



The **Journal**

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Spring 2013



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Ron Hinds and Elizabeth Cline
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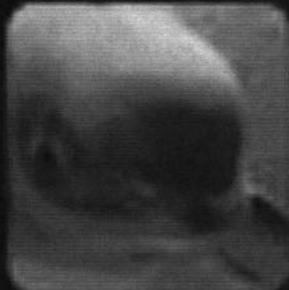


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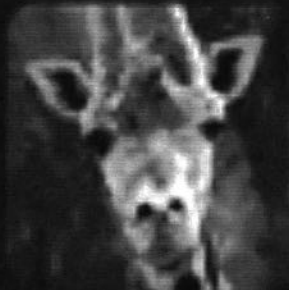


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Board of Directors

President

Lougene Baird
Post Office Box 385403
Waikoloa, HI 96738
808-883-1887
lougenebaird@hawaiiintel.net

Vice President

Jerry Dunn
14550 West 50th Avenue
Golden, CO 80403-1707
303-277-1129
beartrak@q.com

Secretary

Gerri Rutledge
2209 Road 9
Waco, NE 68460
402-366-9304
buckshollow@wildblue.net

Treasurer

Ann Bruhn
P.O. Box 746
Victor, CO 80860-0746
719-689-2122
719-689-2451(fax)
afbruhn11@gmail.com

Director at Large

Linda Hayes
60 Meadow View Lane
Glenwood Spgs, CO. 81601-7704
970-379-4576
llamas@skybeam.com

Journal Staff

Sue Grimm, Editor
Jane Levene
Kathy Stanko
Linda Hayes

Committee Chairpersons

Bookstore

Jan Adamcyk
303-621-2960
adamcyk@earthlink.com
Liaison Ann Bruhn

Bylaws

Lougene Baird
808-883-1887
lougenebaird@hawaiiintel.net

Calendar

Theresa & Luke Bakken
303-470-0915
rmla2014calendar@gmail.com
Liaison Linda Hayes

Education

Liaison Linda Hayes

Events/Marketing

Jerry Dunn
303-277-1129
beartrak@q.com

Fiber

Patti Morgan
620-442-4996
pmmorgank@q.com
Liaison Gerri Rutledge

Finance

Marilyn Arnold
303-841-5126
arnold.marilyn@ymail.com
Liaison Ann Bruhn

Journal

Sue Grimm
303-567-2168
rmlaeditor@gmail.com
Liaison Lougene Baird

Library

Dick Williams
406-826-2201
bcllama@blackfoot.net
Liaison Jerry Dunn

Membership

Dick Williams
406-826-2201
bcllama@blackfoot.net
Liaison Ann Bruhn

Nominations & Elections

Maggie Merrill-Brown
970-667-7227
designer95@bluelinesite.com
Liaison Gerri Rutledge

Pack

Dick Williams
406-826-2201
bcllama@blackfoot.net
Liaison Jerry Dunn

Publication Coordinator

Lougene Baird
808-883-1887
lougenebaird@hawaiiintel.net

Rescue

Olin Allen
970-493-2886
olinallen@earthlink.com
Liaison Linda Hayes

Website

Ron Hinds
303-646-1320
alpacion@gmail.com
Liaison Lougene Baird

Youth And 4-H

Briana Livengood-Cozzetto
719-371-4839
brianna0215@yahoo.com
Liaison Gerri Rutledge

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Issue	Submission Deadline	Printing Date
Spring	February 20, 2014	March 20, 2014
Summer	May 20th, 2013	June 20, 2013
Fall	August 20, 2013	September 20, 2013
Winter	November 20, 2013	December 20, 2013

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Sue Grimm – Journal Editor – P.O. Box 7, Dumont CO 80436-0007

Payment and copy of ad must be received prior to publication of Journal.

President's Message By Lougene Baird

Welcome to spring,

We say "at last". But in places around RMLA country winter continues to hang on tight.

Soon it will be time to spring' clean the barn, find the poop piles that were hidden under a bit of snow and ice all winter, tighten-up the fence wires and make other repairs. I recall once when Ron found his favorite pair of fence cutters hanging on the fence in a remote corner of the pasture where even the llamas didn't roam during the past winter. He still has those fence cutters, we use them these days to pull out 4-inch thorns that are shed off of the Phoenix palms that get stuck in our tennis shoes. Never get rid of a good tool.

Speaking of good tools. ...please remember to re-new your Service Directory ad. The Service Directory was moved to RMLA.com a couple years ago and has an amazing amount of traffic from around the globe. One member e-mailed me they had a sale to a farm on the east coast because their ad was seen on RMLA.com. Another farm had visitors from the Pacific Northwest as a result of their electronic Service Directory ad.

I would like to say thank you to all of our members who have already sent in their membership renewal to Dick Williams and the Membership Committee. It is an interesting process with the Membership in Montana and the Treasurer in Colorado. But with a little planning, good communications and attention to detail everything is coming off without a hitch. And, the entire list of RMLA members should be to Jane Levene in early April to begin layout and design of the Member Directory. Another good tool. Don't leave home without it. When you are not able to have internet access to locate member information, it is good to have the directory with you.

This evening, I leave on the red-eye back to the Denver to catch up with a few members in the area. I need to get a taste of late winter and early spring in the Colorado Rockies and touch noses with a few critters.

Hope to see you along the way, Lougene

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Letter from the Editor

By Sue Grimm

Happy Spring

It is spring in Colorado which means heavy snow one week and summer weather the next week. You got to love spring in the mountains. I have been bust this winter sending fleeces off and spinning fiber. I was able to get a few alpaca scaves woven for presents this winter and hope to get to spend more time this spring at the loom.

Its the time again to start thinking of summer. This summer I am going to try fly parasites again as a more natural way to control pests. With a dry summer it seems that there are more bugs around.

I have my clipper blades ready to sharpen so they will be ready for shearing. It will be here before I know it and am hoping to get everyone done again this summer. They were sadly missed for a year so a lot of the wool was not usable last year. I have my plans all laid out.

With Colorado and west still in a drought it is again time to make sure you are ready in case of an emergency. Check with your local law enforcement on reverse 911 and make sure your infor-

mation is accurate. Fully one-third of reverse 911 calls in several of the fires were either miss directed or never reached the intended person. You can register your cell phone numbers and an email address with the company running the 911 in your area. You can also contact your local law enforcement through their websites for more information on how to do this.

UGH! I was working on the Journal my anti-virus software expired. So I update the software and it will not load. My computer wizard tried to help me over the phone, but something kept him from accessing my machine remotely. So I removed some files and things finally work. Its so great to have such a great computer wizard to help when I need it.

I will be out of commission for (I hope) just a few weeks starting the middle of April, so please copy Lougene on the emails relating to the Journals. I hope to be up and going no latter then the middle of June

Happy trails. And I hope to be out to some of the shows

Sue

Bobra Goldsmith Memorial Award 2013

By Jerry Dunn Bear Track Farm Golden, CO

Karen Kinyon of Wellington, Colorado was selected to receive the 2013 Bobra Goldsmith Memorial Award at the National Western Stock Show Llama Show.

Karen's first experience with llamas was at the NWSS nearly 25 years ago when she and her husband Bob had the opportunity to lead their first llama. They fell in love on the spot with the idea of becoming future llama owners. They purchased two llamas and tragically lost both of them to unusual circumstances. The loss did not stop them from pursuing new experiences

with llamas. Karen's passion and love for llamas turned toward fiber and all of its potential uses. Today she educates people in the llama community through workshops and the presentation of her own artistry. Karen is an ALSA Fiber Judge and eagerly pursues opportunities to share her knowledge with others about fiber.

Congratulations Karen

And Thank you for

All you have

Given to the

Lama Community



El Zorro Alpacas	2
Farm Bureau	2
Back Country Llama	2
Blade Sharping	2
Mazuri	3
Bear Track Farms	5
Spinning Llama & Alpaca	24
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Stockshow Confidential has done a wonderful piece on Llamas. If you would like to view it go to www.stockshowconfidential.com. On the home page click on "Watch". When the next page comes up click on the icon above the episode tab, lower right hand corner. You will be in "You Tube". Look for Episode 127, NAILE. If you do not want to watch the whole program the llama segment starts at minute 18. They did a great job. Glenn

The Journal is printed in Colorado. It is 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

March

- § **Fruita Farm Days**, Fruita, CO., **March 16, 2013**
Contact Glenn Stanko, 970.858.3667, turkeytrots2@gmail.com
- § **Llamas & Friends in the Park**, Wheat Ridge, CO., **March 23, 2013**
Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com
- § **Food Bank Easter Egg Hunt**, Grand Junction, CO., **March 28, 2013**
Contact Glenn Stanko, 970.243.3937, turkeytrots2@gmail.com

APRIL

- § **Driving Clinic**, Bear Track Farm, Golden, CO., **April 27-28, 2013**
Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com
- § **Stars N Stripes**, Waco, NE., **April 27, 2013**
Contact Jim Rutledge, 402.366.9303, buckshollow@wildblue.net,
- Catherine Steele, thesteele@gmail.com

- § **Wild N Wooly Show**, Waco, NE., **April 27, 2013**

Contact Catherine Steele, 402.747.2301, thecsteele@yahoo.com

MAY

- § ***Grand Mesa Llama Show**, Grand Junction, CO., **May 18, 2013**
- § ***Kokopelli Llama Show**, Grand Junction, CO., **May 19, 2013**

Contact Cheryl Juntilla, 970.640.8028, cajwdj@aol.com

JUNE

- § **Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show**, Estes Park, CO., **June 7-9, 2013**

Contact Gayle Woodsum, 307.399.3815, coraldawnnews@aol.com

JULY

- § ***FAIRPLAY LLAMA RACE/WALK**, Fairplay, CO., **July 27, 2013**

Contact Gary Carlton, 303.503.1324, Gary@JmhFarm.com

AUGUST

- § **Leadville Trail 100-Hopeless**, Packing Aid Station Support, Leadville, CO., **August 17-18, 2013**

Contact Gary Carlton, 303.503.1324, gary@jmhfarm.com, Vickie foster, vlfoster@aol.com

SEPTEMBER

- § **Looking for the Gold Llama Hike**, Golden Gate Canyon State Park, CO., **September 28, 2013**

Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

Cover Photo courtesy of Glen Stanko

Thank you!

