

The Journal

RMILA



Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

Our 19th Year

August, 2001

...Educating our members and the public ...



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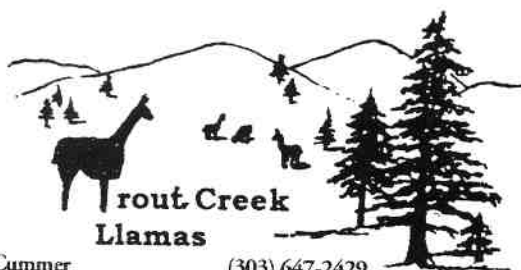
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Letter to the Editor:

To RMLA:

Just a note to let you know how well received the Youth Llama Project has been. LANA has been sending a free copy with each new membership.

We have heard from new members — new to llamas — who loved it and new members — who have been in llamas a while — who plan to hand it out to new customers.

Thanks for a great publication
Nelson Leonard
Manager, Business Office
Llama Association of North America

A Note from the Editor:

Looking back through nearly 20 years of RMLA Journals, it is apparent that RMLA members have a special relationship and affection for their llamas and alpacas. This truly makes RMLA very special. We really use our animals — for packing and hiking, as companions, fiber producers, breeders, therapy assistants (or leaders!), show, and everything else we — or they — think of.

This special-ness is something I believe we have an obligation to share, not just with each other, but other lama owners and the public. This special-ness may just be why all of us got into having the animals in the first place.

Communication of this special-ness just may be what helps to broaden the ownership and appreciation of llamas in general. There are some very unusual articles in this issue — but all have to do with our great creatures. Have something to share? Send it to me. All articles that communicate this special-ness are important, I would only ask that they not promote products or things that RMLA-ers don't do.

Have a wonderful remainder of the summer. Hope to see you somewhere at an RMLA event in the near future.

Best regards,

Ron ...

President's Message....

I cannot believe summer is upon us. Where has all the time gone? As you know, it has gone to llama and alpaca activities as well as their babies. Can you believe that RMLA is going into its twentieth year of existence? I can't wait to see the RMLA Twentieth Anniversary Edition. What a tremendous accomplishment. My hat is off to all the co-founders and members who made and continue to make this organization so great. We are very strong everywhere and still growing. Yes, RMLA is the best llama organization in the country. Bragging you say, I don't think so! RMLA speaks for itself through its terrific membership.

Speaking of strong, was the May Journal a hit or what? Ron, I personally thank you for volunteering your time and talents with taking over the Journal. I know that the May Journal was a biggie and your work was cut out for you with such a late start. Through your determination and the committee members contributions, you made it the largest Journal ever published by RMLA. You can bet people who saw it are wondering, "How does RMLA do it?" Very simple, it boils down to the membership taking ownership and the editor hustling everybody. So people, please keep those articles coming. We make the Journal what it is. Thank you all for making the May Journal the best ever printed.

Here are few comments on the following:

* Upcoming Elections- Want a new experience, challenge, more fulfilling work or another full time job? Get elected to the Board of Directors (BOD).

* Annual Business Meeting/Conference- October 27-28. Come on everyone - get involved! Please volunteer to help or prepare a presentation.

•Rocky Mountain Regional- This has been hosted by RMLA for many years and we need assistance and sponsors. Please contact Sandra Payne and get involved. As a friendly reminder to all members, this show *is* in our front yard and it *does* reflect on RMLA. It should be the best regional

show in the country, because we have the best llama organization in the country. RMLA membership needs to support the RMLA members who are working so hard and coordinating this event. Go Sandra Payne and Barb Harris!!!

* By-Laws- Long over due for changes but it is done, Thanks to Robert Tompkins and his committee members. Special Thanks to Diane for putting up with us all.

As I finish typing, I am wondering, "When do llama-related activities ever cease?" I hope never! It is just too much fun seeing you all at the different activities and events. Being your President has been an interesting journey for me. This BOD has met the goals we established, which should positively contribute and influence the future of RMLA and this great membership. We are in good hands for sure.

One final note -- Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you. It has been fun. A special thanks to Lougene Baird, Jerry Dunn, Jill Knuckles, and Robert Tompkins. You all are the best ever! **To all the RMLA volunteers, you are who makes it all happen. Thank You All.**

A very special thanks to my lovely wife Deanna who has supported me this past year as RMLA President. It was very challenging for her in the early months, but she was always there to listen to me. Thank You Deanna.

Larry.....

fhllamas@aol.com

A HEARTFELT EDITORIAL COMMENT

I have worked with many Boards of Directors and Trustees over the past 35 years, both in the for-profit and non-profit arenas. There are boards and there are BOARDS. Since no member has seen this comment, I am free to say what I will.

This Board is the most dedicated, to its organization, of any board it has been my pleasure to serve with. I will say the RMLA phone calls to this house start every day at 6:35 a.m. and usually end about 9:30 p.m. If a logbook were kept of the work the Board does for the organization, it would be mind-boggling. Not only the work, but the willingness to tackle hard problems and solve them — not allowing them to go unattended to, devolve upon the next board, or affect adversely the membership.

It is this very work that has made RMLA the greatest lama organization, and a credit to you, its members. It has been a distinct privilege to serve this Board and you, the RMLA.

Minutes of the RMLA Board of Directors' Meeting

Monday, May 22, 2001

Conference Call at 7:00 pm

Board Members Present Larry Lewellyn, Lougene Baird, Robert Tompkins, Jerry Dunn, Jill Knuckles

Secretary's Report - Jill Knuckles

Treasurer's Report - Lougene Baird

General Operations	\$6,836
Research Reserves	3,001
Life Member Reserves	7,053
Liquid Asset	26,517
CFL&A Production	<u>18,253</u>
General Operations	\$55,660
BOOKSTORE	
GENERAL OPERATIONS	\$8,414
Total Cash on Hand	\$64,074

The cost of Board Meetings since November of 2000 has been \$1,530, spent on conference calls. We need to come up with a less costly way to meet on a regular basis.

Research Committee Report - Ron Baird reported the Lama Medical Research Group met last Thursday night and ranked this year's proposals. They were sent to the Morris Animal Foundation for approval and then back to the LMRG for final approval. The Morris Animal Foundation is picking up 60% (fund) of Lama studies.

Bylaws - Robert Tompkins. Need to hash through our bylaws. Still believe that we need to have an "in-person" meeting. The plan is to meet in Denver on June 23 to complete the bylaws. Proposed time - 9:00 am Larry will talk with Carol Ann to see if she can make available a room at their hotel in Broomfield.

Nominations - Robert Tompkins. Robert noted that board member nominations need to be in by July 15, but the journal deadline is July 1. Lougene thought we could still get them in at the last minute.

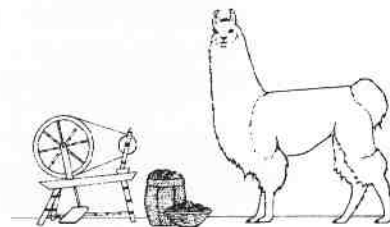
Annual Business Meeting / Conference - We need to begin the planning. Board needs to put its heads together to come up with the schedule. Do we want to have a silent auction or a raffle? Jerry suggested an auction on the website for members only. Larry is going to put together a tentative proposal.

Liability Signs - We have currently sold 10 of the metal signs and 3 magnetic signs. RMLA bought 25 metal signs.

Fairplay - The Board received an update in reference to the Fairplay event. To date, we are still waiting for the budget. Jerry has received an event packet and will remind them that we need the budget. Lougene mentioned the importance of a covenant not to sue to be signed by every participant.

Meeting adjourned at about 9:00 pm.

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We're now collecting llama and alpaca fiber for processing in September.

Please send for our free brochure or phone for information.

