

*The Journal*

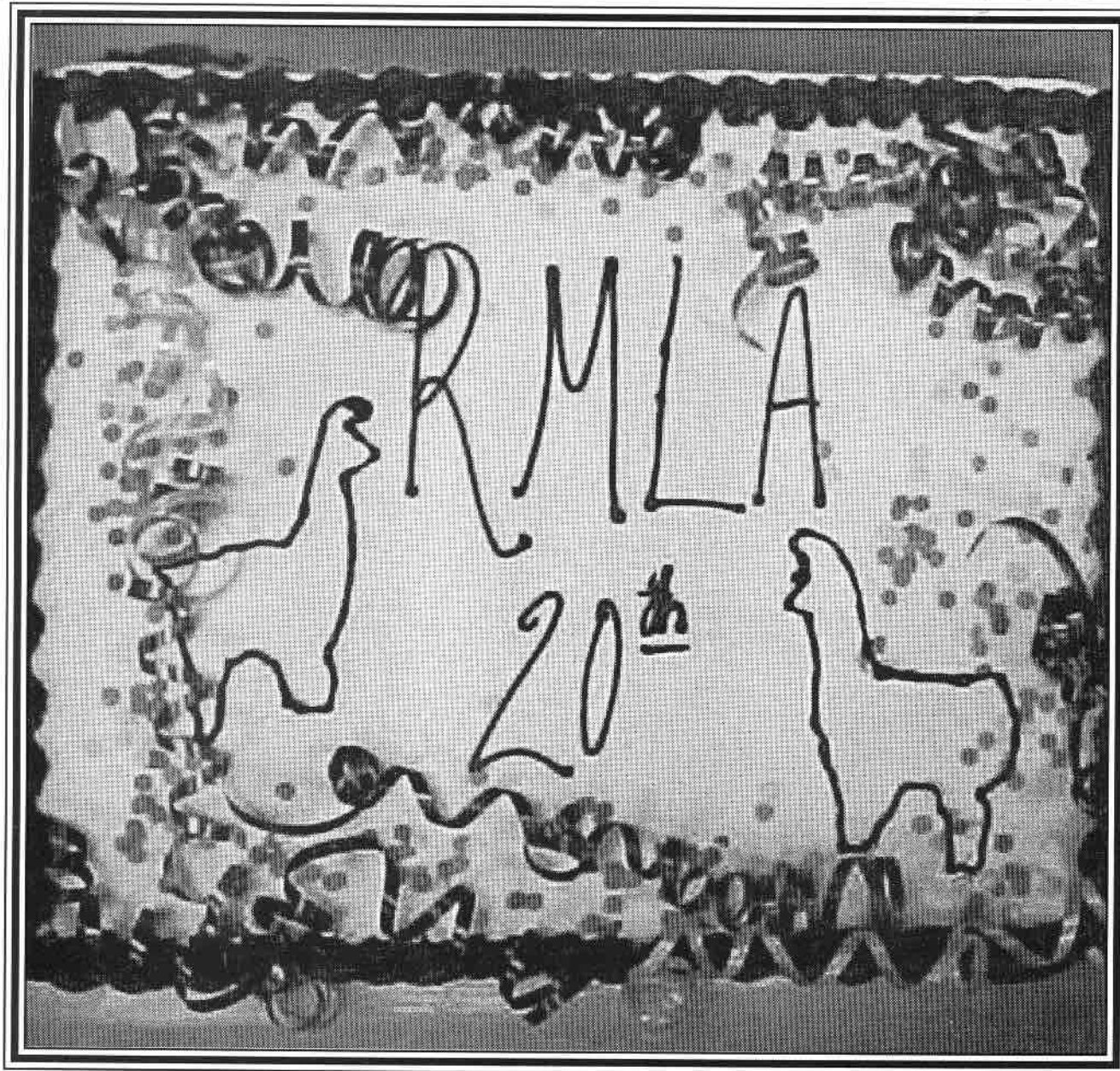
**RMLA**



**Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association**

*Educating our members  
and the public  
for a third decade*

*May, 2002  
Volume 20, Issue 2*



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# Llamarage

BREEDERS OF CHAMPION SHOW LLAMAS

## DISPERSAL SALE

*Llamarage would like to acknowledge and thank the many friends (old and new) that have added Llamarage stock to their herds this past year. It was a joy to see so many of you at ALSA Nationals doing well with llamas from our herd.*

Julie Heqqie & Gayle Woodsum, Double J Llamas  
Bon & Cindy Burgess, Feathers & Friends Farm  
Carolann & Kim Evans, Lladylhawk Llamas  
Dr. Carlos Mendoza, Rancho Linda Vista  
Karen Kinyon, Double K Diamond Llamas  
Patti Morgan, Rock-n-M Llamas  
Jeanne Warren & Bob Robbins, J.R. Llamas  
David & Willow Kauffman, Dusty Britches Ranch

Keith & Patty Wattigney, P.K.'s Mini Farm  
Jan Redenbarger, Winding Trails Llamas  
Christy Herr  
Teri Baird, Broken Windmill Ranch  
Diane Tompkins, Prairie Wind Llamas  
Steve & Leslie Schubert, Cedar Cliff Ranch  
Clint & Debbie Koppenhafer  
Debra Nanny



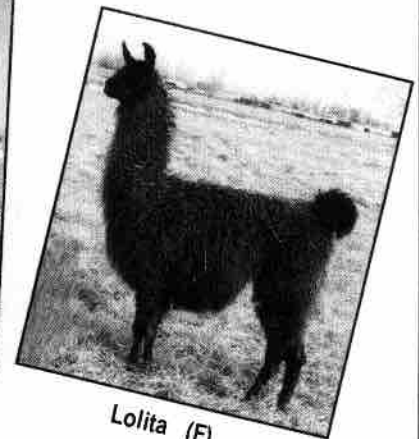
Fortune Hunter (M)



Caballero (M)



Charlotte (F)



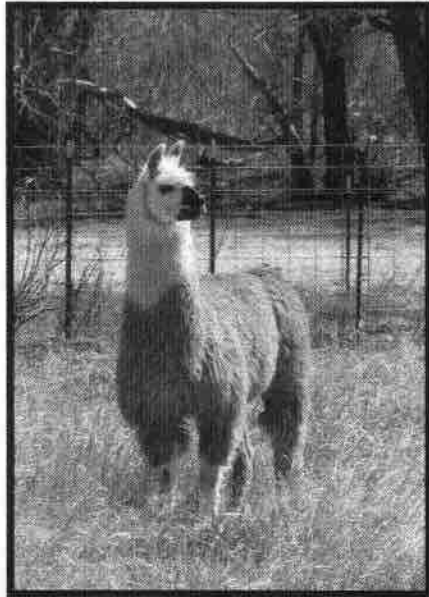
Lolita (F)

*Come visit us and pick out your next champion!*

The Dispersal continues. We have a number of high-quality females and males still left to place in a new home. Many of the males have shown well at ALSA shows (including Champions) and most of the females have either placed very high at ALSA shows or have produced the ones that have. This herd was carefully built over 18 years of very selective breeding. Our reputation in the show ring over the years speaks to the quality of our herd.

PLEASE COME VISIT AND SEE WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER. OUR PRICES HAVE BEEN CUT DRASTICALLY.

# "BANNER" has been BUSY! Just look at these kids!



*Cadfael X PHF Delphinium*  
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Book your ladies now!

2001  
Spring LOCC Classic  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place**  
2001  
EPWM  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place**  
2001  
Fall LOCC Classic  
**Grand Champion**  
2000  
NWSS  
**Grand Champion**  
1999  
EPWM  
**Grand Champion**  
1999  
Wyoming State Fair  
**Reserve Grand**

**ALSA**  
**Recognition of Merit**  
**(ROM)**



"Dazzle Me"  
9/22/00, female



"Banner's Ravello"  
1/2/01, Male



"Jazz Man"  
3/22/01, Male



"Lady Llaila"  
9/18/01, female



"Shasta  
Sunrise"  
10/15/01, male



"Bocelli"  
10/16/01, male



"Savannah"  
10/16/01,  
female

## Ladyhawk Llamas

Kim & Carolann  
Evans  
15102 N. 83<sup>rd</sup> St  
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303/682-1046

**Reserve Grand  
Champion**  
2001 Grand National  
Llama Show

**Grand Champion**  
Int'l Expo Llama Show  
4/22/01  
Springfield, IL

**Reserve Grand  
Champion**  
Indy 400 & 500 Show  
5/19/01  
Noblesville, IN

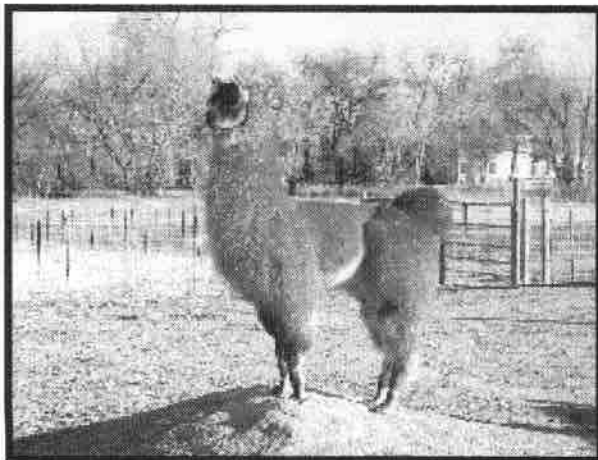
Starting Spring, 2002,  
Legacy will offer just 5  
select outside  
breedings.



Riley Legacy de Peru  
Amigo de Peru  
X  
T.J.'s Christmas Eve

We proudly present our junior  
herdsire:

## LEGACY



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN LLAMA AND ALPACA ASSOCIATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	President-Elect	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
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<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>	<u>Liaison</u>
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Events	Jerry Dunn	303.277.1129	beartrak@gte.net	
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4-H Advisor	Alaine Byers	719.742.6126	allama202@aol.com	Jill Knuckles
Library	Sharon Herbold	719.495.3092	ppwoolies@earthlink.com	Jill Knuckles
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Publishing	RMLA Journal—Ron Baird	303.688.5445	ronbaird@att.net	Lougene Baird
Youth	Barb Harris	719.275.9457	wildcatllamas@aol.com	Jill Knuckles

## Journal

<u>Editor</u>	<u>Advertising Manager</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Journal</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
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**NOTES:** the information in this *Journal* is not intended to be a substitute for qualified professional advice. Readers are encouraged to consult with their own veterinarian, accountant, or attorney regarding any questions concerning their animals or business operations. RMLA is not responsible for any losses resulting from readers' failure to heed this caution. The views expressed by the article writers herein are not necessarily those of the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association, its board, and/or its members.

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# HAY!

THANKS, KATY AND LOUGENE

# Fairplay Pack/Walk Llama Race

Fairplay, CO  
 Saturday, July 27, 2002  
 Contact: Roger Miller – 719/749-0119

Join in the fun of the 20<sup>th</sup> running of this annual event, held in conjunction with Fairplay Burro Days!  
 There will be activities for all ages and abilities.

- ❖ Llama Lunacy obstacle course and fun for the kids and public on Front Street after the races.
- ❖ If you can, bring extra llamas for “loaners” for other non-llama people to use (what a great way to get your llamas seen by the public).
- ❖ Camp (free-tents/campers) Friday and Saturday nights at the “Llama Camp.” For campers on Friday night at the Llama Camp, there will be a free Chili-Mac dinner - please bring side dishes and/or desserts.
- ❖ Check In will be Saturday morning, July 27, starting at 9:00 a.m. Race starts at 11:00 a.m.
- ❖ Stay around for the RMLA/LOCC Performance Show (sanctioned by ALSA) at the camp on Sunday, July 28, 2002, at 8:00 a.m., contact Ann Bruhn for information.

*Make Checks payable to RMLA – Pre-registration*

Mail registration and check to: **Roger Miller**  
**P.O. Box 62996**  
**Colorado Springs, CO 80962-2996**

**Registration includes a T-shirt; please specify size when registering.**

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	DIVISION (CIRCLE ONE)			GENDER (CIRCLE)	AGE	SHIRT SIZE (CIRCLE)
		PRO \$25	AMATEUR \$15	WALKER \$15			
		PRO \$25	AMATEUR \$15	WALKER \$15	MALE FEMALE		Small Medium Large X-Large
		PRO \$25	AMATEUR \$15	WALKER \$15	MALE FEMALE		Small Medium Large X-Large
		PRO \$25	AMATEUR \$15	WALKER \$15	MALE FEMALE		Small Medium Large X-Large
		PRO \$25	AMATEUR \$15	WALKER \$15	MALE FEMALE		Small Medium Large X-Large

**Contact Information – PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

If you know of someone who is interested in volunteering to assist with: registration, timing, spotters, and Lunacy setup; please list their name and phone number. Volunteers will receive a T-shirt for their assistance!

<b>Office use only:</b>	
<b>Paid by:</b>	
Check	_____
Cash	_____

*President's Message...*  
**Robert Tompkins**



**S**pring is here! Time to shear alpacas and llamas. Time to start working with your packers. The events calendar reflects fun events and shows in full swing. We are fortunate that we can harvest fiber to create wearing apparel and other works of art. We are equally fortunate that we can experience the great outdoors with our soft footed four wheelers. And, we are fortunate that we can share in fellowship, accomplishment and learning at fun events and shows. Embrace your good fortune!

RMLA is also fortunate to have members like Teri Baird and Mary Wickman. These two women did a terrific job of coordinating and hosting RMLA's 20th Anniversary Celebration on April 6th at the Town Hall in Monument, Colorado. It was an afternoon of reminiscing and learning. It was also an afternoon to reflect upon the roots of RMLA. We are rooted in the education of our membership and the public in caring for alpacas and llamas. Whether in the pages that follow, or by use of our library, attending a seminar or just talking with another RMLA member, education is at the heart of what we do. RMLA is blessed with a wonderful base of knowledge and experience in the alpaca and llama industry. Tap into it!

Next up, we are having an open RMLA Executive Committee meeting in conjunction with a pack trip outing. The meeting will be on Saturday July 13th. The pack trip is scheduled for July 12th – 14th. We will be in the Butler Gulch area of Colorado which is accessible from I-70. The area is available for backcountry camping, so no open fires. Backcountry stoves are permissible. Bring your break-down fly rods and cameras. I've been told that the fishing is good and the wildflowers are gorgeous that time of the year. Out of state health certificates for your alpacas or llamas are required. If interested, contact any Executive Committee member so we can get a head count and provide more details.

Work is progressing on creating an RMLA calendar. Carol Lontine has checked out a number of options. Committee activities tied to Content, Composition, Layout, Marketing, Production and Distribution have been identified. For more information, see the Executive Committee minutes from February 16, 2002 or contact any Executive Committee member.

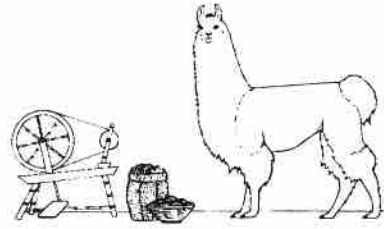
Work is also progressing on an October Festival/ Annual Business Meeting in the Longmont, Colorado area. Carolann Evans is heading up a group of RMLA volunteers in organizing and planning this event. The event will be either the weekend of October 19 - 20 or October 26 - 27. More details will follow in the August *RMLA Journal*.

Lastly, I want each of you to consider serving on the Executive Committee of RMLA. Later this year we will vote on committee positions for President-Elect, Vice-President and Treasurer. Will this be the year that you will toss your felted hat into the ring? I hope so. RMLA is a volunteer organization and it needs your talents to meet its mission.

Yours for the betterment of RMLA,

*Rob* \*

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 Thornton, CO 80214  
 303/255-6004



## Treasurer's Report

In most issues of the *Journal*, Treasury information is located in the Board Meeting minutes. For this issue, an un-audited yearend 2001 financial statement has been submitted. By comparing the income and expenses of specific categories, you will be able to see how that category fared for 2001.

For instance, you will see that the RMLA Bookstore had a total income of \$25,780. As you review each line in the Bookstore category, you will be able to see from where the total of \$25,780 was received. Then, by reading the RMLA Bookstore under the expense section, you will see that the total expenses for the Bookstore were \$10,363, thereby creating a net profit for that category.

I encourage each of you to review the report. It is a good way to understand where your membership dues are spent as well as how important the monies generated by the Bookstore are to the organization as a whole.

As a Board Member, I am liaison to the RMLA Bookstore and to the Membership Committee. These two areas are directly tied to the workings of the Treasury.

For the Bookstore, we continually monitor the remaining inventory as well as aging of accounts. Keith

and Katy are very profession and timely as they go about their task and always recognize the importance of their work to the authors as well as RMLA. We are currently reviewing sales history for the last printing and remaining inventory. From this data, we will project a future re-print date and report this information to the Board. The authors are gearing up by reviewing content and editing. So, the wheels are beginning to turn as the co-ordination of the next *Caring For Llamas and Alpacas* reprint is underway..

For the Membership Committee, it has been a very busy time of the year. Bob and Barb Hance process all membership applications and report to the treasury in an understandable and timely fashion. This accurate information from the committee is very important, as it sets the tone for the budgeting for the following months. The Hances also spend many hours compiling the copy for the production of the RMLA Service Directory and the RMLA Membership Directory - and do so with each member's needs in mind.

I am most fortunate to work with the Wegners and Hances. Because of the dedication to their task, each is a real treasure to your organization.

For myself, I usually spent 20 to 25 hours a week as your Treasurer. Other than just depositing checks and paying bills, my work involves keeping abreast of IRS regulations governing a non-profit corporation such as RMLA, reviewing the organization's finances, budgeting and generating financial reports for the Board's use. It is most important for the Board to have accurate information about the past, so that sound decisions are made for the future.

The first quarter was spent finalizing 2001 financial information, preparing it for delivery to a CPA who specializes in non-profit tax accounting so our IRS return will be filed by the May 15th deadline.

But most of all, I really have fun at this Treasury stuff. I sequester myself in my office, computer on, filing drawers open and papers strewn all around and really enjoy it; but, when I need a break, I just go to the pasture and kiss a llama.

Please review the following statements. As always, I encourage you to call me with any questions you may have - at any time - about your organization's Treasury. And, thank you for your support. I have truly enjoyed serving this wonderful organization and each of you individually.

### Interim Summarized Financial Position Cash on hand as of April 8 2002

General Operations	\$13,772.89
Life Member Savings	6,953.26
Research Savings	5,459.47
CFL&A Production Savings	30,875.10
Liquid Asset Account	25,210.41
Book Store-General Operations	6,573.47
<b>Total Cash on Hand:</b>	<b>\$88,844.60</b>

*Lougene* \*



OWNERS  
**ROBERT & BARBARA HANCE**  
11818 W. 52ND AVENUE  
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## Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca, Inc. 2001 Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenses As of December 31, 2001 – Unaudited

### Income

<b>RMLA Bookstore</b>	
Caring for Llamas/Alpacas	\$21,253
4-H Youth Manual	1,109
Shipping/handling	1,509
Liability Signs	<u>1,109</u>
Bookstore Total	\$25,780
Membership dues	11,085
Fiber Co-op	6,925
Journal of the RMLA	4,779
Service Directory	3,803
Events	1,752
Interest	1,689
Conference	975
Membership Drive Dinner	497
RMLA Gear	488
Misc.	110
Library Gifts	<u>15</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 57,925</b>

### EXPENSES

<b>RMLA Bookstore</b>	
Royalties	\$4,542
Professional Fees	2,616
Shipping/Postage	2,288
Bank/Credit Card Fees	405
Utilities	219
Printing/Supplies	217
Sales Tax	<u>76</u>
Total Bookstore	\$ 10,363
<b>Journal of the RMLA</b>	
Printing	\$7,380
Postage/Shipping	2,242
Supplies/Photos	121
Misc.	<u>15</u>
Total Journal	\$9,738
<b>Fiber Co-op</b>	
Consignment fees to members	\$4,993
Sales Tax/licenses	380
Booth Space Fees	305
Credit Card Discount Fees	149
Trailer upkeep	<u>40</u>
Total Fiber Co-op	\$5,867
<b>Research</b>	
Morris Animal Foundation	\$4,949
Travel	227
USAHA Dues	100
Telephone Conferences	<u>33</u>
Total Research	\$ 5,309

Board Meetings	\$ 2,625
<b>Insurance</b>	
Liability	\$1,420
Directors and Officers	685
Inland Marine/Property	<u>341</u>
Total Insurance	\$2,446
Service Directory	\$2,429
<b>Membership Committee</b>	
Printing/Postage	\$1,830
Credit Card Discount Fee	<u>314</u>
Total Membership	\$2,144
<b>Events</b>	
Fairplay	\$1,514
Printing/Postage	<u>173</u>
Total Events	\$1,687
Conference	\$1,332
<b>Advertising</b>	
General	\$ 867
Display	241
Domain Fee/RMLA.com	<u>70</u>
Total Advertising	\$1,177
Elections	\$ 951
<b>Professional Fees</b>	
Legal	\$ 175
Tax Prep	<u>250</u>
Total Professional Fee	\$ 425
Library	\$ 412
<b>General Office</b>	
Printing/Postage	\$ 281
Supplies	<u>77</u>
Total General Office	\$ 358
Annual Meeting	\$ 321
Bank Fees	\$ 30
RMLA Foundation	\$ 15
Sales Tax	<u>13</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 47,669
Net Operating Income/Expenses	\$ 10,265

# Minutes of the RMLA Board of Directors' Meeting

## RMLA BOARD MEETING

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2002**

**10:00AM Broomfield, Colorado**

**Secretary's Report:** All previous minutes have been approved and published in the RMLA Journal.

### Treasury Report:

General Operations	\$ 1,678
Life Member Escrow	\$ 7,141
Liquid Assets	\$25,170
Research Savings	\$ 3,063
Special Production CFL&A	\$32,174
Bookstore Gen. Ops	\$ 2,470
Total	\$71,696

### Motions previously approved via email:

**Motion:** To have an RMLA Birthday Party that will be held on April 6, 2002. Teri Baird and Mary Wickman will chair the event. Motion: Larry Lewellyn, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jerry Dunn, Motion Carried.