Why USAHA Matters

By Karen Conyngham, ILR Representative to USAHA 2004-to present

RMLA member from Austin, TX

In 1988 the Intl. Llama Assoc. sent a representative to the US Animal Health Assoc. (USAHA) as part of USAHA's Allied Industry group. Dr. LaRue Johnson made a comprehensive presentation the then newly re-named Committee on Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison and Llama (now the Committee on Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison and Camelids - to be fully inclusive). When the ILA folded in the late 1990s, the Intl. Llama Registry made the commitment to continue the llama industry's membership in USAHA. This representation has been continuous for the past 24 years. An ILR Government Relations Fund was established, and still exists; to help finance USAHA related expenses. Financial support from the llama community is crucial to help maintain the USAHA membership. The ILR needs the financial support of all llama groups and owners to help keep the ILR's seat on the USAHA Board of Directors. The annual USAHA dues are \$600, which includes the USAHA dues of the ILR representative. Your help is needed **now**, more than ever, to assure that the ILR can pay the annual dues and continue our presence at USAHA. A yearly donation from each of the active llama associations will be used to pay the USAHA dues and build up the fund. Karen donates her personal expenses to attend the annual meeting of USAHA which are about \$1,000 per year. Please send your contribution, payable to the ILR, to: Intl. Llama Registry, Attn. Jan Wassink, PO Box 8, Kalispell, MT 59903 with a note on the memo line that the contribution is in support of USAHA. Donations will be used solely for the Government Relations account.

These are some of the major accomplishments that have benefited the llama community over the past 24 years.

* In 1989 there was a concern about the importation of South American camelids from countries harboring foot and mouth disease (FMD) in cattle, sheep and swine. At the 1989 meeting of the USAHA at Las Vegas, Nevada, a contingent of ILA members attended to voice concerns about importation without more knowledge about FMD potential in camelids. USDA allowed importation to continue after several years of studying camelid's apparent low susceptibility to FMD.

* In 1993, the ILA recognized the vital need for uniformity in state entry regulations and appointed a committee to draft a model regulation for the management of llama and alpaca movement between states. The committee carried out the task, and the second Llama Assembly approved the model regulations early in 1994. That document was submitted to the Cattle, Bison

and Llama Committee of USAHA and a resolution was passed by that committee and approved by the Executive committee in November 1994. Subsequently the document was forwarded to all state veterinarians and appropriate governmental agencies.

* In 2002, the aftermath of the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in the UK, there was widespread fear among owners that camelids would automatically be slaughtered within any disease zone if the U.S. were to experience FMD. After many discussions (most held during USAHA meetings), the Animal Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued a decision memo to the Deputy Administrator stating that in the event of a US FMD outbreak, camelids within any affected area would be tested for FMD infection. If all camelids test negative, they would be maintained under strict movement restrictions and intense surveillance (including all tests deemed appropriate by the Nat. Veterinary Services Lab) for at least 28 days after potential exposure to the virus has ended. However if after initial testing camelids are found to be infected with FMD, those animals would be destroyed. This memo may be revised depending on the evaluation of new data relevant to an FMD outbreak in the future. Note that USDA's intent in 2013 would be to vaccinate food production animals such as cattle and pigs, in order to more quickly contain any outbreak.

* From 2004 to 2006, animal identification was the hot topic at USAHA. Camelids had a USDA working group under the initial National Animal Identification System and provided APHIS with extensive information on camelids, their diseases, current methods of ID and patterns of movement within the US. The livestock industry in general rejected the NAIS, so in 2007 APHIS changed the focus of animal ID to food production animals. Camelids were deemed traceable given our use of Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and the fact that many alpacas and llamas are already identified with microchips. Camelids are not included under the Animal Traceability rule that will take effect in early March 2013.

* In 2005, the Standards of Care Committee presented their finished brochure at the summer Camelid Community meeting in Kansas City. This excellent publication was distributed to members of the Animal Welfare Committee and to all state veterinarians at the annual USAHA meeting in the fall of 2006. A presentation explaining the Standards was also made to the Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison & Camelids Committee where it was warmly received.

As further background, the following article was originally published in 2002 in the ILReport Winter issue (vol. 7, #1) under the title "Regulatory Agencies do have an Impact on Llama and Alpaca Industries" by Dr. Murray Fowler (see: <http://www.lamaregistry.com/forms/2002jan.pdf>).

A portion of this article appears below and has been edited to bring it up to date with the addition of comments by Karen Conyngham.

ABOUT THE USAHA

By Dr. Murray Fowler

It is my general impression that most camelid owners know little of the activities of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), and what is more, many don't really care. This is unfortunate because the llama and alpaca industries have a lot at stake relative to interrelationships with other animal industries and government regulatory agencies. The following are some thoughts about these interrelationships and a brief history of USAHA and camelids.

The first cooperative meeting between livestock industries and government agencies took place in 1897, over a hundred years ago. What is the USAHA, and what does it do? The mission statement of USAHA provides an overview: "The mission of the USAHA is to be a forum for communication and coordination among State and Federal governments, universities, industry and other groups on issues of animal health and disease control, animal welfare, food safety and public health. It serves as a clearing-house for new information and methods, which may be incorporated into laws, regulations, policy, and programs. It acts to develop solutions to animal health-related issues based on science, new information and methods, public policy risk/benefit analysis and the ability to develop consensus for changing laws, regulations, policies and programs."

The nuts and bolts work of USAHA is carried out by 32 committees, each with officers and members who work between annual meetings and at the annual meeting to develop resolutions for presentation to the board of directors for final action. Committees on which delegates from the llama and alpaca industries have served include Brucellosis, Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison and Camelids; Johne's Disease; Livestock Identification; Tuberculosis; Wildlife Diseases, and Animal Welfare. Other committees, which from time to time may be of interest to camelid owners, include Rabies; Captive Wildlife and Alternative Livestock; Bluetongue and Related Orbiviruses and the Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases.

Camelid Industry Involvement in USAHA

The alpaca and llama industries should be represented at USAHA and the current representatives are Dr. Pat Long of Oregon who is currently on the USAHA Board on behalf of the Alpaca Owners & Breeders Assoc. and Karen Conyngham of Texas who currently represents the Intl. Lama Registry. The following or similar goals should guide those who have responsibility to see that the camelid industry is represented at the USAHA annual meeting.

1. Become conversant with USAHA policies and methods of doing business. Read the constitution and bylaws of USAHA. Scan the last issue of the USAHA proceedings to understand the scope of USAHA.

The past proceedings contain the USAHA bylaws and administrative policies and are available on the USAHA web site (<http://www.usaha.org/>) at this link:

<http://www.usaha.org/Portals/6/Proceedings/USAHAProceedings-2011-115th.pdf>

The proceedings contain abstracts of presentations made at each of the USAHA committees and also any special meetings/symposiums held concurrently with USAHA.

2. Work in concert on issues of mutual concern.

The AOBA and ILR representatives consistently work together throughout the year on camelid health topics.

3. **Participate in committee activities by becoming a member of selected committees, being informed of the camelid industry's understanding of issues; providing input to committees on how the industry views a matter; vote on committee issues.**

The AOBA and ILR representatives are active, voting members of several committees and have made presentations at past meetings. We monitor all committee agendas to watch for discussion topics that may affect camelids. For example, when the BVDV issue was of great concern to camelid owners, a distinguished researcher, Dr. Julia Ridpath, who is already a member of the Committee on Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison and Camelids, was most willing to address the impact of this disease on camelids and reports on her continuing research of this issue at each meeting. Current focus is on genetic resistance to BVD; no federal regulation of the disease is expected since BVD is not a USDA program disease. The level of BVD in camelids is in decline.

Committees not only address ongoing disease research but are proactive, monitoring emerging diseases at the global level, i.e. Rift Valley Fever (RVF) which definitely affects camelids and Schmallenberg virus which is currently active in Europe affecting cattle, sheep and goats; both are vector-borne and could affect the US. USDA/ARS is working on a field deployable and high throughput PCR assay for RVF

and will let us know when researchers need camelid blood samples for testing. Animal welfare issues are also closely monitored.

4. Cultivate rapport with other industries.

As members of the BOD, the AOBA and ILR representatives are automatically members of the USAHA District At-Large which consists of all the 35 Allied Industry representatives, most of which are from other livestock producer groups like the National Cattlemen Beef Assoc., National Pork Producers, American Veterinary Medical Assoc., etc. We have a specific meeting time at USAHA for discussion of issues of concern to all allied industry representatives.

5. Educate regulatory officials on camelid matters in a cooperative rather than a confrontational manner.

This is important and the camelid industry representatives have very good contacts within USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and at the annual USAHA meetings we can readily talk with any of the 50 state veterinarians and their staff. Canadian animal health officials also attend USAHA and we have worked together on border issues in the past.

6. Get acquainted with officers, committee chairs, regulatory

officials and as many people as you can, to foster cordial relationships. There is a lot of time between official meetings to accomplish this.

Again, the camelid industry representatives and industry members who come to USAHA attend the social functions at the annual meeting as well as scheduled committee meetings. Everyone at USAHA meetings is friendly and many are interested to learn more about camelids. The meetings are a great place to meet researchers and to discuss subject areas that could impact camelid health and wellbeing.

7. Report back to the industry on topics discussed and acted upon.

Both representatives provide USAHA meeting reports to their respective organizations. Karen also sends a copy of her report to all the members of the Newsletter Exchange for publication in the regional llama/alpaca group newsletters.