The Fiber Pool is a private business owned and operated by:

Sharon Beacham
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Boulder, CO 80301
303/ 666-9437

Karen Kinyon
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Wellington, CO 80549
970/ 568-3747

ALSA Certified Llama Fiber Judges

RMLA SPONSORED EVENTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2001

August 2001

Laramie County Fair ALSA Llama Show —
Halter, performance, full youth and fiber
Free Saturday night cookout
Judges: Harold Herbold and Karen Kinyon
Cheyenne, WY August 4 - 5
Contact Robert Tompkins 307-645-2168

Laramie County Fair ALSA Llama Show —
RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth
Cheyenne, WY, August 4-5
Contact Karen Kinyon, 970-484-6241

Boulder County ALSA Youth Show —
1st place earns \$50 premium
Judge: pending
Longmont, CO August 10
Contact Mary Beth Hartsough

Wyoming State Fair ALSA Llama Show —
Two shows - Two Days
Judges: Patti Fisher & Darlene Vaughn
Douglas, WY August 11 - 12
Contact Gayle Woodsum/Julie Heggie
307-721-2919

Kiowa Creek ALSA Youth Show —
All kids come join the fun in the sun
Judge: Lougene Baird
Kiowa, CO August 18
Contact Dani Varela 303-621-9021

September 2001

LOCC Fall Classic ALSA Llama Show —
Sunny days, cool nights - great for the llamas
Judge: Judy Moser & Harold Herbold
Colorado Springs, CO Sept. 8 - 9
Contact Mike Shealy 719-495-3757

Bear Track Farm Driving Clinic —
Golden, Co Sept. 15-16
Contact Jerry Dunn 303-277-1129

Sangre de Cristo ALSA Youth Llama Show —
A fun day in the beautiful Sangre de Christos
Judge: pending
Westcliffe, CO Sept. 15

Contact Rhonda Livengood 719-783-9238
Tri State Fair Llama/Alpaca ALSA Show —
Our first RMLA event in Texas!
Judge: pending
Amarillo, TX September 19
Contact: Dan & Bev Johnson 970-242-3340

**Golden Gate Escape-Llama Packer's Week-
ender** —
A wonderful, fall, llama experience
Golden Gate State Park, Golden, Co
Sept 22-23
Contact Jerry Dunn 303-277-1129

October 2001

Taos Wool Festival —
RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth
Taos, NM October 5-7
Contact Sharon Beacham 303-666-9437

Candy Corn Fun Classic —
A fun day in the autumn sun
Silt, CO October 6
Contact Mary Mauz 303-526-0092

RMLA Annual Meeting and Conference —
Littleton, CO October 27 - 28
Contact any Board member

RMLA Annual Meeting and Conference —
RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth
Littleton, CO October 27-28
Contact Sharon Beacham 303-666-9437

ALSA Rocky Mountain Regional Llama Show —
Great regional championship competition
Judges: Ray Howard & Cathy Kindler
Contact Sandra Payne 719-748-9047

November 2001

ALSA Grand National Conference and Show -
RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth
Columbia, MO November 9-11
Contact Karen Kinyon 970-484-6241

**Interested in Hosting an
RMLA Event ?
CONTACT JERRY DUNN
303-277-1129**

Estes Park Wool Market – An RMLA Sponsored Event

**By: Lougene Baird,
Llama Superintendent**

At the Estes Park Wool Market this year, we had 38 fleeces entered in four classes, the largest fleece show ever at Estes Park and its first ALSA fleece show. Classes were divided into Double and Single Coat, then by age, 24 months and under and 25 months and older. There was also a Handspinner's Choice Class, with the 5 entries all spun and judged by Karen Kinyon, the llama fleece judge. This is the first year that ALSA points were awarded for the fleece competition. Llama fleeces were on display in Barn W, in the Vendor Barn, near the Wool Show display.

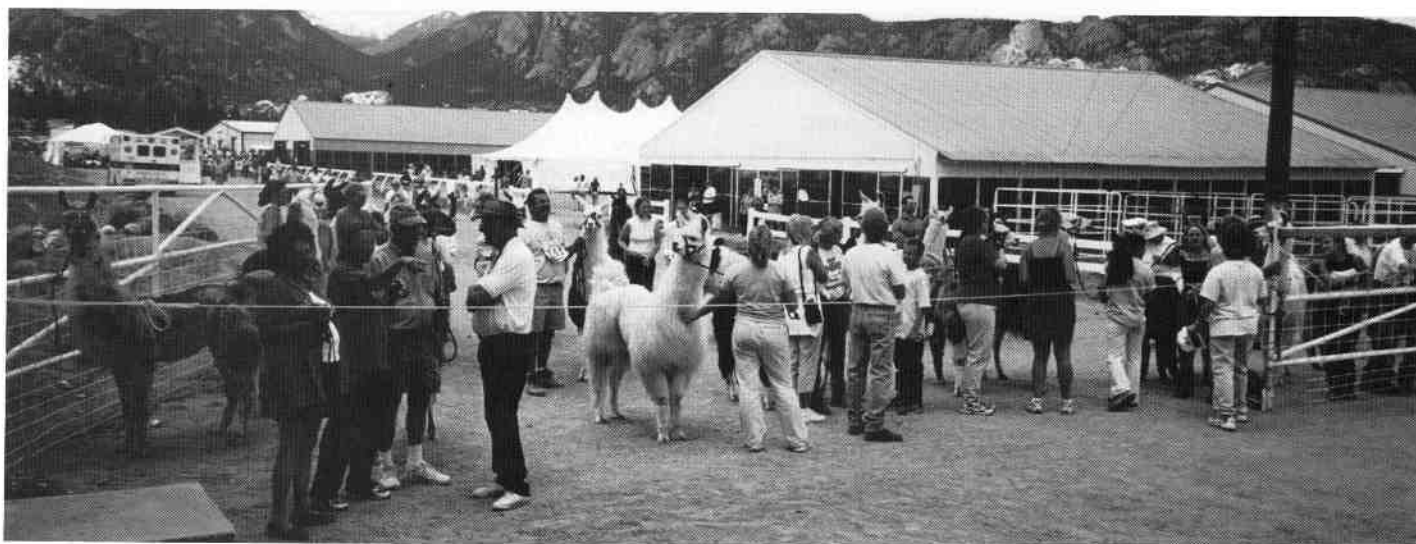
I want to thank the volunteers, whose time and effort made the Wool Market a success as it has been for years: Jan and Sherry Adamcyk, Teri Nilson Baird, Sharon Beacham, Maureen Bergenfeld, Alain Byers, Dwayne, Barbara and the rest of the Coffman family, Jerry Dunn, Robin Fickle, Donley and Dolores Gardner, Bobra Goldsmith, Sue & Heather Grimm, Cliff Harding, Julie Heggie, Ben Herr, Nancy Jamnick, David, Willow, and Gretchen Kauffman, Jill and Rob Knuckles, Larry and Deanna Lewellyn, Bill Lillie (all the way from Florida), Steve and Kathy London, Bob and Joan Lyons (from San Antonio), Patti Morgan, Sandra Payne, Rex and Dalene Reinecker, Karen Schwarz, D. Stoddard, Danni Varela, Glen and Kathy Walton (from South Texas), Gayle

**By: Helen Stewart,
Alpaca Superintendent**

The 2001 Alpaca Round-up was as always a very fun, relaxed and successful show. The number of entries grew again this year and required adding a second Judge. We were very fortunate to have Ron Baird judge the Alpaca Performance classes, while Susan Tellez judged the Halter Show classes. There were over 370 entries in the Alpaca Show — 250 huacayas and 90 suris in the Halter classes. Thirty handlers showed off their alpaca's abilities in the obstacle classes and 15 handlers competed in showmanship classes.

This year, we also added Get of Sire, Produce of Dam, and Bred and Owned classes and expanded the Alpaca Halter Show to include sixteen Color Championship classes!

Many states were represented in the 125 farms that participated in the Alpaca Show, including alpacas and their owners from Utah, New Mexico, Texas, Michigan, Nebraska, Kansas, Ohio, Oregon, Idaho, Minnesota, Arizona, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Colorado. Congratulations to all the participants and many thanks to all the volunteers! It was your hard work that made the show so successful!



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Joe & Mary Beth Hartsough
P.O. Box 574

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Platteville, Co. 80651

E-mail: Llamarage1@aol.com

THE DELTA SOCIETY

By: Carol Lontine,
D & C Llamas, Golden, CO

The Delta Society began in the late 1970s. At this time, the field of the human-animal bond was neither recognized nor respected. To change this situation, Delta began with a broad set of objectives that included: "To assess the role of animal companions in society and to study the effect of the human-companion animal bond on the mental health and physical well-being of people."

In the 1980s, Delta funded and publicized research on how animals affect our everyday lives, and helped plan the first National Institutes of Health (NIH) Technology Assessment Workshop on the "Health Benefits of Pets." The next challenge was to get the research results in front of the public to increase respect for the important role animals play in our lives from childhood to old age. In the 1990s, Delta focused on how to apply the research in practical, hands-on, standards-

based programs, such as the Pet Partners Program and the National Service Dog Center.

The good news is that now the human-animal bond is well-recognized by veterinary and humane groups and by the public. Many organizations now promote the concept. After 20 years, the Delta Society has realized its vision of a world in which people are healthier and happier because companion, therapy, and service animals share their everyday lives.

- Animal Assisted Activities – Visiting a facility to interact with patients or residents by letting them feel or pet the animal, hoping to boost their spirits and give them something to look forward to when the animal visits again.
- Animal Assisted Therapy – Animal activities with a professional therapist present with specific goals in relation to the treatment of a patient.

