

The Journal

RMLA



Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

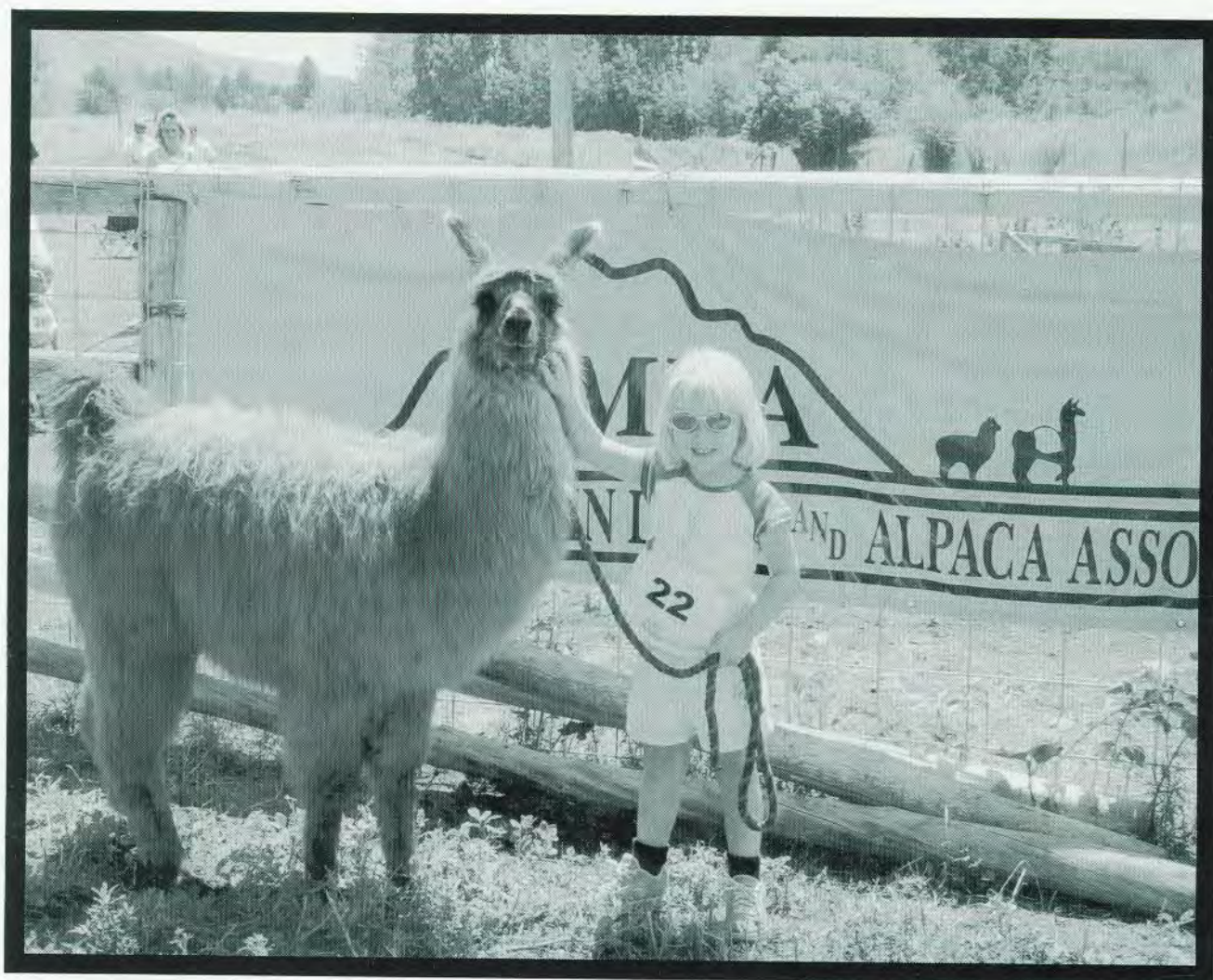
Educating our members

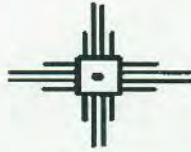
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May, 2003

Volume 21, Issue 1





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Journal

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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, Inc., its board, and/or its members.

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Cover Photo by Gayle Woodsum and Julie Heggie

4-year old Hanna Heggie and the Wool Wizard at their debut show at the Big Horn Rendezvous in Story, Wyoming.



President's Letter ...



Jan Cummer

Spring is the time for new growth and RMLA is no exception. There are so many great things being planned, it is hard to know where to begin.

Our youth are the future of RMLA. It was decided to combine our 4-H and Youth Committees with Barb Harris and Alaine Byers to co-chair. In addition to these great ladies teaming up, we have been fortunate to have Maureen Bergenfield join this team. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience to really charge this team, as she is a long-time member of the state 4-H board. As if we weren't fortunate enough with this terrific combination, we now have Tony Gross and Deidre Baird generously volunteering to be a part of this great team. Hold on kids! Things are about to soar!

Keith and Katy Wegner have been doing a superb job with our bookstore. We will certainly miss them in that capacity as they pass the baton into the very capable hands of Jan Adamcyck. Jan, we look forward to another successful chapter of the bookstore with your turn at the helm.

Our membership is continuing to climb. We have 258 members with 22 life members, 39 junior members, and 8 youth members. With the restructuring of our 4-H and Youth committees, and the great team we have on board, our youth membership will start jumping as these great kids start discovering us.

Wasn't our calendar for 2003 great! How's that for the first time out of the chute? We would like to continue

with this project, however, we need volunteers to help. Wouldn't you like to be associated with this great project?

The Journal is about to have a new column. Gayle Woodsum has graciously volunteered to write a book review from material in the RMLA Library. Look for this column in your Journal in the future!

Judy Wolff-Mills is bringing a breath of fresh air to the fiber committee. She is also looking for volunteers to help staff the booth at events. Here's another chance for you all to get involved in our great organization. Call Judy!

RMLA has had a Pack Committee for a while and not much was going on. Well, look out! Tony Gross has generously volunteered to chair this committee and this guy is going to take off. While he was volunteering to chair, he was already talking about some great ideas. If you're looking for something exciting to do this year, call Tony and get on this committee with him. You can only have a great time!

Your Board of Directors is committed to maintaining and improving the high standards of this great organization. We not only have daily and weekly email and phone contact, and monthly meetings by phone, but we have planned meetings where we are actually together at least four times a year. We invite and encourage the membership to attend our meetings and check the RMLA web site for the minutes of the Board meetings. You are always invited to contact any of us with ideas and suggestions for the betterment of our organization. *

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Minutes of the 2002 Annual Business Meeting

Saturday, October 26, 2002

Cheyenne, Wyoming

Board Members Present

Robert Tompkins, Jerry Dunn, Lougene Baird and Jill Knuckles

Welcome presented by Robert Tompkins, RMLA President

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 2001 Annual Business Meeting were posted. We did not have a quorum at the 2002 Annual Meeting to vote for approval of the minutes. The 2003 Elected Board will vote to accept the minutes from the 2001 Annual Business meeting.

Treasury Report

General Operations	\$ 4,006.94
CFL&A Special Production	11,025.52
Research	5,507.23
Liquid Assets	47,017.12
Life Member	7,016.77
Bookstore General Operations	19,790.82
Total Cash on Hand	94,364.40

Summary of Committee Reports

Animal Assisted Therapy – Carol Lontine

Carol's visits have mushroomed and she continues to get calls. The Rocky Mountain News is going to do a special article. The advantages to working with the Delta Society and putting your llamas through testing and certification is that in turn the Delta Society will cover all insurance. Tony Gross brought up a very good point that it may be to an advantage if our Public Relations Courses in the ALSA Show in some way incorporate the Delta Societies guidelines.

Calendar Committee – Carol Lontine

The project is proving to be very successful, but it also proved to be much more work than anticipated. The committee has learned a lot and will make notes to help future committees.

Bookstore – Keith Wegner

Caring for Llamas and Alpacas continues to have very strong sales. 1-½ years ago the bookstore had about 4,000 copies and it is now down to 800 copies. We need to focus on the next printing. The bookstore chairpersons also plan on developing an operations manual with the next printing for use by future chairpersons.

Events – Jerry Dunn

RMLA sponsored 31 events in 2001, which covered clinics, halter and performance shows, workshops and conferences. Event packets have been mailed and will continue to be mailed for 2002 events. If an event needs the RMLA Insurance, this must be noted. All events are no longer required to have each participant sign the waiver, but instead we have been instructed by our attorney that each event post "all required signs" as noted in the Events Packet. Events continue to be strong, but we are always looking for new ideas for all kinds of events.

Fiber Committee - Karen Kinyon and Sharon Beacham

In 2002, the main project of the RMLA Fiber Committee has been to continue to promote the Fiber Co-op Booth. The booth traveled to the following events in 2002: National Western Stock Show, Denver, CO; Estes Park Wool Market, Estes Park, CO; Taos Wool Festival, Taos, NM; ALSA Grand Nationals, Lincoln, NE. It continues with its mission of promoting llama and alpaca fiber as a luxury item, thereby encouraging owners and breeders to shear and utilize their animal's fiber. There were 12 – 15 consignors participating consistently at each event and many volunteers helping with the booth operation. Many thanks are extended to Elaine Sipes, Judy Cox-Sample, Judy and Stan Wolff-Mills, Tanya Swegler, Christy Herr, Kathy Hartmeister, Cheri Paxton, Sharon Beacham and Karen Kinyon. These core volunteers help consistently with each event and they are invaluable to this project. Much appreciation is also extended to all our friends and even strangers who carry in boxes and fixtures to help unload, set-up and reload each event. The retiring co-chairs of the Fiber Committee, Sharon Beacham and Karen Kinyon, are in the process of recruiting new chairperson(s).

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Journal – Jan Cummer

As the new editor of the RMLA Journal, Jan has been working closely with Ron Baird on the current issue. It is very important that the Journal is put out on time, therefore we will stick to the deadlines, which are noted in each Journal.

Membership / Service Directory – Bob and Barb Hance

There are presently 232 adult memberships representing: 385 individuals, 32 life members, 8 youth members and 32 junior members. Since the membership list went out for voting, we have received 5 new adult memberships, 1 new junior member and 1 junior renewal. RMLA members are located in 23 States with one member in Italy. RMLA members own approximately 6, 152 llamas and 553 alpacas. 54 members volunteered to work on committees in 2002 and 24 members volunteer to serve on more than one committee. One member actually volunteered to serve on 6 different committees.

The majority of the memberships are received during the Annual Membership Process, but the committee also receives memberships throughout the year via mail, by hand and from the Web Page. As memberships are received we must make sure that they are added to the database, the proper information is posted on the RMLA Web Page, and each new member receives a "New Member Packet". Following the annual enrollment the Hances also put together and mail out to all members the Membership Directory and the Service Directory. The Service Directory was first created by Erma Hast in the early 1990's, Jo Riley took over the job in 1997 and included business card ads. The Hances have done the layout of the directory since 2000. Not only are the membership and service directories mailed to all members, they are also distributed to the public at all RMLA events and available to members to distribute.

Web Page – Bob and Barb Hance

To date there have been 13, 483 visits to the RMLA Web Page. We presently use "Front Page" software to create pages and to make corrections and additions to the RMLA web page: www.rmla.com. Basically, we act as editors to the RMLA Web Site, with recommendations from the Board of Directors.

Nominations Committee – Mary Beth Hartsough

We had a good turn out for those volunteering to run

for a position on the RMLA Board of Directors. Three of the four positions had at least two to three individuals running for the position. We appreciate the support from all of our members and we need to remember that we are all needed.

Government Relations Committee – Teri Baird

Last year a very small group of people from several regional organizations spent time reading research, writing letters, and trying to get clarification on the many differing Animal Emergency Response plans from the various states and the federal government. A few of our members expressed concern that, with the predicted dissolution of the ILA; no one was doing the very necessary work on our animals' behalf. The RMLA Board voted in executive session to pursue the establishment of a committee for RMLA, which became the Government Relations Committee with Teri Baird as the chairperson.

Teri has had a busy year in this arena. Action has been taken on several fronts. The biggest success came early in the year with the FMD scare. We were successful in defining our animals as a class that should be exempted from the automatic slaughter policy, due to the fact that there has never been a

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Riverside Fiber Productions
Marta Moore & Jane Levene



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vwinds@hotmail.com

2003 Fiber Retreats & Classes

Sat Feb 8th Tune-Up Your Spinning - Review & Coaching

Jane's Fiber Studio - Denver 9:30-4:30
Kaye Collins, Instructor Cost \$45 (lunch included)

Mar 21-23 Knit, Hike & Antique - A Knitter's Retreat

Lazy Heart Ranch - Salida Fri 4P thru Sun 2P
Cost \$125 (room & board)

Apr 11-13 Beginning Weaving

Lazy Heart Ranch - Salida Fri 4p thru Sun 2p
Chris Switzer - Instructor Cost - \$265 Materials \$25

Sat July 19 Trim Your Felted Hat - the Last Step

Jane's Fiber Studio - Denver Jane Levene - instructor
Cost \$45 (lunch included) Materials - available to purchase

Aug 1-3 Spin Designer Yarns

Lazy Heart Ranch- Salida Fri 4p thru Sun 2p
Candy Tobin- Instructor Cost \$265 Materials \$25

Oct 3-5 Fiber Field Trip - Fabulous Taos Wool Festival

Jane Levene, Guide & Host Cost \$265 (room & board) plus Saturday dinner

Nov 7-9 Begin T'Spin - Getting Started

Lazy Heart Ranch - Salida Fri 4p thru Sun 2p
Kaye Collins, Instructor Cost \$265 Materials \$15

For registration or details, call Marta 719-742-6053 or vwinds@hotmail.com

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natural outbreak of FMD in llamas. On RMLA's behalf, public comments have been filed with the USDA on the question of indemnity in the event of an outbreak of a foreign animal disease should any of our animals test positive. Teri attended the Llama Community 2002 meeting in Kansas City, Missouri and in October she attended the USAHA convention and annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. In the year ahead, the upcoming issues are: development of plans at the federal, state and county level to deal with disasters (such as the Hayman Fire), mandatory animal identification, West Nile Virus and the possibility of a vaccine. There are also a few national committees on which we need to have llama community representation.

RMLA Medical Research Committee – Ron Baird

The mission of the RMLA Medical Research Committee is to educate members and the public about llama and alpaca health issues, fund medical research projects that improve llama and alpaca health, and lead the way in new and innovative approaches to solving health problems. Beginning in 1995, RMLA began making its contributions to llama and alpaca medical research through the Morris

Animal Foundation (MAF). To date, RMLA has contributed \$21,944 to llama and alpaca medical research through the MAF. The reason for this is that Morris keeps track of what researchers really are doing, making them account for their expenses, timeliness on carrying out the project, and providing a scientific panel to review potential funding projects. Among the studies funded in this manner by RMLA have been

- **The Leopold study** – conducted at the U.S. Forest Service's research center, this study proved that llamas have about the same impact on the forest and trails as does a human – 1/10th that of a horse, mule or donkey.
- **The Long Bone Study** – fully funded by RMLA, this study is seeking to determine the most favorable age at which to castrate males. This is a crucial research project in these days when most males should be castrated, yet insured of living a full and productive life. Early castration may cause continued long bone development, making the animals extra tall, fetlocks to fall at a young age, and otherwise impede a useful life.

