is cool, dry, brightly lit, and has good air flow. My studio space provides all these conditions, so that's where I store my bags. If I were using a closet, for example, to store the bags, I would keep a bright light on at all times. I would also arrange for a fan to be running to keep the air moving. If the closet were hot and humid, then I would look hard for another place. Just keep the goals in mind, cool, bright, dry, well-ventilated, and you will find a good spot for your bags.

Even with proper storage, there are no guarantees. It's a good idea to open your bags up periodically to look at the fiber and to catch any problems early. During this inspection, air the fiber out in the sun. This is also a good time to replenish the herbal oil on the cloth in each bag.

Well, Morton, that's my advice. Wool moths, carpet beetles, and mildew are relatively easy to prevent, but very difficult to get rid of. If you put a little energy into prevention, you should never have any problems with these fiber eaters. As for paper vs. plastic, if used properly, either will work fine.

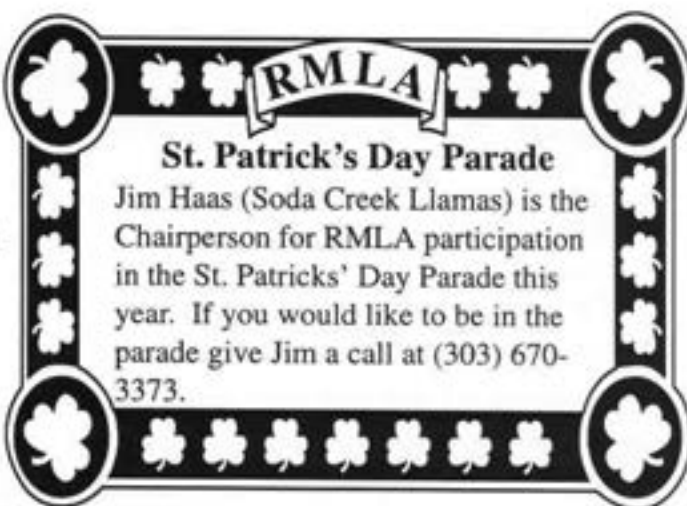
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Everything is funny as long as it is happening to somebody else.
-Will Rogers

Mike Brown is a bandspinner, weaver, knitter, dyer, llama owner, and author of 'Aunt Millie's Guide to Llama Fiber'. He is also part-owner and manager of the country's newest custom spinning mill in the Mora Valley Fiber Mill located in Mora, NM, due to open this June.

To submit questions for 'Fiber Talk' or to just say 'Hello', Mike can be reached in the following ways: Mailing address, HCR 74, Box 22628, El Prado, NM 87529; Tel/Fax, (505)776-1137; E-mail: brodel@newmex.com



Watch for the RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth at an RMLA event near you. Buy something warm and silky made from llama or alpaca fiber. (The next event will be at Kirk Hall, Douglas County Fairgrounds on April 18 & 19.)

We live very close together. So, our prime purpose in life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them.
-Dalai Lama

Take time for all things: great haste makes great waste.
-Benjamin Franklin

WHEN NATURE CALLS.... A REAL SHOW-STOPPER!

By Carol Lontine • D & C Llamas • 760 Braun St. • Golden, CO 80401 • (303)234-1943 or (970)568-3617

About the middle of July, I happened across an article in the Jefferson Transcript about the Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival which was to be held August 15, 16 and 17. This is an annual celebration honoring carnations which used to be grown in abundance in greenhouses and nurseries in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. The celebration included displays, booths, food and a parade. I immediately thought it would be fun to enter a llama or two in the parade. I called the person in charge, received an application, filled it out and when I returned it to Mike Baran he told me that there had never been llamas in their parades, was excited!

On Friday afternoon, the 15th, I drove to Ft. Collins to pick up Mr. Belevedere and Pisco and bring them to Golden. On Saturday morning we excitedly took our places at the appointed spot and were ready to participate in our first parade. Behind us were quite a few antique fire engines that were using their sirens. It spooked the llamas a little bit at first and they were a little reluctant to march on. After a few minutes, they seemed to be tolerating it quite well. People along the way on 38th Avenue seemed thrilled to see llamas and I heard comments like, "Oh look at the llamas" or "Wow, mom they have llamas there!" And, of course, from little kids, "Hi llamas!"

About a mile down the parade route, just as we were approaching the judges reviewing stand, nature called to Mr. Belevedere! Naturally, he stopped and took his stance and proceeded to do his business while the whole parade behind us came to an abrupt halt. I called over to the Master of Ceremonies and explained to him that when nature calls to a llama, everything comes to a standstill - even parades. The MC did a fantastic job of ad-libbing and as Mr. Belevedere moved his stance a bit, he thought the potty break was over and said, "Well, folks, looks like we are underway once again!" Wrong! I think Mr. B. was adjusting himself. Once again, I called over to the MC and apologized saying, "I guess Mr. B. had one too many beers last night, sorry!" All the while the crowd was loving it. Finally, after seven minutes (it was timed) the potty break was over, the crowd cheered and the parade continued. Being the Carnation Festival, that morning I had put a carnation in each of the llamas' halters for decoration. As soon as the parade was over, Pisco reached over and ate Mr. Belevedere's red carnation

and Mr. B. reciprocated by eating Pisco's purple carnation..... their treats for their efforts!

I had mentioned to my friend that perhaps we should just bring the boys and go to the Awards Presentation at 6:00 that evening. At 3:00 in the afternoon, Mike called me and said they would like us to be at the Awards Presentation. I asked what I was getting and he said he couldn't tell me. So we attended the presentation and won The Count Award for Special Effort. The award was a pretty commemorative plate with the date, event and presented to "D and C Llamas." I was thrilled. Even the mayor of Wheat Ridge, Dan Wilde, introduced himself and his wife to me, shook my hand and greeted the llamas. Many people came by to chat and ask questions about llamas. Most just wanted an up close and personal look at what stopped the parade. Believe it or not, we were invited to come back and participate again next year.



1997 Estes Park Wool Market

Attendance dropped at the June 5 to 8 [1997] Wool Market falling from 9,500 to 8,800.

But exhibitor numbers rose from 613 to 630, and the number of animals rose from 740 to 767, Hinze reported.

Depending on the participation at the Ohio State Fair, the Estes Park Wool Market might have had the largest alpaca and llama show in the world this year, she said.

Rainy weather hurt the Wool Market, particularly a downpour on Sunday afternoon, Hinze added.

"Up until then it was wonderful," she said. "We had good participation."

The event generated revenues of \$65,222 for the town, which sponsors it. Expense figures were not available.

Spectators were estimated at 10 percent local, 60 percent from elsewhere in Colorado, and 30 percent from out of state.

Looking at the event's growth potential, Hinze said there is no more room at the Stanley Park Fairgrounds for more commercial vendors or llamas. She said organizers will focus on controlling the quality of the Wool Market in future years.

Clipped from the Estes Park Newspaper by Chris Switzer. Date was August 8, 1997. Thanks Chris.

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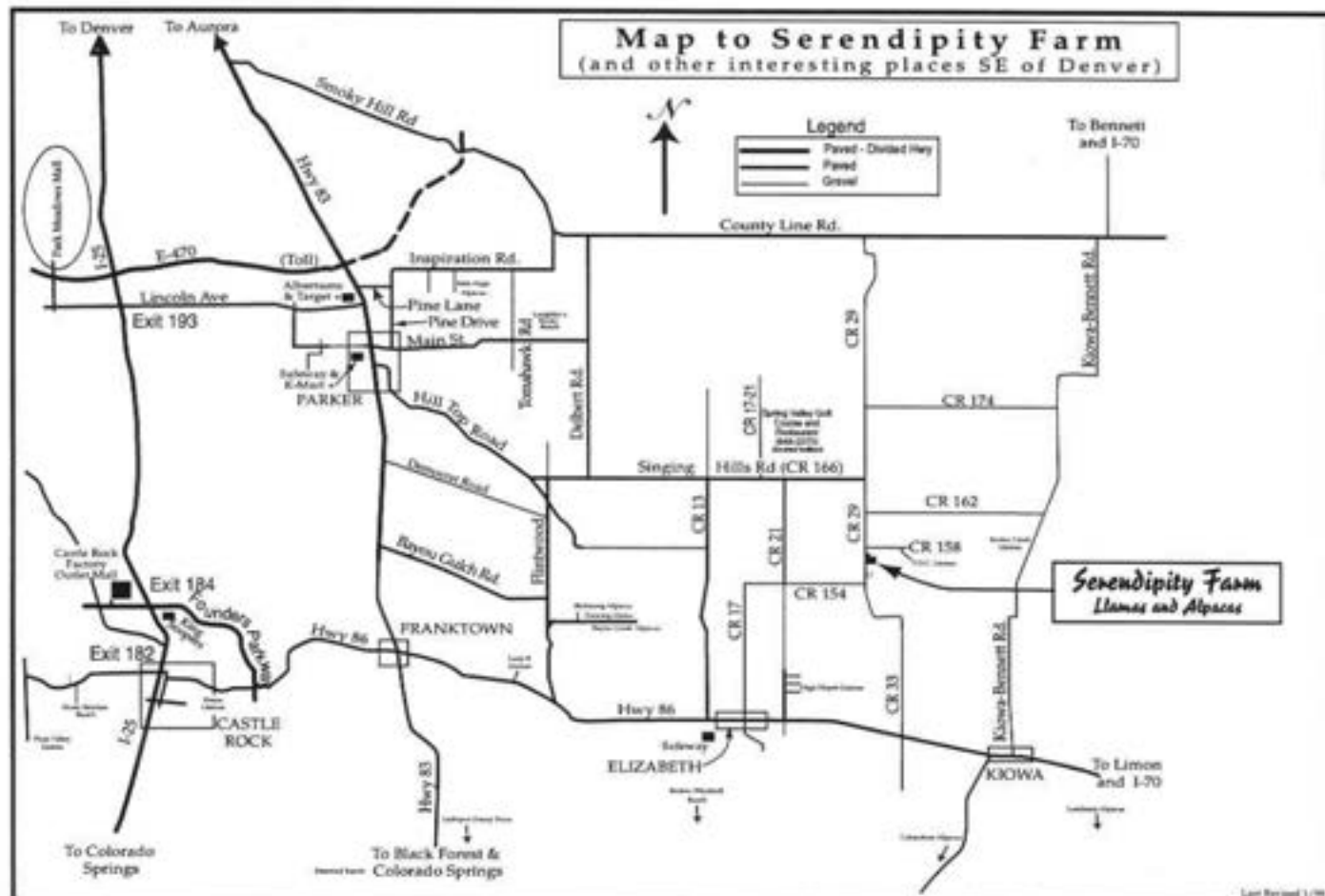
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ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIBER POOL UPDATE

By Sharon Beacham • Pheasant Hill Farm • 2380 - 95th Street • Boulder, CO 80301-4937 • (303)666 9437
Pheasant_Hill@classic.msn.com

and

Karen Kinyon • Double K Diamond Llamas • 2933 East Mulberry • Ft. Collins, CO 80524 • (970) 484-6241
doublekdiamond@juno.com

The Taos Valley Wool Mill has developed a carding process that removes better than 98% of the vegetable contamination in a llama or alpaca fleece. For an additional \$2.75/pound, fiber that before was unacceptable is now salvageable.

We're planning to send another shipment to the mill early next March in order to have spinners roving, yarn, and finished garments ready for summer fiber events. The 112 pounds sent in September cost \$15/ pound to process into yarn. If we could send at least 175 pounds, the cost would drop to \$10/ pound for clean fiber. Any fiber requiring the special carding process to remove debris would be \$12.75/ pound.

Please consider adding your shorn fleeces or brushings from this past summer. We'll take anything harvested in 1997 that represents no more than two years growth. If you don't want roving or yarn, we'll buy your fiber, prepared as described below, for \$10/ pound.