Delta's Mission for the Millennium: To improve human health through service and therapy animals.

Caring for Llamas and Alpacas

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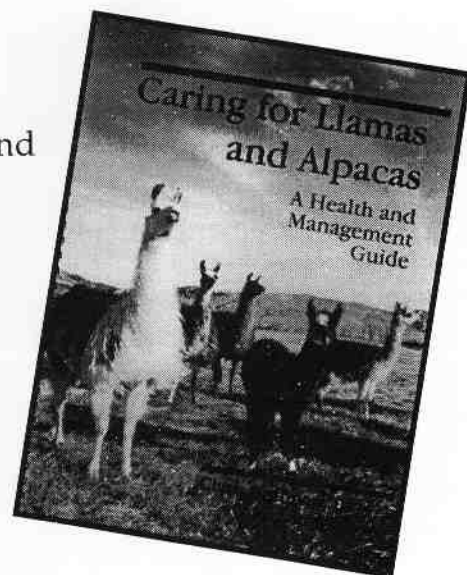
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PET THERAPY LLAMA

BY: CAROL LONTINE

D and C Llamas Golden, CO

Pisco and I have been quite busy for the first six months of this year. Our biggest accomplishment was not only going to the North Suburban Hospital, but also being allowed to go and visit in hospital rooms. Leslee Fuscick, the Activities Director, and I finally convinced the powers-that-be that Pisco would not poop in the hospital. We did not go to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Maternity Ward, or the Emergency Room, but were able to go into rooms of cancer patients and those with less serious ailments—young and old. We did visit the ICU personnel as they had had a very stressful night and needed some llama cheering.

I found out two interesting things.

1. Animals are not allowed to have the run of the North Suburban Hospital unless they are a Delta Society certified pet therapy animal.
2. When a patient has been in the hospital and misses his or her personal pet—dog, cat, rabbit, etc., a family member may bring that pet in for a visit in the patient's room (with the door closed so that the animal doesn't escape!). How times have changed!!



On this particular day, some doctors were having a luncheon in a small room off the cafeteria. The door was open and they wanted us to come in. They didn't seem to be concerned about an animal coming into where they were eating and asked if WE wanted to join them. Spying the salad bar, I mentioned that Pisco

would love to have some carrots and one doctor said, "Help yourself." I grabbed a few sticks, Pisco gobbled them down and HUMMED a thank-you.

We have been to the Sierra Vista Nursing Home in Loveland twice this year. The residents there requested the llama visit. This facility also has a day care for the children of employees and six little kids were squealing with delight when Pisco walked into their room. Even some of the Alzheimer's patients remembered the llama from the previous visit.

We visit the Alpine Living Center in Thornton, about once a month. On our last visit in



May, we went into a room where a 93-year old woman was awaiting family to take her out to lunch for her birthday. She got up from her chair and gave Pisco a hug. Now, I'm really not sure who was hugging whom! A young couple with a five-month old baby was also waiting in the room and Pisco was quite interested in the baby as he went closer and sniffed. The parents thought this was cute.

The end of April, we did a different kind of program. 4th graders from Christa McAuliffe School in Greeley had been studying South America. The teacher, who is a friend of my son and I, told the kids that they were going to have a visitor from South America. It was a beautiful day, so we did the program outside. When the kids came out of the school, they were awed that their visitor was a real live llama. I gave a short talk on the origin of llamas, they asked lots of questions, and took turns petting the llama. I also passed out samples of llama wool. Since there were about 120 kids, we did two, 45-minute programs with 60 kids each. I

received the neatest booklet of thank you notes and pictures of that day from the kids.

We did one other school program in Northglenn, for kids who had studied South America. Teachers and students alike cannot



believe that a llama can come into a schoolroom and be perfectly behaved and well mannered. The biggest concern everywhere is who will clean up the poop. I explain that Pisco is house broken and they cannot believe it.

We have twice visited Sunny Acres Senior Residence Homes in Northglenn, and these will become monthly visits.

When we go to nursing homes and hospitals, usually a staff member accompanies us and knows which people will be receptive to our visit. Only a very few residents refuse to let us into their rooms, in which case we just move on. Once inside a room, I mostly answer questions about how old Pisco is, how much he weighs, how long do llamas live, etc. Whenever possible, they want to touch and get a hug if they are able to get up. Such a small thing for us to do makes a big difference in the day of a person who is bed-ridden or in a wheel chair. It can bring tears to my eyes, knowing that some of these folks never speak or smile until an animal comes into their rooms and into their lives. It is quite touching. I was told last week by a staff member that a resident of Sunny Acres had never spoken to anyone that she knew of until Pisco came into her room to visit. Animal therapy really works, and it works wonders.

On June 11, we did an entirely different

activity. This was the first day of a day camp, Out and About, for developmentally handicapped young people, ranging in age from about 9 to 18. The activity director had contacted Delta Society and was given my name. I met the group in Waneka Lake Park in Lafayette. I had no idea what to expect, so I played it by ear, and soon found out that the young people's attention span did not permit me to give even a very short talk. So I



introduced Pisco and myself, and let the kids or the counselors ask questions. I let each person who wanted to, come up and pet and touch Pisco. I realized that after about 45 minutes of this, Pisco was getting a little antsy, so I asked the kids to back off a bit and let him take a break. During this break, I had each person who wanted to take a bit of wool out of my bag. After a few minutes, I told the kids that if they wanted their picture taken with Pisco, they could come up one or two at a time. This worked out quite well.

Whenever I do a visit, I always take a few pictures, get double prints and send copies back to the facility. I have started a photo album of visits and activities. Pisco and I are looking forward to many more visits and new experiences in the area of pet therapy visits.

rmla.com

Service Directory
The entire directory can be viewed
here. Find breeders, equipment,
and so forth.



PACK LLAMA PERFORMANCE TRIALS

By: Jim Osmun

The Pack Llama Performance Trials scheduled for May 5th were finally held on June 9th, after rescheduling because of snowstorms and other RMLA activities.

Everyone arrived by 8:30 A.M. at the Nott Creek parking lot in Golden Gate Canyon State Park. After check-in, packing up, and a short orientation meeting, we hit the trail at 9:30 A. M. Everyone received a scorecard, trail map, and trail description of the three- and six-mile courses. Jerry Dunn, Dewain "Woody" Wood and I, armed with the RMLA radios, were the guides. The weather was just right.

The twelve participating llamas all performed above expectation. The six-mile course had about 1,200 feet of elevation gain to reach Windy Peak at 9,000 feet. There were multiple water and bridge crossings.

The goal of this Pack Llama Performance Trial is to provide a social, non-

competitive experience to practice packing with llamas. The course, manageability tasks, and obstacles provide a measure of actual packing conditions to evaluate the llamas. For the RMLA activity, there are no judges. Everyone keeps his or her own score and we do not collect the scorecards.

Here are some responses from our participants.

Thank you for the great opportunity you gave us and our three llamas to enjoy Golden State Park. This was our first opportunity like this to be with so many good people and have what seemed to be so much in common. The trail was a very good trail and an easy hike. The weather was great and scenery was beautiful. Thanks again for all of your hard work you put into organizing this hike.

Yours truly,
Jeri and Gary Baugh

Well, we made it in time for the start. We are the couple who had 4 llamas and brought three extra folks who are just plain interested in llamas. All from Evergreen.

Now for some comments following this great experience.

Vinnie and I really enjoyed this outing as did our llamas. Although we have experienced packers, we are new llama owners and WE needed the training. We picked up a lot of good tips for what to pack for an overnight.

Also for what to expect from our animals. There were some very experienced and knowledgeable people present and we sure did appreciate their wisdom and expertise. The trail was nice, along a creek and then up to the top of a mountain on what began as a hot day. Later, the clouds came in for some coolness—much appreciated. I was pleased to note how easily the llamas crossed the creek without hesitation. I was not aware that this may be an obstacle for them. Also the bushwhacking may be a deterrent—but the animals all did very well. I think it is very helpful to have the mixture of experienced and new llamas as they learn from each other which makes training much

easier. It was helpful to also know that llamas should not jump when carrying a pack and that training should also be reinforced. It was nice to picnic together with everyone—we had a nice group . . . and I am sure the llamas enjoyed each other tremendously as they gathered scents from each other, and sized each one up! We came home tired, but happy after having such a nice day. Again, thank you very much for arranging this.
Kathy and Vinnie

This RMLA activity is patterned after the Pack Llama Trail Association program created in 1998. The PLTA is a formal organization. The association keeps records of llamas' performance when certified

DRIVING AT THE BEAR TRACK FARM

**By: Jerry Dunn, Vice President
Bear Track Farm, Golden, CO**

Bear Track Farm opened the gate to an enthusiastic group of women from Texas, Kansas, and Colorado, April 14-15 for a spring driving clinic. The two days were spent learning basic ground driving, harnessing a llama and finally going down the road in the cart driving a llama.

