

# The Journal

*Educating, Entertaining and Connecting Llama Owners Since 1982*

*Autumn  
2004*

RMLA



Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association



# INDIAN PEAKS LLAMAS

Since 1980



JeTadore'  
by Taj Mahal TCL



Arequipa of Tunitas  
by Sr. Guillermo

owned by Jennifer Clark



Amapola  
by Taj Mahal of Tunitas



Serenity

IPL Arabesque along with  
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and Granddaughters  
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breeding program.

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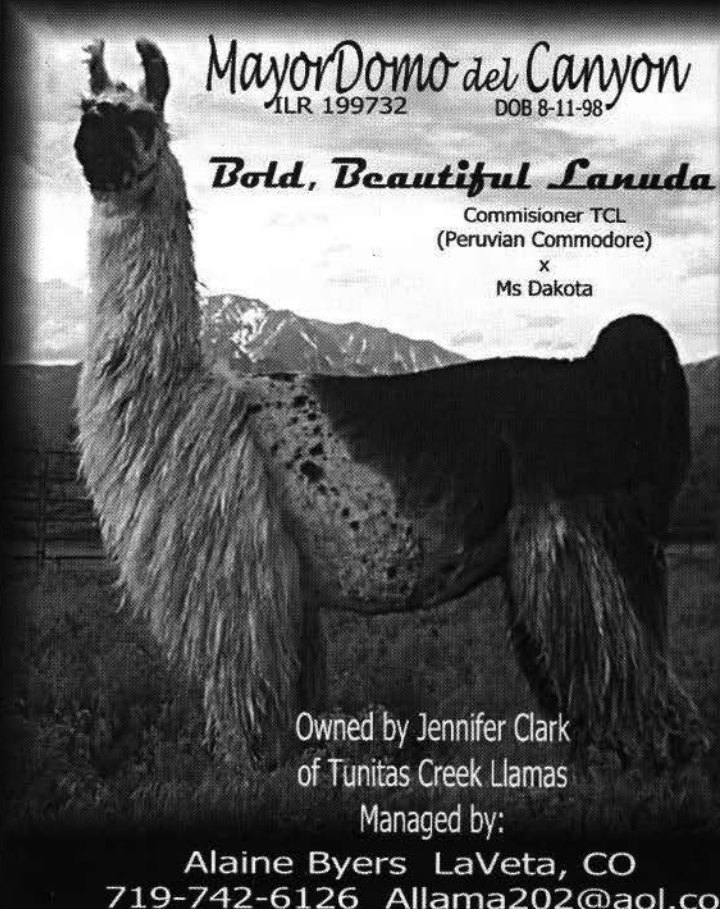
The PERFECT SURI-CROSS!

*Ahead of her time.*  
DOB 07/1988



Photo by J. Clark

*Indian Peaks Arabesque*  
King Solomon x IPL Sierra Madre  
Dam to Taj Mahal TCL



*Mayor Domo del Canyon*  
ILR 199732 DOB 8-11-98

*Bold, Beautiful Lanuda*

Commissioner TCL  
(Peruvian Commodore)  
x  
Ms Dakota

Owned by Jennifer Clark  
of Tunitas Creek Llamas  
Managed by:

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719-742-6126 Allama202@aol.com

"Domo" and "Bal" are Standing at Indian Peaks Ranch.  
For breeding information, offspring or bred females,  
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*GNLC BALLISTIC*  
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**THIRD GENERATION SURI**

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x  
GNLC Lupita (MCF EtoI)

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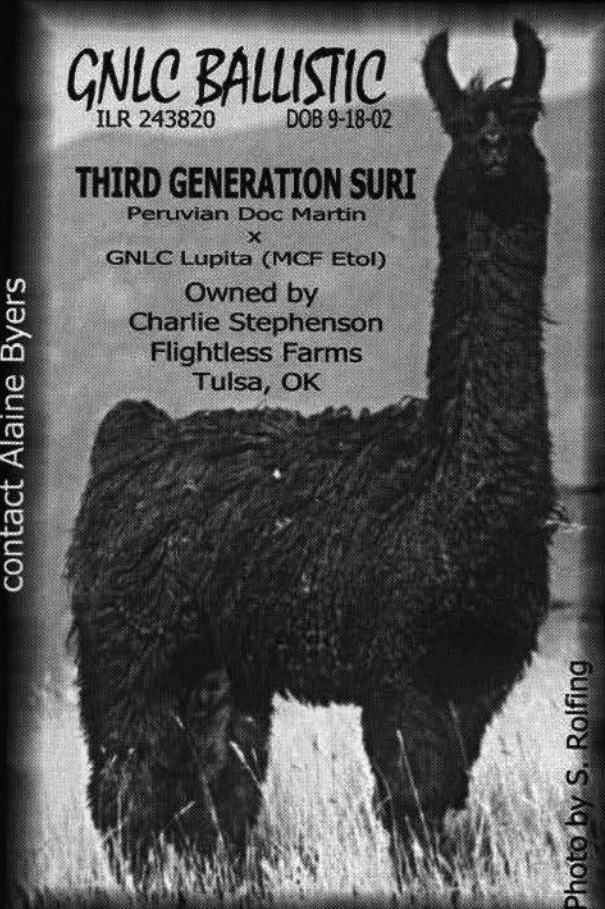
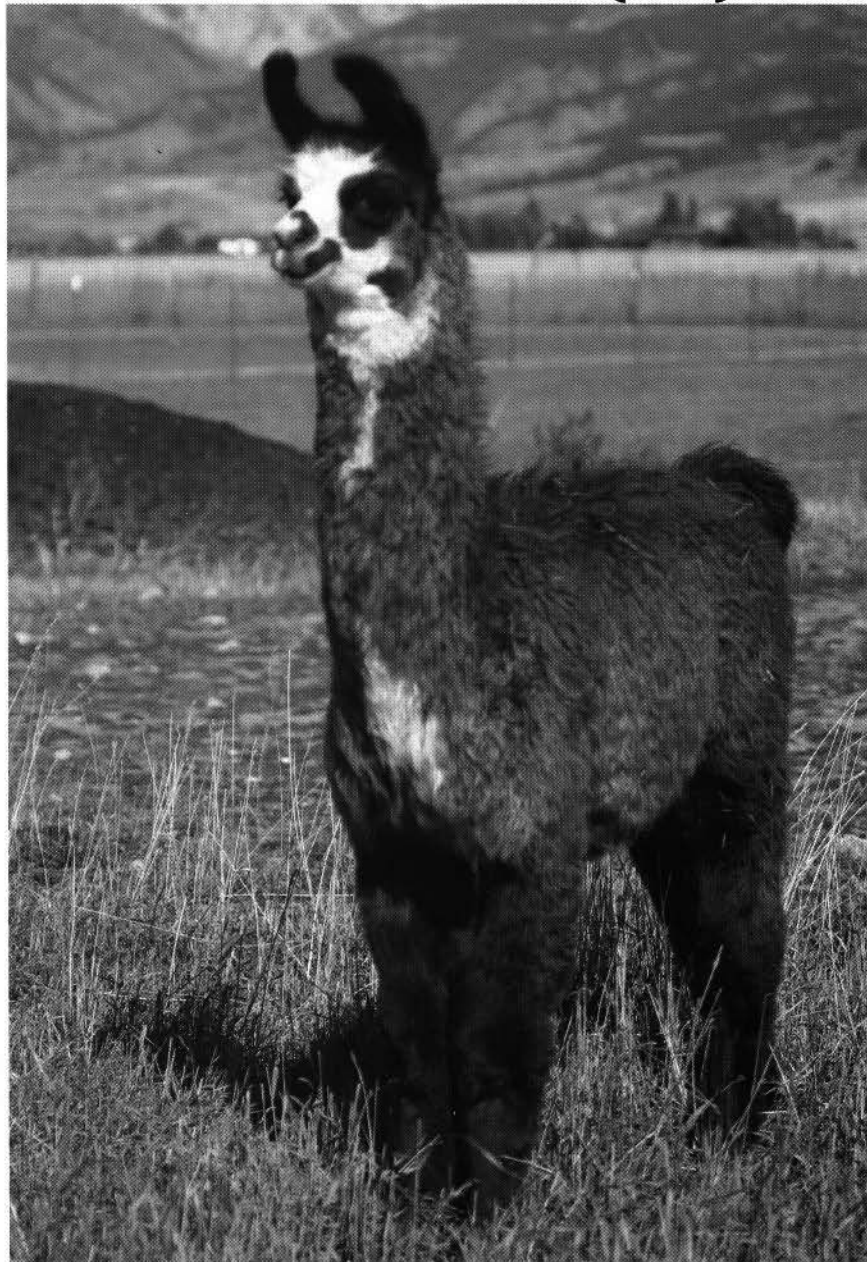


Photo by S. Rolfing

# LC LLAMAS

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# The Journal

## Special Features in this Issue

### Do You Believe in Magic? 7

Families across the country continue to discover and rediscover the special bonds, lessons and adventures that happen when children and llamas get together. In this issue of The Journal, three articles and a slew of photos work to make believers of all of us.

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Maureen Bergenfeld  
Tracy duCharme

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tales from the Hope Pass aid station

by Jim Osmun  
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four days, three llamas, two guys, one great time

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Helping us to celebrate youth and llamas, on our cover is Kayla Bish of Longmont, Colorado, winner of The Journal's Mystery! Mittens contest from our Summer, 2004 issue. See details on page 39. Photo by Judith Wolff-Mills.

# Autumn 2004

# President's Message

Here we are in the midst of another holiday season. Hard as it can be to keep the stress down and the enjoyment levels high, I suggest a little quiet time by the fire with a mug of something hot to drink and this issue of *The RMLA Journal*.

Even as a member of the board, I am continually amazed by the depth of commitment of RMLA members to their love of all things lama. The wide variety of activities and events is very impressive. And since each of us can't possibly participate in every lama opportunity out there, *The Journal* is a great way to do so vicariously.

In this issue alone, the range of interests and perspectives is a wide one. From the cover to the feature articles and photos of kids and llamas, we can appreciate the



energy and fun that rises whenever young people and these amazing animals get together. Next it's on to all the activities surrounding the RMLA Fairplay Llama Race/Walk, where literally hundreds of people gathered to pit themselves against the weather, the altitude, their own fitness levels, and race to the finish with over a hundred llamas as team members. That weekend was rounded out by the Fairplay Llama Camp and Performance show, also reported on in these pages.

As if that weren't enough, settle deeper in that easy chair and drink in Jim Osmun's report and fascinating history lesson of the Leadville Trail 100, "The Race Across the Sky," where llamas play a key role in making the Hope Pass Aid Station one of the most unusual, talked about aid stations in world class long distance running. Sandy Lockwood adds her piece on what it's like to help out there.

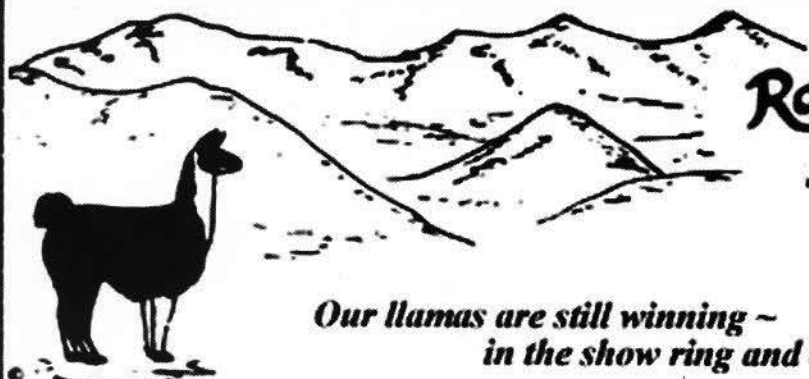
Still haven't struck a chord with your greatest interests? Then read on about the latest in fashion design using lama wool, take a back-to-nature hike with enthusiast Rick Ponczek, follow him and a slew of other hard working RMLA members as they help the Forest Service rebuild a backcountry trail bridge, or just enjoy a few photos of some of the elegant halter champions at this year's Laramie Llama Festival.

Following elections by the membership, the RMLA board has said goodbye to long term director and treasurer, Lougene Baird, who decided on a well deserved retirement, and welcomes Larry Lewellyn as a new member to this hard working team.

Before closing the magazine, dip a toe into the pool of preparations going on for our Summer, 2005 RMLA Conference, and drool over the llamas and things for sale from our advertisers.

If after marveling at the great diversity of talents within RMLA, your time is up, chores are calling or there's a pie to be baked, and you still hunger for more, just wait .... the winter *Journal* is just around the corner.

Here's hoping that 2004 ends on a great note for you and yours,  
Julie K. Heggie



# Rocky Mountain Llamas

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*What makes winners? Good breeding and good training are  
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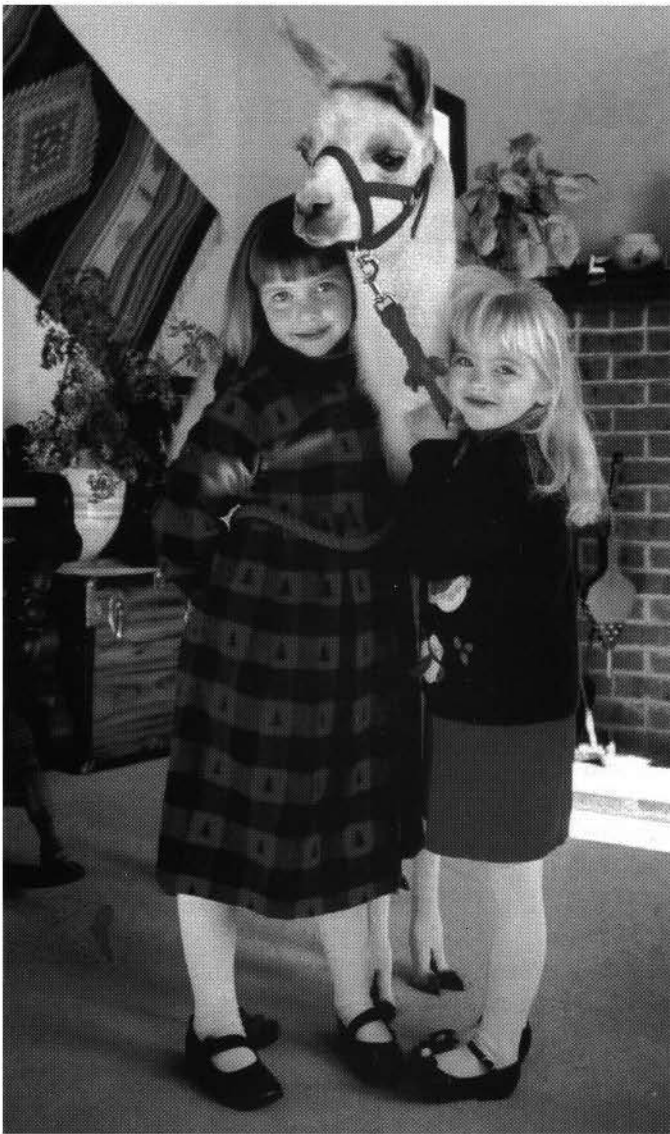
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# Do You Believe in Magic?