**Motion:** Budget \$150 for the RMLA Birthday party which will held April 6, 2002 in Monument, Colorado. The Chair may request approval for additional funding if needed. Motion: Lougene Baird, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Robert Tompkins, Motion Carried.

**Motion:** Treasurer will transfer \$2,000 from the Liquid Asset Account to cover the Liability Insurance premium due February 10, 2002. Motion: Lougene Baird, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jill Knuckles, Motion Carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Calendar:** Carol Lontine reported on the RMLA Calendar for 2003. Kinko's has come in with the lowest bid and we will be able to save money if we have the photos and calendar on ZIP drive ready to print. The following sub committees need to be formed: Content, Composition and Layout, Marketing and Sales, and Production and Distribution. Information about submitting photos and helpful hints will be in the May Journal.

**Elections:** Larry Lewellyn reported that we need nominations for the following positions: Treasurer, Vice President and President Elect. An advertisement for nominations needs to go into the May Journal. Larry Lewellyn will act as the Elections Chairperson.

**Events:** Jerry Dunn reported all events have turned in their events application with the exception of the St.

Patrick's Day Parade in Colorado Springs and the New Mexico Spring Fling. There was discussion in reference to making sure that we follow the guidelines of the event packet. The Events Application must be completed by all events each year. We also need to note in an Events Procedure form that in December of each year, as the new board comes into office, the Events Chairperson will put together a list of "returning events" for the upcoming year. The Board will review the list and tentatively approve the events that may be published to the membership for the upcoming year. If events have not returned their events application at this time, it will be noted as "RMLA Sponsorship Pending" until final approval by the board. If any board member has concern about an event at this time, it will not be published until all proper forms have been submitted and the board votes on final approval.

**Motion:** to accept the RMLA Sponsored Events as revised. See attached. Motion: Lougene Baird, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jerry Dunn. 2 votes yes, 1 vote no, Motion Carried.

**October Festival** – Carol Ann Evans . The Boulder County Fair Grounds would be available on October 26 and 27. The arena, stall and conference room that will hold up to 50 people is available. The thought is to have a Festival with the Annual Business Meeting as a Saturday Evening Dinner. Carol Ann will also look into the availability of the Fairgrounds the weekend of October 19 & 20.

**Membership** – Lougene Baird brought to the Board's attention that Youth must have a Sponsor who is an RMLA member. It does state this on the membership application.

**Bookstore** – The bookstore is selling approximately 110 Caring For Llamas per month. Prepaid orders are increasing because we are now allowing these orders to be paid by Credit Card. We now have 2 distributors in Australia. Amazon.com has placed an order for 54 Caring for Llamas. The North America Llama Association board is discussing buying Caring for Llamas for all of their members. 250 books have gone to Canadian customers.

### IV Agenda

**Journal** - Current Journal deadline is April 1. We need to sell ads and all committee reports need to be submitted. It was suggested that several pages in the remaining issues of 2002 be dedicated to the 20-Year Anniversary. Need to send weekly email to remind members that they need to submit Ads and Articles. Suggestions for articles: 1. Funniest experience during a llama event. 2. Scariest Llama Experience. 3. Most Embarrassing Moment.

(Continued on page 16)

## LARAMIE COUNTY FAIR

Wyoming's Oldest & Largest Fair

### Consider Cheyenne in 2002!


On behalf of the Laramie County Fair Board I cordially invite you to the 2002 Laramie County Fair Llama Show in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Show dates are August 3 and 4, 2002, starting at 8:30am each day. Darlene Vaughan will Judge halter and performance classes. Sharon Beacham will judge shorn llama fleece and handspinner's choice classes. Those interested in submitting handspinner's choice entries please note, your entries must be postmarked by July 1, 2002 and mailed to the undersigned. Handspinner's choice entries must be a sample of 2 ounces of prime fiber from the blanket area. Shorn llama fleeces must be received by the undersigned not later than 6:00pm on Friday, August 2, 2002. All judging will follow the criteria in the ALSA Handbook, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, and Official Addendums effective January 1, 2002, or thereafter, if issued prior to the dates of the show.

Premiums will be paid for each class for first through fourth places as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$16.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$12.00, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$8.00 and 4<sup>th</sup> - \$4.00. In addition, attractive wall plaques will be awarded in the following categories: Grand & Reserve Champions for all Light/Medium and Heavy Wool Classes; Grand & Reserve Champion for Performance; Intermediate Youth Grand Champion Performance; Intermediate Youth Reserve Champion Performance; Junior Youth Grand Champion Performance; Junior Youth Reserve Champion Performance; Grand Champion Shorn Llama Fleece; Reserve Champion Shorn Llama Fleece and Best Handspinner's Choice Llama Fiber. Ribbons will be awarded for places first through sixth in each class.

Special awards will be presented compliments of Double K Diamond Llamas, Wellington, Colorado. These awards are: a trophy awarded to the top scoring youth exhibitor and felted llama hats awarded to the Best Handspinner's Choice Llama Fiber and to the Grand Champion Shorn Llama Fleece.

Following the first day of the show there will be a no charge picnic for all exhibitors and volunteers. This cookout features beef or vegetarian burgers, cole slaw, pasta salad, potato salad, baked beans, cake, ice cream, pop, tea, water or beer. The picnic starts at 5:00pm and goes till 8:00pm at the Lions Park North Picnic Shelter. The shelter is within walking distance of the Beef Barn where the llama show will be held. Please join me for this relaxing end to the first day of the show. And remember, y'all gotta eat somewhere on Saturday night, August 3<sup>rd</sup> so it might as well be on me in Cheyenne.

See you in Cheyenne,

  
Robert Tompkins, Show Superintendent  
Laramie County Fair Llama Show  
8216 Stagecoach Road  
Cheyenne, WY 82009-9509

Residence/Fax Telephone is (307)635-2168  
E-mail: [pwillamas@juno.com](mailto:pwillamas@juno.com)

Physical Address: 310 West 19th Street • Cheyenne, WY 82001, 4th Floor  
Mailing Address: 309 West 20th Street • Cheyenne, WY 82001  
(307) 633-4534 • Fax (307) 633-4511

... Paid for by the Laramie County Fair Llama Show Committee ...

## RMLA Committee Reports

### RMLA Bookstore

By: Keith & Katy Wegner, Elves



A typical day in the Wegner household starts with an early morning rising, showering, dressing, feeding the cats (Alvin and Stella), feeding the llamas (Fizz and Khalani), and putting the UPS boxes on the front porch for pickup. UPS boxes? What's up with that?

The boxes for UPS pickup are filled with RMLA's two publications: *Caring for Llamas and Alpacas-A Health Management Guide*, and the *Youth Llama Project* manual. These are shipped all over the world to booksellers, bookstores, book distributors, llama and alpaca breeders, and individual buyers. It all happens from the bookstore offices that Keith & Katy Wegner operate for RMLA.

Since May 1998, the Wegners have run the RMLA bookstore. To date, more than 880 orders for *Caring for Llamas* and more than 800 orders for the *Youth Llama Project* manual have been received, processed, and shipped. Operating the bookstore includes invoicing customers, processing the payments, maintaining the accounting system, paying sales taxes, distributing royalties to publication authors, and providing monthly financial reports to the RMLA Treasurer.

RMLA's bookstore operation is a bit unusual in terms of a typical small business. Because RMLA publishes its own line of books and materials (liability signs, for example), the business has multiple facets:

- Printing and publishing
- Distribution sales
- Retail sales
- Marketing & advertising, promotions
- Contracts/sales agreements
- Finance and accounting
- Llama literature and information distribution.

How does this all happen? It seems sometimes as if by magic. This is probably why you might hear RMLA officers or Board members refer to the bookstore operators as "the elves." We only feel a bit elfin around the holidays or when it's midnight and we're still packing books to be shipped out the next morning.

Much of the accounting, royalty, and sales tax mechanisms were put in place by Julie Messick. We learned the operations procedures from Jan Redenbarger. And, we learned stern fiscal discipline and strict accounting rule adherence from RMLA Treasurer, Lougene Baird. We are indeed indebted to these folks for extending to us their experience, patience, and guidance

as we took over bookstore operations in 1998.

The bookstore receives book orders from a number of different sources. These include: phone calls, faxes, Email, website orders, sales agreements, promotions, and special events.

RMLA's publications are listed in a central registry called *Books In Print*. This registry is a master catalogue used by bookstores, book distributors, retailers, and publishing houses. We receive many single title purchase requests based on RMLA's listing in this catalogue and the orders come literally from all over the world. Since 1998, the bookstore has filled orders for *Caring for Llamas and Alpacas* received from Canada, Mexico, England, Ireland, Scotland, New Zealand, Australia, Peru, Bolivia, Hawaii, Germany, Belgium, and Wales.

The books are also sold on the Internet through RMLA's website and we have a sales agreement with Amazon.com. *Caring for Llamas and Alpacas* has truly become a world-class publication.

Books sales can be grouped as follows:

- 50% to Distributors for resale
- 25% to full retail sales
- 25% to Bookstores/book dealers
- (Single title only purchases).

As an incentive to buy and stock RMLA publications, we offer standard multi-tiered pricing and discounting. RMLA also runs sales promotions with memberships and special events offers. All of these efforts contribute to the success of publication sales.

One aspect of bookstore operations that provides no end of both amusement and reflection for us, are the conversations we have with new llama owners. Typically, the new owner who contacts the bookstore directly just bought a llama or alpaca (usually not from an established breeder) and doesn't really know anything about how they behave or how best to care for them. They are so relieved to find a good care manual and after we obtain their order information, the discussion then turns to, "Is it normal when they do \_\_\_\_\_?" (Fill in the blank with just about anything.)

The bookstore also responds to requests for general llama information from prospective owners and many from students doing research on camelids. And every spring, we of course get a rush of orders from 4-H groups all over the country as they prepare for their members' llama and alpaca projects. Washington State University's extension service just ordered 250 *Youth Llama Project* manuals from the bookstore, so a lot of 4-H kids in Washington state will be using RMLA's 4-H llama manual.

We're pleased to be part of RMLA's operations and these sales are important sources of funding for camelid research and to promote the continued welfare of the North American llama herd.

**So when you call the bookstore, just ask for the elves—we'll fill your order like magic!**

## **Fiber**

### **By: Karen Kinyon and Sharon Beacham, Chairs**

The RMLA Fiber committee is currently working hard, scheduling upcoming events for the RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth. Currently the booth will be on display at the Estes Park Wool Market, the Taos Wool Festival and the ALSA Grand Nationals. These are all three huge events and will give fiber artisans three great opportunities to show off their wares. Finished garments made from llama and alpaca are always needed. Don't miss this chance to show off your excellent fiber work. Volunteers are needed to help at all of these events. If you are interested, please call Karen Kinyon at (970) 568-3747.

Many thanks are extended to the RMLA Board of Directors for all its help and continued support of the RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth.

There is a change coming to the RMLA Fiber Committee. After seven years, both Karen and Sharon have decided it's time to move over and let someone else Chair this committee. They will both retire at the end of 2002. The main project and responsibility of this committee has been the development and implementation of the RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth. The call goes out to the next energetic, creative individual (or individuals) who will lead this exciting group into the next era of Fiber excitement. Both Karen and Sharon will be available to assist with the transition.

If you are interested in becoming the next Chairperson for the RMLA Fiber Committee, please contact Rob Tompkins, Fiber Committee Liaison and President of RMLA, at (307) 635-2168 to apply.

## **Library**

### **By: Sharon Herbold, Chief Librarian**

The library has resources available for ALL members of RMLA. It doesn't matter if you are a "newbie" in lamas (alpacas or llamas) or you have been "hooked" on these wonderful animals for sometime, there are materials available to help you.

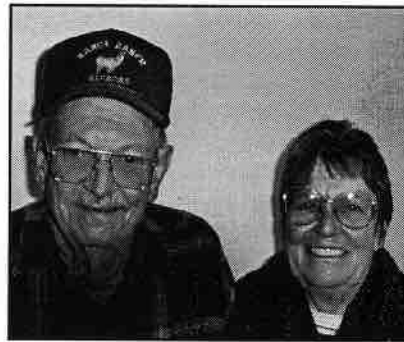
As summer approaches, you have already sheared animals or you are thinking seriously about it. You might be thinking, but what can I do with the fiber? There are resources available from the library that can possibly help. The library has videos that will take you step by step through the felting process, so that you can wear a hat or vest made from the fiber of your favorite animal. Videos are available to help you learn to spin the fiber. It doesn't matter if you are just starting and want to learn to spin on a drop spindle, if you are a beginning spinner with a spinning wheel, or if you want to learn some advanced spinning techniques, help is available. Anyone interested in weaving can request materials to provide the information to help get started.

On the other hand, you might be interested in taking a young animal to a show. There are many books

and videos in the library that can help with this training. There are books and videos by Bobra Goldsmith, Marty McGee Bennett and John Mallon, just to name a few. You can use one method of training, or combine several methods that work for you.

The library has had recent donations. Linn Jackson donated materials that she had collected on teaching llamas to drive. Sharon Beacham donated back issues of several magazines related to llamas. These items are listed with an asterisk in the 2002 library listing available on the website ([www.rmla.com](http://www.rmla.com)) or in the last pages of your membership directory.

Feel free to contact me if you need additional information or help in using the library.



## **Membership**

### **By: Barb and Bob Hance, Chairs**

We have ended the year 2001 with 18 Life memberships, representing 27 adult members; 296 regular memberships, representing 511 adult members; 35 Junior memberships; and 5

Youth members (a new category this year, created for students beyond High School). There were 65 "New" memberships added in 2001.

As you can see from the list of "New Members", there is a great deal of interest in RMLA from new owners and many folks from other states.

Renewals for 2002 -3 are coming in slowly, perhaps due to the membership year being changed and the membership numbers are down from this time last year. For you who have not renewed, this will be your final edition of the Journal. If you renew, we can get your information on the web site, but you will not be listed in the "Membership Directory", as this has gone to the printer along with the "Service Directory" for 2002.

**A very interesting note: 84% of RMLA members have e-mail, making our e-mail notification service the fastest in the business to keep our members informed!**

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT**  
**RMLA.COM**  
**TODAY TO SEE WHAT IS NEW IN**  
**YOUR ORGANIZATION!**



**Welcome to  
David and Sandra Lockwood  
new RMLA Life Members!**

Dreamstar Llamas began in the spring of 1996 when David and Sandra purchased their first llama. The Lockwoods, who reside in Conifer, Colorado, now have 14 llamas. Their favorite activity with their llamas is showing their animals. They also enjoy volunteering for shows. **Their reason for becoming Life Members.....** "We may not always have llamas, but we will always want to stay in contact with llamas and llama folks."

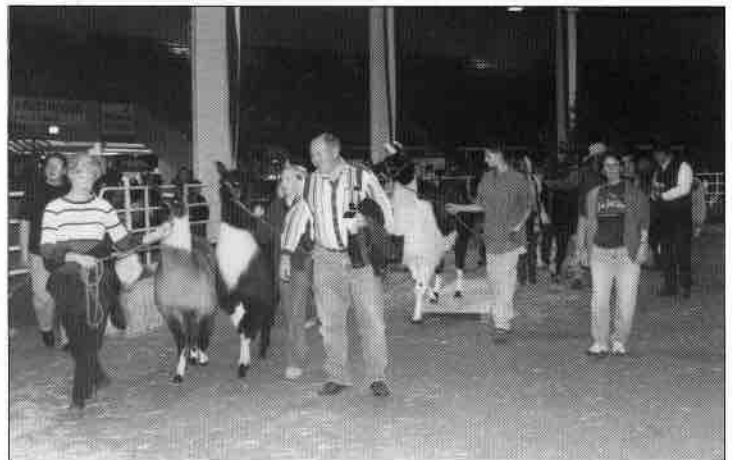
Sandra is a member of the Calendar Committee, working on a RMLA calendar for 2003. Thanks to David and Sandra for their support of our organization!

**Research  
By: Ron Baird, Chair**

RMLA has sponsored a very practical study at Ohio State University for the past several years. It is entitled "Effects of Early Castration on Phenotypic Development and Long Bone Growth". In today's market conditions, many males should be castrated for all the uses other than breeding. The practical problem is: at what age should this be done so as not to affect the llama's long term good health. Many instances are prevalent where the llama was castrated at a very early age — such as six months. These animals have been shown to have a tendency to drop their fetlocks even before they are five to ten years old. With the life expectancy of llamas in the twenty to thirty year range, we may be committing those llamas to a painful life for the majority of the time they are with us.

This study, over a three year period of time, is an effort to determine when llamas should be castrated: at six months? A year? Three years? The study is about six months behind schedule, because there was difficulty in getting llamas donated to the project. Results should be available next year.

\*



**Wonder what  
these people  
are doing?**

**Read the article  
on page 16!**

**The Alpacas and Llamas of RMLA  
The 2003 Calendar**

**All RMLA Members: We are putting  
together a calendar as a fund raiser.**

**We need your best photos or slides of  
your llamas or alpacas. A judging  
committee will pick the best 13 to go  
on the calendar (12 months plus the  
cover). You must have these in no  
later than July 1st. For more info  
contact Carol Lontine or Charles  
Quigley - 303-650-5113 Send your  
photos to: Carol Lontine  
7891 Linda Circle  
Denver, Colorado 80221**

## 2002 RMLA Sponsored Schedule of Events

### MAY

- Jelly Bean Classic-Llama Fun Day**, Arvada, CO, May 1, Contact: Mary Mauz 303.526.0092.  
**RMLFP Spring Fiber Clinic**, Boulder, CO, May 11, 2002. Contact Sharon Beacham, 303-666-9437.  
**Spring Sneakers-Performance Show**, Arvada, CO May 18, Contact: Jerry Dunn 303.277.1129.  
**RMLFP Spring Fiber Clinic**, Wellington, Co., May 27, 2002. Contact Karen Kinyon, 970-568-3747.

### JUNE

- LOCC Spring Show**, Colorado Springs, CO, June, Contact: Jeff Rucker 719.689.9010.  
**Estes Park Wool Market**, Estes Park, CO, June 15-16, Contact: Linda Hinze 970.586.6104.  
 Fiber Co-op for 2002 calendar.  
**Estes Park Wool Market, RMLA Fiber Co-Op** June 14-16, 2002, Estes Park, Co.. Contact Sharon Beacham 303.666.9437  
**Douglas County Summer Classic**, Castle Rock, CO, June 29, Contact: Lougene Baird 303.688.5445.

### JULY

- Board of Directors Hike/Retreat**, all RMLA members invited! July 12-14, Contact: any Board member.  
**Afternoon Tea with Llamas — for Seniors**, Laramie, WY, July 12, Contact Gayle Woodsum 307.721.2919 dbjlillas@aol.com.  
**What Do You do With a Llama? Day**, Laramie, WY, July 13, Contact Gayle Woodsum 307.721.2919 dbjlillas@aol.com.  
**El Paso County Open Youth Show**, Calhan, CO, July 21, Contact: Mike Shealy 719.495.3757.  
**Fairplay Llama Pack Race**, Fairplay, CO, July 27, Contact: Roger Miller 719.749.0119.  
**Fairplay Llama Camp Performance Show**, Fairplay, CO July 28, Contact: Ann Bruhn 719.689.4026 or Mary Wickman 719.687.1423.  
**Big Horn Rendezvous Llama Show**, Story, WY, July 27-28, Contact: Barbara Coffman-Flinn 307.683.2548.

### AUGUST

- Laramie County Fair Llama Show**, Cheyenne, WY, August 3-4, Contact: Robert Tompkins, 307.635.2168.  
**Boulder County Youth Show**, Longmont, CO, August 9, Contact: Mary Beth Hartsough 303.776.4933  
**Wyoming State Fair Llama Show**, Douglas, WY, August 10-11, Contact: Gayle Woodsum or Julie Heggie 307.742.0042.

**Kiowa Youth Show**, Kiowa, CO, August 17, Contact: Dani Varela, 303.621.9021.

### SEPTEMBER

- LOCC Fall Classic Llama Show**, Colorado Springs, CO, September 7-8, Contact: Mike Shealy 719.495.3757.  
**Drive in the Park**, Golden, CO, September 8, Contact: Jerry Dunn 303.277.1129.  
**Sangre de Cristo Llama Youth Show**, Westcliffe, CO, September 14, Contact: Rhonda Livengood, 719.783.9238.