It's easy to do one or two fleeces in an evening. Start by removing the really dirty fiber from along the back bone and edge of the stomach, if this wasn't done during shearing. Keep this second quality fiber in a separate bag to send for rug/craft yarn. Then, from both first and second quality fiber, pick out the big pieces of debris, pull out guard hairs and trim off any weathered tips. Discard mats that you can't pull apart with your fingers and any second cuts. Do this work over a screen with large holes and a lot of dirt and bits of vegetation will fall away. No more tedious, endless picking at all the little bits of debris!

We don't yet have a use for short neck and leg wool, or any fiber less than two inches long. Keep it for felt or to mulch your garden.

If you have questions, give us a call: Karen Kinyon 970-484-6241 Sharon Beacham 303-666-9437

RMLA LLAMA FIBER POOL ----- ROUSING SUCCESS!!

This summer llama breeders from Colorado, Texas and South Dakota pooled 112 pounds of llama fleece to have it spun into yarn. All of the fleeces were skirted and guard hair pulled then sorted by color and grade. It was very clean and even impressed the folks at the Taos Valley Wool Mill!! Fleeces were provided by Tom Van Velson, Colorado State University, Dr. LaRue Johnson, Sharon Beacham, Bobra Goldsmith, Becky Scott, Marlyn Scott, and Karen Kinyon. Each breeder paid \$15.00 per pound to have the fleece carded, pin drafted and spun into yarn.

The total weight was sent to the Taos Valley Wool Mill in mid-August and picked, carded and pin-drafted by Mike Brown and Robert Donnelly. Sharon Beacham and Karen Kinyon arrived at the mill in late August and spent two days with Mike and Robert to get the yarns just right. It was a wonderful experience. Both Mike and Robert opened the mill and shared lots of information and experience. Samples were spun of each color to get just the right amount of draft, twist and ply to make excellent yarns for knitting and weft. Seven colors of yarn were made; white, gray, multi (fleeces of more than one color), taupe, red-brown and black-brown. We even did a two-color ply of the multi and red-brown. The yarns were wound into 8 ounce skeins, washed to set twist and returned by the 11th of September. We were very pleased with the total yield of 94.5 pounds of spun yarn. This represented very little mill loss.

Continued on page following...

Let's hear it for the boy's!

Both earned Grand Champion honors and the prestigious ALSA Recognition of Merit in 1997!



Gulliver's Traveler

- * Grand Champion - Heavy Wool Male
1997 Intermountain Llama Classic
- * Grand Champion Overall Male
1997 Intermountain Llama Classic
- * Reserve Grand Champion - Heavy Wool
1996 ALSA Central Reg Championship
- * Reserve Grand Champion Overall Male
1996 LOCC Show
- * Reserve Grand Champion - Heavy Wool
Male - 1996 LOCC Show
- * Champion - Heavy Wool Yearling
1997 Denver National Western Show
- * Champion - Heavy Wool 2 Yr.
1997 New Mexico Spring Fling



GVC's Tchaikovsky

- * Grand Champion Medium Wool Male
1997 New Mexico Spring Fling
- * Champion - Medium Wool Male, Adult
1997 LOCC Show
- * Champion - Medium Wool Male, 2 yr.
1996 LOCC Show
- * Champion - Medium Wool Male, 2 Yr.
1997 Intermountain Llama Classic



303-688-9466

Franktown, Colorado

Rocky Mountain Fiber Pool Update, Cont.....

Then the fun began. After the yarns were received, both Karen and Sharon divided the yarns to go back to the breeders. Each breeder received approximately the same amount of yarn (less mill loss) in the colors that they had contributed. It was not an exact science, and thank goodness that the breeders were easy to please. Each breeder now had their spun yarns to sell or to use as they please.

Many breeders opted to consign their lovely yarns to the RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth as it made it's way to the Taos Wool Festival and to the RMLA Fall Conference in Montrose. The yarn sold very well and everyone was very pleased with the response. Comments of "This is so soft!" and "Is this all llama?" were heard from many customers who quickly became buyers. Both Karen and Sharon had dyed the white yarn so many beautiful colors were available for those who wanted other than natural colors. Natural colors sold for \$5.00 per ounce and the dyed yarns were \$6.00 per ounce.

Everyone who has participated in this year's llama fiber pool has been very pleased with the project. It has been a profitable way to promote yet another aspect of these very versatile animals.

We will do this again next Spring, so start planning now. If you have clean fleeces that have been well skirted and guard hair pulled, we would invite you to have them ready by March 1 when the next llama fiber pool will be collected. We need to get them spun prior to the Estes Park Wool Market which is the next destination of the RMLA Fiber Coop Booth. Please contact Karen Kinyon at (970) 484-6241 or Sharon Beacham at (303) 666-9437 for details. This year we want to surpass our current 112 pound record!!

TAOS WOOL FESTIVAL, Taos, New Mexico, September 27-28, 1997

Last year, in its first appearance at Taos, well-established sheep, goat and rabbit fiber producers surrounded the RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth. This year, our booth sales quadrupled to over \$1,800 for the weekend. Best selling items were yarns spun by the Taos Valley Wool Mill in both dyed and natural colors, followed by handspun yarns. Mittens and caps for children and hand knit Christmas ornaments also sold well.

Three prospective llama owners bought copies of "Caring for Llamas and Alpacas." When not waiting on customers, booth crew members were busy answering questions about llamas.

A new RMLA member, Debi Dodge, from Lafayette, Colorado, won both Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion in the Designer division of the handspun yarn competition. She also won Grand Champion in the same division last year. Karen Kinyon won a blue ribbon for her handspun skein. A professional model wore Sharon Beacham's 100% llama sweater during the Saturday fashion show. Yarn for the sweater was spun by Debi Dodge.

On Sunday morning, Mike Brown, Floor Manager for the Taos Valley Wool Mill, gave a special presentation at the mill. He explained how to shear and prepare llama and alpaca fleeces to their best advantage for both hand spinning and mill processing. He included a tour of the mill and demonstration of the fiber processing machinery.

Several days before the Festival, there were predictions of rain and cold weather due to a hurricane moving up from Baja California. Taos residents claim that the local "weather gods" intervened to produce absolutely perfect weather all weekend.

The Taos Wool Festival always occurs the last weekend in September, along with numerous other events in the area. These include an alpaca fiber program at the Martinez Hacienda, a craft fair on the downtown plaza and the San Geronimo Day celebration at Taos Pueblo. It's well worth the trip.

The RMLA Fiber Booth crew included: Judy Cox-Sample, Mary Louise MacRossie, Kathy Hartmeister, Tom van Velson, Nancy Sheriff, Erin Rohlman, John and Sharon Beacham.

More 'fiber' on next page>>>>>

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca 1998 Spring Mini-Conference



April 18 and 19, 1998
Kirk Hall
Douglas County Fairgrounds
Castle Rock, Colorado

\$25 per person

Includes Saturday night catered dinner and a little bit of Polka and two-stepping

Hosted by

Douglas County Llofty Llamas 4-H Club

(and willing wonderful adults)

Marie Hinds, Chairperson

Crew: Marla Miles, Willow Kauffman,
Grace Gerber and Teri Baird

**Hey, don't miss
this one!**

Area Motels:

Comfort Inn - 303/660-2222

Super 8 - 303/688-0880

Holiday Inn Express - 303/660-9733

Schedule of Events

Saturday - April 18th


Registration starts at 11:00am

Events run from 12:30 to 5:30

Birthing and the First 6 Months - Dr. Tim Thompson

Shearing for Harvest, Health and Show - Sharon Beacham

ALSA Youth Judging Clinic - Ron Baird

 Dinner 6:30 at Kirk Hall - An Italian Catered Dinner

Sunday - April 19th

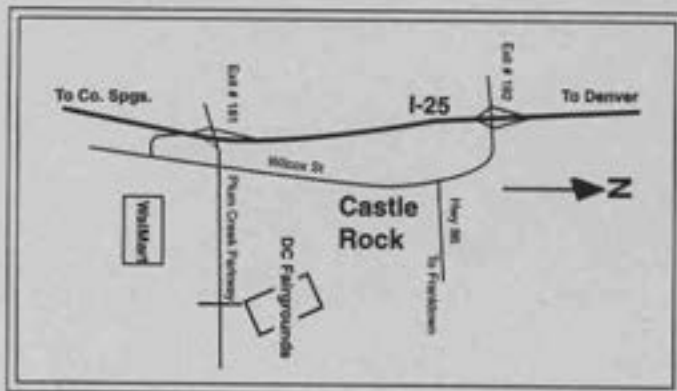
Events run from 9:00 to noon

Fiber Dying - Karen Kinyon

ALSA Youth Judging Clinic - Ron Baird

Pasture Management - Douglas County Cooperative Extension Staff

**Deadline for registration
is April 3rd.**



Turn the page for a
registration form....

1998 RMLA Spring Mini-Conference

Douglas County Fairgrounds
Castle Rock, CO

Summary of Topics and Speakers

- I. Birthing and the first six months. Dr. Tim Thompson from Platteville, Colorado, has been a guest speaker at many RMLA Conferences and we welcome his return. Dr. Tim deals with many aspects of llamas and alpacas. He is considered one of the few top camelid vets in the Rocky Mountain region.
- II. ALSA Youth Judging Clinic. Instructed by ALSA Judge Ron Baird. Ron has been on the ALSA Youth Judging Program Committee for the last year and has helped develop the teaching criteria. The program is designed to give youth experience in evaluating lama conformation, showmanship and obstacle performance. Junior Youth will learn to answer questions on general lama knowledge. Intermediate Youth present oral reasons, which encourage them to organize their thoughts and practice speaking skills. Estes Park Wool Market will offer the first Youth Llama Judging in North America this June and the RMLA Youth will be ready! (Must be an ALSA Youth Member and an ALSA Youth Judging Program member. Contact ALSA, P.O. Box 1189, Lyons, CO 80540 or (303)823-0659 for information.)
- III. Promoting Fiber through the RMLA - Karen Kinyon and Sharon Beacham. Karen and Sharon are two of the few experts in camelid fiber in the region. Karen will teach the techniques of dyeing fiber. If you visited the RMLA Fiber Co-op at the NWSS you will remember all of the wonderfully colored fiber that Karen dyed. She will also manage the RMLA Fiber Co-op during the weekend. Sharon will share with you wonderful shearing techniques. Working with two llamas she will show you how to prepare the fiber while it is still on the animal. After prep work is done, you will learn how to take off all of the fiber or give a handsome show cut.
- IV. Pasture Management - Douglas County Cooperative Extension staff. Discussion may cover a wide range of topics related to pasture and weed management. Douglas County CE has produced many brochures covering a wide variety of topics related to the preservation of the natural environment.

The RMLA Co-op Fiber Booth will be there!

The purpose for the Fiber Co-op being in Kirk Hall is to educate all members of the benefits of the co-op and to encourage all to produce fiber and fiber products for sale.

REGISTRATION FOR
1998 RMLA SPRING MINI-CONFERENCE

Name _____
2nd Name _____
Youth Name _____
Ranch Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Fax _____
E-Mail Address _____



Number of attendees _____ x \$25.00 = Total _____

Credit Card: Visa or Master Card
Number _____
Expiration Date _____

Check: (Make check payable to RMLA)

Indicate number
of Youth Judging
youths being
registered. _____

Mail with payment to:
Willow Kauffman
1548 S. Mountain View Road
Castle Rock, CO 80104-9552
(303)660-1827

Don't miss this one!

Don't delay,
register today.....

Deadline is April 3rd, 1998

UPDATE: RMLA Fiber Coop Booth Success at 1998 National Western Stock Show!!

The RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth was a wonderful success at the National Western Stock Show, January 8-11, 1998. We were located in the llama and alpaca stall area and had lots of people inquiring about them and their fiber. Many thanks to all of the RMLA members that consigned items to the booth and who helped staff the booth through out the four days of the show. We couldn't have done it without them and their continued support. They are: Mike Brown, Diane Jarvis, Mary Mauz, Barbara Hance, Dr. LaRue Johnson, Becky Scott, Erin Rohlman, Chris Switzer, Barbara Harris, Colorado State University, Nancy Wilson and Sue Grimm.