Another important project initiated by the medical research committee was the recognition and commencement of action against the U.S. Government's plan to ban llamas from national parks, forest, and other areas. This arose in 1994, was taken over by the Llama Legal Defense Fund, and successfully squashed through a class action lawsuit spearheaded by RMLA. The medical research efforts of RMLA are funded through a percentage of the profits derived from publications and distribution of *Caring for Llamas and Alpacas*.

Youth – Barb Harris

We need more activities for the youth and need to get them involved. It has been an uphill battle getting the youth involved. Possible interests have been showmanship classes, practices, and kid fun days.

Old Business

Nothing to report.

New Business – Election Results

The new officers for the 2003 RMLA Board of Directors are as follows:

- President – Jan Cummer
- Vice President – Jerry Dunn

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- President Elect – Julie Heggie
- Treasurer – Lougene Baird
- **Secretary – Jill Knuckles (serving the 2nd year of her term, this position was not up for election)

New ideas brought up during the Awards Dinner:

- Quarterly Board Meeting open to the general membership.
- Spring and Fall Mini Conference
- Annual Business Meeting – How to get members to attend. Move annual Business Meeting and Conference to the spring
- Open Board Meeting at Estes Park Wool Market Show or the Colorado Spring Show.
- Llama Rescue – Find people to mentor llama owners, more instruction to new/uninvolved llama owners.
- Breeding - Educate people on the responsibilities of breeding.
- Send the meeting minutes to the Hances to put on the Web Site.

Business Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. ❁

Minutes of the RMLA Board of Directors' Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 2003

Conference Call from 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Secretary Report

Motions approved via email

- Motion: The BOD accepts the resignation of Sharon Beacham and Karen Kinyon as co-chairs of the RMLA Fiber Co-op. Judith Wolff-Mills will be the new chairperson commencing immediately. Motion Carried.
- Motion: RMLA purchase the Premises Liability coverage through the NWSS blanket insurance for the RMLA Fiber co-op to locate at the NWSS during the llama event. Motion Carried.

Treasury Report

All of the accounting has been put together for the

(Continued on page 10)

PROVING THE FRUIT DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE



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MIZ MIRIAH

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Minutes of the RMLA Board of Directors' Meeting

(Continued from page 9)

year-end accounting. Bookstore is incorporated. Everything is ready for the accountant. Meeting with the accountant April 16.

General Operations	\$ 2,007.00
CFL&A Special Production	11,069.00
Research	5,527.00
Liquid Asset	61,752.00
Life Member	7,044.00
Bookstore General Operations	3,291.00
Total Cash on Hand	90,690.00

General Business

Bookstore Jan Adamcyk is interested in taking over the bookstore as the manager. Wegners will resign following the current printing of *Caring for Llamas and Alpacas*.



LLAMA DEARA RANCH

This Beautiful Property Is for Sale!

Llama Deara Ranch is a four-acre guest ranch south of Abiquiu in Northern New Mexico. The ranch is fully equipped to support our wonderful camelid friends. A number of charming casitas grace the property: Three independent guest units with kitchens and baths, an owner's casita, and a ranch office casita close to the corrals, apple grove, and pasture. The architecture and design of the property reflect the history and culture of Northern New Mexico, Santa Fe style, and sustainability and renewability principles.



The property fronts the Chama River and enjoys an abundance of water, irrigation rights, and gardens. Appraised at \$445K. For details, call Hannah-Leigh Bull, the owner, at 505-685-9416, send e-mail to info@llamadeara.com, or view www.llamadeara.com.

- Motion that the bookstore manager be taken over by Jan Adamcyk. Motion carried.

As of December 31 there were 838 *Caring for Llama and Alpaca* books left. In December the bookstore processed over 500 copies. Both authors of CFL&A have been notified for any revisions. Plan to ship all revisions on Monday, January 27 to the printer. Ingrid and Clare are going to get a copyright certificate with this next printing which must be obtained by the authors.

Calendar Still have around 50 to 60 calendars. Do we want to cut the price in half and try and recoup \$? Jerry is going to contact Sandy Lockwood to see if she will help with the distribution of the calendars.

- Motion that we try to recoup the remaining \$\$ and sell the calendars at \$5.00. Motion carried.

Insurance In Land Marine Policy was renewed at a cost of \$413 which is up from \$371. Still waiting for the Liability Insurance Renewal. We have received notice that they are reviewing the policy but have not received final information in reference as to how they will renew.

Schedule for Board Meetings

February 21 – Conference Call 7:00 p.m.

March 29 – Meeting in Silverthorne.

- Motion to sponsor a Dinner at the Grand Mesa and Kokopelli Classic at \$1.00 a person and have an open RMLA meeting during the meeting Motion carried.
- Motion to sponsor the Performance Championship for the Grand Mesa Llama Classic and the Kokopelli Llama Classic at a cost of \$50 each. Motion carried.

Events We only have 9 events submitted and approved for the year. Need to get out and encourage members to put on a variety of events.

Annual Meeting / Conference Teri Baird and Mary Wickman have offered to head up the Annual Conference.

Motion to have the Conference and Annual Meeting on the weekend of October 18 and 19, 2003. Motion carried. ☼

Minutes of the RMLA Board of Directors' Meeting

Friday, February 21, 2003

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Secretary Report

Motion: Approve the January Minutes. **Motion carried.**

Treasury Report

General Operations	\$ 1,012.00
CFL&A Special Production	11,808.00
Research	5,527.00
Liquid Asset	6,1830.00
Life Member	7052.00
Bookstore General Operations	3,140.00
Total Cash on Hand	\$89,641.00

General Business

Membership Campaign Need to work on a campaign for membership. The last year that we actually ran a "big campaign" was probably in 1995. Propose that we send a letter to current members and old members. Jill will create a personalized letter to the membership and put out to the board for review. Try and have letter to everyone by March 1. Jerry will put the mailing labels on the envelopes and put packets together for each of us to sign. Lougene will contact the Hances for labels. Three letters -- Current Members and Past Members (Jill), Life Member (Julie).

CFL&A Reprint Updates for the new reprint: change the logo, update the information on the membership application. The remaining BOD members who have not proofed the RMLA section of CFL&A were requested to do so and send their suggestions to Lougene. The printer will add the barcode to the back cover. The retail price for the **next** printing will be \$24.95. Jan Ademcyk is sending updates. Authors actually have a copyright. All editorial changes have been incorporated. We have the money to print 4,000 copies and we have the space to warehouse them. The Board decided not to add a "suggested retail price" to the book. The Bookstore will transfer at the end of March.

- Motion to print 4,000 copies at \$3.40 per book plus delivery and tax. Motion carried.

Calendar Sales Jerry picked up 37 calendars from Carol and has sold 23 calendars. Carol Ann Evans has around 20 calendars. People at the LOCC meeting were asking when they can send in and buy their ad. As a board we need to make a decision as to whether or not to go forward with a 2004 Calendar. Total income to date: \$1,982. Total expenses to date: \$2,500. **Agenda Item for the March Board Meeting.**

Llama Mart Bruce Ellis offered his web site Llama Mart to RMLA. The board has decided to pass. We do not feel we have the know how to keep the site up to date, plus we do have the RMLA web site and can expand on its capabilities.

Events Calendar All events have been approved. Twenty-three events that involve clinics, fun things and shows. The events have been sent on to the Hances to be put onto the Web Page. Jerry is shipping the RMLA Booth to the Four Corners event that will be in March.

Schedule for Board Meetings

March 29 – Meeting at Jerry's House 11:00 a.m.

May 8 – Conference Call 7:00 p.m.

Journal We need to improve on the overall communication and support in reference to the Journal.

- Motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried. ✪

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Treasury Report

By Lougene Baird, RMLA Treasurer

Your association ended the year 2002 in great shape!

The account balances at year end were:

General Operations	\$ 4,684.00
Life Member Savings	7,044.00
Liquid Asset Savings	61,752.00
Research Savings	5,527.00
CFL&A Production Savings	11,069.00
Bookstore General Operations	6,709.00
Total cash on hand	\$96,785.00

All bills received were paid as of year-end.

At this time, the treasury is working on the year-end close out of all activities within the organization. This will take several weeks. A budget is being prepared to submit to the Board of Directors and this will set the direction for the 2003 operations of RMLA.

Within the organization's structure, there are many areas of interest for all members to enjoy. To cover a few:

The RMLA Fiber Co-op enjoyed \$9,922 in sales and paid out \$8,956 in consignments fees to members along with other co-op operations. The excess of \$966 will go toward the payoff of the RMLA Fiber Co-op trailer.

The Journal of the RMLA Committee published over

2,750 copies of the Journal for a total printing and mailing cost of \$7,573 with ad income of \$5,034. This indicates a loss of \$2,539. Member dues subsidize the Journal and it is a good example of RMLA meeting its purpose as described in the mission statement. If you would like to see the loss be a little less, you can help by advertising!

The RMLA Calendar was a new idea put into motion this year by a very talented Calendar committee. The cost to produce and distribute the 2003 calendar was \$2,500. At year-end, the calendar generated \$1,880 in income from sales and ads, ending the year with a loss of \$620. Support your organization, pick up the phone and order a calendar. The Calendar Committee will appreciate your support.

As in years past, the **Service Directory** – the Yellow Pages of the RMLA – was distributed to hundreds of folks interested in the services offered by the membership. Several years ago, internet advertising was integrated with the Service Directory and those who have taken part in this form of advertising experience their phone ringing. The Service Directory and Internet generated \$4,265 in ads. Publishing and distribution cost the membership \$2,634, resulting in a profit of \$1,631 for the organization! Thank you to all who supported the Service Directory and congratulations on your sales! Your Service Directory ads for the 2003 directory will be due to the Membership Committee soon.

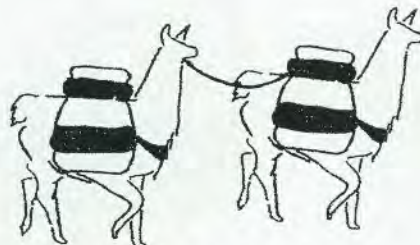
Insurance. The insurance for the organization:

Liability for events - \$2000

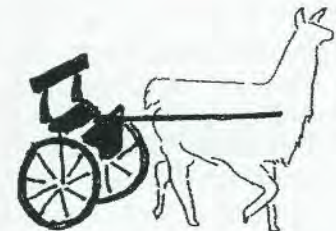
(Continued on page 13)



PACK'EM



STACK'EM



DRIVE'EM

(Continued from page 12)

- Officers and Directors - \$685
- Property - \$371
- Additional insured for events - \$86
- Total - \$3,142, and it will only increase in the future.

Some other interesting items:

- Fairplay Race made a profit of \$940 – good going Committee!
- Corporate Taxes cost \$35
- Board meeting expenses were \$1,072!
- Election costs were \$201
- Web costs – Domain and Server fees - \$620

And the bang for the buck was the Fall Conference! Each attending member paid \$25 and RMLA picked up the remainder. This was probably the best dollar spent on education throughout the year! Plan to attend next year. It is the organization's real treat for you, the members.

As always, if you have any questions regarding any activities of the treasury, please call me. The office is always open to any member seeking information about your organization's financial records. I consider it an honor to work with the organization and I appreciate your confidence. *

Don't be the last one to hear what's going on!
Get on the e-mail list!

Contact Bob or Barb at Hancelama@att.net.



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Cadfael's Gabriella
 Grand Champion Medium Wool Female
 Youngest Grand Champion at any ALSA Grand National
 (Co-Owned with John & Sharon Beacham, Pheasant Hill Farm)



HJ Earth, Wind & Fire
 8th Place Heavy Wool Juvenile Male

*Jane Sheppard
 and
 Jerry Uherek*



HJ Cadfael's Cover Girl
 Reserve Grand Champion Light Wool Female
 Youngest Reserve Grand Champion at any
 ALSA Grand National



HJ Chinita's Princess
 10th Place Heavy Wool Juvenile Female



HJ Cadfael's Super Star
 8th Place Light Wool Yearling Female

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 Already Enjoying Another Great Year!*

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RMLA Committee Reports

Fiber Committee Report

Judy Wolff-Mills, Fiber Committee Chair



It's January. It's National Western Stock Show! Once again, a dedicated band of RMLA volunteers transformed two llama stalls at the National Western Stock Show into the Fiber Co-Op booth. Clouds of roving, twists of yarn, racks of felted hats, mittens, socks and shawls acted as magnets to draw passers-by. For two days, RMLA spinners at their wheels entranced visitors as they spun llama fiber into yarn, answering questions of the press of children and adults all the while.

Jerry Dunn, NWSS Llama Show superintendent, provided a new, expanded location for the booth. She also positioned our volunteers' llama pens adjacent to the booth, enabling us to show our visitors how our animals' luxurious fiber is used for human apparel.

The Co-Op booth continues to provide llama products, from roving to finished garments, as a way to educate the public and membership of RMLA about the uses of llama and alpaca as luxury fibers. In addition, the booth provides a channel for more than thirty RMLA fiber artists to market their work.

This is a transition year for the Fiber Committee. Karen Kinyon and Sharon Beacham led the committee with vision and creativity for seven years. Their dedication established RMLA as a fiber resource for llama breeders across the country. With input from our fiber artists and the association membership, the Board of Directors and the fiber team will set the direction for the committee for 2003 and beyond. Please send your ideas and feedback to Judy Wolff-Mills at jwmfibers@cs.com.

Membership Committee Report

Bob and Barb Hance, Membership Chairs

VOLUNTEERS are a VERY IMPORTANT part of every organization, RMLA is no exception. Of our membership, 55 members volunteered to work on a committee, 24 members volunteered to serve on more than one committee, and one member volunteered to serve on 6 committees. A huge thank you to all of you who help keep RMLA operating.

As RMLA begins its 21st year we wish all of you good health, prosperity and joy.

Look for all the new members in the RMLA Member Directory coming soon! The Membership Committee apologizes for not getting all the new members listed in previous Journals in a timely manner. We welcome each of you and hope you enjoy your life with llamas as much as we do.

RMLA Youth Committee

Barbara Harris, Youth Committee Chair

As we start the new show season and head into summer, I pause to wonder what the new time means for all the RMLA youth.

I see fewer old faces as many have gone off to college and more new faces. I want to wish all of you good luck in all of your endeavors this year.

Parents, there are so many things that you and your kids can do with llamas in the year ahead. Besides showing in Youth Performance at llama shows here are some ideas that can involve your kids, llamas and other kids and their llamas.