We are always seeking interested members of the camelid community to come to the USAHA annual meeting to view the process first-hand. The meetings move around the country; the 2013 meeting will be in San Diego, CA October 17-23 at the Town and Country Hotel. The USAHA web site will contain more details as the meeting date approaches. <http://www.usaha.org/>

Attention Superintendents and Chairpersons of RMLA Events

The membership appreciates that your event is an RMLA Sponsored event. As an RMLA event, the members learn about our event because it is

- On the RMLA.com Calendar with event entry information available
 - In the list of events in the Journal
- One the monthly list that is Published in web-based e-Blasts
 - To help you, RMLA offers
 - RMLA liability insurance at no cost
- Guidelines, hints and tips To aid in the success of the event

Within the event packet, RMLA asks that you report the event in the following Journal you may

- Write an article with photos
- Write an article without photos
- Make an article of just photos with Captions that tell about the event

These informative stories in the Journal tell the membership what is going on in RMLA, and will help you increase participation in next year's event! Do your part and help tell the story of all of the Great RMLA events that take place each year help keep our membership informed!

This article was originally published in the Rocky Mountain News in a December issue. The year was in the late 1970's or early 1980s. It is not clear on the old copy. Perhaps you will find it interesting and a good documentary on how the llama industry has changed.

Llama conflict looms

Long and short of it:

Wool to fly at stock show

By Joe Garner/ Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Wool will fly next month at Denver's National Western Stock Show when long-wooled llamas face short-wooled llamas for the first time in pack competition.

"The breeders go at each other's throats like cowboys and sheepherders in the Old West," said Grace Shaddeau, llama superintendent for the livestock exhibition.

No one takes a ruler to a llama to measure its coat because no criteria exist in inches to distinguish long-wooled from short-wooled, Shaddeau said. Instead, a long-coated llama dangles wool tassels from its ears and, in the show ring, prances in wool pantaloons like Jane Fonda in legwarmers.

"They're funner to hug," Shaddeau, a Wheat Ridge woman who owns both types of animals. "They're cuter. If you're going to hug a llama, you'd go toward one with long wool."

But, always, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

"The short-wooled animals turn out to be the better pack animals," said Bob Russell of Fort Collins, a member of the board of the Aurora-based International Llama Association. "The long-wooled animals can tend to overheat in the summer. If you're out for three or four days, they stay cleaner. And they're easier to load up. If you get a long-wooled animal caught in a cinch, that can be painful to the animal."

Russell, a US Forest Service employee who uses his animals in his work, said the division is not really a feud between the aesthetes, charmed by the long-wooled llamas in exhibition,

and the pragmatists, who value short-wooled llamas for their ability to tote.

Instead, he called it a 'diversity of interest' because the animals serve different roles.

But the distinction in roles will begin to blur Jan. 12 – the night before the official opening of the 82 annual stock show – when some of the long-wooled animals will go against short-wooled animals in pack/trail competitions.

Llama demand exceeds supply

While 90% of the estimated 12,000 llamas in the nation are short-wooled – which some call standard coat – long-wooled 10% are the most talked about because of the prices they fetch.

Five male, long-wooled llamas imported from Bolivia sold for a record \$100,000 each at promoter Fred Hartman's Dec. 19 sale in Tecumseh, Neb. In total, the 68 llamas at auction brought \$1.75 million.

The llama industry has really taken off in the last year or two, simply because demand is exceeding supply," said Vic Breeden, a Sheridan, Wyo., rancher who bought one of the \$100,000 animals. The animal, named for the red star Antares because of its reddish wool, will be used for stud and show.

In contrast to the prices the long-wooled animals command, Shaddeau said, "an untrained male with short wool will sell for \$1,500 and a trained male with short wool may bring \$2,500."

Breeden, who said he has spent \$400,000 this year on a herd of 15 llamas, said the large investment in an imported animal represented the introduction of a new gene pool into his herd.

Hartman said almost all the animals in the United States are descended from a handful imported from Peru 50 years ago. Strict U.S. quarantine laws then slow the importation of more animals to expand the gene pool.

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Over the Winter one of our girls developed a facial abscess. In conversations with several other llama owners, we learned they were also treating facial abscesses. The light bulb came on!

So with a huge thanks to Dr. Andi Lear, CSU Livestock Resident and Dr. Robert Callan, CSU Livestock Faculty, the following explores the whats and whys of abscesses. And if you are not squeamish, be sure to check out the accompanying photos with descriptions.

Abscesses are a common condition in all animals, particularly livestock including llamas and alpacas. An abscess is a well-encapsulated structure that contains a mix of organic material including portions of blood, white blood cells, and inflammatory products otherwise known as pus. It is usually seen as a swelling that can occur at any part of the body, inside or out. Abscesses do not necessarily have to contain bacteria; any foreign or irritating material such as a piece of stick or broken piece of bone (sequestrum) can result in its formation. Abscesses are a result of the body trying to wall off and destroy the foreign material or bacteria.

Many abscesses start as external wounds where bacteria or foreign material is able to gain entry to deeper tissues. Puncture wounds are particularly common types of injuries that can cause an abscess. However, abscesses can also begin internally when bacteria gain entry to the blood and seed an area of tissue where they multiply and form an abscess. This is common in the liver, particularly following grain overload (acidosis), or in the lungs following pneumonia. Brain and spinal cord abscesses can also occur, most likely from bacteria in the blood. Abscesses can also occur following surgery due to infection.

A variety of bacteria can be present within an abscess and the type of bacteria can influence what the internal exudate (i.e., pus) looks and smells like. The most common bacterium found in livestock abscesses is named *Trueperella pyogenes* (formerly *Arcanobacterium pyogenes*). It is a common bacterium in the environment, on the skin, and in the GI tract of camelids and ruminants.

Anaerobic bacteria such as *Fusobacterium necrophorum* are also common in livestock abscesses. Many people associate malodorous abscess exudate (i.e. bad smelling pus) with the presence of anaerobic bacteria, but this is not always the case.

Another specific bacterium that causes abscesses is *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* and is the specific cause of caseous lymphadenitis (CL). This organism tends to result in very thick, "caseous" purulent exudate.

Many other bacteria can be found in abscesses and may influence both the consistency and smell of the exudate. However, you never really know what bacteria are there, and what antibiotics they will be susceptible to unless you perform an aerobic and anaerobic culture with antibiotic susceptibility testing. Aerobic bacteria require oxygen to grow and multiply. Anaerobic bacteria grow best in an environment without oxygen or with very low amounts of oxygen. Thus, in order to check for both types of bacteria, the laboratory needs to incubate the sample in conditions with and without oxygen. If you just request a routine bacterial culture, it will be generally only include an aerobic culture.

In general, the main tenants of treating an abscess, in the order of importance, are:

1. Removal of any inciting foreign body such as a grass awn, other plant material or twig, wire, infected tooth root, or piece of dead bone (sequestrum).
2. External drainage of the abscess if possible.
3. Repeated lavage (rinsing out the inside) and debridement (removing the superficial dead tissue) of the interior of the abscess.
4. Systemic antibiotics.

While antibiotics can be an important adjunct to treating an abscess and preventing further spread, many abscesses can resolve without antibiotics if the first three criteria above can be achieved. Antibiotics are most important when the abscess cannot be adequately drained to the exterior. Also, an abscess will not resolve if an inciting foreign body is present and is not removed. This is particularly true for tooth root abscesses and bone sequestra.

Facial abscesses are relatively common in llamas and alpacas. Facial abscesses are initially noted as local discrete swelling somewhere over the lower (mandible) or upper (maxilla) jaw. Facial abscesses can be caused by trauma of the oral mucosa from eating rough or stemmy feed. The feed causes small oral punctures that are then seeded with oral bacteria and can form an abscess. These external trauma induced abscesses will often

be moveable over the bone and that can sometimes help differentiate them from tooth root abscesses.

Tooth root abscesses are a familiar and frustrating problem for both camelid owners and veterinarians. Llamas and alpacas appear to be more susceptible to this condition compared to our other ruminating species; however we do not know why. Retrospective studies of cases presented to veterinary teaching hospitals show the average age of these animals are 5 years of age. These studies also tell us that certain teeth, the molars (cheek teeth) on the bottom jaw or mandible seem to be most affected.

There are many theories of why this condition occurs in camelids. It is suspected that rough or long stemmed forage during the time of permanent teeth eruption can predispose animals to these conditions. This can lead to gingivitis or early deciduous (baby tooth) cap removal from the permanent teeth underneath before they have matured and hardened fully. This allows bacteria normally living in the mouth, to enter the surrounding area and cause an infection.

The most common sign of tooth abscesses that owners notice include a firm, sometimes painful, swelling on the jaw or near the mouth. The swelling is often very hard, like bone and is not movable over the underlying bone. Drainage of pus may also be noticed originating from the suspected abscess. If the upper cheek teeth are affected, nasal discharge can also occur due to infection into the sinuses. Most animals do not tend to have issues eating or weight loss, but in some cases, the pain from the abscess will decrease feed intake, resulting in poor body condition that can confound the problem and worsen the prognosis.

Tooth root abscesses are not always the only cause of these swellings seen over the face. Other possible causes include salivary gland blockage or infection, cancer, abscess due to a wound or highly-pathogenic bacteria such as *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*, sebaceous cyst, enlarged or infected lymph node, hematoma, drug or environmental agent reaction, retained deciduous (baby) teeth, broken jaw, and the list goes on and on.

The importance of a good physical examination is critical to determine the diagnosis and appropriate treatment. If a tooth root abscess is suspect diagnostic imaging such as radiographs of the jaw are important to confirm the diagnosis and determine future therapy. Radiographic appearances for tooth root abscess can vary greatly. Severe cases may show complete loss or lysis and infection of the affected teeth and surrounding jawbone, while mild cases may show an isolated area of abnormal bony growth due to inflammation.

