

Winter
2001

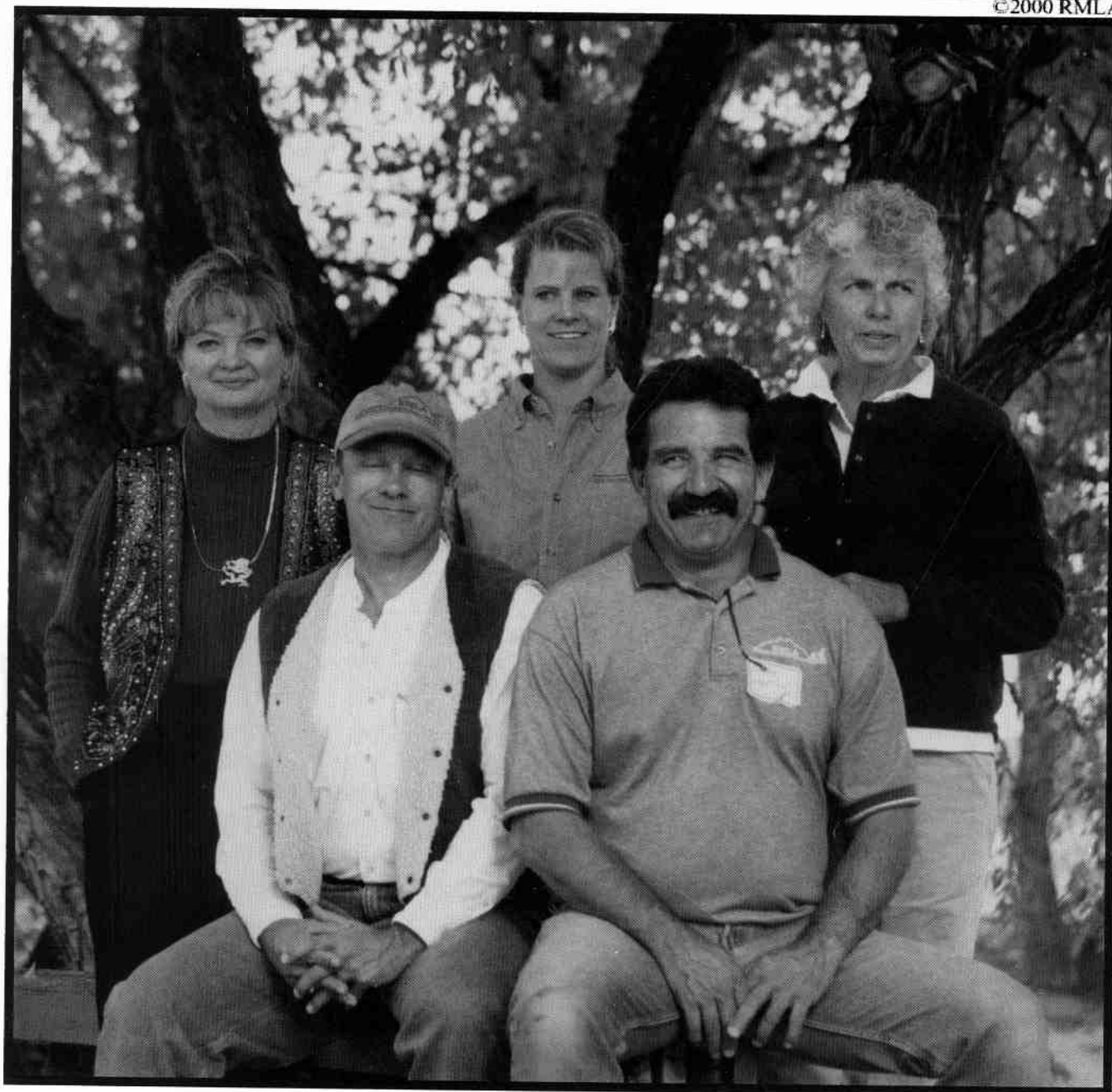
Journal of the

RMLA



Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

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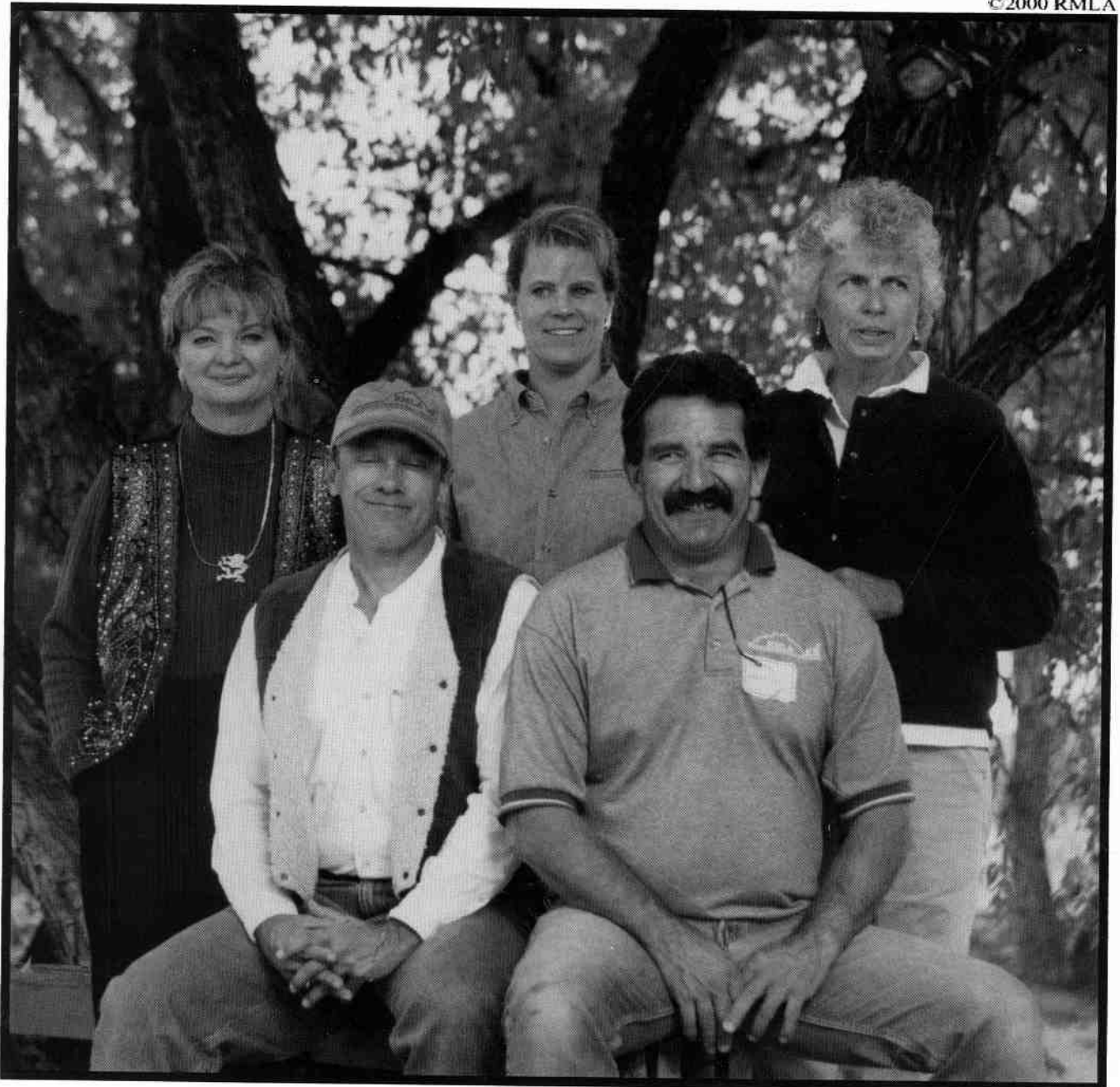
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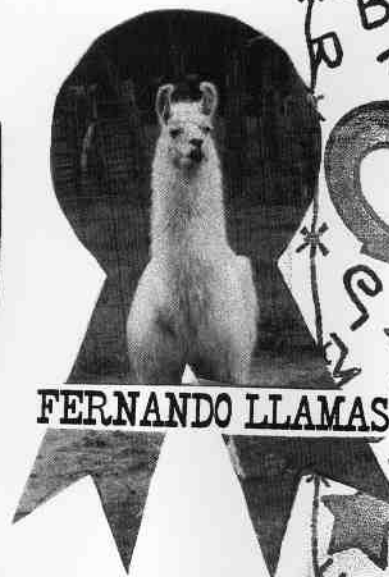
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On our Front Cover: Your RMLA Board of Directors for 2001. From left, standing, Lougene Baird, Treasurer; Jill Knuckles, Secretary; Jerry Dunn, Vice President; seated, Robert Tompkins, President-Elect and Larry Lewellyn, President.

A Quick Note from your Departing Editor

Many, many thanks to Ron Baird for agreeing to take over publication of the RMLA Journal. The job turned out to be a bit more than I could handle. Ron comes with plenty of experience, since he and Lougene published Showring for a number of years. I do want you all to know how much I appreciate the opportunity you gave me to try my hand at this and how very grateful I am for the articles you were kind enough to submit. It's difficult to find the time in our busy schedules to write something, and the contributors have been terrific. Be sure and thank them when you see them, especially those who contribute something for each issue. We all have such a passion for these wonderful animals and I think that's what really makes this organization so special. Thanks again for the opportunity.

Jen

2001 Calendar of Events

February

- **Have a Heart Llama Show**, Las Cruces, New Mexico Contact Mary Summers, 505-867-3442
- **Valentine's Llama Show~Alpacas, Too**, Las Cruces, New Mexico Contact Mary Summers 505-867-3442

March

- **St. Patrick's Day Parade**, Colorado Springs, Colorado Contact Roger Miller 719-307-9332
- **St. Patrick's Day Parade**, Denver, Colorado Contact Jim Haas, 303-670-3373
- **Four-States Agricultural Expo**, Cortez, Colorado Contact Pete Peterson 970-565-0785
- **Llamas, Alpacas, and Kids in the Park**, Wheat Ridge, Colorado March 24
Contact Jerry Dunn 303-277-1129

April

- **Bear Track Farm Driving Clinic**, Golden, Colorado April 14-15 Contact Jerry Dunn 303-277-1129
- **Banana Belt Llama Classic**, Grand Junction, Colorado April 28 Contact Dottie LaRue 970-527-3181
- **Western Slope Llama Classic**, Grand Junction, Colorado April 29 Contact Dottie LaRue 970-527-3181

May

- **New Mexico Spring Fling**, Santa Fe, New Mexico Contact Kim Pisel
- **Jelly Bean Classic—Llama Fun Day**, Arvada, Colorado May 12 Contact Mary Mauz 303-526-0092
- **Spring Sneakers—Performance Show**, Arvada, Colorado May 19 Contact Jerry Dunn 303-277-1129

June

- **LOCC Spring Show**, Colorado Springs, Colorado Contact Jeff Rucker 719-689-9010
- **Estes Park Wool Market**, Estes Park, Colorado June 16-17 Contact Linda Hinze 970-586-6104
- **RMLA Fiber Coop Booth, Estes Park Wool Market Vendors' Barn** Estes Park, Colorado June 16-17
Contact Sharon Beacham 303-666-9437 or Karen Kinyon 970-484-6241

July

- **Fairplay Llama Pack Race**, Fairplay, Colorado Contact Roger Miller 719-749-0119

August

- **Big Horn Rendezvous**, Story, Wyoming Contact Barb Coffman-Flinn 307-683-2548
- **Boulder County Youth Show**, Longmont, Colorado
Contact Mary Beth Hartsough 970-785-2463 or Terry Lynch 303-651-3022
- **Laramie County Fair**, Cheyenne, Wyoming Contact Diane Walker Tompkins 307-635-2160
- **Wyoming State Fair—Llama Show**, Douglas, Wyoming Contact Ellen Schreiner 307-265-1780
- **RMLA Fiber Coop Booth, Wyoming State Fair**, Douglas, Wyoming August 18-19
Contact Sharon Beacham 303-666-9437 or Karen Kinyon 970-484-6241

September

- **LOCC Fall Classic Llama Show**, Colorado Springs, Colorado Contact Mike Shealy 719-495-3757
- **Bear Track Farm Driving Clinic**, Golden, Colorado September 15-16 Contact Jerry Dunn 303-277-1129
- **Golden Gate Escape~Llama Packers Weekend**, September 22-23 Contact Jerry Dunn 303-277-1129

October

- **Candy Corn Fun Classic**, Silt, Colorado October 6 Contact Mary Mauz 303-526-0092
- **RMLA Fiber Coop Booth, Taos Wool Festival**, Taos, New Mexico October 6-7
Contact Sharon Beacham 303-666-9437 or Karen Kinyon 970-484-6241
- **RMLA Annual Meeting and Conference—stay tuned for the date!**
- **ALSA Rocky Mountain Regional Llama Show**

November

- **RMLA Fiber Coop Booth, ALSA Grand National Show**

Have an event you'd like RMLA to sponsor? Call Jerry Dunn at 303-277-1129 or e-mail beatrak@gte.net. Sponsorship is free, and Jerry can tell you all about the benefits!