A Huge Special thanks goes to Susan Boyes of Red Barn Fiber Processing and to Kathy Hartmeister of Oopalandet Llamas for helping to staff the booth for the entire four day show. Tom Van Velson, Nancy Sherriff and Sharon Beacham were all available for the booth set up and tear down. These people have been dedicated to the RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth throughout the last two years and we especially are grateful for their support.

The RMLA Fiber Coop Booth will travel to 10 destinations in 1998. If you have llama and alpaca items for sale, we accept everything from raw fleece to finished goods and would welcome your participation. RMLA takes a 20% commission and the consignor gets the rest of the proceeds from all items sold. Please call Karen Kinyon at (970) 484-6241 or Sharon Beacham at (303) 666-9437 for consignor information. This booth is for RMLA members who are interested in promoting llama and alpaca fiber as a viable resource in North America so come on and enjoy the fun!!



Joyce and Reilly

For individual consultations or to attend or host the workshop "How to Communicate with Animals" contact:

Joyce Leake
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Kiowa, CO 80117
(303)621-2819
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AN INVITATION

To: All Alpaca and Llama Owners
From: The Alpaca and Llama Symposium Planning Committee

Everyone is invited to attend and participate in the new Alpaca and Llama Symposium to be held March 14-15, 1998, Kansas City, Missouri.

Beginning as Llama Assembly in the early 90's, the new Alpaca and Llama Symposium is today, the result of the close cooperative effort of AOBA, ALSA, ILA, ILR, LANA, and RMLA. Representatives of each association formed a planning committee to put together an informative, interactive program relevant to the entire llama community.

The committee is pleased to present the following agenda:

Saturday - 8:00 - 9:30	Presentation by Dr. Bernard E. Rollin
9:30 - 9:45 Break	
9:45 - 10:30	Llama Lifeline and Mentoring - Dan Milton
10:30 - 10:45	Standard of Care - Dan Milton, Cathy Spalding
10:45 - 12:00	Screening - Eric Hoffman and Dr. Brad Smith
12:00 - 1:30 Lunch	
1:30 - 2:30	Promotion/Marketing, The Big Picture - Charlie Mouser
2:30 - 3:00	AOBA Marketing, What Works - Rick Evans
3:00 - 3:30	Marketing Plan for the Small to Medium Size Breeder - Rick Evans
3:30 - 3:45 Break	
3:45 - 5:15	Round Table Discussion - Promotor/Marketing/ Building on Our Success - Charlie Mouser & Rick Evans
5:15 - 6:15	Work Shops: Promotion • The Big Picture • Direct Marketing is Getting Results Within a Budget • Internet: the New Frontier • Free Advertising - the Best Kind
Sunday - 8:00-9:00	LMRG
9:00- 9:30	Canyon Lands
9:30 9:45 Break	
9:45-10:00	ALSA
10:00 10:30	ILR
10:30-11:00	ILA
11:00-11:30	AOBA
11:30-12:00	ARI
12:00- 1:30	Open forum with Symposium Cmte.

Speakers

Dr. Bernard E. Rollin

Dr. Bernard E. Rollin is a Professor of Philosophy and Professor of Physiology and Biophysics. He is Director of Bioethical Planning in the Department of Philosophy at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Dr. Rollin speaks worldwide before many animal and livestock associations on animal production, livestock communities and changing social ethics regarding animals. Congressional Representative Charles Stenholm states that there will likely be U. S. Federal Regulation governing farm animal welfare by the year 2000. Dr. Rollin will provide the llama community a thought provoking forum for working together into the future.

Charlie Mouser

Charlie Mouser is an internationally recognized marketing and advertising consultant who loves llamas. He is quoted as saying, "People buy llamas or alpacas with emotion, then justify the purchase all the way home with logic." His philosophy on selling a llama or alpaca is a lot like getting married, there is a lot of hand holding before you say I do.

Rick Evans

Rick Evans is an alpaca owner and breeder with experience in putting together business plans and marketing strategies. He feels his approach to marketing is best suited to the small to medium size breeder on a budget. Rick has recently gained a great deal of experience in the successful marketing of camelids while serving on the AOBA marketing committee.

We invite all llama and alpaca owners to take part in the special program. The committee would like each attendee to bring along a marketing success story to share.

Location: Kansas City Airport Marriott, 715 Brasilia, Kansas City, Missouri 64153, Phone (816)464-2200 Fax (816)464-5613

Rates: Single or double room \$67. Request "Alpaca and Llama Symposium" special rate.

Deadline: To guarantee this special rate reserve by February 20, 1998

24 hour shuttle service available between the airport and hotel- other hotels and restaurants are located nearby.

Mail your name, address, phone, fax and e-mail address with \$65 per person to:

Marilyn Milton
LANA Representative
560 Hamilton Road
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Make checks payable to TSC.

Direct all inquiries to Marilyn Milton at (541) 899-8097 or fax (541)899-6242

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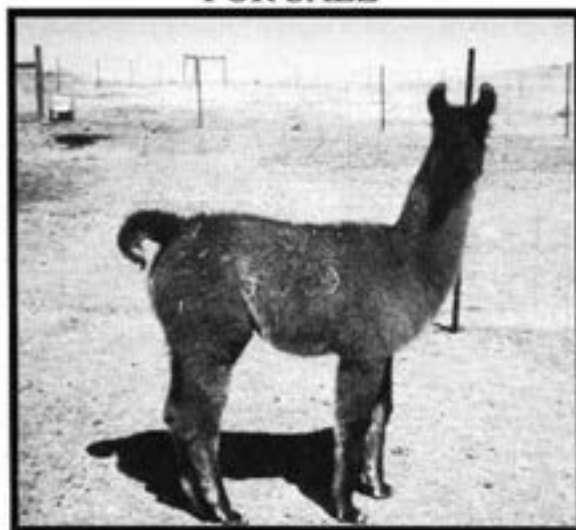


Male **El Chapulín de Miguel**

DOB Sept. 6, 1996

Claire of Log Hill x Monopoly

FOR SALE



Female **Mocha**

DOB Feb. 10, 1997

Ebony Cachét x G.L.L. Neebish

BOOK REVIEW— FROM THE RMLA LIBRARY

Aunt Millie's Guide to Llama Fiber, A Primer on Llama Fleece Preparation and its Use, by Mike Brown.
Published by the author, HCR 74, Box 22628, El Prado, New Mexico 87529 60 pages - \$12.00.

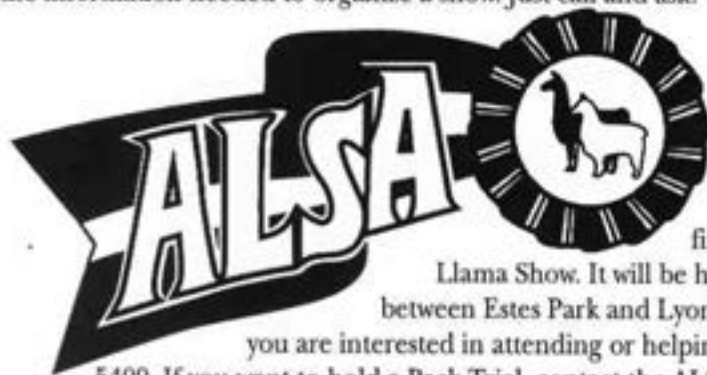
Before Mike Brown discovered llamas and their fiber, he was in the process of writing the great American novel. That interest and ability has been channeled into sharing all that he's learned about working with llama fiber during an intensive two-year study. In the introduction, Mike tells about his frustrating and discouraging initial attempts to produce a soft, smooth yarn from llama fiber. The fleeces he purchased were full of vegetation, guard hairs, and second cuts. Working with his own llamas, he found methods to avoid these problems. In the first part of the story, a handspinner explains her requirements to a llama rancher. He, and the reader, learn why and how to prevent poorly grown and shorn fleeces. The second part goes into extensive detail on the correct grooming, shearing, handling and processing of a fleece. A grading system is presented that tells the quality and appropriate use of a fleece to a handspinner. It also guides the rancher in accessing the condition and value of his product. There are sections on pricing raw fleece, roving and yarn. One section tells how to select and work with a commercial fiber processor. Another covers marketing. Handspinners are given specific instructions for removing vegetation, pulling guard hairs, carding, eliminating static electricity, and spinning woolen and worsted yarns. Several hand-drawn illustrations help explain these processes. The characters and story line are well developed. Aunt Millie is an 87-year-old spinner and knitter who claims that, "If it has wool or hairs, I've probably spun it". Because she "hates to see a good thing ruined," she's outspoken, blunt, and often quite humorous. Her son, Raymond, is an inept llama rancher at the beginning. Under her guidance, he becomes an expert at handling llamas, grooming, shearing and marketing their fiber. Readers, who don't care to be entertained and only want facts, can make use of the detailed index to find the information they need. The book is available at the RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth or by contacting Mike Brown.

The Library needs ^{more} volunteers to review books! See page 46 for more information!

Reviewed by Sharon Beacham • Pheasant Hill Farm • 2380
N. 95th St. • Boulder, CO 80301 • (303)666-9437.

Latest News from the Alpaca and Llama Show Association

This is the start of another busy year at ALSA. Last year we had 105 ALSA shows in the country. This year there are already 15 new shows and more on the way. We need more shows in the Rocky Mountain Region. Last year the Estes Park Wool Market Llama and Alpaca Show was the largest show in the country. It is great that so many people want to come to Estes Park but we need more shows so there is a choice for people. The other ALSA shows that are RMLA Sponsored are the National Western Stock Show, Douglas County Fair Youth Show, Boulder County Fair Youth Show, LOCC Llama Show, Laramie County Fair Llama Show, and the Valentine's Llama Show. ALSA provides you with all the information needed to organize a show. Just call and ask!



ALSA added two great programs this year. The first is the ALSA Pack Performance Trials. This is a version of the Western Idaho Llama Association (WILA) concept with a couple of changes. The ALSA Trials can earn Llamas a Recognition of Merit. There are three levels: Basic, Advanced and Masters. The first Trial is planned for the Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show. It will be held on Friday, June 5th at Lyons Gulch, which is between Estes Park and Lyons on Highway 36. The plans are being made now. If you are interested in attending or helping with the staffing, please call Bob Riley, 303/823-5409. If you want to hold a Pack Trial, contact the ALSA Office, 303/823-0659.

The second program is the Youth Judging Program. This program is for youth ages 8 through 18. They must be ALSA members (only \$10) and join the Youth Judging Program (only \$10). For their membership in the Youth Judging Program they receive a Youth Judging Manual and certificates. The Manual is a condensed version of the adult Judging Manual. The youth can attend a Youth Judging Clinic (*one is scheduled for the 1998 RMLA Spring Mini-Conference in Castle Rock, CO on the April 18 & 19th.*) or study on their own. A Youth Judging Contest will be held at Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show on Sunday following the Youth Showmanship classes. There will be four classes to judge: 2 halter, 1 showmanship and 1 obstacle. After the placings are chosen in the four classes, the Juniors will answer questions from the Judge and the Intermediates will give oral reasons. The points earned for the youth will be turned into the ALSA Office. The top point earners will be invited to compete at the Regional Championships. The top team of 4 from each Regional will compete at the Grand National this fall.

ALSA is hoping to interest many youth in this program. If you are interested in hosting a Youth Clinic or Youth Judging Contest, contact the ALSA Office, 303/823-0659. The Contests can be held in conjunction with a show or by themselves. An ALSA Judge must be used for the contest or Clinic.