*...most people who have witnessed a child and a llama negotiate a complex obstacle course, make their way along a mountain trail or simply greet each other in the pasture do, and the series of three articles here are The Journal's way of celebrating youth and llamas....*



*Photos both pages: Meghan and Abbey Casey show just how much they enjoy their llamas under a variety of circumstances.*

## Kids and Llamas: The Perfect Partnership

by Tim and Paula Casey

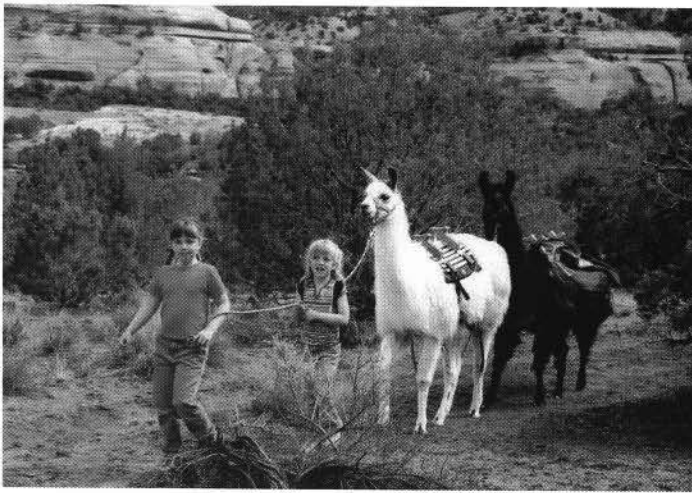
The other day, a friend asked, "You already have kids, why do you need llamas?" To which we replied, "It is precisely because we have kids that we need llamas!" This conversation provided the opportunity to reflect on a perfect partnership, children and llamas. You have read endless articles in this and other journals about the wonders of our camelid friends, why we have them in our lives, and how we can't live without them. This is likely to be another in that rich tradition, but it is still worth reflecting on the magical connection between our llamas and our children.

It is probably our children who are responsible for our joining the ranks of llama owners two years ago. The story began a few years earlier when we were looking for a much needed family getaway for a few days and hap-

pened upon a bed and breakfast in Cedaredge, Colorado who specialized in close encounters with llamas. We weren't expecting much more than a needed rest with some cute animals when we arrived with our three- and six-year-old daughters. The next morning we got the chance to walk a llama (this is a thrill for the first time that we too often forget when introducing our animals to others). It was time for Abbey (our three-year-old) to lead the llama and he followed her everywhere on what we could later describe as the perfect "J" lead. The interaction that followed with our children and these wonderful creatures was all we needed to begin planning for a space to raise our own llamas.

We have been raising llamas for two years now and our girls, Meghan (10) and Abbey (7) can't imagine life without them. Our children and their llamas are constant companions. We occasionally have to chase a llama out of the bathroom or the kitchen as they are endlessly being brought into the house for a tour or a TV show. They are never far from our children's thoughts either, and are





as the kids are about them. The llamas seem to love being around kids and we have never met an animal with more intuitive sense about how to interact with kids in a gentle way. The first time we brought Ellie (our first llama) to the bus stop, we thought we would never get Meghan to school. The children rushed to see the llama and the bus driver had to get out and pet her.

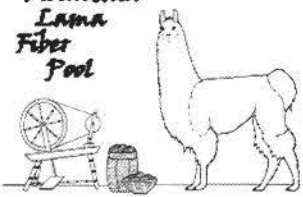


the topic of almost every writing assignment turned in. They have invaded our Christmas cards, conversations with our friends, and have been the basis for a Girl Scout hiking badge and a troop of six-year-old Brownies' first encounters with dying fiber and twirling drop spindles. In hind sight, the Brownie meeting was entertaining and exciting, but we would not call it terribly productive. Our llamas have visited a dozen classrooms and the girls love to tell about the animals. There is no substitute for the confidence this builds in our kids. They love to show the animals in performance and halter any chance they get. They are so confident in themselves in the llama world that they don't even notice they are the only children in the Grand Mesa Llama and Alpaca Club. They move with ease from one conversation to the next with a group of adults they genuinely consider their good friends. Abbey insisted on having her birthday party at our house this year because she had to invite her new best friend, Beau Tie (a newly acquired mini-llama).

Our llamas provide endless entertainment for friends when they visit our farm, and several times we have stopped to visit friends for the night on the way home from a show to the thrill of the whole neighborhood. When marching down the street during the Parade of Lights recently, there was such an enthusiastic reception from the crowd for the llamas, that we halted traffic more than once. The longer we own llamas, the more we forget what a thrill it is to encounter a llama when you least expect it. One of our favorite parts of llama ownership is driving with a full trailer and surrounded by cars with smiling people (although they can get annoy-



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There is no problem meeting the neighbors as they eagerly come out to see us every time we walk our llamas through the neighborhood. The kids in the neighborhood especially love to get close to the llamas, there is a natural curiosity. The curiosity works both ways as our llamas are as curious about children

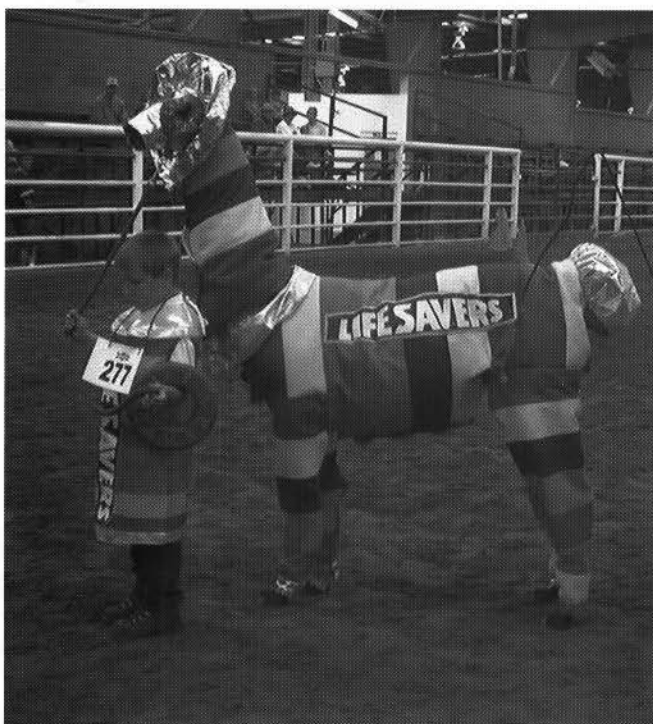


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ing when they refuse to pass so they can prolong their gazing at the llamas in the trailer). We should celebrate moments such as these.

Many of us love living in Colorado because of the incredible opportunity to recreate outdoors. But how many of us fall into the rut of work and home, sleep and work again. We don't take advantage of the beauty around us. We certainly fell into that category before we became llama owners. Now we have a great excuse to get outdoors, hike a trail, share a hobby with our kids and have a lot of fun.

We are absolutely convinced that our kids can hike at least two additional miles on any outing if they have a llama behind them. When we travel without the llamas, it is nothing but whines after the first half mile, but llamas in tow and Meghan can clock nine miles in a day. Recently we purchased our first mini-llama and we couldn't be more thrilled with the added independence this llama has given to our youngest daughter, Abbey. She can halter him with ease on her own, and he would follow her to the ends of the earth and back if she asked him to. In short, we can't think of a better animal for children and the rest of us too.



## Do You See What I See?

Maureen Bergenfeld, who helps coordinate numerous events and works with the 4-H project in southeastern Colorado, sent out a few questions to other people working with young people and llamas in her area, and got the following responses.

*Why do you think llamas are a good match with young people?*

Llamas' size, nature, and physical make-up are excellent for youth in the 4-H project. When trust is built, llamas work well with them to complete the objectives.

Many people are not aware of how well llamas or alpacas relate to people. Kids can accomplish a lot with minimal training of their llamas and alpacas. Working with an alpaca or llama can achieve a lot of personal gratification for young handlers by having their animal perform for them on a course, visiting nursing homes or people with disabilities.

*What is the best thing you see happen when kids and llamas are together?*

Children get to understand the llamas' abilities and pitfalls and how to work with those. They develop animal husbandry skills, which assist them in growing up.

I like how each llama is presented to the best young handler and then the youth explores the best method of training in preparation for the County Fair.

I can see a lot of bonding and self-confidence being developed between the child and the animal. This established self-confidence can be used in other situations of life.

*What is the biggest challenge in having young people and llamas work together?*

Since most of our 4-H youths live in Colorado Springs (25 miles away), it is difficult to get them (with parents) and their llamas together, then provide the young people and their llamas with the time required to

bond and develop the trust between the two for the final County Fair show.

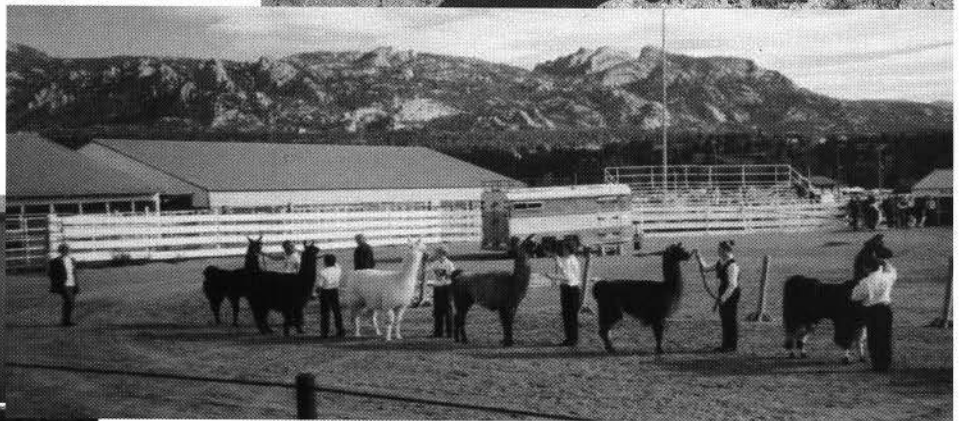
The challenge is to get the child to be persistent and controlling enough to make sure the animal respects the authority of the child as its performance leader. This needs to be established with minimal force, but with a firm hand.

*Any favorite games or exercises for kids and llamas?*

We try to get the kids with their llamas on a weekend or extended weekend pack trip in the high country. If the llamas are old enough, they carry training packs for light miscellaneous items. The kids are responsible for care, treatment and loading of their llamas during the trip.

*Any favorite stories?*

I enjoy seeing a young person who talks her or his animal through an obstacle or course. I know that I have seen animals do obstacles that they are not experienced on with the



Photos on these two pages are of youth who participate in 4-H programs in Southeastern Colorado.

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encouragement of their young handler's voice. Without this coaxing, I do not think the animals would perform the obstacle.

**From young people:**

*Why do you like doing things with llamas/alpacas and what are your favorite activities with them?*

Because it's fun. Marching in parades or bringing them to nursing homes

Because they are nice and carry my stuff. Going on hikes.

*What is your favorite quality about llamas or alpacas?*

They're smart and easy to work with most of the time. They're cuddly and make me happy

*What is the most difficult or challenging thing about working with them?*

Finding time to keep reminding them of how they need to act. Being consistent

Being consistent in training. Finding out what works best with getting them to follow orders (kindness or more firmness)

*Is there a favorite story about you and your llama (or the one you work with) you would like to share?*

I took my llama to the Alzheimer ward at the nursing home. He went in the elevator and then visited many of the residents, some who thought he was a horse or goat. One lady who had not spoken for almost a month sat and talked to him for 5-10 minutes

He is so easy to work with. He doesn't mind being in any costume including a hula dancer.



Photos on these two pages are of the 4-H Club in Laramie, Wyoming. Left: Russell Gotthoffer, the author's son, with his llama, Astral Eclipse. Above: Deanna Lowe and Atticus Finch. Opposite page above right: Katie Rieke and Inderite; center: Loral Snyder and Double J'l Diamond in the Rough; far right, Stacy Slaughter and Dvorak.

