

The **RMLA**
Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

Journal

www.rmla.com

Fall 2012



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The Backcountry Llama



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For Packers'

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ATTENTION

National Western Stock show will have the 2nd annual silent auction of fleeces. All monies go to the fleece owner. This is a great way to sell a fleece and introduce new spinners to camelid fibers. Email Jane Levene @jlevene@comcast.net for more information

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Issue	Submission Deadline	Printing Date
Spring	March 1, 2013	March 20, 2013
Summer	June 1, 2012	June 20, 2013
Fall	September 1, 2012	September 20, 2013
Winter	December 1, 2012	December 20, 2012

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Ads must be submitted by e-mail as a attached document. RMLA is not able to scan ads. We suggest ads are created in black and white. Ad's must be in word or as a J-peg file

The Journal staff does not design or create ads. However, the staff can refer you to RMLA members who might be able to help you create an ad.

Payment for ads must be received before an ad is published. To pay by credit card, call RMLA Treasurer, Ann Bruhn at 719-689-2122 with your credit card information.

By check, send to Sue Grim, PO Box 7, Dumont CO 80436.

President's Message

By Lougene Baird

Dear RMLA Members,

The Annual Meeting held in Castle Rock, CO and the 30th Anniversary party was a nice gathering of RMLA Members. Ron and I so enjoyed visiting with many RMLA members, their families and animals. It was a pleasure- packed day or two and we will take many fond memories home with us in October.... and lots of great photos to share with our friends and family.

I would like to thank the membership for electing me to the Board. Before the election, several of you called with questions and comments. Each member I spoke with gave great input for the direction of RMLA and I have taken your comments to heart. I feel we all understand what a

wonderful organization we have and it takes all of us to continue into the future.

The 30th Anniversary was a warm celebration. Several farms/ranches brought story boards to share the history of their lives with llamas and alpacas. We enjoyed some tasty munchies and cake. It was very touching to watch long-time friends as well as newer members chat, relax and enjoy each other's company.

I want to personally thank Dick Williams for his time on the Board. Dick and Jeannie have had a difficult year and Jeannie is doing much better. Dick did not miss a meeting and continued the Library and Pack Committee work as usual. We knew we could depend on Dick for his sound thinking, his knowledge of RMLA history,

his astute business sense and his genuine care for the longevity of RMLA. Dick was respectful of the opinion of other Board members and complemented the team perfectly. We are thankful Dick will remain the Chair of the Pack and Library Committees and are delighted he has taken on the Membership Committee. I look forward to a continuance of great work for RMLA by Dick.

As we move into the most beautiful time of the year with warm, sunny days and cool evenings, try to get out and enjoy a good hike, cart drive or just a great day in the barn with your animals. Should you travel to events or shows, be safe. . . and, know that each one of you are a treasure.

Thank you, Lougene

Remembering a Member

Gerald (Jerry) Lee

Jerry Lee, RMLA member of many years, passed away after a long illness. Jerry will be remembered for always being around to help at RMLA events. He had a sincere smile and eyes that were always twinkling as he helped lama folks everywhere. Memorial contributions in memory of Jerry may be made to Hospice of North Iowa, 232 Second Street, Mason City Iowa 5401. Contribu-

SPINNING LLAMA and ALPACA

By Chris Switzer 52 pages of helpful info: fiber ID, description, Suri, Paco-vicuna, cleaning & collecting, washing, storage, micron testing, shearing, preparation, blending, dyeing, spinning, marketing & selling, plus 5 projects. 3rd edition. \$18 plus .63 CO. TX and \$2.50 shipping. (\$21.13 total) Chris Switzer, 1236 Glacier View Ln., Estes Park, CO. 80517.

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Letter from the Editor

By Sue Grimm

I missed the celebration over Labor day to Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of RMLA. My daughter invited me to Montana for a visit.

As some of you know Heather is a veterinarian up in Montana. She is a modern time country Dr. only her patients are animals not people. But just like years gone by when you get a call, you go to the clinic and pack up the items you think you will need and head on out to where your patient is. On my visit I got to go out on a call with her. It was Saturday afternoon and we were just heading home when her clinic phone rang. There had been a horse injured, the farmer had not seen it as he was out harvesting wheat, but his kids had told him one was injured on the horses face. We drove out to the farm in pretty much the middle of nowhere. I was lost without mountains for navigation! But Heather got us there in no time. We drove back to his corrals and found our patient. A sorrel gelding which had a gaping wound on his face.

No hauler would work as it would be in Dr. Heathers way. So a length of bailing twine was going to have to work. As I

went in to catch our patient, Heather laid out all the things she would need to stich him up.

I brought the gelding over to her where upon she sedated him and went to work. I was totally amazed to see my daughter taking charge and getting to work on the horse. She relied on me to hold the horse and hand her new packets of suture when she requested them. After an hour or so her work was done. It was time to get this drugged horse back into the corral to sleep off the drugs and start his healing. It could have been a page from another time, but it was Labor Day weekend under the Montana sky.

It brings me to the point what would the average person do with out the selfless dedication of the veterinarian who takes our calls for emergencies or just to give advice. I want to take this time to thank all the veterinarians who have worked on each and every one of my animals, either a llama or one of my dogs or cats or the horse. It takes such a special person to become a vet or an MD.

If you have a special vet who has been

there for me send me something about him or her. Thank you vets for being out there for the of us.

Fall is upon us and soon Winter will be. Soon we will be moving inside to work on the fiber projects or get the fleeces off to the mills.

I have come to enjoy working on the Journal. Although some time when work is crazy I think to myself why on earth did you do this! But in the end its been a great experience and it gives me some place to volunteer. Plus the learning curve has been straight up.

I would not have learned what I have with out the help of my oldest daughter Jessica. She spent many hours over the phone teaching and old dog new tricks. I would never have made it with out her.

Have a wonderful Fall. Keep sending your articles and photos. We are looking for that holiday cover photo. Who knows it may just be the one you send into me.

Sue

Membership Update

By Dick Williams Membership Chair

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A Day of Trail Maintenance

By Dick Williams, Lothlorien Llamas Plains, MT

One of our favorite day hike destinations lies right on the Montana/Idaho line about an hour west of our home in Plains, MT. The Thompson Pass Road (closed in the winter) connects MT Hwy 200 at Thompson Falls with I-90 at Kingston, ID and crosses the divide at Thompson Pass about 25 miles west of Hwy 200. Just as you reach the top of the pass there is a large parking lot on the south side of the road with two marked trailheads. The one on the east end of the parking area leads to the Blossom Lakes (on the MT side) and a dirt road running past the vault toilet ends at the trailhead for Revett Lake on the Idaho side. On a hike into Revett Lake earlier this summer we noticed that there were quite a few trees blown down across the trail ending with a big, 60 foot pine that fell lengthwise on the trail just short of the lake. Even though it's off the beaten path, these lakes are a fairly popular hiking destination in the area so we decided to

put out trail maintenance experience to use and clear the trail.

Of course the first step was checking with the National Forest office in Silverton, ID. They're always happy to have volunteer trail help, but by mid August when the fire danger picks up it's always a good idea to check in before taking a chain saw into the woods around here. After getting the OK, my wife Jeanne and I took a friend who wanted to come along and a big male llama we got from Al & Sondra Ellis last spring and loaded up our gear. From the parking lot to the actual trailhead is only a mile and we usually just walk it, but as it was the middle of the week and we were going in to get some work done we drove in. The road stops at the trailhead with just enough room to turn a two horse trailer around if someone isn't parked in just the wrong place – but we were lucky and there was no one there when we arrived at 10 am. As we were

loading 'Drew' up and grabbing our daypacks a couple from WA arrived and parked right where we needed to back in to get turned around. We learned that lesson many years ago however and had already turned around and parked pointed back out, so after saying hi (and of course questions and photos) we hit the trail.