### OCTOBER

- ALSA Rocky Mountain Regional Llama Show**, Denver, CO, October 13-14, Contact: Larry Lewellyn 720.733.2775 or Lougene Baird 303.688.5445.  
**Taos Wool Festival, RMLA Fiber Co-Op** October 4-6, 2002, Taos, N.M.. Contact Sharon Beacham 303.666.9437.  
**RMLA Annual Meeting and Fall Festival**, Longmont, CO, October 26-27, Contact: Carolann Evans 303.682.8221 or Terry Lynch 303.651.3022.

### NOVEMBER

- ALSA Grand Nationals, RMLA Fiber Co-Op**, November 1-10, 2002, Lincoln, Nebraska. Contact Sharon Beacham 303.666.6437.

### JANUARY, 2003

- National Western Stock Show**, Denver, CO., January 11-12, Contact: Jerry Dunn 303.277.1129.

## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING OR ORGANIZING AN EVENT?

CONTACT: JERRY DUNN  
303.277.1129 E-mail: beartrak@gte.net



### PaxKnits

Custom Hand-crafted Knitwear  
Specializing in Ski Hats/Winterwear  
Llama and Alpaca Fibers

Cheri Paxson  
Phone/Fax 303-777-4370  
www.paxknits.com

316 E. Louisiana Avenue  
Denver, CO 80210  
paxknits@yahoo.com



## 18 Years of Llamas at the NWSS

By Jerry Dunn, RMLA Vice-President,  
Superintendent of the National Western  
Stock Show



**T**his year we celebrated 18 years of llamas at the National Western Stock Show. 65 exhibitors and 180 animals participated in the event.

Each exhibitor received a baggy filled with Mazuri Llama Chews for their animals to enjoy. A drawing

was held at the exhibitor's meeting for four 50 pound bags of "chews" donated by Mazuri Llama, one of our featured sponsors. Sherry Adamcyk, Janine Faussone, Judy and Kurt Glaser, and Barbara Snakenberg were the recipients for the llama supplements.

Dinner Friday night was a baron of roast beef buffet held in the Stockman's Club. 45 of the exhibitors took part in the meal and enjoyed sitting down to chat with one another for the evening.

Saturday Night following the ALSA classes was the third annual "An Evening With A Llama" event.

*(Continued from page 10)*

**RMLA Birthday Party** - To date they have received 2 RSVP's. In the process of contacting individuals to talk at the Party on the history of RMLA.

**July Open Board Meeting** - The July board meeting will be an open meeting/pack trip. The dates are set for July 12, 13 & 14. The location is Butler Pass. The information in reference to the meeting/pack trip will be in the May Journal.

**Liability Sign Accounting.** To date, 43 metal sign and

Approximately 900 visitors to the NWSS participated in the event, asking questions and taking the opportunity to lead a llama or alpaca around in the arena. Rhonda and Brianna Livengood organized information tables and small clinics for the visitors. Mary Mauz helped organize the spinners and weavers for demonstrations. A shawl woven the year before at the event was awarded in a drawing to Tim Simpson, a young lad from Westminster, Colorado.

RMLA and NWSS volunteers assisted at every level. NWSS volunteers, as in years past, helped exhibitors unload and get settled in their stalls. They also managed the crowd as the animals moved from the barn to the arena and helped with An Evening With A Llama. RMLA volunteers were gate keepers, ribbon presenters, obstacle crew (Wamsley and Friends). Sharon Beacham made felted llama boutonnieres and corsages for the judges and other staff. Louise Wamsley managed to help with everything else.

Awards were created in conjunction with the RMLA Fiber Co-op. Judy Wolff-Mills was responsible for weaving all of the table runners awarded to the grand champions.

As we close at another show season at the NWSS, we are all ready busy at work planning for 2003.

**January 11-12.  
Hope to see you there.**

\*

10 magnetic Liability Signs have been sold. We had acquired a mailing list from ILR in order to mail out information to not only RMLA members, but also all llama owners (owning 3 or more llamas) in the State of Colorado. 245 information packets were mailed pertaining to the information for the purchase of the signs plus an RMLA membership application. 5 people responded from this list by purchasing signs. The Liability Signs are currently at a net loss of \$294.52. Most of this loss can be attributed to the promotional mailing and lack of member understanding of the importance of the use of liability signs.

**Insurance Facts** update - The cost of insurance is continuing to increase. We may also be charged for the actual "Insurance Certificates" which may be requested by an event. Jerry made the suggestion that we create a Fund Raising committee to help offset the increasing cost of the insurance.

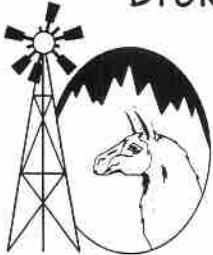
Schedule for the next board meeting: April 2, 2002 - Conference Call at 7:00PM. Lougene will initiate the call.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Jill Knuckles

\*

### Broken Windmill Ranch



Teri Nilson Baird  
Photography • Breeding • Sales

28825 County Road 5  
Elizabeth, Colorado 80107  
303 646 4373

## The Llama Market

By: Mary Summers,  
Rainbow Llamas, Placitas, NM

It is obviously not news to most of us that the market for llamas has changed. Prices are down, demand is down, most of us are working harder to place our llamas and yes, even alpacas, in good homes. Wait, though, is it really true that prices are down and demand is down? Down from what, when? There are still many people who are potential llama owners. Many don't even yet know that they want llamas. I believe that prices are right where they need to be in order to offer llamas to more people. I don't believe that we should give our llamas away. Auto manufacturers do not give away automobiles even when there are surpluses. They offer sales and great buys. They offer financing! They make the product more appealing. We should be doing the same with our llamas and alpacas.

Where can we get more visibility for our llamas and alpacas?

Our area has a Fall Arts and Craft show. It is widely advertised and promoted and is well attended. It is a cut above a typical craft show since Placitas has many recognized artists. We decided to participate since our llamas are a form of art also. We had our driving team giving cart rides. I was stationed at the Bed & Breakfast with several of our friendly females, one of whom was wearing a saddle and panniers and is trained to pack. I wish I could say that we sold 5 llamas during this event. However, we did find more than five very interested and potential llama owners. Most of them literally live in our own back yard.

I think the key to marketing our animals, what ever type of llama or alpaca we are offering, is to get out and be seen doing active, exciting things with our llamas and alpacas. There are still too many people who have never petted a llama or greeted an alpaca.

Another unexpected source of potential llama owners occurred to me recently when I hired a horse owner to come help me shovel poop. Now not all hired hands are potential llama owners, but we should not overlook the possibility. She is soon to be down to one horse which will need a companion and was completely smitten with our friendly females!

How can we get our llamas more visibility among people who might want to have llamas and who will be able to own llamas or alpacas? Obvious places to start

are school and nursing home visits. Many of us have been covering these venues with our caring llamas for years now. There are possibilities here of course. Children grow up and may own llamas or may talk their parents into the idea. Nursing home residents have children and grandchildren who may want llamas. We should be out in the public with our llamas in many other situations also.

We have a local pet store that produces an event for dogs in a city park each spring. It is called Bark in the Park. I called and said I don't have a dog, but would like to participate. I have llamas, could I bring a couple to this "dog" event? Our llamas were welcomed with open arms and Salsa almost won the Kissing Contest! With more training next year I'm sure he can do the Retrieval Contest also!

Pet Smart and PetCo allow dogs and other pets to visit inside their stores. It was a bit of a surprise to the manager when Salsa walked in to check out the lead ropes, ummm leashes.

They were gracious about his visit and we certainly did attract a lot of visitors to the store while we were there. Again, another contact was made with some people who live in the country and want llamas. Each Christmas some of these pet stores offer a Santa with whom the pets can pose. Let's get our llama and alpaca photos with Santa too!

Each year there is a summer Pet Fair at the New Mexico State Fairgrounds. Look for your local event that is similar or talk to pet stores who might want to start a Pet Fair. All kinds of pets are featured, including llamas, alpacas, goats, and miniature horses. Not enough people think of llamas or alpacas when they think PET! We want this to happen.

Let's contact all the busy Bed & Breakfast establishments around us and offer a llama visit. We could network with these groups to offer hiking excursions for their guests. They are always looking for new and different activities to suggest to their guests. Maybe some of the Bed & Breakfast places might even become Llama Bed & Breakfasts.

Get out on those hiking trails where people can see llamas doing one of the things that they do best, namely packing our gear.

Work with realtors who could use llamas or alpacas at their open houses to attract attention. Houses in areas where llamas could be kept should have some "loaner" llamas in residence to make the house more attractive and interesting to prospective owners. Who knows, maybe the llamas will end up being a bonus added into the purchase

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 66)*

### Classified ads ....continued

**For Sale—** Road cart for a single driving llama or pony, \$900. Antique 4-wheel cart, circa 1890's, for llama/pony single or pairs, \$1,800. Contact Jerry Dunn 303.277.1129 or beartrak@gte.net

**The Hidden Herd of Bergen Park—** llamas for sale in every color, style, size, and most of all affordable quality. Beautiful fiber too. Limited breedings to a selection of top notch sires available. Visit us soon; just call for directions. Soda Creek Llamas 303.670.3373 or 303.392.0900 pgr.

(Continued from page 9)

price of the house! Congratulations to my friend who had the first Real Estate advertisement in the Durango, Colorado area with llamas in it!

Get our llamas and alpacas into more commercials! Many of us transport our llamas in our mini-vans or other vans. Have you seen a van commercial promoting them as llama transports? Why not!? Talk to

## Kiowa Youth Show—2001

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

**O**n August 18, 2001, we held our first annual Kiowa Creek Youth Llama and Alpaca Show! Our theme this year had a Hawaiian flare. Contestants donned their hula skirts, leis and straw hats...as they frolicked with their llamas and alpacas in the Kiowa sun and sand!

Your Junior Grand Champion was Jackie Vance, Florissant, CO. Our Reserve Junior Champion was Kyle Brown from Elbert, CO. Congratulations to our Junior Champions!

Our Intermediate Grand Champion was Emily Varela, Kiowa, CO. Our Reserve Champion was Brianna Livengood from Westcliffe, CO. Congratulations!

We are very excited to announce that J.J. Moore of Penrose, CO earned his Superior Award in



Showmanship at our show! Congratulations to J.J., his parents Anna and Jim, and his llama, Kodiak!

We are so proud of all our youth and the great job they are doing in training and showing their llamas and alpacas! Thank you to all 24 of our exhibitors and their parents for making our first show such a success! We had a blast sharing this day with you!

Join us in August, 2002 ... we'll have a new theme and lots of fund, too!

\*

your local auto dealers about using llamas to promote their vehicles. AOBA now has a full commercial on prime time CNN promoting alpacas. Congratulations AOBA! Llamas can benefit indirectly from this introduction of alpacas to the public! How many advertisements do we see with animals in them? Lots of ads use animals, dogs, cats, mostly! Hey how about llamas and alpacas?!!

How many of us were at the theaters when "The Emperor's New Groove" played for the first time? I know some people were there with llamas, but not enough!

Do you have a community college or alternative open universities in your area? Offer courses on llamas, alpacas, packing with llamas. You can teach them. I have taught such classes for four years in my area and have expanded the classes to other cities up to 50 miles away.

Visit local spinning guilds with your llamas and alpacas. Introduce new people to our great fiber and the beguiling animals from whence the fiber comes.

Participate in Farmer's Markets where you can either just show off your llamas or alpacas or actually market their fiber or at least their beans for fertilizer.

Help out 4-H groups in some way. Host meetings. Take on a few children for 4-H work with your llamas or alpacas. These are the people who could own llamas or alpacas.

Be sure you have a web site. A picture is worth a thousand words. People who own computers and use the Internet really are our target market. For proof of this, just look at the popularity of the 3 major llama chat lists. All the people on these chat lists were once just "potential" llama owners. We have great links through our llama and alpaca associations such as RMLA and ILR.

When you make contacts with people interested in llamas, don't wait for them to get back with you. Get their names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses. Contact them. Make a date for a llama oriented activity. Send out Farm Newsletters with photos and messages from the llamas themselves.

We need to fight housing covenants that restrict type and numbers of "livestock" that one may own. Really, now, a couple of llamas should be just as much a possibility as a couple of dogs. There is less odor and generally our llamas are more quiet than dogs.

History repeats itself. Some may remember their history lesson when the political gambit was "A chicken in every pot." Now we can promote a couple of llamas or alpacas in every yard!" (So we can keep them out of the pot!) As it is now, when people consider what animal companions they might want, they think of dogs, cats, horses, goats, ferrets, rabbits, but NOT llamas or alpacas. We want to change that! We can effect change only by having our llama and alpaca companions more visible to the general public.

**Stop procreating and start recreating! Once we increase the demand through more exposure, then we can start criating again!**

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## MERCHANDISING— MARKETING—SALES

By: Dick Murphy,  
Bitter Creek Llamas, Divide, CO



**M**erchandising, marketing, sales; call it what you will, it all comes down to selling inventory. Unless you are into llamas or alpacas as a fun hobby, at some point in time you have to reduce your numbers or become just another collector. Since

raising these animals is a multi-faceted endeavor (i.e., hobby, packing, show, fiber, pets, and so on), this article concentrates on the ranches that are into llamas and alpacas strictly as a business, with the intent of deriving an income. You notice that I did not say profit, although your "partner," the IRS, would love that.

There have been many successful approaches to sales and each ranch has a unique quality that may dictate one method over another; however, the one single common factor is advertising. The world doesn't know you exist without some form of advertising, be it roadside sign, newspaper ad, trade journals, or displaying your animals at shows. Advertising is the key.

The more successful ranches are multi-media advertisers, not just relying on a business card ad in a show program to do the job. They spread a large ad budget over many contact areas. The value of such broad-based advertising must be justified with sales or the ads become just another expense or ego trip for the owner. You have seen some really aggressive ad campaigns that simply disappear. Was it because the desired result was achieved or the result did not justify the cost? Probably both, in some cases.

If you decide to embark on an upscale ad campaign and spend what you consider some "real" money, don't expect instant results. It just doesn't happen. Be prepared to look at a two- to four-year program before measuring the results. It doesn't matter what your specialty is, whether it is show animals, stud service, packers, fiber, or something else. You must concentrate your efforts on your specific area to be effective.

If you feature show animals, then stud service can fit nicely into the picture. Or, if packing is your end, fiber or pets might fit in. It is not to anyone's advantage to try to cover the entire field of possibilities. You will spend hours showing a buyer a pet-quality animal worth a few hundred dollars, or a few minutes showing a discerning buyer a show animal worth thousands. The point is, do what you do best.

A good example of this approach is the creative rancher who halts up a llama and walks to the local shopping area. He is obviously not trying to sell a top show animal nor is he trying to sell stud service. This approach is very successful in selling a pet animal. At the other end of the ad spectrum is the rancher who puts together professional color ads in all available medium and promotes by going to as many shows as possible with outstanding animals. That ranch would give away pets just to reduce inventory and would not consider advertising pets.

Take time to sit down and decide what you have to sell and focus on the best approach to that market. Then, write out your plan and allocate the funds to accomplish your goal. Without a good plan, you waste time and money, and become frustrated that your efforts aren't working. Review ads in various publications and envision your ranch presented in the ad. Would you buy from that ad? Get professional help in layout and design. The extra money is well spent. Don't be the "lost" ranch. Tell the world what you have to offer.

So, here are some positive ways to get the word out.

- Show-quality and super-fibered animals need to be showcased in higher end publications or, as they are called, "slicks." Be cautious, though, that the publication is timely. A good ad that appears too late is a waste of time and money. High quality stud service fits into the same category. This approach takes literally years to see results, but it does work.
- Packer animals will best be presented in packer communities, regional publications, newsletters, and at performance shows. This is also a good venue for fiber.
- Pet and guard animals are best advertised in local newspapers, local bulletin boards, and hometown parades or shows. Remember, pets are not culls, but rather well trained, trusting animals. Otherwise, we perpetuate the "spitter" syndrome.
- Some ranchers publish a "Sales Inventory" showcasing each animal with a brief write-up and a published price. This is very effective in certain cases, sent to a limited mailing. Results often occur a year or so later.
- Offering special incentives such as multiple sales discounts or special terms to aid the buyer in purchasing more than one animal can be very effective.
- Offering ranch guarantees is very effective and should be considered for all ranches. Say so in your ads, and live up to your word.
- "Herd dispersals" are just that unless you want to be put in the same category as oriental rug dealers. This is a way to sell the entire herd. But unless you want to do so, don't go there.

(Continued on page 20)

## USDA FMD Response Clarified Regarding Llamas and Alpacas

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



**T**here has been a great deal of concern within the camelid community, and the livestock community in general, about possible introduction of Foot and Mouth Disease Virus

(FMDV) into the United States. Though there has been no outbreak of FMD in the United States since 1929, fears mounted in the US after the outbreak in the UK last year resulted in approximately 2000 confirmed cases. Though confirmed cases were around 2000, an estimated 10 million animals have been slaughtered. FMDV is one of the most contagious viruses in the world. Current federal and state response policies support killing "susceptible" animals, or species that are capable of contracting the virus, within a zone surrounding a confirmed case in order to prevent the spread of this most feared disease.

Llamas have been experimentally infected with the FMD virus under controlled laboratory conditions. Though there has been no report of a major outbreak of naturally occurring infection in llamas, there is anecdotal evidence of a small alpaca herd in South America infected with the virus in a natural setting. These factors have resulted in llamas and alpacas being classified as "susceptible species" within various federal and state

FMD Response Plans, and accordingly until now, subjected them to the same automatic cull zone policies along with other "susceptible species".

We are pleased to report after many months of effort, in January, the USDA has issued a decision clarifying its' position regarding South American camelids, their relationship to the epidemiology of FMD and identified the appropriate response option for dealing South American camelids should FMD arrive in the US.

USDA reviewed available FMD research done regarding llamas and alpacas. They considered alternatives ranging from no restriction on South American camelids at all, to automatic slaughter within 10 km of an infected premise, the current federal policy for "susceptible species". They took into consideration factors such as public perception, effect on other livestock industries, impact on existing trade regulations, and the weight of scientific evidence supporting SAC relative resistance to FMDV.

The option selected by the USDA is a policy of quarantine with a testing protocol for llamas within an outbreak zone. This applies even if other animals on the premises test positive and must be culled. If a llama or alpaca is confirmed with FMD, the same rules apply as for other species and they will be culled. SAC herds testing negative will still be subject to quarantine whereby they cannot leave the property. The quarantine will remain in place for 28 days after the outbreak is considered over, at which time llamas and alpacas will be able to be move off premises, contingent upon approval from the various involved agencies.

We must be clear, this is not a guarantee that no llama or alpaca will be culled should FMD turn up in the

*(Continued from page 19)*

- Probably one of the best forms of advertising is at the bigger, well-advertised sales. Not only can you showcase your better animals for sale, but when you buy a good animal, you are also making a statement. Just another way to make your presence known and to show that you are really serious about quality.
- Another excellent approach is to invite a professional consultant to evaluate your herd. The results can be quoted in advertising and it eliminates the "barn-blind spots" we all have. These professionals can give you a realistic value for your product. Under- or overpricing can be equally detrimental to a sale. Most buyers know value.
- Web sites are a must for the serious sales program.

We all know the advantage of presenting our ranches in the best possible light. This presentation and the cross-references it affords are strong tools in an advertising program.

- One often forgotten, but one of the best advertising tools is the personal contact. Always positive, smiling and helpful. The personal image you project plays a big part in the sale of any animal. People don't buy from grumps.

Remember, advertising in the correct venue is the key to sales. Don't get discouraged that it takes time to become recognized through these ads. Develop a plan and stick to it. There is no easy way. It takes as much work to sell these animals as it does to raise them.

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(Continued from page 20)

US, as justifiably the agencies fully reserve the right to evaluate on case-by-case basis. Nevertheless, this is a tremendous triumph for llamas and alpacas and for which we should be extremely grateful. Llamas and alpacas will not be automatically treated as other "susceptible species" on suspected or infected premises and we have the unique opportunity for them to be tested and evaluated on a situation-by-situation basis.

Incumbent upon the llama and alpaca owner at all times are appropriate biosecurity measures and practices. In the case of an FMD outbreak however, strict adherence to biosecurity protocols could mean the difference between your llamas and alpacas living or dying. Some measures to consider in the face of an FMD outbreak should include:

- Housing other "susceptible species" such as sheep, goats and cattle apart from the llama/ alpaca herd. They should be pastured and have separate shelter away from your llamas and alpacas. Any measures that can be taken to minimize direct contact between the species will help keep your camelids safe.
- If possible, keep a buffer zone/empty field without animals between the area where your camelids graze and that of any neighboring farms.
- Know exactly who is coming onto your farm and minimize visitors in general.
- Do not transport your camelids anywhere unless a medical emergency.
- Keep disposable boots and coveralls for anyone that must visit and insist upon their use.
- If there are reports of an outbreak in your area, lock your front gate to restrict and control access to your farm.