Culture of the abscess or draining tract can aid in choice of antibiotic for adjunctive treatment. The most commonly isolated

bacteria from tooth root abscess include bacteria that live in the mouth normally, such as *Trueperella pyogenes* (previously *Arcanobacterium pyogenes*), *Fusobacterium necrophorum*, *Actinomyces sp.* and *Actinobacillus sp.* Other oral and environmental bacteria can also be found in the lesion such as *E. coli*, *Prevotella/Porphyromonas sp.*, *Pseudomonas sp.*, *Streptococcus sp.*, *Clostridium sp.*, and *Corynebacterium sp.*

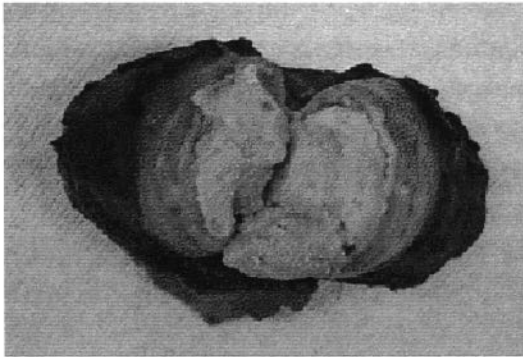
Just as each individual animal is different, so are therapeutic choices to treat these conditions. With chronic or long-term abscess existence, extensive abnormal bone growth is common. As you would expect, lancing or opening this abscess is not a simple task. Medical therapy requiring long-term (weeks to months) antibiotic use is commonly tried first with any facial abscess. It is also less invasive and less expensive than surgical treatment. Antibiotic choices vary between culture results and your veterinarian's favorite choice. Common antibiotics include penicillin, ceftiofur (Excenel, Naxcel, Excede), florfenicol (NuFlor), and tulathromycin (Draxxin). With medical therapy, reoccurrence or lack of response to therapy, are common. This is because the infected tooth root serves as a nidus for recurrence, and until the tooth is removed, the infection and problem will persist.

Surgical removal and debridement of the affected teeth and bone can also be performed. For this therapy, diagnostic imaging such as radiographs are required. Surgery for this condition is easier said than done. Although the abscess may seem extensive and chronic, camelid teeth are not easily removed. Thus, surgery may not be the initial choice of therapy for every patient or tooth root abscess. After surgery, wound care requiring packing of the surgical wound with gauze and daily lavage is common. Long-term (2 to 6 weeks) antibiotic therapy is also required post-operatively. Surgical removal, debridement, and aftercare does allow for the best chance of full recovery of the abscess because it allows for removal of the infected tooth root nidus.

Tooth root abscesses are frustrating for everyone involved. Animals that are systemically healthy with a good body condition have the best prognosis. All abscesses can be frustrating, but with an appropriate diagnosis, a combination of surgical and medical treatment, and some patience, these conditions can routinely be resolved!

Ask the Vet Photos with Annotations

Here are a few photos of abscesses that accompany the discussion in the Ask the Vet column. If you are prone to squeamish just turn the page!



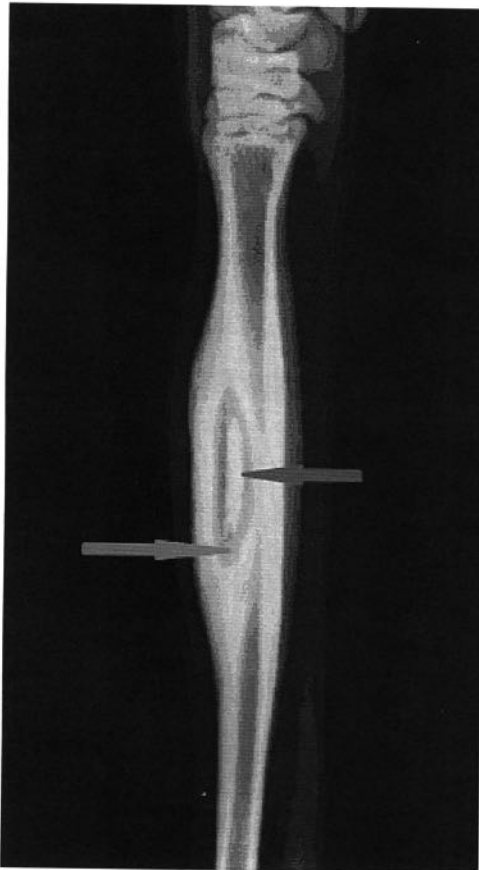
An abscess surgically removed en bulk, meaning that the abscess was removed without opening and draining. This is important for *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* abscesses in order to minimize contamination of the environment and transmission to other animals.



Swelling at the caudal aspect of the mandible suggestive of an abscess. This could be caused by an infected tooth root.



Open drainage of an abscess on the shoulder of an alpaca. Note from Kathy: not pretty, but very real. You should see what's on the floor!



A bone sequestrum of the metacarpus. This is a condition where a portion of the bone is fractured away from the main bone and the fragment loses its blood supply and dies. The body then treats it as a foreign body and tries to get rid of it. These will generally result in chronic draining wounds that will not resolve until the bone fragment is surgically removed.

The top arrow (pointing to the left) is pointing to the sequestrum (fragment of dead bone that appears white)

The bottom arrow (pointing to the right) is pointing to the involucrum, which consists of necrotic bone material and pus.



Radiograph of a jaw abscess caused by an infected mandibular molar tooth root.

The arrow on the left points to the lucency (blackness) surrounding the tooth root. The arrow on the right points to the lucency and proliferation of the mandible showing the draining tract and the distended soft tissue of the abscess below the jaw bone.

The RMLA Fairplay Pack/Walk Llama Race

By Gary Carlton Comanche Creek Ranch
Strasburg, CO

THE RMLA FAIRPLAY PACK/WALK LLAMA RACE

SATURDAY JULY 27, 2013

On the third Saturday in July the town of Fairplay will once again become the backdrop and host site of the 31st running of this annual event. While some of you may be thinking it has been awhile since you have made the trip up for this annual race. A few others might have entertained the thought on coning up every year but have just never quite found the time to work it into your busy schedule. So why not make 2013 the year that everyone showed up to become a part of this race.

For those of you wanting to build your own pack string or improve on the ability of the llamas you already have Fairplay is the place for you to take your animals to that next level. Every farm that shows up for this weekend is a wealth of backcountry knowledge. I have watched a good number of folks in fairplay make the progression from back country novice to very confident packers from what they have learned, along with the new contacts and new friendships that have been built here.

While the town of Fairplay offers up a big festival environment during the Burro days weekend with 80 plus vendors, live entertainment, dances, food, fun and several other things to keep you busy. Llama camp offers a relaxing and quite side to this weekend located in the National forest along Beaver Creek where llamas, competitors, volunteers and a good number of visitors gather to chat, relax, camp, and enjoy the Colorado outdoors. Our annual pot luck dinner is served around 6:00 pm on Friday evening in camp. So bring a friend a side dish and your favorite folding chair and join us for dinner.

Our three mile race course is set up along the scenic Platte river valley below the town of Fairplay and features many of the situations one may encounter while out on the trail with a llama. Our event staff will be placed along the course for your safety and to assist anyone who may be in need of some help.

Winners of the 2012 Fairplay pack llama race.

Men's division

1. Ryan Niko 30.06
2. Skyler Erickson 30.40
3. Arthur Mc Evoy 31.13

Women's division

1. Shannon Hessler 35.30
2. Katherine Kemp 37.38
3. Holly Batchcheller 38.27

Top three Llamas

1. Tony Comanche Creek Llamas
2. Leo Corral Creek Llamas
3. Tal lightning Ridge Llamas

We would like to thank the ranches who provided llamas for this event, Stage Stop, Rock- N- M, Comanche Creek, Corral Creek, Lighting Ridge, Stargazer, Gail Davidson, Lockwood Dreamster, 2 Bit 2, Colorado Pack Llamas, and Leigh Dinatle's Leaping Llamas 4-H.

Hats off to our 2012 volunteers, Jeff and Sally Rucker, Patti Morgan, Vicky Foster, Ann Bruhn, Vivian Johnson, Gail Davidson, Mark Smith, Arthur McEvoy, Niles Whalen, Steve and Angie Jenkins, Kevin Kaltenbaugh, Katie, Thatch, Debbie Dietrich, Sandy Nolan, and Sandy Lockwood.

Don't miss this one of a kind chance to have a great day with a llama!! Oh, and don't forget your camera!!!

For information, suggestions, or to volunteer, feel free to call me at 303-503-1324 or E - mail me at gary@jmhfarm.com

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Please Join Us at the
Grand Mesa and Kokopelli Classics

May 18 and 19, 2013

At the Mesa County Fairgrounds in
Grand Junction, Colorado

Two Level III ALSA Shows in One Weekend!

Offering: Halter, Walking Fiber and Shorn Fleece Classes;
Novice, Advanced, and Master Performance Divisions;
Obstacle and Pleasure Driving;
Youth Showmanship, Performance and Judging;
and lots of just-for-fun stuff.

Information Packets and Entry Forms will be sent via e-mail.

To make sure you are on the mailing list, please contact Cheryl Juntilla at cajwdj@aol.com.

If you prefer to have a hard copy mailed to you, please call 970-434-6092

(and leave a message with the robot if we're not home).

The RMLA Rescue Committee Needs Your Help

Step up and adopt a llama or alpaca.

It is your chance to give back to an animal
that has enriched your life in so many ways.

Your help is urgently needed.

Contact Olin Allen or Becky Boutz

olinallen@earthlink or call 970-493-2886

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 2013-14 Membership Directory your application must be received prior to April 1st.

Those who join after April 1st will be listed in the membership list on RMLA.COM

Join or renew online at the RMLA website (www.RMLA.com), click on the JOIN-REVIEW tab where you may complete the application OR download and print the membership form if you so chose.

Mail your application to

Dick Williams - P.O.Box 1070, Plains, MT 59859-1070.

You are welcome to print out copies of the application for events and distribution.

Dick Williams – Membership Chair - membership@rmla.com

Once again in January, area llama exhibitors convened in downtown Denver and the Hall of Education at the National Western Stock Show grounds, to prepare for this year's show. There were 14 farm/ranches represented this year with about 50 llamas. This year's participation was about the same as last year. Overall it was a fun filled three days and I hope everyone had a great time. And as it has been for the past few years, the Llama show was the first weekend of Stock Show, so everyone could arrive at a leisurely pace before the show officially opened on Saturday.

I want to mention that this was the 30th Year of the NWSS Llama Show. That's a fantastic accomplishment and a credit to those that worked so hard many years ago to get this show going, as well as all of those who have kept this show going through the years.