The trail to the lake is only 1.7 miles from the TH and only climbs 800' from the bottom parking lot, which is very unusual for this part of the country. Shortly after passing the little waterfall on Cascade Ck we reached the first couple of blow downs we had intended to cut out and found that they had cut out sometime in the last few days. We had a quick consultation and decided to hike on up to the lake to check all the others and found that they had all been cut – except for that last big one blocking 60 some feet of trail. We managed to get around it and reach the lake but then decided to go ahead and give it a

try. So we unloaded the gear and while Kathy took 'Drew' back up to the lake to snack on the grass Jeanne and I started at the top of the tree figuring we'd get as much of it cleared as we could. It got to be quite a challenge as we neared the 38 inch butt of the tree as we only had a saw with an 18" bar, but with a little ingenuity and a lot of work we had it all done in a couple of hours.

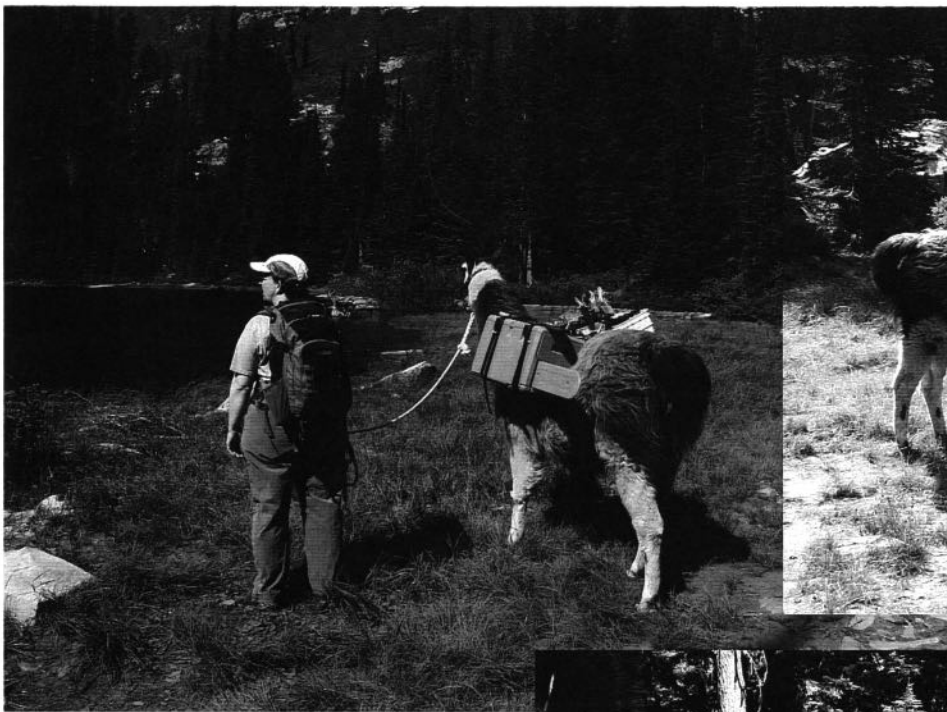
One of the really neat parts of the day was that all of the hikers who came up the trail while we were working

stopped to say hi and thanked us for all our work. After they found out we were volunteers some even offered to give us a little gas money to say thanks. Shortly after starting back toward the trailhead we heard voices on the trail up ahead and stopped to get off the trail and let them by – wait a minute, I recognize that hard hat! Yup, it's a Forest Service trail crew coming in to finish up the work a couple of them had started the day before but decided to bring more help in for the "big one". So after a few laughs ('you really cut

that tree out by yourselves?') we all thanked each other and headed back down the trail.

Trail maintenance isn't always fun – in fact, sometimes it can be darn hard work! But we often find more satisfaction hiking easily back out a trail that was a mess when we came in than we do on most of our other hiking experiences. Try it sometime, you just might enjoy it! And you can bet that someone will say thanks!





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SEPTEMBER

.Looking for the Gold Llama Hike, Golden Gate Canyon State Park, CO.,
September 29, 2012

Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

▪ **Paca Buddies,** Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO.,
September 22-23, 2012

Contact Brent Holt, 281.250.2000, Brent.Holt@CFBMIC.com.

November

Entries due for Alpacas November 16. Contact National Western Stock Show .com

December

Entries due for Llamas December 3, 2012. Contact National western Stock show.com

January

Llama show Jan 11-13

**RMLA needs a new chairperson for the calendar .
Here is a great opportunity to use your skills in pho-
tography. Contact Linda Hayes @ lla-
mas@skybeam.com**

**The Journal committee is looking for cover art for the next
Journals. Do you have that great camping photo? Or did you
knit or weave something out of llama or alpaca? Send pho-
to's to rmlaeditor@gmail.com**

The Journal is being printed in Colorado. It will be mailed from the Dumont, CO. post office.

Youth!! if you need volunteer hours you can help with the labeling of the journal for mailing. Contact RMLAEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

Vesicular Stomatitis Confirmed in CO and NM

Reprinted from Lana fall 2012

Vesicular Stomatitis Confirmed in CO/NM [http://](http://www.nmlbonline.com/?id=45)

www.nmlbonline.com/?id=45

VS Case Confirmed in Colorado

A case of Vesicular Stomatitis has been confirmed in Colorado. [See website [NM Map of Active VS Cases](#)

There are currently 10 active cases in New Mexico. [as of 8/17/12]

Emergency Rule Approved 8-1-2012 in Response to VS in NM

A new emergency rule was approved 8/1/2012 related to livestock movement and Vesicular Stomatitis. The following rationale appears in the text of the rule:

"New Mexico is currently experiencing a significant outbreak of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS). VS is classified as a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD), and, as such, cases are required to be reported nationally and internationally

"To minimize the spread of the disease and to help avoid severe restrictions on future livestock movement, the following requirements and restrictions are being implemented. For livestock events held in NM, the event coordinator is responsible for helping ensure livestock owners' compliance with these and any other livestock movement requirements, as it applies to animals admitted onto the premises of the event and will go away in 90 days." [See the website for the full text of the emergency rule, as well as more information on VS in the US.]

Anthrax found in Colorado

Reprinted from Lana Fall 2012

Anthrax Surfaces in Colorado after 31-Year Hiatus

From Veterinary Practice News

<http://www.veterinarypracticenews.com/> | Posted 8/10/12

Nearly 60 cattle are dead in Colorado after an outbreak of anthrax, but officials are confident the disease has been contained.

The outbreak occurred at a ranch in Logan County and marked the first confirmed incidence of the disease in Colorado in 31 years. Anthrax outbreaks are not uncommon in the Western states and the risk of infection is minimal outside the affected ranch, said Colorado state veterinarian Keith Roehr, DVM.

Scientists from the Colorado State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Fort Collins confirmed the disease in the carcass of one of the deceased animals. Officials said they are certain "beyond a reasonable doubt," based on the clinical signs, that the other cattle died from anthrax as well. Officials quarantined the ranch, and cattle at nearby ranches are scheduled for vaccinations, and some may take prophylactic antibiotics as a precaution. Because no cattle left the Logan County ranch in the months before detection

of the clinical signs of anthrax, infected cattle likely did not enter the food chain, according to the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Drought conditions may have created a favorable environment for bacterial growth, Dr. Roehr said. The disease is caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. Livestock can become infected by ingesting spores while grazing.