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Christmas, Cheyenne, and LLamas: The 10th Anniversary Parade

Robert & Diane Walker Tompkins. Prairie Wind Llamas Cheyenne. Wyoming

At sunset on November 25, 2000 the streets of downtown Cheyenne were lined with people anxious for the start of the holiday season. They huddled together to stay warm in eager anticipation of the 10th Anniversary of the Cheyenne Christmas Parade. The themes for this year's parade were "Storybook Christmas" or "Old-fashioned Christmas." There were 126 entries including floats, bands and equestrian groups. The parade ended with the traditional "Santa Float."

This was our second year to participate in the parade. As in 1999, we and friends walked four llamas along the parade route. Our paint gelding is our lead packer. He was outfitted in full pack gear with a gift wrapped present and teddy bear on his back. Our apaloosa breeding male humored us by tolerating garland around his neck and seasonal adornments to his halter. And not to be outdone, our two apaloosa yearling males wore customized seasonal blankets. One wearing "Merry Christmas" and the other "Feliz Navidad."

Feedback is important to know how people feel about something. Rest assured based on comments we heard along the parade route, and into the following week, the llamas were a hit! Many told us we were one of the parade's highlights. Our local CBS affiliate televised the parade for the benefit of those not able to attend in person. And, we were one of the entries selected for a video clip for the late news coverage the night of the parade.

Events such as local parades are a wonderful way to educate the public as to the joys of llama ownership. Little things like the woman who noticed I was wearing a felted hat which Diane made from the fiber of seven animals in our herd. The shouts of excitement at seeing llamas. The smiles on the faces of the people. All was well in Cheyenne that magical night. Imagine the llama conversation in the trailer as we returned to the ranch. Our apaloosa breeding male tutoring our yearlings on "peace and good will for all." We imagine it was so.



All dressed up for the parade!

Winterizing Your Older Llamas & Alpacas

Larry Lewellyn, FootHills Llamas

Littleton, Colorado

When I was a boy growing up on a farm in Southeast Kansas, the winter months could get bitterly cold, especially when humidity was a factor. My grandfather grained our animals, especially the older ones, in the cold temperatures and he would feed range cubes and lots of cracked corn. He ensured they had plenty of fresh water and shelter with lots of bedding. I remember when heat lamps came out, a practice still used by many people today in caring for their animals. Although the heat lamps may serve a purpose, owners need to ensure they are out of the animals reach. It is necessary to place heat lamps in a safe place where the animals cannot rub against them or knock them down. Also, we have to watch-out for those babies and our "silly" animals as some of them have a tendency to pull on cords. Personally, I have come home and found the stock tank heater on the ground and have caught the crias pulling on the cord on an occasion or two.

There are many methods of maintaining older animals and those who need special attention. When to begin a special "maintenance" regime is determined by us owners, primarily based upon our observations. It is contingent upon us to know each animal's individual characteristics and tendencies, and to observe, notice and act upon any significant changes. We have to recognize what is needed for each animal, not just the herd, as we have a responsibility to every one of them. I highly recommend reading [Caring For Llamas and Alpacas](#), as it contains a wealth of knowledge, and to keep this resource within close reach at all times.

Here's what we do for our llamas during the cold weather. It may, or may not work for you, but we have found it extremely beneficial especially for one, special needs animal and several llamas over 15 years old. As older animals often become thin as they age, they are more susceptible to the cold and damp weather. You should know that shivering is a bad sign because the animal is wasting valuable energy to keep warm. For these animals, we take the extra step to ensure they keep warm and stay dry. We may secure them under shelter with the use of panels or provide a raincoat to keep them dry. Our original herd sire, Majic, who will be 19 years old this February, is our special needs animal. He was not well cared for by his previous owner and he began losing his teeth (his gums look like there are popcorn kernels stuck in them) about 4 years ago. We received ownership of Majic through abandonment proceedings with ILR and were ecstatic when we were finally told he was our llama. He was a very strong, correct and regal looking animal with very nice wool. Approximately two years ago, he began losing weight due to his inability to chew his food properly and process it as necessary. About a year ago he became thin and lost the spark in his eye. We discussed this with our vet and decided to have his few remaining teeth "floated" by the vet so he could chew more evenly. Prior to this, and occasionally after, it would not be unusual for me to go-out to the pasture area and pull his hay cud out of his mouth because he couldn't process it correctly and it would get stuck. After one year of special caring and diet, he has significantly improved and recently we have noticed the spark has returned and he has gained solid weight. When it is cold, Majic is fed alone, twice a day, alfalfa hay broken and shaken into flakes into his feed box. I rotate different combination mixtures of sweet mix (highest protein), alfalfa pellets, Farnams Weight Builder, Purina Mazuri, Purina Senior and cracked corn with corn oil for easy swallowing. By doing this, I am increasing his carbohydrate intake, fueling the inner stove by boosting his nutrition consumption. In addition to their hay and occasional alfalfa, the older girls are fed a grain mixture once a day, unless it is really cold. One of the girls, 20 year old Candy Cluster, had her last baby in July and is now retired from breeding. She was supposed to have been retired from breeding last year; however a performance llama gave us an unexpected gift. We then had the vet check Candy to see if we should let her continue her pregnancy based upon her age and we were given the go-ahead. Unlike Majic, Candy had a full set of teeth, good weight, straight back, 4 great looking legs, solid pasterns and a solid attitude. Although she could probably have another cria, we do not believe she has continued to maintain her desired weight and Deanna does not think anyone should have a baby at her age. I think I agree.

Some may not think all of this is necessary, but for us it truly is necessary and has been rewarding. We do not want to lose these elderly animals that have given us so much, especially if we can possibly extend their life while not compromising their quality of life.

Fiber Co-op Booth Reports Record Sales

Sharon Beacham, Co-Chair, RMLA Fiber Cooperative Booth

The most successful event in the 5-year history of the RMLA Fiber Co-op booth was the 2000 Taos Wool Festival. Sales totaled \$3,490.45 for the weekend. The weather was perfect - cold and damp. People came to the booth to purchase warm caps, sweaters, scarves, mittens, and socks for themselves or as Christmas gifts. Many left wearing their new lama garments. Sales of yarn and roving were also brisk.

Out of 60 booths, only the ones operated by RMLA and Phil and Chris Switzer offered lama fiber exclusively. There was also more variety to our inventory than the booths featuring sheep's wool. Nearly everyone of the shoppers came in for a closer look.

Booth sales for the five events in 2000 totaled \$10,800. Twenty six RMLA members consigned inventory. There's still room in the booth trailer for more. Please consider consigning your hand-crafted lama items this year.

The sales staff and management are all volunteers. They travel to fiber events at their own expense and operate the booth for the benefit of the entire membership. RMLA receives a consignment fee for each item sold. Caring for Llamas and Alpacas is also part of the booth inventory. Staff members frequently answer questions about llamas.

Please call 303-666-9437 for a consignors' packet of information and forms, or email beachams@phf-llamas.com.

Membership Report as of January 1, 2001

Barb & Bob Hance, Membership Chairs

First a BIG RMLA welcome to new LIFE members, Sandy & Sharron Pierce.

We ended 2000 with 532 Individual and Ranch members. To put that into perspective to be able to compare to the change in membership form approved for 2001, these 532 members would represent 354 memberships. There were 63 new memberships during the year. RMLA ended the year with 44 Junior/Youth members of which 17 were new.

We are still receiving renewals and Service Directory order forms, since the deadline was "postmarked before December 31", but are hoping to have the layouts ready for printing as soon as possible. Hope all of you had great holidays, and also hope you all have a wonderful year full of joy, and lovely llamas.

RMLA's Library Update

Sharon Herbold, Committee Chair

Anyone new to RMLA or llamas (llamas or alpacas) may want to take advantage of the library and check out materials on training. The library has many items available on various training methods.

Videos on training include:

Alpaca Training and Handling with Marty McGee
Click and Reward Training, Vol. I and II by Jim Logan
Beginning with Tteam with Marty McGee
Tteam with Marty McGee
Llama Training with Bobra Goldsmith
Mallon Method # 1, The First 24 Hours
Mallon Method # 2, Halter Training Basics
Teaching Your Llama to Pack with Stanlynn Daugherty
Training to Drive with Bobra Goldsmith
Working With Difficult Llamas with Ken Ploeser

Books on training include:

Llama Handling and Training – The Tteam Approach by Marty McGee
Llama Training on Your Own by Helen Bodington
Llama Training – Who's in Charge by Jim Faiks
A Well Trained Llama by Paul and Betty Barkman

Any of these materials can be requested from the RMLA website (www.rmla.com) or by emailing me directly (ppwoolies@earthlink.net).

If you are aware of any additional materials available on training llamas or alpacas, please let Sharon know so that they can be added to the library.

Peru, Re-Visited

Barb Hance, Hance Ranch

Wheat Ridge, Colorado

We received a number of "invitations" to attend the October "Alpaca Fiesta 2000" in Araquipa, Peru, which we ignored, since we were there for an Alpaca/Llama fair and show seven years ago. But when Chris Switzer called and said they were planning another trip, we decided to go. Chris has a wonderful guide, Carlos Veleochaga, who is a cultural anthropology professor in Lima and has lots of expertise and knowledge.

Our group consisted of five couples and two single ladies from Colorado, a newlywed couple from Arizona, and a single lady from Utah. We were a very compatible bunch, we did a lot of giggling (like teenagers) on bus rides, and all were up-beat people, having a great time.

American Airlines took us from Denver to Dallas, then on a 6-hour flight to Lima, Peru, arriving just after midnight. Going through customs did not give us much trouble. We waited about twenty minutes to get our luggage, then another while to get it all stowed on top of our bus. Our first night was at the Hotel Jose Antonio, in Mira Flores, a very nice suburb, southwest of Lima on the ocean. On the bus ride from the airport to our hotel we saw lots of modernization since our 1993 trip – new office buildings; apartment houses; casinos; Burger Kings; McDonalds; Pizza Huts and etc. We are reluctant to call all of these "improvements". Since the bus would not be secure overnight, we waited to get all of the luggage offloaded and moved to our rooms.

Next morning we had four hours to walk, shop, change money, and sightsee the city center of Mira Flores. Most stores were not open until 10 am, and the sidewalk cafes had folks trying to get you to eat with them. The banks did not open until 11 am, so we used the services of "money changers" found on most street corners, always negotiating the best exchange rate. We viewed one very old, beautiful church, admired the vivid yellow, Victorian "government buildings" and enjoyed the colorful park full of statues and flowers. Since October is spring in Peru the weather was sunny and delightful at 80° F.

Somewhere along the first day, we started to worry about tipping. This was a mild problem, determining how much to tip for all of the luggage handlers and food servers. Carlos suggested 1-2 Sols per bag – equivalent .33 to .67 cents US, which we all thought

to be way too little. When we left more than he thought we should, he lectured about the Peruvian or maybe Andean gratitude about any gift, where none is expected. He finally quit lecturing about tipping, because we all left more than he thought we should.

After loading all of our luggage, our bus driver gave us a short tour of Lima, a city of 8 million souls, on the way to the Lima airport. We offloaded the luggage and moved it into the correct airport counter, then had our lunch and boarded the plane for our forty-minute trip to Araquipa.

The weather here was also wonderfully sunny and we had a great view of the volcano "Misti" upon our arrival. Much of the time it is hazy and the surrounding volcanic mountains are not very visible. Again the luggage handling onto the bus at the airport, then a short trip through farm land full of garlic, onions, alfalfa, corn and other crops, in all of the terraced land, down the hill to our hotel. Off again with the luggage at the Posada del Puente, located about 6 blocks from the downtown Plaza on the main road through Araquipa, on the Chile River. A lovely place built on terraced levels on the river bank, covered with green grass, lots of trees, hundreds of flower-beds, caged singing canaries, 12-foot tall blooming cactus and two alpacas. The sight and smell was breathtaking, the rooms were very comfortable, the food was better than expected and like most of Peru, service is king!

The Fiesta was very well handled. Busses were provided to pick-up and return us to our hotel for most of the six days at the fairgrounds and for the other activities. All of the meetings and seminars had available headset translators, both Spanish to English and English to Spanish. For want of a better term we use "Peruvian Time" to explain the late openings, late beginnings, late bus arrivals and etc. Tourists are always told to be here, be ready to board at x-time, which we did, but most of the time we waited until the bus arrived, then fretted about being late for the start of seminars, only to find that they had not yet started by the time we arrived 20-30 minutes later. There is also "Peruvian Space" this is that extra two inches that magically appears when two busses pass on roadways and bridges that you know are too narrow for two mini autos to safely pass each other.