- **Have a Treasure/Scavenger Hunt.** Contact other parents and design a treasure map. Locate a llama-friendly park or area, and hide the treasure. Kids can search as teams or individually. Hide numerous items and the team that finds the most items gets a prize and the team that finds the "Treasure" earns another prize. Afterwards have a potluck meal. I know the folks and kids in Akron had a great time when Dee Goodman had a llama scavenger hunt there.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

- **Driving** – Have you ever considered teaching your llama to drive? Well how about a kid-oriented llama driving clinic? We have two excellent instructors right here along the Front Range. Jerry Dunn and Bobra Goldsmith have been driving llamas for years and teaching their techniques to others.
- **Showing** – For those whose kids are into showing, consider throwing a practice show along the lines of Jerry Dunn's famous Jelly Bean Classic. No ribbons, no points – just lots of fun and **CANDY**.
- **For Halloween** – those whose kids still trick and treat, think of costumes that would include your llama. For even more fun add other kids and llamas and have a group theme (i.e. Lord of the Rings, Star Wars, etc.).
- **Caroling** – For those who are my age (no snickering out there) do you remember Christmas caroling? Well, think about decorating your llamas, grab the kids and friends, and go caroling. You say you and your kids can't sing? Hey, that never stopped us when I was a kid and I don't remember anyone throwing old shoes at us (and yes, shoes had been invented).

These are just a few suggestions of things you can do that will involve your child, other children and llamas. As spring arrives, let's look at having fun with our llamas and enjoying the companionship of others in the llama community. If anyone has ideas or suggestions for things kids can do with llamas please pass them along and I will put them into this report.



Marie Hinds & Richard Hoover
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Elizabeth, CO 80107-8702
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303-646-2654 Fax
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Library Update

Sharon Herbold, Library Chair

One of the benefits of joining RMLA is the extensive library available free to members. The entire library listing is available on the web site. Visit the web site where you can look at the entire library list of titles. All requests for items can be handled directly through the site.

In addition to the ever-popular videos, there are many books and articles with excellent information on llamas and alpacas. Also, don't forget the children's library with lots of stories and information.

Checking Out Items. All items are checked out on a first come basis. The most popular items are on a waiting list. They are sent when they become available without a second request. Videos are checked out for 2 weeks, with a limit of 3 videos sent at one time due to their popularity and the number of members requesting them. Books and articles are checked out for a month. I include the mailing time both ways when putting a due date in the items. One group of items must be returned before another group of items is sent.

Returning Items. Please check the due date when you receive your items and make a note on a calendar so that items are returned when due. The most frustrating part of taking care of the library is to keep sending reminders of overdue items and having them ignored! Remember that there are usually other members waiting to check out the items you have.

Shipping and Packaging. Items are mailed through the U.S. Post Office. Most items sent to members in Colorado are sent media mail. Items going to members who reside outside Colorado are usually sent priority mail. All items are mailed in bubble pack envelopes. Please return items in the original envelope or replace it with another bubble pack envelope. Many of the videos come back damaged if they do not have the padded envelopes. The only recourse is to replace them, which is costly.

Contact The Library. If you need help in determining which items will best meet your needs, don't hesitate to contact me. I have a new e-mail address (info@pikespeakwoolies.com) where I can be reached for specific questions.

Here's to a great summer of learning and enjoying llamas and alpacas! 🌟

A Little History of a Long Wonderful Journey

*By Lougene Baird, RMLA Treasurer
Plum Valley Llamas, Sedalia, CO*

The earliest records in the RMLA Treasury are journal entries from March 17, 1982. On that day, an organizational meeting was held that set the stage for this great organization. The entries reflect that 41 people paid a registration fee of \$3 each. Of these, 23 paid \$10 dues and were our Charter Members. The faded page of the journal looks like this

1982	Received	Paid	Balance
3/17 Registration 41 @ \$3.00	\$123.00		\$123.00
3/17 Expenses for meeting postage, Xeroxing, etc.		\$73	\$ 50.00
3/17 Membership Paid 23 @ \$10	230.00		\$280.00

And, we have the receipts on record! Original staple intact, paper faded. The \$280 was the RMLA founding financial base.

So that was the beginning of a long and wonderful journey. Members would come and go, some we would lose forever but hold their memory close. The industry would see incredible changes but one constant thought would remain – the love we have for our animals and the friends we have made along the way.

A few years ago, before he passed on, Howard Kerstetter gave me his personal collection of llama stuff. Within these treasure boxes are copies of the early RMLA newsletters. From these, I hope to pull out bits and pieces of information about our history and mix it up a little with RMLA Treasury records stored in my basement and tell a few stories of our past. For those of you that were around back then, I hope you will recall great memories. For those of you who are newer in the RMLA world, you will have some feel from where this wonderful organization evolved.

So, for a little time travel –

In February, 1984, the RMLA Board was President Peter Nichols, Vice-President Jim Hook and Erma Hast, Secretary and Treasurer. Peter reported that he had been to Denver to meet with Cutler Umbach and

(Continued on page 18)

Hopeful Return of Summer A Packer's Maintenance Checklist

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

It occurred to me, after several days of snow and frigid temperatures, that I am eagerly looking forward to summer and pleasant hours on the trail. Now is a perfect time to get to work in the barn and assess the gear and llamas for the upcoming season.

Where to start? It is still snowing outside so I decide to work inside. All of my tack is stored in a room with a falling ceiling and a patched plywood floor. This space has been visited frequently by the neighbors' cats chasing mice and occasionally by a family of raccoons. The ceiling and the floor flex with each step as a result of all the activity. The saddles are stored on a shelf, the panniers are mounted on saddle trees, and both are covered with old rain flies now covered in dust. The saddle pads are stored in a big Rubbermaid locker to minimize dust and to discourage nesting mice.



Saddle Pad Inspection. I dig out the mini-vacuum and run it over each pad on both sides. To remove any sweat marks and bird droppings, I wipe off the side with the fabric covering using a warm soapy cloth and then rinse. The stitching is checked and I look for tears in the fabric. On the

other side of the pad I find the remaining evidence of a great exploratory hike—little grass seeds and pine needles. Using tweezers, I extract some of these prickly little devils. I check next to see if the mice have been chewing on the pad and I use a lighter to singe roughened areas. If you have horse hair pads, use scissors to finish a spot and maybe add a patch to stop further wear in that spot.

(Continued on page 22)

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Howard Kerstetter to develop an informative brochure about "Why Llamas." It was felt that, 'we need to make more people aware of the many benefits that our animals have given us...and broaden our base as an organization.' It is my understanding that this was the beginning of the brochure that RMLA still publishes today and is available for all members to hand out to interested folks. Call Jill Knuckles, Barb Hance or Jerry Dunn for copies.

In the same issue it was announced that RMLA 'was starting a new service for those actively involved in the business of breeding, packing, wool production, etc. It would be named "The Rocky Mountain Llama Association Yellow Pages.' And, it has so remained for many years – you receive a yellow Service Directory every spring. Every RMLA member may advertise in this publication. Over 2,000 copies are distributed to the public every year. It has been a successful marketing tool for the membership. Plan your ads for this year's issue.

The Fairplay Race Committee was beginning to organize the 2nd running of the "First Ever Pack Llama Race" to be held July 28, 1984. Members were welcome to set booths for Llama Curio items. The race has continued every year since and will be the

highlight of summer 2003 for those attending. Be one of them, you will love it.

From February, 1985. Jim Hook was now President, Dan Schreiner, VP and Erma Hast continued as Secretary/Treasurer. I warmly regard Erma's hand written notes safely stored in record boxes of years past.

National Western Stock Show weather was zero degrees that year and when folks arrived they could not get in! Mary Mauz did a great job of getting it together. Llama owners from as far as New Mexico attended – those were Jody Sleeper (Robinson) and Chet Smith. The first weekend 25 llamas were in the arena, there were no stalls and local folks brought 10 pens for the animals. The basic ground rules were that helpers were representing RMLA and wouldn't talk about their own business. NWSS attendance was over 110,00 the first weekend, and "I'll swear, they all came by the llamas twice" reported Jim Hook. As the 2003 National Western is now history, we are all grateful that we are able to continue exhibiting our animals. Thank you, Jerry Dunn, for a wonderful job in keeping this RMLA tradition alive and growing.

Let's fast-forward to September, 1986. Wally White

(Continued on page 24)

***PLAN TO JOIN US FOR THE
UINTAH COUNTY FAIR LLAMA SHOW!***

WHEN: AUGUST 8 & 9, 2003

**WHERE: WESTERN PARK
VERNAL, UTAH**



FOR INFORMATION AND/OR PACKETS CONTACT:

**LEE ANN WALKER - momma_llama2000@yahoo.com
OR ROUTE 2, BOX 2615, ROOSEVELT, UT 84066
OR CALL 435-722-2603**

2003 RMLA Sponsored Schedule of Events

MAY

Spring Fiber Clinic.
Wellington, CO., May 3, 2003
Contact Karen Kinyon, 970-568-3747, kkd@oneimage.com

Jelly Bean Classic.
Arvada, CO., May 10, 2003
Contact Jerry Dunn 303-277-1129, beartrak@gte.net

Spring Sneakers Performance Show.
Arvada, CO. May 17, 2003
Contact Jerry Dunn, 303-277-1129, beartrak@gte.net

Spring Fiber Clinic.
Salida, CO., May 18, 2003
Contact Sharon Beacham, 719-539-2096,
beachams@phf-llamas.com

LOCC Spring Show.
Colorado Springs, CO, May31-June 1, 2003
Contact Jeff Rucker, 719-689-9010, sslllamas@aol.com

JUNE

Estes Park Wool Market. Llama Halter, Performance,
Youth and Fiber Show.
Estes Park, CO., June 13-15, 2003
Contact Lougene Baird, 303-688-5445, lougene@att.net

Douglas County Summer Classic Youth Show.
Castle Rock, CO., June 28, 2003
Contact Lougene Baird, 303-688-5445, lougene@att.net

JULY

El Paso County Open Youth Show.
Calhan, CO July 20,2003
Contact Mike Shealy, 719-495-3757,
mikey@touchtheearthranch.com

Fairplay Llama Pack Race.
Fairplay, CO., July 26, 2003
Contact Roger Miller, 719-307-9332,
escarpment@escarpmentllamas.com.

Fairplay Llama Camp Performance Show.
Fairplay, CO., July 27, 2003
Contact Mary Wickman, 719-687-1423,
wickman@cheyennevillage.org

AUGUST

A Day With A Llama & Packing With Llamas.
Longmont, CO., August 2-3, 2003
Contact Terry Lynch, 303-651-3022, TLynch@rockynet.com

Boulder County Youth Show.
Longmont, Co. August 8, 2003
Contact Terry Lynch, 303-651-3022, TLynch@rockynet.com

Laramie Llama Festival.
Laramie, WY, August 15-17,2003
Contact Gayle Woodsum, 307-721-2919, dbllllamas@aol1.com

Kiowa Creek Youth Llama Show.
Kiowa, CO., August 16,2003
Contact Dani Varela, 303-621-9021, dvarela55@Yahoo

SEPTEMBER

LOCC Fall Classic.
Colorado Springs, CO. September 6-7,2003
Contact Barb Harris, WildCatLlamas@aol1.com

ALSA Rocky Mountain Regional.
Denver, CO. September 27-28,2003
Contact Lougene Baird 303-688-5445,lougene@att.net or Larry
Lewellyn 720-733-2775 fhllamas@aol.com

OCTOBER

RMLA Conference and Annual Meeting.
Woodland Park, CO. October 11-12,2003
Contact Mary Wickman, 719-687-1423,
wickman@cheyennevillage.org or
Teri Baird, 303-688-4373. teri@brokenwindmill.com

Interested in Volunteering or
Organizing an Event?
Contact: Jeffy Dunn
Phone: (303) 277- 1129
Email: beartrak@gte.net

Llama's Lazy Day

By Rachel Gross
Orion Hunting

Slowly chewing,
Ever watchful,
Ears listening,
Eyes staring,
Cold ground beneath,
Warm sun overhead,
A lazy day in the yard.

New! Lama Chews™

**The right size
for Lama health.**

**The right ingredients
for Lama nutrition.**

Size does matter. Especially when you're feeding aggressive eaters like llamas and alpacas. That's why, we've invested years of research and testing to reformulate our easy-feed supplement...Mazuri® Lama Chews™.

The feed is twice as big as a traditional pellet, so it encourages llamas to chew before swallowing. Instead of gulping down feed, animals pause, lift their heads, and spend more time chewing. According to trial participants, Mazuri Lama Chews can help reduce the risk of choke.

It's Not Only Bigger, It's Better.

Whether your animals are on hay or pasture, Lama Chews has all the nutrients, minerals and natural vitamins essential for proper nutrition. To promote strong skeletal structure, the feed contains just the right levels of calcium, phosphorus and vitamin D. We've also added natural vitamin E and selenium, so no extra supplements or injections are needed. But the big news is we boosted selected mineral levels to enhance the feed's nutritional value even more.

So for a supplement that's easier on your llamas...and better for their health and nutrition...be sure to choose the easy-feed supplement.
Mazuri Lama Chews.



Good News About Lama Chews™!

Across the country, Lama Chews has been tested under a variety of conditions. Feeding participants experienced excellent results in animal performance, as well as controlling choke problems.

"I'm pleased with the new product size and lack of choke. It's a very good choice for controlling choke."

Nel Vickers, Maplewood Farm
Charlevoix, MI

"I'm getting more consistent and appropriate levels of minerals and vitamins in my blood work. That gives me peace of mind the animals are getting the nutrition they need."

Norma Stevens, Mountain Oaks Ranch
Valley Center, CA

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March 9, 2003
St. Patrick's Day Parade
Sedalia, CO
Deanna Lewellyn



What a beautiful day and what a great group of people!! What a terrific way to spend a few hours on a Sunday afternoon!!! Today, a small group of us RMLA members met in the small town of Sedalia, Colorado, to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and participate in the annual parade. Although this celebration was a week early, the enthusiasm brought by our little group and the town's people was absolutely first rate. Everyone had a wonderful time as the one and only main street closed for about an hour. A large number of folk from the area, many Harley riders and those "just passing by" enjoyed the llamas, dogs, horses, kids, cars, four-wheelers, motorcycles, tractors, and many other St. Patrick's Day participants. After the parade was over and the llamas safely tucked away, a late lunch was had by some of us at a local restaurant.



Human participants included Sandy, Amy & Warren Lockwood; Tony, Mary & Rachel Gross; Larry & Deanna Lewellyn, Dylan Avila, Kerriann Schmidt & Nick Langfield. Llamas appropriately dressed for the occasion included LDL Spring Snow, LDL Yinyang, Sir Marvin, High Tops Bambereto, Bilbo, Rambutan's Dakota Dream, Cadfael's American Spirit and Rambutan's Denali. Little Tala, the only dog in our group, proudly escorted the llamas and awed the crowd almost as much as the llamas. Mark your calendars for next year's parade. Short, sweet and packed with fun!



(Continued from page 17)

One summer in the Wind River Range I stowed my horse hair pads up on a branch. In the morning I found a substantial mouse nest made from the padding. That pad still shows the fraying as a reminder to take better care of my saddle pads in the back country. Another look and I find a couple more pads that no longer have much loft at all, so I donate them to the dog house.