There are a variety of additional measures that may also be appropriate and further assist in protecting your camelids. It is recommended if anyone finds themselves in an area being investigated for possible FMDV they immediately contact any of the following individuals:

**Marsharee Wilcox: Ph: 410-374-3783**  
**email: [evllamas@bellatlantic.net](mailto:evllamas@bellatlantic.net)**

**Teri Nilson Baird: Ph: 303-646-4373**  
**email: [teri@brokenwindmill.com](mailto:teri@brokenwindmill.com)**

**Karen Conyngham: Ph: 512-328-8715**  
**email: [72040.3361@compuserve.com](mailto:72040.3361@compuserve.com)**

**Dan Goodyear: Ph: 610-488-6666**  
**email: [BALDAN@aol.com](mailto:BALDAN@aol.com)**

\*

## WHAT LLAMAS DO FOR THE LOVE OF THE IRISH

by Roger Miller,  
 Escarpment Llamas, Colorado Springs, CO

**T**he 2002 19<sup>th</sup> annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Old Colorado City was held on March 16, 2002, and was a challenge this year. Mother nature was willing to put those die hard Irish to the task!

We woke at the ranch wondering if there was going to be a parade, since we had overcast skies, cold, and snow with high winds. I placed a call to friends in the area of west Colorado Avenue, who stated the it was cold, overcast with light snow, but very little wind. So we decided to head out to the parade, since our 4-H kids were anxious to be in their first parade with llamas and local Colorado Springs llama owners are enthusiastic to support the 4-H kids llama project and advertise the llama community. Other llama owners came, but did not bring their llamas due to the road conditions. We arrived at the parade about two hours before the parade start time, which was needed to scrape the snow off, attempt to dry out, cleanup, and add the Irish props to the llamas and handlers.

We had eight kids representing the local 4-H llama project. The local llama owners group numbered six, two carrying the banner and four walking with llamas. The llamas and owners were decked out as Irish elves, with one llama being the party animal carrying the group's liquid refreshments – Patties brew.

It appeared that the weather was going to clear for the parade just before the parade start, but to everyone's surprise the sun disappeared, the ceiling dropped, the wind picked up, and it got colder. Before the parade was half over, the snow flurries came down and all were covered in a blank of white.

The parade committee listed 110 entries involved in this year's parade, with approximately 20 entries not appearing. The area 4-H group's entry number was 24 and the llama owner group was 82. But, you have to give those Irish folks credit, they do not let a little weather get in the way of celebrating the wearing of the GREEN. Parade participants are hoping for better weather for next year's Saint Patrick's Day Parade!

The Luck of the Irish be with You!

\*

**Are you NOT getting the RMLA news?**

**Get on the e-mail List!**  
**Contact Bob or Barb at**  
**[Hancelama@att.net](mailto:Hancelama@att.net)**

## GRAND MESA LLAMA & ALPACA CLUB 'TAIL' SWAP

By: Carol Lamm

Our local Grand Mesa Llama and Alpaca Club planned a "DIY (do-it-yourself) 2001 clinic" in November. Our new members had asked for advice about the care and training of their llamas. Since we were unable to schedule a formal seminar offered by out-of-area experts, we organized our own llama workshop.

A llama clinic needs a location, topics of interest, presenters, exhibits and llamas. One of our members operates a Community Supported Agriculture project at Buffin CSA Farm in Clifton. She offered the CSA farm as the location. The farm had several fenced corrals permitting us to separate the llamas and use the pasture for walking demonstrations.

Recruiting a local presenter was a challenge as all members disclaimed special knowledge. However, Jane and John Stout agreed to facilitate our discussion. Their teenage grandson, John (Jas), came to handle and care for the llamas. The great clinic day arrived. Several members brought their llamas to join the farm's three resident llamas. What fun for us to watch as llamas meet each other. What fun for llamas to watch as humans meet each other.

Jane began the clinic discussion by stressing that a bond of trust was the most important "technique" to use in the care and handling of llamas. Llamas are sensitive,

intelligent and curious. They will respond to patience, consistency and integrity. She then talked about nutrition, grooming, training, de-worming, toenail trimming, haltering, walking, hiking, and using proper equipment. We were impressed with her knowledge and communication skills. Jane has raised llamas, read books, attended seminars, viewed videos, and had much to share.

Jane invited us to share our llama "tales." Lively discussions followed of "Well, one day MY llama . . ." These tales proved to be the best part of the seminar. As each llama owner shared stories about these wonderful animals, we all realized that each llama is an individual. Some llamas have ATTITUDE with a capital "A"! And there are many creative ways to work with these unique attitudes to form a bond.

In the afternoon, our president, Linn Jackson, shared information about herd health management. Bev Mulholland and Kris Brewer demonstrated llama packing equipment and how to saddle a llama. Bev's big boy, McCloud's Gunslinger (Mac), was our demonstration model. He was so cooperative. The new llama owners were envious of his polite behavior. Then attendees walked with llamas and gained hands-on experience. All in all, our DIY clinic was a most rewarding day. Often we overlook the talent in our own backyard. Jane, John, Jas, Linn, Kris and Bev certainly are among our stars!

\*



Pack string at stream inlet to Lost Lake in the Medicine Bow Forest of southeastern Wyoming. Photo courtesy of Kevin and Cathy Anderson, Cactus Ranch Llamas, Cheyenne,

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# When is a Winter Trip NOT a Winter Trip?

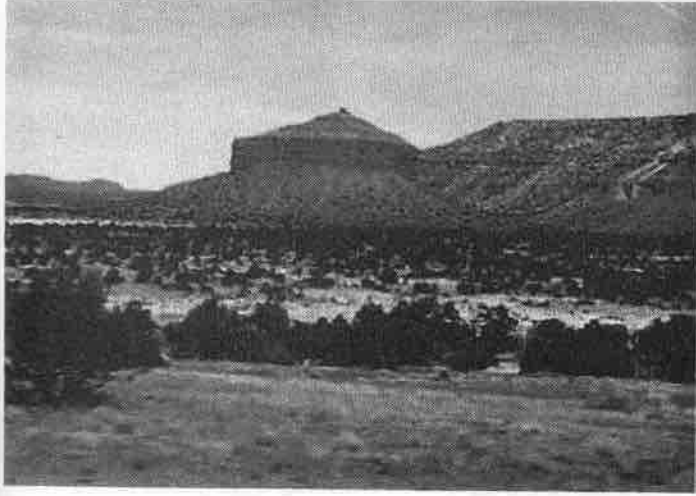
Ever think of that?

By: Michael Carlson, The Wayfaring  
Traveler Ranch, Burlington, WY



**T**o me a winter trip has to be some time between December 21st and March 21<sup>st</sup> with lots of snow and the only acceptable transportation is by foot, ski, or snowshoe. Well, BJ and I have done winter travel in

the wilds of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Canada. It was after a 1984 trip into the Boundary Waters Wilderness in Minnesota that BJ repeatedly said, "You aren't going to get me out winter camping again unless there is a cabin involved." So any winter trip after that was either in a cabin, solo trips with the dog, or with "the guys."



On the Boundary Waters trip, I think the last straw for BJ was the -25°F to -35°F temperatures at night. The winds were only around 15 to 25 mph, just a good breeze to keep the Minnesota mosquitoes away. Well, by the 3rd night, BJ had had enough. She managed to stay in the sleeping bag until midnight and decided frozen feet were not comfortable. She grumbled as she climbed out of the sleeping bag, and spent the remainder of the night being the "Fire Keeper."

For those of us campers, we know the challenge to see how long we can last without getting up to relieve bodily functions. After about 10 hours, I lost the battle to stay in the bag. After I finished, I meandered over to the



fire, hoping that there would be enough coals to get it started again. Lo and behold, there was this bright roaring fire and a huge pile of wood. And, there was BJ, muttering under her breath.

When I checked the thermometer I was a bit surprised! I thought I had the best backpacking unit with a range from 120°F to -50°F. Weeeeell folks, this is where BJ will probably never forgive me. The thermometer was well below the -50°F mark, closer to -62°F. Luckily, the winds had calmed to 10 to 15 mph. Now you know why BJ never went winter camping with me again.

So here it is December 1st, 2001. "Hey BJ! How about heading down to the Canyonlands in southeast Utah over Christmas vacation? I could put together a 5-day trip and we could use the llamas to haul the gear. Hey babe, what'cha think?"

"What! You know I don't like winter camping!" BJ exclaimed.

But, I was ready. "It's not really winter camping. We'll be about 800 miles south, and you know further south it gets a lot warmer, especially down in a canyon.

Remember when we trekked into the Grand Canyon, back in "79"? Remember 4 days into the trip, how it



snowed up on the South Rim and we got only rain? Remember how much warmer it was?"

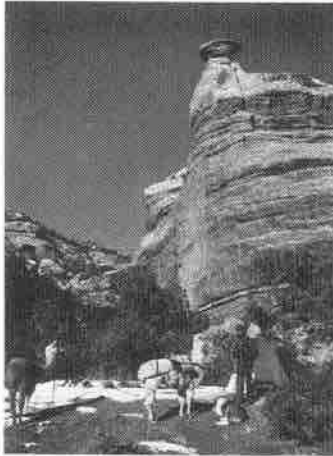
Now, you would think, after 32 years, she would know all my ploys. "Let's go on the Web and check the average temps for the area." Soon we had the information

(Continued on page 24)



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on the screen. "See BJ, it's not all that bad! The average daytime temps are in the mid-40's and at night it gets into the mid-20's. Now that's like being back in Minnesota and Wisconsin in the spring."

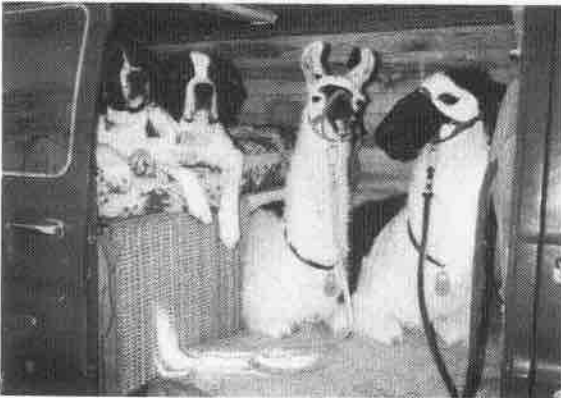


Sure enough, BJ relented, and gave me the go ahead to plan the trip.

Having been to southeast Utah just 2 years before, I offered a couple of options: 1) hike in the Arches and Canyonlands area, or 2) try out the Grand Gulch Wilderness area. We chose Grand Gulch. I collected the necessary topographical

maps and information about the area. My best contact turned out to be the guy I spoke with at the BLM offices in Monticello. It turns out he had just taken the job there after being in the Jackson Hole area for many years, so he also knew the area where we have our ranch.

I found out what I needed to know. Yes, you can pack with your llamas, but only in certain areas, and you'll need a special permit. Yes, you can bring your barking dogs, but they are considering a ban on dogs for that area. There is a per person fee while camping in the canyon. He'd send me the literature in the mail and all I had to do was return the stock permit. Great!!! Now just



somehow

organize the camping gear mess on the living room floor and get the guys ready for the trek.

Since we have 31 of those beasts of burden, it's hard to decide which ones to take on the trip. We opted for Mt. Osborne and Magnus, our 4 year olds. They've been out on the hills training, but hadn't been out on longer overnight treks. I start them out with 40 lb. packs. We plunge into our obstacle course and hike into the BLM area north of our place. Each day, I added 5 lbs to their packs. By the 6th day they were up to 70 lbs. I took them up and down, up and down all over the hills in the BLM

area, and then back through the obstacle course. They were real troopers!

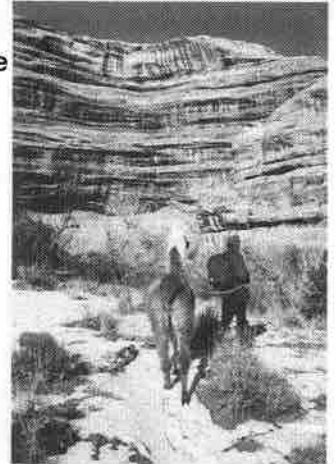
Thursday, December 20th rolls around. BJ comes home from work and I ask her to get out all the stuff she's taking so that I can pack. My stuff has been packed for a week. The packs weigh in at 57 lbs each for a 5-day winter/not-so-winter-like trip.

Friday, December 21st, I pack the van, check the oil, tires, etc. I take the guys out for a short hike with no weight, which they thought was wonderful! Our friend comes over to ranch sit with his 2 llamas and horse. We even made it to bed early.

Saturday, December 22nd we jump into the van. Our llamas load into the middle section, the dogs get the bed, and we get the captain's chairs. We're off by 8:30.

I figure we can get from Cody, Wyoming though Thermopolis, Riverton, Lander, Rock Springs, down to the south side of the High Uintahs by dark and camp out.

Weeeeell, I was in a driving mood and kept going. With a couple of gas stops we made it to the Kane Station entrance to the Grand Gulch by 1:00 a.m. The only complaint we had on the trip down was the llamas. They'd stand up until 10 minutes out from a refueling site, and then they'd kush. By dark, Magnus finally figured it out, and then Osborne followed.



So it's 1:00 a.m. when the Kane Ranger Station appears. The moon is 3 days from being full and it's coooold.

We dig out the "winter gear," feed the llamas and dogs, and get the bed ready. We pile on a comforter, a heavy wool blanket, and unzip the 6 lb rectangular sleeping bag. We change into dry clothes, open the windows (to prevent moisture from collecting on the walls and glass), and climb under the covers. During the night, our toes never get warm.

Later that morning, the sun comes up out of the SE at about 7:45 a.m. Enough is enough! I do the usual bodily function thing and check on the llamas. The thermometer reads 6°F. I said, "Hey BJ! What do you think of the weather?" I think you might imagine what was uttered.

As you can see by the picture there was snow on the ground. At home the weather data stated Monticello had about 6" on the ground, Blanding 1" and Bluff 0". I figured 30 miles west of Blanding there should be little to none. Weeeeell, another data gathering gone bad. There was about 10" at the Kane Station. The decision to wear desert boots switched to Sorels quickly.

We manage to have everything packed and ready to go by 10:30 a.m.

The Kane Canyon trail takes you down about 600 ft

(Continued on page 26)



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Prairie Wind Llamas  
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**We Have  
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(Continued from page 24)

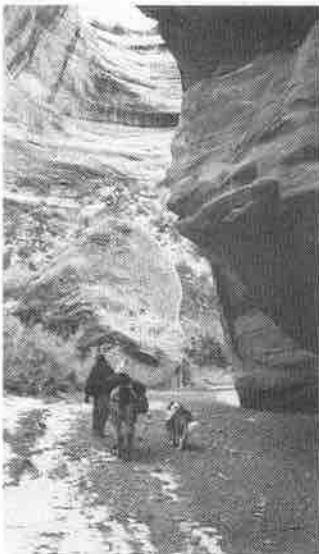
over 4 miles to the junction with Grand Gulch. Others had packed it down, and all the dead-man markers make the trail easy to follow.

The last mile into the canyon drops off fast. By the time we reach the junction of Kane and Grand Gulch canyons, we were awed by the evidence of human history in the ruins. We stopped and ate lunch at the junction and gazed at the sights just above us.



It took us 2½ hrs to get to the junction, and with another hour for lunch (2:00 pm) I'm thinkin' we don't have much time before sunset. With 4 miles down and another 4 to go we had to make some tracks.

The trail takes you past numerous ruins. We dallied long enough to glimpse the age-old history. By 3:15 p.m. I'm thinkin' we'll never make the area I wanted to camp in. We had another 2 miles to go and it wasn't worth walking in the dark to get there. So we find a site high enough to catch the sun's rays the next morning.



There was no open water along the way, so after unloading the llamas, pitching the tent, and storing stuff away I set out to start the stove. I've never had a problem with my newer MSR stove. Lights every time, and can burn like a Saturn 5 rocket. But this time it chose to act up and started leaking at the bottle opening. I fooled around with it for ½ an hour and finally resolved to let it leak. Since we planned to be out 5 days, I thought a 1½-liter bottle should get us through. However, by the time we finished supper, the bottle was down to half. With the

leakage problem and melting snow for water, this trip would not last 5 days.

That night was a lot better than the previous night. We managed to stay up until 8:30 p.m. Yes, it did get cold again, 6°F, but the feet were warm. That makes or breaks a trip.

Tuesday morning, December 24th the sun was out but did not breach the canyon rim till 9:00 a.m. The pictures give you an idea of the area's splendor.

Since having a petrol problem, we decided to cut the trip short to 3 days. So, the new agenda was to take a day-trip further into the canyon.

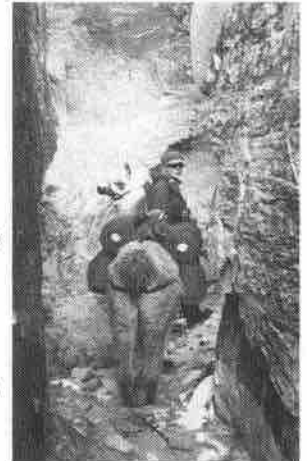
What a wondrous place! The sun's out, there is very little wind, and no one has been through since the last snowfall. After a while, by looking at the walls of the canyon, you could tell where the ancient ruins would be. Just within a 4-mile distance we came across six sites.

These ancient people adhered to good engineering principles -- construct on south-facing walls where the sun heats the rock and adobe walls during the winter. During the summer, the sun is blocked by over hanging rock outcroppings, keeping the canyon cool.

Petroglyphs and pottery pieces were abundant. We spent a lot of time at the split-level site, even finding an ammo can with literature about the site and the fauna.

By 2:00 p.m., it's time to head back. While going in, it took us 2 hours to go 4 miles, and coming out only took us 1½ hours, and we still investigated ruins on the way back. Fortunately, we came across water from snow that had melted in the sun.

You know the adage, "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink"? I generally don't have problems with the llamas, but this time something was blocking their brain waves. You'd think that after 2 days, with little water, they'd stop and enjoy a cool drink. Nope, not on their agenda. They wait until back at camp where we use the stove to melt snow. I wonder if Mt Osborne and Magnus conspired to cut the trip short and tampered with the stove?



This night, things were a lot better. The stove ran better and didn't leak. The moon was full. It was warmer, and just a breath of air circulated through the campsite. We managed to stay up to a whopping 9:00 p.m. Prepping for bed was tolerable and we didn't have to draw the cord tight on the sleeping bag hood.

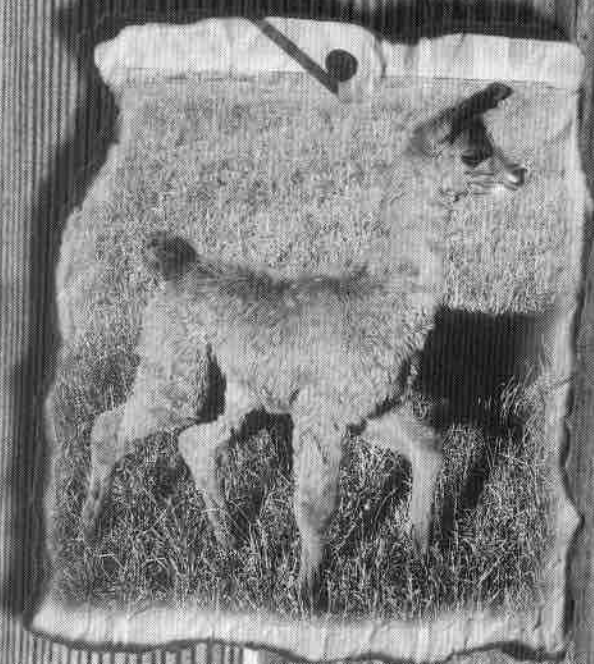
Tuesday, December 25th. This time BJ won the who-can-stay-in-the-sleeping-bag contest. As I get out of the tent, I check the wool sock hung on the tent. Nothing in it. Santa had passed us by last night.

We manage to be packed and ready to head out by 10:00 a.m. Everyone's load is a lot lighter. The llama packs weighed about 42 lbs each. Did we lose that much gas?

(Continued on page 30)

**Don't go to the shoot-out with an empty gun ...**

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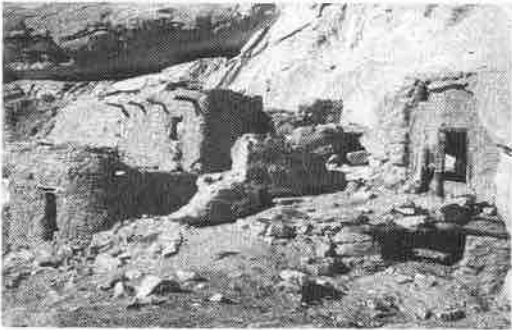
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(Continued from page 7)

Seems, some how, we lost 30 lbs from when we started. Mt Osborne and Magnus were most appreciative.