I believe I heard there were near 100 attendees from the US, there were probably 200 more from other

countries, and I would guess about 200 natives. It is quite a long drive on questionable roads to come from most of the highland areas where llamas are raised.

There were two seminars the first morning, and then we left to tour the mill of Grupo Inca (Inca Tops, Tumi, etc.). Most of their operation is in Arequipa, so we were able to see fiber from sorting to weaving – huge numbers of weaving machines; the hand reweaving and repair on bolts of woven fabric; the pressing and finishing of bolts; hundreds of knitting machines; special machines for adding ribbed edgings; cutting tables, sewing machines, pressers, hand finishers, labelers and baggers for the beautiful woven & knitted garments. These mills employ hundreds of workers, who as a rule stay in a single job for his/her lifetime. Food and drinks in the lovely garden patio area of the mill followed the tour, and then it was shop-till-you-drop at the Outlet Store next door. This is the only place you can legally buy vicuña scarves and coats, but you might not get them past U.S. Customs. Then back to the fairgrounds for more seminars.

October 26, we hurried to breakfast, dressed in warm cloths, made sure our backpacks had necessary medicine, camera, and extra coats, then awaited the arrival of our bus for a two-hour ride into the mountains to Toccoa for a "Chaccu". At rest stop, (café-store) I purchased coca leaves to help me cope with the 14,000+ feet we were going to. On the bus we all shared our purchases and I had a number of thanks for the "coca", it amazingly relieved the symptoms of altitude sickness, especially the mild headache and nausea. Coca in this form is not addictive, and the natives who have used it for hundreds of years welcome the benefits it provides. We all moved slowly, I moved very little. Local ranchers handed a very long rope, hung with brightly colored tassels to everyone who wanted to help in the vicuña roundup. About 200 people started spreading out along the edge of the two-mile wide meadow, then slowly walked into a smaller and smaller circle, until the vicuña were herded into a corral. In the corral was a raised platform of rocks where the ritual marriage of a male and female vicuña was performed and then usually the animals are sheared, but not this day. We ate lunch on the bus, and then shopped at the stalls the locals had set up.

That evening we spent as guests at the museum where we viewed "Juanita, The Lady of Ampato, aka The Ice Maiden" (the most recently found frozen mummy). It is unbelievable how perfect the garments were from more than 500 years ago. Woven alpaca with gorgeous colors and patterns. She is kept in a

freezer, where the glass is defrosted for five minutes each hour for viewing.

Next morning we attended two more seminars, and at 11 am left for our second mill tour at Michell & Cia. At both mills we saw: sorting; washing; picking; combing/carding; dyeing; spinning and plying threads of alpaca (llama is usually included here), wool, cotton and blends with other fibers; and the controlled storage and shipping on cones.

After the tour, we were ushered into one of the cleaned-out sorting sheds and we each were given a gift from the mill. The ladies received woven shawls – different patterns and colors, and the men were given knitted vests or sweaters – all gift boxed. Then we were treated to a truly Peruvian Fiesta. There were hundreds of kinds of food, on tables and passed by native-dressed waiters and drinks, drinks, drinks; Peruvian "Pisco", wines and beer and other liquors. Employees in native dress performed many different dances, then invited all of us to join them.

On Friday, there were news reports about an attempted coup at a mine about 100 miles south of us, and that evening, the police/army were very evident on our bus ride to the down-town Church plaza for an incredible alpaca fashion show. There were "collections" from about 14 designers from around the world. There were gowns, coats, suits, sports wear, for men and women, short and long in hundreds of colors and the hit with the guys were the see-through ones on those young, tall, sleek models.

Saturday was the final judging of animals, and various meetings. This was finally our chance to shop the vendors at the fairgrounds. There was also a timed llama pack race competition with 6 teams. For each team, a lady in native costume, prepared wine, "chica" (corn beer), and she made a fire in a small clay dish and burned incense and bits llama fat to create good luck for the race. While she was working, two men gathered six llamas, stuffed "costales" (pack bags) with potatoes or corn, sewed the ends closed, loaded the animals and tied all the packs on securely (or not), then started running the llamas on a set course around the fairgrounds, trying to avoid collisions with people and hoping to do it in the shortest time. The llamas were in full dress – brightly colored head, neck, and/or ear tassels, and halters, head flags and some had been dyed with red dirt.

By mid afternoon, a few of us returned to our hotel for r & r or touring and shopping down-town Arequipa, then we dressed "to the nines" for the "Gala Banquet". It was at the beautiful 500-year-old

"Mansión del Fundador", that we had seen on our last trip. Again we had plenty to eat and drink and a fun bus ride back to our hotel. Unfortunately it was after dark so we could not enjoy the scenery along the way.

The final day of the event, included: introductions of all the dignitaries, thank-yous for the attendees, judging of the "Wasis" (adult, unshorn suri alpacas), presentations of all the trophies and awards, lots of speeches, more shopping and finally a great fireworks display.

Breakfast on Monday was ordered for 5 am so we could catch our plane for the 45-minute flight North to Cusco, the "Inca Capitol". After settling into our hotel our private tour bus and a new guide; Nino (who escorted us through our first day at Machu Picchu) took us up to see the nearest sacred site, Saqsaywaman.

This site has a level grassy center area about 500 feet wide and about five times that long. On one side there is a wall about three feet high that follows the contour of the hill and natural rock outcroppings going up a hillside. On the other side is a series of lightning-shaped walls 20 or more feet high and built on three levels up that hillside. Some of the rocks in these walls are 10 feet high and seven feet wide with six or eight angles cut and perfectly fitted so not even a paper can be put between the joints. At a couple of places stairways are built with huge lintel stones to create a door or gate way. The opposite hillside was similarly covered before the Spanish conquest, but the stones were taken into Cusco to be used in buildings there.

We next visited Q'enqo, where there is a semi-circular area, surrounded with a fitted stone wall about six feet high, with windows or niches evenly placed about four feet high. In the center is a raised platform about two feet high with the fitted stone wall and a natural stone monolith about 15 feet high. A pathway leads around and down the rocky outcrop and into a natural tunnel through the rock formation. In this tunnel there are "alters", and carved niches. At this place it is interesting to compare the ancient rock walls with the very crude looking modern rock walls to build up the roadway.

A couple of miles farther we viewed Pukapukara, "The Fortress" this is a flat topped, natural rock hill that has the wonderful carved rock work built up around and through it. You expect to see a moat and a drawbridge.

Further on we visited Tambomaychay "The Fountains" a three-story high rock wall on the hillside built on three levels that has an irrigation canal carrying about a foot of water, feeding into the top section, dropping in one column of water about eight feet to the second level, and then split into two waterfalls dropping about five feet onto the first level. We were told the canal comes from about 10 miles away and carries the same volume of water year round, and the two falls each carry an identical amount of water.

We visited these sites in 1993, and saw almost no other tourists and there were very few natives selling anything. This time there were as many as seven other buses full of tourists at each stop, and twenty-five or more vendors.

After returning to Cusco we took a walking tour of the downtown area and visited a major museum that houses many pieces of fabric, pottery, and other artifacts from nearly all of the cultures of ancient Peru. The prime focus was from the cultures around Cusco.

A couple of blocks from the main Plaza we toured Qorikancha, a very large, major building of the ancients where many of the golden artifacts were found and removed by the Spanish conquerors and had a Church built in it's place. The Church has donated it back to Cusco, and it is being restored. The grounds have lovely gardens and terraces and a couple of the ancient fountains. We also visited the Cathedral, and it's attached museum, which is being reconstructed to be able to show its major art works, that have been collected for the past 500 years. Many of the present day buildings in Cusco are built atop the ancient ones as you see from the rockwork on the street level walls. After dinner and a live Peruvian music group, many of us visited one of the biggest vendor markets.

The next morning, bright and early, we stored most of our luggage with the hotel, and then boarded our private bus. We first visited the village of Chinchero; we enjoyed coca tea with our hostess, Nilda Callañaupa and her parents. Nilda showed us many weavings and designs that are being re-learned by a group of natives. She has established The Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco, and has been working with others worldwide to discover and recreate lost or almost lost textile techniques and patterns of indigenous peoples. We then met some of the ladies and young girls in native costume who showed us: spinning: warping different looms; shuttle weaving and finger weaving techniques. They had for sale hundreds of their hand made pieces – another great

shopping experience. While in Chinchero we also visited the ancient site, with its acres of terraces and stone work. The main church is built on top of the ruins, which is typical of South and Central America. We drove through miles of agricultural land and scattered houses over a pass and dropped into the lush green valley of the Rio Wilkabamba, which eventually becomes the Amazon River. Lunch was an experience! This was Halloween and the buffet table had decorations all made from edible stuff: the head of a scarecrow made from butter; ghosts, goblins and bats made from fruits and vegetables. And there were lots and lots of food choices and scrumptious desserts.

After lunch we drove down river to the ancient site and the town of Ollantaytambo, located in another lush valley with a stream that feeds into the Wilkabamba. As you enter, the road climbs and makes an S curve, for about half a mile, it then goes between to big rock pillars and as it levels the roadway is paved in rock and has a three foot parapet on both edges, with houses built both above and below the road. Another half mile we encountered two huge trees (Pisonay) with beautiful red flowers, with the road built around them. There were lots of people everywhere as we entered the main plaza, where we started a walking tour. Stone paved alleyways with homes and shops abutting each other, some well kept and others pretty shabby, led us up hill and onto a place where we were able to view a big section of the ruins across the valley. The ruins appeared to be stair-steps covering an entire hill (mountain), maybe 2000 to 3000 feet wide and 300 feet high, going to the top of hillside, in reality we were seeing rock terraces that were eight to ten feet wide and about the same height. On top of the hillside were many quarried huge rocks and rubble. High on the facing hillside, which is bare and brown, were scattered rock buildings of various sizes with goat trails to them. We were told these could have been used as jails, homes, storehouses or who knows what. Up the streambed there were baths, fountains, ditch systems and old building foundations. It was hot and there were lots of tourists at this spot. Vendors were making a fortune on bottled water.

We returned up river to the town of Urubamba and were housed in a beautiful old Spanish Monastery cum motel, with gardens, alpacas, a museum, gift shop, book store, bar, restaurant, patios, picnic tables, a small chapel and native vendors with their wares spread out on the walkway between the restaurant and the chapel.

The next morning we again rode the bus to Ollantaytambo to catch the "Machu Pichu Train". We negotiated past and around many other buses full of tourists to get near the station. A pleasant train ride through the agricultural valley ended in the lovely town of Aguas Caliente. After checking into our hotel and stowing our luggage, we walked about half a mile to catch one of the busses that traverse the numerous switch-backs up the mountain that put us in the entrance of this magnificent, majestic, mystifying marvel of ancient architectural beauty.

The altitude here is less than 7000 feet, but the benches and short walls are welcome to catch your breath after walking/climbing the stairways and trails throughout the ruin. The entry is about 3/4 of the way to the top and the pathway is one of the terraces that had been used for growing food. This part of the hillside, about 300 feet, is mostly covered with these terraces about 10-12 feet wide and five to six feet high. A few of the stairways are closed in on both sides and some have a rail or wall on one side, but lots of them have no protection on either side. Our guide Nino, took us on a rather easy pathway and stopped to lecture often, all the time we were mostly going up and he ended his tour with us on the highest point. A six cubic foot rock carved from the solid rock hilltop, into a cubic bench/chair/throne where the four corners are exactly on the compass points. Unfortunately about two years ago a film company hit one of the corners with a big boom and broke off about six inches.

We ate a buffet lunch at the restaurant in the entry area. During lunch a couple of our group were viewing the area with binoculars and spied a wedding taking place on a hilltop across the river at about the same elevation we were. We will never know if the bride and groom wore those beautiful clothes to climb the mountain or if they changed on top. After lunch we spent a few more hours roaming through the ruins.

On the way down the switchbacks, we were entertained by a young boy dressed in a purple, knee-length tunic, who ran down the path/stairway and met us on every-other turn, yelling "Adios - Good-bye". The buses let the passengers out at the foot of a long street lined on both sides with vendors. After a rest at the hotel, we met back at the main plaza and found a restaurant for dinner. There were 14 of us and we almost filled the place.

The town is filled with people from all over the world; you hear many different languages, in the shops and stalls, on the train and elsewhere.