This year's show included Philip Feiner, Barbara Harris and Karen Kinyon as our judges. Additionally we had two fiber judge apprentices, which were Judy Glaser and Katy White. It was a pleasure working with all of the judges and I wanted to thank them all for their professionalism and enthusiasm for the show.

Saturday was relatively crowded this year, although a bit less than previous years, as the Broncos were playing that afternoon. But there were still plenty of visitors checking out the llamas in the stall area and lots of spectators in the stands during the show. As a llama owner, it is rewarding to meet and greet the public and help educate them about llamas. It is always a treat to see curious children (and adults alike) get up close and personal with our wonderful and docile animals. At the NWSS, the grandstands are always full of spectators. As in previous years, we shared the arena and stalling area with the Alpacas and their show, which runs concurrently with the Llama Show.

Once again, I want to thank all of the volunteers that stepped up to help at the show. Without your help, the show could not have happened. Now as the second year as show Superintendent, I have started to figure my way around things, especially with the stock show people. Mary Wickman was there once again to help with the scoring and paperwork. Kurt & Judy Glaser as well as Wally & Cheryl Juntilla, my wife Shari and my son Kurt, were all there once again to help throughout the show. Thanks to those and the many others not mentioned here, that volunteered to keep the show running smoothly.

It was a great comfort that once again a good number of Sponsors stepped up to support the show. We even had a last minute sponsor only three days before the show start. Nearly all of the monetary support was paid out in show premiums, with some earmarked for specific classes, as requested. Additionally, we held a Stall Fee raffle and Heiniger donated two comb sets that went to the Heavy Wool winners, which were won by Carlos Mendoza and Robert & Jill Knuckles. I want to once again thank our sponsors for all of their support. The Sponsors this year included: **RMLA, LOCC, Split Rock Ranch, Lockwood Dreamstar Llamas, Whispering Spirit Ranch, Heiniger, Double K Diamond Llamas, Cuyahoga Valley Llamas, Rockwood Llamas, La Chiripada and Mazuri Feeds.**

Once again, another fun event that has been hosted for a number of years at NWSS is the "**Evening (Afternoon) with a Llama and Alpaca**". The event is now held in the afternoon and seems every year to get more popular. There nearly wasn't enough room for the huge crowd to squeeze into the arena. This event allows the public an opportunity to have an up close experience with llamas and alpacas. The Stock Show has encouraged this program because it offers a more interactive and hands-on educational opportunity for the public (one of the only animals at the stock show where this occurs).

Before the performance classes started on Saturday, we had the Bobra Goldsmith Memorial Award. This year's award was won by Karen Kinyon. This award is presented each year at NWSS to the RMLA person or persons who have demonstrated a passion and a love for educating the community about llamas and alpacas through a variety of activities, which may include writing articles, hosting workshops, speaking at conferences, and participating in organized llama/alpaca events. Congratulations to Karen for being this year's award recipient.

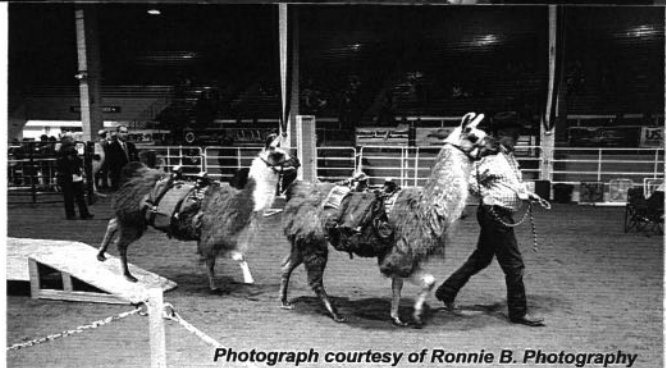
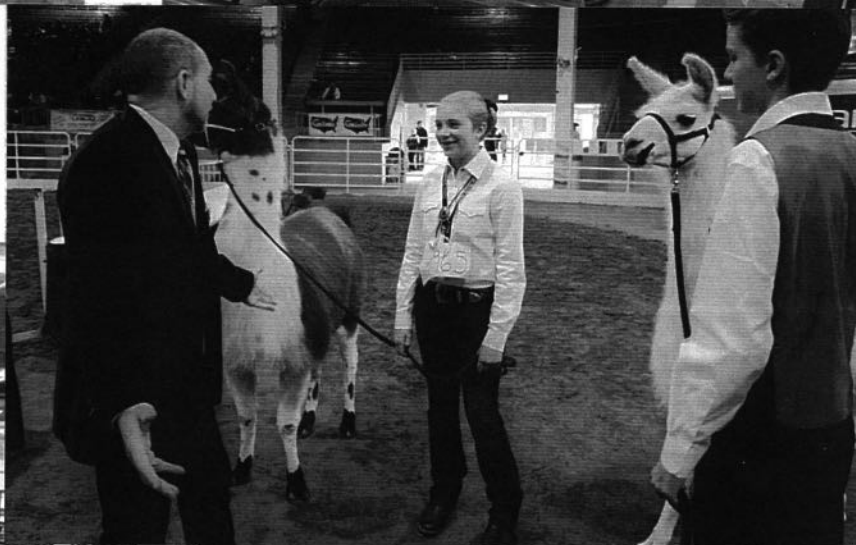
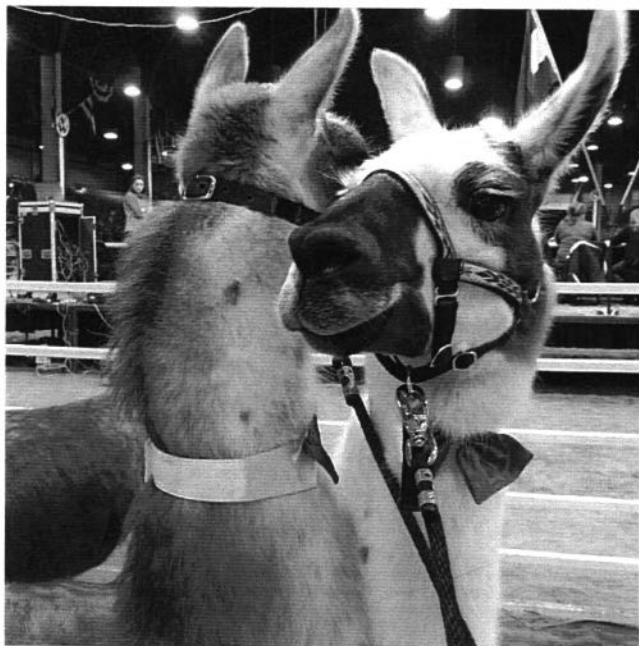
A number of the pictures for this article are courtesy of Ronnie B. who took numerous photos throughout the show and was our official show photographer. If you'd like to order copies of those pictures or see the many others that are available, please contact him at digitalsbyronnie@comcast.net or visit his website at: <http://www.ronster.smugmug.com/>.

Once again, this year we tweaked the show schedule based on last year's feedback. The biggest change was getting NWSS to allow us to arrive earlier on Thursday. If you have any feedback or suggestions I would welcome one and all. Your feedback helps make improvements to future shows.

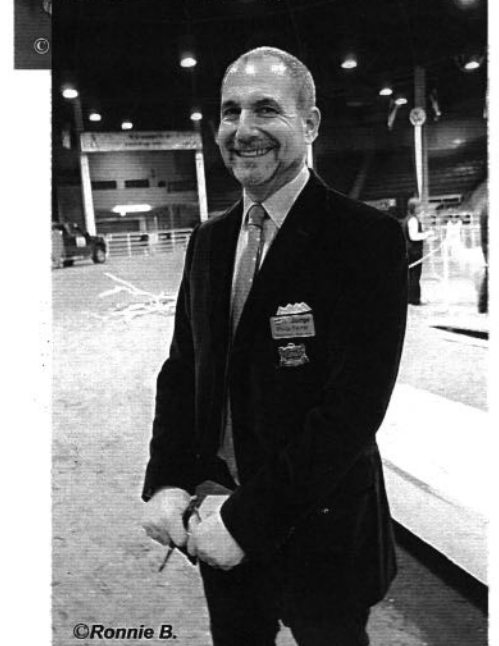
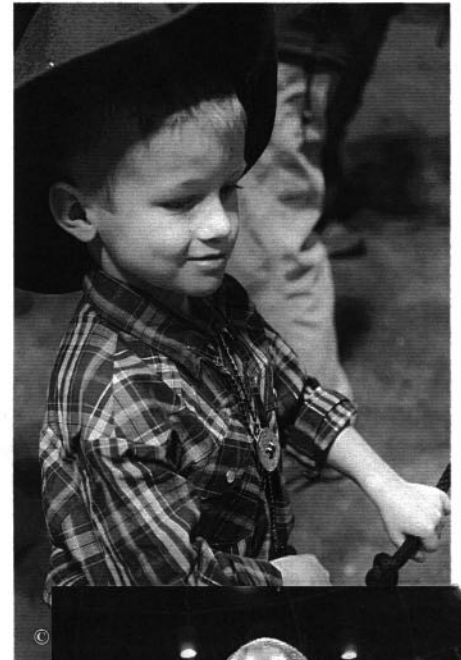
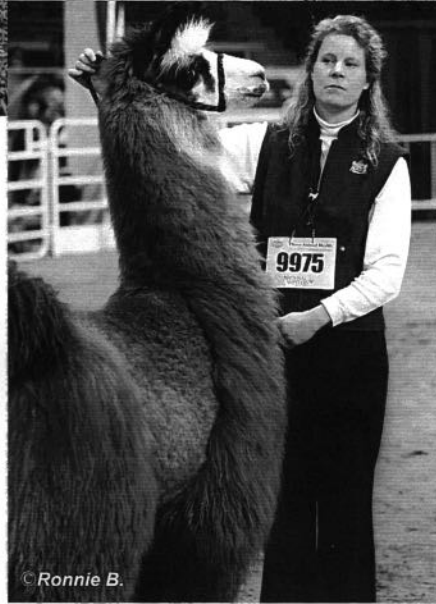
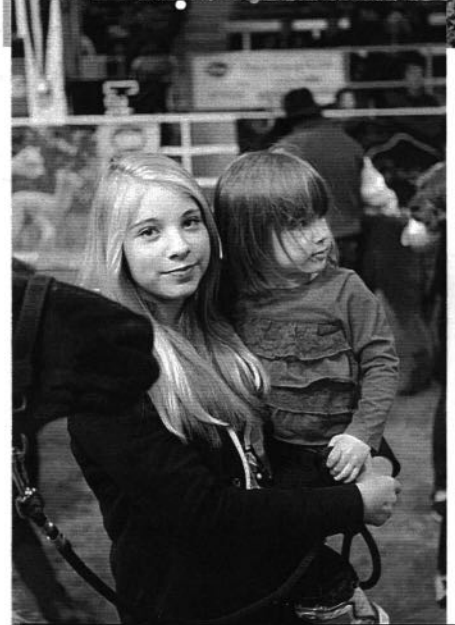
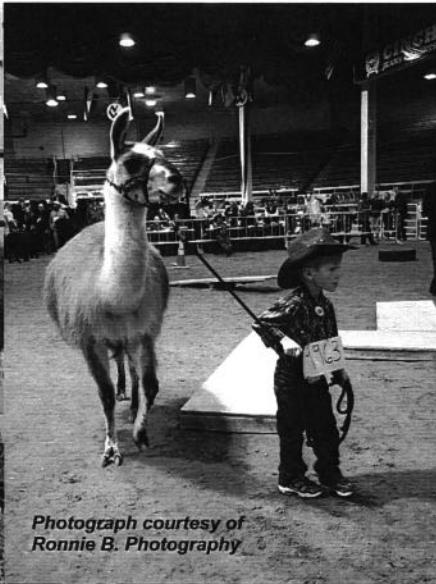
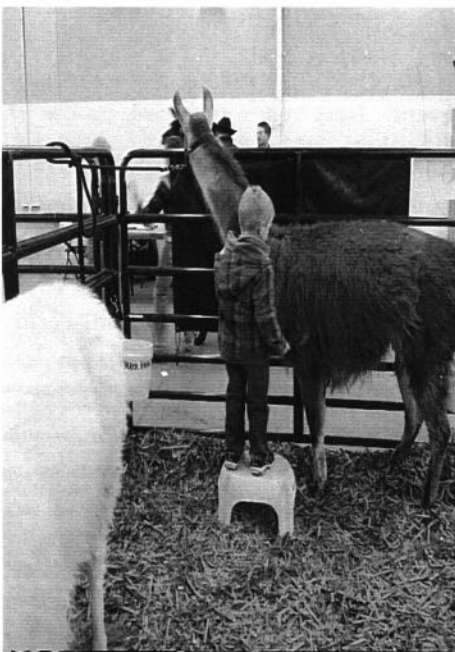
And speaking of the future, this was the 30th year of the Llama Show at NWSS. As with other shows in the camelid community, we've seen growth and decline. In order to ensure that we can