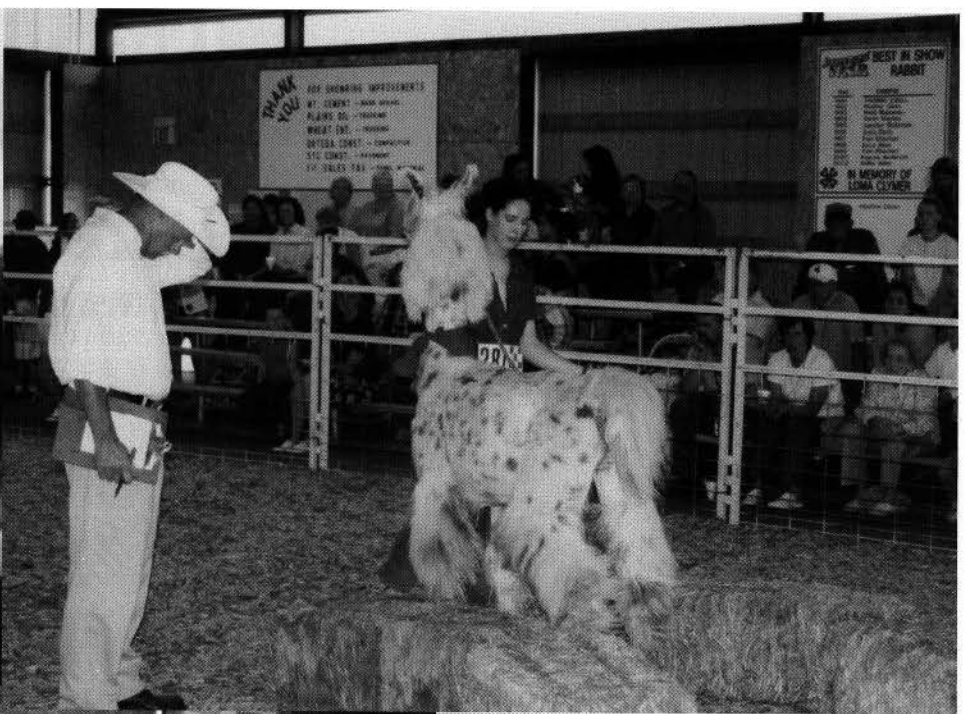
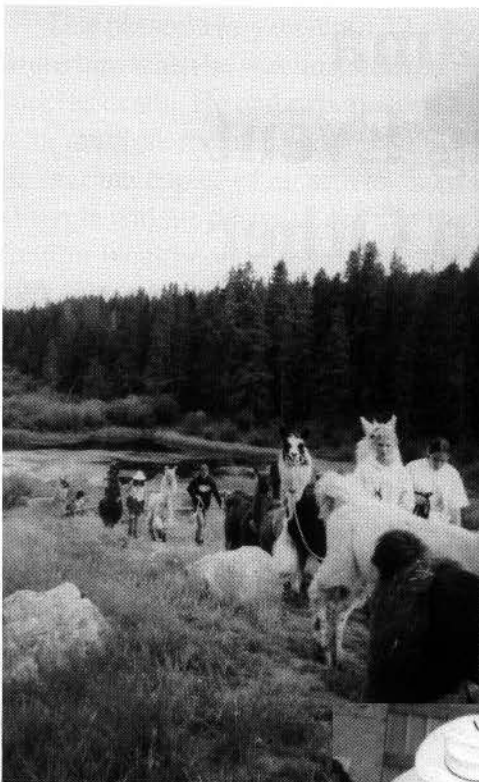
## Kids and Llamas in Laramie

by Tracy duCharme

Driving rain, sudden hailstorms, gale force winds and lightening—it must be spring in Wyoming! It seemed like no matter how pleasant the day began, by the time we arrived at the llama ranch for 4-H in the afternoon, the weather had taken a nasty turn.


This was my son's third year in the Laramie llama 4-H project lead by Gayle Woodsum and Julie Heggie. I like to tag along and observe the group. It's fun and I learn a lot. I am always amazed at how far these llama/kid teams progress in a short season. Most of the kids in the group have had little or no experience with llamas. They are paired with young animals or geldings that have not been trained much beyond walking on a lead. The kids quickly bond with "their" llamas, and begin to learn the gentle manner of training that llamas require.

The 4-H meetings begin in May, just as the first crias start to arrive at the ranch. A trek out to the field to observe a newborn cria is always a thrill. It is incredible how quickly the new baby becomes one of the gang, and starts playing and goofing around with the other crias.



There is so much to learn in just a few months. Each participant had to be prepared to compete in all four youth classes at our county fair. The group met weekly, with an extra optional meeting almost every week as well. The optional practice sessions were a good thing, as some of these llamas had never before been out on the trail, or worn a pack.

This year the group went on several hikes in the Medicine Bow Mountains. I can't say who enjoyed the wilderness hikes more, the 4-H kids or the llamas.

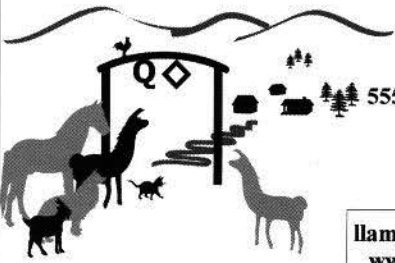



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Our adventurous group was so large that those in the rear couldn't hear what Gayle was saying up front. We had to relay messages from the front of the line on through to the back. Although we did encounter our share of mud, at least this year no one was knocked face first into the stream by a leaping llama! A highlight of these hikes is the snack break by the stream with Gayle's homemade gorp.

My son Russell worked with his younger brother's llama this year. This llama had acquired a troublesome habit of bolting away from his small handler whenever he felt like it. Poor Russ got a lot of exercise chasing him down in the beginning of the season. However, with Gayle's guidance, my son quickly trained the animal to respect and obey him. By the end of the project they were working together beautifully.

I really enjoyed watching eight-year-old Jojo boldly staying with the task of stroking her llama's leg while he stamped his foot and kicked in protest. She was "desensitizing" him in preparation for picking up his foot. Her unflinching determination really impressed me. It made me realize what a chicken I am.

When working with llamas, you can't help but notice that they are sensitive and intuitive animals. When one of the teenage girls was kind of in a grumpy mood, she complained that her llama wouldn't do anything. You could almost see her attitude creep up that lead rope to the llama. He felt her pain. The llamas really seem to pick up on their handler's mood. Many times in competition the kids would say about a refusal, "He always did that perfectly when we practiced at the ranch!" The llamas seemed to get nervous along with their handlers.

Most of the kids in this year's group not only competed in our county fair, but also in one or more ALSA events. Three out of the eight kids in the group even went on to the Rocky Mountain Regionals and the ALSA Nationals thanks to the support and encouragement from Gayle and Julie (not to mention llama hauling service).

We are blessed to have such a great group with enthusiastic kids, fabulous leaders, and quality animals.

My younger son turned eight this fall. He says his best birthday present was going down to the extension office to sign up for 4-H—look out Gayle and Julie!

**Interested in joining a 4-H club in your area?  
Want to help with an existing 4-H llama club?  
Thinking of starting a llama club of your own?  
Need ideas for working with kids and llamas?  
Contact RMLA's Maureen Bergenfeld  
or Barb Harris for information.  
See page 4 for where to find them!**

# The Llama Packing Event Like No Other

tales from the Hope Pass aid station

by Jim Osmun



*This year's Hope Pass Aid Station was held in memory of Dee Goodman, pictured above, who died last spring.*

## Memorial and Memories of the Beginning

Back when the Fairplay Pack-Llama Race was just getting started, State Representative Ken Chlouber agreed to run with a llama. Dee Goodman had learned that in 1983 Ken had started a race in Leadville called the Leadville Trail 100. Dee told Ken to call him if he needed any help with it. A few weeks later, the call came. Ken had a problem. The Persian Gulf War had taken all the help Ken had lined up to deliver supplies to the Hope Pass Aid Station.

Dee asked, "How much equipment?"

"About 170 pounds is what the aid station coordinator said," Ken told him.

"No problem," was Dee's answer. "I'll bring my five packing llamas just to make sure we can get everything up the hill."

According to what Dee later reported, the 170 pounds turned out to be food, tents, camping supplies, oxygen bottles and medical supplies. The total weight was more like 500 pounds. It looked hopeless. But from the very beginning, things that looked hopeless to a lot of us, weren't hopeless at all where Dee Goodman was concerned.

Dee passed away on April 27. Woody and I went to see him when he was hospitalized a month or so before his death. He had experienced a critical episode with multiple medical problems. A few weeks later, he sent me copies of an article and a letter about his struggle and his desire to see that the Hope Pass Aid Station would continue to serve the Leadville Trail 100. His memorial service featured the story and a video presentation of the Hope Pass Aid Station.

I am sure he knew that his wife Karla, with sons David and Thomas, would be there with a trailer full of llamas, along with the rest of us.

### **The LT-100 Hope Pass Aid Station Presents Impressive Challenges**

It's a significant task to get from the trailhead at 9200' to the aid station site 3.8 miles away at 12,000'. The distance is like wind chill. That 3.8 miles feels like 8 or 10 miles.

Historically, we used two ways to get on the trail to Hope Pass from the road near Twin Lakes. With Forest Service permission, an old jeep road could be used to cross Lake Creek. Some years there was too much flow for vehicles or llamas with packs to cross the creek. The other way is to cross Lake Creek on a bridge at a trailhead a mile upstream.

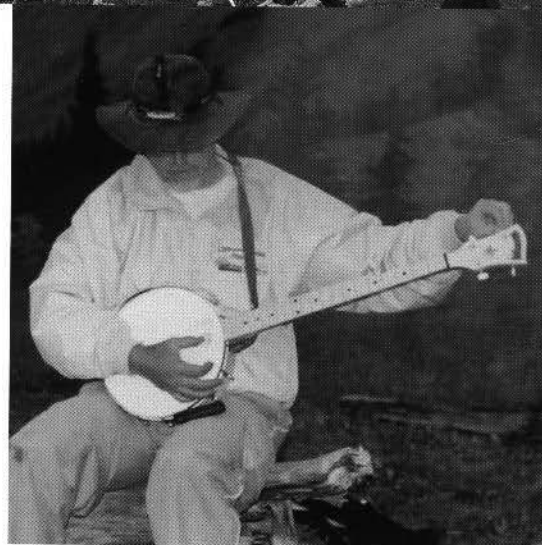
After crossing the bridge, there are two choices. One is a path with mud, brush and small stream crossings along Lake Creek for a mile or more back to the trail. The other is a shorter trail that joins the Colorado/Continental Divide Trail at Willis Gulch. Willis Gulch had an inadequate two-log bridge over a significant stream with high steep banks.

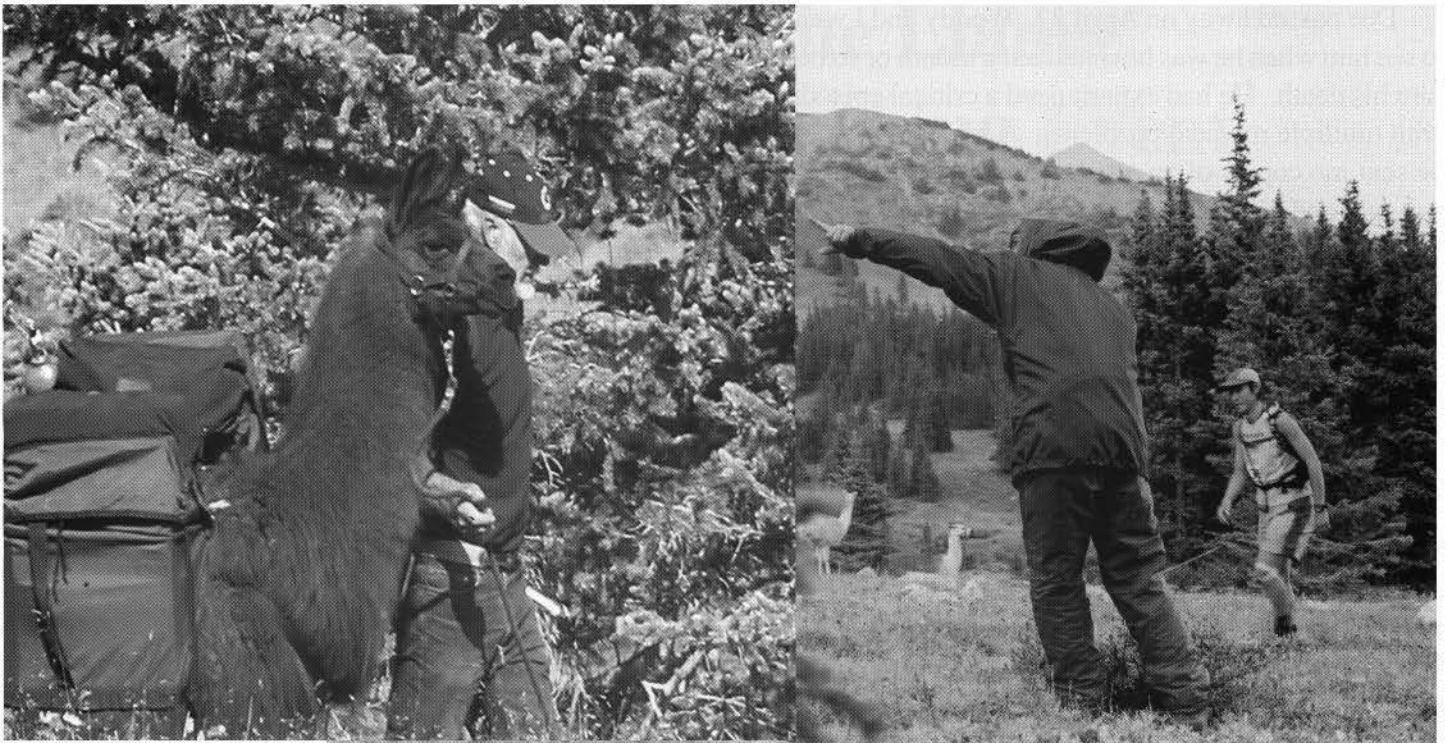
The best choice, then, was to take vehicles and trailers across Lake Creek on the old jeep road. That was almost hopeless and generated more than enough stories about the crossing, plus some real damage to cars and trucks. There were times when the muddy, nasty, longer path along the creek had to be used. So that was the situation on the north side of the pass.

I knew the south side was steep and would require going 600 feet higher on the way to the station. Pat and John Militzer agreed to go with me one year while the rest of the crew came from the north. Well, compared to the north, this side was really hopeless. In fact, we didn't even go back that way.

### **The Bridge at Willis Gulch**

It came down to the fact that we needed a bridge at Willis Gulch. What happened next is a complete story of its own. For now, I will just say that a dreamer, who many of us know, made some phone





calls. The calls resulted in the combined effort of the Leadville Ranger District, the Leadville Trail 100 and "The Hopeless Crew." A sturdy, 21-foot bridge was built in time for the 1999 LT-100 race.