After a super buffet breakfast the next morning we packed and put our bags in the hotel lobby. Then we were on our own until we were to meet for a late lunch. There are hot springs and hiking trails in the area and lots of birds and flowers everywhere. Some of us went again to the ruins. Carlos was our guide this morning and he is extremely knowledgeable about the culture and is a wonderful guide. One group made the hike to the "Gate of the Sun", where the "Inka Trail" enters the Machu Pichu area. One of our group hiked to the top of the high mountain, "Machu Pichu", where he encountered a spectacled bear, busy eating on the trail. One of us with a dreadful fear of heights, found a soft grassy spot and read and enjoyed the sunshine. I walked alone through most of the ruins, listened to other guides with other tour groups and visited the llamas who call this home. I found many wonderful flowers in bloom, including three or four varieties of orchids, one with pink flowers only about 1/4 inch across. I also rested with my friend, read for a while and watched little lizards play hide and seek in the rock wall near us.

Lunch was a wonderful buffet and very relaxed. During lunch another guide came to the table and greeted Carlos, he had with him a copy of a scientific study or Coca done by Harvard University. The study suggested that the plant is full of healthy vitamins and minerals and truly has almost nothing harmful in it.

The return train ride to Urubamba was enjoyable, during the trip it rained a couple of times, and the freshly snowcapped mountains that we saw from the valley were spectacular. The train crew ran a video of the Cusco area, and then sold copies of the video and books to the passengers. We caught our bus and made the return trip to Cusco with a gorgeous sunset streaking the sky red.

We had a great evening meal, then did some shopping at the street vendors before bed. The next morning we packed for our return to Lima, and then we again met Nilda at her Cusco office, where she had promised she would have a number of weavings of 100% alpaca – another major shopping experience for our group, and then caught our plane.

Almost every place our bus stopped there were street vendors selling jewelry, drawings & paintings, sweaters, hats, and other things.

In Mira Flores, we checked into the hotel to have a place to stow baggage and maybe nap since our return flight was not scheduled until 2am. We again boarded our private bus and went to the Museum of

Archeology & Architecture in Lima, an extremely interesting place. Most exhibits were from the pre-Columbian era, but one section was a typical Spanish home, even with a cistern and carriages. One exhibit of medicine had numbers of skulls and other body parts from pre Inca times that had had successful surgery performed. Our group was enjoying the exhibits so much we were reluctant to leave, but the bus and driver were due elsewhere. The bus dropped us in downtown Mira Flores and we had lunch in a Swiss Restaurant with delicious desserts and pastries. We leisurely walked back to our hotel, through the park and viewed an outdoor art exhibit. We relaxed at the hotel, watched para-gliders over the Ocean about a mile away and visited with each other until dinnertime. Our farewell dinner was a very festive affair, with lots of laughs and shared experiences. It was near the hotel and we were the only diners. The bus took a while to load, with all the extra bags needed to pack our purchases, but we were finally loaded and headed to the Lima airport for our eight-hour trip home.

We had a great time and none of us were ill for more than a few hours. But we think instead of returning for another "Fiesta" in two years, maybe we will try to visit breeders in Australia next time.

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The Story of Pisco, the Pet Therapy Llama

Carol Lontine, D and C Llamas

Golden Colorado

I first became interested in llamas when my backpacking group had encountered llamas on a trail in the Zirkle Wilderness Area in July 1995. We had a conversation with the llama trekkers and, immediately, my brother-in-law and I decided that we were getting too old to carry a heavy backpack. It looked like a whole lot more fun to have a llama carry the equipment and food and also, be a companion on the trail. My son and I purchased our first two llamas in June 1996 to be used as packers. One thing led to another and we purchased a female in July 1996 that was pregnant with Pisco, the subject of this story.

Pisco was born July 23, 1966 -our very first cria! Although I wasn't fortunate enough to see his birth, I knew when I saw him at age four hours that he was going to be a special llama. I showed him at the National Western when he was just six months old. He took 4th place and I was so happy about that as it was our first show ever. We continued showing for the next two years and won a few ribbons, including a couple of Firsts. When transporting him in my van, even at a young age, he never had an "accident ." He has always been tolerant around people, especially small children and older folks. One night, while my mother was a patient at the Alpine Center in Thornton, I thought it might be fun to take Pisco in to see her. I contacted the person in charge for permission and she said it would be just fine. When we walked in the main door, Pisco spied what he thought was something green to eat and grabbed hold of some plastic ivy, which I immediately took away from him. When we walked in to Mother's room, she said, "Oh, you can't bring him in here," as Pisco headed to her bedside to sniff. I assured my Mother that it was perfectly OK, and that Pisco had just come to visit and cheer her. Word quickly spread that there was a llama on the floor and all the other patients wanted to see too. This led to other visits to nursing homes and schools. I usually dress him in a colorful Peruvian pack and explain how the South American Indians use llamas for carrying crops to market.

Last spring, I found out about the Delta Society through a friend who is an animal evaluator. I was excited about becoming a member and having Pisco as a pet therapy llama. I already knew how much cheer a 370-pound llama could bring to a person that was bed-ridden in a nursing home as we had already been to several. We have also been to several schools for programs. Twice, students were giving reports on llamas and we were invited as "Show and Tell." Pisco was a big hit, especially when he hummed his comments. One day last June, a school in Golden had a special day for the students and had invited speakers for fun things -cooking, origami, reptiles, yoga, LLAMAS, etc. The kids were allowed to pick subjects that interested them. Pisco and I conducted 5 classes of 45 minutes each, to talk about llamas. I passed out fresh wool samples and answered many questions. In September, we went to Arvada High School to give a talk during the Spanish Club Meeting and a Spanish Class. The kids asked some very good questions and were interested in the wool samples that I let them have -fresh off the llama's body, as I had just brushed him that morning. Once again, Pisco interjected his "humming" comments and the kids were just sure he knew what I was talking about and agreed with me. At this particular time, we conquered the elevator to the second floor without any hesitation. He walked in and kushed as if he was in his van. (Good boy!!)

I decided that it probably wouldn't take much for Pisco to be certified through the Delta Society. I found out what was expected of a pet therapy animal and went to work. They need to be comfortable around strangers, be tolerant of hugs and touching, not be startled by a clanging noise -in case someone in a "home" drops a tray or dishes. They also need to be tolerant of loud voices (people arguing and shouting), people staggering (i.e. someone with palsy), going into and backing out of a room, not bothered by something around their feet, being able to go up and down a few stairs. I also had to be able to pick up a back foot. This was relatively simple, as he certainly doesn't mind my brushing the wool below his rump.

Finally, the day of our evaluation came and I was excited and confident he would pass. Two evaluators, Cook Rogers and Lois Hickman, and an OT intern from CSU came to put us to the test. All went well and Pisco is now a Certified Pet Therapy llama through the Delta Society. There are two categories in which Pisco can participate. One is the Animal Assisted Activities and Animal Assisted Therapy. AAA is just visiting a facility with no specific goals other than putting smiles on faces. AAT is in conjunction with a professional therapist present

with specific goals in the treatment of a patient.

Just last week, I made a hurry-up call to North Suburban Hospital where my father was recently admitted, to obtain permission to bring Pisco for a visit. The person in charge said she was very much in favor of pet visits and gave her permission. We spent about an hour in a classroom, and patients were brought in, in wheelchairs, to "see the llama!" Two very small children were carried in by parents and seem enthralled by a big woolly animal. I took carrots along and let them give Pisco a treat.

Delta Society requires that you be re-evaluated every two years. I have had more fun visiting nursing homes, schools and hospitals and bringing joy to seniors that are either bed-ridden or unable to get out to do things. It is much more rewarding than putting an animal through the paces at shows and much less stressful for them. They seem to enjoy a new challenge and to see different things. Pisco is also a packer, having been on several long hikes, including a ten-mile hike this past summer carrying photographic equipment, lunch and the proper clothes for inclement weather. We hope to be spreading a little joy for a long time.

Photo: Pisco at North Suburban Hospital with unidentified staff member and patients.



A Llama Festival: Consider the Possibilities!

Robert Tompkins. RMLA President-elect Cheyenne. Wyoming

Not long ago, fellow RMLA member Stephen Baker of Cheyenne, shared with me a newspaper clipping that he had seen for a llama and alpaca festival in Pennsylvania. This particular event was held at an Expo Center and it offered a wide range of educational opportunities for the public to meet owners and their animals. I mentioned the festival idea during our December 2000 board of directors meeting and the feedback from board members was positive. In fact, Jill Knuckles, RMLA Secretary, mentioned the possibility of having such a festival in Grand Junction, Colorado at the peak of the fruit and winery seasons.

While I enjoy shows and pack trips I think a festival would be a good addition to our annual calendar. What do you think? Please share your ideas with the board of directors. Either way we would like to know your thoughts on this.

New Western Slope Group Formed

Linn Jackson, Linn's Llama Lland President, Grand Mesa Llama and Alpaca Club

Grand Junction, Colorado

Hello Llama Llovers Everywhere!

Several of us llama/alpaca type ladies from the western slope recently formed a little "activity group" for ourselves as well as for our llamas and alpacas. We had our initial meeting at a local restaurant over lunch and thought it would be a great idea to form the "Grand Mesa Llama and Alpaca Club" of Grand Junction, Colorado. We all wanted to make the opportunities to get together on a regular basis with other llama and alpaca people and our wonderful animals. Many of us wanted to participate more frequently in local holiday events, parades, as well as club events such as day hikes (in the winter months), shared ranch work days (for toe trimming, shots & vaccinations, as well as shearing clinics). We would also like to volunteer in local shows (as a group), attend ALSA shows together, and see the development of community based programs to educate the public on the enjoyment and the feasibility of owning llamas and or alpacas (more on that later).



Our Club is a huge success! We have eight to ten core members right now. Meeting and event notices are emailed out to (hopefully) everyone on the western slope of Colorado and eventually all RMLA members (everyone is most welcome to attend events, functions, lunches, and laugh sessions). Our first big event was the Grand Junction Parade of Lights in downtown Grand Junction on December 2, 2000.

We had thirteen participants in this years parade, including two banner carriers (Krysta and Paige Sargent), and an able and fleet footed photographer, Bev Mullholland! Bobbie Knowles, Kathy and Steve McKinley, Linda and Monte Oneal brought a total of five alpacas! Nancy Winne came with her trusty pack llama "Beau". Jill and Rob Knuckles, Pat Lowe and a friend all brought llamas. Five llamas in blinking antlers and Christmas packs, five alpacas with stockings and bears, two banner carriers with Santa hats and a fleet footed photographer running along the sidelines.....and a THIRD PRIZE for this our first parade!

To our surprise we were invited to the Palisade parade the following Saturday.....No problem!! To everyone's great delight.....FIRST PRIZE!! Needless to say a great time was had by all, lots of fun, lots of laughs and great exposure for our llamas and alpacas!

If we have missed you and you would like to receive our notices please e-mail us at: lnslamalnd@aol.com. Thanks again and Happy New Year from all of us in the Grand Mesa Llama & Alpaca Club!



Photos: Left, A Christmas Llama; Above, members of the GMLAC.

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Legal Liability Issue or Do You Really Need That Sign?

Karen Kinyon, Double K Diamond Ranch

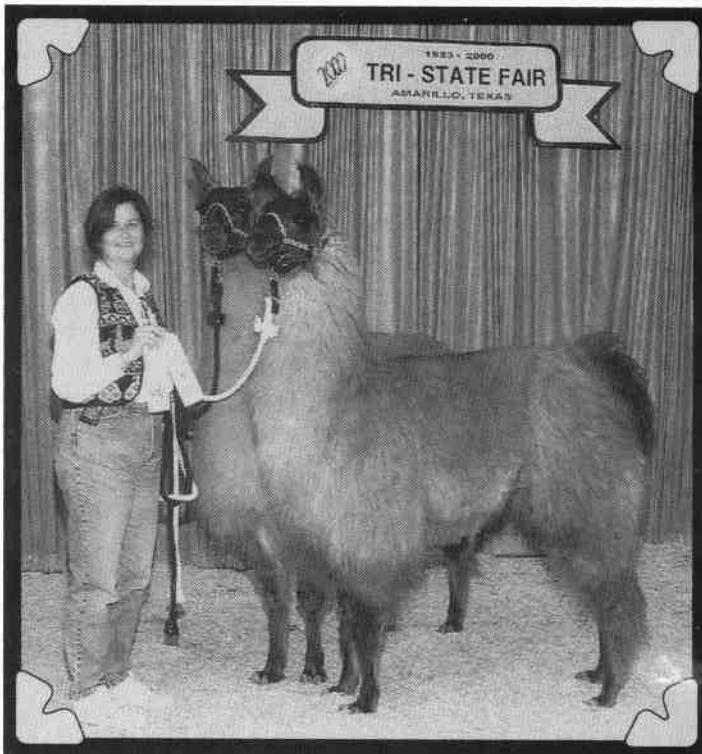
Fort Collins, Colorado

WARNING; Under law, a llama professional is not liable for an injury or the death of a participant, pursuant to Section 13-21-119, Colorado Revised Statutes.