continue this show at the NWSS in Denver, we need more participation. Please put this show on your calendar for next year and make this an annual event. Next year's show will be the 31st Year at NWSS and will be held January 9-12, 2014.

Finally I want to thank all of the participants who attended this year's show as well as the sponsors and volunteers that made this show a success. I look forward to next year and the opportunity to serve again.



Photograph courtesy of Ronnie B. Photography



January in the Banana Belt!

By Kathy Stanko Iron Horse Ranch Whitewater, CO

Yep, Western Colorado is supposed to be the banana belt of Colorado, with warm temps and winds coming off the Pacific from Southern California. But not this year. For 6 weeks our daytime highs were never above 20 degrees and the lows were consistently below zero. We were colder than Alaska!

So what's a llama lady supposed to do when she can't go outside to train, clean barns, or groom? How about fiber? Well, it became my life for these 6 weeks. I even rejoiced when my husband decided to go to the National Western Stock Show for 4 days. Now I could really take over the house! Can you relate fiber lovers?

Looking at the bags of fiber and the 'yet to be completed' projects, I settled on 3: re-knit a hat, untangle the very fine cria coat, and wet felting. I like to rotate projects depending on my energy level, the natural lighting, and my inspiration at the moment.

Our local yarn store has a 'knit helmet liners' for our troops program. So in December I decided to make a couple of helmet liners since I was itching to knit a hat or two, but I had never made one. I am a visual kind of person: I needed to make one to see how hats went together. So what better way than to start with a couple of helmet liners...perhaps a military person in Afghanistan would really benefit and I would learn as well. Win/win as they say.

With the helmet liners made and on their way to a new home, I found a hat pattern and of course I didn't need to look far for yarn. In a short time, the hat was done. Yeah...but no...it didn't fit how I wanted: too loose in the ribbing and not long enough to cover the ears comfortably. I tried it on 3 different people; same result; same comments. So after thinking about how I could correct these imperfections (which was indeed possible), I ripped it out and started over, making the changes to the pattern that I deemed were needed for my satisfaction. So it is now the middle of February, the hat is complete and I am very happy with it this time.

On to the very tangled cria fiber...oh my, this is definitely a lesson in PATIENCE. Last summer, I sheared our cria, Phoebe Snow, and 'processed' her fiber how I normally process cria fiber. But Phoebe's fiber is as fine as cashmere (I once had cashmere goats) and much of the staple length was 8-12 inches. These 2 factors made a tangled, matted mess when I very, very gently soaked it in cold water just as I always do. I spent hours and hours and even more hours in January hand combing, picking, re-combing and carding the fiber. At the end, I had a spectacular batt of 0.7 ounces! I took it to my Spin Day group to show it around. The oohs and aahs made it all worth while. I

told the ladies that they could expect about an ounce a month; nothing like a little build-up and anticipation to wet the appetite. And, 'patience' is my current mantra.

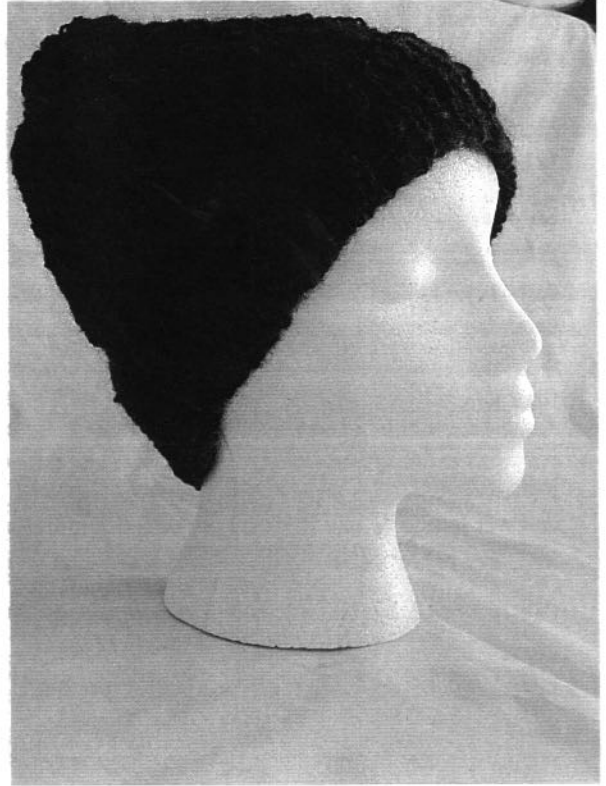
On to, my third project: wet felting. About 6 years ago I took a wet and dry felting class from one of our favorites: Karen Kinyon. Since then I had not had much time to explore and practice felting. However, I had purchased a number of felting books for ideas and inspirations. Looking through the book on inlay techniques, I decided to try this method to make felted napkin rings. Best to start out with something small...i.e., hats are a major project.

Well, following the instructions, I didn't like the results. The felt was way too thick for a napkin ring. I started to explore and go my own way. Just creating flat felted pieces from the various natural & dyed fibers I had available. I reduced the layers from 5 to 3 and *voilà!* the results were fantastic.

OK, so now I was really into 'the creative zone'. Let's add some swirls of yarn to the mix, a little Angelina (sparkles), and more colors; let's try this fiber with this fiber; or, how about these colors together. I was having a great time just playing and learning. I especially learned how every llama fiber I have reacts differently to the felting process. I kind of knew that but now I was experiencing it.

Next stumbling block: what to do with all of these flat felted pieces? Lot's of projects came to mind: bags, purses, journal covers, pin cushions, etc. and etc. But I was not inspired to make any of these products. I just wanted to create felt. In the end, I said okay, for now, just create felt. I can make end products later on or I can sell the felted pieces to others who want to create end products. Again, I took a couple of the flat felted pieces to the Spin Day group. Again, the oohs and aahs were very much appreciated. But even better, my friends encouraged me to go ahead, just create and sell the felt to others. There is a market for everything! (I have already sold a couple of the pieces.)

In conclusion, I had a wonderful adventure just creating during our very cold weeks. I learned so much about so many things. Now, with Spring coming on us, I am even kind of sad that I must show some discipline (hate that word!) and shift gears to other projects. But, next winter I know just where to go! And who knows, I may get some time to create even before next winter.



The RMLA Library is asking for your help.

The Library contains Membership Directories

From 1998 through 2012 membership years.

If you have any membership lists or directories
from 1982 to 1998 please let Dick Williams know.

The library is not only a great resource for lamas but

Is the historical archives for RMLA history.

Knowing who members were during that time period
would complete that section of the Library.

Also, if you have documents from previous conferences
or other RMLA events, those would be welcome as well.

Contact Dick Williams at 406-826-2201.

Please help RMLA maintain correct member information.

All new or additional information or changes concerning your membership information should be given to the Membership Committee – Dick Williams, Chair. Dick maintains the only master list for all member information.

When needed, the information is then forwarded to the appropriate Committee for use.

This list is used to update RMLA.com, create Journal mailings and election ballot labels.

It is also the data base for all information which goes into the makeup of the Membership Directory.

Please notify Dick as soon as any of your information changes.

Dick Williams – Membership Chair bcllama@blackfoot.net 406-826-2201



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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.