The ALSA Grand National

The first National Show has been announced. It will be held on November 14 & 15, 1998 in Columbia, Missouri. This will be *the event of the industry community*. In addition to Grand National, ALSA will have a National Conference on November 13th. ALSA will have an Annual Meeting and meetings for Show Management, Judges, Ring Stewards and Clerks in the morning. The afternoon will offer speakers on marketing in general and at shows. A banquet will be held on Friday night. On Saturday, ALSA and other Associations will host a cocktail party for all those involved. There are so many good and innovative things happening in our industry. We need to learn about each other and what strengths each of us bring to the industry.

The question in everyone's mind is "how do I qualify for the National?" There are several ways. All llamas who have earned a Recognition of Merit or an ALSA Championship in the ALSA Award System, all llamas who have been awarded a Grand or Reserve Championship at an ALSA Show during 1998 or have qualified at a 1998 Regional Show (1st in a class of 3, 2nd in a class of 8, 3rd in a class of 12, 4th in a class of 24 and 5th in a class of 34) will qualify for the Grand National.

Continued.....



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Sara & Segal

ALSA Update, cont...

The first llamas to qualify for the Grand National were at the National Western Stock Show in January. The first llama to qualify was in Performance. Rocky Mountain Bounce owned by Bobra Goldsmith earned Grand Champion Performance. The second llama was Top Banana owned by Barbara Coffman-Flynn. Both animals can now enter Pack, Obstacle and Public Relations. The following llamas (and their owners) qualified in Halter: Treeyst-Harold Herbold; RPL Pocohantas-Cathy Wittrup; Tiny Tim Too-Tiffany Coffman; NOL Bahama Bobby-Keith LaRue; Coup D'Etat-Mary Beth Hartsough; Full Throttle-Mark Horst; A Little Bit of Heaven-Carlos Mendoza; Shasta Snowflake-Cliff Harding; CL Irazu-Jan Redenbarger; and Kahura Uyu Windom-Laura Coleman.

At the Grand National, if a llama finishes first in a class such as Juvenile Light Wool Female, the llama will be named National Champion: as Juvenile Light Wool Female. This applies to all classes including Youth and Performance.

What a marketing opportunity!

Now for the challenge of a lifetime for RMLA: The performance courses will be set up for the Grand National by different Associations. Of course, RMLA is doing the Pack Courses! We need to show the country what a Pack Course should look like. Is anyone up to the challenge?

Call Jo Riley, 303/823-5409, if you can volunteer to design, build or transport to the Grand National.

The Regional Championships

A change this year: If you qualify animals in different Regions, you may attend your home Regional with all the animals. See ALSA Handbook for more details.

Rocky Mountain: _____ Denver, CO; October 31st & November 1st: The states of Utah and Arizona are included in the Rocky Mountain Region this year. At the very least, we need a Halloween party on Saturday night. If you would like to volunteer, call Bob or Jo Riley, 303/823-5409.

Central: _____ Oklahoma City (Heritage Place without the Celebrity Sale); October 2nd & 25th

Western: _____ Medford, Oregon; October 31st & November 1st

Great Lakes: _____ Indianapolis, Indiana; October 24 & 25th (Minnesota and Iowa are included this year. Does not include Ohio.)

Buckeye: _____ Lancaster, Ohio; October 31st & November 1st (Ohio only)

Eastern: _____ Harrisonburg, Virginia; October 31st & November 1st

This information comes via the ALSA Manager. If you would like to join ALSA call (303)823-0659 or write to ALSA, P.O. Box 1189, Lyons, CO 80540 E-Mail: alsa@llama.org or web page at: <http://www.llama.org/alsa>



Nellie Newcomer.....

By Barbara Hance, RMLA Membership • Hance Ranch • 11818 W. 52nd Ave. • Wheat Ridge, CO 80033-2032 • (303)422-4681 (303)422-3568fax • hancelama@worldnet.att.net

Nellie Newcomer says: 'Help! I think one of my llamas has broken his jaw! His lip is just hanging there and he is standing with his mouth wide open! There is some kind of smelly stuff dribbling out of his mouth, could it be green pus from an abscess?'

The Oldtimer responds: 'Hold yer horses there a minut, Nellie, frum whut you describe it sounds like yer critters have just had a dispute. Llamas and alpacas git real out of sorts with their pen mates sometimes, and hold a A #1 MAJOR SHUR-D spit-off, then after words they have to kinda air out the old mouth a bit. I know what you saw looked scarey but take another look an see if there ain't another one a airing his mouth too.'





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Use the list of numbers at the bottom to fill in the blanks.....

NUMBERS,

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NUMBERS

8

Camelids have ____ pairs of chromosomes.

There are ____ animals in the South American Camelid group.

Camelids have a ____ compartmented stomach.

Camelids have ____ ears.

One micron is equal to 1/1000 of a millimeter or _____ of an inch.

Divide one inch into _____ equal parts, each segment equals one micron.

There are ____ bones that make up the neck vertebrae in camelids.

Llamas and alpacas have ____ pairs of ribs.

In llamas and alpacas _____% of all pregnancies are in the left horn of the uterus.

_____ is the telephone number for University of California at Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory.

Camelid evolution began in North America approximately _____ million years ago.

The Bactrian Camel has ____ hump(s).

Body temperature of adult llamas and alpacas range between _____°F and _____°F.

Llamas and alpacas have ____ legs and _____ toes.

One teaspoon equals approximately ____ mL.

The average adult llama or alpaca will eat approximately _____% of their body weight per day.

Use these numbers to fill in the blanks:

25,400	99.5
5	12
1.8	916-752-7383
45	4
101.5	7
3	2
4	37
95	0.000039
8	2

Answers:

Camelids have 57 pairs of chromosomes.
There are 4 animals in the South American Camelid group.
Camelids have a 3 compartmented stomach.
Camelids have 2 ears.
One micron is equal to 1/1000 of a millimeter or 0.000039 of an inch.
Divide one inch into 25,400 equal parts, each segment equals one micron.
There are 7 bones that make up the neck vertebrae in camelids.
Llamas and alpacas have 12 pairs of ribs.
In llamas and alpacas 95% of all pregnancies are in the left horn of the uterus.
916-752-7383 is the telephone number for University of California at Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory.
Camelid evolution began in North America approximately 45 million years ago.
The Bactrian Camel has 2 hump(s).
Body temperature of adult llamas and alpacas range between 99.5°F and 101.5°F.
Llamas and alpacas have 4 legs and 2 toes.
People have 2 legs and 10 toes.
One teaspoon equals approximately 5 mL.
The average adult llama or alpaca will eat approximately 1.8% of their body weight per day.

Information was taken in part from "Medicine and Surgery of South American Camelids", Murray E. Fowler, DVM, 1989 Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa 50010

Use the list of numbers at the bottom to fill in the blanks.....

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NUMBERS

8

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In llamas and alpacas _____% of all pregnancies are in the left horn of the uterus.

_____ is the telephone number for University of California at Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory.

Camelid evolution began in North America approximately _____ million years ago.

The Bactrian Camel has ____ hump(s).

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Llamas and alpacas have ____ legs and _____ toes.

One teaspoon equals approximately ____ mL.

The average adult llama or alpaca will eat approximately _____% of their body weight per day.

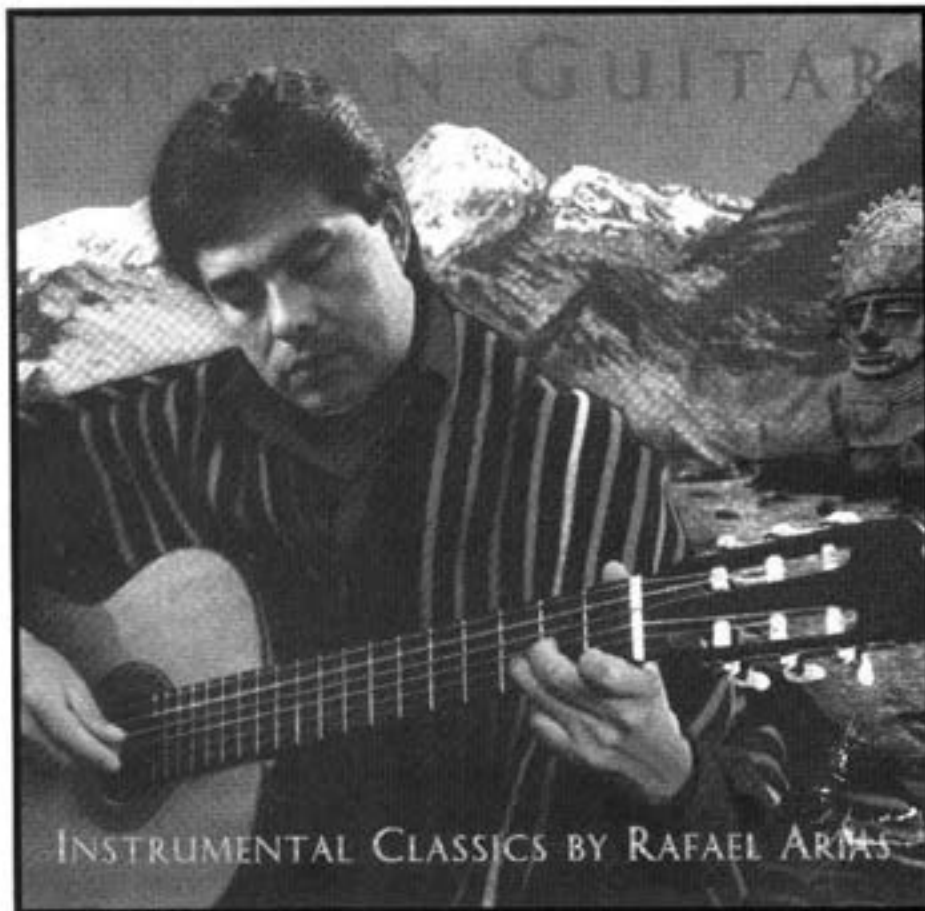
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MORE ON BEARS

By Chris & Phil Switzer · Switzer Land Alpacas · P.O. Box 3800 · Estes Park, CO 80517 · (970)586-4624

Playing radios from dusk through the night next to the barn/coral area is helpful. The sound of voices and changes in music can help deter a predator. Also, additional lighting inside stalls or by a shelter should be left on from dusk through the night. We put our females and babies inside our big barn for the night. (Adequate ventilation is important – open windows partially and use a fan if needed in warm weather.)

Best of all is adequate fencing around the perimeter of your place. We use sheep fencing with electric along the lower edge and also along the upper edge. Our gates are very sturdy.

Our dog (a black Lab) sleeps near the barn areas and will bark loudly to alert us during the night. I keep 2 frying pans handy so that I could make alot of noise if we saw a predator. Phil has a shotgun for a firing up above the shelters (to make noise), but if there is an attack, we have been told by Division of Wildlife that we can shoot a predator. Our hope is to be able to protect our animals, but still enjoy the wildlife in our area. In the 30 years we've lived in Estes Park, this is the first year there has been a bear attack, killing several goats about a mile from our farm. (However, there is poor fencing and lighting plus the goats were outside in small pens.)

After reading the RMLA information on bears (*in the last Journal*), we wanted to share what we've learned in the 16 years we've had our animals in hope that it will help others.

JOHNE'S ISSUE RESOLVED. CANYONLANDS TASK FORCE PLEASED BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEM HAS ENDED.

After a three-year fight, the Canyonlands Task Force announces that Walter Dabney, Superintendent of Canyonlands National Park, signed a memo admitting that the possibility of llamas transmitting Johne's disease is "negligible" and "transmission of Johne's disease from llamas to bighorn sheep has not been demonstrated."

"This is a culmination of work on the part of many individuals, associations and scientists," said Stan Ebel, Task Force Member. "For many of us, there is a tremendous satisfaction in proving, once again, that the animals we raise and use are indeed careful stewards of the environment."

Problem Started In 1994

Three years ago Walter Dabney, in an effort to ban non-equine pack animals, used his emergency powers to label llamas as potential carriers of Johne's disease. Also known as paratuberculosis, Johne's disease can be a debilitating intestinal disorder transmitted by the ingestion of large quantities of fecal matter from an infected animal.