REMEMBER.....BEFORE YOU START UP THE TRAIL OR OPEN YOUR GATE, POST YOUR LLAMA LIABILITY STATUTE SIGN FOR ALL TO SEE.

Order forms may be downloaded from the RMLA website or requested from Jerry Dunn 303-277-1129 or by e-mail: beartrak@gte.net



LLAMA DEARA RANCH

Eco-partners and Interns — Hannah-Leigh Bull of Llama Deara Ranch, in Abiquiu, New Mexico, seeks an eco-partner to create a sustainable living environment and develop a center where visitors can restore themselves and learn more about earth restoration and human healing. A beautiful two-room adobe apartment on the property is available to the potential eco-partner for \$650 rent.

Eco-partnership in Llama Deara Ranch entails joint rights and responsibilities, financial and otherwise, for the property and center.

She also seeks interns or students interested in llama husbandry and environmentally sound building and crop-production practices. Accommodations and compensation are negotiable.

For more information and the Llama Deara Ranch project statement, call 505-685-9416, fax 505-685-4197, or send email to hbull@cybermesa.com.

BLESSINGS TO THE LLAMAS' APPLE GROVE

By: Hannah-Leigh Bull



**Llama Deara
Ranch,
Mendanales, NM**

... They came
slowly down the hill
and looked at me
sitting under
the blue trees, shyly

they stepped
closer and stared
from under their
thick lashes

and even

nibbled some
damp tassels of weeds. This
is not a poem about a dream,
though it could be.

This is a poem about the world
that is ours, or could be.
Finally
one of them—I swear it!—

would have come to my arms,
But the other
stamped sharp hoof in the
pine needles like

the tap of sanity,
and they went off together through
the trees. When I woke
I was alone.

I was thinking:
so this is how you swim inward,
so this is how you swim outward,
so this is how you pray.

Mary Oliver
From *Five A. M. in the Pinewoods*

In early May, Llama Deara Ranch welcomed roughly 35 women to a gathering of people interested in permaculture, sustainability, and community development. It was a glorious spring day, pleasantly warm and sunny, with soothing breezes as opposed to the strong

winds that are the rule of spring in New Mexico. Pockets of conversation developed in the adobe kitchen, in the portal, and on the volunteer grass in front of the main casita, against a backdrop of the fiery orange and red roses and Oriental poppies of the phoenix-like garden above the llamas, which provides them and the entire land with good fortune.

Permaculture is short for permanent culture — a way of life that provides for sustainable communities integrating plant, animal, and human needs in harmony with each other and with nature. In a nutshell, four key ethics guide the practice of permaculture:

- Care for the Earth
- Care for people
- Conserve resources
- Reinvest surplus time and energy into the community

At permaculture gatherings, the host generally shows people around the property to share what she has been doing to promote these ethics. Often our projects revolve around agriculture, given that sustainable communities are possible only with a sustainable system of food production and animal husbandry. My sensitively spirited llama friends were main attractions of the day, followed by the straw-bale lined, raised vegetable garden and water collection systems. Other women shared what they were doing in their lives, gardens, and stewardships, and provided insights related to the challenges and joys of this piece of the Earth. After communing around the delectable food that everyone contributed and viewing photos from various Australian permaculture sites, we headed for the apple grove that has become the heart center of the llamas. Even when the large pasture is open to the llamas, they eventually gravitate back to the apple grove to rest.

Apple groves can be home to possibly the most fantastic creature found in the faerie realm—the unicorn. The unicorn is a symbol of magic, enchantment, power, and mystery. It is no wonder that llamas have often been associated with the unicorn, and the splendor and harmony of an apple grove

provides them a comforting abode.

Six months before, my sister and I had formally blessed the living structures and the *bosque*, or riparian forest, but as of the Women's Gathering, I had not really dedicated the apple grove, although I had learned that apart from my protecting the tree bark, the apple grove would remain the domain of the great tree spirit that already inhabited it, and that the llamas would be its welcomed long-term guests.

By the time we made it down to the apple grove, our numbers had reduced to a handful of women, and we decided to do a prayer stick. The stick itself was made out of old apple tree clippings, with three branches forming two forks or gateways into other realms. To construct the prayer stick, we chose rich rainbow yarn in earthy colors. While wrapping the yarn around the stick, each woman shared her blessings for the Earth and its inhabitants, Llama Deara Ranch and its

llamas, and the interconnectedness of men, women, children, and all living things. One of the women had brought her conch shell and transported us all into another state of consciousness as she played it. Another woman read the Mary Oliver poem quoted above. To decorate the stick in celebration of the Earth, Spring, Rebirth, and the harmonious loafing haven for my llama family, we added bells to better hear our inner messages, a crystal egg to mark the new beginning for us all, and burning sage to honor what is greater than our individual selves.

The llamas stood by from the start, intrigued by the music and prayers, and at peace with the women who had come to join them in their grove. In these moments where we may not actively be focused on community, we create the most profound sense of community, and innocently and genuinely further the principles of caring for the Earth and its creatures. These moments remind me that there is still time to hear the tap of sanity from the hooves of our furry companions, from the spirit who inhabits our groves and souls, and from the Earth itself.

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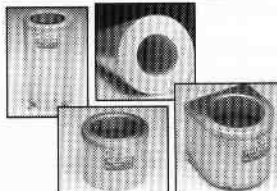
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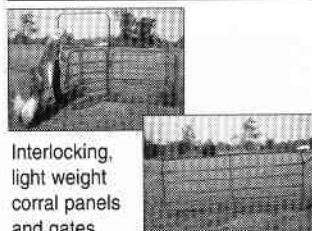
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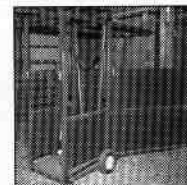
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YOUTH COMMITTEE

By: Barbara Harris
Wild Cat Llamas, Canon City, CO

Well, summer is winding down and school, Regionals and Nationals are just around the corner. This committee report is addressed both to RMLA kids and their parents, since it seems either the kids don't read it or aren't interested.

Below are photos of some of the young people of RMLA. (Now you know why Bob is always asking for photos or your important events or taking pictures at shows.) If you have any pictures of your kids and their llamas involved in events or even without llamas, but an important event for them — send them to me and I will see about getting them into the Journal. I have moved from the Dark Ages and now have not only a real phone (719) 275-9457, but also have email — wildcatllamas@aol.com

In regard to school and Regionals and Nationals, there are numerous things for RMLA kids available. Here is a brief list:

- RMLA has a scholarship program as well

as a stipend program available to RMLA youth members. The stipends may be used for expenses to Regional or National and the scholarship is available for college expenses. Contact Jerry Dunn.

- Llamas of Central Colorado has just started a scholarship program and a Royalty program. Contact me for more information.

Don't forget the RMLA Youth Llama Art Contest — Jill Knuckles is handling this one — 970.241.4112. So kids, get busy with the art work! Speaking of art contests, there will be an Art Contest at the Rocky Mountain Regionals this year. Entries must be black and white and 8" X 10" and may be art or a photograph. There will be a class for those up to 18 and one for those over 18. You can contact either Sandra Payne (719.748.9047) or myself on this one.

Things to do and ways to help the RMLA young people to do them. Just some of the many reasons to become an RMLA Youth member. So, parents (and if you kids are reading this), let's get some photos, art work, etc., going so we can show what our young people are doing!



Masha Flinn—always smiling!



Alissa Veuthey—graduation



Emily Varela and Justin at Prom



Brianna Livengood and Cody



Hailey Coffman and Zack at Prom



Jackie Vance—Good job!

Selecting A Pack Llama

By: Charlie Hackbarth
Past President, RMLA
Mt. Sopris Llamas Unltd.,



Carbondale, CO

Not long after I saw my first herd of llamas in 1975, I came across an article in *Sports Illustrated* about llamas being used as pack animals. In the spring of 1982, after absorbing the information in the

article, I decided that llamas were for me, and I set out to buy two, as recommended in the article. If I needed to buy a pair why not, I thought, buy a breeding pair at a cost of slightly less than a small house, and start my own pack strong. Blind luck led me to a below average female and a male pack stud with an attitude, named Llarry.