Anthrax is considered a serious disease because it can cause the rapid die-off of a large number of animals, often with no illness detected in the dead animals, according to the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

People with open wounds can contract the disease by handling infected livestock or livestock products.

Veterinarians in Colorado should have anthrax on their minds when making differential diagnoses on cattle with clinical signs of the disease, Roehr noted. Clinical signs include fever, respiratory difficulty, excitement followed by depression, lack of coordination, vomiting, diarrhea, bloody discharges, convulsions and death, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

LLAMA / ALPACA CAMP

July 7, 2012; Year of the Gnomes
Camelid Kids 4-H Club, Polk County, NE

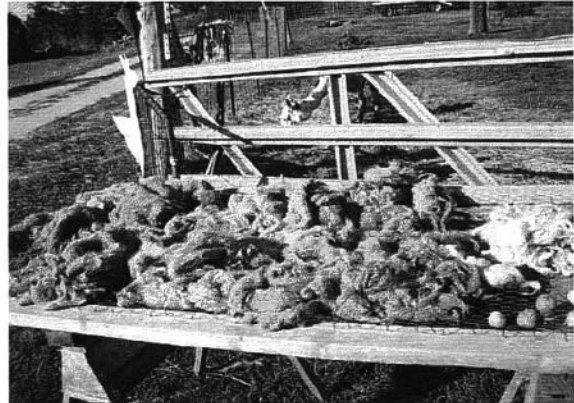
By Geri Rutledge & Catherine Steele

On a hot July week-end in Waco, Nebraska, we gathered a group of 15 people for a Llama/Alpaca "Boot Camp" as the kids so fondly dubbed it. The goal was...to make GNOMES. Yes! It all started with the idea to make Gnomes using llama/alpaca fiber as a club project.

We wanted to teach the group the entire process for using fiber once its shorn from the animal. Most of the 4-H kids and youth RMLA members were present on shearing day so they saw how the "beauty shop" operates and watched 40 head being done in a single day. They wondered why Geri was so picky about some of the animal's fiber and at the camp they began to understand! Lock Structure. Geri said, "Look for the good lock structure to make the beards!"



Day one started with a felted egg lesson; squish, soap, squish, adding raw fiber to soap and water, squish, put it in a plastic easter egg. These were then tied inside a sock with yarn between each egg. This was followed by a trip to the dryer where heat, soap and agitation turned them into masterpieces of felted llama/alpaca wool eggs. (Yes, we have a dryer designated for wool tumbling.) These eggs, or a wooden base, could be used for the body of the gnome.

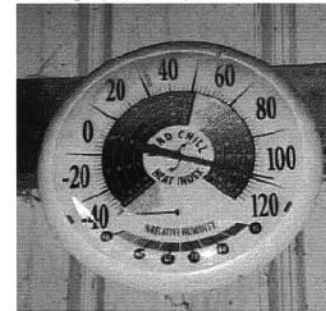


The lessons continued with dyeing the wool using a turkey roaster. We heated a big pot of water with propane. Kids would take turns picking the color of the dye, adding the raw fiber to the boiling pot and watching the clock. When



time was up they rinsed the colorful fibers and laid them out on racks to dry. (No, we don't cook turkeys with this equipment anymore; Jim has his own equipment and we don't cross boundaries.)

As time permitted throughout the day we included some training sessions. We have some new kids and young animals that need to learn the mandatory elements for showing, so we would teach 4 elements at a time hoping not to overload their brains (neither the animals or the kids.) They learned backing up, load up, and the difference between jump and step-over in the morning sessions.



Also in the morning we worked with raw fiber to get them to understand the felting and dyeing processes. These projects were interesting at best. Note that the temperature got quite toasty inside of the shed when the felting

project began. In the afternoon we worked with carded and colored wool to felt flat pieces that would become the Gnomes clothing. Eventually, the kids got it... you have to cross the fiber 3 ways to get it to hook to itself, you cover the screen with fiber, use the hot soapy water from the crock pot and start to felt the piece, kneading with your finger and hands until it thickens up.



Up with the tents, out with the grill and pot luck for a fun-filled supper. Lots of "old stories" got told to the new kids; things the "old kids" did while showing that they learned from and hope that the newbies don't have to experience. Example: pack class a perfect run then forgetting to take the panniers off. And we made melted chocolate Smores. Perfect ending to an eventful day. You can't beat that!

Llama Camp Day 2 – a pancake breakfast that came with some cloud cover and temperatures in the upper 80's lower 90's, which really felt pretty good. We trained the llamas in more mandatory's the relative coolness of the morning. We finally got the right direction for a haunch turn, did some showmanship training and learned the correct distance to keep between you and the animal/handler in front of you. We taught safety, backing, petting, show teeth and show foot. Whew!



Then it was off for a badly needed hike. We took the group down south to the wide open pastures and saw where the wild turkeys are hiding out. We ventured over to the creek and were thrilled to see some water still there. Along the way we played Red Light-Green Light. Red Light means everyone has to stop. Green light means take off and run. This was actually training for change of pace and to see if the little animals could keep up.



We did another round of showmanship since we had so much space to work with and by this time they were actually using the one word commands to train and giving good rewards to the animals. They probably got a little sick of hearing Cat and Geri saying "Eyes and Ears" which means its time to stop taking and start listening. Girls tend to talk a lot. We had some great Kodak moments along the way.



Now its back to the shed to begin construction of the Gnomes. It was really cool to watch the kids put their Gnomes together. They can be incredibly creative. They began by needle felting a belt onto the Gnome shirt then attaching the shirt with a glue gun.

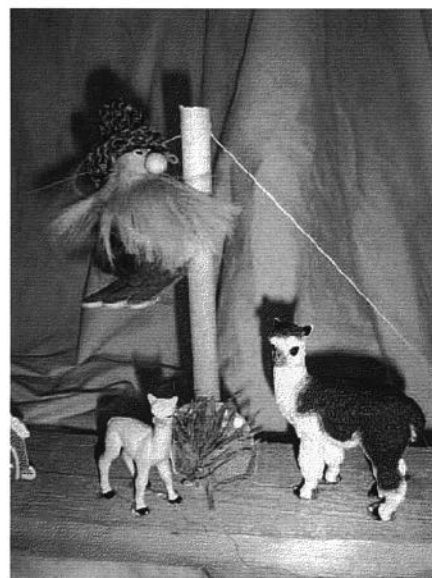
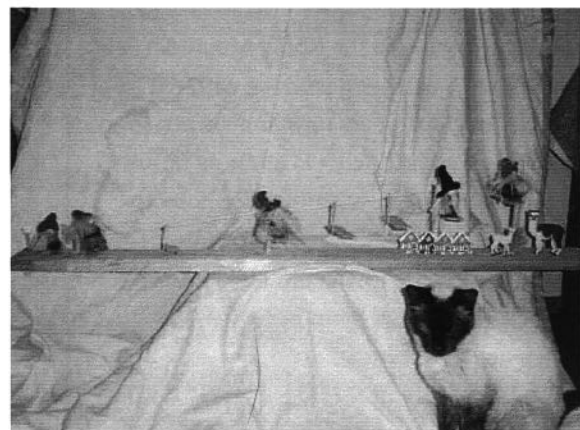


Then they would find a "good lock structure" for each beard, followed by adding hair, nose and painted eyes. A hat was the final touch. Some Gnomes got haircuts, some got mustaches, some were bald. They had a blast putting these together, all while sitting around the tables laughing and telling stories. The hats were done in advance by either crocheting or knitting with 100% llama or alpaca yarn. This was started at our Public Relations Day earlier in the year at Orschelns farm store in Grand Island. Each year more and more people show up to see the llamas do obstacles and have a ball getting to walk and work with them.