### **Equipment and Supplies**

The list each year includes our own extra clothing, camping equipment, some food and other personal items. The aid station's general equipment, medical supplies and food supplies add up to over 100 items for the runners. When the numbers of each item are multiplied by the quantity, it comes to over 2000. Some things, like the 1200 paper cups and 500 spoons, make up a large part of that total number. We had 38 llamas with loads ranging from 50-80 pounds, plus the crew members' backpacks. The total weight is well over one ton.

### **Water**

We use about 225 gallons of water. Water weighs eight pounds per gallon, so we need 1800 pounds of water. There is a lake five minutes away and 300 feet below the aid station. The water is filtered, collected in five-gallon containers, and chlorinated. Llamas haul two 40-pound containers at a time up to the aid station. The water purification system includes two 12V batteries, pumps and sets of three filters. Chlorine is added to the containers to complete the treatment.

### **Weather**

Camping at timberline gives us an opportunity to

experience all the kinds of weather known to occur at this altitude in August. I can't think of any possibilities that have not happened in the 11 years I have been there. In fact, at times we experience almost all of them on a single day. The good weather makes it worth putting up with the bad. When properly equipped, it is possible to be comfortable and safe no matter what happens.

### **Terrain**

The aid station is located just above treeline in a beautiful large meadow. You can see the valley at Twin Lakes and Leadville some 40 miles to the northeast. Mount Hope and the pass provide the backdrop to the west and south. This is the most magnificent place to be both day and night during the race. Night time is amazing. A big campfire provides warmth. We can see the headlamps of the runners as they come down from the pass, and the lights of Leadville where they all hope to end up. Last year, and again this year, watching headlamps was quite entertaining. We noticed two very bright lights moving at an impressive pace and a bounding red LED that kept popping up. It turned out we were watching two mountain bike riders and a dog, who sweep the trail to be sure no runners are stranded.

### **Aid Station Activities**

I like to camp at the trailhead Wednesday night with a few people. We haul some tents and the water system in on Thursday morning. This way we have shelter and



llamas on top in case someone coming up on Friday needs help. The rest of the crew can attend a free pasta dinner in Leadville on Thursday evening, then camp out or come early Friday morning. It's a busy morning getting loaded and started up to the pass. We have until midmorning Saturday to get ready for the runners.

The kitchen provides hot and cold food. Cases of ramen noodles and gallons of sports drink are the most popular items. Medical care is provided by emergency medical technicians. A medical tent is equipped with sleeping bags, oxygen, IV solution and first aid supplies. Communication with other stations and headquarters in Leadville are provided by a HAM radio network.

A record is made of each runner as they pass through the station. The information is entered on a laptop computer and transmitted to race headquarters.

The crew is treated to some great food. Saturday and Sunday morning we have pancakes, ham and entertainment. We have been filmed by NBC, CBS and ESPN TV film crews.

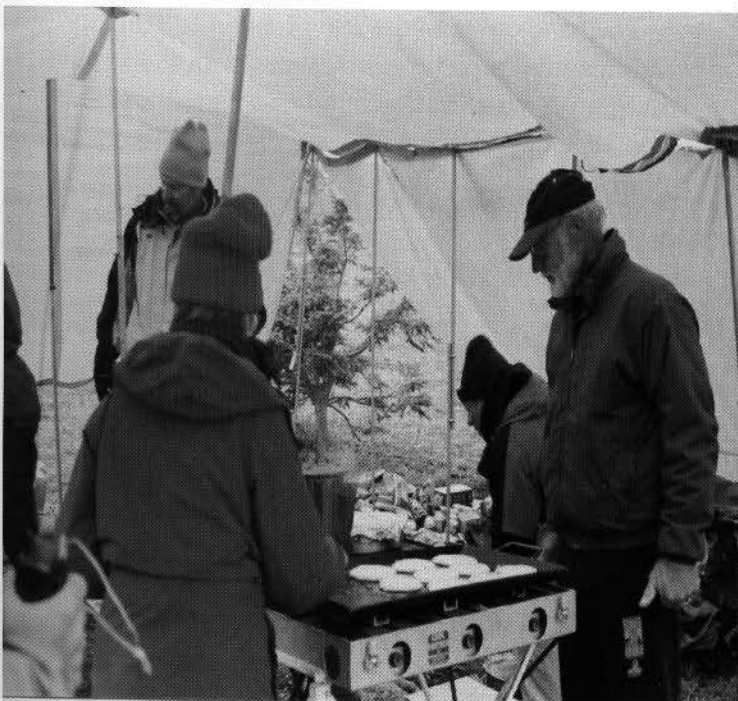
The first runners arrive shortly after 10:30 AM on Saturday. They have been on the trail since 4:00 AM and traveled 45 miles. They climb another 600 feet to Hope Pass and continue down to Winfield. Some will drop out at Winfield (the 50-mile point). More than half will come back through our station. Some will have pacers with them on the way back. I don't know exactly how many pass through the station, but the last runners arrive between 9:00 and 10:00 PM. This year, one stayed overnight in the medical tent. We usually have several who need to stay.

In order to qualify as a finisher, the runners must get back to Leadville in 30 hours or less. This year, the overall winning time was 17:16:19 by Paul DeWitt from Colorado Springs, Colorado. There were 195 runners who finished the race. Detailed information on the race results can be found online at [www.leadvilletrail100.com](http://www.leadvilletrail100.com).

Sunday morning is another busy time. After breakfast is cleanup and the joy of packing up all that stuff. By early afternoon, most of us are back to the trailhead.

### **The Hopeless Crew**

The crew is made up of volunteers who bring llamas, and others who come to help. It's a good family outing. Ages range from toddlers to seniors. The youngest members like David, Thomas and Eric don't seem affected by the altitude. They kept us in wood for the fire, which is not an easy job above timberline. The



number of crew members has ranged between 25 and 40. I don't have an accurate estimate for the number of llamas needed. It would be nice if the llamas could have 50 to 80 pound loads. Too many times we end up with 70 to 90 pound loads. Most of the crew will carry backpacks for personal items and some camping equipment. It would be great to have enough llamas to carry everything.

This year, we had 38 llamas and 26 crew members. The crew members were Ann Bruhn, Greg Cicciu, Alison Fisher, Vicky Foster, Shawn Huesdash, Karla, David and Thomas Goodman, Tony Gross, Daniel Hazen (radio), Suzanne Justus, Sandra Lockwood, John and Carol Robinette, Roger Miller, Patti Morgan, Stuart and Eric Travis, Mary Wickman, Dewain "Woody" Wood, Andy Cohen (EMT), Paul LeFevre, Russell Schissler, Jennifer Hampton and Trisha Steiner. John and Pat Miltzer and Gary Carlton helped by loaning us llamas and equipment.

This crew did an outstanding job. I am so pleased by the cooperation and good natured willingness that made this project so rewarding. It would be great to have everyone back next year.

### **Why Llamas?**

Serving the Hope Pass Aid Station is a great opportunity to show why llamas are the ideal animals for the backcountry. Consider what impact this station would cause if other pack animals were used. We have been joined by a few horses on several trips. When we leave, it is hard to tell where the llamas spent the weekend. A lot of care would be needed to prevent damage if only horses were used.

I have been an RMLA member for over 10 years. The organization has provided many valuable experiences for me. My llamas have benefited from what I have learned as a result of my membership. Prior to my becoming a member, there were more backcountry outings sponsored by RMLA. Pack trials were going on in the Northwest. I attended a few to learn how they were done. They were fun and educational. I organized two small trials sponsored by RMLA. Working with organizations like the Forest Service, National Parks and the Continental Divide Trail is important for the future of the llama industry.

The Hope Pass Aid Station project is a perfect example of the valuable work llamas can do. Runners from all over the world can take home with them the memory of a meadow full of llamas that have helped them. RMLA will benefit by being recognized for community service.

The Forest Service can see the advantages llamas contribute to protecting the backcountry from impact. We must partner with the land managers, or we may be left out when land-use regulations are under consideration. Llamas are unique in many ways; they should not be lumped in with other pack animals.

### **From the Race Director of the LT-100, Merilee O'Neal**

The Hope Pass Aid Station was never intended to be an aid station at all. But somewhere in the grand scheme of things, it became not just an aid station, but the very soul of the race. Early on in the race history, water and a few basic supplies were flown up by National Guard helicopter and the station was basically unstaffed. Then the National Guard hierarchy decided that supporting a local event shouldn't be part of their charge, and they didn't make that decision until just before the race. Friends with llamas took control just in the nick of time and as the story goes, the rest is history. The Hope Pass Aid Station and medical tent have been the site of much colorful race history. One year, a television helicopter even delivered pizza to the hard working volunteers. Having the aid station tent at that high altitude with the caliber of volunteers who assist them has enabled runners to finish who otherwise would never have finished, and on occasion has saved lives.

The colorful llama mini-city has become an integral part of race lore. The runners love it and we couldn't do it without each of you and your animals.

### **Footnote**

The front cover of the 2004 Leadville Trail 100 program featured a picture of runners with the Hope Pass Aid Station in the background and a view of Leadville in the distance. Page five has a picture of the meadow full of llamas with our tents in the background.

## **Being a Part of the 2004 Hopeless Crew** by Sandy Lockwood

In August, Patti Morgan, Ann Bruhn, Mary Wickman and I decided to volunteer for the Hopeless Crew. I brought two llamas, Patti and Ann each brought three, and Mary volunteered to lead three of Dee's llamas. We each loaded our llamas with 50 to 60 pounds of aid station supplies plus the gear we needed for two days and nights at 11,700 feet.

[www.rock-n-llamas.com](http://www.rock-n-llamas.com)



# ROCK-N-M LLAMAS

MIKE & PATTI MORGAN

Arkansas City, KS (620) 442-4996  
Buena Vista, CO (719) 836-4510

We left the trailhead at 10 on Friday morning. The first mile and a quarter was a gentle climb with various flat areas to stop for a breather. We paused about every 20 minutes to catch our breath. (The llamas kept wondering why we had to stop so often.)

After about an hour and a half we reached the bridge built across the river by the Hopeless Crew some years before, where we crossed onto the trail the runners would follow the next day during the race. This part of the trail is about a seven or eight percent grade and we took it slowly.

About a half mile up, one of Mary's llamas named Bob, decided it was time to stop. He sat down in the middle of the trail and refused to get up. We decided this would be good time for a lunch break. We tied the llamas to various trees and unloaded Bob. We let the llamas relax while we ate our lunch. When we reloaded Bob we gave him a little less weight and redistributed the extra to the other two.

We continued on up the mountain and were making pretty good time when Bob tried to push Mary off the trail. She corrected him and went on, but in about another 100 feet Bob decided he had enough of Mary and tried to jump on her. Dee's wife and a couple of other people were bringing up the rear to ensure nobody got lost, so we turned Bob over to them. One of the guys fed Bob a granola bar and had no further trouble from him.

At this point, the trail became a series of switchbacks and was still pretty steep. We were getting pretty short of breath and stopped often. We soon passed some old log cabins and wondered at the heartiness of people who would choose to live at that altitude. The trees started to thin out and we entered more open country as we were

approaching treeline. Another half a mile and we were at the Hope Pass Aid Station. It was 4 PM; we had covered 3.8 miles and climbed about 2800 feet in six hours.

By the time we arrived, it was raining lightly. We unloaded and staked out the llamas, then set up our tents, talked with some of the other volunteers, had dinner and hit the sack.

Saturday morning we prepared to receive the runners. We hauled water, made mashed potatoes and ramen, set out a variety of snack food, and built a good fire for warming. The high temperature at that altitude only reached about 38°.

The first runner arrived at 10:30 AM and it was a steady stream of runners for the rest of the day. At 2 PM, we had runners going both ways. Our day wasn't finished until the sweepers came at 9 PM to ensure that all the runners were safely accounted for. We fell into bed tired but satisfied about a job well done.

We arose the next morning, broke camp, burned the last of the paper products, packed up all the equipment and headed back down the trail. What took us six hours to climb only took two hours to hike back down. It was an interesting and very satisfying way to spend a weekend with my llama friends.

## Kiowa Creek Youth Llama and Alpaca Show

submitted by Dani Varela

Ahoy, Mates! The Kiowa Creek Youth Llama and Alpaca Show was held on Tuesday, August 3, at the Elbert County Fairgrounds in Kiowa, Colorado. It was awesome to see kids excited about their llamas and alpacas, and to watch them do well in the show ring.

Congratulations on a job well done to Emily Varela, Jayme Pacheco, Larissa Perry, Caleb VanDeusen, Kyra McElroy, Andy Darter, Ashley Fillmore, Betsy Nobles, Jake VanDeusen, Sam Mulholland, Olivia Pacheco, Taylor Alishouse, Jodi Alishouse and Grace Mulholland.

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors, without whom the show would not have been possible: Betty Robertson; Larry and Deanna Lewellyn; Nancy Jamnik; Barb and Norm Fillmore; Darci and Don Alishouse; Judy and Chris Pacheco; Jan, Sherry and Bill Adamcyk.



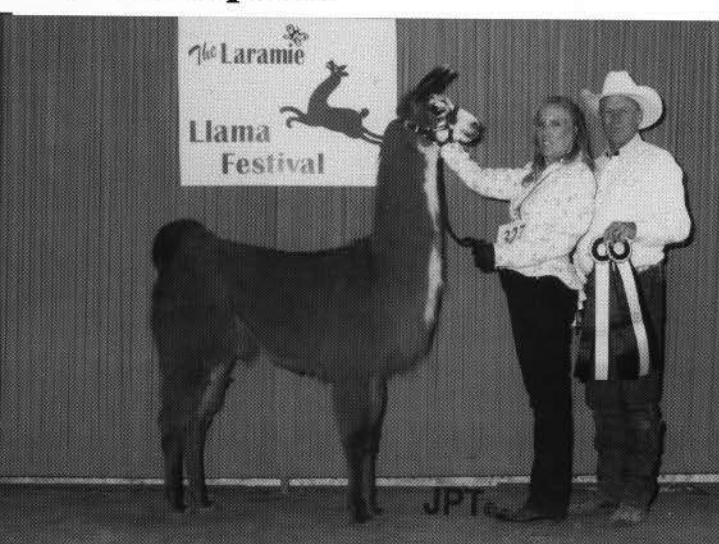
Left: Sandy Lockwood and the push-me-pull-you llamas who helped make the 2004 Hope Pass Aid Station another resounding success.