The sign in question is the Legal Liability Sign that is available for all llama facilities. This is an important sign to post on one's property because we all have numerous functions where there are inexperienced people involved with our llamas and alpacas.

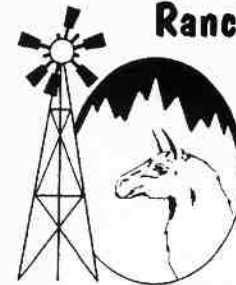
An incident that happened on our farm was that we had an elderly group come for "Lunch with the Llamas" It was a beautiful summer day and we had 25 elderly folks from an area Retirement Center come to our backyard for a picnic. The yard was very shady and the llamas were just across the fence, leaning over for bits of carrot and everyone was having a great time. One lady went over to give a llama a carrot, stepped wrong and fell. We got her up, brushed her off and she said everything was fine. Lunch continued and we thought everything was fine. A month or so later, I got a bill from the lady's chiropractor. I called and asked her what was going on, and she said when she fell on our property, she hurt her back and hip and needed medical attention. I called my insurance company and they agreed with her. If I had had my liability sign then and had it posted, I would not have been liable for her medical bills. It cost the insurance company over \$2000.00 for that lady to come have lunch. Needless to say, my insurance rates also increased.

I learned my lesson, bought the sign and it is now posted on our garage in plain sight when anyone comes for a farm visit. Things happen that we are not always prepared for, but this is one way that we can prevent additional costs to our farms. The sign is available from a number of llama and alpaca supply stores and is a valuable item to have. Good Luck, Be Safe and let's all enjoy promoting our llama and alpaca friends.



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Liability: Issues for the Alpaca and Llama Owner

Robert Tompkins, RMLA President-elect

Cheyenne, Wyoming

At the outset, let me state my intent: the goal of this article is to educate alpaca and llama owners concerning liability issues. I am not providing legal advice. For that, please consult your attorney.

Given the interest in this subject at the annual meeting this past October, I decided to do some research on our local liability laws. Specifically, I was interested in how Wyoming law compared to that in Colorado which limits the civil liability of a "llama professional" per section 13-21-119, Colorado Revised Statutes. As I recall it was Wes Mauz who suggested that I look at the "equine statutes" in Wyoming. His suggestion took me to the "Recreation Safety Act" found at W.S. 1-1-121. Among the definitions in this act, at W.S. 1-1-122, is a definition for "Equine activity." Wyoming law defines an "Equine activity" as:

- (A) Equine shows, fairs, competitions, performances or parades that involve any or all breeds of equines;
- (B) Any of the equine disciplines;
- (C) Equine training or teaching activities, or both;
- (D) Boarding equines;
- (E) Riding, inspecting or evaluating an equine belonging to another, whether or not the owner has received some monetary consideration or other thing of value for the use of the equine or is permitting a prospective purchaser of the equine to ride, inspect or evaluate the equine;
- (F) Rides, trips, hunts or other equine activities of any type however informal or impromptu;
- (G) Day use rental riding, riding associated with a dude ranch or riding associated with outfitted pack trips; and
- (H) Placing or replacing horseshoes on an equine.

Wyoming law goes on to state in W.S. 1-1-123(a) that "any person who takes part in any sport or recreational opportunity assumes the inherent risk in that sport or recreational opportunity, whether those risks are known or unknown, and is legally responsible for any and all damage, injury or death to himself or other persons or property that results from the inherent risk in that sport or recreational opportunity." Subsection (b) of this statute states that a "provider" of such sport or recreational opportunity "is not required to eliminate, alter or control the inherent risks" of the same. And, subsection (c) of the statute preserves "actions based on negligence of the provider" where damage, injury or death is not the result of an inherent risk of the sport or recreational opportunity.

So why all this horse talk? Because this law omits limited liability protection for a alpaca or llama "provider" in Wyoming. Now for the sake of comparison, consider the law in Colorado. What follows is not exhaustive; rather it highlights significant statutory provisions. The Colorado general assembly has made the following legislative declaration:

"The general assembly recognizes that persons who participate in equine activities or llama activities may incur injuries as a result of the risks involved in such activities. The general assembly also finds that the state and its citizens derive numerous economic and personal benefits from such activities. It is therefore, the intent of the general assembly to encourage equine activities and llama activities by limiting the civil liability of those involved in such activities."

Thereafter, some important definitions in the statute are listed as follows:

"Engages in a llama activity" means "riding, training, assisting in medical treatment of, driving, or being a pas-

senger upon a llama, whether mounted or unmounted, or any person assisting a participant or show management. The term 'engages in a llama activity' does not include being a spectator at a llama activity, except in cases where the spectator places himself in an unauthorized area and in immediate proximity to the llama activity."

"inherent risks of llama activities" means "those dangers or conditions which are an integral part of llama activities, as the case may be, including but not limited to:

- (I) The propensity of the animal to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm, or death to persons on or around them;
- (II) The unpredictability of the animal's reaction to such things as sounds, sudden movement, and unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals;
- (III) Certain hazards such as surface and subsurface conditions;
- (IV) Collisions with other animals or objects;
- (V) The potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to the participant or others, such as failing to maintain control over the animal or not acting within his or her ability."

"Llama" means "a South American camelid which is an animal of the genus llama, commonly referred to as 'one llama', including llamas, alpacas, guanacos, and vicunas."

"Llama activity" means:

- (I) Llama shows, fairs, competitions, performances, packing events, or parades that involve any or all breeds of llamas;
- (II) Using llamas to pull carts or to carry packs or other items;
- (III) Using llamas to pull travois-type carriers during rescue or emergency situations;
- (IV) Llama training or teaching activities or both;
- (V) Taking llamas on public relations trips or visits to schools or nursing homes;
- (VI) Participating in commercial packing trips in which participants pay a llama professional to be a guide, on a hike leading llamas;
- (VII) Boarding llamas;
- (VIII) Riding, inspecting, or evaluating a llama belonging to another, whether or not the owner has received some monetary consideration or other thing of value for the use of the llama or is permitting a prospective purchaser of the llama to ride, inspect, or evaluate the llama;
- (IX) using llamas in wool production;
- (X) Rides, trips, or other llama activities of any type however informal or impromptu that are sponsored by a llama activity sponsor; and
- (XI) Trimming the nails of a llama.

"Llama activity sponsor" means "an individual, group, club, partnership, or corporation, whether or not the sponsor is operating for profit or nonprofit, which sponsors, organizes, or provides the facilities for, a llama activity, including but not limited to: Llama clubs, 4-H clubs, hunt clubs, riding clubs, school and college-sponsored classes, programs and activities, therapeutic riding programs, and operators, instructors, and promoters of llama facilities, including but not limited to stables, clubhouses, fairs, and arenas at which the activity is held."



New RMLA Journal Editor

Due to her extremely busy life, Ms. Teri Baird, our infamous RMLA Journal Editor, has asked the Board Of Directors (BOD) to find a new editor. As many of you know, she is busy being a wife, extensively traveling for work and caring for her llamas, as well as Big Phil. All of this has put quite the work load on her and she has decided she must "give-up" something. Since it can't be work, and she won't give-up Phil or the llamas, she has made this difficult decision. We are pleased that Teri has graciously agreed to complete the winter journal prior to turning it over to a new editor. Additionally, she will continue assisting with the Journal publication. Luckily, RMLA had a volunteer and the BOD is proud to announce that Ron Baird will begin serving as the new RMLA Editor beginning with the spring edition. As you may know, Ron has been working with RMLA as the Chairperson of the Research Committee. He brings vast knowledge of publication management from his past experience as the editor of the ALSA ShowRing. Welcome aboard Ron!!!

Ron is creating a committee to sell ads for the Journal and is looking for members to assist him. He needs everyone's help and I encourage you all to get involved. Please contact him if you are ready, willing and able.

The BOD would like to give Teri Baird a heartfelt Thanks for all of her hard work and devotion to the Journal. Perhaps you all didn't know but Teri took over the Journal when no one else wanted it. Many Thanks Teri, and we are truly glad you are staying on to help the Journal!

The RMLA Journal is one the best in the country or is really the best. But, it is only as good as we make it. That includes the entire RMLA Membership. The Journal is seen everywhere, including some foreign countries. We need articles of all kinds, not just of shows, packing, or parades, but also of your experiences and tips with working with llamas and alpacas. Good, bad & sad, we are looking for it all. Sharing information will help all of us. If you noticed, in the November Journal, RMLA Ghost Writer, Katie Wegner, has offered to write up your experiences. Well, you can't beat that!!! Thanks so much Katie.

Members, with everyone's commitment, we can continue to make the RMLA Journal the very best!!!

Liability Recommendation from your Board

We walk by our liability sign several times a day and don't give it much thought. It is as much a part of our barn and pasture as the llamas, fun and work.

It was recently brought to my attention that the language on the liability sign that we purchased in 1994 was different from the language in the Colorado statute. I began to imagine how many other signs were posted throughout Colorado that also read the same way. After contacting the RMLA attorney, here is what we discovered and the RMLA Board would like to share this information with you.

1. All of the wording from the statute must be on the sign for you to be protected.
2. A person should use the "llama" statute on the sign as opposed to the "equine" statute because your liability concerns llamas.
3. A sign should contain all of the language of the statute, not a few selected words.
4. The entire Colorado statute is as follows.

"Under Colorado Law, a llama professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in llama activities resulting from the inherent risks of llama activities, pursuant to section 13-21-119, Colorado Revised Statutes."

5. The warning notice should appear on each sign in black letters, with each letter to be minimum of one inch in height.

After your sign has been correctly printed, it should be posted in a very prominent place one your barn or fence.

Please take a look at your sign. It would seem that a sign that does not contain the entire statute is as good as no sign at all. . . and that is a pretty scary thought!

Contact your attorney for more information concerning this statute. If your state does not have such a statute, work with your legislators to get one on the books.

Please welcome our Newest Members!

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Rio Oso Farm
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Herriman, UT 84065-7299
Phone (801) 254-7299
deb@rio-osos.com

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wesson@spot.colorado.edu
www.wessonboks.com

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kwincel@men.com

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Stan Wolff-Mills
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Phone (970) 669-8275
Fax (970) 635-2793
jwmfibers@cs.com

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Members!

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Sharron Pierce
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sharronsa@aol.com

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Gary Grimes & Linda Grimes
Evergreen Elegant Alpacas
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Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-8451

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Robert Tompkins
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____ Breeding(B)	____ Training (T)	____ Driving(DR)	
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"Llama professional" means " a person engaged for compensation:

- (1) In instructing a participant or renting to a participant a llama for the purpose of riding, driving, or being a passenger upon the llama; or
- (II) In renting equipment or tack to a participant."

"Participant" means "any person, whether amateur or professional, who engages in an equine activity or who engages in a llama activity, whether or not a fee is paid to participate in such activity."

Colorado law goes on to include the following very important language:

"Every llama professional shall post and maintain signs which contain the warning notice specified in paragraph (b) of this subsection (6). Such signs shall be placed in a clearly visible location on or near stables, corrals, pens, or arenas where the llama professional conducts llama activities if such stables, corrals, pens, or arenas are owned, managed, or controlled by the llama professional. The warning notice specified in paragraph (b) of this subsection (6) shall appear on the sign in black letters, with each letter to be a minimum of one inch in height. Every written contract entered into by a llama professional for the providing of professional services, instruction, or the rental of equipment or tack or a llama to a participant, whether or not the contract involves llama activities on or off the location or site of the llama professional' business, shall contain in clearly readable print the warning notice specified in paragraph (b) of this subsection (6).

The warning notice is reproduced from the statute verbatim as follows:

WARNING

Under Colorado Law, a llama professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in llama activities, resulting from the inherent risks of llama activities, pursuant to section 13-21-119, Colorado Revised Statutes.

Thus, where Colorado has parallel limited liability statutes for equine and llama professionals, Wyoming law affords limited liability protection only for an equine "provider." As a result, I contacted the state senator for my district and asked him if he would sponsor a bill to expand Wyoming's "Recreation Safety Act" to provide limited liability protection for llama and alpaca providers. In the course of our discussion I learned a lot about the origin of the current law and of a past unsuccessful attempt to expand the law. In the end, he was receptive to my request and I faxed him copies of the statutes from both states. Initial indications are that he favors a definition of "livestock" which would include alpacas and llamas and tie-in to the protections provided in the "Recreation Safety Act." He has referred the matter for draft legislation to the attorneys who work for the Legislative Service Office in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I am hopeful we will see a bill in our upcoming legislative session.