At the time, I couldn't put my finger on the attitude problem, but now it's clear to me that Llarry suffered from an inferiority complex and justifiably so. He was a perfect example of everything a pack llama should not be. Some folks might consider my plight with Llarry to be an unfortunate case of bad luck. I prefer to think of it as blind luck, and a blessing. You see, I am a man who from birth has acted on instinct, and because of this natural talent, I've developed a capacity for rote learning that few other possess. Llarry was the perfect llama for me. The quickest way for a rote learner to get an education in breeding and packing llamas is to buy a pack stud with an inferiority complex who is mentally incapable of packing and has to be castrated because of his physical defects. I am not so naïve as to think that I deserve all the credit for my extraordinary education.

Previous owners who allowed the propagation of the likes of Llarry deserve some of the credit. Certainly, the person who blessed me directly deserves a little credit, if for no other reason than seeing in me a glimmer of something that deserved and maybe even beckoned an opportunity like Llarry. But (and I don't want this

to sound like bragging) I can't help to think that, had my vet not found the heart murmur shortly after Llarry's arrival, I could have received even more credit throughout the years than I actually deserved. And, it makes me shudder to think that I might have completely missed this educational bonanza had a pack clinic been offered before I was blessed with Llarry.

However, people today think differently than I did back then. I have to wonder, is this fast-paced, technological world we live in making rote learning obsolete? It seems that today's llama packers have developed such a low threshold for frustration and poverty that they are no longer interested in the luxury of housing a llama like Llarry. Because of this kind of cerebral attitude, I am forced to attempt an organized, cognitive translation of the things I have learned by rote from Llarry, as well as his peers, my peers, and human behavior in general, on the subject of selecting a pack llama.

DEFINITION OF A PACK LLAMA:

Any mature male llama, who, when trained and conditioned, will carry a reasonable load to the satisfaction of the person whose load is being carried.

Obviously, this definition includes a wide range of llamas with different capabilities. All one has to do is identify the hiker's requirements and select a llama who is most compatible with that style of hiking. To simplify the process, think of llamas as being like people. There are all types cerebral and rote, athletic and non-athletic, trained and untrained, conditioned and over weight, good attitude and bad attitude, well conformed and broken down, mature and immature, healthy and anemic, hard working and lazy, and of course, a less obvious comparison: woolly and woolliest.

When evaluating a llama for packing, these physical, mental, and environmental factors need to be considered. And, I think it's important to remember that, although many llamas may be outstanding in any given field, none are perfect, not even the packers.

Fortunately today, there are many excellent resources that will help you in evaluating a llama to be used for packing. The amount of homework required to find the right packer for you is relative
(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

to your needs. For some, the requirements will be minimal. Grandpa and grandma might be very happy with a calm, slow, well-trained llama who is physically capable of carrying no more than 30 pounds on a two mile, all day picnic hike. The perfect packer for a family with small children might be a lovable, calm, well-trained, medium-paced pack llama who is capable of hiking five miles in a day. Most mature llamas can satisfy the needs of these two categories, but if you are the athletic type interested in fishing, hunting, or exploring the wilderness with minimal delays, you will be looking for a higher grade llama. The more demanding hiker you are, the more selective you will need to be in finding the llama who matches your needs. The llama who fulfills the requirements for a hiker in this category may or may not be the calm, huggable type. By some definitions, he may not even be well-trained, but he will have one ingredient that only demanding hikers can fully appreciate - THE WILL TO WORK. Structurally sound, athletic llamas who have the will to work are the most prized of all packers because they are capable of performing in almost any hiking situation.

RECOMMENDED STEPS IN FINDING THE PACKER WHO FITS YOUR NEEDS:

- #1. Buy the book *Caring for Llamas and Alpacas* by Clair Hoffman DVM and Ingrid Asmus. Read the entire book and pay particular attention to Chapter 1, "Buying a Llama or Alpaca".
- #2. Buy and read the book *Packing With Llamas* By StanLynn Daugherty.
- #3. If you have, or are planning on acquiring, a young or untrained llama, buy a training book and/or take a training clinic.
- #4. Sign up for a pack clinic. If you cannot afford a clinic, start dating someone who gives pack clinics, pack commercially, or raises pack stock. If dating isn't an option, ask if you can exchange your labor for the experience for working with their llamas.
- #5. Study Chapter 1 again in *Caring for Llamas and Alpacas* before signing the papers.

RMLA
*Needs a Youth webmaster
to manage the Youth
section of the RMLA | web-
site*
Interested?

*Contact Barb or Bob
Hance
hancelama@att.net*

SHUFFLING THROUGH THE GRASS AT THE SPRING SNEAKERS

**By Jerry Dunn, Vice-President
Bear Track Farm, Golden, CO**

A small band of llama enthusiasts clad in their favorite sneakers and casual clothes, llamas in hand, came to together for the second year on May 19, to participate in the Spring Sneakers Performance Show at the Indiana Equestrian Center.

With all the spring rains, the grasses were knee high and tricky to walk through. Bright colored flagging and colorful sneaker signs marked the way on the courses. The llamas were in 7th heaven out on their stake lines in the tall grass as they waited for their turn to perform. The tall grass didn't seem to slow our judges down though. Miles upon miles, Ron and Lougene Baird walked and jogged to keep up with the exhibitors and their llamas. Such enthusiasm!

The courses were set in the trees around the berm of an old pond and a small evergreen nursery. The exhibitors had to negotiate in and around the trees and natural obstacles with their llamas.

The llamas and handlers seem to enjoy themselves in the natural setting.

AND NO RAIN!

People often ask us...what do you do with your llamas?
Here is one answer:

AN EVENING WITH A LLAMA

**By: Carolann Evans,
Ladyhawk Llamas, Longmont, CO**

May 17th dawned cool, cloudy and rainy. We had been planning this day for several months.

The kids who were scheduled to arrive at Ladyhawk Llamas are part of Boulder County Partners, a mentorship program for at-risk youth based out of Longmont, Colorado. Several years ago, I was a member of their Board of Directors, and many years ago while living in NJ, I was a Big Sister to a 13-year old girl in the Big Brother/Big Sister program. Partners is a similar program, and one I believe is extremely valuable in providing these children with a role model and some guidance towards a productive future. We thought maybe an evening here would be something different and fun for the kids to do, and just maybe one or two of them would find llamas irresistible and want to develop more of a relationship with them, allowing us to participate in the program as mentors WITH a llama!

We watched the weather all day. We spoke with the coordinators at Partners half a dozen times, trying to decide if it was a "go" or not. By 4 pm, we decided that since the rain had stopped, and it wasn't too muddy, why postpone it? Kids were due to arrive at 6 pm....

- Llama cookies were baked.
- Hi-C was mixed and ready to go.
- Llamas looked less than presentable, what with the rain and all, but it wasn't like it was a show or anything.
- Seven or so obstacles were in place.
- And my "recruits" were ready to handle the 20 or so arriving children/mentors to meet the llamas and spend an evening at our ranch. Terry Lynch (Moon Cradle Llamas) and Ulla Kauffman (a new llama owner) and my husband, Kim, all were prepared to help out.

The first car pulled in, yea! They found us!

And at that very moment, it started to POUR RAIN. Not just the nice drizzle we had had all day... we're talking BUCKETS ...we're talking, straight-down, can't see across the street-type rain. And more cars pulled in.....

Uh-oh....

What to do with all these kids and their mentors NOW?!?!

Thank goodness for llama cookies.....

Thank goodness for Stripe, the new kitten (thanks Rosie!).....

And thank goodness for Magic and Lightning, our two little yearling males who stood perfectly still while everyone gathered around them in the barn to learn and ask questions:

"Josh," an adorable 8 yr old was apparently watching Magic's ears while I spoke...which were like antennas....he wanted to know if Magic's ears were "attached to his brain?"

We asked the kids what llama poop was called.....Llama BEANS of course....Ulla told them, "unlike LIMA beans, you don't want these for dinner!!!" Most said they didn't want the Lima beans either!!!

By 7 pm, the rain had stopped....the kids had pretended to be llamas in empty stalls, had pretended to be llamas by climbing in the chute..... had eaten all the cookies....and plotted to smuggle the kitten out with them. And NOW we all got to go outside and play on those obstacles! And Jett joined us, wearing his pack and panniers, and Shooter joined us because he really likes to jump....and Blew, who just has the patience of a saint, let the kids drag him all over the field. Everyone got at least one turn.....and then the boy llamas got put away and the girls were brought in from the field so everyone could see the crias.....

The evening turned out to be a huge success! A little rain didn't dampen anyone's spirits. And ALL the kids want to come back for another visit!

*"Oh No! There's a Moth!" or,
How to Identify and Eradicate
Clothes Moths in Camelid Fiber*

By Christy Herr

Herr's Herd, Thornton, CO

Editor's note: Christy researched the following information after finding moths in a llama fleece that was given to her. It appears that USING llama fiber, rather than storing it, is the ultimate preventative.