By exercising these special emergency powers, the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process of public hearings was by-passed and the llama community never had an opportunity to refute the claim that llamas posed a threat to the sheep.

Owners alarmed by use of emergency powers and unfounded charges

The llama owners across the country became alarmed with the implication that llamas might be "disease" carriers. Their greatest fear was fairly simple ... if Walter Dabney's assumption was left unchallenged, the ban on llamas could have spread to other national parks, forest service and BLM lands. In addition, interstate transportation and admittance of llamas in shows at state and county fairs might be called into question.

As a result, the Canyonlands Task Force was formed at Llama Assembly 96 to deal with this accusation.

CSU meeting held to explore claims

In March 1996, in an effort to gather information regarding Johne's disease, the International Llama Association and the Task Force hosted a meeting at Colorado State University, a well-respected university with emphasis in the field of llama medical research, to discuss the risk of Johne's disease to bighorn sheep.

There were over 40 in attendance, including veterinarians and researchers from across the country. Many in this group are considered to be on the leading edge of Johne's disease. In addition, the Task Force was pleased with attendance by federal and state public land managers.

Conclusion is... llamas OK!

After the all-day meeting, the conclusion reached was that llamas rarely contract the disease and, if they did, the infected llama would be a poor candidate for a pack animal.

Furthermore, in order to transmit the disease, sheep would be required to ingest large quantities of fecal matter from the infected animal over a prolonged period of time.

Conditions not right at Canyonlands

The conditions ideally suited to promoting Johne's are just not present on public lands and certainly not present at Canyonlands. The disease prefers a moderate climate, wet areas and low ultraviolet light. At Canyonlands you will find high temperatures, low humidity and plenty of sunlight; a very hostile environment for the disease organism.

At the end of the day the consensus was that llamas did not pose a real threat to the Bighorn sheep at the Canyonlands National Park. Walter Dabney, Superintendent of that park, was not in attendance but National Park Service spokesman, Bob Moon, who attended said "I don't agree with his (Walter Dabney's) decision but I support his right to make that decision."

Livestock groups support llamas

Immediately following the CSU symposium, members of the Task Force attended the annual meeting of the Western States Livestock Health Association and

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the Western District United States Animal Health Association joint meeting held in Reno, Nevada.

Dr. LaRue Johnson of CSU gave a summary report of the Johne's symposium. Following his report a resolution was passed recommending that **"no public lands be closed to llamas without sufficient scientific evidence indicating that disease transmission will occur."**

Others join in support

As the Task Force success became more widely known, many other respected authorities in the field of veterinary science had this to say:

The American Association for Small Ruminant Practitioners issued the following statement "... **Scientific evidence does not justify a ban of llamas on public lands...**"

The Executive Committee of the United States Animal Health Association, which includes all 50 state veterinarians, adopted the following resolution, "... **USAHA recommends that no public lands be closed to llamas accompanied by people for the reason of Johne's disease....**"

The BLM stated "... **the BLM will not consider banning llamas or other domestic species from the public lands based on its current understanding of Johne's disease...**"

Oregon State University Veterinarian, Dr. Stanley Snyder stated "... As a reason for keeping llamas out of areas of our national forests, etc., the threat of llamas disseminating Johne's disease to wild ruminants is quite remote. **In Oregon, where Johne's disease in cattle, sheep and goats is quite common and where llama raising is extremely popular, we have not had even a single confirmed case of Johne's disease in llamas...**"

Is there a culprit?

The scientific evidence had no impact on the llama ban at Canyonlands.

According to experts of Johne's Disease at the CSU meeting, cattle are the most common livestock known to contract the disease. A large herd of free ranging cattle are just outside the north entrance to the park and were of little concern to park officials.

This is further evidence that the original ban was based on the desire to restrict non-equine pack stock and was not a disease issue.

Johne's was a convenient excuse used to by-pass public hearings on the ban. Many land managers probably viewed Walter Dabney as a rogue Superintendent operating with little support from the scientific community or from fellow Park personnel.

Glacier National Park explained, "after several months of information gathering, consultation and evaluation, Park officials have decided **not to prohibit the use of llamas as pack animals in the park's backcountry**. This measure was being considered due to the possibility that llamas could transmit Johne's disease to native mountain goats and bighorn sheep.

The Kofa National Wildlife Refuge & Wilderness had included, as a part of a comprehensive long-range plan, to ban llamas from their park due to disease concerns. This proposed ban was based entirely on memos originating with Superintendent Dabney. The Canyonlands Task Force forwarded information gathered at the CSU meeting onto Kofa for their review

Kofa not only struck the llama ban from their proposal, but went on to apologize to the Task Force for having even considered such a ban.

Other concerns

The main concern of the Canyonlands Task Force was that other public land managers might inadvertently assume the Canyonlands ban might have been a valid concern.

Task Force and Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher and llama groups prepared suit

Therefore to set the record straight, the Canyonlands Task Force working with their attorneys at Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher in Denver drafted a formal complaint that would lead to a suit in Federal Court by the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association, Inc., the Utah Llama Association and their members.

The suit points out that the Superintendent did not follow proper NEPA procedures in his ban. It went on to state that there was no support for such a ban from those in the scientific community.

Continued.....

In an out-of-court settlement, Superintendent Dabney agreed to issue a memorandum stating that llamas are not carriers of Johne's disease.

Even though the ban on non-equine pack stock will continue, this is considered a major victory for llama owners nationwide.

Should we have taken Walter Dabney to court?

The primary concern of the llama community was to eliminate the unfounded disease rumors. The "junk science" behind the Johne's disease issue had spread beyond Canyonlands and even into Canada. Faced with what the government attorney conceded was a credible and persuasive argument, the Superintendent and the National Park Service agreed to an out-of-court settlement in which the Superintendent retracted his disease-based rationale for prohibiting the use of llamas in the Park — an outcome probably unachievable in court.

In light of the uncertainty and expense of litigation, the Canyonlands Task Force agreed to this settlement in order to lay the disease issue to rest. In doing so, the Superintendent had to publicly admit what veterinarians have been saying all along: **llamas do not pose a Johne's disease threat.** Finally, the Settlement Agreement preserves the right of the llama community to revisit future access issues, as they arise, in the parks of the Southeastern Utah group.

Support from many

Canyonlands Task Force committee members, Stan Ebel, Bob Riley, and Scott Woodruff would like to knowledge the contributions from llama and alpaca owners and organizations who have donated to the Lama Legal Defense Fund. The LLDF funds have paid the out-of-pocket expense at Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher.

The Canyonlands Task Force would like to thank David Schieferstein, attorney and alpaca breeder from Ft. Collins, Colorado, who attended Assembly '96. David made the introduction with Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher that led to their representing the Task Force on a pro bono basis. Had we not had Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher working on our behalf pro bono, we would have had to raise nearly \$100,000 to duplicate their efforts. Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher lent us their very best attorneys, Craig Richardson, Jeffrey Oraker and Brian Casey.

The llama community owes a debt of gratitude that we will never be able to repay. - - -

The past President of the International Llama Association and skilled attorney, Donald Christ, helped us to understand the finer points of law. Few people will ever know the time and money Donald has contributed. We doubt that we could have been as successful without him.

The successful outcome of the Canyonlands issue must be credited to the 130 alpaca and llama owners nationwide who contributed to the Lama Legal Defense Fund. This fund was managed by Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association. RMLA and the Utah Llama Association and other individuals were named plaintiffs on the proposed suit that was instrumental in producing the out-of-court settlement.

For additional information, please contact:

Canyonlands Task Force

Stan Ebel

Telephone: 970-667-7411
E-mail: buckhorn@frii.com

Bob Riley

Telephone: 303-823-5409
E-mail: llama@llama.org

Scott Woodruff

Telephone: 307-332-5624
e-mail: swoodruf@wyoming.com

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December 8, 1997

To: All Llama Publications

RE: Calhoun Resignation/New ILR Officers Press Release

The Registry has two new board members. Sally German-Rucker's election was announced at the annual meeting of the ILR on Friday, July 18, 1997 at the LANA Expo in Carson City, Nevada. She has bred llamas for eleven years, was a former president of RMLA, and has been heavily involved in youth programs and in using llama wool.

Jack Moore, the first runner-up, replaced Nancy Calhoun who resigned effective October 1, 1997. Nancy served the ILR Board for eight years and led the Registry through the lawsuit with the former Registrar. She was instrumental in successfully moving the Registry to Kalispell, MT., obtaining new software, and keeping the Registry functional throughout the turmoil produced by the move. The Registry paid off the final two outstanding loans on October 1, 1997 and is now solidly in the black. The turn-around time for registration is less than a week and the software is functioning smoothly. With membership satisfaction and input appearing to be at an all time high, Nancy felt that this was an excellent time to step down.

Jack Moore has been raising llamas for twelve years and has been very active in many llama organizations and the development of llama and alpaca shows. He was the chair for the Llama Steering Committee.

Both new board members are enthusiastic and committed to maintaining the accuracy and financial stability of the Registry.

On the October conference call, Barbara Carlomagno was elected President of the Board for the coming year with Jack Moore functioning as Vice President, Kathi McKinney as Treasurer and Sally German-Rucker as Secretary.

December 8, 1997

To: All Llama Publications

RE: Vicuña Division Press Release

Due to increasing interest in vicuñas, the Registry has created a new Vicuña Division. The Division will function under temporary rules and fees patterned after those of the Guanaco Division. These temporary rules will be reviewed by January 1, 2000.

THE THROWAWAY THREESOME

By Lynley Nichol, *Colorado Llama Rescue* • 12925 Linda Vista Drive • Longmont, CO 80501 • (303)684-6443

In recent months several of you using the Llama List Serve have seen my plea posted for donations to save the black gelding. For those of you who are not users of this service I would like to share with you a very heartbreaking tale.

On February 22, 1997, my neighbor informed me that she had seen three geldings go through the Centennial Livestock Auction in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Having previously pulled llamas from the same ring, I was not surprised. I was, however, surprised to find three geldings consigned to the Mile High Livestock Auction in Broomfield, Colorado on March 18, 1997. Was this a coincidence? No. According to another source, these were the same three emaciated geldings from February. They had apparently been purchased by a horse trader for \$150.00 each and were being turned around for profit. They were being "pitched" as eight, nine and ten year old packers able to carry 150 pounds into the mountains. I do not believe any one of them weighed much more than that soaking wet! The aforementioned black gelding was painfully thin with saddle sores under the girth area and dropped pasterns. He was missing all of the wool on the front of his rear legs. They were skinned right down to the hide. I had a sneaking suspicion that he was used for heeling (roping of his back ankles). He had been tied up so tightly and was so exhausted that when he did attempt to sit down, his oversized horse halter and heavy bull snap lead rope caused him to hang from the offending fencepost. The red and white gelding (*Lucky*) was bone thin, old and had oozing sores on his severely dropped pasterns and on the top of his front toes. The white gelding, at first

glance, appeared to have wry face; but upon closer inspection, he was found to have a broken nose. This did not surprise us since he too was wearing a horse halter and had been for a long time judging by the marks it had left on his head. He also had exceptionally long lower front teeth that had grown across one another like a twisted vine. He was in the best flesh of the three, which is not saying much!

When they came into the ring, I knew that Colorado Llama Rescue would not be able to afford to purchase these llamas. With the help of my generous friends, Ron and Marie Hinds, I was able to purchase the red and white gelding. We carefully observed who purchased the other two and when they were sold, Bart Anderson of Twin Peaks Llamas was kind enough to go over and speak with the couple who had purchased the white llama giving them my business card in case they had questions. The black gelding was purchased by a horse trader who disappeared right after the sale. It took me almost two weeks to find this man, I am not easy to dodge! On Easter Sunday, my other half, Jeff, and I took the horse trailer over to this man's ranch with plans to purchase the black gelding. After finding out that the man ran a bucking string of both horses and bulls, I was terrified of his possible plans for the llama. As it turned out, he had had a llama in with his brood mares and their foals as a protection animal for 15 years until it died and he needed a replacement. I was pleased to see that he was indeed taking care of the animal and had removed the halter. I looked this gelding over closely and determined his age to be between 18 and 20 years. So much for being a nine year old!