RMLA Calendar Volunteer

By Luke and Theresa Bakken co-chairs

Lonetree CO

Hello RMLA members!

My name is Luke Bakken and I am your 2014 RMLA Calendar editor volunteer. I am 14 and a Freshman at Rock Canyon High School in Douglas County. My mentor and coach for nearly 3 years now is Bear Track Farm's Jerry Dunn. My mom likes to tell the story of my first training session. When Jerry told me to "Walk like you know where you're going," my mom knew learning to lead llamas was layered with life lessons. She was right as usual. Taking on the RMLA Calendar is another way I am hoping to grow and gain life lessons. I hope to produce the same quality printed calendar that RMLA members have come to expect. As an added layer of publicity for the events in the calendar, I hope to add QR codes for each event. This is a QR code.



This QR code links to the RMLA website.

Try it! To use the QR code, you need to download a QR code reader to your smart phone. QR readers are free downloads. Once you have installed or downloaded one onto your phone, it takes a picture of a QR code and your phone automatically goes to the URL (website) or

any text we want people to see about an RMLA event. It could be email contact info, or a google maps of the event location. Each event organizer can decide.

I think the next big step for the calendar would be to have a QR code in the printed calendar that leads to a mobile app. The mobile app would be a "Daily Llama", a llama picture, fun fact, link to an RMLA event, everyday of the year! This may be too ambitious a project for 2014, but I think a daily calendar app would be marketable to RMLA membership and beyond. I have been talking to technology teachers at my school and anyone else who will listen about this idea. I have not found a simple / affordable solution YET, but I will keep looking and am open to suggestions.

To get to work on the print calendar, I need to begin with great pictures, ads and a list of events. Please send pictures in their highest print quality to the email account I set up for this project. And, if you want to be included as an ad or want your event listed and linked with QR codes, please email me or give my mom a call. Ad costs are the same as last year \$25.00 each.

Contact the committee At rmlacalendar2014@gmail.com or Theresa Bakken (303)520-8650.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve RMLA in this way!



Fun With Llamas Class

Colorado Mountain College, Glenwood Springs, will once again be offering a 4 week class on working with llamas. Taught by Linda Hayes of Llama Linda Ranch, the 2012 class was such a success that the college has asked her to offer it again this spring and fall.

The course touches on all aspects of llama husbandry and their uses.

A hands on class, students work one on one with the various llamas at the ranch. The last day is set aside for a short pack trip into the mountains with the llamas doing what they do best. Dates for the classes are June 8, 14, 22 & 29. The fall class meets on Sept. 14, 21, 28 & Oct. 5th.

Instructor, Linda Hayes has been raising llamas since 1989 and is known for having very gentle, tractable animals. Her ranch is currently home to 16 llamas. Eight of them are rescues, most of which are also very well trained. Students will be working with all of them and should they fall in love, the rescues may be adopted.

For more information contact Linda Hayes at llamas@skybeam.com or CMC at www.coloradomtn.edu or call CMC at 970 945 7481

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How Close Is Too Close

By Jerry Dunn Bear Track Farm Golden, CO

Keeping your young animal at arm's length.

An animal is too close when they walk into your personal space uninvited and stick their nose in your face; an animal is too close when they hit you from behind with their chest, an animal is too close when they walk into your space and spit in your face, an animal is too close if they nibble at your clothing or your skin. The animal is treating you as if you were a member of his herd. This may be stating the obvious; these behaviors are inappropriate and are not cute. In many instances it goes ignored with no corrections made for the invasion of the human's personal space.

During the past few years I have had the opportunity to experience and attempt to work with animals that displayed inappropriate behavior. The animals have been alpacas, paca-vicunas, and llamas. In many of the cases, the displayed behavior was the result of the animal's which were handled in ways that forced them to function in an intimate environment with humans at an early age. Examples are: not allowing the babies to bond naturally with their mothers in the first 24-48 hours of life, bottle feeding, hand feeding, and constant cuddling as if they were puppies or human babies. These actions are very confusing for the young animals. "Am I a human or am I a camelid?" Granted there are exceptions which exist where the examples given have little effect in changing their behavior to become negative. Are you confused about the causes, think of the animal and their confusion? Rather than trying to identify the questionable causes of all bad behavior I will discuss how I am attempting to manage the behavior of one young llama in particular.

Prancer, a young llama at about two years old, came to my farm as a llama that had been over socialized at an early age. He developed into an animal that preferred humans to llamas in his family group and treated the human accordingly. He first greeted me by walking right up to me and sticking his nose in my face. I had to ignore him and walk away. His ears went flat as I walked away. He seemed to work well with his young owner as long as she was doing things he wanted to do. His reaction to an unwanted request was to become balky and spit at her. At the

family's request I took Prancer on as a project to attempt to modify and understand his behavior.

The first couple of months were tough for Prancer. He attempted at every turn to control my space. At feeding time he would stand in front of the wheel barrow filled with hay and refuse to move out of the way. I began bumping him with the wheel barrow until he would move his feet. I would pick up a flake of hay to feed and he would be right there refusing to move. If I did not put the down hay fast enough in the feeding tubs he would spit at the back of my head. Being in control seemed to be more important than eating. He would not eat until I left the paddock area. The herd members were less willing to let him slip in to and eat after they had established their own eating spot. Life was hard! He would follow me everywhere as I was doing chores. Animals within my herd would attempt to force him to play. He would try to ignore them and hold his own, never to give in and eventually go to the back of the pasture away from the herd. Whenever I returned to the pasture for one reason or another he would be right there pushing my personal space. On occasion when he would not move I would use Bobra Goldsmith's "shake and bake" method. Getting a firm grip of wool with two hands and shaking him back and forth vigorously for a few seconds then walking away without a look. That certainly got his attention! Prancer would walk away seemingly confused by my response. Older llamas within a herd are very good about immediate corrections of young llamas.

I began to use another technique to establish my personal space by carrying a racquet ball racquet everywhere during feeding and chores. I would hold the racquet at face level and move it in a pulsating motion to keep him away forcing him to move his feet away from my space. This procedure continued for several weeks until I no longer needed to carry the racquet to get my daily work done. He was respecting my space and I in turn respected his space. After sometime I was able to use just use the hand motion to make him move his feet.

Then it became time to train the family to respect Prancer's space. The young owner would come by on a regular basis to work with Prancer. She had to learn to actively maintain her personal space. This was tough as she was accustomed to being in Prancer's space with hugs and squeezes regularly. The young owner had to move down the lead rope away from Prancer to establish a positive personal space. When she moved into his space to do obstacles, he responded with ears flat and if she didn't pay attention he would spit. She learned to become more patient, move away, and allow him more time to react in a positive manner and move his feet. Eventually behaviors began to improve on both sides.

Prancer and his young owner return several of times a year for a refresher course. Prancer interacts with the other llamas in my herd on a limited basis. Prancer has become much better at respecting human

space. Prancer gets appropriate hugs and "Atta boy" for good behavior. Hopefully there will be a time as Prancer matures that the more familiar touching and hugging will once again be okay.

Based on my experience I would say Prancer is just a spoiled llama and I would not deem him dangerous. However, I think it is important that we continue to monitor his behavior until he is fully mature.

Finally, evaluate the personal space you share with your young animal. Learn to identify the different behaviors. Undesirable behaviors left uncorrected at an early age may turn aggressive and dangerous as the animal matures. Work to achieve an arm's length relationship for an enjoyable well behaved animal.

Library Update

Bt Dick Williams, RMLA Library Chair

We want to acknowledge the kind donation that Chris Switzer of Switzer-land Alpaca and pacavicuna farm, Estes Park, CO. Chris has made a donation to the RMLA Library. She has recently sent us four 'antique' children's books for preservation in our collection.

They are –

"The Silver Llama" – published in 1939

"Getting to Know Peru" – Published 1964

which are in good shape and are available for loan.

The other two –

"The Lazy Llama" – published in 1954

"Along the Inca Highway" – published 1941

are in need of some restoration work before they will be available for checkout.

Thank you again Chris for entrusting them to us.

Dick Williams

RMLA Librarian

Members Hiking Destinations

By Alyssa Carson, RMLA young adult Member Boulder, CO

Hike to: Salt Creek/Lynch Creek Trails to Buffalo Peaks

Location: south of Fairplay, CO off highway 285

General Description: An in/out pack trip with access to fishing and Buffalo Peaks.

Length of Hike: approx. 3 ½ miles, depending on camp spot

Elevation Start: 10,450'

Highest Elevation: 11,150'

Finding the Trailhead: Take Hwy 285 south out of Fairplay. After about 14 miles, turn right on FS Road 431, aka Buffalo Peaks Road. The road is gravel, well maintained at first, which degrades as you get farther from the highway. Pass the Buffalo Springs campground on the left. Continue on FS 431 for another 7 miles passing FS roads #432, 433 and 158. The road ends at the Lynch Creek Trailhead with a spot wide enough for turnaround of a small rig.

Key Points: The Salt Creek Trail (#618) joins the Tumble Creek Trail (#617) about 1 mile from the trailhead. Keep left through the trail junction and cross Rough and Tumbling Creek. Rich Creek Trail (#616) meets Tumble Creek Trail after another 2 miles. Again, keep left on trail#617.

General Description: Salt Creek Trail follows a seasonal watershed down from the trailhead and past several large beaver ponds. The trail joins the Tumble Creek Trail at the bottom of a valley, just after crossing Rough and Tumbling Creek. The crossing, as of July 2012, has logs laid for hikers but animals need to ford. The water is shallow and bottom sandy to muddy in spots.

After joining the Tumble Creek Trail, a sign welcomes you to the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness. The trail then

begins the climb up a valley alongside Rough and Tumbling Creek. You will ford the creek several more times and the trail becomes indistinct in spots. There is mud and rocks in spots, but the worst can be avoided by following the trail carefully. After approx. ½ mile the trail becomes much steeper and follows switchbacks up the side of the valley. There are larger rocks, but the trail is dry.