What do they look like?

Two species of clothes moths are found in the Rocky Mountain area: the Case-making Clothes Moth and the Webbing Clothes Moth. Adults of both species are buff or silver colored, with few distinguishing marks, and look very much alike. They are not attracted to light. Female moths lay 100 to 150 pinhead-sized white eggs which hatch in about five days.

Full-grown larvae are white with tan heads and about one third of an inch long. Larvae stage varies from six weeks to several years. Larvae of Case-making Clothes Moths live in silken cases which they drag with them. As the larva grows, so does the case until finally the case is converted into a tough cocoon in which the pupa develops. The moth emerges in one to four weeks. Clothes moth larvae feed on wool, wool blends, feathers, fur hair, dry milk powder, leather, other animal products and sometimes on lint, dust or paper. Clothes moth larvae do not wander like carpet beetle larvae, so look for them on materials on which they feed.

(Taken from <http://www.pestproducts.com/clothesmoth.htm>) For pictures, consult <http://www.ent.orst.edu/urban/Clothes%20Moth.html> or <http://www.pestproducts.com/clothesmoth.htm>.

If I don't see anything flying around, am I safe?

No! Clothes moths don't like to show themselves. You can have an infested fleece and not know it unless you look at the fleece itself.

How can I tell if a fleece has a moth problem?

Take the bag of fiber outside and gently roll it out onto a sheet. Look for activity. Moths will die in sunlight, so will scurry into the dark recesses of the fiber. The moths are small, about 1/4" long and hold their wings close to their bodies. Check for larvae - tiny white worms surrounded by their casings, feces and damaged fiber.

If you don't see activity, look closely at the fiber to see if there are holes eaten through the fiber locks. Sometimes, the vegetable matter in a fleece will work itself through the fiber making holes, and it's not immediately discernible if this is from moths or the shifting of matter. Moth holes will typically be small - 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch - and will show definite tunnels. It will be clear the fiber is eaten through and not just shifted.

Gently shake your fleece over the sheet. Look for evidence of moth casings. These are cylindrical, about 1/4" long, and resemble hay pieces. The main difference is they are tapered at each end and upon close inspection it will be obvious they are not hay! Moth eggs look like tiny grains of sand and are clustered together.

How can I get rid of moths if I have them?

Quickly get the infested fleece out of doors and away from your other fleeces. Check all your fleeces to be sure they do not have problems. Moths do migrate. However, they usually remain in the fiber storage area and do not fly to lights. The worst enemy of moths is sunlight. They die quickly when exposed to the sun! Open your fleece out on a sheet and shake all the areas to expose them to the sun. This will also shake out casings. Unfortunately, sunlight is also an enemy of camelid fiber, so do not leave your fleece exposed to the sun for more than a day.

Wash your fleece by soaking it in warm water about 20 minutes. The water does not need to be hot. Do not agitate the fiber in any way! I like to use ivory soap that is shaved off a bar. Rinse once or twice by soaking approximately 20 minutes. Add a bit of vinegar to the final rinse to return to a more natural pH level. Allow to dry thoroughly before re-bagging.

Repeat this shaking and sun exposure weekly until you no longer see signs of activity.

During this process, I often seal the fleece in a

dark garbage bag and leave it in a shady area of my yard. The air temperature will heat up the contents. This also can be hard on a fleece, so make sure you open the bag and let it air out each night.

Some methods I've seen recommended for eradication of moths:

Dry Ice Fumigation: Being careful not to touch the dry ice, place 1/2 pound in a 30-gallon bag. Cover with heavy plastic, then insert your fiber. Close the bag loosely at the top until all the dry ice has vaporized. You do not want a tight seal as you need to allow the air to escape. When the ice has completely vaporized, tightly seal the bag and let it sit for a few days at room temperature. Check again in 2 weeks and repeat as necessary.

Freezing: Many people advocate placing fiber in the freezer for a minimum of 3 days. Set your freezer to the coldest temperature setting. It is best to put the fiber in a plastic bag so that it won't pick up moisture. Remove as much air as possible before sealing the bag. After freezing, allow the bag to remain at room temperature for a day or so before opening it.

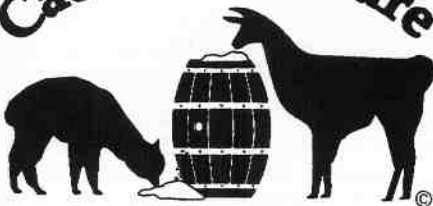
The key is to move the fiber from warm to

cold very quickly to prevent the moths from going into hibernation. If the fiber has been stored in a cool area, warm it up prior to freezing by placing it in the sun. Check regularly for signs of new activity. Sometimes the eggs will hatch and refreezing will be necessary. This should be evident within 2 weeks.

How can I prevent moths from attacking my fiber?

Moths do not like bright rooms. Store your fiber in an area which is well lit by indirect sunlight and has good air circulation. Moths seem to favor the darker fiber (I assume because it blocks out more light). So pay particular attention to those darker colors. Don't store your fiber in dark bags. There are many herbal moth repellants on the market which work very well. These mask the odor of the wool and the moths are not as likely to find it. These repellants will not, however, kill existing moths that may be in the wool. Good prevention includes looking at your fiber on a regular basis. Take it outside, air it out by turning it gently and check for the signs listed above. Many people strongly believe washing the fiber goes a long way toward prevention as well. Regularly vacuum around your fiber storage area. Do not allow lint and dust to build up as these attract moths, especially when the build up is in a dark corner.

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 Vice President: Lougene Baird,
 Treasurer: Jerry Thorson-Boudreaux.
 New members, added to the board in 2001,
 Mary Beth Hartsough and Joy Herbrode

The RMLA Foundation was started in the fall of 1989 by a group of members who wanted to encourage and support the RMLA youth who had demonstrated enthusiasm and service within the llama community. The Foundation administrators created a fund that provides financial assistance to qualified youth to meet various educational and llama-related goals. Fun auctions and donations brought the RMLA Foundation, Inc. to a bank balance of nearly \$50,000. The fund operates as a separate entity from Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association, Inc. (RMLA). to preserve its status as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Requests for grants and scholarships are to be submitted in letter form to the board of directors for approval. The letter must include a brief description of the youth's involvement and activities in RMLA. The applicant must meet the membership and age requirement for the category they are applying for. The letter must be signed by the applicant, the parent/guardian and also one other adult. All signers must be members of RMLA in good standing. The application letter should be sent to:

Jerry Dunn, President
 RMLA Foundation, Inc.
 14550 W. 50th Avenue
 Golden, Colorado 80403-1707

Funds made available for scholarships and grants will be consistent with the foundation's budget for that year.

Qualified youth may apply for funds in the following categories:

★Scholarships ... for the purpose of pursuing additional education after graduating from high school.

The applicant must have demonstrated a continuing interest in llamas and alpacas during high school, be in good academic standing and

have been an RMLA member for the final two years of high school. Funds are made available for eight (8) semesters of college, to be dispersed at the beginning of each semester. At present the amount is \$450 per semester.

★Show/Training Grants .. for the purpose of encouraging young people to actively participate with llamas/alpacas at clinics, parades, PR opportunities, community activities and shows.

The applicant must be a member of RMLA for a minimum of 1 year before applying for a grant and be at least 11 years of age through high school graduation. The candidate may apply once a year for one event to help offset expenses for any of the above mentioned activities.

★Purchase Grants ... for the purpose of helping young people purchase their first llama/alpaca, equipment (such as a cart, pack system, grooming equipment).

The applicant must be a member of RMLA for a minimum of 2 years and be and be at least 14 years of age through high school graduation. Maximum grant amount is \$500. The parent/guardian must be the co-signer for the grant.



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What is a "Hoopallama"? What has 3 Legs, 2 Llamas & an Egg?