I will continue to work toward a law in Wyoming which provides alpaca and llama providers a measure of protection where currently none exists. In this regard, please note that the General Session of the 56th Wyoming Legislature convened January 9,2001 and it is tentatively scheduled to adjourn on March 1,2001. As of press time, I do not have a bill reference number. If a bill is introduced you can track it, and any others of interest, at: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2001/billif.htm>

As a postscript, I would appreciate the support of the RMLA membership to this legislative end. And, for those RMLA members in other states, do you know the extent of your statutory protection? If not, I encourage you to find out. In my view, proactive problem solving is often better than reactive problem solving.

WOW!!
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A Llap Robe Project to Raise Llama Fiber Awareness (and Dollars)

Nancy Wilson, Camp Verde Llamas

Camp Verde, Arizona

This year, members of the Llama and Alpaca Association of Arizona decided to do something different for the 2000 Coconino County Fair. Since there are several spinners in our group, we embarked on a llama to llap robe project. We enlisted a friend of one of our members, who is both a spinner and weaver, to do the weaving. Our intent was to have this be a fun project, and one that would draw lots of attention, and we succeeded at both.

The project started Thursday with shearing. As llamas were shorn, members started carding the fiber using drum carders and then began spinning. The singles yarns were made into two ply yarns for the weaving. As is the case in some sheep-to-shawl events, we chose to start with a pre-warped loom. In this case we used a commercial wool yarn that would blend nicely with our hand-spun llama yarns. Due to the weaving width we had available, we wove two lengths of fabric and then joined them down the center. Keeping with our objective of making this a fun project, the various colors were woven at random, while keeping track of the order in which each llama's wool was used. This way we were able to provide a map of the finished project. We continued spinning and weaving over the course of Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and finished Labor Day Monday (very appropriate) about noon. Remember, this was intended to be a fun project, not a stress-inducing project. Various members of our team also participated in the show events, so at times our spinning team was down to one or two people.

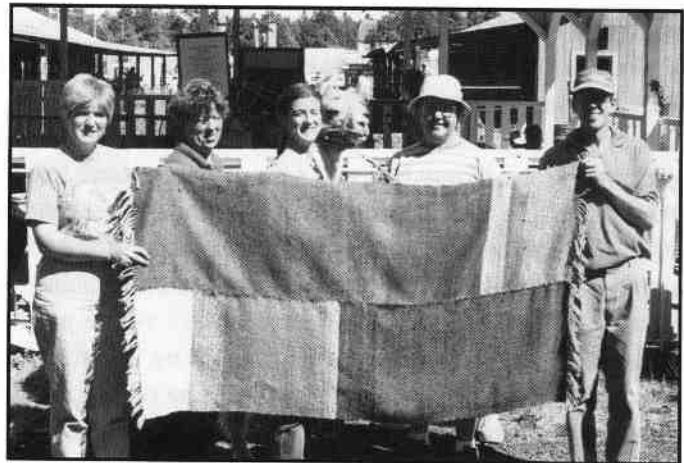
The project generated a lot of public interest. People would stop by and tell stories about friends or relatives who are or were spinners or weavers. Since the carding was an ongoing element, we taught interested onlookers how to do this so our spinners could keep spinning. This was a great way to get the public involved. It was also a great way to get association members thinking about using their own llama fiber.

The llap robe was raffled off at the end of the fair. A visitor from Massachusetts won the llap robe, so our project will raise awareness of llama fiber on the East Coast as well as in northern Arizona where it was made. We raised over \$200 toward an upcoming TTEAM clinic our association is hosting next June, which will involve clients of the Hozhoni Foundation in addition to llama owners. The Hozhoni Foundation works with developmentally disabled people, and this type of experience will be very beneficial to them.

For those interested in statistics, we figure approximately 96 hours of labor were involved and six different fleeces were used. In addition to the number of people who worked the drum carder (without whom the project would have taken much longer), the people involved in producing the llap robe were: Liane Sims, Eric Souders, Pam Tait, Kari Usher (also our weaver), and Nancy Wilson.

We plan on doing this event again next year, and we look forward to having more of our members participating as spinners. This project lends itself well to using yarns produced by a variety of skill levels. We used a simple twill pattern so the texture of the yarns would be evident.

If you have thought about doing this type of project, I would encourage you to do so.



From left, Nancy Wilson, Trish Hill, Kari Usher, Brenda Anderson, Eric Souders

From the RMLA Conference Notebook: Poisonous Plants Seminar

Shirley A. Weathers, Rosebud Llamas

Fruitland, Utah

Every year, poisonous plants cause death, temporary and chronic pain and illness, abortions, decreased productivity, and birth defects involving hundreds of thousands of grazing and browsing livestock. The annual economic loss amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars. Although less is known about llama and alpaca susceptibility to plant toxins than other livestock, Dr. Murray Fowler has documented cases of poisoning of llamas by at least Oleander Mountain, Black or Sierra laurel (*Leucothoe davisiae*)~ Rhododendron; Water hemlock (*Cicuta* spp.)~ Ponderosa, Western or Yellow pine (*Pinus ponderosa*); Yew (*Taxus* spp.) and Death camas (*Zigadenus* spp.). He also notes that camels reportedly have been poisoned by African plant species identical or related to western U.S. plants: Thornapple (*Datura stramonium*), Milk or Pencil bush (*Euphorbia tirucalli*), Lantana, Castorbean or Castor-oil plant (*Ricinus communis*) and Sorghum. Since the publication of my Field Guide to Plants Poisonous to Livestock: Western US, two years ago, llama owners have contacted me with reports of llamas poisoned by Cocklebur seedlings (*Xanthium strumarium*) and Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*), also known as Sorghum, Milo, and several other common names. Time will tell more about how llamas react to other plants that have harmed horses, sheep, cattle, goats or pigs, but using caution in allowing them access is the best policy in the meantime.

For complicated reasons of plant and animal evolution, well-nourished herbivores will generally avoid eating most toxic plants. The toxins in some plants make them unpalatable to animals—they either smell or taste bad. Animals learn from other animals, particularly their mothers, to avoid some of the other poisonous plants. Still other poisonous plants produce a disagreeable physiological sensation soon enough after ingestion that animals learn not to eat them at all or they stop before consuming toxic quantities. But these mechanisms of safe eating are not fool-proof. As noted, above, poisoning does occur and when it does, it can be devastating to both animal and owner .

On a personal note, when I began the Field Guide, I understood the grave potential of plant poisoning, but had not had any direct experience with it. Then in the midst of writing it, our neighbors had to put down five horses due to Russian knapweed poisoning—I will talk more about that later. Just after the book was published, one of our pack llamas plucked a large mouthful of a young Water hemlock plant as we prepared to cross a stream. Although almost certainly not a lethal dose for a 300-pound animal, I'm convinced that I prevented him from being sickened by recognizing and forcibly removing the plant matter from his mouth.

There are a variety of reasons why livestock eat poisonous plants. There are some to which livestock have been found to be attracted. Some unpalatable plants appear to lose their disagreeable odors or tastes when dried (as in hay)~ a significant cause of poisonings is consumption of toxic plant parts mixed in hay, silage, grain, or processed feed. Some typically safe plants become toxic when fertilized or treated with certain herbicides. They may simultaneously become more palatable. Weather stresses and other natural conditions may convert the non-toxic to toxic. Probably most importantly, if put into a situation where only poisonous plants are available or where they make up a large percentage of available forage, livestock will eat them.

Whether or not animals will be sickened by ingesting particular toxic plants is also a complex matter. Not all species of livestock are equally affected by or susceptible to various plant toxins. For example, it is thought at this time that only equines contract "chewing disease," a devastating illness involving irreversible brain damage caused by consumption of toxic amounts of *Centaurea solstitialis* or *Centaurea repens* (commonly known as Yellow starthistle and Russian knapweed, respectively). The relative health of the individual animal or, if a ruminant, of the microflora in its rumen) can figure into how well it can handle some toxic substances in the plants it

consumes. The digestive systems of some animal species can adapt to be able to detoxify higher levels of toxins with exposure. A substantial quantity of some plants must be ingested to trigger illness or death. A couple of leaves of other plants can kill.

Despite all of these variables (and more), experts agree that plant poisoning can be minimized. The best means is a combination of effective use of good information about toxic plants and the provision of adequate amounts of safe alternative food. In the unhappy event that poisoning occurs, being informed may facilitate effective response.

Here are some suggestions that may help owners of livestock of all types protect their animals from poisoning: Pasture management is critical. Learn about plants in pastures and the animals that will graze there. Seek help from Extension agents and others, if necessary. Some options:

- Eliminate or fence securely around toxic plants, especially if animals may find them palatable or if they are highly toxic or abundant. NOTE: If you grub out highly poisonous plants such as the various Water hemlock species (*Cicuta* spp.), take appropriate precautions to protect yourself and others, especially children.
- If animals will have access to less palatable toxic plants, ensure that they always have adequate safe forage available. Check plant levels and types periodically. Do not overgraze.
- Watch carefully in early spring or late fall when toxic plants may be more prevalent than others.
- Know which plants are drought resistant. They may be the only food available under some circumstances.
- Watch out for toxic plants that are evergreen from fall to spring.
- Ensure that animals have adequate water, as well as salt and mineral supplementation, if needed.
- Avoid giving access to plants during their toxic season(s).
- Check on your pastured animals regularly and know the signs of poisoning to allow prompt action in case poisoning occurs.
- Be careful with herbicides (including those that may be applied by others, e.g., local government entities). Learn about their direct effect on animals, whether animals have been found to be attracted by application of the product and, if palatability is likely to increase, know about the inherent toxicity of those plants.

Be prepared to identify and respond appropriately to toxic plants when animals will be taken into unfamiliar areas. New poisonous plants may be eaten simply because the animal has no experience with them.

Avoid driving animals through areas with high concentrations of toxic plants, particularly if they are hungry.

When tying, picketing, or staking animals, identify, and avoid areas where they are likely to consume toxic plants. If at all possible, find a place that is grassy, rather than leafy. Most, although not all, wild grasses are safe forage. [Be able to identify and avoid *Triglochin maritima* (known in most areas as Seaside arrow grass) and *Zigadenus* spp. (commonly known as Death camas, but there are several other common names).]

Do not assume that others know about poisonous plants. Feeding animals "treats" seems to be an almost irresistible urge of humans. Educate both adults and children who may come in contact with animals so that they know not to feed them leaves, fruits, etc. (*This exercise will also alert children to the whole issue of poisonous plants. Many plants are at least as dangerous for children to eat as livestock.*) Consider providing visitors with "official treats" that animals like and can safely eat.

If animals are rented or lent to others, orient the temporary caretakers to toxic plants along with other instructions on care and handling. Provide plant identification resources to be taken along with the animals.

When selling animals, ensure that buyers are aware of toxic plants. Consider providing pertinent materials to the new owners.

Do not feed yard or garden vegetation (clippings or trimmings) to livestock.

Try to arrange to walk uncut hay fields before buying and check hay when feeding. Buy grain and processed feeds from reputable sources.

Consider removing toxic trees and shrubs in corrals, pastures, and yard that could be accessible to livestock. Of course, the urgency of this measure depends on the toxicity of the plants.

Anticipate accidental circumstances such as leaves blown by wind or the fact that animals sometimes get out.

The safest course during Christmas and other holidays is to avoid feeding trees or other greenery to livestock. Although *Pinus ponderosa* (Ponderosa pine, among other common names) is the most commonly referenced harmful member of the *Pinus* genus, other species and other conifers also may be toxic, especially if consumed in large quantities over a short period. Many common types of holiday decorative greenery can be deadly.

Check branches and tree limbs brought down in pastures by storms to ensure that they are not from toxic trees.

Plant poisoning is generally a complex medical situation and will probably require a veterinarian's evaluation and care. The following may be helpful for livestock owners to keep in mind:

- Establish a connection with a veterinarian before an emergency arises. Locate a practitioner familiar with your species of animal(s) and involve him or her in routine care.
- Ask for information about any plants in the area that may already have caused problems. If other animals have been poisoned by local plants, there is a good chance that local veterinarians at least will be aware of that. They also may have some good advice to give you about prevention or response or both.
- If you will be taking animals into a situation where veterinarian assistance will be difficult to obtain, ask your veterinarian to discuss some prudent actions to take in the event of poisoning.

Always notify a veterinarian when plant poisoning is suspected. Be prepared to provide him or her with as much information as possible about the situation.

Discuss appropriate supportive/symptomatic care you may be able to provide to sick animals and be prepared to provide it until assistance arrives-

- Try to identify any suspect plants. Get a sample.
- Inspect the area where the animal was grazing. Try to determine the amount and duration of consumption.
- Observe and make careful note of any physiological or behavioral signs the affected animal may exhibit.

Keep an open mind and investigate other possible toxic agents to which a sickened animal may have been exposed, as well as the possibility that another type of illness may be involved.