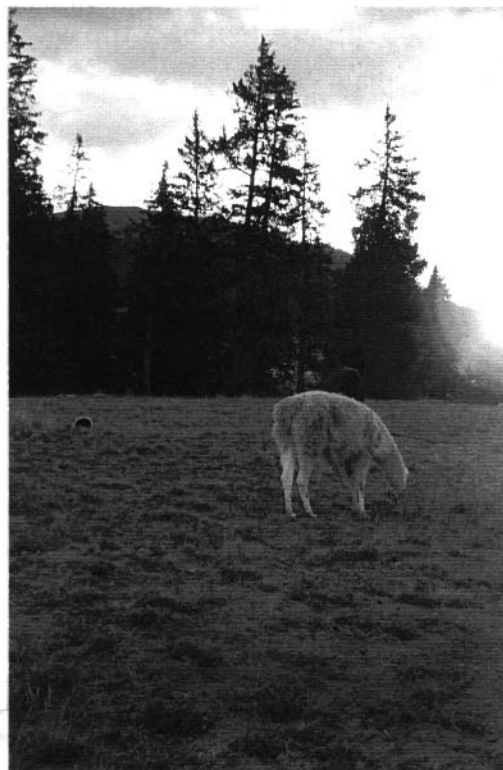
When the switchbacks end, the slope remains steep and water trickles across the trail in places. After perhaps another ½ mile, the trail levels out and the valley widens. There are hillsides above the trail that make good lunch stops. The trail continues up the valley, along the hillsides, as the valley bottom is choked with willows. Several small streams flow down across the trail and must be forded.

After the junction with the Rich Creek Trail, the Tumble Creek Trail drops down into the valley. The willows are annoying, but not impassable. When the trail crosses Rough and Tumbling Creek, it becomes indistinct. The Ford is very muddy and vegetation makes it difficult to distinguish between water and ground. Water is fairly shallow.

After the crossing, bear right towards the first knoll (marked with an X on the map). There is a faint trail along the south side that the map claims is the true trail. The top of the knoll is large enough to accommodate around 3 – 5 tents and plenty of llamas. A few scattered trees provide shade and hammock spots, if desired. The grass is short and sparse but may be taller in a wetter season. Woods begin at the back of the knoll, where the ground slopes up. A stream runs below the north side of the knoll, with several beaver ponds for fishing and water. The Buffalo Peaks are visible to the southeast. They are a long cross-country

hike away, but several of our group made the journey and summated both peaks during our layover day.

Please share your hiking destinations! Submit your hikes in this format to the Packing Committee, c/o Dick Williams, P.O. Box 1070, Plains, MT 59859 – bcllama@blackfoot.net.



Buffalo Peaks Colorado Area

Photos by Alyssa Carson



RMLA Elections

RMLA general election will be held this summer

This year we will be electing 2 new directors

Please consider running for the board

If you would like more information

Please call Lougene Baird @ 808-883-1887

Or

Email @lougenebaird@hawaiiantel.net

Or

Geri Rutledge 402-366-9304

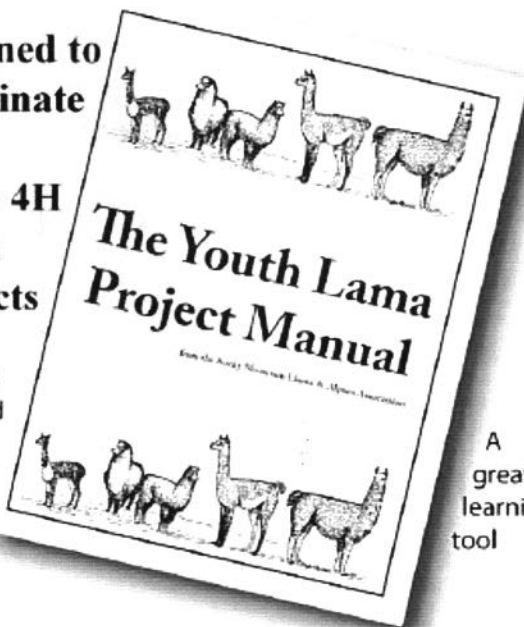
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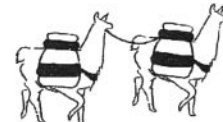
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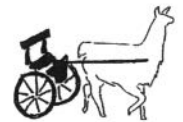
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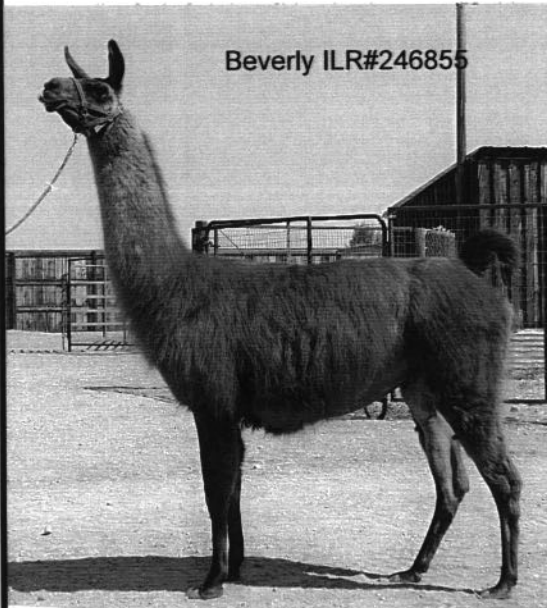
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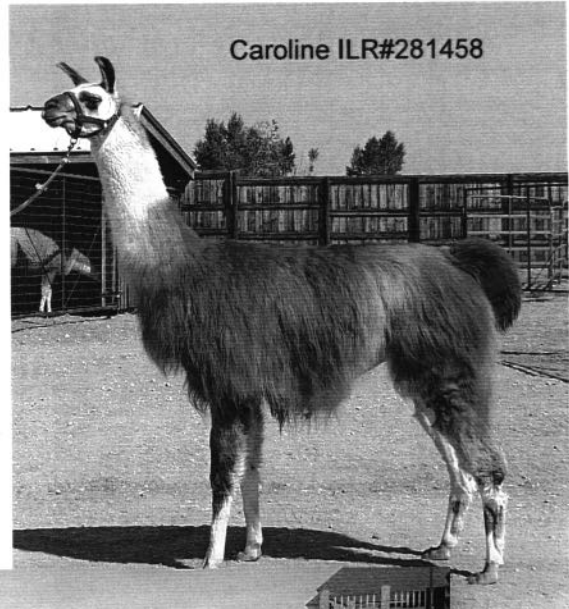
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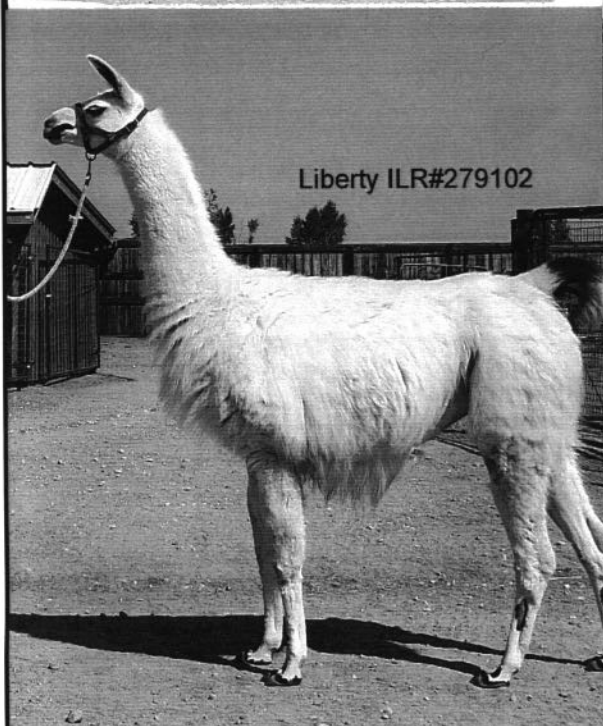
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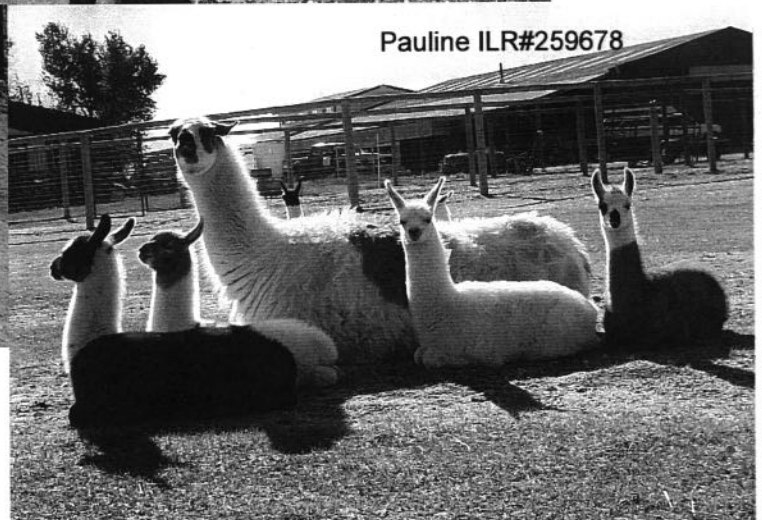
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- Advertise in the RMLA Yellow Pages and let the world know about your farm/ranch
- Visit the RMLA Bookstore – PayPal now available. Your place to purchase both the newly revised Youth Llama Project Manual and Caring For Llamas & Alpacas.
- Read and print out RMLA Fiber Co-op Guidelines – market your animal's fiber
- Read Board of Director's Meeting Minutes containing committee reports to keep informed about what is going on in your organization

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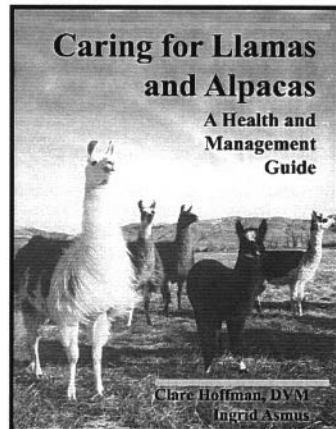
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