By now we were ready to wrap up camp with our final 2 projects. We have 2 basic age groups so we needed both a Junior Project and a Senior Project. The Gnomes are going to the county fair first, then on to the state fair where they meet the 75% llama criteria for state fair contests. This year the theme of the Nebraska state fair is High Flying Fun that refers to the new sky tram that was constructed to give fair goers a birds eye view if the fair. Both of the projects took this theme in mind during construction. We can't wait to see how they do!!!



Senior Project



Junior Project

Youth Update

By Brianna Livengood-

Recently at the rocky mountain regionals rmla youth members were able to take advantage of \$50 stipends which covered the costs of all the youth classes at the regional show. The youth that received the stipend were Maura Benton, Luke Bakken, Michaela Vander Hamm, and Wyatt Mayo. The stipend was available for the youth from the monies earned from the recent shirt sales. Thank you RMLA Members for supporting our Youth! Also thanks to Barb Harris for her help with the entries!

Dear RMLA Members:

Thank you for helping me qualify for the ALSA Grand National with your generous stipend to cover my youth entry fee to the Rocky Mountain Fall Regional Show. I have been working with my gelding, Chocco, for three years now and we are so excited to be going to Lincoln in all three performance events, plus showmanship. We hope to enter driving competitions soon, also. Your ongoing support of youth is helping to build a strong future for RMLA and the llama industry. We can't wait to see you in Nebraska!

Sincerely,

Maura Benton & Chocco

Hello RMLA Membership,

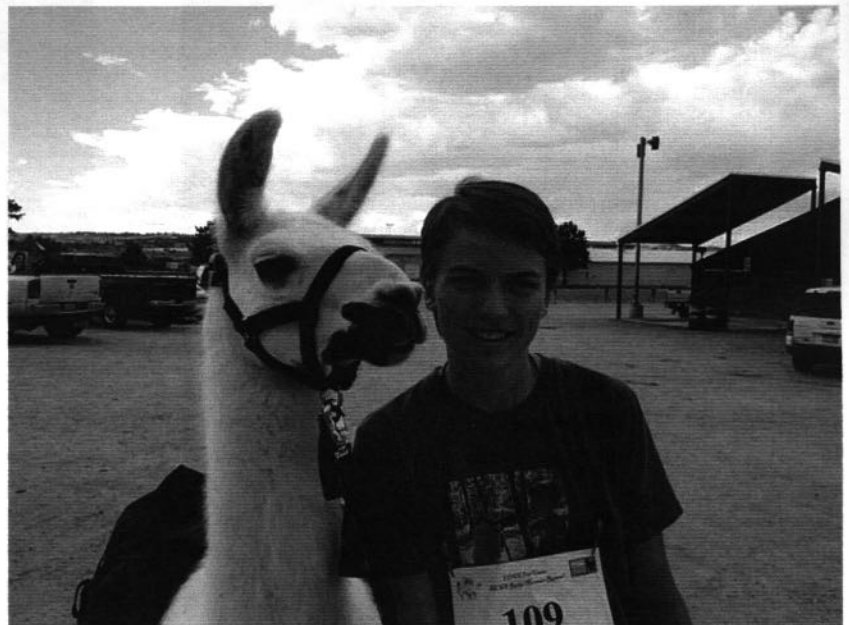
My name is Luke Bakken and I want to say 'Thank You!' for paying my registration fee for Regionals!

What a great gift. I showed my llama Bouncer and we had a terrific time. The courses were awesome. I surely wasn't expecting to see Ducks at the llama show!

My mentor Jerry Dunn has taught me so many life lessons through llamas. My mom likes to remind me of one of the first things Jerry told me about leading - 'Walk like you know where you're going.' I know wherever I go in life, I will take Jerry's words of wisdom and wonderful llama memories with me. Thanks again for a great time at the show!

Sincerely,

Luke Bakken (LB - aka - Llama Boy)

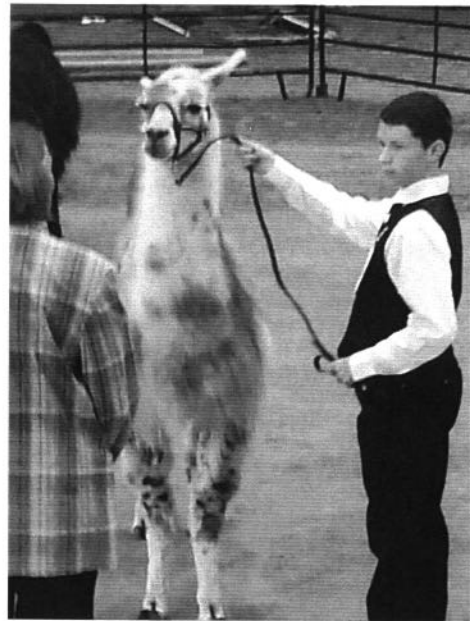


Dear RMLA:

I would like to thank you for providing the money for me to participate in the Regional Llama show. It was both fun and challenging for me, Smokey, and Hugo.

Sincerely,

Wyatt Mayo



Attention Packers

(And all interested members)

We are looking into the possibility of organizing a trail maintenance pack trip in the Bob Marshall Wilderness area of Montana sometime next summer and would like to know if there are enough interested members to proceed with this plan and how large a project we might be able to commit to (probably a max of 8 -10 people). We won't know the exact area or the type of maintenance we'd be doing until early next year, but the trip would probably be scheduled for late June and would be somewhere between 4 and 7 days in duration. The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation usually schedules one free day during each trip so you would have one day free to explore the area etc.

If this is something you might be interested in email the Pack Committee at bellama@blackfoot.net. Please include the number of people (RMLA members only) and contact information so we can keep you informed.

Dick Williams,
Pack Committee Chair

30 Years of RMLA

RMLA Display



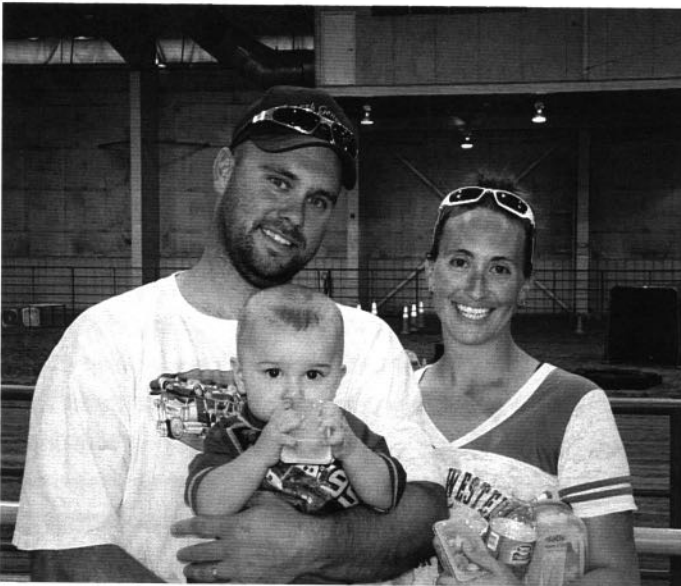
Officers getting ready for there presentation



Catching up with friends and bidding on the silent auction

Brianna teaching how to do it

Lloyd and Christy Whamsley and Lane...How time flies



Can you believe its been 30 years



Ready for the cake



Catching up with friends



At the show the next day

Third Annual Llama Fun Day

by Cathleen and Jerry White, Pear Tree Llamas, Midway, UT.