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Mini-Conference to be held in Cheyenne, Wyoming

Robert and Diane Walker Tompkins, Prairie Wind Llamas

Cheyenne, Wyoming

Mark your calendars for March 31 and April 1, 2001!

Plans are in the works to host an educational mini-conference in Cheyenne for RMLA members. We have agreed to host the conference. That said, we would appreciate your input and help in providing a worthwhile conference. One of our goals is to provide a conference of interest to both our alpaca and llama membership of RMLA. Given our fiber focus, a portion of the seminar will concern marketing of alpaca and llama fiber. Otherwise, what is your pleasure in terms of conference topics? Please let us know by calling us at (307) 635-2168 or fax us at the same number or e-mail us at: pwillamas@juno.com

Once the conference agenda is set we will notify the membership via post card and a notice posted on the RMLA web site. We look forward to your input and we hope to see you in Cheyenne!



Field Guide to Plants Poisonous to Livestock: Western U.S. By Shirley A. Weathers

Every year, poisonous plants cause death, temporary and chronic pain and illness, abortions, decreased productivity, and birth defects involving hundreds of thousands of livestock. Economic losses amount to hundreds of millions of dollars. Experts agree that many occasions of plant poisoning are preventable.

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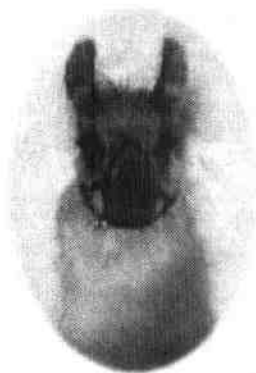
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Llama Trek 2000

Leslie Dickman, Rainbow Llamas

Thedford, Nebraska

On June 3, 2000, the third annual llama trek was held at the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey, NE. Fifty-eight people and thirty-four llamas walked the three-mile Scott Tower Trail on a windy, 75-degree morning.

The trekkers attending came from several different parts of the state including Lexington, Overton, Trenton, Thedford, Cozad, Atkinson, Lincoln, Linwood, Grand Island, Hastings, Murry, Waco, and a special guest home on Naval leave from Okinawa Japan.

At the beginning of the trek, Herb Gerhard, forest ranger, met with the group and gave some background information on the Nebraska National Forest and Bessey Nursery.

All the llamas and hikers were then shuttled to the tower where the three-mile trek began. At the halfway point, Jamie Forch, Dustin Dickman, Rollie and Deb Manske met the hikers with refreshments. The trek ended at the main campground where everyone's vehicles were parked.

After the trek, everyone traveled 25 miles west to Rainbow Llamas near Thedford for a barbeque, swimming in the Middle Loup River and gold panning demonstrations. Seventy-two people were in attendance.

The Nebraska Llama Association provided the food and sold Llama Trek 2000 t-shirts for \$10 to help off-



set the cost of the food.

Jamie and Pat Forch from Trenton gave a gold panning demonstration and everyone was invited to try their luck at using gold pans. Special troughs full of water and sand/gravel material with flakes of gold dust kept many, old and young alike entertained for hours!

The Little Hummers 4-H Group from Lexington attended for the third year in a row. Lots of them enjoyed the swimming party. There was a shearing demonstration done by Tim Grothen with several watchful people in attendance. Many also took a tour through all the llamas of Dickman's.

An NLA meeting was held with the main discussion being the llama show at the Nebraska State Fair in August.

The trek and barbeque were hosted by Monte, Leslie, Dustin and Kelcee Dickman. Next year the trek and barbeque will be going to Swanson Reservoir near Trenton. The trek will also be very close to Kansas and Colorado. The trek is open to everyone. Anyone who would like to help or who may have ideas should contact Jamie or Pat Forch at 308-334-5665.

Photos courtesy of Leslie Dickman.



Llama Pack Performance Field Trials

Jim Osmun 9966 Logan, Thornton, CO 80229 303-457-2787 Fax 303-457-2787 osmunj@worldnet.att.net

Field trials provide an opportunity for owners and prospective owners to evaluate pack llamas in actual working situations. Those participating may have different goals. Some may participate just to get in shape; others may wish to challenge the llama's skills and compare those skills with a set of standards.

This activity has been popular in the Northwest for a number of years. I attended several trials in Idaho in 1996 and 1997. When I started packing with llamas, it was hard for me to determine what to expect of them. How far to go each day, how much elevation gain, how much weight, and how fast to go were all questions that needed to be answered when planning a trip. Keeping your pack llama in shape, in addition to yourself, is a challenge. One of the most interesting activities at some of the trails I attended was measuring pulse and respiration at points on the course to evaluate the llama's conditioning. The trials gave me lots of information that has been very helpful.

The trials provide a set of standards that are realistic. Basic three-mile, Advanced five-mile, and Master eight-mile courses are used. Natural obstacles including water, deadfall, log jumps, narrow passages, bridges, bush-whacking, elevation gain, and trail traffic will provide challenges. Each participant has a score card for self-evaluation. Each course has a maximum score goal. Scoring is on a pass/fail honor system.

There will be a short clinic for the Basic course participants. Llamas must be at least 24 months old to participate. They should be comfortable with packs on and ready to experience the trail.

Those interested should contact me ASAP. I will need a permit and approval from RMLA to have the event on Saturday, May 8th, 2001 at Golden Gate State Park. I need to apply for the park permit by February 1, 2001.

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2000
LITTLETON, COLORADO**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Lewellyn, Jerry Dunn, Lougene Baird, Jill Knuckles.
Not present - Bruce Ellis

WELCOME: Larry Lewellyn

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Jill Knuckles

Minutes were approved from the 1999 Annual Membership Meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes: Lougene Baird

2nd: Barb Hance

Vote: All attendees showed in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lougene Baird

General Operations	\$11,885
Caring for Llamas General Operations	8,984
Caring for Llamas Production Savings	20,844
Research Reserve Savings	2,485
Life Member Reserve Savings	4,918
General Operations Liquid Asset Account	<u>25,637</u>
Overall Total	\$74,753

All invoices and deposits are current.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Annual Conference - Jerry Dunn Jan Redenbarger headed up the conference. Helping her was Jim Os-
mun, Terri Lynch. Had an excellent line up, but for a number of reasons, we were not able to get the enroll-
ment that was needed to hold the conference. The majority of the dollars will be returned and all conference
registrations returned. LaRue Johnson's clinic was held on Thursday, October 19. Looking forward to a future -
direct efforts towards Mini Conference and Small Clinics

Bookstore - Keith Wegner

We have our final few issues of the 2nd printing of CFL&A left and are getting ready to roll the press on
printing the 3rd Edition. Our 2nd printing of CFL&A lasted from May of 98 to present. Sales were as follows:
87% sold wholesales, Single title sales contributed 6%, Retail direct contact was 5%. We could improve on re-
tail sales. Youth manual contributes 5% of total sales to the bookstore. The Llama Association of North Amer-
ica is going to buy the youth manual to give to each member.

Best customers of CFL&A:

Useful Llama Products	\$11,000
Internet - Amazon.com	6,300
Steven's Llama Tique	4,000
Quality Llama Products	6,000
Mt. Sopris	1,000
Barnes and Noble	1,300

RMLA offered a special price on the last few issues of CFL&A (2nd edition) as the annual meeting. \$15 each or \$75 / six.

Bylaws - Larry Lewellyn

We need to revisit our bylaws and bring them up to date. We need to focus on policies and procedures. We do not currently have a Chairperson to head up this committee and would welcome any volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, contact Larry Lewellyn or any RMLA Officer. Several members volunteered during the meeting - Diane Tompkins, Teri Baird.

Continuing Education - Jerry Dunn

Continuing education can include a number of things, applies to all of the clinics we are having and the events we do with the youth. We strongly recommend that you let the RMLA board know that you will be holding a clinic and we will be able to help support you. One way we can help support is by helping with the advertising and getting the information out to our membership. We are presently an international information center and can help everyone by getting out information.

Jerry mentioned the National Western Stock Show web page - nationalwestern.com. Under Llamas you will find the history of llamas, events, an Evening with a Llama. You can also register for the show online. Any suggestions about the web page, pass on to Jerry Dunn.

Also coming out of An Evening with a Llama entered an International Contest - International Expo - Many members have contributed and continue to contribute. One way we educate around the world.

Events / Marketing - Jerry Dunn

We have 26 events at this time. It is currently split about half shows and half other activities. Would like to see more "non-show" type of events. Jerry passed out a list of upcoming events for 2001. Some have been finalized while others are just tentative dates. The list will be published in the RMLA Journal. We need to focus on getting people to these events. Anytime someone is out with their llamas, take pictures and write an article for the Journal.

Jim Osmun commented on the Pack Performance Trials, which is no longer an ALSA event. This is a great way to get people out, to teach and learn.

Either last year or two years ago RMLA put an ad on the National Marketing Campaign. To date there have been 4,253 inquiries for llama information - 521 came from the Internet site, 197 of the inquiries bought the info pack. Future plans are to send out the rest of the breeders directories, continue to work the Web Site and in the next 30 days we will be offering a classified ad section.

The best marketing strategy is to continue with your advertising and develop websites for marketing. Get your animals out and show people what they can do.

Fiber - Karen Kinyon and Sharon Beacham

The Fiber co-op attended six events this past year and had over 30 consignors. They are always looking for individuals to help run the booth at various events. Contact Sharon or Karen if interested. The booth also sells the CFL&A as well as distributes the RMLA brochure. Go to a variety of out of state events: Taos Wool Festival, Grand Nationals, Wyoming State Fair. The Taos Wool Festival proved to be a very big success this year. The fiber co-op sales have been over \$9,000 to date. The co-op is open to all RMLA members. RMLA always sponsors two awards at Estes Park Wool Market and at the Taos Wool Festival.

Library - Lougene Baird

Sharon Herbold apologized for not being able to make the meeting, but passed on that things are going very well with the Library. She very much appreciates the updated information on the website and appreciates getting the orders via e-mail, this has proved an efficient means. Training Video's and just general information are the top two requested items.

A question arose - How do we expand our materials in the Library? Lougene answered that Sharon is authorized to buy any materials she may see relevant to Llamas and Alpacas. Often times material is given to the Library as well as requests to have specific information.

Membership - Barb Hance

Barb raised the question as to why we have two levels of adult membership - a Ranch Membership and an Individual Membership? Currently the booking keeping is very involved. It is also very confusing to the members in reference to what benefits a ranch membership has and what benefits an individual membership receives. We would like to explore the possibility and request that the membership consider "one" type of membership. Following discussion by the attendees a motion was raised.

Motion: We would like to proposed an Annual Membership at a cost of \$40 annual fee. The Membership will include up to two adults and up to two votes - one each per adult.

Motion: Karen Kinyon 2nd: Diane Tompkins

Vote: All in attendance in favor.

Research - Larry Lewellyn

The Morris Animal Foundation recognizes RMLA as supporting research. In 1999 RMLA financed a study conducted through the Morris Animal Foundation Research through Ohio State University by David Anderson. The study will continue for another year and is asking for additional funding. The research focuses on the gelding age of the llama and the effects of gelding at various ages. The first year of funding was approximately \$7,000 and would like to ask for additional funding for the year 2000.

Motion: Continue to provide research dollars to the Morris Animal Foundation for research of the Long Bone Study.

Motion: Larry Lewellyn 2nd: Barb Hance

Vote: All in attendance in favor.

Journal - Teri Baird

Suggestion are appreciated. The Journal will only work if everyone contributes. Need articles and volunteers to help with the journal. Would like to have regional volunteers.

OLD BUSINESS:

RMLA Youth Foundation: The RMLA Youth Foundation is separate from RMLA. It's purpose is to make Grants available to RMLA Youth Members. Presently there are five youth who receive a \$350 per semester scholarship form the foundation. Nine RMLA youth attended Grand Nationals in 1999 and received \$200 to help with expenses. We have 14 youth which have qualified for Grand Nationals this year, but have not submitted a request to date.

Camelid Kids: We presently need a new volunteer to do the typesetting for the Camelid Kid newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Website Discussion - What are the possibilities about adding a "What's New This Month" to the web page. No motion.

Discussion in reference to Legal Liability Signs - The Wegners have the legal liability signs available to purchase. The board needs to discuss how to go about selling these signs to the membership. Do we need to order additional signs for sale. No Motion.

Discussion in reference to the National Western Stock Show - A question was raised about renting a booth at the National Western Stock Show to promote RMLA and Llamas. The board needs to look into the cost and advantages. No Motion.

