


The RMLA
Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association
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www.rmla.com

Summer 2013



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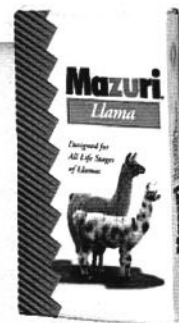


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Spring	February 20, 2014	March 20, 2014
Summer	May 20th, 2014	June 20, 2014
Fall	August 20, 2013	September 20, 2013
Winter	November 20, 2013	December 20, 2013

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

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

Letter from the Editor

By Sue Grimm

I hope everyone is having a wonderful start to their summer, in Colorado it has been a long time coming with lots of spring snow. Don't get me wrong I don't mind the snow and the moisture was very welcome but its June and still some frost on some of the early mornings. I am very grateful to live in an area where the most severe weather is heavy snow and some high winds. My thoughts and prayers go out to all those effected by the recent severe storms. I hope no one lost animals to the terrible storms.

I want to apologize for any mistakes in the last issue. As the Journal was going out I was getting ready for more knee surgery. I mailed the Journal on a Monday and that Wednesday I had more work done to my knees. So if we left anything out or you found any mistakes I do apologize.

It will be a challenge to shear my animals. Catching them will be my biggest challenge. My oldest daughter will be here for a week this month, her help will come in handy. I had great summer plans but most of them on some type of hold. My knees will keep me off the trail for a few more weeks if not months so they can heal. Hopefully for the last time.

I had a wonderful day in Estes Park at the Wool Market. It is on my list of summer activities from way back then. I have gone to every Wool Market, before I owned llamas it was to go see the animals and purchase fiber. My daughters and I spent many a year showing at the wool Market. At one time it was the largest llama show in the Country.

As the Journal is going to press Colorado is back in the mists of another terrible fire season. Our 1st major fire and it's the worst in our history. With 2 years back to back to fires, one must be ready. Some things I have seen on the news is to know your evacuation route out, have a safe meeting place to meet your family, be ready to flee at a moments notice. Most of all your house is just stuff and you love it but is it really worth the chance that you might not survive if you do not leave? You must choose between the things that you can not replace like you, and your animals to those that you may cherish but they can be replaced in some form. It looks to be another severe fire season for Colorado and the west. Be prepared be aware and a chain saw and mitigation are your best friends if you live with in a fire red zone.

Happy hiking Sue

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.

Membership Update

By Dick Williams Membership Chair

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President's Letter

By Lougene Baird

Dear RMLA members:

On the afternoon of June 11th I watched fires burning in Colorado on TV. Later that evening I flew the red eye to Denver.

The only message I wish to convey to you at this time is please be ready to protect yourself, your family and your animals from the devastation that can happen during this wildfire season.

Please go to rmla.com Go to Resources and select 'Evacuation Plans'. Print this out, learn it, teach it and let's be safe.

Please stand by for email announcements as a way you can help others.

Lougene.

A Tale of Two Llamas

By Cathleen White - Pear Tree Llamas Midway, UT.

Earlier this year my husband and I made the decision to sell some of our llamas. As of March, 2013, we had 21 animals. Not a big herd, to be sure, but more than enough for two retired folks to take care of by themselves.

Our herd was originally acquired with an interest in packing. However both we and several of our animals are now somewhat past our prime for packing. We decided to see if we could find homes for some of our llamas that would now be best suited to being simple companions, even pets. We placed a free advertisement on KSL Classifieds – a service offered by a big TV station in Salt Lake City. The ad simply read: “Llamas for Sale. Females and Geldings. Would make wonderful pets, companions, or lawnmowers.”

This is the story of a person who responded to our ad. In the interest of privacy, I will not include names.

I received a phone call one evening from a man who inquired if any of my llamas were still available. I said that some were indeed still on hand, and started to ask him what he was looking for in a llama. He explained hastily that it was not for himself, but for a neighbor. And then he told me the story. A middle-aged lady in his neighborhood had recently lost her husband to cancer. When the caller attended the funeral viewing, he asked the lady if there was anything he could do for her. She replied: “Buy me a llama”. It seems that she and her late husband had talked many times about having a llama as a pet for themselves and their grandchildren to enjoy. Her thoughtful neighbor immediately called me to see what he could do to fulfill her wish.

About a week later the caller and his wife arrived at our ranch to view our llamas. He immediately picked out an older black gelding.... one whose confirmation was not of the best but who possessed a beautiful face, a gentle disposition, and a love of llama treats. That having been decided, the question arose as to whether the llama would be happy living alone. I said definitely not. After a phone call to the widow, the caller announced that he would take two llamas. We then picked out a shy paint female who had originally come from the same herd as the gelding. The caller paid for the two animals on the spot, and confirmed a date for the llamas to be picked up.