Lucky, after being sheared. (9/97)

The gelding that I brought home to Colorado Llama Rescue is thought to be between the ages of 21 and 25. He was at least 75 pounds under weight and had the aforementioned sores plus some others that were hidden under his matted fleece. When I hand sheared him, I found sores under the mats infested with maggots! He was so depressed physically and mentally, he did not chew his cud for two solid weeks. It took him a month to hum at another llama. When I handed him the pans of loose salt and minerals he gave me a look of such surprise and pure pleasure, it broke my heart. Should not these things have been provided for him and his buddies all of their lives?

A few weeks later, I received a call from Stacy and David Ogard saying that the white llama acted like he wasn't well. Fearing loneliness as a possible cause, although they do have horses, sheep and goats, they were interested in purchasing a buddy for "Chewie." They came out to see one of the other geldings I had personally bought from a sale barn (to rescue him, of course). They seemed to be very interested in him, but by the time they got home, Chewie was down. The vet insisted that his teeth were a problem. The following week I met Stacy and her llama for their dental appointment. Three days later, David brought a very sick Chewie to my home where we kept him warm in our heated garage and gave him a shot of Banamine for his obvious stomach ache. Our regular vet came out and determined this animal to be at least 22 years of age and severely ulcered. He was euthanized that morning. It was a very sad, unnecessary ending to this little llama's life.

All three of these llamas had obviously been together for years and appeared to be experienced packers. After being used, abused and neglected, they were thrown out like so much garbage and those of us who truly love llamas were left with the hurt as well as the anger at their previous owners. David Ogard, Chewie's owner, is probably one of the biggest llama lovers that I have ever met. He and his wife did everything within their power to help their llama and spared no expense in meeting his special needs. But, like any responsible, caring owner, they did not want to see this boy suffer any longer. It was a hard decision for them and my heart broke for David as he watched his first llama being put to sleep.

Must we use, abuse and then cast off llamas who

have worked hard for us? What ever happened to the old expression "putting out to pasture". Is it so difficult to simply retire these old guys and let them enjoy their last days without taking them through auction barns and selling them off to equally abusive owners who are just out to make a buck? We need to ask ourselves as breeders: Do we love llamas or simply the money that they USE to bring? If we truly love them, we must respect them and not simply throw them away. They deserve so much more!

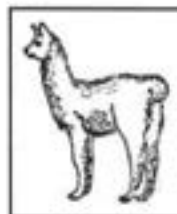
(The beginnings of this story can be found in the May, 1997 Journal, page 35.)

Colorado Llama Rescue

wish list:

- Good quality grass hay
- Equine Senior by Purina
- Corral panels
- Loafing shed or suitable shelter (or building materials)
- Stock trailer
- Copy machine
- Fax machine
- File cabinets
- Cash Donations

NOTE: All donations made to **Colorado Llama Rescue** are tax-deductible, including llamas!



A Big "Thank You" goes out to Roy and Dee Stoddard for bringing all the RMLA membership 'stuff' (11 very heavy boxes) from Judy Sealy in Grand Junction to Bob and Barbara Hance in Wheat Ridge.

Thanks folks!

Winter is settling in..... Hats, mittens and scarves made from llama and alpaca fiber are available at the RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth.



Let's Get One As A Pet!

By Charles and Helen Stewart • Stewart's Royal Alpacas • 2200 Twylby Rd. Larkspur, CO 80118
(719) 488-5594 (719) 488-5601 fax E-mail: alpacastew@aol.com

These were the famous last words we said as we were watching Edna Kennedy and Bravo Bravo on the TODAY SHOW about four years ago. The grace and poise and just the presence of the Alpacas grabbed our heart strings and it has been love ever since.

We immediately started gathering information about the care required to raise these creatures. They are very easy to care for, pick up after and feed. They require only low-protein hay, some llama pellets every now and then and water. We found out that they really don't do well by themselves, that they need a buddy. So we said "what the heck" we'll get two! Ha! As luck was with us I read in the Denver Post about this sale and my wife said lets go look! What could it hurt? Oh, I have forgotten to tell you we lived in the middle of town on a neighborhood street and to mow our yard took 15 minutes! That's how small it was.

So on this beautiful Saturday morning we drove to Denver to see our first LIVE, Alpacas. We received so much more from this trip than we had ever hoped for. First and foremost we started the journey of meeting the greatest group of people in the whole world. It seems Alpaca owners are the nicest, friendliest, down to earth, helpful group of individuals we have ever meet. Everyone is really concerned about you being taken care of in your endeavor to acquire and raise Alpacas. Second, we found out that while these animals would be fun to have, they were also profitable. With these woolly creatures, we could also could have another business, a tax write-off and a more relaxed environment to live in. Third, we wouldn't have to own a large farm to raise Alpacas. Was this possible that we could have fun and make a good living too? You see, I've been in the business of medical management for 20 years and I am presently managing a successful Pediatrician's practice who happens to be my wife with other providers and all the necessary staff. Frankly we were interested in

looking for another business where I could be outside more.

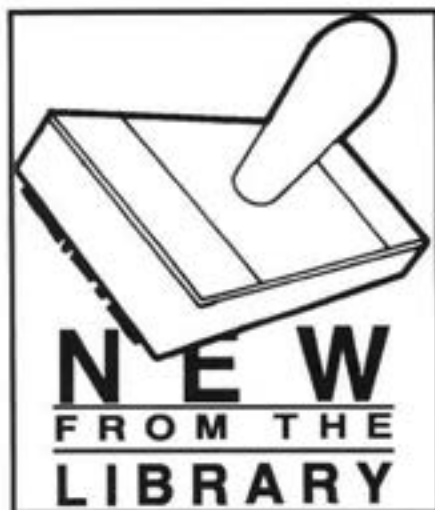
It was love at first sight. I asked the alpaca owner if the animal had any bad odor. She no, of course. But I didn't believe her, so we parted the fiber and stuck my nose straight down in it! Much to my surprise and delight, there was no odor! Not to mention the fact that I was awed with such an abundance of fine, soft, warm fiber. That clinched it right there. Soon, we were the proud owners of a pregnant female alpaca and a young unrelated male.

We actually started our Alpaca business with little money down and NO place to put them. (Talk about putting the cart before the horse!) We boarded our animals with their previous owner for about nine months while we found a small piece of acreage, designed a house, had it built, and moved in. We were still in the process of fencing when we brought them home! Crazy as it seems, we were thrilled because not only did we own these elite animals, we saved a considerable amount of money on taxes by buying them a year early. Of course, now we needed to find another pregnant female to go with the one we had, and somehow it's just been impossible to stop at two!

That is how we started on a great life-style. You know it is really a free feeling when one can earn a living and really enjoy it at the same time. My wife is having fun learning to spin the fiber and I'm able to spend more time outside. We presently have (we don't own them they just let us hang around) twenty-one Alpacas with seven Cria due this year. We're looking forward to finding a bigger space for them to..... and then we'll have to buy more alpacas... and then find more space... and then buy more alpacas...

(Well, they found more space..... change your address book for the Stewart's, ed)





RMLA LIBRARY UPDATE

By Sharon Herbold, RMLA Librarian • Pikes Peak Woolles • 15350
Highway 83 • Colorado Springs, CO 80921 • (719) 495-3092
e-mail: skh@ix.netcom.com

The library recently received a copy of the book Stop Spitting At Your Brother! Life Lessons of a Rocky Mountain Llama. The book was donated by the author, Diane White-Crane. Thanks Diane, for your thoughtful contribution to the library.

Other items new to the library include:

Video:

Spinning Wool—Basics and Beyond by Victorian Video Productions

Books:

50 Things To Do With a Llama by M. Brandon James

Llama Babies: Up, Dry and Nursing by Barbara Norris Anderson

Come On Let's Play! – An Educational, Coloring, Activity and Story Book Featuring Llamas and Alpacas by Deb and Dan Lange of Packer's Haven Camelid and Art Co.

The library is asking for volunteers! At the fall conference in Montrose there was a discussion about adding reviews of the items in the library on the RMLA home page on the Internet (<http://www.llama.org/rmla>) If you would like to help in this endeavor, please contact me by mail, phone or e-mail (skh@ix.netcom.com) and I will let you know that topics are available and hopefully match you with something you're interested in (packing, fiber, etc.) or you'd like to learn more about. Any help will be greatly appreciated!

ALSO A BIG thanks to Jan Adamcyk of **Kiowa Creek Llamas** (39420 Kiowa-Bennett Road, Kiowa, CO 80117, (303)621-2960) for the donation to the library!

Consign your alpaca or llama fiber items to the RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth. Low consignment fee, high visibility. Call Karen, 970-484-6241 or Sharon, 303-666-9437 for more information.

A word from the Editors:

Ooops!..... Just in case you didn't here the November 1997 Issue of the RMLA Journal was not printed.

There has been a few mishaps lately.....

We moved..... The new place didn't have any (camelid) approved fencing. One board on top of some posts, and electric fences will not keep crias in the pasture (and everything else out)! So feverishly fences were built, gates hung, winter waterers installed along with a few more night lights and a remodel an indoor facility for the new winter crias. Generally this would not have prevented the next Journal from being published.....

Four days after we moved in, Marie was walking from the house to the heated barn at night twisted her right leg on some rolled up barbless wire and broke it in 3 places even before she lit on the ground. Actually I was working on the beginnings of the next issue that night with the window open when I heard her call for help.

She's fine, she's out of the wheelchair, off crutches and now just limping around a bit. She's back driving again, too. It's been a hectic 4 months, not exactly something either one of us would like to repeat any time soon. Some things are settling down a little bit. We appogize for not getting out the November issue. The next issue will be the promotional, May, issue, then we'll get back on the regular schedule. (See page 4 for the schedule.) Lougene Baird saw the problem early on and began working on a solution with the RMLA Board. We would like to thank Lougene for her dedication and resourcefulness in taking control of this mishap. Thanks Lou.....

This Journal is a very unique place to advertise your llama/alpaca ranch/farm name. I have a rule when it comes to articles submitted by the membership.... You get your name and ranch name, address, phone numbers, fax and e-mail printed within the article you send in. This promotes gathering of good articles, and good advertisement. If you are a volunteer for RMLA, it's no different, these people deserve the recongition for their hard work.

Send in your ads, articles, funny stories, serious problems, solutions, your ideas and interesting pictures. If you've had a lot of experience with a subject, field of study, a unique situation related to these animals, send it in. Sharing is what it's all about around here.

Ron



There's a rumor going around that US West is planning on implementing a new area code in the existing 303 area. Well, it's true. Residents in and around Denver will have to use 10 digits to make local phone calls after June 1st. Everyone who has a 303 area code will keep the same number, but new customers or those looking



for additional lines will begin getting a 720 designation, though long-distance boundaries will not change. US West and other phone companies will begin allowing customers to experiment with the 10-digit routine February 1st.

The main reason why this was brought up in this publication is relative to your ads and other advertising mediums, business cards, stationary, etc., if you don't show your area code on those items.

New Members

Rebecca and Albert Augustus
CLIFF HAVEN LLAMAS
670 39 Road
Palisade, CO 81526-9312
(970)464-7247
(970)464-7247fax

Welcome to
RMLA folks,
it's a great
organization
to be part of...
Welcome!