Saddles. I now use a pack system with wooden cross bucks and swivel paddles. As I do at the beginning of every pack season, I examine the frame for wear, check the Fastex buckles and look for any loose nuts on top of the swivel paddles. All looks great on the under side of the paddles where there is foam for extra padding. A closer look at the top of the cross bucks reveals chewing marks from one of the llamas. That llama probably figured it was safer to chew on the cross buck in front of him than it was to try to gnaw on a passing tree and risk getting his head jerked by the llama in front of him. A touch of sand paper fixes the rough spot.



I remember when I first started using this system, Bear, one of my "old packer boys," felt an itch to roll in a high steep mountain meadow. He rolled and tumbled over a few rocks, popped in and out of a few mole holes and stood up with a confused look on his face. No injury, no breaks, no damage to the saddle.

Cinches. What ever system I work with, I always check the padding and buckles for wear and damage. The cinches on my pack sets are still attached to the frames with Fastex buckles and I can take a quick look. Four of my pack sets have the string horse cinches. I carefully examine the strings for frays and for vegetable debris that might irritate an arm pit or a tummy. Some of my systems have nylon straps with nylon pile. These are new so I won't spend much time examining them. During the packing season I will check them for burrs, sticks and pine needles.

Panniers. If you have the occasion to work with kids on the trail, make sure that they have removed all of their candy bars, oranges and wet socks after each trip. It took me a couple of times to figure out where

the strange odors were coming from in my tack room. Forgotten oranges-now green-and wet muddy socks emit overwhelming aromas from within a pannier after a week or two. (One of the kids that hiked with us could never seem to get his packs balanced, so he was always adding rocks to the pack for the proper balance. Poor llama, by the end of the season he could be carrying up to 60 – 70 lbs of weight, 20 of which were rocks.)

The mice always find the candy bars or the trail mix. They don't seem to be happy just eating inside the pannier. They also like to sit on the outside and leave a mess to clean up there as well. My younger llamas are quite the tree bashers; consequently the panniers get splashes of pine sap here and there. Baby wipes help to dissolve the gooey stuff and I finish with a soap and water scrubbing. Turn the panniers inside out, dispose of trash, place the rocks in the garden, and scrub all with a soft cloth and soapy water. Rinse and finish off with sunshine. After the panniers dry I can check all of the webbing, stitching and fabric for wear and damage.

When we are on the trail nearly every day, we leave the pack systems in the van after each trip so they stay clean and free from rodent visitors. We just pull the lunch bags and water bottles out at the end of the day and pop in fresh supplies the next morning.

Trail Tack. A quick look on the wall and I see all of my stake lines, pins, rain covers, lead ropes, stringing ropes and quick release bungies and halters. Checking all of these will take time. Think I will wait until the weather is warmer and run all of them through the laundry.

Llamas. The mud in the paddocks is perfect today for mud pies. The llamas' toenails should be soft enough to clip. The thought of bending over and being upside down for a couple of hours does not particularly appeal to me right now so, I warm up with just a couple of llamas today. The more fidgety guys will have their turn when I have someone to help.

As mid April approaches, all the packers will be blown out, thoroughly brushed, and will get his own "designer" shearing. Shearing helps them to stay clean and easy to care for. Some llamas can go the whole summer without needing more than 5 minutes to get ready to load up and hit the trail.

Trailers. Well the sun is starting to come out and I feel the warmth on my back. What else can I do to get ready for the summer? The trailers were cleaned out

(Continued on page 23)

“How’s That Llama Of Yours?” or How A Wyoming Llama Came To Live In Colorado.

*Jan Adamcyk, Kiowa Creek Llamas
Kiowa, Colorado*

Since October, “How’s that llama of yours?” has been the first question I’m usually asked, sometimes after, “Hi, How are you?” sometimes before.

The llama everyone wants to know about is E.L. Sonata. Sonata is a gentle, sweet three and a half year old heavy wool female llama. She has fine white fiber and a sporty black tail in the shape of a crescent moon. Her pedigree is truly international with The Canadian, La Raya Peru and Chilean Macho Camacho all in her bloodlines.

But, I’m getting ahead of myself. Let’s go back in time to the fall of 2002. Julie Heggie and Gayle Woodsum of Double J Llamas in Laramie, Wyoming made a truly generous offer to donate a llama for a benefit raffle to raise funds for RMLA. And, as it stated in the raffle information, “Oh, What a prize!” Not only was this beautiful girl offered, but also she was bred to W L Laces Sand Dollar, a very large – boned, multi-colored male who is a consistent show winner. Sand Dollar culminated 2002 with third place in the Adult Heavy Wool Male category at the Grand Nationals in Lincoln, Nebraska.

I first noticed Sonata at the Spring 2002 LOCC show in Colorado Springs where Julie and Gayle showed her and she took first place. Julie and Gayle were also showing Sand Dollar. I took home a brochure offering an introductory breeding and started looking over open females. All the suitable females were already bred. Darn! So I filed the brochure, but Sand

(Continued from page 22)

before the stock show, so all that is left to do is to tighten the lug nuts and check the tire pressure in all the tires, including the spare.

Hiking Buddies. Before the packing season is in full swing, get in touch with your hiking buddies and plan to explore some new trails together. Check the RMLA news line for a list of new hiking buddies and get together. Check out the possibility of volunteering in a national forest or state park on the trail with your llamas. ❁

Dollar stayed in my mind.

I saw the raffle ad and felt it was a win – win proposition; support RMLA and get a chance to own a beautiful female bred to a male that I had been admiring. I purchased several tickets putting some in my name and the rest in my daughter Sherry’s name.



Again, I did not think much about winning, just felt good supporting RMLA. The drawing was to be held at the Rocky Mountain Regional Competition in Denver.

We qualified for Regionals, so while walking down the aisles one evening looking at all the great llamas that had been brought to the competition, we came up to the Double J stalls and saw Sonata and Sand Dollar. Since we brought several animals, I jokingly asked Sherry if we won, would we have room for Sonata in the trailer. Sherry was emphatic “Mom, trust me, we’d MAKE ROOM for her!”

Sherry was in the arena and I was sitting in the stands when Lougene Baird announced that they would be making the drawing for the raffle. I was sort of listening, but with the arena speakers and my hearing diminishing from too many years of loud rock and roll music, I heard the winner announced as “Dan” and then a last name. Since I knew I wasn’t “Dan,” I really didn’t pay attention to the last name; just thought what a lucky guy Dan was. All of a sudden people near me started saying, “You won.” and Sherry was yelling at me from the arena, “Mom, it’s YOU!” When it finally registered that “Dan” was in fact “Jan” the shock set in. Somehow I made it down to the arena and was handed Sonata’s lead rope. I don’t know what I said but I remember thanking Julie and Gayle and we all had tears in our eyes.

(Continued on page 48)

(Continued from page 18)

(Durango) was President, Anne Johnson (Lander) Vice President, Erma Hast (Montrose) was Secretary and Sandra Hackbarth (Carbondale) filled the newly created office of Treasurer. The treasury balance was now up to \$7,700.

Chet Smith and Betsy Bell were planning a llama show at the New Mexico State Fair.

The RMLA Library was beginning to be put together by Chris Switzer. Chris was requesting folks send in their recommendations for books and videotapes. Today, the RMLA Library is home to one of the largest collections in North America of material dedicated to Camelids. As an RMLA member, this asset is at your fingertips. Enjoy it.

Jerry Dunn and Alaine Byers were planning the 1987 RMLA Conference for October 3, 4, and 5 in Estes Park.

The membership was reminded that it was time to start thinking of a location for the 1988 Conference. The Treasury records reflect that this was a very well attended conference and planning started almost two years in advance. Maybe our membership and leaders today should plan this far in advance.

In the same issue, the RMLA newsletter included an interesting insert entitled "A Commentary on Llama Shows and Sales," written by Terry and Kathy Price. I find it very timely and will quote a paragraph from the paper.

"Breeders who wish to preserve the classic llama need not resign themselves to "second class" citizenship. They simply need to promote their animals with the same intelligence, love and perseverance as the lovers of the "alpaca throwback." One other thing will help. They need to be patient and stick to their guns. As surely as hemlines rise and fall, the fashionable llama look will change, but only if an alternative of utility, strength and beauty is preserved. Perhaps that animal needs to be exalted in the temple of commercialism where the throwback has had his day." Terry Price went on to establish *Llama Life*. Later it was sold and you now know the publication *Llama Life II*.

If you would like a copy of any of my treasures, call and we will figure out how to make it happen.

In the meantime, thanks to you who were there in the beginning to establish RMLA, and to you who have picked up where others have left off and to all of you who truly love your animals for what they are. See you next time. *

*Visit the RMLA Library
at
RMLA.COM
Check it out!*



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4-H - Showing - Cart Driving - Companions

LOCC members participate in a variety of events including:
St. Patrick's Day Parade-Colorado City-March 15-Contact Roger Miller 719-749-0119
LOCC Spring Show-Colorado Springs-May 31-June 1-Contact Jeff Rucker 719-689-9010
Fairplay Pack Llama Race-Fairplay-July 26-Contact Roger Miller 719-749-0119
Fairplay Llama Camp Performance Show-July 27-Contact Mary Wickman 719-687-1423
LOCC Fall Show-Colorado Springs-September 6-7-Contact Barb Harris 719-275-9457



For more information and locations
Call Mary 1-719-687-1423
or visit our website
www.coloradollamas.com



Bear Attack

*Jan Redenbarger,
Winding Trails Llamas, Golden, CO*

Friday, May 10, 2002 started out as another beautiful spring day in Coal Creek Canyon. At about 5:30 a.m. Jim and our dog, Frodo went outside to check out the property, birds, and llamas and take in the fresh morning. It was just becoming light, the birds were beginning their morning chorus and the air was at its coolest point of the day – ah! life in the Rocky Mountains. This morning, something was different. Jim and Frodo noticed a big animal standing outside the gates to our upper property.

Was a deer looking at the llamas? No, it was CocaCola, our number one llama, purchased in 1987, the most savvy pack llama I have ever worked with. He was waiting patiently by his gate looking at Jim, waiting for the bucket-of-corn routine of capturing escaped llamas, which meant "Bring the bucket of corn, I'll follow you anywhere."

The Injury

As Jim was letting him back into the "boys" area, he saw that Cola's flank was torn. Jim thought that he caught his side as he went over the gate because there weren't any broken fences, or openings anywhere. Cuts and scrapes are my department so Jim woke me to come look at Cola and see what we needed to do. We haltered Cola and brought him into the driveway so I that could get a look at the scrape. When I lifted the wool off of his right flank we both took a deep breath and said, "Oh, my God." I'm thinking, "Mountain lion? Dog? Nasty nails hanging from a wall in the barn? Call Dr. Debbie Mayo now!!"



CocaCola sedated with the wound exposed. The bite took out so much tissue that Dr. Debbie did not have anything to sew from point A to point B. She did make one suture inside the wound to tie some muscle groups together.

I hate making those panicked phone calls to the veterinarian, especially at 6:00 a.m., but, as always, Dr. Debbie was very sympathetic and as soon as she could, she would be up to see what damage we were dealing with.

When we saw the severity of the wound—you could see the hip socket move—I thought that the most humane act would be to euthanize Cola. Doc said that she thought he would make it if we could keep the wound clean and keep infection from getting into the bone. I love this llama and wanted to try anything.

The Treatment

Cola needed a secure place to recover: clean, safe from attack, with easy access for Doc, but where? Both Doc and I said at the same time, "Call Jerry Dunn." Jerry was so gracious and said "absolutely." I took Cola to her place as soon as he could stand up. We placed him in one of her stalls where he began the long road to recovery. Since so much tissue was gone the healing had to come from the inside out. We didn't want the wound to scab over too quickly, so we had to debride it with a strong stream of cold water to stimulate the tissue. The first 4 days were heart-wrenching. The wound was raw with exposed nerve endings. Cola has my total respect. He never fought us, he never spit at us, but those first days he was in



Daily washing to keep wound open and clean. Note Cola's alert posture. He became very possessive of the female llamas at Jerry's and had to watch them at all times. What a guy!

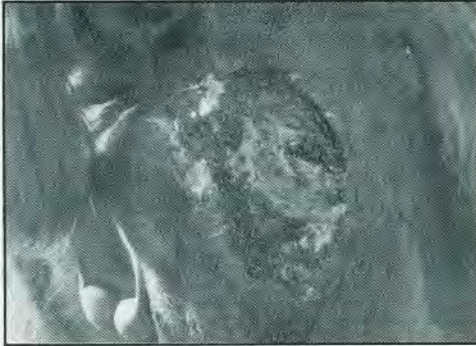
such pain that he would just stand there and whimper in a high-pitched cry. Several days both Jerry and I were in tears. The washing was a daily routine and would continue until we could see significant improvement. We also sprayed an antibiotic on the wound and gave Cola an oral antibiotic for the first week, which he enjoyed in his daily grain rations.

(Continued on page 26)

(Continued from page 25)

The Recovery

Cola was a model patient. He never spit although he did show us definite body language. As he improved washing him became a challenge because of his swishing tail, and his wriggling back and forth on the lead. He gained over 40 pounds, going from a low of 288 pounds to his normal weight of 330.



CocaCola at day 10. Note the claw marks at the front of the flank.

He is still at Jerry's. The wool has grown over the injury and the scar is about the size of an English muffin. We are hoping to bring him back to Coal Creek sometime after the 5 feet of snow melts!! Thank you, Jerry, for everything and more. Cola's recovery wouldn't have been so smooth without you.

The Return of the Bear

Taking care of Cola was the first priority. After he was established at Jerry's we started working on what needed to be done at home to make the ranch more secure. However, we were not finished with bear problems.



By August, we saw significant improvement. The tissue had grown in from the inside out. We never experienced any infection.

Monday, May 13th, the bear returned in the early morning hours. Lou Haynes, of Auntie Lou's pet sitting service and Wanna Wokka Llama Treks, received a call at 4:30 a.m. (because she has the pulse of all animals in the canyon). The caller reported seeing a llama and a baby running down the

highway. Lou called us and we ran out to do a head count of the females, because we had one mom/baby pair here. They were ok, but agitated. We checked the males and found that, this time, the bear went after my show llama, Right Up Front, (Ruffy). It had snowed 3 – 4 inches the night before so we could see where the action had been. Ruf was gone, but the trail was obvious. Ruf cleared the lower fence on the llama pen and was headed down the canyon with the bear in hot pursuit. The driver hadn't seen a llama and a baby running down the road at all, but a llama and a bear!! The tracks down from the house to the highway covered about ¼ to ½ of a mile and then we lost them because they were running down the highway. Jim, Lou Haynes and her husband Jim were going to look for Ruf. I was on the phone again at 6:00 a.m. to Carolann and Kim Evans, asking if I could bring the females to their place. Then I called Pat and John Militzer to ask if I could bring the males to their place. Both said yes without hesitation, and I had the trailer hooked up and the females loaded by 6:30 a.m.



A whole body view shows the perspective of damage. Cola did become stiff on his rear end, but always put weight on the leg. We were amazed that he functioned as well as he did. Cola did forgo jumping on the fence to challenge the male llamas in the next pen.