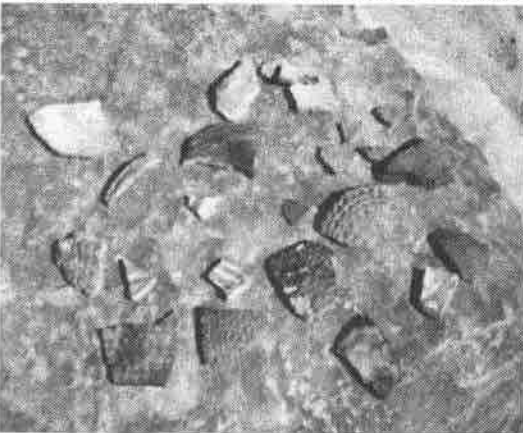
Heading out was a delight. The sun's out again and not much wind. I strip off layers and open zippers to dissipate the heat, while BJ is still bundled up. Going up, it takes us only 3 hrs to get to the top compared to the 3½ to 4 hours it took to get down. We always seem to go up, faster up than going down. I remember hiking up the Bright Angel trail in the Grand Canyon with 25 lb packs in just over 2½ hrs. Ahhhh yes, our younger days!



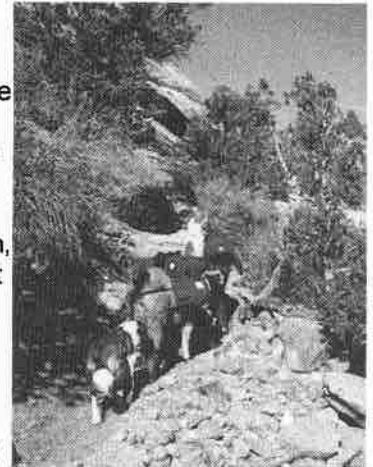
Since we came out a few days early we debated the myriad choices the area offers. We camp about 5 miles south of Kane Station by just pulling off the

road where there wasn't too much snow. We thought of heading to Bluff, Utah, and visiting the folks at Recapture Lodge & Tours, but instead we decided to see parts of the area we had not been through when we were here in 1979. We head northwest on our roundabout way home.

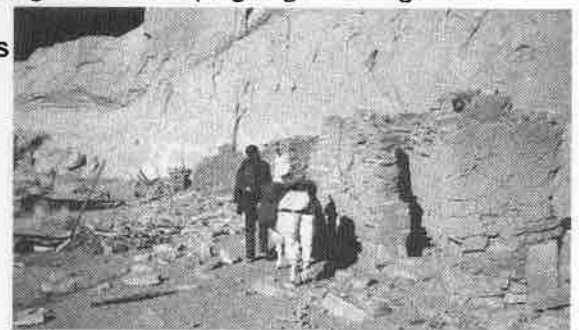
First stop, Natural Bridges National Monument. For the few people that were there, we were the



entertainment. We found out that foreign folks just aren't used to seeing the sight of a menagerie like ours come out of a van. Most of our time was spent answering questions, while the USA folks would just drive by staring. Since Park regulations prohibit dogs on the walking paths we wondered about llamas. So, the four animals drew all the attention in the parking lots while we took in the sites. When we returned to the van, our audience was amazed at our loading procedure. First the dogs, on command, would jump up onto the bed. Then Mt Osborne stepped right in, turned around and stood. Then Magnus popped right in, turned around and kushed and Osborne dropped next to him.



With not much daylight remaining, we headed up to Hanksville, looking for a good spot to turn off the road and find a place to stay for the night. Up in this area, it's like being on a high plateau. We check out a few places, but none feel just right. However, good things come to those not in a rush. We come on this site that has great grass for the llamas. The moon is full, and casts an eerie light on the surrounding desert. We manage to stay up until 10:00 p.m. before slithering into the sleeping bags. The nights are much warmer. This is winter camping!



Thursday, December 27th dawns another nice sunny day. We pack things up and head into Hanksville for petrol and fresh produce. I drop BJ off at the market while I gas the van at a unique station. The pumps are no different than any other, but the station building was actually an excavated huge boulder! This is the stuff post cards are made of. When I talked with the proprietor about our previous camping spot, he indicated that the area had a lot of fossilized remains.

Next stop on our whirlwind tour, Capital Reef National Park. We spend 2 hours enjoying a drive through the steep-sided canyons.

We continued northeast with the intention of further exploring. But, a weather report of snow on Friday and

(Continued on page 12)

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believe so!*

Saturday with high winds started doing mind games with us: "Carlsons go home!" or "Stop now and see how things go!" We decided to continue on and see what might look interesting. Heading to Flaming Gorge National



Recreation Area, we heard that the weather in Rock Springs was getting worse. And true enough to form, when we motored into Rock Springs the wind was howling at 32 mph—not conducive to having the llamas out in the open or sleeping in the van. So what do we do? It's 7:30 p.m., the winds are howling, and it's another 6 to 7 hours

to get home. Camp or drive home? Camp or drive home?

Time to switch to the "Long Haul" mode. BJ has the captain's chair reclined all the way back, and snores away. Magnus has his head over Osborne's back and seems to be "lights out" while Osborne has his head on BJ's captain's chair, blowing sweet nothings in her ear.

With only one stop at Boysen State Park to change drivers and let everyone stretch, we were off again. BJ takes over the PIC (Pilot In Command) duties.

I woke in time to see a yellow sign on the right side of the road, "Llama Xing." BJ pulls into the driveway under the ranch sign (Wayfaring Traveler Ranch) at 2:00 a.m. We unload the guys, remove their halters (which they were thankful after having them on for a week straight), and put them in the big corral.

The trip finally ends with us waking to the "Woo, Woo, Wooooo" of our male ostrich, Heathcliff. It was soooooo great to wake up and not go through the camping routine. You didn't hear that from me!

So, "**When is a Winter Trip NOT a Winter Trip?**" Anytime you've got sunny and warm weather during the day, your teeth aren't chattering all the time, you don't have to worry whether or not you can stay in the sleeping bag a bit longer, and it's not below 0°F the entire time, you're comin' awful close. When you're from the northern stretches of the USA, that means South is the direction to head. And, if you do, I'd recommend that southeast section of Utah.

## IMPORTANT NEEDS – GREAT PRODUCTS

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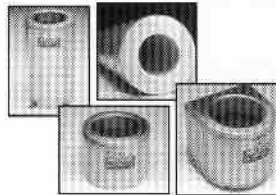
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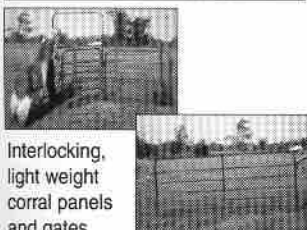
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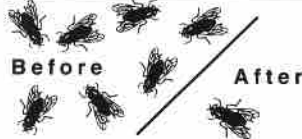
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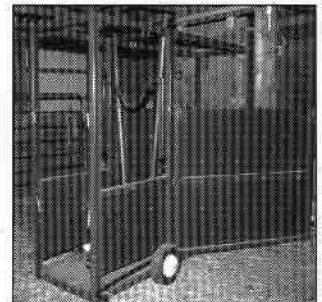
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# CALL FOR ARTISTS

By: **Marta Moore**  
*Valley Winds*



sculpture or ceramics intrigue you more? Is it their fiber that you love - and create from? Knit, crochet, felt, weave? Whatever expression suits your fancy it's welcome at a very unique art show being held this summer in La Veta, Colorado.

The Spanish Peaks Art Council of Huerfano County and La Veta is hosting the Alpaca & Llama Arts Festival for llama and alpaca lovers. Works in any media which feature our gentle animals or their wool are welcome for display and/or for sale. The Arts Festival will begin August 20 and run through September 21, 2002 at the SPACe Gallery in La Veta. Saturday, August 24, 1-4PM will be the Artists' Opening Reception- an outdoor and indoor event- and fun for the whole family. Not only will you view the creative variety of art these animals inspire but see a packing demonstration, walk the obstacle course with a llama, watch spinning and weaving demonstrations and handle great gobs of luxurious fiber.

Begin planning for your entries. Or better yet just dive in and do it.

For details: call Judy Sims-Barlow 719-742-6014 or email at [wjbarlowspks@webcoast2coast.net](mailto:wjbarlowspks@webcoast2coast.net)

**H**ave your llamas or alpacas inspired you to great heights of creativity? Do you feature them in photography, watercolors, acrylics, charcoals, pen & ink? Perhaps metal



Rosie fishing on Grand Mesa — having summer fun



Sheridan summer fun in 1990. Who is the Judge? \*

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## *Lama Community 2002 to be held on August 2-4, 2002 in Kansas City, MO*

**By: Terry Nilson Baird**

**Broken Windmill Ranch, Elizabeth, CO**



**L**ama Community is an annual gathering, open to everyone within the llama and alpaca industries. A main purpose of this event is to discuss "the state of the union" within the camelid world. It is an open forum for people to exchange ideas, give insights, share concerns and identify

opportunities to assist one another and/or the industry. This event serves as a critical forum for establishing contacts and encouraging improved communication throughout the llama and alpaca world on a variety of issues that impact our wonderful animals and us as their owners and caretakers.

This year, Lama Community 2002 is hosted by the Lama Association of the MidAtlantic States (LAMAS) on August 2-4 and discussions will be facilitated by LAMAS President, Marsharee Wilcox. Parties should contact Marsharee with suggested topics or questions. If you cannot personally attend on August 2-4 and no one from your local or regional llama or alpaca organization can

come to Kansas City, you are encouraged to email or phone to share your input.

The place selected is again Kansas City, MO, due

to easy airport access and central proximity for parties coming from all ends of the country. The conference will be held at AmeriSuites KCI Airport. Lama Community 2002 will begin on Friday evening August 2 with a cocktail reception in the reserved conference room. This will be a great time for greeting old friends and meeting new ones. There are a variety of restaurants in the area and the hotel offers complimentary transportation until midnight to local restaurants, shopping malls and the nearby casino.

The registration fee for Lama Community 2002 is \$65.00. This includes attendee conference fees, cocktail reception Friday evening, Saturday lunch and dinner at an offsite location. The hotel provides a deluxe continental breakfast buffet each morning and coffee, soft drinks and water will be available in the conference room.

The reserved conference facility can accommodate a large group and efforts have been made to keep conference costs affordable in order to maximize participation from all llama and alpaca organizations and individuals. Optimally, representatives will attend from all geographical regions, regional and local breeder/owner groups as well as interested individuals and Board members from groups such as ILR, ALSA and ICI.

A block of rooms are reserved for LAMA Community 2002 at a special rate of \$59.00. This all-suite hotel provides complimentary transportation to and from the airport, in-room data port hookups, fitness facilities and an outdoor pool. Hotel reservations can be made at 816-891-0871. (Reference Lama Community 2002) To request more information, suggest a discussion topic or to request an email application for attending Lama Community 2002, please email Marsharee Wilcox at [evllamas@bellatlantic.net](mailto:evllamas@bellatlantic.net) or phone 410-374-3783.

See you in KC!!

\*



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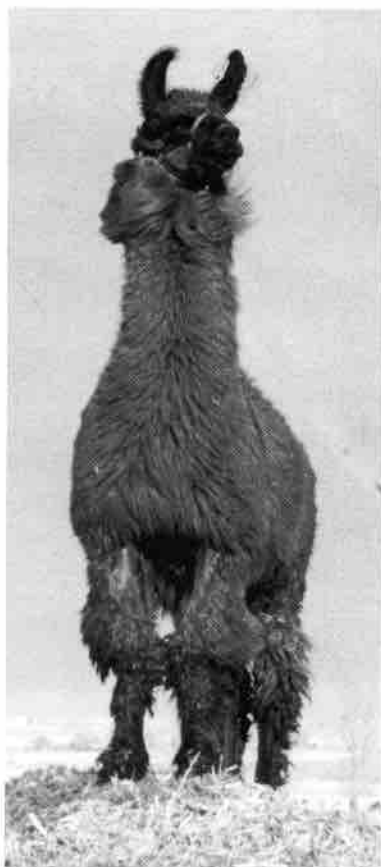
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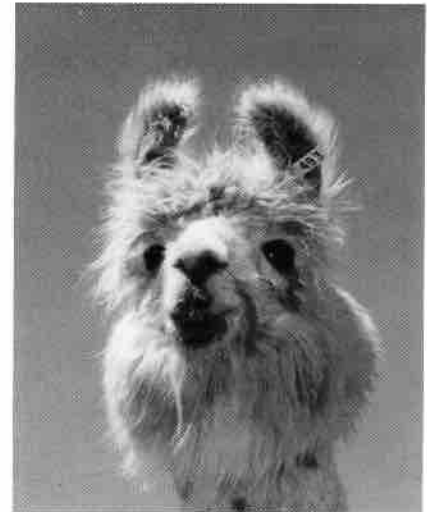
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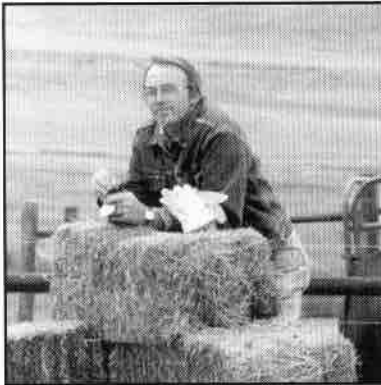
Llamas of Walden Pond  
(Isidro)

ChanTar Llamas  
(Trevelin)

Pfour Pfrangle Llama Pfarm  
(Yumbel)

# LLAMA LESSONS OF THE LAST 20 YEARS

By: Dan Schreiner, RMLA Past President  
Casper, WY



**A**lways double latch your llama gates.

- Twelve smooth wires with 4 ft stays won't deter a stud llama, but high voltage fences will.
- The overly friendly male llama is not the llama of choice to buy. (thanks for the tip in 1983, Bobra)

- In spite of some vocal opinions to the contrary, llama owners will buy a llama veterinary book if it's well written.
- Never place a newly purchased Canadian llama in the hands of a novice pre-teen when in the middle of the Nebraska prairie. A truck mirror works great to lure a loose llama in central Nebraska.
- The best way to catch an escaped stud is with a female.
- A great way to catch a guard llama on 30,000 acres is to train him initially to jump into the trailer for grain.
- Light switches in the barn should be covered.
- Escaped llamas love fancy new plum trees and gardens.
- A long whip on the tractor or 4 wheeler aids in detouring llamas at gates.
- You never know for sure if the electricity is on to the gate until you're half way through.
- Standing in water with aluminum pipe is not the time to test the electric fence.
- Always haul a coffee can of llama dung for "bean seed" at rest stops or new pastures.
- Llamas converse well in Japanese to foreign film crews.
- Spit happens!
- Llamas are usually very discerning about whom they spit upon. (Corporate VPs are prime candidates)

- Llamas don't like politics.
- Llamas quickly find open gates, seldom jump fences.
- A roll of butcher paper hanging in front of the llama chute prevents a green wall.
- Llamas are a wonderful catalyst for a "melting pot" of people when organizing.
- Llama owners are very busy people.
- Clean barns and corrals by May postpones the arrival of manure flies for a month.
- Llamas can postpone delivery until they're damned well ready.
- Never bet on a llama delivery date.
- Llamas relate wonderfully with the elderly and handicapped kids.
- Llama cria make it all worth while.
- Attempting to bond a guard dog with a llama cria on "day one" is not advisable.
- A 300 pound llama can roll a 120 pound Great Pyrennes 10 feet with its front legs.
- Don't assume the other person latched the trailer door.
- Goose neck trailers turned sharply won't always clear the cab of a short bed pickup.
- Outdoor stalls at llama sales guarantee rain.
- The best llama buys are made on wet llamas.
- Never turn down big, big, bucks for a llama.
- Listen to your kids when selling llamas.
- When shearing llamas the lower rear abdomen is the easiest spot to error.
- Zinc is a llama dermatologist's treatment of choice.
- There is basically no cure for llama nose munge.
- Llamas seldom kick, except at prospective buyers.
- If you must "pull" a cria, don't pull hard until you can grasp above the knees.
- Many mom's won't nurse with human intervention.
- No matter how late at night...immediately label freshly prepared antiseptic solutions in the barn refrigerator to avoid the college kid mistaking it for blue punch the next day.
- Many online llama "llama experts" don't know \_\_\_\_\_ (expletive deleted) and won't listen. (says Ellen)
- Llamas and thin ice don't mix.
- Sometimes you just can't buy grass hay.
- The sample hay bales are not always indicative of the remaining 50 tons.
- Llamas love a freestanding big bale of hay. They'll turn it into a bed but won't eat it.
- 900 pound bales make for a long winter.
- A llama will walk 1/2 a mile to defecate in the barn.
- Once a llama dung pile, always a dung pile.
- The first time, llamas go up stairs easier than they come down. (if you doubt this try it in your house)
- Never teach llamas to crawl under a fence for a 4-H project.
- Llamas love kids. Llamas open big doors for kids in the real world.



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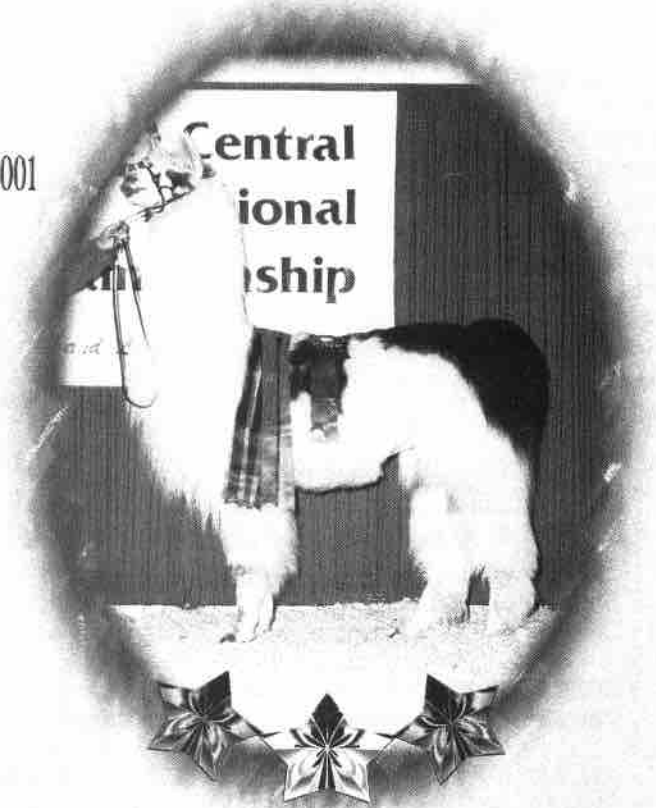
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## MENUS ON THE TRAIL

By Jerry Dunn, RMLA Vice-President

### BREAKFAST

Haven't seen any wildlife on your trip? Get your camera out because they may suddenly appear when they smell this breakfast!

Menu—Gingerbread Pancakes with cinnamon honey and sliced banana, Orange Juice, Coffee

#### Ingredients

1 package of gingerbread mix

Water

Cinnamon powder

Honey

Bananas

#### Preparation

Empty gingerbread mix into bowl and stir in water until you have a pancake thickness you like (not too thick). Heat pan over stove and brush with oil. Pour batter on to pan to make pancakes about 3" across. Turn over when bubbles form. Slice bananas and sprinkle with cinnamon. Serve each person 4-5 pancakes, cover with sliced bananas, pour honey over the top. Drink your juice and coffee!

### LUNCH

Menu—Chicken tacos, Lemonade (Hum "Lost in Margaritaville," softly!)

#### Ingredients

1 large can of Swansons chunk white chicken breast

Picante Sauce

Chopped lettuce, sliced green onions, peeled chopped cucumbers, shredded Mexican cheese, squeeze bottle of sour cream

Flour tortillas

#### Preparation

In the morning after breakfast empty a can of drained chicken into a baggie. Break the chunks of chicken up and add just enough Picante sauce to moisten. Finely chop up lettuce with green onions and peeled cucumbers and put in a baggie. Place baggies in the cooler. Remember to close them! At lunch time, let everyone make their own chicken taco with a flour tortilla, sour cream, lettuce mixture, chicken and cheese. Drink lots of lemonade!

\*

## LLAMA & ALPACA FIBER CLASSES BY KAREN KINYON

**DYEING LLAMA AND ALPACA:** Friday, May 24, Pagosa Fiber Fest, Pagosa Springs, CO 9-4 pm. Contact Marcia Kummerle at 970-264-6680 for additional information.

**SPRING FIBER CLINIC:** Sunday, May 26, Double K Diamond Llamas, 9-4 pm (with Sharon Beacham). Call Karen at 970-568-3747 to register. Class fee is \$25 per person, includes lunch and beverages.

**FELT FOR FEET:** Thursday, June 13, Estes Park Wool Market, 9-4 pm. Contact Linda Hinze at 970-586-6104 for additional information.

**WASHING, CARDING & BLENDING WORKSHOP:** Saturday, July 20, Double K Diamond Llamas, 10-4 pm. Call Karen at 970-568-3747 to register. Class fee is \$45 per person, includes lunch and beverages.

**BEGINNING SPINNING:** Saturday, August 24, Double K Diamond Llamas, 10-4 pm. Call Karen at 970-568-3747 to register. Class fee is \$45 per person, includes lunch and beverages.

**SPINNING SOFTLY:** Saturday, September 21, Double K Diamond Llamas, 10-4 pm. Call Karen at 970-568-3747 to register. Class fee is \$45 per person, includes lunch and beverages. Materials fee is \$15.

**BEGINNING KNITTING:** Saturday, October 19, Double K Diamond Llamas, 10-4 pm. Call Karen at 970-568-3747 to register. Class fee is \$45 per person, includes lunch and beverages.