Teri Nilson Baird and Philip M. Baird
BROKEN WINDMILL RANCH
28825 County Road 5
Elizabeth, CO 80107
Phone/FAX (303)646-4373
E-Mail: teri.nilson.baird@mci.com

Susan Ballard-Cook and Ken Sue Kashmere
1114 Irvine Road
Douglas, WY 82633

L. Alvin Bean and Lance Hardcastle
EAST FORK LLAMAS
2403 East Fork Road
Marshall, NC 28753
Phone/FAX (704)689-5925
E-Mail: WOLFHART3@aol.com

Georgene Bilderback
WINDY RIDGE CASHMERES
3625 Needles Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80908
(719)488-3616

Charles R. Bishop
RANCHO LOS DOS ROBERTOS
P.O. Box 1014
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Lauriann Blakeman
12105 US Hwy. 160
Del Norte, CO 81132-9768
(719)657-3123

Pat Blank
P & E RANCH
2125 Bee Creek Road
Italy, TX 76651
(972)435-2531

Mike and Sandra Bradford
BRADFORD LLAMAS
Box 525
Bayfield, CO 81122-0525
(970)884-4392

Kathy and Clark Bromley
PAINTBRUSH FARMS
6851 S. Brook Forest Dr.
Evergreen, CO 80439
(303)674-2986

William A. and Nancy W. Burns
MI TIERRA
0575 Elkhorn Road
Texas Creek, CO 81223-9666
(719) 942-3424
E-mail: nancywburns@worldnet.att.net

Eugenia Carroll
4970 South Fairfax St.
Littleton, CO 80121-2018
(303)488-0372

Archie Cloud
TLC KENNEL
19375 CR 24
Kit Carson, CO 80825
(719)962-3236

Peter V. Decker
P.O. Box 429
Manson, WA 98831
(509)687-9638
FAX (509)687-3086

Timothy J. Deger
788 Willow Lake Drive
Franktown, CO 80116-9002
(303)660-4225
(303)784-4119fax
E-mail: tdeger@pcisys.net

Leigh Watson DiNatale
506 Juniper
Boulder, CO 80304
(303)449-1561

Helga and Walter Hantscho
CLOVER BASIN RANCH
10006 N. 65th St.
Longmont, CO 80503-9016
(303)651-7937

Linda Hayes
LLAMA THINGS! @ LLAMA LINDA RANCH
Rt. 1 Box 325
Denison, TX 75021-9416
(800) 552-6213

Mark and Brenda Horst
HEAVEN VIEW RANCH, INC.
P.O. Box 505
Divide, CO 80814-0505
(719) 687-3447
(719) 686-0893fax

Stephen Howells Sr.
Howard Runck
OXFORD LLAMAS
432 County Road 312
Ignacio, CO 81137-9736
(970) 884-2634
E-mail: farmerman@aol.com

Ned L. and Charlotte L. Huntsman
GOLDEN FLEECE LLAMA RANCH
9079 South 1150 West
West Jordan, UT
84088-9028
(801) 255-8642
(801) 255-4013fax

Donna Gant
1809 L Road
Fruita, CO 81521
(970)858-9807

Warren Garthwaite
GARDEN GATE LLAMAS
P.O. Box 1315
Nederland, CO 80466-1315
(303)258-7517

Trudy Green
TRANQUILITY BASE LLAMAS
P.O. Box 600
Frenchtown, MT 59834-9711
(406)626-4207
(406)626-4207fax
E-mail: tgreen@bigsky.net

Rick and Susan LeFebre
CIELO VERDE LLAMAS
3553 E Road
Palisade, CO 81526
(970)464-5694

N. Nelson Leonard
ELK HILL FARMS
P.O. Box 708
Eagle Point, OR 97524-
(541)826-6115

Clinton A. and Gina A. Lindsey
LLINDSEY'S LLAMAS
1613 E. Jensen Street
Mesa, AZ 85203-2838
(602)649-9179
E-mail: clintlind@aol.com

Jeannette Lyons
20974 Rancherias Road
Apple Valley, CA 92307
(760)247-1256
FAX (760)247-5287
E-Mail: pjlyons@eee.org

Brian K. Mayfield
MOCKINGBIRD HILL LLAMAS
Rt. 1 Box 120
Plainville, IL 62365

Debra Mayo, DVM
15150 W. 32nd Ave.
Golden, CO 80401
(303)271-9700

Major F. and Ila R. Miller
RANCHO DE LLAMA
418 Pine Creek Road
Aladdin, WY 82710-9750
(307)896-3914
(307)896-3701fax
E-mail: baretrak@iw.net

Marvin K. Montague
Box 255
Stockton, UT 84071

Robert H. Nielsen
6872 Enchanted Drive
Midvale, UT 84047-1404
(801) 561-4765

Shirley Peternal
LAZY YN RANCH
P.O. Box 1044 - 3726 Hwy 233
Kemmerer, WY 83101-1044
(307)877-6367
E-mail: llamaemu@hamsfork.net

New Members, cont.....

Brian and Felicity Rabe
676 Baugh Road
Aiea, HI 96701

Jeanne M. Rasmussen
3502 Overlook Trail
Evergreen, CO 80439-7926
(303)670-0426

Mary and Bob Reynolds
HERON POND RANCH
10 Random Road
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80110-
(303)762-9379
(303)315-3261fax
E-mail: raynolds-m@cochise-uchsc.edu

Ed Ruehle
RUEHLE AUCTION SERVICE
P.O. Box 1449
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Phone/FAX (509)962-9844

Lea Ann Rischbieter
7701 120th Ave. NE
Norman, OK 73071-9717
(405)386-5599
(405)386-3003fax
E-mail: crisch@telepath.com

Howard R. and Catherine M. Roadifer
C & H ENTERPRISE
3791 E. 18Th St.
Greeley, CO 80631-9743
(970)352-0632

Rory Schilling
P.O. Box 2284
Palmer, AK 99645

Carl D. Scott
P.O. Box 846
Kemmerer, WY 83101
Phone/FAX (307)877-4184
E-Mail: cscott@hamsfork.net

Tim Segar
TCS LLAMA RANCH
P.O. Box 2440
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-2440
(970)731-9945

R. A. Shunk
HC55 Box 548
Fishtail, MT 59028-9704
(406)328-4218
(406)328-4218fax
E-mail: rshunk@mcn.net

Carl and Penny Skelley
PANTHER CREEK LLAMA RANCH
161 County RD. 441
Thorndale, TX 76577-
(512)898-2733
(512)898-2733fax
E-mail: llamallama@aol.com

David W. and Megan J. Smith
HIGH PRAIRIE LLAMAS
HC 48 Box 1027
Roberts, MT 59070-9503
(406) 445-2449
(406) 445-2449fax

Melissa T. and James C. Sullivan
FIREFLY FARM
67344 Trout Road
Montrose, CO 81401

Ray Summers
SUMMERS PLACE
1620 Pontiac Ave.
Lubbock, TX 79416-6908
(806)791-1249

Leslie Sutherland
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
4792 Lee Hill Drive
Boulder, CO 80302-

Carol Ann Tallmon
CAROLLAMA FARMS
1705 Burleson - Retta Rd.
Burleson, TX 76028-
(817)447-3509
(719)748-8115

Virginia Tiemann
TIEMANN RANCH
7420 Apperson Rd.
Brenham, TX 77833
(409)836-3940

Lyle E. and Barbara A. Walters
DIAMOND W LLAMAS
7936 County Road 501
Bayfield, CO 81122-8756
(970) 884-2914
(970) 884-2947fax

Jeri J. Wierwille
SNOKOTA
8011 Ute Hwy.
Longmont, CO 80503-9231
(303)772-0994

Mike Williams
ABUNDARE RIVER RANCH
HC 1 Box 433
Bandera, TX 78003-9409
(830) 796-4076
(830) 796-4011fax

Chris and Nancy Wilson
CAMP VERDE LLAMAS
P.O. Box 853
Camp Verde, AZ 86322-0853
(520)567-6684

ADDRESS CHANGES:

Kristin Baird
PLUM VALLEY LLAMAS
221 4th Street #2
Castle Rock, CO 80104-2444

Ron and Marie Hinds
SERENDIPITY FARM LLAMAS AND ALPACAS
38620 County Road 29
Elizabeth, CO 80107-8702
(303)646-2665
(303)646-2654fax
E-Mail: sdflama@bewellnet.com

Chuck and Helen Stewart
STEWART'S ROYAL ALPACAS
2200 Twylby Rd.
Larkspur, CO 80118
(719) 488-5594
(719) 488-5601fax
E-mail: alpacastew@aol.com

Whew, What a list!

Anne Woodbury Harper

Nov. 5, 1946 - Aug. 4, 1997

Anne Woodbury Harper, 50, died Monday afternoon, Aug. 4, 1997 in her home on Log Hill in Ouray County. She died of adenocarcinoma lung cancer and its complications.

Memorial Services to honor and celebrate Mrs. Harper's life will be officiated by the Rev. Stephen Wengrovius and Beth Patterson on Thursday, Aug. 7 at 11 a.m. from the Montrose Christian Church. The service will conclude at the church.

At Mrs. Harper's request, cremation has taken place. Arrangements are being handled under the direction of the Crippin Funeral Home of Montrose.

Flowers are welcome and memorial contributions, in memory of Mrs. Harper, may be made to: Montrose Memorial Hospital, c/o Tyler Erickson, 800 S. 3rd St. Montrose, CO 81401 or The Hospice of the Uncompahgre Valley, c/o Beth Patterson, 945 S. 4th St., Montrose, Colo, 81401.

Anne Woodbury, the daughter of Benjamin Huntoon and Johnnie Ray (Griffith) Woodbury, was born on Nov. 5, 1946, in Monahans, Texas. She spent her childhood in Goldsmith, Texas, graduated in 1965 from the Odessa High School in Odessa, Texas, and attended McMurray College in Abilene, Texas, from 1965 to 1967, and Texas Tech University of Lubbock, Texas from 1967 to 1969.

She graduated in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and Spanish from West Texas State A&M University in Canyon, Texas.

After graduating from college, she worked as a social worker for the State of Texas with the Aged, Blind and Disabled Program (TDHR) from 1975 to 1979, in offices in Pampa, Texas.

On Jan. 4, 1984, she married Thomas Glenn Harper in Pampa, Texas. She was previously married to Jerry Wayne Lemons, who preceded her in death in 1982 in Pampa, Texas.

In May of 1985, Mrs. Harper and her husband, Thomas, moved from Pampa, Texas, to Log Hill in Ouray County where Mrs. Harper made her home until her time of death.

Above all, she was a fine artist, along with being a businesswoman, rancher, and raising livestock. Pampa Fine Arts selected Mrs. Harper as Artist of the Year in 1986.

She is survived by her husband, Thomas Glenn Harper, of Montrose; two sons: Benjamin Abraham Green, of Cambridge, Mass.; Robin Morris Green II and wife Michele, of Montrose; one stepson, Thomas Jarret Harper, of Granite, Okla.; one daughter, Margaret Anne Green, of Austin, Texas; and five grandchildren: Daicha, Ashlie, Glenn Edward, Johnnithan and Tris Green.

Other family survivors include her parents, Benjamin and Johnnie Woodbury, of Odessa, Texas; and one brother and his family, Robert Don Woodbury, of Plano, Texas.

Mrs. Harper loved and greatly enjoyed art work and raising her Llamas, Alpacas and Cormo sheep.