I kept in phone contact with Jim and the rescue crew while I moved the females to Ladyhawk Llamas. Ruf was spotted about 3 miles down the canyon; he was headed for Jerry Dunn's! He was relatively easy to catch (using the trusty bucket of corn) when he saw Jim and crew, and they were waiting for me when I came back up the canyon with the trailer. We returned to the house, loaded the other males and took them to Militzer's. We boarded the llamas at the three places for the summer. My sincerest thanks to

(Continued on page 27)

Fairplay Pack/Walk Llama Race

Fairplay, CO
 Saturday, July 26, 2003
 Contact: Roger Miller – 719/749-0119 or Gary Carlton 303/622-6306

Join in the fun of the 21st 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 dinner - please bring side dishes and/or desserts.
- ❖ Check In will be Saturday morning, July 26, 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 27, 2002, at 8:00 a.m., contact Mary Wickman for information.
- PRO DIVISION has been removed due to lack of participation.

Pre-registration
Make Checks payable to RMLA

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	GENDER (CIRCLE)			AGE	SHIRT SIZE (CIRCLE)	
		AMATEUR \$16	WALKER \$16	MALE FEMALE		Small Med.	Large X-Large
		AMATEUR \$16	WALKER \$16	MALE FEMALE		Small Med.	Large X-Large
		AMATEUR \$16	WALKER \$16	MALE FEMALE		Small Med.	Large X-Large
		AMATEUR \$16	WALKER \$16	MALE FEMALE		Small Med.	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!

Office use only:
 Paid by:
 Check _____
 Cash _____



April 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004 RMLA MEMBERSHIP

RENEW your membership, or JOIN RMLA now! Your dues will assure the continuation of all the good RMLA has accomplished. Please consider joining as a **LIFE MEMBER**.

- Junior Membership:** \$10.00 per year (must be 18 years or under and have an adult RMLA member sponsor. Not entitled to vote, but eligible to receive scholarships and grants from the RMLA Foundation Inc.
- Youth Membership:** \$10.00 per year **Former Junior members only**, who have continued education beyond High School. Must have an adult RMLA member sponsor.
- Annual Membership:** \$40.00 per year (Up to 2 adults per membership: 1 vote per person.)
- Life Membership:** \$500.00 one time only! Same as Annual, plus: **Special** recognition in Directory; and a one time free 1/4 page ad in the Journal. If there are future special assessments, "Life Members" would pay the same as annual members.

Life memberships may be paid in 4 equal quarterly installments of \$125.00 each.
If you prefer, you may join or renew on the web page at www.rmla.com - click on Membership



Name _____

Name (2 or Jr. sponsor) _____

Ranch _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____ Home Page _____

of Llamas owned: Females _____ Intact Males _____ Geldings _____

of Alpacas owned: Females _____ Intact Males _____ Geldings _____

Breeding(B) Training (T) Driving(DR)
 Sales(S) Products(PR) Boarding(BD)
 Wool(WL) Research(RE) Judging(JD)
 Packing(PK) Leasing(LE) Brokering(BK)
 Commercial Packing(COM PK) Other(Specify) _____

Life: \$500.00 _____

Annual: \$40.00 _____

Junior: \$10.00 _____

Youth: \$10.00 _____

Total: \$ _____

Visa/MasterCard EXP. Date _____

Acct. # _____

Signature _____

This charge will appear on your bill as:
 Rocky Mt. Llama

- Check if interested in working on these committees:*
- Finance Marketing Fiber Continuing Education
 - Events Membership Nominations/Elections Research
 - Publishing 4-H & Youth By-Laws Library

Mail this form with your check (payable to RMLA) or Credit Card information to:

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Wheat Ridge CO 80033-2032
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Don't miss any of the events sponsored by RMLA.

RMLA 2002 Fairplay Pack Llama Race/Walk

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

The 2002 Fairplay Pack Llama Race/Walk was a real challenge. The drought affected all the high plains and mountain ranchers, making hay and some grains difficult to acquire. With the drought came the high-country wild fires and eventually restrictions and closings of national forests and BLM properties. These restrictions and closings put a damper on outdoor enjoyment, for Colorado residents and tourists. The presence of, or threat of, fires in the national forests prevented tourists from enjoying Colorado's wonders. These circumstances hit the recovering ghost town of Fairplay hard and many of

(Continued from page 26)

Carolann and Pat for helping us and keeping the llamas for the summer. And as always, Lou, thank you for being there.

The Repairs

Llamas are relatively quiet animals, yet the conspicuous silence was very eerie when we came out of the house or drove up in the car and walked past the barns. We had work to do after inspecting the barns and fences. The bear had caused a lot of damage, mostly from the llamas charging the gates and fences. I also wanted to make the barns more secure by closing in the open sides, making the existing doors stronger and reinforcing some of the fencing. We spent the rest of the summer doing the repair work.

The bear continued to wreak havoc in the canyon. It ripped open locked dumpsters, slashed horses, wounded sheep and goats, and scared a llama out of his pen and onto the highway where he was hit and killed by a car. During this period we saw it a couple of times.

2002 was an extreme drought year and there was just not enough natural forage for the bears. All the forest fires caused a lot of displacement of wildlife and thus increased competition for territory. We have had llamas in Coal Creek Canyon for 16 years and this was the first "bad encounter" with wildlife that we experienced. Maybe with 6 feet of snow, the bears will hibernate until June! ❁

the shops and stores were closed.

As a result, there were many questions on the status of the Fairplay Burro Days weekend celebration. The mountain trail that the burro race uses was closed. The llama camp where the contestants bed down over night and where the Fairplay Llama Camp Performance Show is held was closed. The Mountain Man Camp was under fire restrictions.

In spite of all of these problems, it became evident that the town of Fairplay was not willing to let go. The community of Fairplay and the Burro committee were very concerned that the Burro weekend would not happen, so they worked with different groups to make sure that the different organizations had the resources needed to accommodate this exciting event. They closed the town's park to residents and made it available to the Llama Camp for over night camping and the llama performance show.

Because of these efforts, and with the grateful participation of the regional llama owners and ranchers who brought their llamas to race or provide the general public llamas to race or walk, we had our second highest participation in the 20 years of this event. We recorded 138 racers and walkers. The Llama Lunacy Children's obstacle course had 75 children. We ran out of t-shirts and even distributed the volunteer shirts to racers and walkers who participated.

In all the adversity, there was some good. Unlike previous years, the racers and walkers had to look very hard on the course to locate deep enough water in the river crossings to splash water above their knees. Of course the drought did not help the condition of killer hill - the dust and heat prevailed.

(Continued on page 29)

Do you have

- a good llama story?
- great photos of a fun event?
- a new way to train your llama?

Tell us all about it!

Write an article for the journal.

Contact the Journal Editor for more information. *See page 3 for contact information.*

Cadfael's Gabriella

ALSA Halter Champion at 10 months of age



Rocky Mountain Region and National Grand Champion
Medium Wool Female

Co-owned with Jane Sheppard and Jerry Uherek

*All 7 Cadfael kids at the ALSA Grand National placed in
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Your 2004 Champion



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beachams@phf-llamas.com



**Pheasant
Hill Farm**
Llamas

For fiber,
packing
and show

(Continued from page 27)

Winners of the Pro and Amateur divisions:

Pro Division

Kyle Robmooor 30.57

Amatuer Division by Age Group

12 to 19 years

Gender	Name	Time
Male	David Hudson	35.02
Female	N/A	

20 to 29 years

Gender	Name	Time
Male	Kyle Webb	32.48
Female	Lindsey Morgan	38.58

30 to 39 years

Gender	Name	Time
Male	Keith Bearden	43.06
Female	Sharon Groeling	54.31

40 to 49 years

Gender	Name	Time
Male	Paul Headen	35.58
Female	N/A	

50 to 59 years

Gender	Name	Time
Male	Ron Robinson	40.42
Female	Mary Jo Robinson	46.55

60 Plus

Gender	Name	Time
Male	Robert Estes	53.16
Female	N/A	

Thanks to the following llama owners/ranchers who provided llamas and the volunteers who assisted with the race/walk and children's obstacle course:

Ann Bruhn, Betty Miller, Wade Thompson, Mary Wickman, Gary Carlton, Etienne Miller, Diane Turner, Cathy Wittrup, Dee Goodman, Patti Morgan, Brenda Vance, Mark Wittrup, Darryl Holland, Sally Rucker, Jim Vance

Thanks to the Colorado Donor Alliance for choosing the Llamas Race to assist in drawing awareness to the need for the donation of life to make a difference. This year the largest number Colorado Donor Alliance race teams (six teams) competed in the race.

The llama community wishes to thank these outstanding merchants for providing prizes for the amateur classes and children's obstacle course winners:

Bits & Pieces Treasures from the Past, South Park Historical Foundation, Brown Burro Café, South Perk Café & BBQ, Calamity's Cabin, The Chocolate Moose, Colorado Mountain Hat Co., The Old Red Barn, Even in the End Liquor Store, The Silver Scoop Creamery, Park Bar, Treadle House, Shaky Jakes Mountain Goods

We request the next time you are in Fairplay, stop and visit these merchants and thank them for their support.

As time passes, so does the management of the RMLA sponsored Fairplay Pack Llama Race/Walk. The 2003 race/walk will be co-coordinated by Gary Carlton and Roger Miller. Then in 2004, Gary will take over the management of all future Fairplay Llama Race/Walks. We hope, that with all of us assisting, the transition will be easy.

As in years past, I request your assistance in making the 2003 (21st annual) RMLA Fairplay Llama Race/Walk a success.

For information or to volunteer, contact Roger Miller at 719/749-0119 or Gary Carlton at 303/622-6306. *

Rocky Mountain Llama Fiber Pool



Spring Fiber Clinics

Saturday, May 3, Wellington

Sunday, May 18, Salida

Please contact us for details and a reservation form.

Sharon Beacham
15760 County Rd 220
Salida, CO 81201
719-539-2096

Karen Kinyon
16423 N County Rd 9
Wellington, CO 80549
970-568-3747

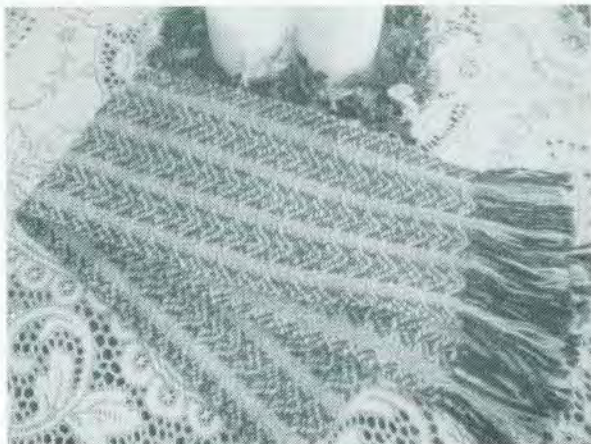
ALSA Certified Llama Fiber Judges

FIBER PROJECTS

from fleece to favorite

Edited by Judy Wolff-Mills

SCARF FOR A CHAMPION ... a woven project for an 8-harness loom



Karen Kinyon designed and wove this scarf, one of a dozen unique trophies for Grand Champion llamas at the 2003 National Western Stock Show. Fashioned in natural llama colors with a hint of dyed yarn, the fabric provides elegance and warmth for llama lovers everywhere. The perfect project for the yarn from *your champion!*

PROJECT SUMMARY

Weave structure

- Undulating twill, p. 51 #206
- A Weaver's Book of 8-Shaft Patterns, Interweave Press 1991

Equipment

- 8-shaft loom
- 20", 10-dent reed
- One shuttle

Yarns

- Warp: 125 yds. *Dark Brown* (90% llama, 10% angora @ 900 yd/lb); 55 yds. *Classic Beige* (80% llama, 20% kid mohair @ 900 yd/lb); 25 yds. *Ocean at Tulum* (100% hand dyed llama @ 1100 yd/lb)
- Weft: 150 yds. *Classic Beige*

Yarn sources

- Double K Diamond Llamas & Fiber (970) 568-3747

Warp order and length

- 74 ends, 2 ½ yds long including 24" loom waste
- Colors sleyed according to the threading chart

Warp and weft spacing

- Warp: 10 epi, 7.4" wide
- Weft: 10 ppi, woven area 60"

Take-up and shrinkage

- Draw-in is ½ "
- Shrinkage is 10%

WARP COLOR CHART

					Total ends
Brown	2	11			46
Classic Beige			5		20
Oceans				2	8
X 4					

THREADING AND TREADLING CHART

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	O				O	O		O
	O	O				O	O	
		O	O				O	O
	O		O	O				O
	O	O		O	O			
		O	O		O	O		
			O	O		O	O	
				O	O		O	O
					O	O		O

< -----REPEAT 4 TIMES ----- >

/								
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		/						
			/					
				/				
					/			
						/		
							/	

NOTE: ADD ONE BROWN FLOAT AT EACH SELVEDGE

WEAVING & FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

- Weave 2" with waste material in tabby to spread the warp evenly. The waste will be included in the scarf fringe allowance.
- Weave 60 inches in pattern, taking care to keep the beat and selvages even.
- Untie the warp from the loom and tie the fringe in bundles of four ends. The first and last fringe bundles will have five ends each. *Do not trim fringe yet.*
- Immerse the scarf in a basin of very warm water and mild soap. Gently squeeze the soapy water through the scarf. Gather the scarf up out of the bath, and immerse it in rinse water of the same temperature. Rinse twice, or until the water is clear. The final rinse water should have a capful of fabric softener.
- Squeeze water from the scarf in heavy towels, and lay flat to dry. Steam the dry scarf using a pressing cloth.
- Trim the fringe to 4" or as desired.

Care Instructions

- Wash gently in warm water and mild soap, squeeze excess water in towels and lay flat to dry.



Karen Kinyon *Double-K Diamond Llamas* has been weaving llama fiber for 5 years. An ALSA Fiber Judge and teacher, she lives in Wellington Colorado where she spins, knits and raises beautiful llamas and alpacas.

Can You Teach Old Llamas New Tricks?

By Tony Gross

Orion Hunting, Littleton, CO

If you are a little girl, you can make them do anything. Just like she can get her daddy wrapped around her little finger, a persistent girl can make her llama go anywhere.

Lofty Llamas, a 4H group led by Scott McHenry, invited Emily Barela to give them her secrets to her success. Emily is the llama whisperer of whisperers. She is beginning to dominate open performance classes after great success in youth classes for several years. I watched Emily closely to learn her secrets, under the guise of taking my daughter to this 4-H group mentoring session.

Emily's mother let the cat out of the bag by saying that Emily did not know the difference between a llama and an ostrich before she started handling llamas. Emily then explained that she became competitive by working daily in short sessions with her llamas, studying the ALSA rulebook, and reviewing videotapes of her competitions. Hummm... yes, this has been done but only with 6th and 7th place results; must be

something else. Then Emily worked with each 4-H kid in Scott's home obstacle course.

4-H'er Missy has a mature llama named Zack. He is a wise old llama with a grizzled face that looks like he has seen it all — that is until he fell in love with Missy. I first saw Zack last year with Missy and Bailey, her friend. They were trying to get Zack's foot. Both girls



had looks of determination that would make the coldest hearted stubborn llama capitulate. I tried to

(Continued on page 33)

MOUNTAIN VALLEY LLAMAS

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Very reasonable sale prices for very good quality male and female llamas.