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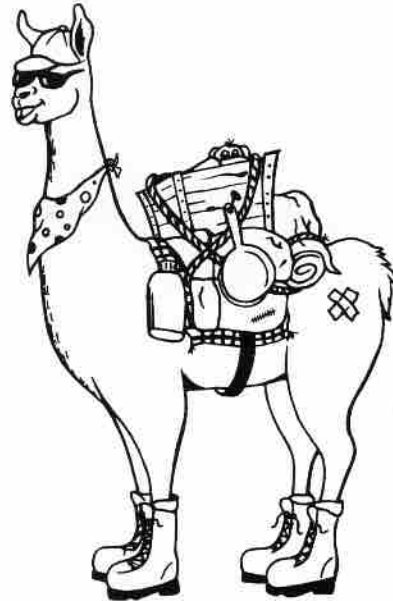
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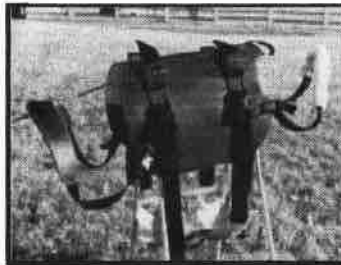
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Rambutan's Dakota Dream  
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2001 & 2002 National Qualifier  
Reserve Champion, L/W Male,  
2002 NWSS  
Numerous Other Halter &  
Performance Awards

These four llamas earned  
FootHills Llamas the  
Premier Ranch Exhibitor Award  
at the 2001 ALSA  
Rocky Mountain Regional



9th, L/W Yearling Female  
2001 ALSA Grand National  
Grand Champion, L/W Female,  
2002 NWSS  
Qualified for 2002 Grand National  
Numerous Other Halter Awards

D's Pongo  
DOB 5/24/97



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Big on Loving Care

Small Number of Llamas  
For Sale  
Show & Pack Quality

Grand Champion, L/W Male, 2002 NWSS, Qualified for 2002 ALSA Grand National  
4th, L/W Adult Male, 2001 ALSA Grand National; 5th, L/W 2 Yr Old Male 1999 ALSA Grand National  
Numerous Other Halter & Some Performance Awards - Limited, Reasonable Breedings Available

## Reflections of the Fairplay Llama Race/ Walk 2001

**By: Roger Miller, Chairman  
Escarpment Llamas, Colorado Springs, CO**

**I**n 2001, RMLA sponsored the 19th annual running of the Fairplay Llama Race/Walk.

There were 44 kids and 96 runner/walkers. Our luck held with the clear weather and low water levels for the many stream crossings, which always puts the public in the mood to try something new and daring. Thanks to the Fairplay Burro Committee and the community of Fairplay who provide the early-western atmosphere that brings out the public's adventurous mood.

Mary Wickman, Superintendent of the first Fairplay Llama Camp Performance Show, set up the eight-class llama show with 30 participants.

The Fairplay Burro Committee arranged to have three Japanese students experience the Fairplay Burro Days celebration by arranging for each



of them to walk the 3-mile course with a llama. Even though Ryo Yokojima was entered in the walk competition, he did his best to catch the race

runners And ended up in the top 10 of the racers.

The Colorado Donor Alliance made up six racing teams of nurses, doctors and medical staff from five hospital and medical facilities within Colorado. They do this each year to help publicize



and bring awareness of the need for organ donations.

Perhaps the best part of the llama race day is the children's activity. Obstacles are set up for children to take trained llamas through the course. Each child received a participant ribbon and an ice cream cone



from the Silver Spoon Creamery.

The Fairplay Burro Committee works about ten months each year planning, scheduling, and coordinating the many events around Fairplay for this fun weekend. The Committee has expressed thanks to the llama community for its many years participation and arranged a prize of a 4-day cruise. The winner of the cruise was Stephanie Picti, with one of the Donor Alliance groups.

Without wonderful volunteer assistance, I would not be able to meet the demands that the Fairplay Race/Walk requires. Thanks to the following volunteers for their time and hard work: Betty Miller, Etienne Miller, Sally Rucker, Dee Goodman, Mary Wickman, Toni Miller, Terry Hollman, Jim, Brenda and Jackie Vance, Patti and Lindsey Morgan, Larry Lewelyn, Ann Bruhn, Cathy and Mark Wittrup, Mark Smith. Thanks to the following ranches and llama owners that provided excellent llamas for the public's use: Janice Adamcyk – Kiowa Creek Llamas; Ann



(Continued from page 42)

Bruhn, Dee Goodman – xi Llamas; Sandy Lockwood – Lockwood Dreamstar Llamas; Patti



Morgan – Rock-n-M Llamas; Sally Rucker – Stage Stop Llamas; Jim and Brenda Vance – Split Rock Ranch Llamas; Mary Wickman, Cathy and Mark Wittrup – C&M Llamas; Betty and Roger Miller – Escarpment Llamas

The RMLA and Fairplay Race organizers would like to thank the following Fairplay merchants who provided gifts for the placing runners and children: *South Park Stuff, South Park BBQ, Silver Spoon, Colorado Mountain Hat Co., Even in the End – Liquor Store, Nature's Gift/Candle Studio, South Park Pottery, Log Cabin Enterprises, The Golden Gate Farmer, South Park City, Eagle's Nest at Fairplay, Inc., The Chocolate Moose, Injoy Healing Arts, Inc.*

\*



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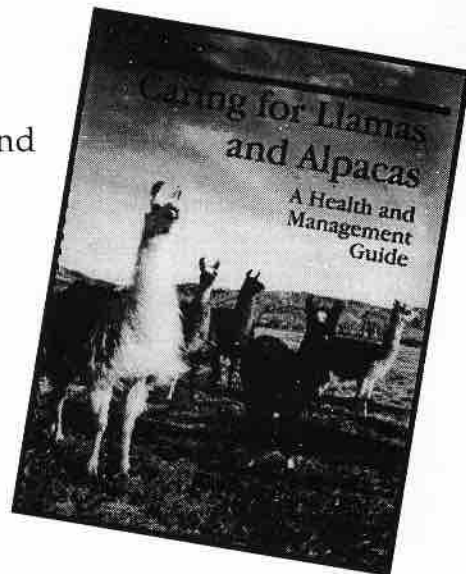
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# The RMLA 20th Birthday Party!



Sandra Lockwood and Kathy Wittrup, first registrees



Kathy and Vinnie Wincelowicz

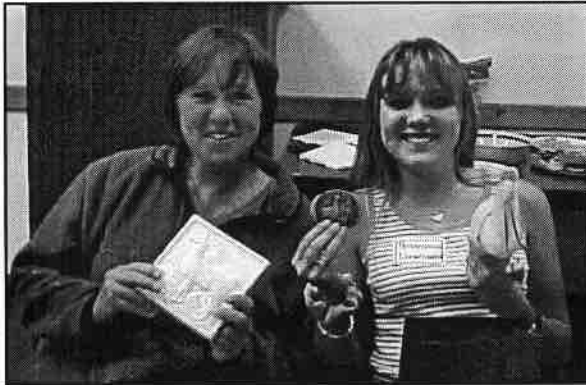


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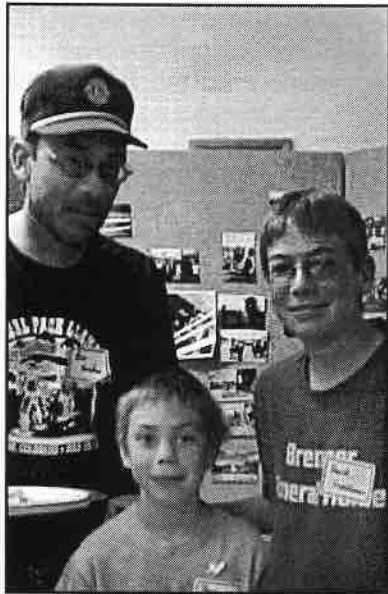


Rhonda and Brianna Livengood



Robert and Mark Jackson

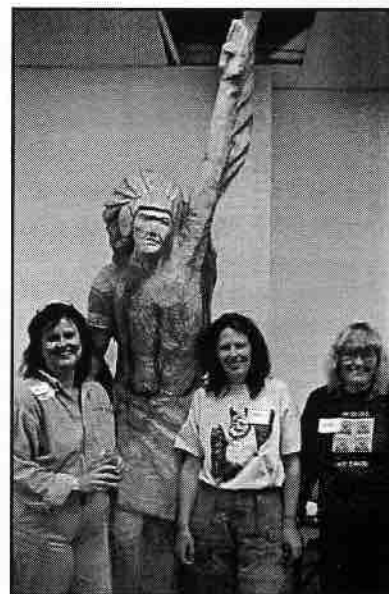
Annamarie, Martha, and Sophia Custis



Thomas, David and Dee Goodman



Jerry Dunn with her recycled bouquet



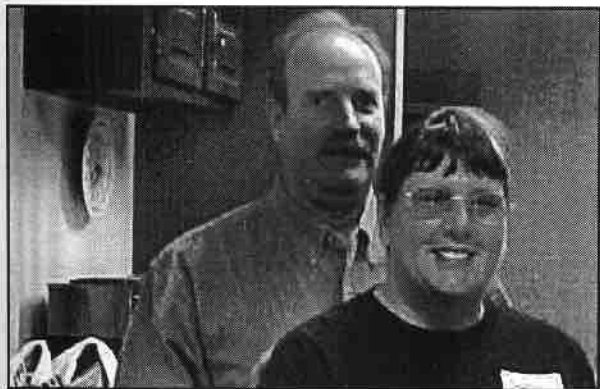
**Birthday Party Committee**  
Teri Baird, Mary Wickman,  
and Ann Bruhn  
**RMLA THANKS YOU!**



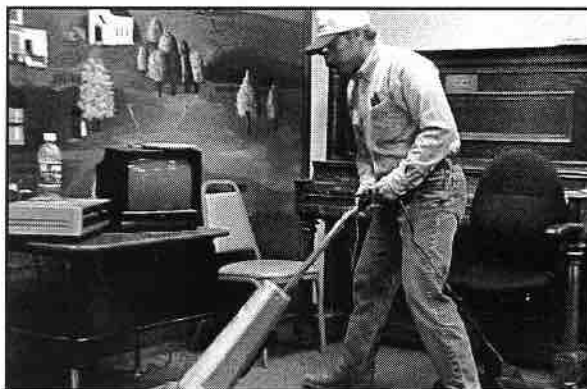
Carol Lontine and Charles Quigley



RMLA Treasurer Lougene Baird and Journal editor



Life Members David and Sandra Lockwood



Our Illustrious President — working to the end

# SCIENTISTS USE LLAMA DROPPINGS TO HELP COMBAT WATER POLLUTION

University Of Newcastle Upon Tyne  
(<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/>)

Scientists from Newcastle University are using llama droppings to help combat environmental problems caused by polluted water seeping from abandoned silver and tin mines in the Bolivian Andes. The project is being spearheaded by Paul Younger, Professor of Hydrogeochemical Engineering at Newcastle University. It has been adapted from a community-based natural regeneration technique which uses waste materials to treat polluted mine waters. Professor Younger pioneered the technique, along with scientists and engineers from the University working in partnership with the residents of former mining communities in North East England, who called him in to help them address the threat to their environment caused by polluted water draining from disused mines.

Mine water has a high acid content and is extremely damaging to the ecology of the surrounding areas. The scientific basis for the regeneration technique, which involves the creation of 'low-tech' bioreactors constructed in the form of wetlands with a substrata of compost and limestone, is called bacterial sulfate reduction. Bacteria living in the compost and limestone use dissolved sulphate, found in abundance in mine water, as an energy source, producing sulfide. The sulfide then reacts with the dissolved iron and traps it, as iron sulphide, in the compost bed. This process also raises the pH in the water and generates alkalinity.

This technique has been so successful in the North East of England that it is now being customized and exported for similar problems in other countries and is helping to make Newcastle University Europe's leading center for mine water research.

In the Cordillera Real of the Andes, perennial drainage from abandoned tin and silver mines is grossly polluting the main water supply of the capital city, La Paz. Some of this extremely polluted water is used untreated by impoverished local residents for domestic and agricultural purposes, and although the city waterworks efficiently removes iron from the water, unpublished data show that toxic elements such as cadmium have occasionally entered the public water supply in La Paz at concentrations well above the limits specified by the World Health Organization.

The mine from which the pollution emerges, Mina Milluni, was closed abruptly in 1985 as a consequence of

the global slump in tin prices, which occurred in that year. Professor Younger explains: 'The former mining company has neither the financial resources nor the legal responsibility to remediate the polluted drainage, so it seems that the problem will continue indefinitely unless some local champions decide to find solutions of their own'. Drawing inspiration from some of the passive treatment systems developed in the UK, Professor Younger has been working with a local engineer, Marcos Arce, on preliminary experiments to assess the feasibility of treating the acid water from Mina Milluni using bacterial sulphate reduction and limestone dissolution.

Professor Younger continues: 'The problems of implementing this technology at Milluni are considerable: lying at about 4400m above sea level, nocturnal freezing is the norm for much of the year, and supplies of compost materials similar to those that have been used successfully in the UK, such as horse and/or cow manure, with composted tree bark mulch, are not readily available in the Bolivian Andes. However, llama droppings are abundant, though it hardly needs stating that no previous data exist on their performance in acid mine drainage remediation systems'.

Professor Younger and his colleagues constructed a series of tanks in which limestone gravel was buried beneath half meter-deep layers of llama droppings. A continuous flow of acid drainage was directed through the tanks for a five-month period between June and November 2000, which is also the coldest period of the year.

'The findings from these experiments are extremely encouraging. As hoped, the llama droppings do promote the activity of sulphate-reducing bacteria (sulphate reduction averaged around 16%), and the average pH of the water rose from 3.2 to 6.3 on passing through the four tanks', said Professor Younger.

'We are currently attempting to identify funding sources which would support Marcos to work with local artisanal miners and other residents to develop larger bioreactors in the field at this and other sites, with the long-term aim of empowering the poverty-stricken communities of indigenous people to reclaim and sustain the water sources which are currently denied to them by the legacy of large scale mining' he concluded. As a result of his research, Professor Younger and his team have been asked to help the European Commission draft its law on the regulation of pollution from mines.

Ed. Note: *The language in this article has been changed from English to United States American.*

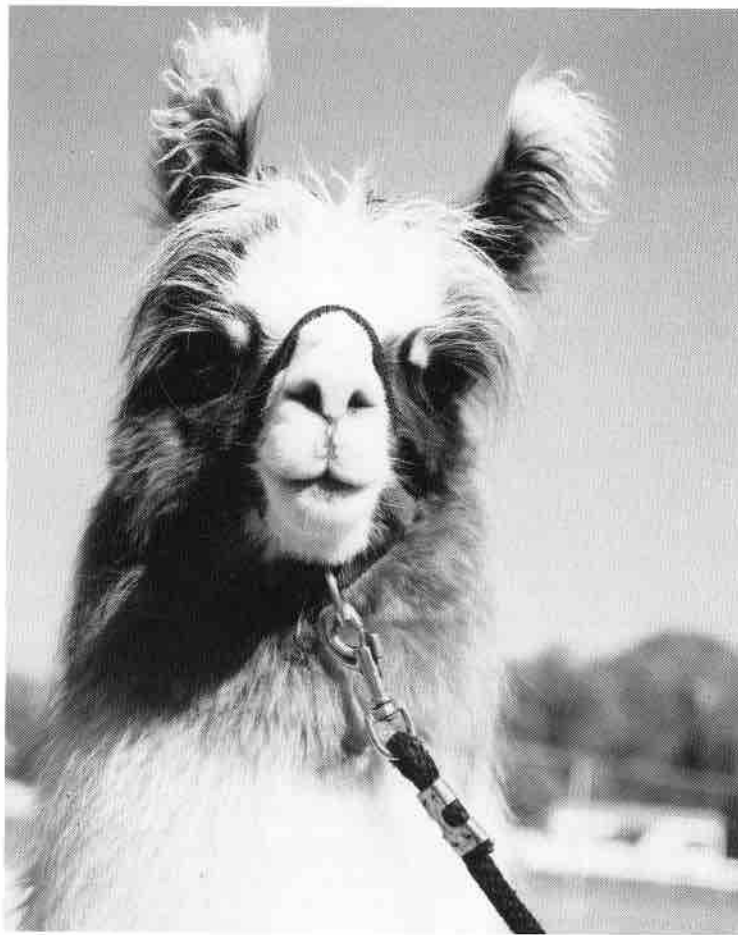
*Some years ago, RMLA Vice-President Daryl Wood conducted some research on llama dung as a heating source. A laboratory with which Daryl was associated determined llama dung had the heating value of Powder River Basin coal, not as much fly ash, or sulfur residual!*

\*

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# Four States Ag Expo

By: Pete Peterson, Superintendent  
Llamas at Last Ranch, Dolores, CO

Several ranches in the Southwest area have combined to extend our marketing potential — kind of like the Hole in the Wall Gang. Known as the Four States Llama/Alpaca Network, we have organized several events and have produced an outstanding brochure thanks to Ken Maul.



Currently, we consist of 20 ranches with approximately 10 llama and 10 alpaca herds. Our most recent event was held on March 14, 15, 16 at the Montezuma County Fairgrounds in Cortez. The Four States Ag Expo is held every year and draws a crowd of 5,000 to 10,000 during the three days. Vendors display farm equipment, there are classes in agricultural



management, animal training, and every possible related business has a booth somewhere for promotional purposes.

This year, we managed to get 1,800 square feet

of space INSIDE the heated main building, where 10 ranches set up stalls for individual displays and we had room for the RMLA display unit as well as several spinning wheels where attractive participants captivated the crowd. Linda Maul of Shadow Ranch Alpacas and a backup group



known as the Fiberettes put on an hour long workshop on the stage, showing the process of preparing fiber and how it becomes yarn as well as a felting demonstration.

Susie Fry managed to drop her spindle consistently.

This event is primarily a display format without animal activities, but it gives us great public exposure with a minimum of effort. We had good attendance in our area and if

one quietly strolled about, you could listen to the various



enthusiastic sales presentations and you realized that all of the

organic waste product wasn't confined to the stall interior space itself. We had a great time and plan to maintain this as an annual event for us.



We want to thank Jerry Dunn for her efforts in supplying us with the display unit, the banner, and related brochures.

\*

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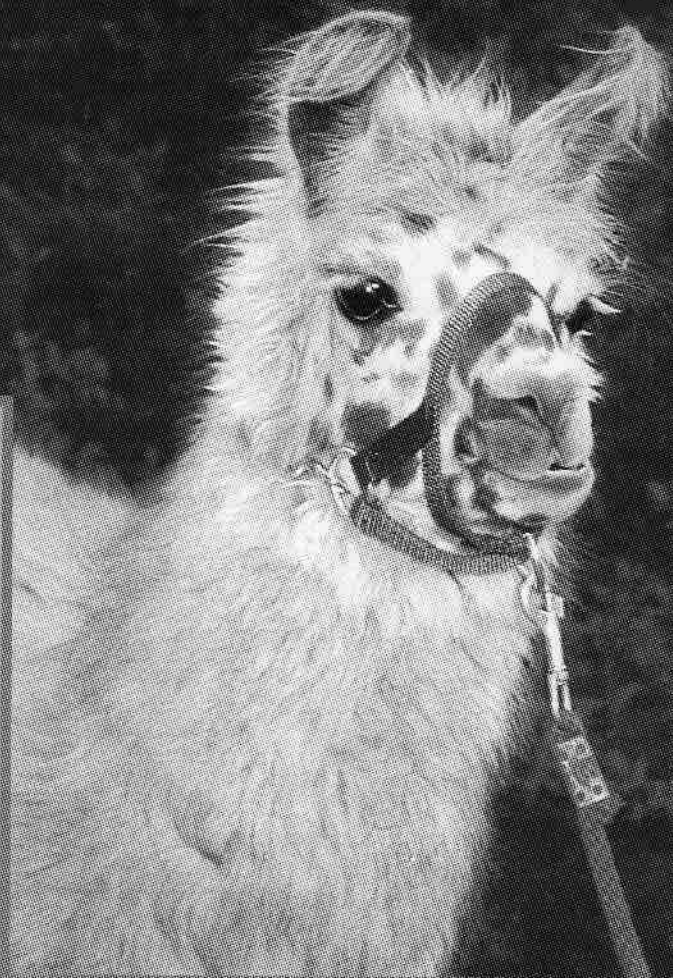
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Norma Stevens, Mountain Oaks Ranch  
Valley Center, CA

For further information  
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## The Only Way To Go!

By Jean Kuss,



*Editor's note: Jean is a Membership Services Representative at the Colorado Mountain Club.*

**I**f you love to spend time in the mountains, as I do, but your body tells you it's no longer willing or able to carry a backpack loaded with all of the creature comforts

you will need, you would be delighted to discover that there is a better way to go. So when my daughter and son-in-law suggested a pack trip using llamas, thus accommodating both their four year old and me, I eagerly accepted. Hiking into the mountains without a heavy backpack would be the ultimate camping trip, as far as I was concerned. And I wasn't disappointed.