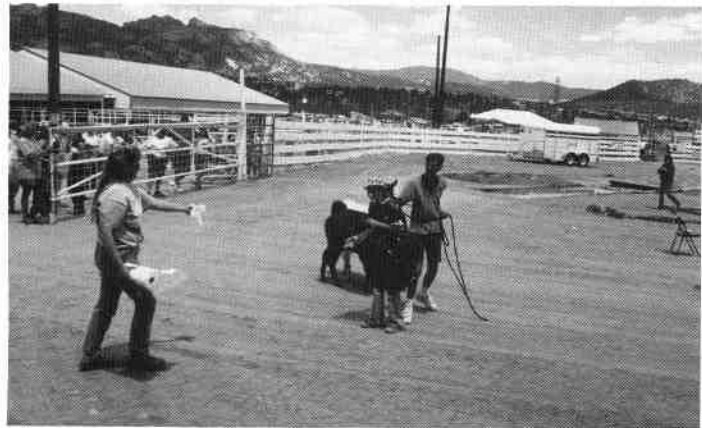
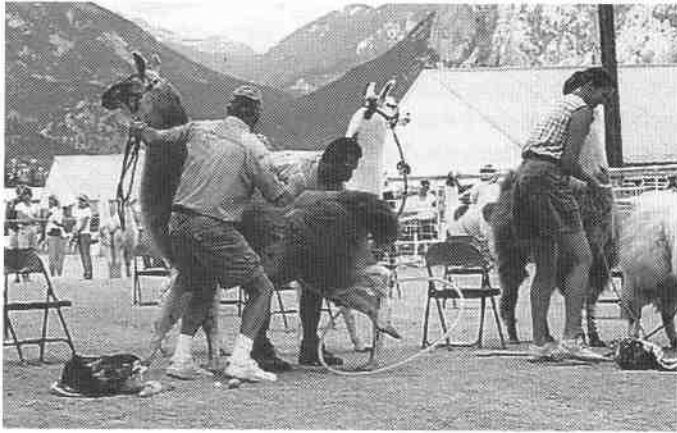
**By: Dani Varela,
Jelly Bean Llamas, Kiowa, CO**

If you attended our 1st Annual eStes Park Jackpot Relay Race, you may know the answers to these questions. Llamas and their humans teamed up to put their speed and agility to the test! Team members showed their handling abilities while they slalomed forward and backwards through chairs. Llamas and handlers displayed great teamwork as they jumped through the necessary hoops on the road to success and fortune! The humans then "joined" together to

get their egg to the other side. From there, they hatched a plan to sneak to the finish line "infognito" in order to find the missing jelly beans in a plate full of whipped cream (using only their mouths)=!). "Why?", you may ask ... the sweet reward of winning part of the \$140 jackpot! Fun was had by all! The audience joined in the laughter and fun, rewarding the teams with wonderful applause and cheers!

This year's winners were Jessica and Jeff Kleinschmidt in the Junior division, Gretchen Kaufman and deidre Bvaird in the Intermediate division, Rhonda Livengood and Valerie Van Deusen in the Adult division. CONGRATULATIONS!

Thanks to all our wonderful participants for making our 1st Annual Jackpot Relay Race a fun success! See you again next year!



The Threat of Foot and Mouth Disease in Llamas and Alpacas: How Real is It?

**By: Teri Nilson Baird
Broken Windmill Ranch, Elizabeth, CO**

The experience of our friends and fellow RMLA-ers in the United Kingdom has been horrific and devastating to watch, even from so far away and only from the sidelines. As I write this update, possibly 8 million animals have been slaughtered (less than 2,000 infected animals) with new groups being slaughtered daily; still the epidemic continues, absent significant press coverage. Farmers have committed suicide. We in the US and Canada must learn from this travesty and vow not to repeat what has happened in the UK.

Animals in the UK are being slaughtered because of their proximity to an "infected premises." This means they may live on a shared fence line or simply be within the "cull zone." They have been slaughtered on *suspicion* of having the disease, even though the *only way* to distinguish FMD from other diseases is by laboratory test. Camelids have not been exempted from the policy, although in early July the UK policy shifted toward protection of these species.

THE USDA RIGHTLY DESCRIBES THE DISEASE AS HAVING CRITICAL ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES (MY EMPHASIS).

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES

FMD is actually an endemic disease in much of the world. In the early 1990's, the newly-formed European Union, in conjunction with the US, Canada, and others, agreed *not* to vaccinate against the disease. The idea of FMD-free meat *without vaccination* became a useful marketing tool for meat producers. With the advent of world trade agreements, the Organization International Epizooties (OIE) codified the various FMD classes for meat-producing exporters:

- FMD-free without vaccination,
- FMD-free with vaccination, and

- FMD-infected.

Japan and South Korea will only buy beef from FMD-free *without vaccination* listed countries. With such trade laws, it is in the meat producer's best interest not to vaccinate. "FMD-free without vaccination" is the highest rating a country's meat exporter can have and prices on the overseas market reflect the designation. The FMD policies of both the UK and the US are written in response to the above statement. This is critically important because it documents the economic interest of getting rid of the disease in the quickest possible way. Vaccination is illegal in the US because it is seen as detrimental to producers' trade status.

Here governmental policies and the interest of camelid owners are directly at odds. Because the USDA has not defined susceptible animals beyond cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and deer, the implementation of the Emergency Plan leaves a lot of decisions to individual interpretation. Camelids are loosely defined as cloven-hoofed, although this isn't in fact true. But because they have two toenails, they've been lumped into this category. It doesn't help their cause either that they ruminant because that has been another determining factor in classifying highly-susceptible animals. So policymakers who know little of the research done into FMD in llamas and alpacas have made a broad general statement.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS

Many, many thanks to Karen Conyngham, RMLA member from Austin, Texas, for her exhaustive research into the studies published on FMD in camelids. There are several studies of interest, only one of which has to date influenced US policy. In 1952, USDA researched susceptibility of llamas to FMD in a laboratory setting. Several positive cases were attained through tongue scarification and IV and IM injections, although 90% of the llamas tested remained infection-free. However, this study still drives our import policy, reflected in the long quarantines imposed on animals coming from South America. You may remember that the federal government refused for decades to allow importation of camelids into the US because it feared the animals would cause an outbreak of FMD. While the results of this study were relied upon exclusively, several more natural exposure studies have been undertaken in the past

(Continued on page 28)

15 years. *The results of these studies, while good news for people concerned about their animals contracting FMD, have not been taken into account in the published policy.*

- In 1989, Lubroth et al published findings of an experimental study, in which inoculation was used to attempt to infect the llamas studied. In this study, even the most affected animal showed no signs of the virus 8 days post-inoculation. The authors conclude that "the inability in this study to isolate FMDV beyond the first week postinoculation or postcontact with FMDV-infected animal or premises is of paramount importance. This finding contrasts with what has been documented in other species." (ProcUSAHA, Vol91. 1987, J Vet Diagn Invest 2:197-203 1990)
- In 1993, Michael David, et al, published results of both a field study and an experimental study on llamas and FMD. A total of 460 llamas from farms with exposure to FMD in a co-pastured situation with cattle and sheep were tested for FMD. None of these animals tested positive, despite being co-pastured with infected cattle and sheep. The authors conclude that "llamas are resistant to FMD virus infection." (ProcUSAHA, v97 1993, Vet Arg Vol X11, No. 119, Nov 1995)
- And in 1999, Puntel et al published a study conducted on 390 llamas from three different parts of Argentina. None of the 390 animals tested was seropositive for exposure to FMDV. (J Vet Med B 46, 157-161 1999)

The research, although limited, has trouble proving camelids to be carriers of FMD. Rather, it suggests they are epidemiologically insignificant in spreading the disease. Among the researchers participating in the 1993 David study was Dr. Alphonso Torres, Director of the USDA's APHIS Veterinary Services section. He spoke at a conference a few weeks back of the Pedigreed Livestock Council (the ILR is a member and had attendees present) and was asked about plans for llamas to be slaughtered if they were co-pastured with pigs found to be infected. He replied that they probably would undergo a quarantine period but would not be slaughtered. We have received verbal confirmation of the discussion but have been unable to reach Dr. Torres for written confirmation.

So, WHERE ARE WE NOW?

States, including Colorado, are placing llamas on the high-risk list either because they haven't seen

the post-1950's research in particular or because they have been told by others within the USDA that llamas are just as susceptible as cattle. While our state veterinarian would prefer vaccination over slaughter to contain an outbreak, OIE regulations call for all vaccinated animals to be slaughtered later so the country can once again be considered FMD-free without vaccination. *Remember what the government considers important here.*

Older FMD vaccines (similar to the Salk polio vaccine) used live virus and it was theorized that a vaccinated animal could then become a carrier and pass the virus on. In addition to the synthetic vaccines currently being developed, newer vaccines are killed virus preparations (like the Sabin vaccine) that the USDA describes as pure, safe, and effectivebut also illegal.

Some camelid owners in the UK were successful in proving an exemption for their animals based on a court's interpretation of the research. We may need to go to court here as well to have the research considered.

I hope you are seeing the difference between an animal *health issue* and a political, *economic issue*.

What will it be worth to you to protect your animals? What is it worth to lose them? Typical livestock producers get an indemnity payment based on a price per pound at fair market value for the animals slaughtered by the government. But we don't raise typical livestock, and we aren't likely to accept this as a fair payment for slaughter of healthy animals. The regulations weren't written with us in mind: we may just become a casualty.