On Saturday, June 23, 2012, Pear Tree Llamas of Midway, Utah, once again opened its gates to the public and welcomed participants to the Third Annual Llama Fun Day. As our publicity flyer said, the event was planned to give non-llama owners and those just curious about llamas a chance to spend a day with a llama and learn more about them. The event was free and open to the public. More than 260 people came on a hot, sunny day to look, learn, and participate. To our delight, we recognized a number of repeat attendees.

The format was the similar to previous events, but with some changes. As before, the event hours were 10am to 5pm. However, this year we tried setting up a schedule of events, rather than simply letting things run all day long. Last year the more popular events, such as the nuno felting workshop and the obstacle course, drew constant lines and nearly wore out the organizers (not to mention the obstacle course llamas). This year we scheduled staggered starting times for different activities, and posted the event schedule at each station. This seemed to be a definite improvement. (Copy of our event schedule appended for those curious about it).

As attendees drove in, they were welcomed first by the RMLA banner at the main ranch gate (1), and second by our enthusiastic greeter, Asim Bolca, who gave each vehicle a map of the event, an event schedule, a copy of our liability release to sign, and a cheerful welcome. He was far and away the best greeter we have had for this event. After parking (free, of course), people were free to wander in any direction within the event.

Inside the barn the fiber operations were in full swing. Mike Coffey of Heber City sheared four of our Pear Tree llamas. Particular (our proud old Hinterland stud),

Taylor, Freestyle, and Nusta all got lion cuts and provided large bags of fiber to go directly to the fiber cleaning stations. Ulla Kauffman brought her skirting table (2) and showed attendees how to use a skirting table and a manual fiber tumbler box. She reported that her voice nearly gave out as she answered questions about fiber processing throughout the day.

From the barn, attendees could move on to visit vendors selling llama and alpaca fiber and handcrafts. Randy Yeates of High Country Alpacas offered alpaca roving, raw fiber, and Russian spindles. Cheryl Juntilla of La Chiripada and Kathy Stanko of Iron Horse Ranch staffed a large and beautiful booth with both dyed and natural yarns, fleeces, small toys, and hand-crafted clothing. Other vendors sold llama jewelry and llama finger puppets.

The "interactive" activities drew large crowds throughout the day. Shirley Weathers and Bill Walsh of Rosebud Llamas brought three pack llamas and demonstrated gear and techniques for llama packing. The three llamas also went for occasional walks with event-goers.

At the obstacle course, Cliff Orton, Andrea Orton, and Wally Juntilla (3) were kept busy matching llamas and eager llama handlers. A new touch this year was the bright yellow "Ask Me What You Can Do With a Llama?" stickers purchased from Quality Llama Products. Each child who completed the obstacle course received a sticker, and most wore them proudly throughout the day.

The nuno felting workshop, although only scheduled for selected times throughout the day, took off under the eager hands of two young people – Samantha and Wyatt – grandchildren of one of our event volunteers, Kay Shean (4). The children managed the workshop capably and well, and

announced that they would be in charge of felting next year!

We were excited and pleased that Beverley Heffernan of the Backcountry Horsemen of Utah was able to make a return visit to the event. She and her two quarter horses – Luke and Bo – mingled with the crowd of llamas and people alike. After being properly introduced to Taylor the Llama, Luke discovered a new four-footed friend, and nuzzled Taylor's neck gently (5). At first startled by this unexpected grooming, Taylor eventually decided he rather liked it.

At Beverley's suggestion, she and Katy White experimented with a special demonstration of llama and horse together on the obstacle course. Katy and Mister went first, followed by Beverley on Luke. Onlookers were delighted to watch big Luke (16.5 hands) negotiate the weave obstacle (6,7). One of the underlying objectives of this event is to show the public just how well horses and llamas can exist together, both at home and in the backcountry, if they have been properly introduced. Llama/horse interactions throughout the day clearly supported this goal.

Rounding out the menu of things to do and see were some informational exhibits. Beverley Heffernan brought materials on Leave No Trace Camping and the Backcountry Horsemen. Ulla Kauffman designed a display of information about llamas as sheep guards. A wealth of handouts about llamas from RMLA, ILR, the Utah Llama Association, and various other sources was available at Karen Moritz and Lee Beard's RV, which was parked near the barn and served as both an information kiosk and the official First Aid station (which fortunately no one needed).

From the beginning of this event, our purpose has always been to provide a casual,

no-stress environment where people can learn about llamas (8). As the attendance of more than 260 people clearly shows, the idea of an educational event involving llamas has strong appeal for the public. Too many of us have heard stories of people who fell heir to a llama or llamas due to financial or family circumstances, and had little or no idea of how to care for their new responsibility. If the experience and information gained at Llama Fun Day gives one attendee knowledge of how to better care for animals in their charge, or encourages yet another person to adopt and responsibly care for a llama, then the time spent on Llama Fun Day will have been well spent indeed. And this leads to another thought about Llama Fun Day. In

the llama industry we have a tendency to speak primarily to each other. We all enjoy and look forward to seeing old friends at llama shows and gatherings, and none of us want to lose those valuable connections. But for the llama industry to remain vibrant and even grow, it must attract new people. It is our hope that llama organizations throughout the country will consider adopting something like our Llama Fun Day model as a way to speak to the public. Call it marketing (and it certainly is), but it is also a way to reach out and share with others the special knowledge that we have of life with our llama friends.

This report would not be complete without a word of thanks to all who made this event possible. First and foremost, we

want to thank our small army of volunteers and staff. In addition to those mentioned above, approximately one dozen friends came together to help in a variety of functions. We could not possibly stage an event of this type without their support and commitment. We appreciate the participation of Don Pedro's Mexican Restaurant of Heber City, who provided a colorful Mexican food wagon where lunch could be purchased during the event. And we are very grateful to RMLA and the RMLA Board for agreeing to sponsor Llama Fun Day as an official RMLA event. A big Thank You to All!

Ulla Kauffman at skirting table



RMLA banner and PTL rock



Wally Juntilla in the obstacle



Sherry Roser (l) and Kay Shean at the



Luke meets Taylor



Mister demonstrates the weave obstacle



Katy and Taylor meet event goers

Reminder from the Membership Committee

The RMLA membership year runs from April 1st to March 31st. In order for your information to appear in the Membership Directory your application must be received prior to May 1st.

You can join/renew online at the website (www.rmla.com). Click on the JOIN-RENEW tab where you can fill out the online application or download and print the membership form if you so chose. Applications should be mailed to Ann Bruhn – Treasurer, P.O. Box 746, Victor, CO 80860-0746. You are welcome to print out copies of the application for events and distribution.

Dick Williams – Membership Chair

membership@rmla.com

RMLA Library Arrives in Montana

By Lougene Baird

The RMLA Library DVDs arrive in Montana!

Ron Hinds, RMLA webmaster, spent months converting all of the VHS tapes in the Library to DVDs. This was a monumental project on Ron's part.

Once finished, Ron and Lougene Baird delivered the new DVDs back to Dick Williams and the RMLA Library.

Go to RMLA.com and review what is available. You will find it interesting to watch some of the events and educational activities from years ago. Many are timely by today's standards and some are just fun to see again.