On the appointed pick up day a truck arrived towing an ancient two-horse trailer, the type with a manger up front. In the truck were the lady, a young man in his late thirties (the driver), and a grizzled white-haired cowboy who was introduced as Wild Bill. Wild Bill, I was informed by the young man, was a good worker, but was a bit of a “unique” personality. The lady immediately went to the pen where the llamas were waiting and was soon

completely absorbed in talking gently to them and feeding llama treats. The rest of us arranged the trailer and prepared to load. The llamas were none too happy about loading into a strange trailer, but they finally did so, aided by coaxing, a bit of pushing from the three of us, and a pile of their favorite hay in the trailer manger.

After the llamas were safely loaded and final instructions had been delivered, Wild Bill suddenly turned to me and asked “Are you a Mormon?” I said No. He then inquired “Are you a Catholic?” I said Sort of, seeing as I had come from Catholic parents but had never practiced. He replied, “All right, then we’ll pray.” And so we formed a circle next to the trailer while Wild Bill delivered a gentle prayer for the safety of the llamas and their drivers en route, and the hope that the llamas would find their new home peaceful and secure.

A few days later I received an email from the original caller. He thanked me extensively for the llamas and stated that he himself would be personally responsible for overseeing their veterinary care. He also assured me that they would be treated ‘Like a King and Queen’.

As my husband and I reflected later on this rather unusual sale, one aspect delighted us more than anything. The two animals we sold, although healthy, were older, and not much suited to a life more arduous than that of being a pasture pet. And that is exactly where fate landed them – in a lush private pasture with an adoring neighborhood. What happier conclusion could there be for this Tale of Two Llamas?



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RMLA EVENTS CALENDAR 2013

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 GaryCarlton,303.503.1324, gary@jmhfarm.com, Vickie foster, vlfoster@aol.com

2nd Annual Youth Clinic, Before the LOCC and Rocky Mountain Regionals

Douglas County Fair Grounds Contact Brianna Livengood Cozzetto to RSVP @brianna0215@yahoo.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

The Journal is printed in Colorado. It is 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

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 fiber?

Send photo's to rmlaeditor@gmail.com

Alarm Call

By Chris Switzer - Switzer-Land Alpaca and Paco-Vicuña Farm, Estes Park, CO

I was working on alpaca fiber at the dining room table upstairs in our house. I heard an "alarm call" from our animals. ALWAYS, I go out on the deck to check when I hear the sound. This time, several of our alpacas and paco-vicuñas were really upset and making lots of noise. All twenty females were bunched together, at a fence line, looking up a small hill.

Out on the deck, I watched and listened. I looked at the ponderosa trees too -- up in the branches. The "alarm calling" happened every few minutes. The animals didn't dispuse, but stayed in the same area -- alert, watching, listening, and upset.

So, the next thing to do was ask my husband to walk up on the hill and check things out. Living in the

mountains, we have bears and mountain lions from time to time. Also, coyotes, bobcats, fox, racoons, plus deer and elk.

Can you guess what it was?

A few minutes later Phil returned with a smile on his face. "Wild turkeys!", he said. They had come through the sheep fence wire squares, but couldn't figure out how to get out! (naturally) Finally, they flew over the fence.

I wonder what our animals thought about the strange sound? Something different. They never saw the turkeys, since they were over the hill. Once again, our animals are curious and alert, more than we are. They notice things we don't even see.

Sharon Beacham Fiber Award

By Sue Grimm

The 2013 Sharon Beacham Fiber award was awarded this year to Rancho Linda Vista of Erie Co. The farm is owned by Carlo's Mendoza, and the animals are shown by Emily Varela.. There Medium wool male Carnicals Sergio took Grand Champion under one Judge and reserve Champion from the 2nd Judge. Silver- Song's Sasso took a Grand Champion Heavy wool male from one judge and reserve Champion under the 2nd Judge. Emiliano won a Reserve won a Reserve Champion Heavy wool male under 1 Judge and Grand Champion with the 2nd Judge. Dazzel's Cela won Med wool Grand Champion and Grand Champion Fleece. Both Carlos and Emily were deeply honored to have won this award at the Estes Park Wool Market in honor of Sharon Beacham.

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Are We There Yet?

By Linda Hayes - Lama Linda Ranch Glenwood Springs, CO.