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Females can include a breeding to a male of your choice. Two such males for breeding are National Champions.

Call us for more information and directions.

(Continued from page 32)

help and Zack looked at me with relief, knowing that I would be much easier to resist. After an extended wrestling session in which I received bumps and bruises, Zack looked very satisfied when I turned him back over to the girls.

Back at the 4-H session, Missy led Zack to a set of



stairs leading to a 3-foot high bridge with Emily coaching on the side. No llama in his right mind would ever climb this obstacle. I watched, knowing Zack would easily win this battle. Missy pulled and got closer. Zack pulled the famous walk-to-the-obstacle-and-step-to-the-side routine. He did not even have to lay his ears back. Missy looked at Emily and Emily smiled, knowing this trick well. She and Missy gave Zack a glance and he took the first step up. Oh Zack, how could you give in so easily! Then I saw the "look."



Set brow, eye contact, then a few words. The second step attained. Zack and I panicked; he set his legs like any self-respecting llama. A struggle ensued. Zack tried to jump sideways off the stairs but Emily and Missy had Zack pinned. Ears laid back...then the

secret weapon, a whisper in his ear, and suddenly Zack and Missy are on top of the bridge. Ears up, what the heck happened?

A big whoop from the 4-H group and Missy has that big satisfied smile that Emily had when she won the grand ribbon at this year's Stock Show. I wonder if there will be gap between Emily's college days and when Missy starts dominating open classes for me to sneak a ribbon or two?

No llamas or daddies have a chance against the young lady llama handlers who dominate the sport. Thanks, Emily, for sharing your secrets with Lofty Llamas. Funny, all the girls left with this knowing look, and all the boys looked like they were wondering when the next snowball fight would happen. ❁

***Hairy Mary the Llama
Wrangler***

*Mary Gross
Orion Hunting, Littleton, CO*

There was once a wrangler named Mary,
Her head and her legs were quite hairy,
The llamas never knew,
If she was one of them too,
Life in the barnyard was quite scary!

Have you
hugged
your llamas
today?

Llamas and Humans As Partners in Healing

Hannah-Leigh Bull

Llama Deara Ranch, Medenales, NM

Two events that would change my life significantly converged in January of 2001. For most of my adult life, I had been a well-paid consultant in the computer industry. On January 11, 2001, that changed as a llamamobile pulled into my ranch with a large trailer full of llamas, six of whom were destined to grace my life. At that very moment, an executive of my main industry client was calling to tell me that the company was folding. These synergistic events thrust two different species into the development of mutual trust and committed relationship by necessity and have helped me to formulate my understanding of the loving power of interspecies healing, care, and communication. The initial tenets described in this article reflect this growing understanding of my relationship with my animal companions.

Since that time, the circumstances of changing livelihood and health challenges have allowed me to

spend considerable time with the llamas. I have experienced their thinking and intuitive processes, how they assess situations, and what encourages them to trust, which, among other factors, seems to be spending time with them without a productive human-based goal in mind. Their sensitivity and intelligence are well developed, and they are able to pick up on stimuli that even very observant and sensitive humans can miss. It was important that in those early wintry days of gaining familiarity with each other, I was not afraid of these animals who are quite a bit bigger than I. As in my human relationships, I treaded gently not wanting to disrupt our growing intimacy by my awkwardness and concerns for their welfare. Herein was revealed a first tenet of *cospecies healing*, a term coined by Allen Schoen in his book *Kindred Spirits*:

Our relationships with animals reflect our relationships with humans.

This tenet has played out as the llamas and I have supported each other through llama births, breast cancer, my return to counseling and education careers full-time, and the challenges of Mother Nature and the diverse tricultural communities of Northern New Mexico. In the last few years, I have invited many

(Continued on page 35)



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(Continued from page 34)

people and animals to Llama Deara Ranch where I live with the llamas, and have learned some about how cospecies healing works between llamas and humans. The children and llamas especially have provided me with insight to our collaborative healing power; kids inherently understand when I answer the adult question of "what do you use the llamas for": Love. Of all the many services that llamas can provide to their human companions, the opening of human hearts is the primary focus of my teamwork with the llamas and the families who come to Llama Deara. This gives rise to another tenet of cospecies healing:

Animals help us expand our own understanding of intimacy and love.

This can be explained in large part by the llama's capacity to commit to, protect, and enjoy the other members of its herd or family. Llamas are instinctively protective of other animals, and also know their boundaries. Like humans, the llama personality varies from llama to llama. Llamas can become frustrated and upset with another llama while maintaining their interest in and care for their herd. The maintaining of two seemingly opposing emotions or feelings is just one essential component of healthy family relationships that llamas teach.

These strange and beautiful creatures can teach us a lot; mutual respect and tolerance stand out. They are non-aggressive and serene animals that have a soothing and peaceful affect on humans. They also have a natural knack for tickling the human funny bone, expressing their pleasure in many ways. Often in the course of a day, during their many happy hours, they will dance, which is an expression of pure joy and love of life that is capable of altering the consciousness of other creatures, including humans.

Llamas respect the boundaries of all creatures, and they don't send mixed messages: If you do something they don't like, they tell you; if you continue to violate their wishes, they simply walk away. Compare this to some humans' fear of confronting and the circuitous route we often take to voice our needs if we are graced with recognizing them. Humans may choose to run away from emotional discomfort (possible rejection, anger, silence) rather than face the issue and then walk away, as appropriate. Llamas tend to assess a situation thoroughly, remain alert and curious about circumstances, and act according to their combined instinct, intuition, and sense of timing. One more tenet of cospecies healing surfaces:

Llama instinct, intuition, and sense of timing are assets to the healing process.

When I first brought the llamas to the ranch, they were wild, and still are to some extent, given that there is little that I force them to do. I thought to myself, how will they learn to cooperate with visitors, so little do they like to be touched? Even some of the people closest to me commented that enlisting them in my work with children and families would be an uphill struggle.

I continued to spend time with them, and we became closer and closer, as llama *crias*, or babies, were born. Lorenzo, the first llama to be born at Llama Deara, is so affectionate with me that sometimes I wonder whether he knows I'm a human, not a llama. The llamas, being highly intelligent, have learned and accepted many of my routines and ways, and often know what I am saying, whether in words or emotions. The llamas have used their instinct, intuition, and sense of timing to develop the type of relationship with me that seemed appropriate to the circumstances of the ranch and the challenges and experiences we have faced together.

These same gifts I have seen played out in the llamas' process with families and children. The llamas know when to intervene and connect, and how much to communicate. When people come to stay at the ranch, I encourage them to spend as much time with the llamas as they want so that the possible opportunities to connect are expanded.

Grief Processing

During the processing of grief, for example, the llamas have been sensitive and attentive witnesses. In the case of one adult child and mother who came to stay at the ranch, I watched how the daughter and the mother drew closer over the few days they spent here and how their relationship with the llamas reflected a similar slow and deliberate *rapprochement*, cemented over casual meetings in the apple grove, one of the llamas' favorite loafing grounds. The two women were grieving the loss of their father and husband who had died earlier in the year; besides the gap in their lives that his death had created, the event had also been impetus for a redefining of their relationship with each other. The evolution of such a change if it is made in part in the company of other creatures can parallel the growth of the relationship the people establish with the llamas, in this example.

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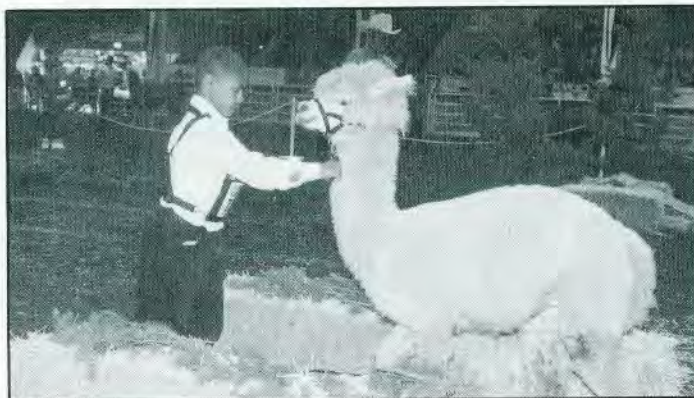
19 YEARS OF LLAMAS AT THE NWSS. COULD IT BE?

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

Who would have thought 19 years ago on a cold January day down in the NWSS livestock yards that today we would be in the Stadium Arena showing our llamas and their skills in front of thousands of people. Jerry McRoberts and Howard Kerstetter stood out there with llamas on those cold days 19 years ago talking to people. This year Jerry and his wife Barb returned to be a part of our show and celebrated making a new history, indoors, where it was warm and friendly.

The show began with the presentation of the judges, Dr. Bruce Connally and Darlene Vaughan being escorted into the arena in a buckboard drawn by a pair of llamas owned by Jerry Dunn and driven by Lloyd Wamsley.

Over 40 youth exhibitors participated in performance and showmanship. The youth were great sports as they dressed up with their llamas through the public relations courses. They put on their smiles and cheered for one other as they negotiated the courses. Open classes held over 30 in each class. Over 170 animals participated in the halter classes during the two-day event.



The RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth was located in the llama barn and had many visitors who stopped in to ask questions and frequently purchased llama fiber goods. Championship trophies were hand woven llama scarves created by Judith Wolff-Mills and Karen Kinyon who are associated with the Fiber Co-op.



Evening With A Llama, coordinated by Rhonda Livengood, followed the classes on Saturday. The public was invited into the arena for a hands-on experience with llamas and alpacas. Children received a llama coloring book and a Polaroid photo taken of them with a llama. Mini-clinics at one end of the arena demonstrated felting by Marlice Van Zandt, spinning and weaving with Mary Mauz, Sue Grimm and Judy Wolff-Mills, llama packing with Patti Morgan, and grooming by Gayle Woodsum and Julie Heggie.

Over 40 RMLA volunteers gave of their time along with the active NWSS volunteer crew. The NWSS crew helped with unloading and loading tack and animals as well as assisting with the show operation.

We are already making plans for next year's event. If you have ideas you would like to implement or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Jerry Dunn at 303-277-1129 or email at beartrak@gte.net

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Larry Lewellyn,
FootHills Llamas, Sedalia, CO

These bread sticks go with everything you cook. My retired friend, who is a welder, made me some stainless steel skewers with wooden handles about sixteen inches long. Well, I purchase bread sticks in the dairy section of the local grocery store and carry

them on pack trips. Yes, you can buy already made bread sticks.

We break open the packages and spray Pam on the skewers. Then we slide one end of the bread stick dough down and start wrapping it around the skewer and then slide the top over the end. Next, we place it over the fire turning it back and forth till done. Patience is very important here. Hmmm.....Hot Bread. Special treat is to have a container with cinnamon and sugar and sprinkle it on the bread stick before you start roasting it. This is a nice treat.

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Behavioral Issues

When llamas are intermingling with little people, the dynamics continue to be touching. Llama-assisted healing can be particularly helpful for children (or adults) who act out or have behavioral issues, and for families addressing issues of boundaries and commitment. As mentioned earlier, a llama has learned how to walk away when appropriate and teaches humans how to do so without losing face. Llamas teach how to be both committed to a community, family, or herd, and also express disagreement. Children especially seem to grasp that animals help us to connect with our deepest selves.

One particularly touching interaction occurred late one Friday evening when two mothers and their young 8- and 10-year-old daughters, both managing significant psychological and emotional challenges, came to Llama Deara. Before the meeting, a colleague and I had talked with the parents about how llamas help kids learn to establish appropriate boundaries through mutual respect and discernment, a skill that many children lack. I had told the kids a bit about corral etiquette and llama ways and asked them to stay close to me in the beginning until they learned what are appropriate limits between them and the llamas. I gave them a few clues about the personalities of the llamas, including the haughty llama, appropriately named Princess, who is the largest in my llama family.

One girl decided not to come into the corral with the llamas, preferring to watch behind the fence as the twilight threw its shadows on our little gathering. As the llamas drew up to the one child and mom who had come into their domain with me, the other child changed her mind and came in when again invited. Princess is the one who keeps her distance the longest from humans, taking her time to ascertain that getting closer is appropriate. Not this evening. Within seconds, Princess had come up to this little girl and was taking grain from her hand. The little girl had already been educated about this llama's reticence with new folk and quickly grokked that Princess was taking a special interest in her and trusted her. In that moment, a beautiful child dealing with an awkward emotional challenge experienced brightly what is possible beyond her illness. Intuitively, Princess had sensed that she must connect with this child. One glimpse of the beaming face of this child who had aged beyond her years communicated that internal changes in her emotional makeup had been set in motion.

Self-Esteem Building

I have brought many parents with children of varying ages to Llama Deara. The llamas just seem to know what is needed. Often it is the ubiquitous need to build self-esteem. As most of us have likely experienced, self-esteem is generally built in small steps. Llamas seem to know this and adapt their interactions with the children to build the sense of connection and worthiness gradually. With each case, I have seen a gradual relaxing of guard in both species and the warmth of friendship built over time. This has been true of both human boys and girls.

Although much smaller than horses, llamas are large animals, particularly to a small child beholding them. One slight French boy who spent time with the llamas over many months was shy and apprehensive of their size for almost a year. I'll forever remember the moment just before his family relocated to California when he excitedly came running up to my office casita to ask the name of the first-born on this ranch. "Lorenzo!" I responded. "He just kissed me," the elated boy exclaimed.

So it has gone with most of the children who have come to the ranch. Over time, they become good friends with the llamas and much more aware of their own self-worth as they confidently enter the corral or pasture to intermingle with their camelid friends.

Closing Thoughts

At this juncture on the planet, we are addressing the results of a human psychology of the past decades, a psychology that distanced and separated us from our environment. Systems theory is one area where the influence of the environment has prevailed and plays a critical role in the path we take to achieve balance. As humans, we sometimes forget that all species contribute to that balance, and that the animal next door is a potential teacher and collaborator. Animals so often help us to connect with our deepest selves, and in this sense self-care at Llama Deara is achieved through interspecies collaboration. Holistic healing involves our relationships with all creatures, not just our individual selves, and just as Noah invited species two by two into the ark, so will we find ourselves in interspecific living and work as we make our way back to center. Given the state of our political world and our environment, we can hardly afford to limit the balancing act to strictly human devices and must consult with our fellow creatures for insight,

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encouragement, and healing.

As a marriage and family therapist, I have seen people in the more traditional settings of clinics, hospitals, and schools, as necessary. Over time, we have affected change in the lives of children and their families in these environments. The children and parents who have come to Llama Deara Ranch I have seen shift palpably in one or two visits. More wants to be written about this and research studies funded so that the prevailing powers of our society, university programs, and the psychological, educational, and mental health communities acknowledge these contributions, and more animal and plant creatures can be integrated into the education and healing of all life.

We allow our ignorance to prevail upon us and make us think we can survive alone, alone in patches, alone in groups, alone in races, even alone in genders.