This clipping, from the local Montrose newspaper, was graciously sent by Erma Hast to Chris Switzer and then forwarded to the Journal editor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

NEW BOOK ON LLAMA FIBER! "Aunt Millie's Guide to Llama Fiber". Covers shearing, grading, marketing, processing, and handspinning. A must for anyone interested in llama fiber. Send \$14 (\$12+\$2 S & H) to **Mike Brown**, HCR 74, Box 22628, Dept. RM, El Prado, NM 87529. E-Mail: brodel@newmex.com. (1/4)

FOR SALE: 50/50-'96-'97 Llamas-start at \$300/\$1000-Sires: Strawberry Fields(surrey Bolivian), Range Rover(surrey Chilean), Richochet(Chilean), Apuesto(Peruvian), Challenger(Chilean), Pliades (Chilean x Bolivian), Aladdin. **Jerry McRoberts**, Curley, NE 69141. (308)884-2371 (1/3)

GOOD PACKERS: 11 geldings, 1 stud, ages 6-up, experience 3-up, prices \$ 1350-up. Stud is a prize. Sopris gear available with llamas. Also lovely females-1 proven, 1 yearling. **Rendezvous Llamas**, 307-739-1639. (1/1)

RANCH AND FARM SUPPLIES Complete line for new/established farms. Halters, leads, grooming, shearing, scales, chutes, wormers, vaccines, cria care, probiotics, birthing needs, signs, weathervanes, packs, carts, harnesses, show items, watering and feeding equipment, manure vacuums, spreaders, fly control, watches, clocks, vinyl fencing, and more. Best prices guaranteed. **Useful Llama Items** - Brochure-3540 76th St., Caledonia, MI 49316 1-800-635-5262. E-mail: sales@useful-items.com (1/1)

JELLYBEAN CLASSIC, May 16, 1998 10am, Indiana Equestrian Center, Arvada, CO You were there or you wish you had been there in '97. A fun filled day with llamas, friends and food. Fun obstacles, no judges and absolutely no grooming. It's happening again at your request. For more information contact **Jerry Dunn** (303)277-1129 or **Mary Mauz** (303) 526-0092. (1/1)

LLAMA COOKIE CUTTERS - \$5.00 Includes S & H, Checks payable to Laurie Mattke, **Lost Boys Ranch Creations**, 1600 S. Quail Run Rd., Watkins, CO 80137 (303)739-2910 (1/4)

LLAMA DRIVING CLINIC - April 24-25 at **Bear Track Farm**, Golden, CO. This is an opportunity to increase your handling skills and turn them into a pleasurable activity with your llama. Contact **Jerry Dunn** (303)277-1129. (1/1)

FREE BREEDING TO MC HAMMER:-8x Grand Champion- with purchase of outstanding Hammer daughters: **Stevie Nicks**, 6/96, stunning silky-wooled bay, bred to Grand Champion, **Gulliver's Traveler**, **Mariah Carey**, 3/96, beautiful silky-wooled black, bred to **Ulysses**, a true black Andean Spirit son, **Metallica**, 9/95, a knock-off of her famous dad, bred to multi-champion **HBL Gulliver**, due 3/98. Also available: Hammer-bred females, producers of champions, starting at \$1500. Plus proven Hammer son, **Dire Straits**, long, silky-wooled bay, \$1000. **Overland Trail Llamas**, Livermore, CO. 970-493-2335. Come Visit! (1/1)

LOOKING TO FIND INTACT COPY OF FEBRUARY 1996 ISSUE of the RMLA Newsletter. If you have copy you no longer want, please send price/info - **Elizabeth Martin**, P.O. Box 669, Marysville, Washington, 98270, (360)658-0568 or ejmart@gte.net. (2/2)

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. (ufn!)

FELT-NEW DIRECTIONS FOR AN ANCIENT CRAFT by **Gunilla Sjöberg** hardbound book, 152 pages, with sections on history, techniques, and projects \$27.50 includes CO tax and shipping. Send check to **Chris Switzer**, Box 3800 Estes Park, CO 80517 (1/1)



- Photos can be color or black and white, although color is preferred.
- **All layout and design for Journal ads is provided at cost. Pricing is as follows:**
Business card size-\$5, 1/4 page \$10, 1/3rd - \$15, 1/2 - \$20, 2/3rd-\$25, full page \$30.
- This publication is black and white. Line screen is 115 lines/in.
- Each spring a promotional issue is printed. The center layout and outside cover is printed with a base color. An additional copies are printed for distribution to the public throughout the year.
- 1998-1999 advertising deadlines are: April 1, 1998, August 1, October 15, December 1, February 1, 1998, April 1, June 1, August 1, October 15, December 1.
- Mail ads to: RMLA Journal • 38620 CR 29 • Elizabeth, CO 80107-8702. ← **New Address!**
- One check payable to RMLA, include any design costs - full payment **MUST** accompany ad!

Classified Ads

RMLA Member - 50 words \$5.00
 RMLA non-Member - 50 words \$10.00

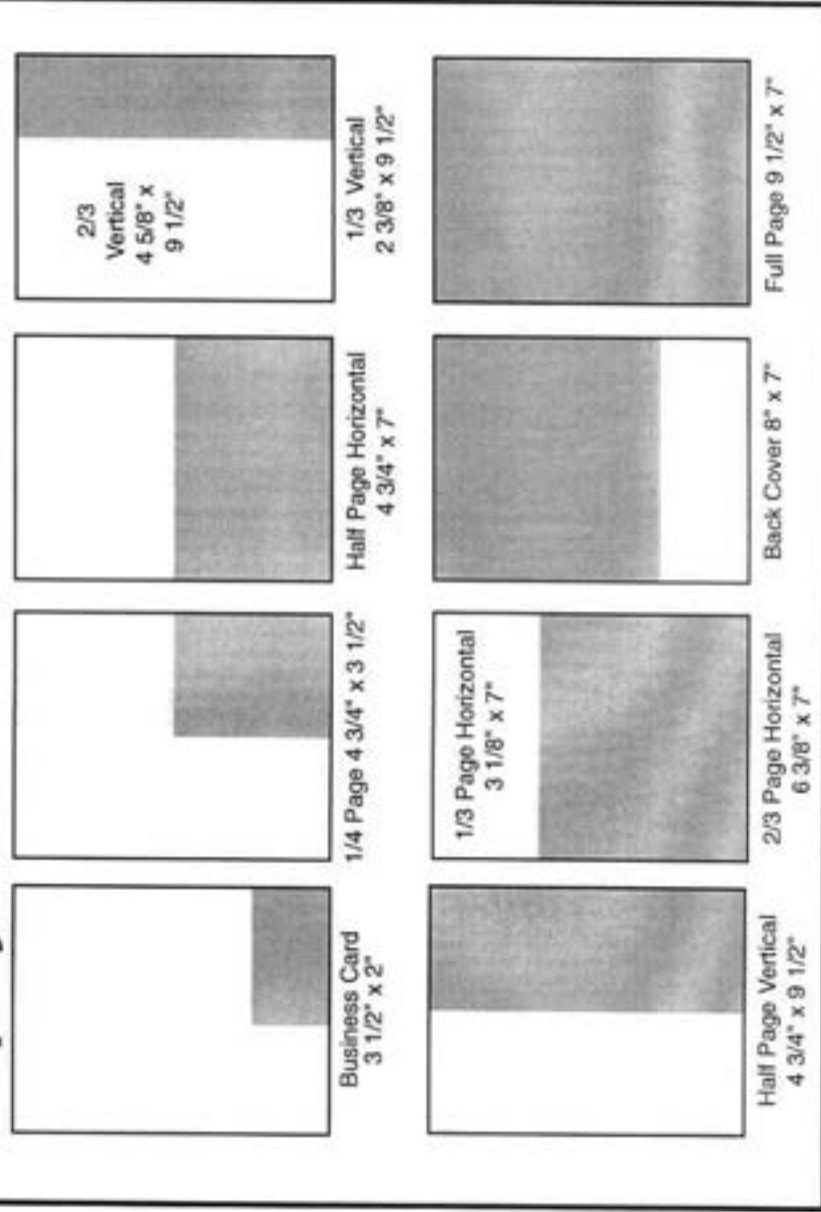
For more than 50 words - 15¢ per word

Advertising Rates

Ad sizes	1 or 2 issues	Same ad 3 or more Issues*
Business Card	\$10	\$10
1/4 Page	\$20	\$18
1/3 Page	\$30	\$27
1/2 Page	\$40	\$36
2/3 Page	\$55	\$49.50
Back Cover	\$50	\$45
Full Page	\$65	\$58.50
Inside front cover	\$80	\$72
Inside back cover	\$80	\$72
Promotional issue only (with base color)		
Full Page Center layout	\$135/page	
Back Cover	\$115	

*Multiply amount by number of issues

Display Ad Sizes



Advertisers

Alpaca Breeders of the Rockies	11	Lost Boys Ranch Llamas	9, 31
Cache La Poudre Minerals	16	Mt. Sopris Llamas Unltd.	14
Cottonwood Farm Alpacas	41	Pheasant Hill Farms	5
From Ewe to You	9	Sasasta Star Llamas	33
Grand Valley Llamas	19	Serendipity Farm	25
Hansen Llama Farms	21	Serenity Lane Llamas	2
Indian Peaks Llamas	5	Shining Eagle Records	37
KL Realty	56	Stewart's Royal Alpacas	55
Llamarage	35	Stillwater Minerals	39
Lazy B Llamas	27	Winding Trails Llamas	35
Joyce Leake	29	<u>Tell them you saw their ad in the RMLA Journal</u>	

For Your Information.....

The United Arab Emirates reported on January 19th, 1998 that they had successfully crossed a male camel with a female llama. The result was a male animal that resembles it's father. The experiment was carried out by the Government's Veterinary center in Dubai. A second operation involved a female camel and a male llama, the camel is expected to give birth in about 45 days. *News report was printed in the New York Times, January 20th, 1998. (and was on the local Denver TV news on the same date.)* Cama?

[Considering this 'news' may be a bit shaky (at least for this publication), considering it has been known for some time that these animals can interbreed. In fact, all 6 of the related animals can interbreed. But.....]

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

Membership form

Membership Types

- Individual adult \$30.00/year (1 vote, Journal, directory entry) Date: _____
- Farm/Ranch \$50.00/year. (Couple or 2 individuals with 1 business, 2 votes, Journal, directory entry)
- Junior \$10.00/year (18 or under, must have adult member sponsor, Journal subscription and reduced conf./show fees as encouragement to participate.)
- Life Membership - \$500

Name 1 _____ Farm/Ranch _____ Age (if Junior) _____

Name 2 _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

E-Mail address _____

Please include, Zip+4
reduces postage costs

Number of Llamas owned: Females _____ Intact Males _____ Geldings _____

Number of Alpacas owned: _____

Fill out form and mail with your check to:
Bob & Barbara Hance, RMLA Membership
11818 W. 52nd Ave.
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033-2032

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"/> Fiber (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"/> Fiber |
| <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 hummin' along the way.

WHY STEWART'S ROYAL ALPACAS?

- * CHILEAN, PERUVIAN, BOLIVIAN
- * Wide choice of colors
- * Assistance to new breeders
- * Competitive prices with volume discounts
- * Young healthy animals
- * Small farm for personalized support
- * Boarding for your Alpacas
- * Superior Quality Crias, Weanlings and Adults for sale

- * EXCEPTIONAL HERDSIRES
- * **Technical Assistance with**
 - Nutrition
 - Ranch Layout
 - BARN
 - FENCES
 - WATERERS
 - Camelid Reproduction
 - Marketing your Alpacas and yarn



Easy to Care for
Profitable
Family Enjoyment
Excellent
Tax Advantage

**Call for appointment
to visit and have
a hands on experience.**

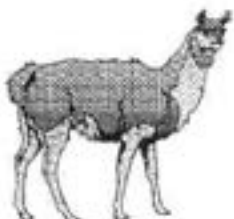
2200 Twylby Rd.
Larkspur, CO 80118
(719) 488-5594
(719) 488-5601fax
E-mail: alpacastew@aol.com

KL Realty



"Four cats, three dogs, two horses and one llama named "Antlers" keep me well aware of the property needs of animal owners!" Karen Libin, Broker

Our agents have many years of experience with farm, ranch and horse properties throughout northern Colorado and we would be happy to work with you on any of your real estate requirements.



KL Realty

703 Walnut Street
Boulder, CO 80302

Telephone: 303/444-3177 Fax: 303/444-3136



RMLA
11818 W. 52nd Ave.
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

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

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

Address Correction Requested