I remembered reading about llamas in grade



school, and they seemed so exotic, existing only in faraway lands. But now I had the opportunity to get to know about llamas first-hand. The two that would be our companions were named Trent and Brewster. Not exactly exotic names, but I suppose if you have a bunch of them you eventually run out of good exotic names.

The major task of weighing and balancing the panniers was a bit of a trick, with gear and food for six of us, but once done, we loaded up the rent-a-llamas and headed for our destination on Molas Pass, north of Durango, Colorado.

Because they are still somewhat unique to many people, Trent and Brewster attracted a lot of attention from other hikers and horseback riders that we encountered. A Boy Scout group at the trailhead was so enchanted with the llamas that they asked to have their picture taken with them.

I hadn't known that llamas have to be trained, that it doesn't come naturally for them to follow a lead. A friend told me that while hiking one day she came across a group of "llama trainees," and I had to laugh at such a funny image! But follow they did, without any effort on our part—my granddaughter Mallory loved leading her llama friend, Brewster. (She was probably too short to notice, as I did, that Brewster had halitosis—the only downside I discovered to these aloof but pleasant animals.)



The hike into Lime Creek was roughly four miles, the mountainside was an ocean of wildflowers, and we found an open area with a beautiful panoramic view where we made camp, staking Brewster and Trent out to graze. We had two days of perfect weather and a delightful camping experience, and then it was time to go home.

I was leading Trent, and Brewster was following Mallory and her dad. Somewhere along the trail we lost sight of them, and Trent began to make little humming noises, obviously anxious at being separated from his counterpart. I had been told that llamas made this humming sound, but this was the first I had heard. Trent began to walk faster, brushing my heels occasionally, and I was both annoyed and sympathetic. Then we would catch sight of them and he would hum again, trying to communicate with Brewster, I assumed. This continued all the way down the mountain, until we regrouped to unload and reload for the ride back. Trent and Brewster settled contentedly in the pickup trailer, a job well done.

\*

At  
RMLA.com ...  
Check out  
The Youth webpage.

## Dreaming of Summer

By: Charles E. Quigley and Carol Lontine  
D & C Llamas, golden, CO

**W**hile sitting here this evening, out of the storm that is blanketing everything outside with cold and snow, I thought I would share a moment of summer with you.

There is so much you can do with your llamas during the warmer part of the year that you probably wouldn't do if you didn't have them. There are so many short trips we can go on with our llamas that would only take a day or two and there is so much to see. The photo was taken on Weston Pass, which is about 65 miles from Denver. We drove over to the lower campground on Saturday, arriving at about 10 a.m. The rest of the day was spent hiking around and sightseeing within a mile to a mile and a half of the campground.

The following morning, we finished a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage and good coffee. Things always taste better in the great outdoors. We then loaded Pisco in the van and drove about half way up the pass where we parked and unloaded. We packed our lunch, raingear, water and my camera gear on Pisco and hiked to the top of the pass. The fact we had a llama to carry our gear made it possible to go wherever we wanted to, rather than staying on the road or the trail. The

photo of Carol and Pisco was taken that afternoon and the log cabin is visible from the road, but cannot be reached except by hiking.

We were back to the van before sunset and returned to camp where we all enjoyed a very tasty dinner. We had steaks, and Pisco enjoyed carrots and grain! A good time was had by all!

**COME ON SPRING!!!**

\*



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## The Further Adventures of Pisco

By: Carol Lontine, D and C Llamas Golden, CO.

**O**n January 27, 2002, Pisco added another first to his resume. HE WENT TO CHURCH! We received a call from a member of Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Denver. They were planning a short "sermon" for the Children's Moment concerning Heifer Project. For those who are not familiar



with this organization, people donate money for animals to be given to third world countries or the poor in our own country (Appalachia comes to mind) and teach people how to get the best from their animals — milk from cows and goats, harvest honey from bees, and so forth. This church was

collecting donations for llamas to be given to people in Bolivia. When a family receives an animal, they must give back something to another. The llamas will be purchased from a breeder somewhere in Bolivia, so the animal will be used to the climate on the high plains the Andes. Heifer Project will also educate these people in the way to properly breed a llama, hence, eliminating inbreeding. Baby llamas were dying in Chocarasi, Bolivia. Those that lived were small and weak. The people need big strong llamas to carry their weavings, some produced from a wool, to the city market and carry back a year's supply of corn, wheat, and barley — a six week trip!

This was a surprise for the congregation as it had not been announced that they were going to have a special visitor. When Martha



Cearley started her talk, she began by saying God needs our help and she needed some help this morning, and she was calling on a friend to come help. This was our cue for Pisco and I to walk down an aisle to the altar of the church. Of course, everyone turned and stared, with smiles on their faces and sparkle in their eyes, in awe of this big brown llama walking into their church. There were probably 15 to 20 children at the altar who couldn't keep their eyes off Pisco. Martha continued to talk about Heifer Project and asked for donations. A llama costs \$150 and I have now heard they have enough money for four llamas and will receive a matching donation for whatever they collect. Pictures were taken that they will send along with their donation. Pisco stood very calm and just looked around. As we exited out of the sanctuary, folks began clapping. (I was told this was not the norm for this church.) Between the services, we were asked to go down to visit with the three and for year old children in Sunday School—they were really excited.

We did a repeat performance for the second service of the church. This time I was able to show a neck scarf made from wool of Pisco's mom, Angie. A friend had made the scarf of wool I brushed from Angie. She cleaned, carded and spun it into yarn. The congregation was very impressed. This service was attended mostly by the older members of the church and they, too, clapped as we exited the sanctuary. And again, we went to visit with another class of three and four year old children, who were just as excited.

In the feedback I have gotten from this visit, the congregation was quite taken with Pisco's behavior, gentleness, and all-around good nature.

They have even asked when Pisco was going to make a return visit. Another member has sent press releases to *The Denver Post*, *Rocky Mountain News*, as well as neighborhood publications.

Ah, the joys of owning a llama and putting him in the public eye!



# "FELT FOR FEET, FEET FOR TWO or WHAT OUR RMLA PRESIDENT REALLY DOES IN HIS SPARE TIME!!"

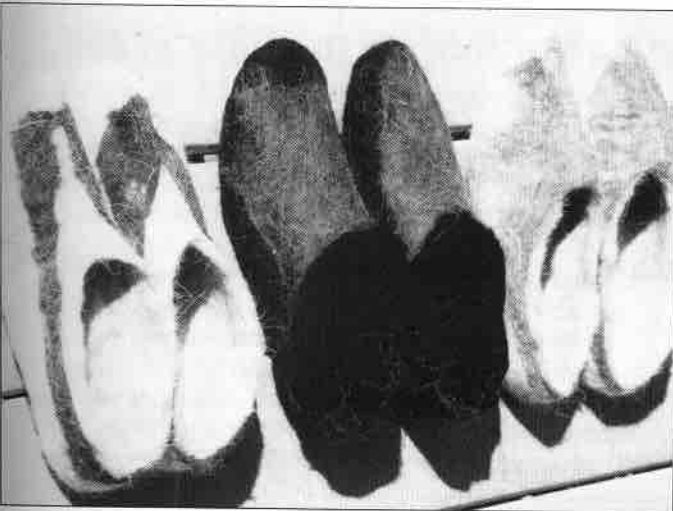
**By: Karen Kinyon,  
Double K Diamond Llamas,  
Wellington, CO**



**O**n a sunny

February Sunday, three couples (all RMLA members) met to carry out an experiment. The hypothesis was: Can couples work together so that six pair of felted llama

slippers can be completed in one day? Good question, and important, as this class will be offered to the outside world at the Estes Park Wool Market in June. Rob and Diane Tompkins, with Stan and Judy Wolff-Mills met at the home of Bob and Karen Kinyon. Since moving to their new place in Wellington, the unfinished basement has been turned into a classroom, offering many educational



opportunities with llama and alpaca fiber, taught by Karen.

Upon arrival, all three couples chose patterns and fiber colors to make their own felted llama slippers. The

work began. It was decided that the men's slippers would be made first. Each couple would work on one pair of slippers. Example: Rob and Diane were working on Rob's slippers. Fiber was laid out on the plastic patterns, hot water and soap was added along with agitation to begin the felting process. "Agitation" is a term used in felting usually meaning rubbing the fiber/hot water and soap mixture with the hands in order to cause the fibers to firm and felt together. In this setting, it seemed to mean many

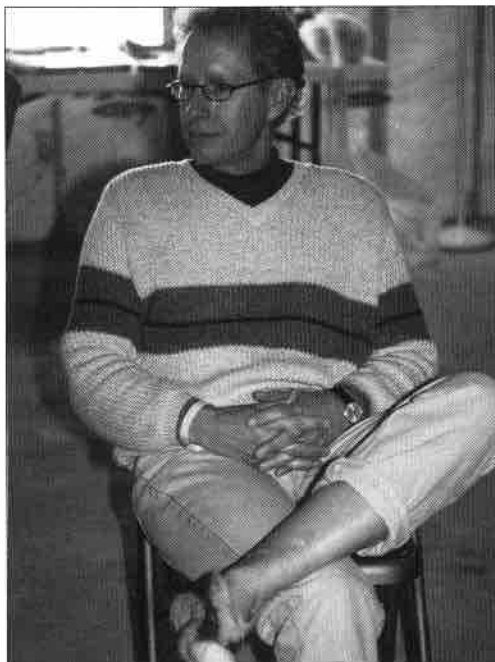


different things. Hand-felting isn't a very rapid process, so there was lots of time for agitation. Much advice was given and Karen, who was actually teaching the class, had her hands full not only of Bob's slippers, but with checking on the other two pairs working at the same time. Finally, the slippers were firm enough to be opened up, patterns removed and now we were ready for shaping the slippers on the molds. The molds were the actual feet of the potential slipper owners. In this case that was the husbands.

Rob, Stan and Bob all sat comfortably in their chairs with their feet propped in their respective wives' laps. Warm water was added to the inside of the slippers and they were carefully slipped over the men's feet. As this was close to Valentine's Day, a fun foot massage using llama fiber and warm, soapy water seemed appropriate. This is pretty much where the group began to deteriorate. It became quite funny to listen to the various comments, giggles and snorts. We all wanted slippers to fit comfortably and were working hard to achieve that goal. One couple worked quite quickly and accomplished their mission. The other two kept at it until two slippers for each husband were complete. Sometimes felting isn't always repeatable so to have two slippers that match was an interesting exercise. The women worked hard and the men's slippers were finished and set to dry in the sunshine while the group went in to enjoy a potluck lunch.

Lunch was relaxing and much enjoyed (These

*(Continued on page 32)*



*(Continued from page 53)*

members of RMLA are also excellent cooks!!) After some time and conversation, it was decided the group needed to go back to the felting tables to complete the female counterparts to the men's slippers drying on the porch.

D. J. Kinyon and friend Brianna joined the group at this time and the fun started all over again. There was some difference in the momentum that had been going before lunch. It wasn't quite clear as to the cause of this; it was afternoon, after a heavy lunch and after some adult beverages, but the girl's slippers seemed to take much longer to make and were much more irregular than the men's. Finishing techniques were discussed and examples shown. (It wasn't actually clear which member of the teams would be doing the crocheted edging.) This project was lots of fun. Amid much laughter and creativity, we found another great way to use that llama fiber that we all have in abundance.

It was decided that the experiment was a great success (yes, all six pairs of slippers were completed!) and the one day class will be offered at the Estes Park Wool Market, Thursday, June 13. If you would be interested in taking this class, please call Linda Hinze at (970) 586-6104. We will again work with two people to a team and felt slippers on each others' feet. (Sorry, no adult beverages will be served!)

\*



***Did you have this much fun last August?***

***If you did - was it almost free?***

***If you answered no to either of the above questions-***

***You need to check out***

***Uintah County ALSA Llama Show***

***In Vernal, Utah***

***August 9 & 10, 2002***

***Show Superintendent: LeeAnn Walker - (435) 722-2603***

# "KEEP YOUR LLAMA AWAY FROM MY DOG!"

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



**R**ecently a friend and I were walking a couple of llamas down the driveway and out onto the street in front of my farm when out of the corner of my eye I saw the neighbor's Irish Wolf Hound coming at us at a full galloping charge.

When he got within about 10 feet I yelled "NO," extremely loudly and he screeched to a stop, somewhat startled. The owner tried to recall the dog, but he would not budge. She ran up and grabbed his collar. I suggested that she keep the dog on a leash when they were out on the street. Her comment was, "Keep your llama away from my dog!" That remark seemed so very strange to me and I turned away shaking my head in disbelief.

That comment kept rattling around in my head for several hours and I began to realize it wasn't such a silly thing for the dog owner to say. How often as llama owners have we stopped to talk with people on the street or trail as they were walking their dogs or riding their horse and casually allowing our llama to sniff the dog or blow in the horse's nostrils? Dogs with wagging tails are not necessarily friendly. "He loves other animals." It is not wise to trust that statement. A wagging tail can be followed by a snap at the nose of your llama or a lunge for your llama's tail. A horse standing with stiff legs and flaring nostrils can suddenly take off like a deflating balloon and dump their rider. The stare from a llama can be perceived as a threat by some animals. We don't want to give the appearance that we were trying to get the dog or horse to misbehave or panic.

Granted, llamas on lead generally do not attack dogs on the trail or street. Should the dog venture into the pasture, his life could be at great risk from llamas chasing and striking at him. Once a neighbor of mine allowed his brown lab into the llama boys' pasture. Midnight and Romeo had the dog on his back immediately and were striking at him every time he tried to move. The dog's master called and the dog was terrified to move, so I had to call the llamas off. The dog never returned. Now as I remember, Stan Ebel had an old gelding called H.K. (short for "Horse Killer"). Out on the trail this llama would go after horses on the trail with such fury that Jim Hook, Stan's partner was the only person who could handle H.

K., and he was the only person who took him out on pack trips. I feel positive there are more stories out there, humorous and not so humorous, about llamas and their exceptional aggressive and defensive tactics.

Even though I was standing at the end of my drive where the liability sign hangs, noting "inherit risks of llama activities," I still have a responsibility as a llama owner not to put my animal or visitors' animals at risk. And what would that responsibility be?

- Know your trail etiquette. Smaller animals yield to larger animals. Bicycles yield to llamas and horses.
- When yielding to horses, step down well off the trail and turn the llama's head away so that he does not have the opportunity to snort or stare at the horse. If the horse is really nervous, the rider should dismount and continue on the trail. Watch the reaction of the horse for your own safety.
- Dogs and their owners should move well off the trail and allow you and your llama to pass. It is not recommended that the llama handler and the llama stop and chat with a owner who has a lunging, tail wagging, barking, growling dog!!!! Move on. Demonstrate that llamas can be calm and sensible when encountering adversity.
- Pay attention when you are out on the trail. Stay off trails that are crowded with multiple use visitors and that have blind corners. Look ahead and plan an escape if a problem arises.
- If you see a dog on the trail off lead, stop and ask the owners to contain their dog. Most people respond in a positive way if you ask them politely. The best defense to an approaching dog is a very loud voice yelling "NO" at the DOG. Threatening the dog with sticks and large rocks just excites the dog and makes the owner REALLY mad.
- If you sight horses, let them know well in advance that you have llamas and that you will step off the trail until they pass.



So, when all is said and done, we have an equal responsibility to react safely and wisely in all situations. Keep your llama away from the dogs and horses!



## SURI-TYPE LLAMA FIBER: WHAT IS IT AND HOW IS IT USED?

By Karen Kinyon  
Double K Diamond Llamas,  
Wellington, CO



**A**s a  
Llama

Fleece Judge, I am confronted with many unusual topics as I judge fleece shows. Lately, suri-type llama fiber has been one of them. It is interesting to see the ads promoting

somewhat baffled by suri-type fiber. It requires different processing in order to be handspun. Often combing rather than carding produces a more uniform roving. It requires more advanced spinning techniques as the fiber is slippery and harder to spin than the llama fiber most hand-spinners are accustomed to using. It needs to be spun quite fine as it is a heavier fiber and if a heavy dense yarn is produced, there will be problems with the garment "growing" as it is worn. Suri-type llama fiber is a "cool" fiber, more like silk or linen. Therefore, spun fine it will work better in a Spring or Summer weight garment instead of a warm Winter sweater. It also works well in hand-woven projects like scarves and shawls where the drape and flow of the fiber will be emphasized.

Because it is a "cool" fiber, the llamas producing it will be cooler. They need special attention in the Winter months to make sure they are warm enough. Special attention needs to be paid to their backbones where the fiber makes a natural part because it is exposed and susceptible to sunburn. Llama babies with suri-type fiber will need to be kept warmer and more protected from the elements.

The llama industry changes constantly and we all love variety. I hope this has been helpful in answering some of the recent questions that I've been asked regarding suri-type llama fleeces.

llamas with "glossy fiber, silky fiber, suri-type" etc.

I get many questions from breeders about this current trend in llama fiber production so I will attempt to answer some of them in this article.

Suri-type llama fiber is very different from what most of us are used to producing. It is fiber that is quite dense and silky, but exhibits curl rather than crimp. The lock structure often looks like ringlets. Crimp is what causes llama fiber to spin into yarn that is soft and lofty. It is what makes a llama sweater warm without being heavy to wear. It is what traps the air pockets and provides us with additional insulation.

Curl does not spin into a lofty yarn. It is heavier and drapier. As a fleece judge, it is often difficult to place suri-type fleeces in an appropriate class for judging. It isn't really a single coat as it often has some guard hair present, even though they are quite fine and a low percentage. So, does it go in the single coat class or the double coat class? Because it has no crimp, the fiber is heavier. When exhibited, the fleece looks quite small until the judge picks up the bag and feels the density and weight of the fleece. Staple length sometimes is also a problem. The judging standard is 3 to 8 inches in animals 25 months and over. There is no maximum length standard at all for llamas under 24 months. Suri-type fleeces entered often have locks that are 10-12 inches in length. Mills that process these fleeces often won't accept staple length longer than six inches. This indicates to the breeder that suri-type fleeces need to be shorn sooner in order to have usable fiber to process.

Hand-spinners, knitters and weavers are also

\*

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# Llama Volunteers Do Good!

By: Bobra Goldsmith, RMLA Founder  
Rocky Mountain llamas,  
Longmont, CO



Over the past twenty years some of the most challenging and satisfying things we have done with our pack llamas is volunteer work with the U S Forest Service. And last summer was no exception. Part of the fun of this volunteer work is

solving the problem of how to carry any number of objects which are not the typical camping gear. One of our first volunteer projects, in the early 1980's, was to carry out a quantity of junk, which had been collected by a troop of Girl Scouts in the area around Lost Lake in the Indian Peaks Wilderness. There were old miner's cabins in the



area, and it turned out that there was quite a bit of scrap metal and other stuff, including two rusty bed springs. Luckily, these old springs could be folded in half and tied in that position. We loaded them on good big Cuzco and balanced them by stuffing a plastic bag with appropriate extra weight into the springs of the lighter side. Cuzco was a solid, dark red-brown color, when my friend Dorene Leonard saw the

picture of him loaded with the bed springs, she exclaimed, "Ah! that's your wired-haired llama."

Other expeditions in those early years involved revegetation projects near Lakes Isabelle and Mitchell, also in the Indian Peaks. These required transporting tools to scarify the ground, seed to be planted, mulch hay bales, and jute netting to lay over the scattered hay. The mulch hay bales were light, about 40 pounds each, so

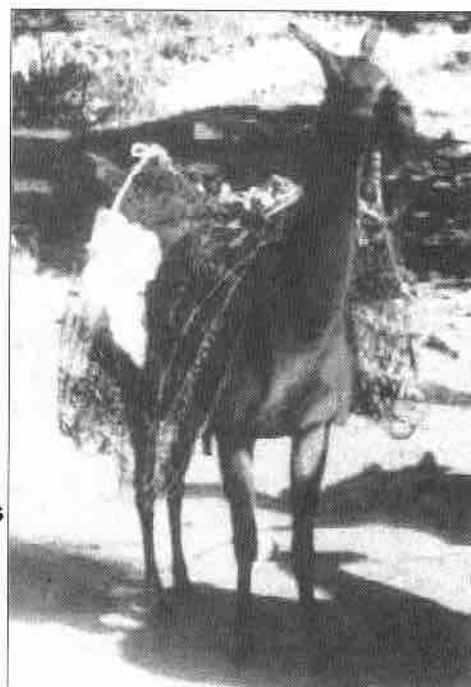
Spook could carry two of those lashed onto his pack with stake lines.

But what about the third bale? I had a pair of newspaper-boy canvas bags and found that each side could take half a bale. So we slung that over Hidalgo's saddle and tied a role of the jute netting on top.

For many years now the Forest Service has had no money to hire summer crews, usually college students, for trail maintenance as they used to. Back in the 1980's, after I had helped with the re-vegetation projects, our local Forest Service found that a crew of four could accomplish a lot more trail

maintenance when they had one llama to help carry all the necessary gear and equipment. So they leased our big packer, Julio, for several summers. Since their office was just down the road from our farm, they would pick Julio up on Monday mornings and bring him home Thursday evenings after the scheduled four days of work. Then he and the trail crew had a nice three days of rest till the next week's work.

And on occasion, they also used our Apache.