-Maya Angelou, poet (1928-)

Let not our arrogance assume we can survive alone as a single species. That we thrive instead through interspecies collaboration. ☀

Lessons From Kids and Llamas

Gayle M. Woodsum

Double J Llamas, Laramie, WY

Four-year-old Hanna's eyes lit up as the blue ribbon was placed in her one free hand, the other busy clutching the lead rope of her llama, The Wool Wizard.

"I got a blue ribbon!" she shouted across the ring to anyone and everyone who might be listening. "I'm a winner!"

Applause and the silly grins engendered by the mere presence of little girls with woolly llamas, reacted to her delight. Then, as her ring mate in the sub-junior showmanship class was handed the red ribbon, Hanna squealed once again, even louder. "And Masha got a red ribbon! We're both winners!"

Out of the mouths of babes. The next day, in sub-junior obstacle when Masha received the blue ribbon and Hanna the white, Hanna's joy for herself and her new friend was equally unfettered and genuine. Oh, to freeze that expansiveness, that utter understanding of what makes life good; to inject our adult selves with

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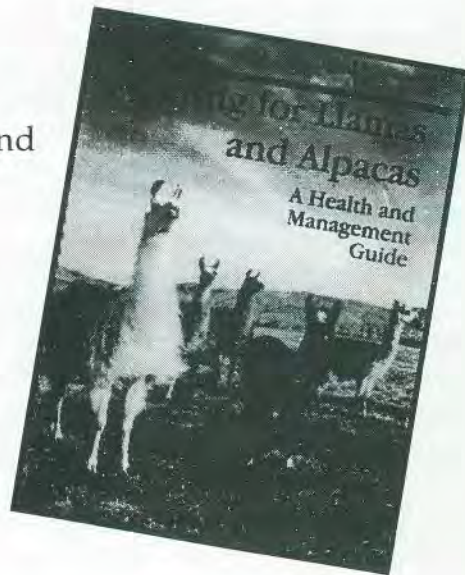
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therapeutic doses of it on a regular basis.

As anyone with children in their lives already knows, it is the young among us who have the greatest chance of keeping us honest and challenging us to be better people than we sometimes want to be. Put those children together with the regal, independent and sometimes elusive personality of the llama, and a recipe for high tone spiritual guidance is complete.

This past year, my partner and I started a local 4-H llama project. Both of us middle aged and no longer living with children, the weekly presence of a half dozen ten to 13-year-olds, plus one honorary five-year-old, was initially daunting. If it hadn't been for the rotating presence of parents comfortable with the trenches of child rearing, our early attacks of nerves might have been overwhelming.

It wasn't long before the circular magic of bridging gaps between generations and species worked wonders on all of us. We taught the children to be kind, gentle and confident. They taught us to be flexible, fun loving and focused. The llamas taught us all to be humble, patient and full of awe for the ways in which communication and love can cross the most formidable of barriers.

The practice of embracing diversity and respecting differences is far muckier in the real world than even the deepest philosophical debate would have us believe. Gather together a jumble of young people whose only common link is a fascination for llamas, and the most hardened of social scientists could learn a thing or two. Through four months of working, learning and playing together, our little group of young people crossed the lines of gender, age and background to help each other out, raise tolerant eyebrows at each other's personality quirks, and exchange life hints they were gathering from their llamas.

They learned to keep the kicking llamas away from the shy ones, the slow llamas behind the fast ones, the timid llamas between two confident ones, the confused llamas close to the brilliant ones. With an occasional nudge from adult leadership about paying attention to what the animals were really trying to say, their youthful handlers took the messages to heart. The greatest challenge to all the kids was the need to drop the self-conscious self-doubts already beginning to plague their lives.

Yes, there are mundane and annoying hassles and foolish mistakes associated with managing a restless

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Pisco and Me

Carol Lontine

D & C Llamas, Denver, CO

Pisco was born July 23, 1996 in Pine, Colorado a month after I purchased his mother, Angie.

Since he was my firstborn cria (baby), I thought he needed a Peruvian name, hence Pisco, which is a Peruvian brandy and the national drink of Peru – makes wonderful Pisco Sours!

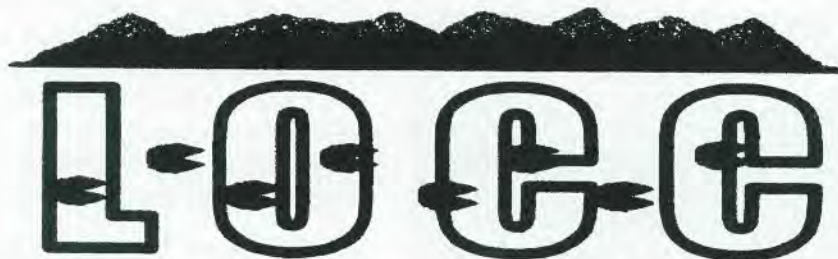
When he was almost a month old, Angie and Pisco moved to my brother-in-law's farm in Ft. Collins. Since I was new at this llama business, I wanted to wait until he had a chance to bond with his mother and the other llamas before bringing him to a new environment. I showed him at National Western Stock Show when he was 7 months old, and he won a 4th place ribbon. I was so happy I cried tears of joy – my very first endeavor! We showed several more times over the next three years and won ribbons, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. After one of the showins in Estes Park when Pisco was about 2, my son thought it would be a good idea if Pisco didn't go back to Ft. Collins. Being at the age where the hormones were beginning to come to life in this intact male, Pisco was beginning to become aggressive towards the geldings and assert his authority. Since I was working at Rocky Mountain Llamas in Boulder, I took Pisco with me and was able to spend lots of time with him during my off hours. In good weather, I would take him to the many open spaces in and around Boulder, where I taught him to lead and to interact with the people who always wanted to talk and touch the llama.

I had a van, and whenever I had my days off, I would bring Pisco home with me to

Lakewood. The woman I worked for in Boulder did some PR work with her llamas in nursing homes. Whenever someone in Denver wanted a llama to visit, I would take the appointment for her, and the first time or two I took one of her llamas.



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One day I decided to take Pisco. He was amazing for his first time in a big facility with lots of people. (He already had been in a house.) One time, when my mother was a transitional patient at the Alpine Living Center in Thornton, I stopped in one Saturday evening to visit her. At the nurse's station I obtained permission to bring Pisco in to visit as well. When we walked into Mother's room, she exclaimed, "You can't have him in here!" I assured her it was ok as Pisco went over and sniffed her bed. Soon word got around that there was a llama in the building and folks were



coming to their doors in their nightclothes to see what was going on. By now it was about 9:00 p.m. and these folks had probably been in bed for a couple of hours. This visit began our calling to visit senior citizens in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and independent living homes.

We have about a dozen facilities that we visit regularly. It is heartwarming to see the smiles and sometimes tears of joy when this big woolly animal ambles into a person's room. Many folks thank us for coming by and look forward to the next visit. Those residents who are confined to bed and wheel chairs enjoy giving Pisco a carrot and he certainly enjoys that, too! Those who can walk enjoy giving Pisco a hug. I instruct them to go directly in front of him with arms outstretched and say, "Pisco, give me a hug!" Then they put their arms around his neck and he will put his head on their shoulder if they are tall enough.

My father passed away in October of 2001. The day before his passing we signed him up for hospice care. After all the paperwork was completed, I decided to go home and get Pisco to come see Dad. For several days I had been going into my dad's room, tap him on

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group of kids and llamas. Such as the days when the animals have decided they don't want to be caught and haltered. Or when a young llama is pushed too

Yes, there are mundane and annoying hassles and foolish mistakes associated with managing a restless group of kids and llamas. Such as the days when the animals have decided they don't want to be caught and haltered. Or when a young llama is pushed too far too fast with light pack training, escapes his handler and flies around the ring bucking and screaming at the new, offending burden while half the kids drop their lead ropes in terror. Like the time when not one of the llamas wanted to negotiate the water obstacle and cries of "stupid, stubborn llama" went up like a pack of hot air balloons.

Nevertheless, there is nothing quite like a long day hike in the mountains with llamas and youngsters happily negotiating streams, rocky hillsides and low lying branches, then settling down in a cool glade for a snack of apple juice and everyone's first taste of gorp. Or that first show when, despite the agitation of competing against one another, the group got each other to the ring on time, congratulated and commiserated sincerely, and burst with pride at attracting the largest audience the county fair had seen in ages.

Best of all are the moments when llamas and young people, unaware of watching eyes, connect with each other in the inexplicable way reserved for non-humans and children. They don't need words or guidance or polished techniques to forge a friendship and lessons to last a lifetime. And when adults are fortunate enough to witness those moments, we too are reminded of the true gifts llamas are willing to bestow upon us all.

Gayle Woodsum is a writer, llama lover and ALSA judge in Laramie, Wyoming



(Continued from page 42)

the shoulder and let him know I was there. He acknowledged me but would go right back to sleep. When I brought Pisco into the room and tapped Dad on the shoulder, he opened his eyes, saw Pisco, and reached for the lead rope. He held on to that rope for five minutes, drawing Pisco's head down to his face. He truly loved my llama and the hospice person who was watching this was totally amazed at what this animal did for Dad. Unfortunately, my father passed away the next morning.

In addition to visiting nursing homes, we have participated in school programs – mostly in 5th and 6th grade classes when the students have been studying South America. Most of the students have never been up close and personal with a llama. Since

South America is home to the four classes of camelids – llama, alpaca, guanaco and vicuna – I take samples of Pisco's wool, and give a brief background of llamas and how they are used in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and Chile. Incas used llamas as beasts of burden to carry



their wares to market. Alpacas have finer wool than llamas, and vicunas have the finest wool of all. During the Inca reign, only royalty was allowed to wear clothing made of vicuna wool. Anyone else caught wearing vicuna wool was beheaded!

Rebecca Jones wrote about Pisco and me for the Rocky Mountain News Spotlight section, November 11, 2002. The article documented our visit to the Gardens of Columbine home in Littleton. Dee Fernandez is the Activity Director at the home and is as excited as the residents about our visits. We visit about 12 different homes on a monthly basis, along with a couple of schools. This has been an exciting 2 ½ years for us! ❁

Have a great summer!

- Take a hike. (with your llamas)
- Go on a picnic. (with your llamas)
- Go to the beach! (take your llamas wading)
- Go to the ball game! (don't take your llamas)

*Be sure to wear
sunscreen!*

Take pictures. Write
an article. Tell us
what's going on!

RMLA Foundation Board Meets to Discuss Future Direction

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



R.M.L.A. Foundation Board

Seated: Jerry Thorson-Beaudreaux, Mary Beth Hartsough
 Standing: Lougene Baird, Jerry Dunn

The Foundation came to life in 1989 as a Colorado Corporation under the inspiration and guiding hand of Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association (Association) member, Scott Wells (now deceased). From the Articles of Incorporation, "The purpose for which the corporation is organized and formed is to raise and collect funds, and to distribute those funds for educational projects, such as scholarships, grants and educational research." Accordingly, during the initial years Association members raised funds primarily through live auction at the Association's Annual Conferences. By 1997, the Foundation reached its high point, with a balance of \$52,981.

At year end 2002, the Foundation funds were \$38,908. Funding of various Association youth programs, declining investment earnings, and lack of fundraisers in recent years has resulted in the funds being on a gradual decline since 1997.

During its fourteen years of existence, the Foundation has received \$51,501 in contributions and \$26,306 in interest earnings. The Foundation has granted Association Youth scholarships of \$24,950, and grants/stipends for Association Youth to attend competitive shows and exhibitions of \$11,297. Net outlays for loans and grants were \$1,636 and

administrative expenses totaled \$1,016.

The Foundation, a free standing Colorado Corporation, is at an important crossroads now, and your input as Association members is requested.

What Do You Think?

In order to continue funding the programs of scholarships and grants/stipends for Association youth, the Foundation will have to hold regular fundraisers. Are you supportive of the idea of regular fundraisers? Will you help by donating funds or your time? When should fundraisers be held? What type of fundraisers would be effective and efficient?

Without regular fundraisers, the Foundation funds will continue to decline, probably at an accelerating pace. One option is thus to let the Foundation support the present programs until the funds are depleted. The Foundation would have about a six-year remaining life under this option. That life could be extended somewhat by reducing the present funding for scholarships and grants/stipends.

- Are you in favor of the option of "letting the Foundation go out of business gradually?"
- Do you have any other ideas for continuation of the Foundation programs?
- Any ideas for maintaining the sound financial status of the Foundation?

One or two positions of Trustees are very soon to be open.

- Would you be interested in serving on the Foundation Board?
- Do you know of anyone else who might be interested?

Current Foundation Trustees are Jerry Dunn, Mary Beth Hartsough, Joy Hernbrode, Lougene Baird and Jerry Thorson-Beaudreaux (until 2/2003). Please contact any of these Trustees with your ideas for the continued success of the Foundation.

These Association youth have been recipients of RMLA Foundation funds.

Scholarships awarded to fourteen Association youth from 1989 through 2002: Adrienne Bergenfield, Tiffany Coffman, Alexa Hackbarth, Kimberly Hartsough, Heather Hartsough, Joy Hernbrode, Gretchen Kauffman, Heidi Kauffman, Levi Kauffman, Brianna Livengood, Chandra Schwartz, Alissa

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(Continued from page 44)

Veuthey, Lloyd Wamsley, and Nicholas White.

Grants and stipends have been awarded to these 31 Association youth from 1998 through 2002: Deidre Baird, Molly Bearden, Shylan Bearden, Adrienne Bergenfeld, Ben Chambers, Halley Coffman, Tiffany Coffman, Mick DeCicco, Joy Hernbrode, Gretchen Kauffman, Levi Kauffman, Brianna Livengood, Sarah Lobser, Bailey McHenry, Jordan McHenry, James Moore, Virginia Premo, Aaron Price, Tiffany Price, Ben Riggs, Adryan Ritter, Chandra Schwartz, Tara Schwartz, Heather Trujillo, Jackie Vance, Caleb VanHeusen, Emily Varela, Alissa Veuthey, Gabi von Roedern, Lloyd Wamsley and Matt Wamsley.

Two recipients recently sent in notes telling the role the Foundation played in their college experience.

From Heidi Kauffman, Castle Rock Colorado

During my senior year of high school, I dutifully applied for many scholarships. Many hours were spent filling out applications and writing essays. Although my GPA was a 3.7 and I had many other qualifications, many students were competing for the same scholarships and I never heard back from many selection committees. If I hadn't won the RMLA youth

scholarship, I would have struggled to pay for my textbooks, an expense that can easily reach \$500 or more. I was especially grateful because this was an expense I was expected to pay for on my own.

In return for RMLA's help, I volunteered at many RMLA shows. Usually I handed out ribbons or helped with other odds and ends. I didn't mind doing this because I had grown up showing llamas and enjoyed the atmosphere.

I am grateful to RMLA and would like to urge the organization to continue supporting students with college textbook scholarships. It was a great help to my family and me and is one of the reasons we continue to support RMLA to this day.