Elections: The results of the elections were announce by Larry Lewellyn,

President Elect - Robert Tompkins

Vice President - Jerry Dunn

Treasurer - Lougene Baird

Motion to Adjourn - Larry Lewellyn

2nd - Jerry Dunn

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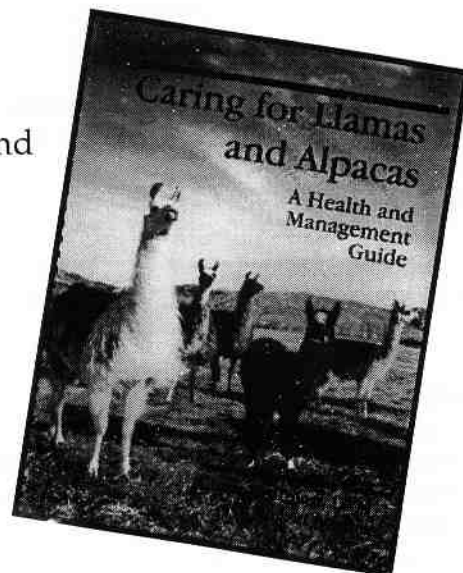
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**RMLA Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, November 18, 2000**

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

The Secretary reviewed from the September 20, 2000 Board Meeting with the board. Larry Lewellyn motioned to accept the amended minutes with a 2nd from Lougene Baird. Motion carried.

The minutes were reviewed and amended from the Annual Membership Meeting that was held October 21, 2000. The Annual Membership Minutes will be reviewed and accepted by the membership at the 2001 Annual Meeting. The Annual Membership Meeting Minutes will be submitted to the Winter Journal issue noting final approval at the 2001 Membership Meeting.

Treasurer Report:

Overall Total	\$76,215
General Operations	\$ 10,830
Liquid Asset Account	25,776
Research	2,485
Life Member	<u>4,932</u>
	\$44,023
CFL&A General Operations	\$ 11,280
CFL&A Special Production	<u>20,912</u>
	\$32,192

The general operations account reflects the money from the Taos Wool Festival. Consignors' fees will be paid pending receipt of invoices from the event chair. All other invoices and deposits are current.

The Legal Liability Signs that were brought up at the Annual Meeting were discussed – Katie and Keith Wegner have the signs and will supply the board with an update as to how many they currently have. We need to put something in the Journal in reference to the signs.

A general discussion about having a booth at the National Western Stock Show – Jerry is looking into approval to set up the RMLA booth in a stall during the llama show. She will wait until all entries have been received to see if there will be an unused stall available. Jerry should know around 12-15 if RMLA will be able to set up a booth.

Website – "What's New This Month" -- Must remember that anything listed on the Website as an events must be an RMLA Approved Event. If the Hance's would like to add the "What's new This Month" to the website, the board is all for it. A note will need to go out to all members in reference to the guidelines we must follow in posting information.

New Business

Upcoming Board Meetings:

December 12, 2000	Conference Call, 7:00pm
January 23, 2001	Conference Call, 7:00pm
February 10, 2001	Board Meeting in Denver, 10:00am Invite Committee Chairs
March 20, 2001	Conference Call, 7:00pm

RMLA events must be confirmed and approved prior to being listed with a date on any Calendar of Events. We are currently at 26 events for 2001. Larry is our new Liaison for the events.

The "Event Chairs" need to remember to pass on the information about their event to the Journal or to Katie Wegner. Katie is willing to write the articles for the newsletter as long as she receives the information.

Lougene Baird motioned to hold a mini conference Saturday and Sunday, March 31 and April 1, 2001 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The chairs for the event will be Diane and Robert Tompkins. The motion was 2nd by Jill Knuckles. Motion carried.

Jerry motioned to update and send out the "Refrigerator Magnets" with the RMLA information to the membership when we send out the next directory. Robert Tompkins 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

The board discussed the Membership Drive and came up with the following suggestions:

Have the Hance's make a list of who were members previously, but are not currently. We can then send out a membership renewal to each with a letter inviting them to join once again.

We can also have ILR sort their listing by region and have them send us a list. We can send a special membership applications to individuals in our region who are not currently members.

Provide the Hance's with the Questionnaire to put into the membership renewal form going out to the members.

Robert Tompkins is writing an abstract on the use of Guard Llamas to put on the website.

Respectfully Submitted, Jill Knuckles, Secretary

Upcoming Clinics: Mark your Calendars!

Basic Clinic: Training for Willing Cooperation,
March 31

Bobra Goldsmith, Longmont, Colorado 303-530-5575

Bear Track Farm Driving Clinic, April 14-15
Jerry Dunn, Golden, Colorado 303-277-1129

Packing Clinic, April 28-29
Bobra Goldsmith, Longmont, Colorado 303-530-5575

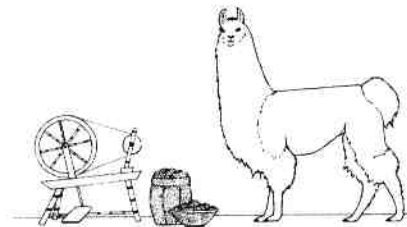
Fiber Clinic, May 6
Karen Kinyon, Fort Collins, CO 970-484-6241

Fiber Clinic, May 20
Sharon Beacham, Boulder, CO 303-666-9437

Driving Clinic, June 30
Bobra Goldsmith, Longmont, Colorado 303-530-5575

Bear Track Farm Driving Clinic, September 15-16
Jerry Dunn, Golden, Colorado 303-277-1129

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LAMA FIBER POOL



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

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Boulder, CO 80301
303/ 666-9437

Karen R. Kinyon
2933 E. Mulberry
Ft. Collins, CO 80524
970/ 484-6241

ALSA Certified Llama Fiber Judges

Welcome Alaine Byers as the 4-H Advisor

Alaine Byers has volunteered to chair the position as 4-H Advisor for RMLA. We would like to "Welcome Her Aboard".

Alaine has owned llamas for 20 years, which began while she was a Special Education teacher for the Mentally Handicapped with the Boulder Valley School District. She started with five male llamas to form her pack string and "Llama Caravans". At that time (1980) there were only eight other commercial packers in the country and llama packing was an unknown adventure as were the llamas themselves. When Alaine began breeding llamas, she took on the name "Indian Peaks Llamas". During the years she was packing, Alaine booked two trips a year for "Special Campers". Specifically, some of her handicapped students. The bond that the students formed with the llamas was incredible and indeed very special to both Alaine and the Llamas.

"I have always enjoyed working with kids, and the Youth Shows I have been asked to judge have always been my favorite. The youth exhibitors are so knowledgeable, professional and exhibit great sportsmanship. They continue to make quite an impression on me as a judge and/or fellow exhibitor. I so look forward to jumping into chairing the 4H Committee. I would like to help facilitate growth of new 4H groups and support the existing ones."

You may contact Alaine at:

Indian Peaks Llamas
PO Box 1022
La Veta, CO 81055

Phone: (719) 742 - 6126
Email: allama202@aol.com

Photo: Alaine and IPL Batik



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Two Packers for Sale – Two half brothers, 9 years old, experienced in packing the past eight years; want to keep together. Make us a good offer; try them out. Call 303-494-8219. Boulder, CO.

Fiber Classes – 2001 schedule at PaxRanch in Longmont. This year we will host an experienced teacher for the following techniques. January – Fiber Dyeing; February – Felting Hats; March – Beginning Spinning; April – Weaving; May – Knitting. Sign up now – contact Cheri at 303-777-4370 or e-mail paxknits@yahoo.com.

Llamas – 10 breeding suri type males - \$1000 – \$2500; 30 breeding females (bred to suri males) - \$300 (group), \$600 (choice); born in 2000 – young males start at \$150, young females start at \$300. Jerry McRoberts, Western Nebraska, 308-884-2371.

Journal of the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association Advertising Information

effective August 2000

* All art should be camera ready. Ad design cost is \$30 per hour, 1 hour minimum. Contact Marilyn Arnold at 303-841-5126 for more information.

* Black and white photographs are preferred.

* This publication is printed in black and white, Line screen is 115 lines/inch.

* Each May a promotional issue is produced. The outside covers and centerfold advertisement is 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, Colorado 80116-9319. Include check payable to RMLA for the amount of the ad plus estimated design costs for art which is not camera-ready. **Full payment must accompany all advertising submitted.**

Classified Ad rates, Members \$5 for up to 50 words per ad. Non-members, \$10 for up to 50 words per ad. Additional words priced at .15 per word for each word over 50.

**Advertising Deadlines:
March 15 (for May issue), June 15,
September 15, December 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
1/3 Page	\$36	\$32.40	\$54	\$48.60
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 Front Cover	\$96	\$86.40	\$144	\$129.60
Inside Back Cover	\$96	\$86.40	\$144	\$129.60
Promotional Issue Rates: Same Color as Journal Cover				
Full Page per page (Centerfold)	\$152	Different Color Add \$85 color change charge	\$243	Different Color Add \$85 color change charge
Back Cover	\$138		\$207	

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Karen Kinyon, Double K Diamond Ranch

Fort Collins, Colorado

As you may or may not know, Dr. LaRue Johnson is on transitional retirement from his position at Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Dr. Johnson has been instrumental in providing ambulatory veterinary care for llamas and alpacas in Northern Colorado. He brings students to farms to provide medical care as well as teach students about llamas and alpacas. He is the only Veterinary Instructor at the C.S.U. Veterinary Teaching Hospital that provides this service for llamas and alpacas. Many of us in Northern Colorado have come to rely on Dr. Johnson and this service to care for our herds. Upon his retirement, this service will no longer be available. At this time, the University has no plans to continue ambulatory veterinary care for camelids. We, in Northern Colorado who have come to rely on this on-the-farm care are very concerned for the health of our animals. If you would like to voice your opinion on this topic, please write to the following address and let's see if we can't circumvent this decision before Dr. Johnson is completely retired. Please write to:

Dr. Wendall Nelson, Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital, 300 West Drake, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

If they get enough letters, maybe they will realize the importance of this very important medical service. If you need additional information, please call Karen Kinyon at (970) 484-6241.

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

Thanks for your purchase of these llamas in 2000:



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Kris & Bob Ryan Filer City, Michigan	PHF Cadfael's Marengo	Cadfael
Christy & Ben Herr Thornton, Colorado	PHF Picacho's Gamberaia	Peruvian Picacho
Felicity Brown Niwot, Colorado	PHF Chaco Consigned by Donna Scott	PHF Solomon's Seal

Thanks for bringing your females to be bred:

Lougene & Ron Baird Sedalia, Colorado	Sterlings Shaylyn PVL R Sugar Magnolia	Cadfael Cadfael
Diane W. & Robert Tompkins Cheyenne, Wyoming	Kyria Ashley	Cadfael Cadfael's Quattro
Deanna & Larry Lewellyn Littleton, Colorado	Perdita's Cotton Candy	Cadfael
Jane Sheppard & Jerry Uherek Beasley, Texas	Boggy Creek Graycie	Cadfael
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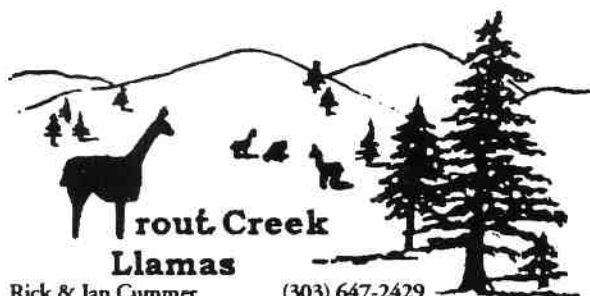
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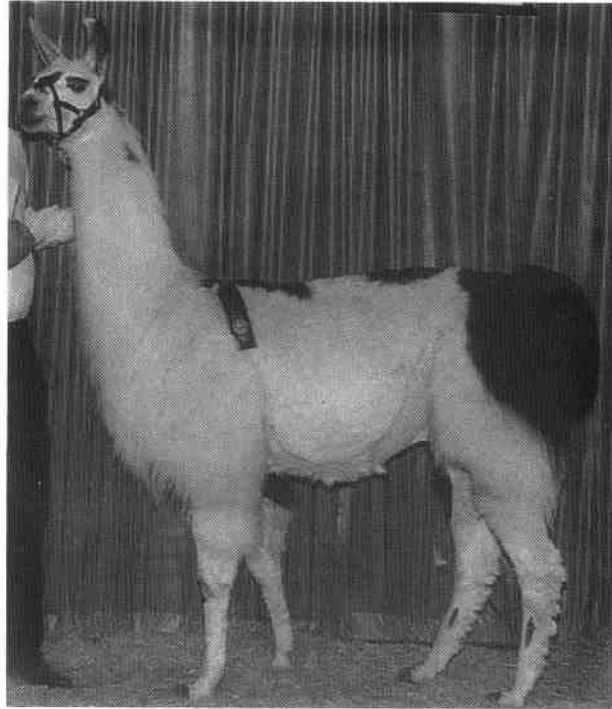
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