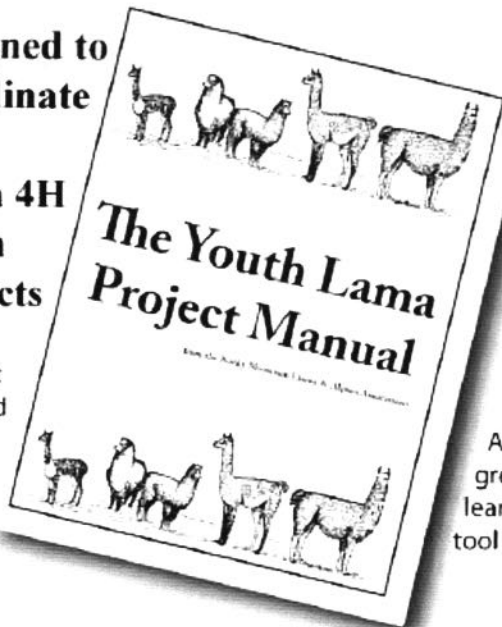
Email Dick Williams at bcllama@blackfoot.net to check out a few.



Newly revised Youth Llama Project Manual

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visitors
to your
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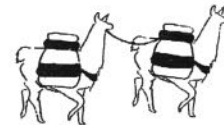
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PACK'EM



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(281) 250-2000

Two of the interns at CSU have responded to your questions.

Dr. Sarah Raabis is a current Livestock Medicine and Surgery Intern at Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital. She is a recent graduate from Tufts Veterinary College in Massachusetts. She has a strong interest in all livestock species and developing sustainable agriculture in third world countries.

Dr. Andi Lear was an intern and now she has begun a Large Animal Internal Medicine Residency with an emphasis in livestock. She is currently performing research with vitamin E in alpacas with Dr. Stacey Byers.

Question: Can you discuss Tick Paralysis. What are the symptoms? What are the cures/antibiotics/medicines used for it. And what preventative steps can be taken?

Response from Dr. Andi Lear: Tick paralysis is an acute, progressive disease caused by a neurotoxin in female, hard-bodied tick saliva, such as Ixodidae and Dermacentor species. Ear ticks have not been reported to cause this disease.

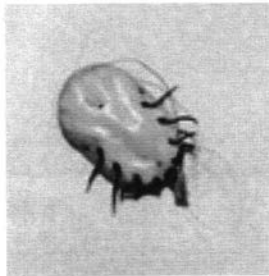
Signs of this condition can occur 5-7 days after the tick has attached to the animal. Early signs of this disease include weak or uncoordinated rear limbs, voice changes, and difficulty swallowing. As the disease progresses the weakness begins to ascend up the body resulting in paralysis of all four limbs, and respiratory distress seen with a change in respiratory effort and rate.

Removal of the tick is essential for treatment. Manual removal of the tick will result in a gradual improvement in clinical signs. Due to camelid's fiber, this is easier said than done. Ticks tend to attach to llamas at the areas

with decreased fleece coverage, the armpits, belly, and inner thighs. Luckily, the condition occurs during warm months when the animal can be sheared making tick localization easier. If the animal cannot be sheared, using a blow dryer to part the fiber can help with identifying the ticks.

Topical treatments with acaricide such as ivermectin, or deramax can also be used. However, chemical treatments result in a delayed kill of the tick resulting in a slower response to therapy versus manual removal.

Once removed, mild to moderately affected animal will return to normal within 24 hours. If paralysis of the respiratory muscles occur further nursing care and therapy is needed. Please remember that neurologic conditions can occur for many reasons, presence of ticks does not mean that it this condition will occur. Having a full physical examination and further diagnostics performed can help determine the cause of the clinical signs seen.



Question: One of my llamas gets teary eyed in the front corners of her eyes. It looks better lately but last winter she looked like she was crying. When it would dry, I could just rub the dirt off that seemed to collect on her tear tracks down her face and clean it off. Do llamas get allergies? Is there a time of year common for that? How can you tell if it is an infection?

Response from Dr. Andi Lear: Excessively teary eyes can occur in llamas for many reasons. But it is very rare for camelids to actually have allergies. Here in Colorado, mechanical irritation to the eyes from dry weather, wind, and dust are common in all species. Over grown fleece around the animals eyes can also cause irritation and excessive tear production.

Dirt and dust around the eye can result in a clogged lacrimal duct. This duct lives at the inside corner of the eye and allows for drainage of tear production into the nasal passage way. (This is why your nose runs, when you cry) Having your veterinarian clean out the eye and restore patency under heavy sedation would be necessary. Keep in mind that foreign bodies as well as corneal ulcers can also result in excessive tearing as well as squinting of the effective eye. An exam by your veterinarian can help determine the cause of tearing and the best treatment.

Question: We have heard that you should not let crias run around the fields in the heat as their 'thermostats' are not functioning and they could possibly run themselves to death due to overheating. So at about what age does a cria's thermostat begin to tell them that they are too hot? And what temperature is considered 'hot'.....80 degrees? 90 degrees?

Response from Dr. Sarah Raabis: South American Camelids originate from habitats that range from 15 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit and their fleece has actually evolved as an adaptation to cooler temperatures (to minimize body heat loss). Heat dissipation (evaporative cooling, or sweating) in alpacas and llamas occurs at "thermal windows" (areas where the hair coat is

shorter and the skin is thinner, such as underneath the abdomen and arms).

Crias have a higher internal temperature than adults and are less efficient at dissipating excess heat when outside temperatures are in the 80's and 90's. Crias that are less than 3 months of age are at a higher risk of overheating, so you should check on these animals more frequently during summer months. This age range is approximate, as susceptibility is dependent on fiber color, temperature, humidity and general health. It is best to limit crias from running around from 10 am to 4 pm (when the sun is strongest) and

provide shallow wading pools or sprinklers low to the ground for them to walk through. It is also important to provide access to shade at all times.

Prevention of heat stress in crias is crucial, as they can become dehydrated while frolicking during summer months. Signs of heat stress include an elevated temperature (>102.5 degrees Fahrenheit), weakness, and a decreased suckle reflex. Treatment includes placing them in a cool environment quickly and providing oral fluids (if they will not suckle, you should seek veterinary care). Preventative measures to decrease the risk of heat

stress are weaning during cooler months and breeding to have crias born in the spring. In addition, proper nutrition (adequate colostrum intake of 10-15% of birth weight and nursing 15% of body weight per day during the first month) will help provide the energy necessary for effective thermoregulation.

A Small Marketing Tid-Bit:

By Ron Hinds el Zorro Colorado Alpacas
Elizabeth, CO

Have a website?

Got a domain name?

Remember it is now standard that domain names (like www.google.com) are case insensitive.

That is, you can use your domain name and really spell out your domain name and make it readable on your business cards, web pages, email signature lines, etc. like www.GoOgLe.CoM works very well.

Of course, the browsers all change it to lower case before it sends it out on the world wide web.

For instance..

www.jhllamas.com is difficult to read if you want to retype it in your browser.

Use this instead: www.JHLLamas.com

www.darkhorsevet.com Use this:

www.DarkHorseVet.com ahhh the words pop right out.

Whoa, here is a good one:

www.llamasatdblj.com Hard to pick out each letter? instead use:

www.LlamasAtDBLJ.com

BUT..... Now case **is important** for anything that follows the .com, .org, etc.

Such as

www.SoprisUnlimited.com/INDEX.html is a world different than

www.SoprisUnlimited.com/index.html

So use CAPS to highlight your words in your domain name but only use lower case in everything else.

Try it, the next time your browsing around the Internet.

Happy browsing.

Ron Hinds

www.elZorroColorado.com :-)

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Ok. Let's see a show of hands.. How many out there still have VHS tapes and a player in the house? *Hummm. Let's see I don't see too many raised hands out there.*

Well we do have a VCR player here, and a recorder.. but we don't have any more VHS tapes in the house! They have all been converted to DVDs!