From Joy Hernbrod,

The RMLA Foundation is an important part of my life in many ways. Particularly important was the scholarship I received during my four years of undergraduate education. The money was not a huge amount, it mainly covered the books I needed for my classes, but it was money I didn't have to somehow get from other sources. More than financial support, the RMLA Foundation scholarship made me feel that there was a group of people other than my parents who were interested in me and my education. *

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Supplement # 2

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25 lbs, \$30 50 lbs, \$57

Supplement # 3

Diet consists of: Spring or irrigated pastures; feeding alfalfa or grass hay low in phosphorus. Contains additional phosphorus and recommended basic level of Vitamin E.

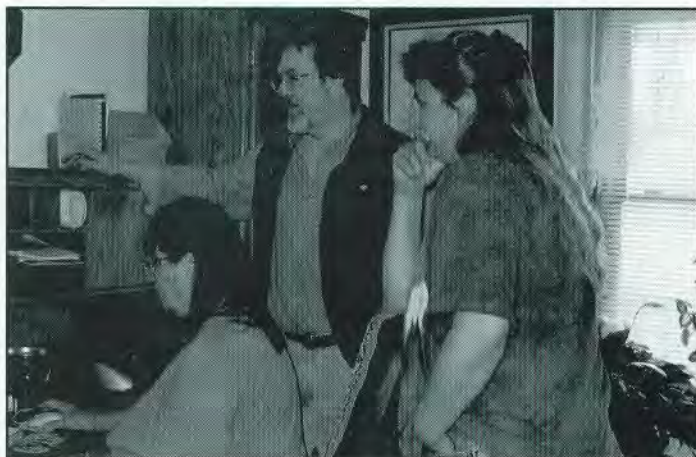
25 lbs, \$25 50 lbs, \$47

Prices do not include shipping

The RMLA Bookstore - Making a Smooth Transition

*Keith & Katy Wegner,
Bookstore Co-Managers Emeriti
K2Llamas, Golden, CO*

As they say in the printing biz, it was a good run! After integrating the RMLA Bookstore operations into our everyday lives for the last five years, we are handing over the reigns. Jan, Bill



and Sherry Adamcyk became the new bookstore managers on April 1 (no, this isn't a joke!) after a month-long transition process.

In the early stages of managing the bookstore, we had to learn:

1. A whole new language (publishing, printing, and book distribution lingo),
2. How to use the business accounting software (QuickBooks™),
3. How to merge our processing and organizational styles (a challenging exercise for a marriage! Ask us about our "tips and tricks for working together as a couple."),
4. Merchant selling (credit card sales, cash sales, collecting and paying sales taxes),
5. Negotiating favorable contract terms with distributors,
6. Bulk shipping processes, and
7. Inventory management.

Needless to say, it was an adventure, but worth the effort. Bookselling may not be in our future, but we sure know the business after our experience managing the RMLA Bookstore operation.

Five Years In Review

In the last five years we accomplished the following:

Total Revenue processed **\$137,636**

Publications and Products Sold

- *Caring for Llamas & Alpacas* (CFLA)
1,114 orders for 7,759 books
- *Youth Llama Project Manuals* (YM)
867 orders for 1,509 books
- Metal liability signs – 30 orders for 47 signs
- Magnetic liability signs – 8 orders for 12 signs

We shipped orders to 11 different countries on five continents. These books are truly an international commodity.

Whew! Got a lot done in five years! The great products sold by the bookstore, *Caring For Llamas & Alpacas – A Health & Management Guide*, *Youth Llama Project Manual*, and the liability signs, made the job easier. Not once in five years did any customer return a product because they were dissatisfied with the content. It would be hard to find another business where the product satisfaction level is that high. From that perspective, operating the bookstore made it hard to give up. We will also miss the conversations with new owners pleading to rush the CFL&A book out to them because they just got their animals and want to know if it's normal when they.....[you fill in the blank].

Why Give All This Up?

In 1998, Keith had started a new environmental consulting business and Katy had left the social science/public policy research field to do technical writing in the high tech industry. Between Katy being in the ups and downs of the high tech sector (that meant 3 layoffs in 4 years) and Keith's emerging consulting business (don't ask what that meant!), both of us had time to easily integrate the bookstore operation into our work week. Now, in 2003, both of us are over-employed (Keith full-time at Rocky Flats while still consulting on other contracts and Katy in a time-intensive senior technical writer position). Something had to give in our schedules. Because we were at the end of a CFLA printing, it seemed like a good time to transition the operations to new managers.

(Note: Katy remembers talking to Bob Riley – then President of RMLA – when we signed on. He asked us for a 5-year commitment. We were commitment-shy,

(Continued on page 47)

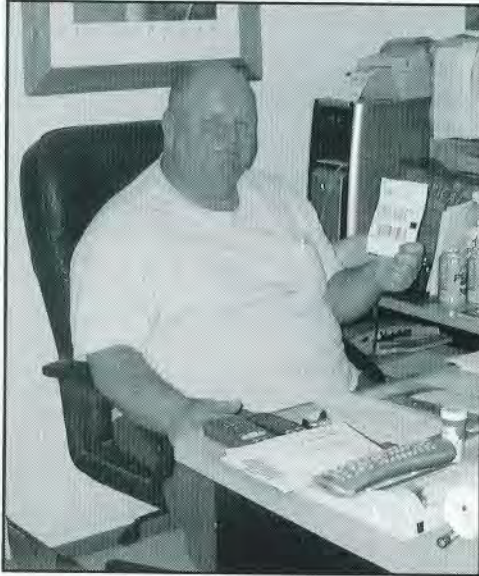
(Continued from page 46)

so we said we'd do it for 2 years. Well, Bob, we did it after all!

The New Kids on the Farm

After cleaning, filing, and tying up loose ends, we delivered boxes of files and equipment to Kiowa Creek Llamas on Sunday, March 30. The Adamcyks' were ready for us,

and got up and running right away. Keith, Jan, and Sherry processed some end-of-month and end-of-quarter paperwork. Bill and Katy reviewed the shipping department (Yes! They have a shipping department all set up – and it's not in their basement!.) We feel like we've left the bookstore in good hands and we wish Jan, Bill, and Sherry well in



their new roles as RMLA Bookstore managers and elves.

Finally, we want to thank the following folks for our enjoyable years with the bookstore:

- Jerry "Nice Work if You Can Get it" Dunn for originally getting us involved in the bookstore operations,
- Lougene "Mission Commander" Baird for her supportive leadership and for putting up with our

elfin ways in the Elfworks (as we called it), and

- Barb and Bob "Faster Than Speeding Bullets" Hance for their quick responses to whatever needed doing with the RMLA website and membership interactions with the bookstore.

We're off to see the wizard. Bye! ✨

Colorado Llama Liability Signs

Remember to post your sign on your pasture fence, gate, barn area, or at the trail head. Purchase your metal 12" x 18" sign for \$35.00 plus \$1.02 (\$36.02) Colorado state tax, or 12" x 18" magnetic sign for \$45.00 plus \$1.31 Colorado state tax (\$46.31 total). Signs may be purchased online at www.rmla.com or the RMLA Bookstore. To order from the bookstore, call Jan Adamcyk, 39420 Olson Court, Kiowa, CO 80117-9604.



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How about trying a new kind of pet! This pet will be a buddy to you and your children. Yet when you are busy, it takes less than 5 minutes a day to care for it. This pet has an expressive body language, dancing happily when fed. It also vocalizes quietly to let you know how it feels but does not make noise that would bother you or your neighbors! This pet has a charming personality and identifies closely with your moods. It learns as many word commands as you can think of to teach it.

You can travel many places with this pet. It is curious and likes to go places and do new things. One or two of these pets can ride in any van and some SUVs.

This pet loves to go for walks with you and will gladly carry all your gear too! It can even pull you in a cart if you so choose. If you are handy you can get enough fur from your pet to have a sweater, luxurious and warm, every year.

Have you ever had a pet that virtually came housebroken? A pet that doesn't hog most of the bed at night? A pet that does not need to be trained to stay off the furniture or not jump on the counters. This pet won't steal food off the counter either!

This pet costs less to feed than a big dog. An additional plus is that it is a vegetarian which eats low on the food chain. This pet is incredibly healthy so vet bills are low to nonexistent. Your new pet will live long enough to grow up with your children. How about a pet that smells good without ever having had a bath. It does like to roll in clean dust but all you need to do is blow the dust out of its fur. This pet won't shed fur all over you or your house. It only sheds once a year and the fur will blow out too, just like the dust. It may not even shed at all.

This pet has characteristics of several common animals, dogs, cats, horses, but with none of the disadvantages. For a new and distinctive pet try a couple of LLAMAS! *

www.rmla.com

Visit today!

(Continued from page 50)

Circuiteer Blower + 3 gal. of Miracle Groom - \$250. Blower with double switch used only 2 show seasons on 2 llamas. Buyer pays actual shipping or I can deliver to Denver area. Call 303-739-2910 or LBRLlamas@aol.com.

Lack of pasture and onset arthritis forces llama reduction sale. All registered or can be. Herd sire age 5, 2-year old intact male, yearling male, 3-year old bred female out of HLR Saros and HLR Suzi's Finale, her yearling female, 5-year old bred female, a yearling female. All healthy, good fiber. Price negotiable. 970-921-6062 or kuka@tds.net. KUKA Llamas, 1800 Black Canyon Rd. Crawford, CO 81415-9552.

Can e-mail photos. Also, brand new, never used Lister Showman cordless clipper set. *

(Continued from page 23)

So, that's the story of how Sonata left Wyoming and came to live on the Colorado prairie. We are awaiting her first cria, due April 21st. Very shortly we'll have an answer to "How is that llama of yours?"

And, again, thanks to Julie Heggie and Gayle Woodsum for your generous gift of Sonata, and to the RMLA fundraiser raffle that made it all possible. *



Pasture Pointers

Jerry Dunn, RMLA Vice President
Bear Track Farm, Golden, CO

HALF BARRELS: Have your llama feeders ever disappeared under a blanket of snow? Try using half



barrels that can sit on top of the snow and can be moved around to reduce heavy impact on pasture soil and added stress to your back. The barrels work well for young llamas or visiting llamas anytime. Build your own obstacle course by turning the barrels over and using them for low jumps or barriers for backing.

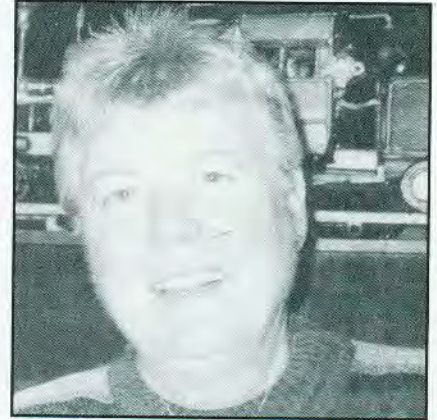


WIND BREAK: With the high cost of hay these days, one cannot afford to have it blowing away into the mud or snow. Wind breaks build with 10' stall panels, t-posts for stability, and grommated shade cloth attached with hay string or zip ties reduces the wind whipping across the feeding area. The animals appreciate the break from the wind and the added warmth. As summer approaches and winds subside, the shade cloth can be stretched over arched cattle panels or anchored to fences and t-posts to provide shade. ☼

Meet Marilyn Arnold!

Marilyn met her first llama in 1975 on a trip to Peru. It was not until 1993 that she purchased her first llamas, and she has enjoyed them ever since. She lives in Franktown with her husband, Hans, and her three llamas, and three kitties.

She not only volunteers for RMLA, but also for Clayton Elementary School in Englewood in a reading program with children. She also volunteers at Swedish Medical Center and serves on the Auxiliary board and Treasurer of the Auxiliary.



Lots of folks call Marilyn and ask, 'what is a camera ready ad'? Marilyn describes the camera ready ad as one that is in black and white, or gray tones...an ad that perfectly fits the required dimensions (in other words, it does not have to be reduced or enlarged), it has not soiled marks (food spots, etc.), and does not require any typesetting, photo or art changes. In other words, a camera ready ad is like you want to fix up yourself for a photo – perfect!

For a fee much smaller than the professional ad shop, if Marilyn has the time, she can make your ad camera ready. Call her for help! ☼



RMLA CLASSIFIEDS

Llamas for sale:

CL Lamore: Peruvian Pardo is her sire. Her claim to fame-she is the mother of multi-Grand Champion Unbelievable! She has med. silver gray fiber under her outer locks and she would be an asset to the ranch that would like to compete in the show ring. \$800 (6 yrs old)

DBR's Beau Brummel: Flashy, ½ Chilean stud that has done well in the showing. He has a white tux, boots, and white face with black rimmed eyes-catches double takes wherever he goes. Beautiful med/heavy gray fiber predominates. Beau is very versatile: excellent on the trail and has been used in 4-H also. \$800 (5 yrs old)

DBR's Cat Balou: Eye-catching brown female with white bandanna and boots. Easy to handle, straight confirmation, strong but feminine appearance. \$500 (1 ½ yrs old)

If you would like to visit these llamas or hear more about them, please call Dusty Britches Ranch at 303-660-1827.

Show-Quality Yearling Male – son of MGF Nottingham (<Richochet); sable brown, nice fiber, medium wool, nice disposition; \$650; yearling Nottingham son out of Zenita (<Oko Castizo), grey-brown, medium wool; \$450; both for \$1000. Approachable 4-yr old female (daughter of GLL Java), \$500. Call Mary Beth at 303-776-4933 or email Llamarage@msn.com.

Handspun Alpaca or Llama Yarn – I'll spin your fiber or mine. Small sample skeins for show display or customer souvenirs. Larger amounts for sweaters or a favorite vest. Animals, fiber, year – it's your next step. **Valley Winds** – Marta Moore. vwinds@hotmail.com. 719-742-6053 (02/04)

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(Continued on page 48)

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 accompanied with a hard copy of ad.
- 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.**

Deadlines: Ads must be received by
July 1, October 1
January 2, April 1

Ads must be camera ready!

Exact size – clean copy – Black & White or Greytones
Or above charges will apply

Advertising Rates

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

Classified Ad rates: Members \$5 for up to 50 words per ad
Non-Members \$10 for up to 50 words per ad
Additional words at \$0.15 for each word over 50 words

Business Card – 2" high X 3" wide
Quarter Page Vertical – 4.5" high X 3/5" wide
Quarter Page Horizontal – 2" high X 7.5" wide
Third Page Horizontal only – 3" high X 7.5" wide
Full Page – 9" high X 7.5" wide
Back Cover 7" X 7"

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2002, 3rd Place, ALSA Grand National, 2 Yr Old, LW Male
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NM State Fair, 1st Place, Yearling, LW Male
EPWM, 1st Place & Best of Show, Single coat fiber
Numerous other halter & performance awards



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D.O.B. 9/14/02

Standing within 9 minutes.
First steps within 12 minutes - never fell once.
Nursing within 30 minutes.
Harrassing others within 14 days.



Rambutan's Pikachu
D.O.B. 7/13/00

2003, Grand Champion, NWSS, LW Female
2002, ALSA Grand National, 4th Place, LW 2 Yr Old Female
Grand Champion, ALSA Rocky Mountain Regional, LW Female
Grand Champion, NWSS, LW Female
Grand Champion, LOCC Spring Show, LW Female,
2001, Top 10, ALSA Grand National, LW Female
Top 5, ALSA Rocky Mtn. Regional, LW Female



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