# The Laramie Llama Festival, 2004

## A Few of the Grand Champions



*Grand Champion Walking Fiber (the cria in front)  
Tall Tail's Caprielle; Rob/Jill Knuckles*



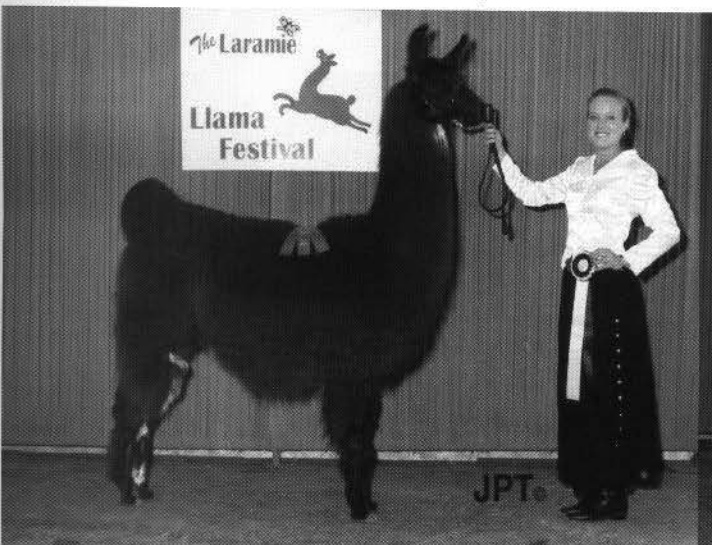
*Grand Champion Light Wool Female, Red & Blue  
Ooye Gooye Carmel Fudge, Barb/Dwayne Flinn*



*Grand Champion Light Wool Male, Red  
Cloud Peak's Centavo, Barb/Dwayne Flinn*



*Grand Champion Light Wool Male, Blue  
Ruger's Desparado, Cheryl/Wally Juntilla*



*Grand Champion Medium Wool Female, Red  
Sundown's Sunday Sonata, Teresa King*



*Grand Champion Medium Wool Female, Blue  
Chiri, Rusty Harwell*

(Continued next page)

Laramie Llama Festival Champions, continued



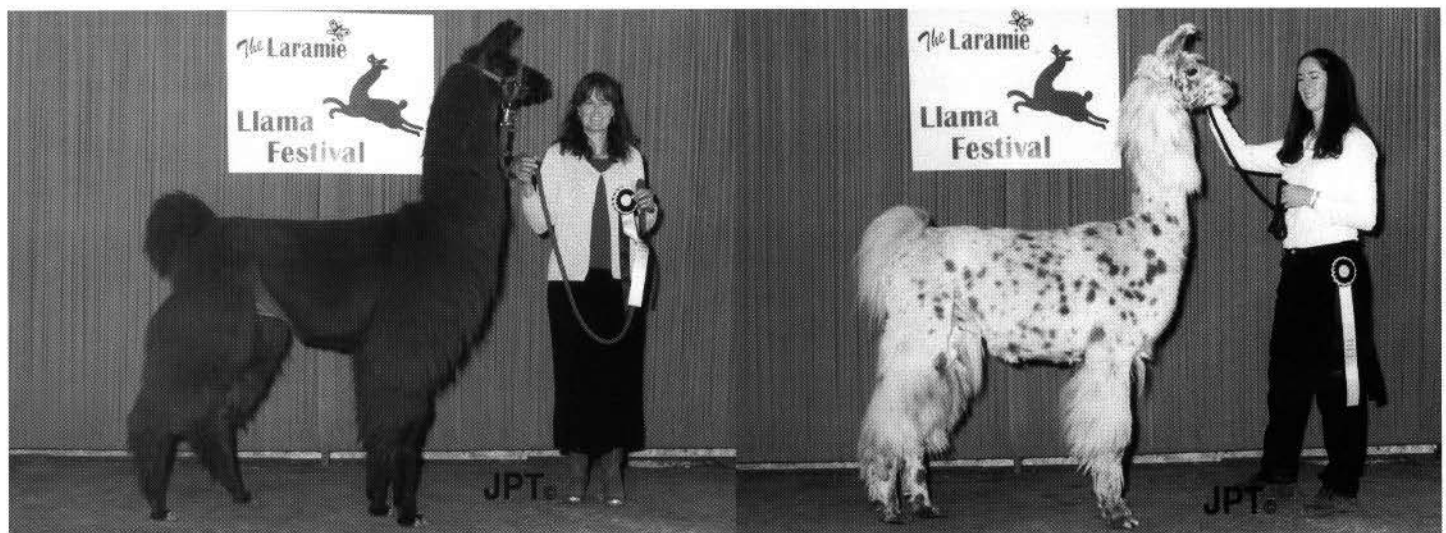
*Grand Champion Medium Wool Male, Red  
Bolivian Innovations Silver Lining, Julie Heggie*

*Grand Champion Medium Wool Male, Blue  
TSX Independence, Rob/Jill Knuckles*



*Grand Champion Medium Wool Female, Red  
Bitter Creek's Ruby Red, Kim Murphy*

*Grand Champion Medium Wool Female, Blue  
Kobra's Rebecca; Carol Ann Tallmon*



*Grand Champion Non-Breeder, Red  
Double J's Okey Dokey Smoky, Tracy duCharme*

*Grand Champion Non-Breeder, Blue  
QV Inderite, Julie Heggie*

Photos courtesy of JPT Photography

# FIBER PROJECTS

## ...from fleece to favorite

by Judy Wolff-Mills

**LACE GAUNTLET** .... handknit fingerless gloves for a dressy occasion

Young urban knitters, women and men in the East Village of New York City, inspired these gauntlets of llama yarn to finish off an outfit for a special occasion or lend a touch of something new to everyday wear. They are easy to knit and give the new knitter a taste of lace knitting.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

#### One-size Gauntlets

**Knit Structure:** 1/1 rib, 4-row lace

**Size:** Adult - one size fits all

**Finished measurements:**

length = 8", diameter = 6" (relaxed)

**Equipment:**

- 1 pair US size 8 needles •
- stitch markers •
- tapestry needle •

(check gauge and change needles as required)

**Materials:**

Approximately 1 oz. (100 yds.)

worsted weight yarn, 90% llama, 10% silk

**Gauge:**

13 sts = 3" in lace pattern

### KNITTING ABBREVIATIONS

K = knit

P = purl

Tog = together

St(s) = stitch(es)

pm = place marker

yo = yarn over

ssk = slip 1st st, slip 2nd st through back loop,

K 1st and 2nd sts together

RS = right side

WS = wrong side

### KNITTING & FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

#### DESIGN NOTES

Let's face it: gauntlets are designed for fashion and won't do much to keep icy fingers warm. This is a project for stretching the imagination. Use beads, try fashion yarns, knit with wire, enjoy yourself.

These gauntlets fit most adults. For a larger or smaller hand, add or subtract sts to the k1/p1 ribbing.



### LACE PATTERN

Row 1: K3, yo, k2, ssk, k2tog, k2, yo, k2

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: K2, yo, k2, ssk, k2tog, k2, yo, k3

Row 4: Purl

### RIGHT GAUNTLET

Cast on 31 sts

Row 1 (RS): p1 / k1 rib for 9 sts, pm, k13, pm, p1 / k1 rib for 9 sts (31 sts.)

Row 2: rib 9 sts, k 13, rib 9 sts.

Row 3: rib 9 sts, work Row 1 of lace pattern for 13 sts, rib 9 sts. Continue in pattern for 8" or desired length to base of thumb.

### THUMB OPENING

(RS) Work in pattern to second marker. P1, cast off 7, p1.

(WS) K1, cast on 7 sts, k1, slip marker, p13, slip marker, k1/p1 rib for 9 sts.

(RS) P1 / k1 rib for 9 sts, slip marker, k13, slip marker, p1/k1 for 9 sts.

Bind off very loosely.

### LEFT GAUNTLET

Work as for right gauntlet to base of thumb.

### THUMB OPENING

(RS) P1, cast off 7, p1, work across.

(WS) K1/p1 rib for 9 sts, slip marker, P13, slip marker, k1, cast on 7, k1.

(RS) P1/k1 rib for 9 sts, slip marker, k13, slip marker, p1/k1 rib for 9 sts.

Bind off very loosely.

### FINISHING

Work in yarn ends.

Wash the gauntlets in warm water and lay flat to dry.

Sew seams. Enjoy!

*Judy Wolff-Mills designs clothing in her Wellington, Colorado studio where she spins, knits, weaves and tailors, overlooking the llama compound. She can be reached at [jwmfibers@cs.com](mailto:jwmfibers@cs.com) or 970.568.7463*

# Llama Trek

four days, three llamas, two guys, one great time

by Rick Ponczek

Everything was set. All the equipment was gathered. All the freeze-dried food was purchased. I got the scale out and everything was being put into the panniers to be weighed to balance out the load. Balance is everything. Thunder was in shape for this trip and so was I. I sent an email off earlier to Wes Mauz to get directions to Timberline Llamas on the Silt Ranch, since some of the folks and llamas going on the Maroon Bells llama pack trip were going to rendezvous there before heading into the wilderness.

Then I got another email from Wes. The trip had been canceled. Now, wait just a minute. We were all set to go and everything was in place. The weather forecast, although not perfect, the threat of a small storm always looms, promised a good time.

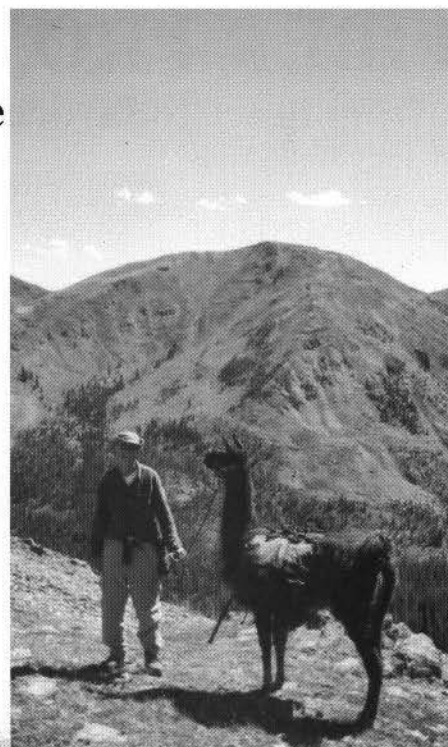
Not deterred, I gave Tone Gross a call. He had also planned to go on the Maroon Bells trip. I raised the issue that perhaps there was some other place we could go. A few phone calls later, and at Tony's suggestion, we decided to approach the "back door" of the Ptarmigan Wilderness area, into Williams Fork drainage, Arapaho National Forest, Clear Creek County, Colorado.

On Thursday, August 26, Thunder and I joined Tony and his two llamas, Marvin and Boo, and set off from south Jefferson county. We drove north from Dillon/Silverthorne on Colorado Highway 9 to the Ute Pass turnoff. Once over the pass and through the Henderson Mine complex, we turned south again and headed toward the South Fork trailhead along the South Fork of the Williams Fork River. We found we couldn't really camp at the trailhead and had to back the trailer up a ways to turn around to head back down the road to find a place to camp and a good place to stake out the llamas.

We set up camp and got wet that night. It rained all night and the next morning. It was a little tough to get really excited about hitting the trail. It was cloudy and cold and it continued to rain intermittently. Not deterred, Tony and I, and Thunder, Marvin and Boo set off into the forest.

The trail was well marked and features a foot bridge crossing at the beginning. On that first morning, we only encountered two bow hunters from Wisconsin packing in. Opening day for bow season was scheduled for that Saturday. I didn't ask them to take a group picture of

*At right:  
Thunder and I at the  
edge of the South  
Fork of the Williams  
Fork River on the  
way into the forest.  
Below, we are  
high on the ridge  
opposite Ptarmigan  
Peak and the  
shouldering Peaks  
of Coon Hill and  
Hagar Mountain.*



*Opposite page top: Thunder and I crossing the foot bridge on the way out of the forest. Below: Tony Gross, Marvin and Boo on the ridge opposite Ptarmigan Peak and adjoining mountains.*



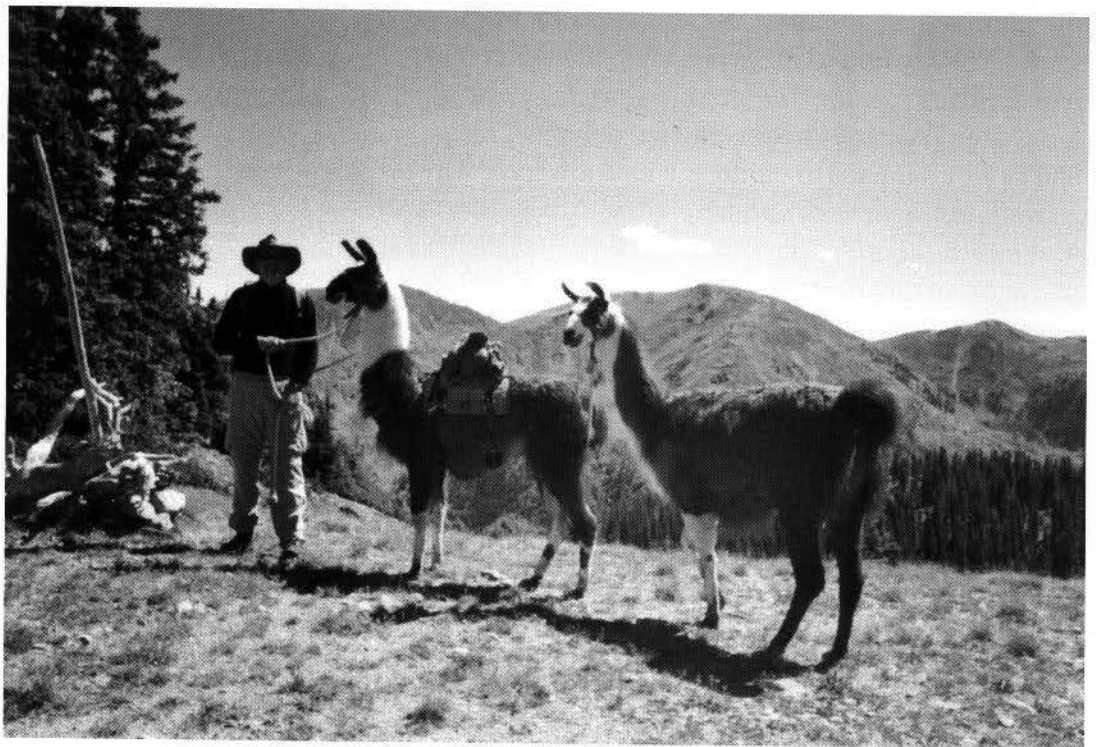
Tony, the llamas and I since I was sure that later, when the weather improved and others were encountered, we could get that group shot. The assumption proved erroneous. We didn't see another two-footed, upright-walking-type creature the rest of the trip.