I noticed one day while browsing the online RMLA Library, there are near 60 VHS tapes in there. I thought since I have the equipment.. let's see if these can be converted. Contacted the President, Lougene Baird and library chairperson, Dick Williams, and found out some blank DVD disks were purchased for this some time ago but that was a far as it got.

So we all worked out getting tapes from Plains, Montana to Elizabeth, Colorado along with the blank DVD disks.

In the process of playing while recording them, I had a very good time listening and watching. There is quite a bit of wonderful information about llamas and alpacas. Yes, I agree that most are older tapes, but this stuff hasn't changed from the 90s. Subjects include the basics of reproduction, training methods, T.T.E.A.M. and Mallon Method, llama packing information and training, how to shear an alpaca or llama.

How to teach a llama to drive. *no, no not a car, silly, a 2 wheeled cart!*

I also found multiple tapes that cover shearing the fiber, spinning it, weaving it,

dying it and felting it for the llama and alpaca.

The Dr. LaRue Johnson, DVD, PhD, Llama Reproduction-A Neonatal Clinic tapes will never be out-of-date! It covers the basic and some advanced information and can be used for alpacas as well. It's easy to follow, and has that wonderful Dr. Johnson humor in there.. to keep everyone on their toes and on the edge of your seat (or couch). The two VHS tapes that make up this series are both on one DVD, it's easy to pause, stop and come back any-time. So if you would like a good lesson in llama (and alpaca) reproduction in a 3 and a half hour video, borrow this DVD. Bring pad and pen and keep the remote handy to pause so you have time write things down. *Like Whoa, what did he say.. back that up, let's hear that part again!!*

Marty McGee (Bennett) subjects are sprinkled throughout the tapes has a lot of T.T.E.A.M. training recordings that cover everything llama!

John Mallon has a series of tapes that cover his training methods. Each of the 2 series' contain 3 tapes and each fit on one DVD. Over 5 hours of Mallon Method training is contained on one series and nearly 5 hours on the other. They cover everything from training in the round pen, the 1st 24 hours, halter training and even working with a hard to halter llama/ alpaca.

Llama packing is a major subject. If you want to know what goes into packing a llama there are a half dozen tapes that

cover what equipment you need to pack as well as training.

So just the subjects I found in 60 or so old VHS tapes is wonderful stuff... avail upon them to increase your knowledge about our llamas and alpacas and look through the entire library, see what you can find.

It may be a few weeks before all of the DVDs (and tapes) get back up to Plains, Montana, but put in your request now.. Go to the Library button on the website.

Insert at the bottom.. smaller font..

We had quite a few VHS tapes here and the wife wanted to keep them, so it's best to convert them to DVDs. The best way to do this is to use a piece of software from Roxio.com, a VCR and a stack of DVD disks and a whole lot of time!

So I found the software I needed on Ebay.com for less than half the price of a new one.

The VCR?... to the Goodwill Store... picked out what looked like a good one for \$10, and bought some blank DVDs.. and away we went.

With a little practice you will learn how to squeeze a whole lot of video on one DVD.

I used the older Mac laptop to record them, so I watched them while working away on the other laptop. If you record too long..... you can edit the video easily after it's recorded.

Ron Hinds – el Zorro Colorado Alpacas, Elizabeth, CO

Packers Responsibility

By Murray E. Fowler , DVM retired from UC Davis

Murray Fowler, DVM grew up on a small farm in Utah. A degree in Animal Husbandry at Utah State University preceded his professional DVM degree from Iowa State University in 1955. He spent three years in a horse practice in Southern California prior to joining the faculty of the Veterinary School at the University of California, Davis in 1958. After 10 years of teaching in the area of large animal surgery and medicine, he was asked to develop a program in Zoological Medicine (captive and free-ranging wild animals), the first of its kind anywhere in the world. When llamas and alpacas became popular in the private sector he was in a position to help with their medical problems. He has been privileged to accompany several llama pack treks as a naturalist in the United States and Peru. He has sponsored and/or participated in numerous workshops on camelids. He also traveled to New Zealand, Peru, Bolivia and Chile to evaluate animals to be shipped to the USA. He is the editor, author or co-author of 24 books, six of which deal with camelids. He has published over 250 professional papers, 95 of which deal with llamas, alpaca and camels. The third edition of his book on the Medicine and Surgery of South American Camelids is now in print. Eric Hoffman and he published The Alpaca Book for owners and breeders. He and his wife Audrey published a small book on First Aid for Llamas and Alpacas. After 34 years of service to the University of California he retired, and is now Professor Emeritus of Zoological Medicine. He remains active in consultations with colleagues and continues to participate in camelid conferences and workshops world wide.

Llama packers in the United States will remember the challenges posed by a planned exclusion of llamas for Canyon Lands National Park in Utah. Similar exclusionary policies have been put in place in California. Another such policy is being attempted in Alaskan wilderness areas.

Some battles seem to be endless. Sometimes the challenges raised by government agencies are mired in bureaucracy or political overtones and sometimes downright bias. I have personally participated in discussions with government officials, trying to explain the lack of risk by using published scientific information only to have my words fall on deaf ears. Instead, I heard statements such as, "That is the way it is going to be!" or "Llamas are not native to this country and pose a threat to our wildlife!"

Having faced a brick wall so many times, I pondered if there is anything positive that packers can do to prove that their animals are not a threat to wild animals or other domestic animals for that matter, whether trekking in the wilderness or at

home on the farm or ranch. Government officials contend that llamas may be carrying infectious or parasitic diseases that could be spread to wildlife such as wild sheep, goats and cervids (deer). Officials don't seem to listen to scientific evidence to the contrary, so how can packers show that their llamas are healthy and strong? First, we should appreciate and support agencies' concern for the health and welfare of the wildlife in their wilderness area of responsibility. Our responsibility is to make certain that preventive medicine is carried out and that the animals that go into the wilderness are free from any infectious disease and have a minimum parasite burden.

It is virtually impossible to rid all parasites from any animal. Parasites have been companions to animals since the dawn of creation. However, owners should be aware of the types of parasites present in their animals and should document steps being taken to minimize the parasite burden. Alaskan officials are attempting to impose such regulations with their new policy.

I have stated over and over that there has never been a documented case of a South American camelid being responsible for the transmission of any disease to either domestic or wild cattle, sheep, goats or cervids. That they suffer from some of the same general diseases of other animals is true, but llamas are not a reservoir for any disease of other animals.

So, what should packers do? May I offer the following suggestions?

1. Keep your packers in optimal body condition so they don't appear to be malnourished.
2. Keep toenails trimmed properly.
3. Monitor your animal while on trek for evidence of fatigue.
4. Do not take any llama that has a discharge from the nose, coughs excessively, has diarrhea, has an obvious skin condition or is lame into a wilderness area.
5. Keep your animals in a parasite management program in consultation with your veterinarian and keep careful records.

6. Maintain a vaccination program that is appropriate to the area where you live and where you go on trek.
7. Have an annual physical examination performed on each animal by your veterinarian.
8. Keep a current record of all health related activities.
9. Obtain a health certificate if you plan to cross state lines.
10. Attempt to determine the precise cause of any illness in individual llamas. This is essential if a herd outbreak occurs. Use diagnostic laboratories as appropriate.
11. Make friends with local regulatory agency personnel.
12. If you have a llama in your herd that goes off feed, loses weight or has diarrhea, determine the cause. Usually there is a reason for such conditions and the individual animal involved deserves your attention. The well-being of your herd may be at stake. Document the steps you have taken to correct the situation.