In Texas, they are trying to determine at the state level how to compensate camelid owners whose livestock will be slaughtered. I think it's fair to say the government compensation program won't take the prices in the llama and alpaca sale markets into consideration.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The best thing you can do is to educate yourself. The USDA website (www.usda.gov) posts a link to their Emergency Plan. Read it. Look up your state's emergency plan on the web. *Seek out publicity for this issue.* It's been largely ignored here. I sincerely doubt the American people would support a policy like this if they knew about the alternatives.

Isn't it worth a little effort for the sake of your

A BELLY FULL OF JELLY BEANS

**BY: Jerry Dunn, Vice-President
Bear Track Farm, Golden, CO**

Five years of jelly beans and llamas at the JELLY BEAN CLASSIC were celebrated at the Indiana Equestrian Center in Arvada, Colorado on May 12. Forty-five llamas and alpacas arrived with their handlers to play in the field filled with fun obstacles.

As people arrived, they pulled obstacles out of the Bear Track Farm trailers and set up the playground for all of us to play on. This year was a particularly interesting and fun course.

With the jelly bean cups filled and in place at every obstacle, everyone began to play. Each time a llama or alpaca completed an obstacle (or not) the handler grabbed a jelly bean or two, or three. Seven pounds of jelly beans were consumed or filled the pockets of the participants.

At lunch time, we all sat in the shade of the old cottonwood tree and shared a potluck lunch.

Drawings were held to give away jelly bean scarves, a handmade llama lead rope, and felted coasters all made by Mary Mauz. At sign-in, people guessed the number of jelly beans in a jar and the closest guess was that of Ashley Fillmore. Ashley went home with a jar filled with 282 jelly beans. Jelly bean trophies were given to the oldest llama, 12 year old Fraser, owned by Jim Osmun, and the youngest llama, 7 month old Spice, owned by Taylor McHenry.

Special entertainment was provided by Numso the clown. Laughs were had by all as he demonstrated his expert training skills with ducks. Rumor has it that Numso is a very special friend of Virginia Osmun. Hope to see you all next year.



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Two Recent RMLA-Sponsored Events Report to Members

Douglas County Summer Classic **By: Lougene Baird, Superintendent**

A New D.C.S.C. began this year, although smaller in recent years due to scheduling conflicts and illnesses on the part of some out-of-state parents. Judge Mary Beth Hartsough worked her way through classes with the customary aplomb and adroitness for which she is known. Exhibitors included A.J. and Ian Biggs, Jennifer Camp, Ashley Fillmore, Rachael Gross, Bethany Henniger, Christopher Henniger, Levi Kauffman, Serena Marke, Bailey, Jordan, and Taylor McHenry, Amy McMahon, Summer and Zack Northern. In keeping with the RMLA spirit, it was a FUN event and one to put onto your 2002 schedule!

El Paso County Colorado Fair ALSA Youth Llama Show **By: Mike Shealy, Superintendent**

After two years of boycott to overcome the mandatory seven day fair stay, and five years of pleading, cajoling, and negotiating for an Open Show, the El Paso County Extension Office conceded to have a one-day Open Llama Show as well as a 4-H Show in conjunction with the County Fair in Calhan, Colorado.

It was well worth the effort. Our first ALSA Youth Show, sponsored by RMLA, was a great

success! Although there was just a small group of competitors, the location of the 40'x60' tent was perfect, being directly adjacent to a main walkway, drawing more attendance than any other previous 4-H show at the Fair. Many interested folks were attracted to the show who may ordinarily have passed by the old indoor arena show.

The participating youths found simple and safe, but difficult obstacles in the performance classes. Levi Kauffman using DBR's Finnegan, garnered the Intermediate Performance Grand Championship with sterling performances in all three classes. Alissa Veuthey using Touch the Earth Snikerdoodle captured the Reserve Grand Championship in a close battle. Jayme Pacheco substituted DBR's Finnegan for Oscuro Chocolate SDF in Junior Pack, to collect the Performance Grand Championship in Junior Performance.

In Junior Showmanship Amy McMahon using Touch the Earth Lefty, was the Grand Champion with Jayme Pacheco and Oscuro scoring the Reserve Grand. In the Intermediate Showmanship Class Alissa Veuthey was the Grand Champion, again using Touch the Earth Snikerdoodle, and Jennifer Camp was the Reserve Champion using Boj.

A good time was had by all, and Fair management was pleased with the outcome, assuring future shows. A "don't miss" RMLA and ALSA Youth Show in the coming years.



**Participants at the 2001
 Douglas County Summer Classic Youth Show**

Classified Advertisements

2002 Class Schedule @ Pax Ranch in Longmont.
 NOV 17th --NEEDLE FELTING with Sharon Beacham. JAN 12th — MACHINE KNITTING with Cheri Paxson. FEB.9th — SOFT SPINNING TECHNIQUE with Karen Kinyon. MARCH 9th — FELT YOUR OWN HAT with Mary Hance. APRIL 4th — WEAVING with Chris Switzer. MAY (second sat.) MACHINE KNITTING with Cheri. Contact Cheri Paxson at (303)777-4370 or paxknits@Yahoo.com.

For Sale - 4 registered experienced male pack llamas and equipment. 3 - 5 year olds; 1 - 2 year old with ALSA points. This includes panniers, saddles and grooming equipment. 307-672-7527 evening; 307-674-0820 days.

Llamarage Dispersal - After 18 years of selective breeding, proven through our success in the showing, we must disperse nearly all of our llamas. We have bred females, weanlings, and stud and stud prospects, and packer prospects. Also two possible miniatures. Prices start at \$300. Package discounts. Visit early for best selection. Mary Beth Hartsough 970-785-2463. Llamarage1@aol.com

Llama Herd Reduction Sale— Beautiful heavy wool males & females, all colors, 1/2 to 3/4 Chileans and 1/2 to 3/4 Bolivians, great bloodlines—males \$250—\$350; females \$500—\$700. Free rebreeding with any female purchase. Moonstar Llamas, Guffey, CO—Rodney Bryan. 719.689.9760 (11/01)

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Journal of the RMLA—Advertising Information—effective August 2001

- **All art must be camera-ready.** Ad design cost is \$30 per hour, 1 hour minimum. Contact Marilyn Arnold at 303.841.5126 for more information.
- Color photographs are preferred. Electronic images should be on disk.
- This publication is printed in black and white. Line screen is 115 lines per inch.
- Each May, a promotional issue is published. The outside covers and centerfold advertisement are printed with a base color determined by the RMLA Board of Directors. Additional copies of this edition are printed for distribution to the public at llama and alpaca events.
- Mail all advertising materials to Marilyn Arnold, 11483 E. Ponderosa Lane, Franktown, CO 80116-9319. Include check payable to RMLA for the amount of the ad plus estimated design costs for art that is not camera-ready. **Full payment must accompany all advertising submitted.**

Advertising Deadlines:

**September 15, December 15,
March 15, June 15**

Advertising Rates

All rates per issue	RMLA Member	RMLA Member	Non-Member	Non-Member
Ad sizes	1—2 issues	Same ad 3 or more issues	1—2 issues	Same ad 3 or more issues
Business card	\$12	\$12	\$18	\$18
1/4 page	\$24	\$21.60	\$36	\$32.40
1/2 page	\$48	\$43.20	\$72	\$64.80
2/3 page	\$66	\$59.40	\$99	\$89.10
Back cover	\$60	\$53.80	\$90	\$81
Full page	\$78	\$70.20	\$117	\$105.30
Inside cover Front or back	\$96	\$86.40	\$144	\$129.60
Promotional Issue Rates: Same color as Journal cover				
Full page per page (centerfold)	\$162	Different color add \$85	\$243	Different color add \$85
Back cover	\$130		\$207	

Classified Ad rates:

Members \$5 for up to 50 words per ad.

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Additional words at \$0.15 for each word over 50.

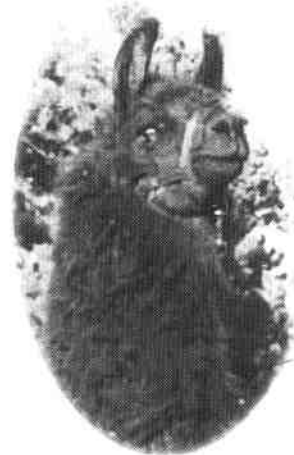
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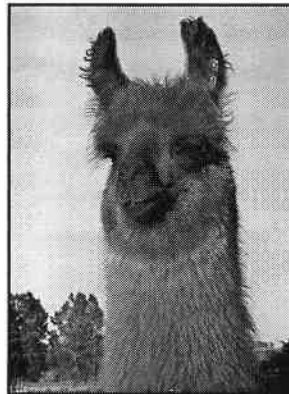
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