We hiked in about five to six miles. Although we got off trail for a period of time hoping to avoid wading the South Fork of the Williams River, the main trail was almost always visible on the opposite side of the river. The satellite trail we followed allowed us some wonderful views of Ptarmigan Peak and the peaks on its east shoulder, Coon Hill, Hager Mountain and Pettingell Peak.

The intermittent rain and clouds persisted most of the morning and early afternoon. However, just before we decided to camp, the sun came out and the valley really showed its stuff. In every direction your eyes play across timberline, gorgeous peaks, lush grass, rich stands of spruce and fir and always the lullaby of a soft breeze and the river churning on. We made camp perhaps a mile beyond the Ptarmigan Pass cutoff in a meadow offering good graze for the llamas, access to water and some flat areas to pitch our tents, all just below 11,000 feet according to Tony's GPS device.

After a little dinner, and some conversation around the campfire, we watched the northwest sky darken. The weather forecast had warned us of the wind and cold that hit during the night. I eventually put on every piece of clothing I had with me and....well....had a series of "kind of" restful naps all night. Tony apparently didn't have any problems, wrapped in his long underwear, a space blanket and sleeping bag.

The next morning was nothing short of glorious. The sun ruled the sky; not a cloud was to be seen in any direction. When I awoke, my tent was covered in ice and Thunder was also wearing a layer of snow and ice on his back. Once the sun hit us just after 7:00 AM, the water was running off Thunder and he laid in the sun with his eyes closed enjoying every minute of a solar bath.





at times for photos and to let the llamas enjoy the rich grass. Overall, it was quite a day.

We had a wonderful evening and enjoyed a relatively warm night. The next morning, we set back out along the trail back to the South Fork Trailhead. Again, bathed in sun under a cloudless sky, three llamas and two guys marched out of the forest, enjoying stops along the way to graze on what the forest had to offer, Tony and I enjoying the views and the symphony of sounds only the forest can deliver.

This was a great route for a llama pack trip. We'll be back. But the Maroon Bells? Okay, I'll get the panniers out, get some freeze-dried food....

*Left: The clearing at the bottom third of the photo shows the meadow where we camped. The Ptarmigan Peak ridge is also featured. Below: Tony Gross followed by Marvin and Boo crossing the upper South Fork of the Williams Fork River on our way to the campsite.*

*Rick Poncek plans his llama treks from his home in Longmont, Colorado.*

Later, we all continued on the trail, climbing up the south side of an unnamed ridge opposite Ptarmigan Peak. The trail, although steep, soon delivered us to a wonderful meadow. The grass was rich and at times quite deep. A small stream crawled down the meadow and as we continued to climb, the meadow gave way to a magnificent view of another valley to the north and the trail to the east. The trail at this point continues above timberline to Jones Pass before circling back to the west to the Boardwalk Trailhead, Darling Creek, the Sugarloaf campground and the South Fork campground. It's possible to make about a 25-mile loop out of this hike.

After enjoying the spectacular views and kicking around with the llamas above treeline and at the absolute top of this ridge, we decided to return to camp. In a way, it was hard to leave the top of the mountain. The weather was perfect. The sky was so blue, and I think the llamas enjoyed being up there as much as we did. Nonetheless, we wandered back down, stopping



# Amigo de Peru

DOB: 11/30/94

*Amigo is a very colorful full Peruvian male sired by The Peruvian Commodore.*

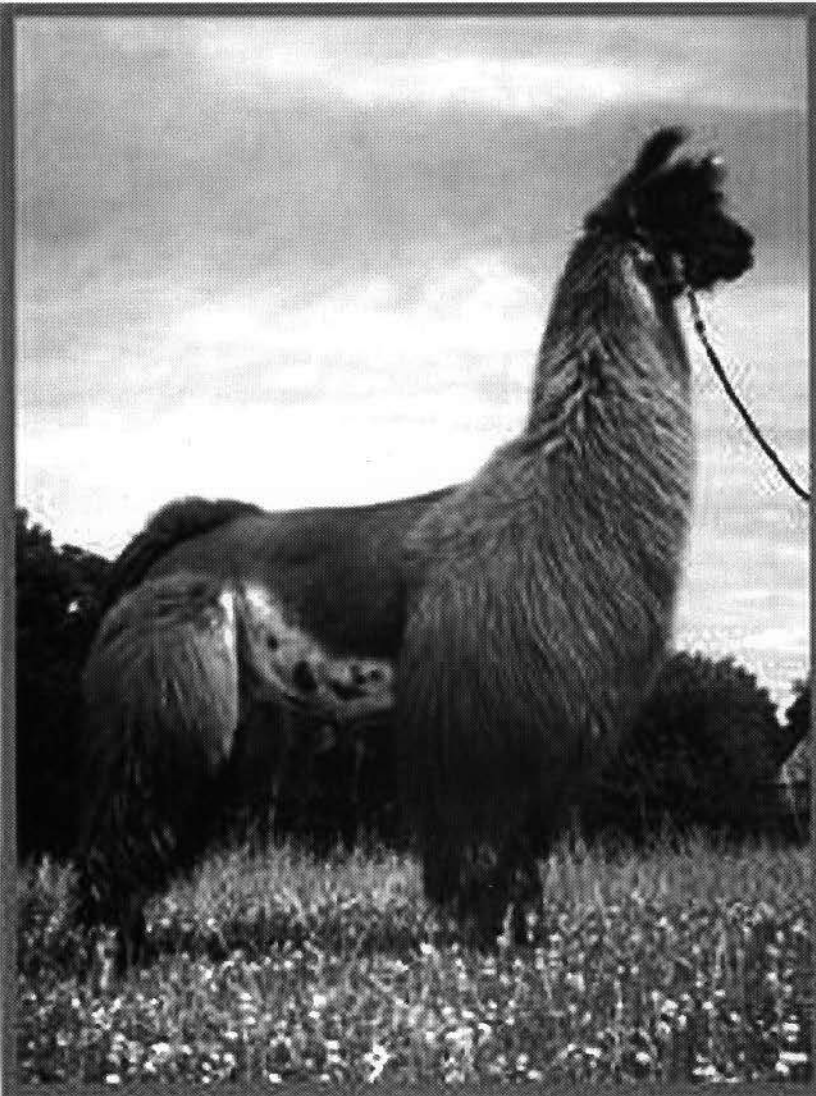
*He has dense wool with excellent coverage.*

*Amigo was the 2001 National Grand Champion Heavy Wool Male.*

*Amigo's son, Riley's Legacy de Amigo, was the Reserve National Grand Champion Heavy Wool Male that same year.*

*Amigo is also an ALSA Halter Champion, an ALSA Get-of-Sire Champion, and was the Reserve National Champion Heavy Wool Male in 2000. He has produced winning babies, has a gentle disposition and is a good breeder.*

*He is a very tall stretchy llama with big bone and is passing all of these characteristics to his offspring. He has absolutely the best conformation.*



**Now standing at stud at the Golden R Heart Ranch in Palomino Valley, Nevada is Riley's Amigo de Peru. Amigo's stud fee is \$1000.**

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**Amigo is an outstanding breeding prospect and could very well be that breeding line that you are missing.**

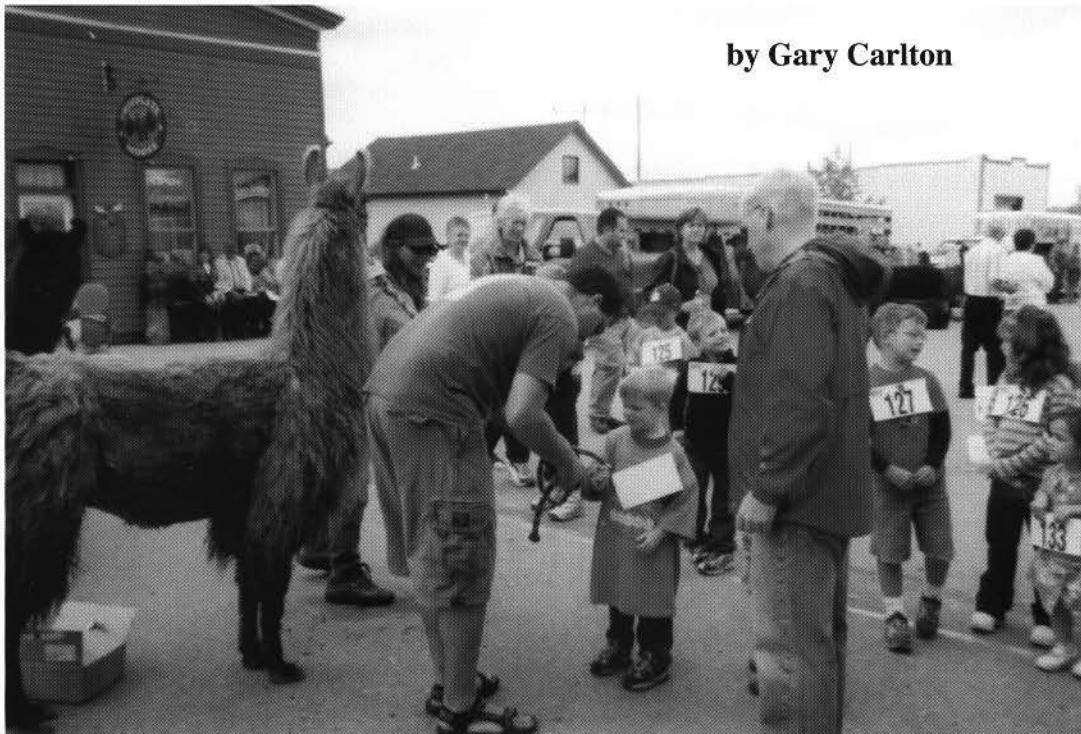
**Also available are pure Peruvian females soon to be bred to Amigo. Prices for these females start at \$1000.**

*Contact the ranch through one of the following means. We're sure you'll be very pleased with the outcome.*

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# The 22nd Annual 2004 RMLA Fairplay Llama Race/Walk

by Gary Carlton



After seven straight days of rain, one had to wonder what the turnout would be like for this year's event. As luck would have it, Saturday morning gave way to partly cloudy skies and cool temperatures; perfect conditions for a three-mile llama race.

This year's event was dedicated in memory of Dee Goodman, who passed away in the spring. The dedication gave an extra special meaning to the huge turnout of 124 people from the Colorado Donor Alliance LAMA-RAMA teams. Their theme was Llama Llympix in recognition of the 2004 Summer Olympic games. We set another record of participation with 224 people, 116 llamas and 43 children in the llama lunacy obstacle course. The Donor Alliance turned away 88 people (22 teams of four) due to a shortage of llamas for the race. The running event continues to dwindle, with only 13 entries this year. The race seems to be turning into more of a llama learning experience and fun walk.

Perhaps the thing I enjoyed the most was watching the ear-to-ear smile on the participants faces as they cross the finish line with their new llama pals. Where else in the world can you sign up, pay \$16 and take a llama on a three-mile adventure?

The Donor Alliance is planning on over 200 people in 2005, which should bring the total entries to well

over 300 next year. Please consider bringing your llamas next year, Saturday, July 30, for a good time—and what a great way to get your animals seen by the public. And while you're planning, be sure to stay around on Sunday, July 31, for the llama camp performance show, The Greatest Show on Earth.



*Photos: it's the traditional start of the Fairplay Llama race.*

*(continued on page 30)*

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## **LANA Makes a Difference!**

### Top Three Finishers in the Running Event

1. Jason Hudson, 31.34
2. Mark Lamb, 32.58
3. David Metzger, 33.93

### Top Three Llamas in the Running Event

1. Sunfisher, Comanche Creek Llamas, Gary Carlton
2. Kachemack, Escarpment Llamas, Roger Miller
3. Woody, Comanche Creek Llamas, Gary Carlton

### Running Event Times

#### Females Age 12 - 60

1. Patti Morgan, 52:36
2. Cassie Bradley, 78.07
3. Lindsay Andrews N/A

#### Males Age 12 - 19

1. David Hudson, 41.38
2. Mathew Groeling, 62.91

#### Males Age 20 - 29

1. Jason Hudson, 31.34
2. David Metzger, 33.93
3. Chris Hudson, 40.77

#### Males Age 30 - 39

1. Greg Bradley, 44:16
2. Craig Goreling, 46.02

#### Males Age 40 - 49

1. Mark Lamb, 32.58
2. Peter Griggs, N/A

#### Males Age 50 - 59

1. Kevin Garfit, 44.12

#### Males Age 60 - 69

1. Bob Estes, 52.36

*Photos: the exciting and challenging river crossing for race participants.*

*Opposite page: participants of the Fairplay Llama Camp and Performance Show pose for a group photo.*



A great big Thank You to the following llama ranches/owners for providing llamas for the event: Clearwater, Stage Stop, Mary Wickman, Jim Osmun, Sally Snyder, Paul Toms, Comanche Creek, Rock-n-M, Escarpment, Cedar Cliffs, Falcon Crest, C&M, Cardinal Oaks, True Friends, Split Rock Ranch and Lockwood Dreamstar Llamas.