Certain infectious and parasitic diseases are on the radar screens of government officials. You simply cannot allow a

llama with even a hint of these diseases to enter a wilderness area. Diseases of concern include bacterial diseases such as Johne's disease *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis*; tuberculosis *Mycobacterium bovis* and pneumonia *Pasteurella multocida*. Virus diseases of concern include contagious ecthyma (sore mouth), and blue tongue. These diseases have been reported to occur in llamas but rarely. A parasite of concern is the sheep and goat lungworm *Muellerius capillaris*. Fortunately this lungworm is not known to occur in camelids. Basically, except for parasites that are common to many domestic animals, llamas have parasites that are unique to them.

The bottom line is that no llama with clinical disease should be taken on trek. You don't want to become the statistic of being the first to carry a disease to the wilderness.

Regulatory agencies are rightfully concerned about the health and well-being of animals entering the wilderness. You also have another public that is looking closely at your animals. That is other people who use wilderness areas (hikers, campers, horse trekkers). Are your animals in tip top shape? Will they put in a good word for you in a hearing?

Will there be a cost associated with these preventive procedures? Yes! But, you owe it to your animals, and it may help to show administrators that you are willing to take responsibility for the health and well-being of the llamas that go into wilderness areas.


Be proud of your llamas. Present them to whomever as healthy, sound, strong animals that enjoy being in the wilderness. Enjoy your close association with these noble animals. Show the world that they are not just a tool of business but are a part of your life. Love them for their uniqueness and their willingness to serve mankind.

brent.holt@cfbmic.com



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The LT100's Debt to Llamas

By Mary Jo Blackwood

The 100-mile ultramarathon LT100 owes a huge debt to a group of tall, quirky and rather charming animals, the llamas. While I don't own or raise them myself, I've spent a lot of quality time with these fascinating creatures, and I think kudos are long overdue. I've enjoyed getting to know some of Patti Morgan's pack llamas by working with her on different events. Before the LT100, she held saddling and pack handling 101 for all of her non-llama helpers. Over the years, I've learned so much about these creatures, including how crafty they don't like a steep hill. On the way up, they stop to eat constantly and can take what seems like 20 minutes to piddle. On the way down, they're all about getting home.

Of all the aid stations for this grueling race, the one at Hope Pass, staffed magnificently by the self-named Hopeless Crew for 28 years, is the most critical to runner comfort and safety. We serve the runners up near the apex of the race and they visit us at 45 and 57 miles on their journey. Ask any runner how important we are. We have a big medical tent (that takes all our collective brains and hands to assemble) and has all necessary supplies

for medical emergencies, as well as overnight accommodations for pooped cold runners who shouldn't be walking back down in the dark. We have a large cook tent where all the hot water and meals come from, and which doubles as the warming tent for hypothermic runners. The real challenge, however, is the enormous dining fly that has to be jury-rigged every year to shelter runners while they get food and fix blisters during the frequent rain and high winds, and occasional sleet and snow.

We are also the only aid station without road access, so all our equipment, supplies, and food must be brought up over five miles of steep trails from Twin Lakes. And guess who has to tote it all? Our llamas. If you were to poll them personally, they aren't particularly happy about the whole situation, but they get the job done and then have three days of leisure and some of the best grazing around before we pack them up to bring it all back down.

That's the situation for most of the 28 llamas we had up there this year, but special recognition is in order for two of Gary

Carlton's well-seasoned pack llamas. They had an additional task: hauling the water up from the stream to the aid station to refill water bottles, make electrolyte solution, cook up the legendary ramen noodle soup and mashed potatoes runners crave, and boil water for the piles of Mountain Meals the volunteers tote to feed themselves.

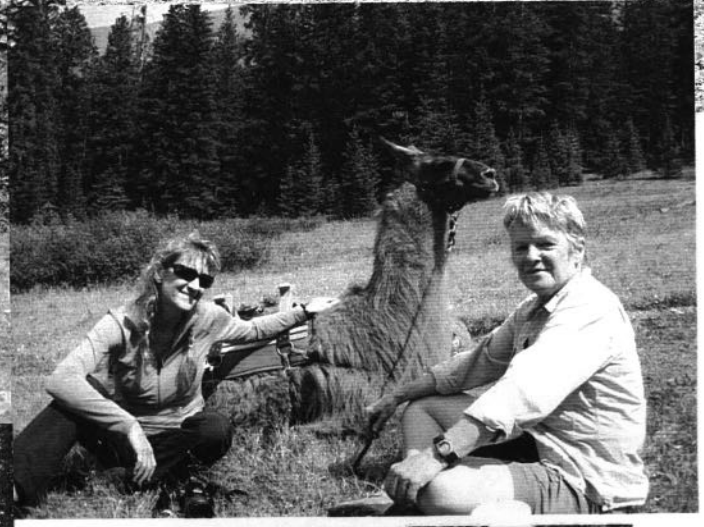
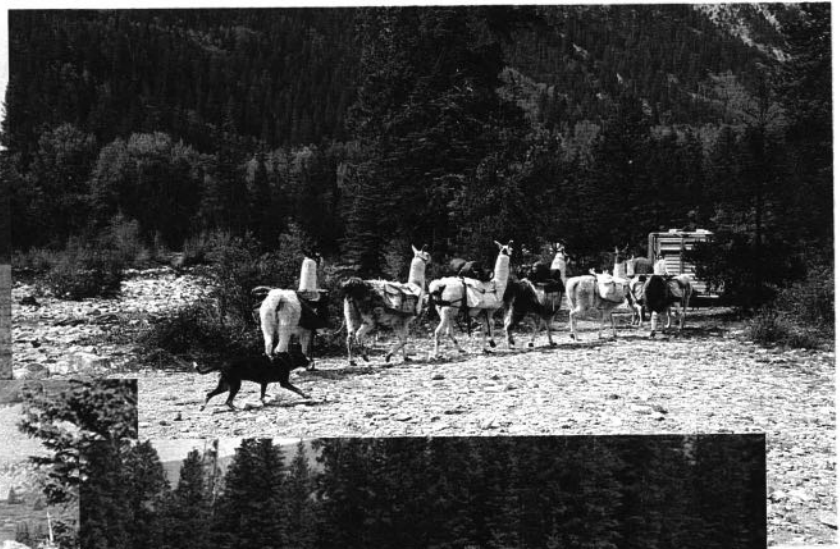
Water would be impossible for the twenty-eight llamas to carry because two five-gallon jugs by themselves weigh 85 pounds. The creek is over a 100 feet of elevation below the aid station and trail. Our water guru Tom Blackwood filters and treats all the water to keep the station functioning. This year, that amounted to 650 gallons for our four-day stay. It comes back up to the station on llamas that must climb down to get it and climb back up hauling, including panniers and saddles, 90 pounds each trip. On race day, with all the volunteers, runners and pacers, Gary's two amazing packers hauled 3 tons of water. Gary, please extend our heartfelt gratitude (along with maybe some corn) as they rest up for their next challenge.

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Photos from Hope Pass





More photos from the Hope Pass

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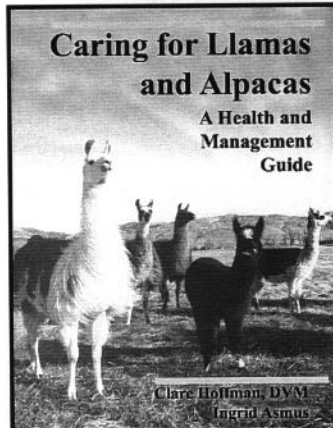
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