Two summers ago, I had packed with friends and family into some of my favorite areas in the Indian Peaks, and both times there were trees down across the trail—the same trees in the same places. So in January I decided to attend a meeting of the Indian Peaks Conservation Alliance. It became apparent that while they were doing some useful activities to help with the wilderness area, they were not doing any trail work. The Forest Ranger in charge of trails was there, so I spoke with him after the meeting and told him what we had done in the past. He even knew of our Julio's work on trail crew. This was a fortuitous encounter, for he told me that there were plans for some major work with volunteers over a weekend at Diamond Lake, a much-used area. Then he asked if llamas could carry fill dirt for another project near Mitchell Lake. I replied that I knew it had been done on Mt. Rainier in Washington, so I was sure we could figure how to do that, too. The Ranger then put me in touch with Ed Self, the Project Coordinator who was organizing the volunteer groups to do the work. Adults would be doing the work at Diamond Lake, and teenage

(Continued on page 58)

*(Continued from page 57)*

groups were arranged for the three days work at Mitchell Lake.

When summer came, plans began to fall into place. The Diamond Lake project was to be the weekend of July 28-29<sup>th</sup> and Mitchell Lake the first three days of August. In the past I had hiked the trail that passes below Diamond Lake, but I had never actually been there. So in early July, I arranged to do an exploratory hike with a friend, our Greyfeather stud, and Rick Ponczek with our Thunder, whom he had recently bought for a packer. Thunder was just beginning his career and needed the experience. So with our lunches packed we set out from the Fourth of July parking area. We climbed the trail towards Arapahoe Pass, from which the Diamond Lake



trail drops down to a broad stream crossing in a narrow gulch. From there the trail climbs again steadily to Diamond Lake at 11,000 ft. with a glorious background of rugged, grey, rocky peaks, typical of this region.

At lunch time we staked the pack boys out while we sat on a big log in one of the camping sites, ate, and enjoyed the scenery. It was a good time to assess the challenges of the trail. There were several rather boggy areas with double-log "bridges" for people to walk on. Greyfeather wanted to walk on them, too, to avoid the wet bog but it would not have been safe, as a foot could slip between the logs. So he had to learn to walk in the bogs—something he had not encountered on our other treks. I figured it would be less boggy at the end of July. The Forest Ranger had already asked me if the llamas could manage the stream crossing where there was a high, narrow bridge for people but not for pack stock. No problem. It was the kind of crossing where we attach a stake line to the llama's lead and wrap a rock in the hand loop at the end. One of us goes over to the far side of the stream to catch the end of the stake line when it is thrown across, and the llama is led through the stream. Thunder took to the bogs and all the stream crossings like a pro.

There was one spot where the trail passed between a tree and a large rock. It was so narrow that even just loaded with the days' lunches and jackets, the llamas could hardly get through. However, it would not be difficult for llamas to go around that obstacle. We learned later that the trail had been purposely routed through that narrow spot, as pack stock are not allowed on the trail to Diamond Lake because of its heavy use.

The climb back up towards Arapahoe pass seemed a bit arduous, but later we learned that when the Forest Service had a special project, private land-owners allowed them to hike directly up the valley leading to the stream crossing.

In the weeks after our exploratory hike, Ed Self kept me up to date on the plans for the work weekend. There would be 20

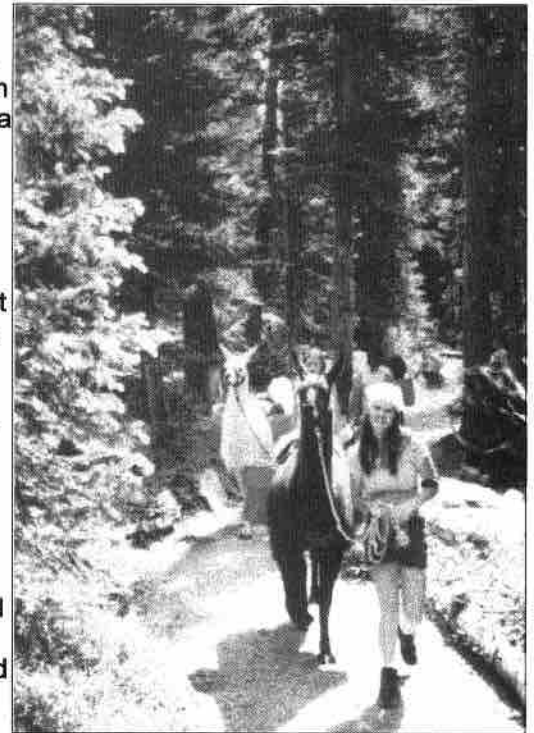
volunteers, so we would pack in all the kitchen gear and food, a 30 lb. bear-proof system, tarp, plus a roll of anti-erosion matting, bundles of short pieces of rebar, and a few wooden signs. The volunteers would bring up their personal gear.

Given the amount of stuff we needed to transport, I decided it would be best to take six llamas,

especially since we would not really have time to get all these boys in tip-top shape, although we did load them and take them on several hikes in the local foothills. And then we recruited a few kind volunteers from the ranks of those who board some llamas with us. They each brought a friend who enjoys hiking. It turned out to be a wonderful group.

We met the Forest Ranger and Ed Self at the trailhead on Friday morning and my staff members Diane Solomon, Ben Herr, and myself set about loading everything and weighing the packs. The only roll of anti-erosion matting Ed was able to get was eight feet long and nearly 24 inches in diameter, though sometimes it's available in four-foot lengths. It is flexible, so first we tried just draping it over Greyfeather's pack. But the two ends stuck out so far that it would have been impossible for him to pass between any number of trees or rocks. So Ben

*(Continued on page 62)*



## Our First Time Cria Birth ...

By: Annette Mulholland  
Trail Ridge Ranch, Golden, Colorado



**P**rior to our first cria birth in February 2000, I had been reading llama care books and borrowed a video from the RMLA library about birthing. I wouldn't say I

felt confident, but I did feel ready to help, if I was needed. Our mama llama — Jesse — was a first-time mother, but her mother was a great mother and had no real problems, so I didn't worry too much about the baby. All the breeders I had spoken with said llama births were no big deal.

This was all before our adoption agency told us that we would not be able to travel to China to pick up our new daughter before the end of the year due to Y2K issues. We were initially told we would travel before Christmas and return just after the new year. We would, instead, be the first group to travel after the new year and return by the end of January.

My older daughter, Claire, had calculated Jessie's birthing date for February 4. I quickly assembled a "cria kit," which contained 7% iodine solution, a small cup, towels, a cria coat, since ours was due in early February, a bottle and nipple for nursing, just in case things didn't go well, a small hairdryer, and a large plastic garbage bag for the afterbirth.

The caretakers I had lined up knew where to find everything and who to call, if a cria arrived while we were away. We left an itinerary for our trip with the caretakers, but really couldn't worry about a llama baby while we were in China. And, as luck would have it, the cria did not arrive while we were away. When I say "as luck would have it," I mean that if we had been lucky, the cria would've come while we were away. But, that is not how our first llama baby arrived.

We came back from China on January 23— exhausted, sick, disoriented from walking an 11-hour flight with a sick baby, getting our older two kids ready to go back to school and feeling like we had just returned from another planet. It is about a 13-hour time difference between mainland China and the United States. Big owie. Our new daughter, Grace, had come back from China

with RSV, an upper respiratory infection that required breathing treatments every two hours, terrified of all the changes in her environment, throwing screaming fits, didn't understand us at all and couldn't, at 9 1/2 months, eat any solid food. In between trying to figure out how to help her relax and help her feel better, I would check on Jessie.

Often this was walking around at night following her with a flashlight and trying desperately to determine how much longer it might be to delivery day by looking at her udder. I studied the pictures in the llama care book and judged that she might actually still be another two weeks away from delivery. And, Jessie just didn't act like anything was up or different or imminent. We passed her due date with little fanfare.

Then, Wednesday, Feb. 9, as the older kids were getting ready for school, they looked out the window and said, "Mom, Jessie's down and Padress' sniffing her rear end." Today's the day, I thought, thinking that her delivery was still hours away.

Grace started throwing a fit, so I took her upstairs to rock her at about 8:15 a.m. When I came back down about 8:30 a.m., I looked out and there was a little brown lump lying in the pasture and Jessie was already up. "Oh, my gosh! The baby's here," I shouted. I called the school to say the kids would be late, put Grace in her playpen and Claire, Sam, my son, and I ran out the door to see how our new baby and mama were doing. The baby moved very little. It was a little girl, but she was weak and couldn't even lift her head.

I ran for the cria kit and told the kids not to get in the pasture. I laid out a beach towel and carefully put the new baby on it and began pulling the sack away from her body. She still had pieces of the sack attached to her lips, but she was breathing and coughing just as the video had shown. She had the little kernels attached to her tiny hooves, but I did not remove them, as they did not want to come away freely.

It was not a cold day, but this baby was small and bony, so I dried her with a hair dryer. She still did not lift her head. While I was cleaning her up, I asked Claire to go call Dr. Debbie Mayo and tell her to come by as soon as she could.

I went back into the house, bundled up Grace and took the kids to school. When I returned, the placenta was lying in the pasture and so was the baby. It hadn't moved and Jessie would sniff at her, but really did little else to get the baby stimulated.

I put Grace down for her morning nap and called Dr. Mayo to see if she had gotten our message. In her excitement, Claire hadn't left our phone number or who was calling, just a message that said, "Our llama just had a baby and my mom said to call you."

Dr. Mayo told me to put our other llama in the barn and leave just the mom and the baby out in the pasture. I described how she looked and Debbie said she would come by. I also called Jerry Dunn and some of my

*(Continued on page 65)*

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(Continued from page 58)

folded it in half lengthwise. One of our volunteers sat on it while Ben cut through the role, turning it into two four-foot lengths. We could then tie the two shorter rolls horizontally to either side of Greyfeather's pack, and the frame pack he was wearing could then also accommodate a huge caldron filled with other kitchen gear.

The Forest Ranger and Ed led us up the valley on the remnants of an old mining road, and although there were a few downed trees here and there, it was a much easier hike than the climb towards Arapahoe pass we had made on our exploratory hike. And the hardest part of the climb then came after the major stream crossing. After unloading all the equipment and eating our lunch, we brought the back down and met some of the volunteers who were on the way up.

On Sunday morning, this time with only four packers, we hiked the same route up to Diamond Lake, scheduled to arrive about 11 o'clock. The volunteers were still busy with some projects, so we staked the llamas out and had some time to explore along the lake and see the trail repairs that had been done, the erosion control matting in it special places, and the wooden signs we had carried up. After lunch when all the kitchen gear and other items were available, we packed up everything and had a pretty easy decent.

For the threes days' work at Mitchell Lake, the challenge was to come up with the best way to carry fill dirt. After considering several options, the best solution seemed to be to use my eight four-gallon, square buckets, which I had used many times for other purposes on our commercial llama treks. I found that the handles of these buckets would easily hang securely on the front brackets of our Ollie pack saddles.

So I met the Ranger and Ed Self at Mitchell Lake with four packers. This time the volunteers were teenagers who soon learned to shovel dirt into the buckets and load them, one on each side of the llama. It

had rained on the uncovered dirt pile, so the buckets, filled to a couple of inches below the top, weighed 45 to 50 pounds. That meant each llama was carrying 90 to 100 pounds, rather a hefty load. Fortunately we only had to hike in about a quarter to half a mile, and the trail was not steep. The Ranger would indicate where check dams should be placed, Then Ed Self and a couple of kids would install the logs, which were drilled and stabilized with short pieces of rebar. The rest of us would carry up the fill dirt, empty the buckets behind the log, one llama at a time, and return for another load. We all enjoyed our lunch break and the llama boys each had some hay and sat down to rest, too.

Over the three days in a row, with three different teen groups, Ed figured the llamas had carried about 7,000 pounds of the fill-dirt. There was still a sizable pile of dirt left, and I suggested that if this were to continue next summer, it might be good to cover the pile with a tarp to keep the dirt drier. However, I was pleased that even with these heavy loads only one pack boy ever suggested he wanted to sit down, and that was late on the third day. They were also extremely tidy and only dropped pellets when we took them to a secluded clearing well off the much-used trail.

In the past, all my major breeding studs, Handsome, Spook, Jester, Inca (a Spook son), and Harlequin proved themselves by working full time in our commercial pack string. Now I was delighted to find that Spook's son Zenith, three Jester sons, Ninja, High Spirits, and Scout, plus Inca's son Greyfeather, were all up to the challenge and proved to be willing and able packers. I feel their ability carries on the wonderful working tradition of llamas dating back centuries to Inca times.

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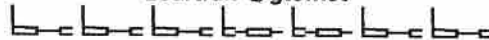
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(Continued from page 59)

neighbors to come and help, but no one was home that morning. And my husband was on his first traveling trip after our return from China—in Toronto.

When Dr. Mayo came by, she immediately moved the baby and Jessie into the barn and put Padress out in the pasture. Since the baby was weak, it would catch cold quickly and needed all the help it could get. I weighed the baby—18 pounds.

By the time Dr. Mayo came over, three hours had passed since the birth and the baby had not nursed at all. Grace had awakened and needed a bottle. Dr. Mayo wanted me to help her. Jessie didn't want to let her baby nurse. I put Grace back down in the playpen and went out to the barn.

We had to halter Jessie and tie her lead to the wooden frame built to hold their water bucket. Dr. Mayo pinned Jessie to the wall and I held the baby's head up to Jessie's udder to nurse.

The baby, soon to be named Fudge, was just a noodle. A long, long limp noodle neck attached to a skinny body with four little stick legs. She perked up soon after her first nursing, but still wasn't able to stand. Dr. Mayo said she would go look for help and be back to help nurse again.

I went back into the house to check on Grace and give her a breathing treatment. Soon after her treatment, Grace fell asleep in her playpen. I went back outside to check on Fudge.

Dr. Mayo had said that when a llama mother and new baby don't bond right away, you have to force them, since it is essential that the new baby get mom's collustrum in the first 24 hours of life. Since this baby was weak, Dr. Mayo said to lock the two of them in the barn until the baby was standing and able to follow mom around on her own. It also meant, for now, that I would have to pin Jessie to the wall and hold up Fudge's head to nurse every few hours for the next 24 hours.

Prior to Fudge's arrival, we had just two female llamas: Jessie and her cousin, Padress, who was six months older. Padress immediately took an interest in the new baby.

Now, the baby was locked in our small barn with Jessie and Padress was left in the pasture alone. As I struggled to pin Jessie against the wall and hold Fudge's head up alone with Jessie wiggling hard to get me and the baby away, I heard the upper doors to the barn swing shut. Not a biggie, I thought, we often have bursts of wind. I didn't look up again until Fudge had gotten her share from Jessie.

It hadn't been a burst of wind.

Padress decided that if I was going to lock everybody that she cared about in the barn, I should be locked in with them too. She had somehow managed to drop the lock into place while I was busy. There was no way out. The window in our barn is fixed into place and we'd removed everything that might be of potential harm

to either Jessie or Fudge.

Fudge, who had eaten her fill, fell asleep. Jessie settled down. I waited. It was early afternoon and my older children weren't due home from school for another two hours. Grace was in the house in her playpen alone. Shortly afterwards, Jerry Dunn drove up. She walked around the house looking for me. I kept yelling from the barn hoping she'd hear me. Finally, she came over to the barn and I explained what had happened—through the window.

I have a lot of respect for Jerry, so I was pretty embarrassed. Fortunately, Jerry didn't laugh at me in front of my face. And she did let me out. While she looked at Fudge, I ran to check on Grace, who had managed to remain asleep through the whole episode. Both Jerry and Dr. Mayo thought the baby looked very weak and said the next 48 hours would determine if she was going to make it or not. I was scared.

I kept up the pinned feedings every two to three hours throughout the night. Early the next day, Fudge was able to stand for short periods of time. Jessie still didn't want to let her nurse. I had to keep them in the barn for five days. On the fifth day, when they emerged from the barn, they were truly bonded.

While my experience wasn't typical, Dr. Mayo says that a new mom rejecting her baby isn't uncommon. She suggested rubbing the mother's udder several times prior to the birth to help the mother adjust to a little one when it comes.

It is also important to have people who know how to handle atypical situations on hand when the need arises. I was fortunate to have both Dr. Mayo and Jerry nearby. If the mother absolutely will not allow the baby to nurse, it's important to know who your local goat person is—and call them as quickly as possible for milk. Collustrum is vital to a new cria in those first 24 hours.

Finally, we changed the lock on the barn so that dropping the lock into place would no longer be so easy for that very flexible pair of split lips. Padress is still a wonderful aunt to Fudge and I have forgiven her completely. Fudge turned two years old this February. She's one of the nicest llamas I own and very attached to her mother. She's also very healthy. She's been shown several times and placed in her events. She is everybody's favorite because she is so friendly.

Our second baby is due between May 8-12 to another new mother. I'm hoping that everything will go well and a strong cria will emerge.

\*

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After 20 years in the llama community, I am closing my breeding operation. In addition to Tush, I have several select females for sale from \$500 to \$2000. All animals are fully guaranteed. For complete information contact: Wally White, Columbine Llamas, 589 High Llama Lane, Durango, CO 81301, 970/382-0026, email wallyllama@frontier.net

**Order your RMLA Gear Now!** Denim shirt: \$33.50, Baseball hat: \$15.50 — all prices include shipping and handling. Colorado residents please add 2.9% sales tax (for the Governor). Send orders to Jill Knuckles, RMLA Secretary, 2970 A 1/2 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado, 81503, 970.241.4112 e-mail talltaillamas@bigplanet.com.

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**Class Schedule at PaxRanch in** Longmont— Saturday, May 11, Machine Knitting with Fiber Artist Cheri Paxson. Bring your own machine, or rent a machine for the day. Contact: [paxknits@yahoo.com](mailto:paxknits@yahoo.com)

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*(Continued on page 17)*

**Journal of the RMLA—Advertising Information—effective August 2001**

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

**Advertising Deadlines:**  
**July 1, October 1, January 2,**  
**April 1**

**Advertising Rates**

| All rates per issue                                  | RMLA Member | RMLA Member              | Non-Member | Non-Member               |
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| Ad sizes                                             | 1—2 issues  | Same ad 3 or more issues | 1—2 issues | Same ad 3 or more issues |
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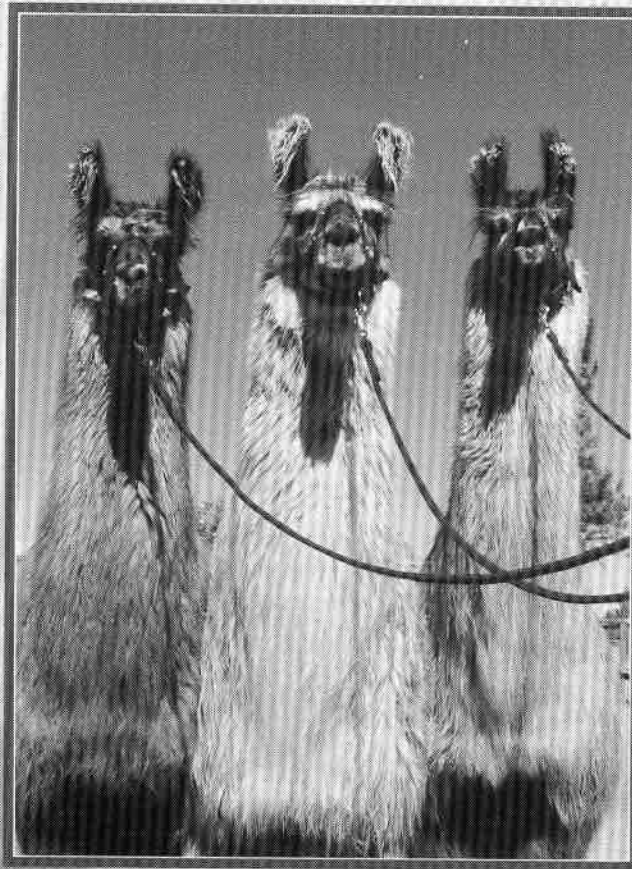
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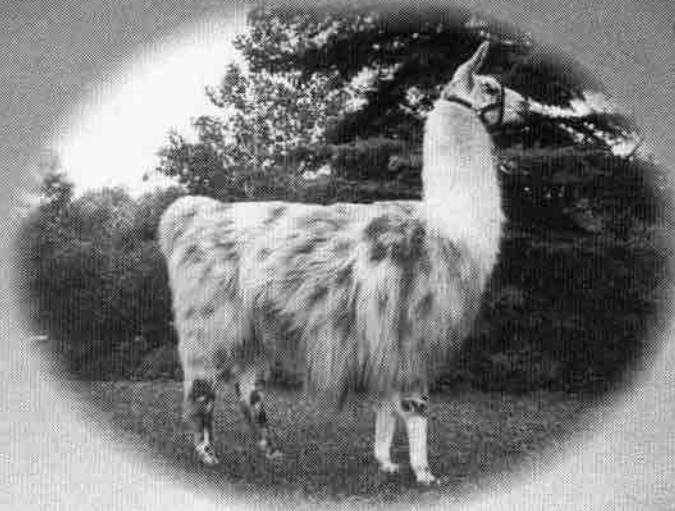
  
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