I would also like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who make it all possible: Steve and Leslie Schubert, Robert and Betty Miller, Sally Rucker, Mary Wickman, Ann Bruhn, Jim Osmun, Mark and Arthur Smith, Niles Whalen, Terry and Betty Hollman, Gayle Davidson, Jill Saddler, Mark and Kathy Wittrup and Etienne Miller.

Thank you to all of the Fairplay Merchants for donating prizes and

*(continued on page 32)*

# 4th Annual Fairplay Llama Camp Performance Show

by Ann Bruhn



July 25, Mud Springs, Colorado – Mary Wickman and I act as superintendents to the Fairplay Llama Camp Performance Show in Colorado, on alternating years. Mary did the first one in 2001 at the Fairplay Llama Camp at Beaver Creek in the Pike National Forest. In 2002, it was my turn and the camp at Beaver Creek was closed due to fires in the Pike National Forest. We had to hold it at the Fairplay Beach. Not a bad place, but the area was small. However, we all loved the water obstacle. In 2003 it was again Mary's turn and we were back at Beaver Creek. Now it's 2004 and it was my turn again.

In March, the Forest Service notified us that Beaver Creek was out due to the possibility of an endangered plant that may be growing in the area. We needed to make alternate plans again, and on my year. With the help of the Forest Service we decided on Mud Springs, eight miles south of Jefferson (15 miles northeast of Fairplay). The only real problem was there was no water up there. I notified everyone that they had to bring water to drink for humans and the llamas...that was the bad news. The good news was there would be no water obstacle.

This year, Colorado was besieged by rain, thunder, and lightning storms. The Forest Service warned us

that there was flooding on the roads, requesting that we go through the puddles and not make new roads around them. These were not mere puddles, but lakes. I was nervous enough dealing with pulling a trailer for the first time, let alone through these lakes. I did, however, make it just fine.

We went up on Friday, set up camp, then the pack and obstacle courses. We planned on setting up the public relations course on Saturday evening. Saturday, we got up early and headed for Fairplay to help with the llama races, returning to camp around 4 PM. Around 5, a storm started; lightning and thunder the likes of which I've never seen before. We ran for our vehicles. Mary caught one of her llamas and put him in the trailer and had to stay in there a while, because of the lightning.

Meanwhile, the hail was building up on our canopies. Before it was over (about an hour) the hail had destroyed two of our canopies. There were inches of hail all over our campsite. Needless to say, the public relations course did not get set that night. Our tents seemed to survive, just a little damp. I tried to get to sleep, but around 10 pm it started raining and rained for at least an hour. I thought sure I would float away, but again I survived.

Morning dawned early and soon all our contestants had arrived, and the hail melted. Sunday, the weather was perfect and so were the contestants. As one of them arrived he complained that I had promised no water obstacles and what was that on the road, if not a water obstacle? I told him that if he complained about one more thing, I wasn't going to feed him lunch (it worked). It was a great show. My volunteers and judge were wonderful.

In 2005, Mary Wickman will be running the show, and in 2006 Sandy Lockwood will be running the show. It will be my turn again in 2007—I wonder what adventure awaits me for that year?



continued from page 30

your continued support: Clamitys Cabin, Old Red Barn, Hand Hotel, Dr. Charles Gordon, DDS, Pinecone Properties, High Alpine Sports, Brown Burro Cafe, The Hair Cut Shop, South Park Historical foundation, Chocolate Moose, Front Street Antiques, Nature's Gift Candle Works, Even in the End Liquor, Imaginations, South Park Lock & Key, South Park Bar, Silver Scoop Creamery and Llama Stuff in Loveland, Colorado. (My apologies to anyone we may have left out.)

For information on the race/walk, suggestions or to volunteer, contact Gary Carlton at 303.622.6306.





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Photos: left, counterclockwise beginning at top:  
hail damage to the canopy the night before the show  
Superintendent Ann Bruhn poses with Reserve Best of Pack  
Winner; Grand Champion Performance winner Mary Wickman;  
Reserve Performance winner Kathy Wittrup; Grand Champion  
Best of Pack winner, Mary Wickman



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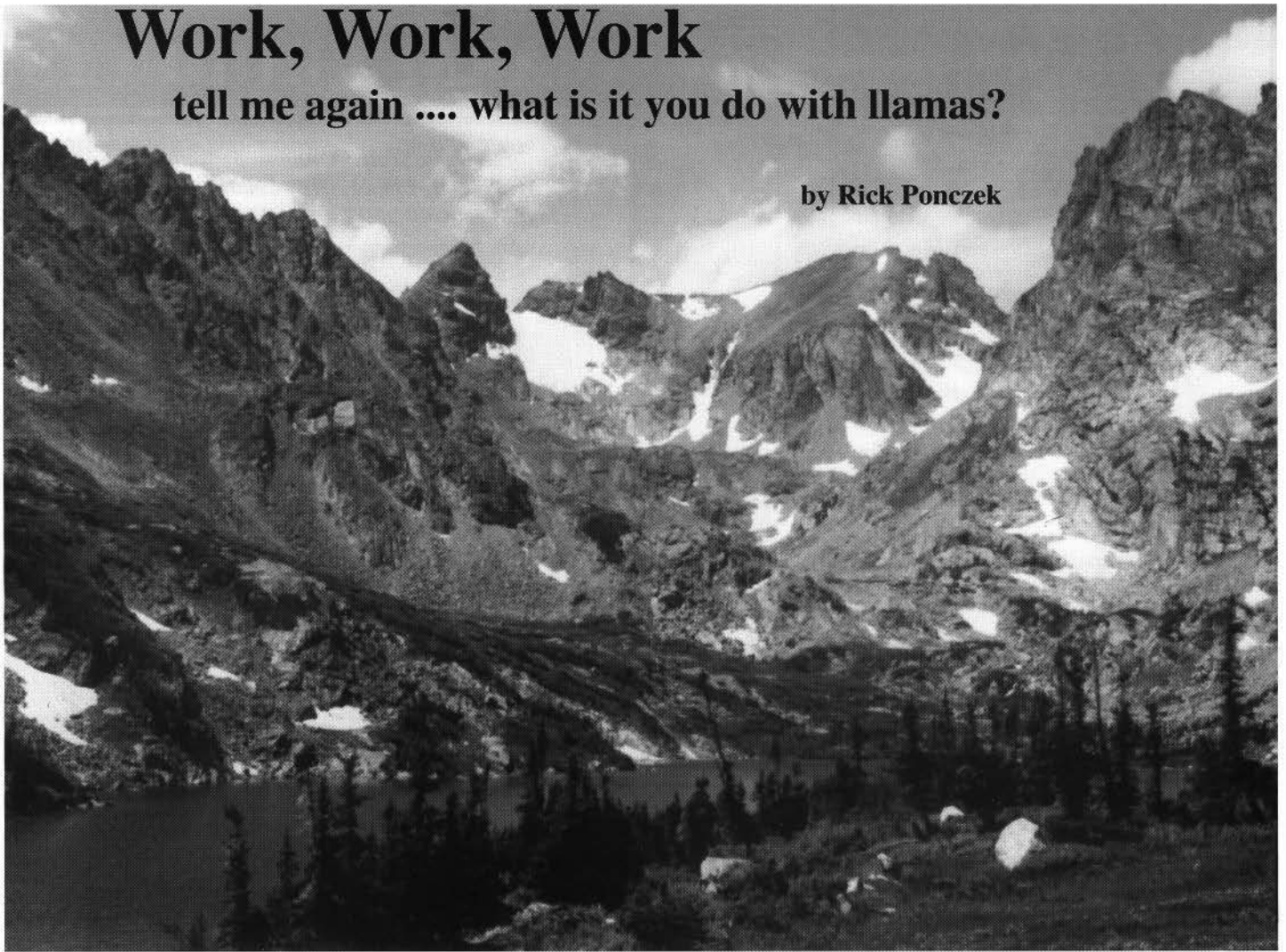
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# Work, Work, Work

tell me again .... what is it you do with llamas?

by Rick Ponczek



You know it's not all fun and games with our llamas. You know these guys are not just "pasture trophies." RMLA members in the greater Boulder area joined together with the US Forest Service and WRV (Wildlands Restoration Volunteers) to work on trail building projects.

Earlier this year, USFS Ranger Glen Cook contacted Bobra Goldsmith about assisting WRV Director Ed Self with a trail construction project in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. Ed Self was coordinating a group of 25 volunteers to go into Lake Isabelle to work on rebuilding a section of the trail. The WRV needed their supplies carried some three miles up the trail from the parking lot to the main camp.

On July 27, Bobra Goldsmith, Jerry Losasso, Kayla and Cody Bish, Kate Ingmundson, Deb Ponczek and I, along with other volunteers, met at the trailhead near Brainard Lake. Also present was forest ranger Mary Kalendovsky. We learned that she would head up the trail before the llamas to mark a route for them to take into the camp after leaving the main trail near Lake Isabelle.

We loaded up nine llamas, some carrying nearly 90 pounds, and set off. It was a beautiful day and the llamas performed well in spite of the heavy loads. The Brainard Lake area is very picturesque and many hikers were encountered on the trail. They were enchanted by the llamas, and everyone thought it was wonderful that the



animals were being used for such a worthwhile project; a trail system they were enjoying and will continue to enjoy. Lots of people wanted pictures. The youngsters had questions and of course, wanted to pet the llamas.

On August 1, Bobra Goldsmith, Jim Bish and his two children Kayla and Cody, Kate Ingmundson, Deb Ponczek and I joined with other volunteers and eight llamas to return to the main WRV camp near lake Isabelle. Previously, we had left our panniers and scales with the WRV staff to weigh and balance the panniers, ensuring equalized loads. The plan was to also hopefully make for a little quicker return time. What was amazing was that the llamas carried in about as much weight as they carried out. Again, public contact and perception of the llamas and their contribution to the Forest Service mission was well received and appreciated.



*Left top: Lake Isabelle. Left below: loading the panniers at the trailhead for Lake Isabelle. Above (from left to right): llamas loaded with boards and featuring a Forest Service worker, an Americorp volunteer, and Bobra Goldsmith*

*Continued next page*

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Continued from previous page

Another work project occurred on August 6 and again on September 2. US Forest Service ranger Frank Lilly had contacted Bobra Goldsmith and requested assistance with having large wooden planks taken into the Roosevelt National Forest just outside the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. The planks, measuring 2" by 12" by five feet, were going to be used to construct a large wooden bridge.

On August 6, Bobra and Rick met with Forest Service personnel and an Americorp volunteer at the Red Rock trailhead. Bobra, Rick, Forest Service and Americorp workers led four llamas down the trail to the Sourdough Trail before cutting off to the new bridge site.

Each board weighed about 20 pounds and each llama carried four boards, two on either side of the llama. The trick was to find a way to fasten the boards to the pack saddles to ensure the loads were safe and secure.



They were apparently told they would be working with llamas that day and were quite excited about it. They enjoyed leading the animals down the trail and had many questions about them. Of course, several had cameras, and many wanted their pictures taken with the llamas.



Bobra, after some experimentation, found that using some simple, braided hay baling twine, could get the job done. Although we had to frequently stop to readjust the loads of boards, we made it down the trail. Two trips later, 32 boards were hauled by the llamas down to the bridge construction site that day.

The project utilizing the llamas was a high point for the Americorp volunteers and Forest Service employees.

We thought the job was over. However, on September 2, Bobra, Deb and I, at the request of the Forest Service, returned to the Red Rock trailhead. It turned out that not enough boards had been taken down to complete the project. So, with Forest Service personnel helping, four llamas were loaded with another fifteen boards and returned to the bridge site. The Forest Service staff was very appreciative, since if the llamas couldn't haul the extra boards into the site, the workers themselves would have had to make multiple trips to get all the supplies to the work site.

Llamas to the rescue, a job well done.

*Rick Ponczek cares for his llamas, lives in and writes from Longmont, Colorado.*

*Top: on the trail back out to the trailhead.  
Middle: at the bridge construction site featuring the llamas and the Forest Service and Americorp workers.  
Bottom: Deb Ponczek and Thunder with a load of boards*

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# Events Planning Heats Up

## For the 2005 RMLA Conference in the Rockies

### A Great Place To Hike

by Kris Brewer

The Sunlight Mountain Ski Resort will be a wonderful location for the 2005 RMLA Conference. Not only is the facility located minutes from downtown Glenwood Springs, it is surrounded by National Forest and BLM Lands.

The Sunlight Resort borders the White River National Forrest and hiking opportunities are abundant. There are trails that are accessible directly from the resort that wind through public lands offering beautiful views of Bald and Sunlight Mountain. The elevation of this area will range from 7500-9000 feet.

If you enjoy a more secluded environment and are willing to trailer your llamas a short distance, the Raggeds and Maroon Bells- Snowmass Wilderness areas are less than 45 minutes from the Resort. These Wilderness trails provide spectacular views of several 14'ers and some of the most beautiful mountain scenery in the state of Colorado. These trails are closed to mountain bikes and all motorized vehicles, which can enhance your hiking experience. The elevation of the Wilderness areas range from 8,000- 12,800 feet.

The hiking trails of the Roaring Fork Valley are plentiful and offer enjoyable trekking and hiking for the beginner as well as for the most advanced. Llamas will be welcome at the Sunlight Resort and can be staked out during the day and stalled by your stock trailer with coral panels at night.

The 2005 RMLA Conference at Sunlight will certainly be a spectacular educational and fun-filled event! If you would like to do some hiking while you attend the conference, feel free to bring your llamas and enjoy the area. Whether you enjoy day hikes or would like to extend your stay for a few days, there are wonderful hikes for any interest. For more information on hiking in the Roaring Fork Valley, contact Kris Brewer at 970-523-6200.

### Attention Fiber Enthusiasts!

by Mary Mauz

Are you a spinner, weaver, knitter or crocheter? Would you like an opportunity to spend time with other fiber artisans who share your interests? Do you think it would be fun to set up your equipment on a covered deck at a relaxed mountain resort with beautiful views and enjoy your favorite hobby while you chat with old friends and new acquaintances? The RMLA 2005 conference will provide you the opportunity to do just that.

Ladies and gentlemen, start your wheels and warp your looms! One of the activities being planned for RMLA's 2005 conference is a good old-fashioned "Shorn to Shawl" contest. The exact details and contest rules have not yet been finalized, but work sessions will be scheduled so that participants will not have to miss out on any of the other classes and activities at the conference.

It is not too soon to start forming your teams and honing your skills. Don't miss out on this opportunity to network with other artisans, show off your skills, impress your peers, enjoy some friendly competition, have some fun and maybe even win a prize. For more information and to be added to the mailing list for rules and entry forms, please contact Mary Mauz at [timberlinellamas@willowwisp.net](mailto:timberlinellamas@willowwisp.net) or 970.379.8193.

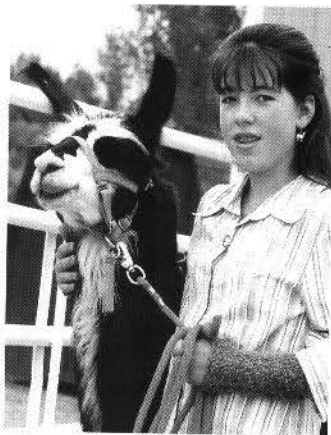
### Don't Forget the Kids

by Tim and Paula Casey

We are so committed to the partnership of llamas and children that we are actively working on developing a great, full, two-and-a-half-day menu of activities and events for the youth who attend the RMLA Conference this coming July. We hope all the youth of RMLA can join us for the conference. As parents we would like to thank the entire llama community for their commitment to this special connection between youth and llamas, and we look forward to next year's conference adding to the enthusiasm for all of us.

# Mystery! Solved

by Judy Wolff-Mills



Thank you to all those RMLA Journal readers who identified the designer and knitter of the Mystery! Mittens shown in the last issue (see Summer, 2004), as Bobra Goldsmith. The first person to identify Bobra as our mystery knitter was Kayla Bish. For her prize, Kayla selected a pair of gauntlets handknit for her of gray suri llama. Her llama Pelayo is happily growing a beautiful fleece for Kayla's own fiber projects next spring.

Kayla, her brother Cody and her parents are wonderful additions to the RMLA family. They bought their first llamas this past spring.

As for Kayla herself, she says "I am so happy that I won. I have never really won anything, so this is a big happy surprise! Thank you so much."

Kayla is also featured as *The Journal* cover girl. Photo credit: Judy Wolff-Mills

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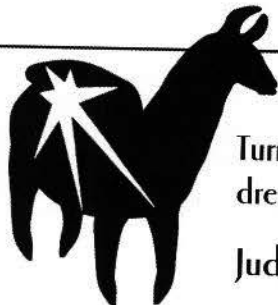
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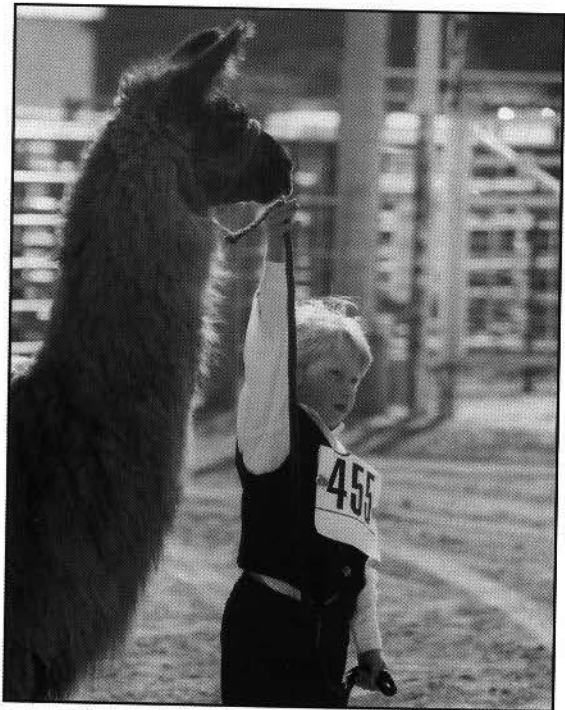
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Hanna Heggie shows *Double J's Hunter* wearing a JWMfibers woven vest.

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Ads must be paid for by the time of publication. Checks should be made out to RMLA. Ads and payments should be sent to Gayle Woodsum, RMLA Journal, P.O. Box 536, Laramie, WY 82073; rmlajournal@aol.com.

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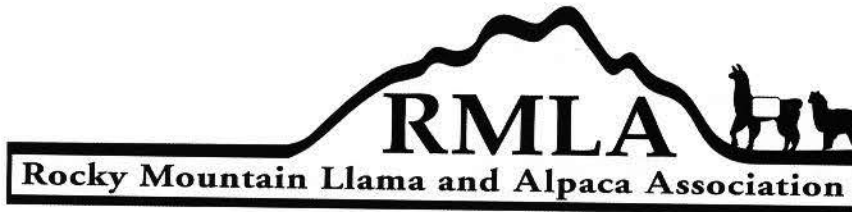
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**Life Membership:** \$500.00 one time only! Same as Annual, plus: **Special** recognition in Directory; and a one time free 1/4 page ad in the Journal. If there are future special assessments, "Life Members" would pay the same as annual members.



**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](http://www.rmla.com) (click on Membership)



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name (2 or Jr. sponsor) \_\_\_\_\_

Ranch \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Home Page \_\_\_\_\_

Life: \$500.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Annual: \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Junior: \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Youth: \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to \_\_\_\_\_

RMLA Foundation

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/MasterCard EXP. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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:

**Bob & Barbara Hance**  
11818 West 52nd Avenue  
Wheat Ridge CO 80033-2032

**Don't miss any of the events sponsored by RMLA. JOIN NOW!!!**

# RMLA Membership Report

Bob and Barbara Hance, Committee Chairs.

The RMLA Membership numbers are: Life Members, 41; Young Adult, 4; Youth, 27; Regular Memberships, 222, representing 370 voting members.

We also have 5 Honorary Memberships, 4 free ones from the Estes Park Wool Market drawing, and 5 Honorary Veterinary memberships.

Below are listed our new members since the last Journal printing. As always, we encourage you, our current members, to take a few minutes and make contact with those new members who may live near you.

Maryan/Wallace Baker  
Indian Hills Llamas  
8555 Gray Mare Drive  
Riverside CA 92509-5172  
909.685.6778 Fax 909.685.6773  
ihllamas@pacbell.net

Dan /Gretchen Dumas  
Little Reata  
7671 CR 319  
Rifle CO 81650  
970.876.2527  
goobs25@earthlink.net

Ron/Stuart Hoskinson  
1065 Sundance Circle  
Woodland Park CO 80863  
719.687.1106  
ron.hoskinson@peterson.af.mil

Janet /Harvey Hufford  
Dream Chaser Alpacas  
210 W. Stollsteimer  
Pagosa Springs CO 81147-7672  
970.731.5395  
hufford@dreamchaseralpacos.com  
www.dreamchaseralpacos.com

Mary K. Hyde  
501 Road G  
Henderson NE 68371  
402.366.7589

Lisa/John W. Maly  
Owl Canyon Llamas  
13500 Owl Canyon Trail  
LaPorte CO 80535-9737  
970.482.3210 Fax 970.482.3203  
lisamaly@yahoo.com

Casie VanAuken (Youth)  
VA Llamas 3952 CR 9628  
Alvin TX 77511  
281.585.0922 Fax 281.331.6006  
mkvallamas@aol.com

Kathy VanAuken  
VA Llamas  
3952 CR 9628  
Alvin TX 77511 2  
81.585.0922 Fax 281.331.6006  
mkvallamas@aol.com

Karen/Lon Vincent  
Tumbleweed Ranch  
PO Box 712  
Sedalia CO 80135-0712  
303.688.6226  
tumbleweed3624@aol.com

R. Douglas Yajko M.D.  
Alexandra E. Yajko  
1121 Walz Avenue  
Glenwood Springs CO 81601  
970.945.6533 Fax 970.947.0373  
rdyajko@comcast.net

## Cache La Poudre



### MINERALS

Marie & Richard Hoover

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or to receive a brochure

**800-758-0825**

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#### Supplement #1

Diet consists of: Late or non-irrigated summer, fall or winter pasture; feeding grass hay. Supplement #1 contains a 2:1 calcium/phosphorus ratio and additional Vitamin E.

#### Supplement #2

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

#### Supplement #3

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

## *Insure Your Llama and Alpacas' Health for Just Pennies per Day!*

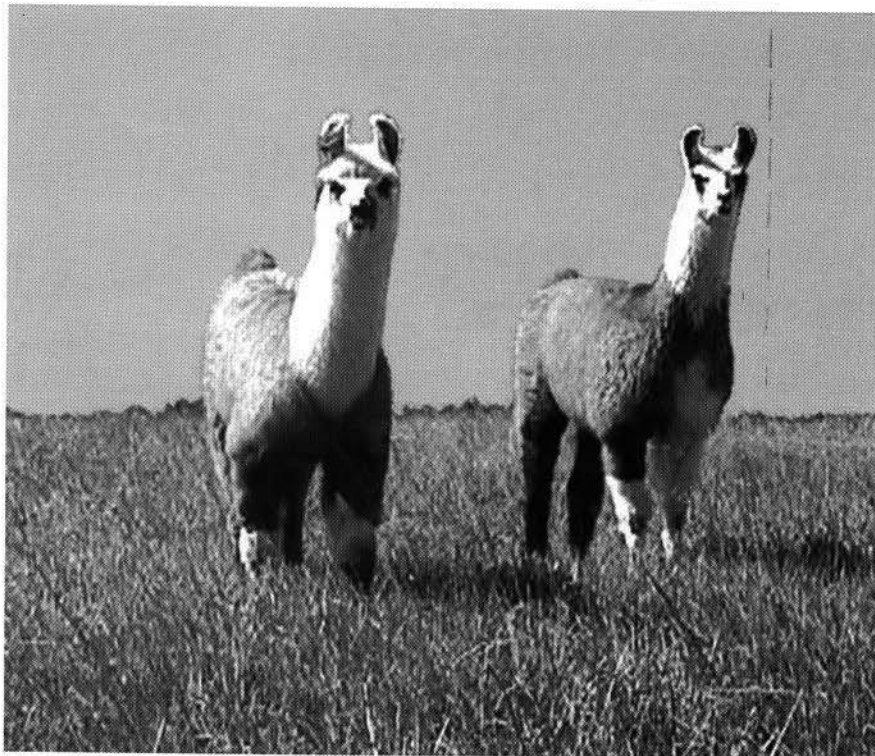
Cache La Poudre Minerals are free choice Vitamin and Mineral supplements formulated specifically to balance your llama and alpacas' diet.

- ✓ Supplements do not add unnecessary calories or protein to the animals' diet
- ✓ Tailored to meet different feeding situations
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Zinpro® 100 also available.

# Cadfael Kids Update



**Raphael - 5-25-04**  
Full brother to Gabriella

**Shavano - 6-05-04**  
128 pounds at 3 months



**Pheasant  
Hill Farm**  
Llamas

For Fiber,  
Packing,  
Show and FUN

John & Sharon  
Beacham

15760 CR 220  
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81201-9427

719-539-7185

[beachams@phf-llamas.com](mailto:beachams@phf-llamas.com)



Since moving to the mountains, Cadfael has sired 5 males, all with his heavy bone, long neck, fine fiber and great disposition. 3 have similar markings.

One more 1st and he'll be an ALSA Get of Sire Champion.

Reserve a breeding for your Cadfael kid.  
2 outside breedings left in 2004

Fee: \$1000 - LBG

Discount for Champion females.

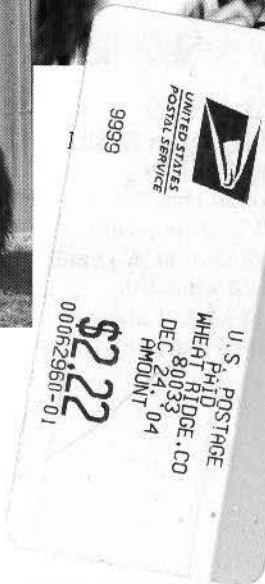
**Cadfael - ALSA Halter Champion**

# Double Jj Llamas of Laramie, Wyoming

Where dreams and reality are one and the same.



**Double J's Dare to Dream**  
 Argentine Yecu x Double J's Kiana  
 DOB 7/2/02  
 Grand Champion Both Shows,  
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 Top Ten ALSA Grand National '04



## Our Latest ALSA Halter Champions

**Bolivian Innovations Silver Lining**  
 Bolivian Innovation x Bardo's Serrinilla  
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 Grand Champion Medium Wool Male  
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 Top Ten ALSA Grand National '04  
**FOR SALE**

307.721.2919 • Julie Heggie & Gayle Woodsum • [dbjllamas@aol.com](mailto:dbjllamas@aol.com)

**RMLA**  
 11818 W. 52nd Avenue  
 Wheat Ridge, Colorado  
 80033-2032  
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 Address Service Requested

TIMOTHY J. THOMPSON, DVM  
 TOWN & COUNTRY VETERINARY CLINIC, PC  
 PO BOX 450  
 PLATTEVILLE CO 80651-0450

15/12/23  
 1st Notice  
 2nd Notice  
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Not Deliverable As Addressed  
 Unable To Forward  
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 Moved, Left No Address  
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 Vacant  Illegible  
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