She wasn't a show llama. Her neck was too short, her back too long and she walked like a skunk with sore feet. But she did have the most beautiful head. Lots of wool, banana ears & fringe everywhere. The best part about her head was that she would let you touch it. In fact, you could touch her all over. She'd come up to strangers and ask to have her back scratched and never ran away when approached. I guess she just liked people.

Her name was Miss Kitty. She was a daughter of McKinnon and like her sire, she sported a beautiful cinnamon coat. I could have sold her many times over. Everyone wants a llama as friendly as Miss Kitty. That trait helped me sell dozens of llamas. She was the best salesman on the ranch.

Kitty loved to talk. Her constant humming was noted by everyone who crossed her path. When we went on hikes people would always ask what she was saying. I figured she wanted to know if we were there yet because once we got home she quit asking.

Miss Kitty was so gentle that she often gave rides to tired tod-

dlers who needed a lift down the trail. I even spent a day at the Aspen Historical Museum giving rides to children. We were also a weekly fixture at Glenwood Caverns where Miss Kitty, let children lead her around the park every hour on the hour.

If ever there was a PR llama, she was it. But the humming... it just never stopped. She just kept asking "are we there yet"?

I lost Miss Kitty this year. She had turned 19 and could no longer get up or even stand. But the strangest thing happened; once incapacitated she never uttered a word or hummed a syllable. I guess she didn't have to ask, she knew she had arrived at the "Rainbow Bridge."

Yes, Miss Kitty you are there now and we will miss you.



The Rainbow Bridge

author unknown

Just this side of heaven is a place called the Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to the Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor. Those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each

miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent. His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again.

The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together....



Shearing Day at the Hance's

By Sue Grimm

I love to help shear whether it is sheep or llamas or alpacas. For many years I have gone to Bob and Barb Hance's for there shear day. It always amazing me the amount of work that goes into a day of shearing and how many animals get done. Barb has everything ready to go. She prints tags for each animal one for the blanket one for the leg and neck hair. The tags are then put on to trash bags for fiber collection. The tags have information as to the animals name color type of animal suri or Huacaya and the animals name. They are set out in rows alphbatized by name with colors and white separated. Makes them easy to get for each animal. This year not only was it shear day but also vacanations were given and toes were trimmed.

The Hance's always have a great crew show up to shear. They lay there barn out so the shear is either walking to an animal or shearing an animal. They have 2 stations for shearing. Three people at each station to lift the animal up and lay them out, the animal is then shorn, a 4the person picks up the fleeces, the blanket in one bag the 2nd cuts (leg and neck) hair into a 2nd bag.

The day starts the day before with name tags put onto each animal with a plastic chain.

Shearing day starts early. Animals are caught strating with the darkest colors first, they are taken to a separate area where they are blown out to get as much dirt and hay out of the animal.

Next they are taken to holding pens to await being caught and taken into the barn for shearing.

2 animals are down at anyone time. As soon as the animal is shorn and give shots and toes clipped they are up and replaced with another animal. The shear cleans his blades and changes them out between animals. He goes back and forth between the 2 stations, where an animal is almost always ready for him to shear.

The fleeces are collected and taken to the end of the barn. While the animal is being removed someone sweeps off the mats for the next animal thus insuring that the fleeces stay free of short cuts and other animals fiber.

My job in all this is removing the animals that were just shorn and returning them to there pens. Barb has a pen list on the 1st stall so you know where each animal is returned to.

The Alpacas are much happier to go back to there pens then earlier in the day when they were removed. In the earlier days I would be the one on the ground either flipping the animals or helping the shearer, but alas those days are long gone. I have

also picked up the fleeces but sadly for me those days are gone too. I am happy to be able to give my help of moving the animals. They are small enough that I can still get them to move. Of coarse they can still kick, which happened to me on one of the last animals I handled. Lucky just some temporary pain and stiffness no bruise.

After they were shorn this year Jane Lavene trimmed toes and gave CDT and Ivermectin shots to each animal.

We only had 54 animals to do this year so we were done early just after 1 pm, lunch has served and the day was done. And I have some wonderful fleeces to play with again. I am so glad Barb and Bob include me in there yearly shearing , it is great fun and I enjoy it every year. Stiff knees and all!



Llama Packing a Volunteer Restoration Project

By Jarred Roberts

I am part of a non-profit based out of Boulder Colorado called Wildlands Restoration Volunteers. Our mission is to connect people and communities to hands on restoration work to heal the land all across the front range. Each year we bring together thousands of volunteers on over 70 projects but some of the best projects are our overnight camping events. Here people get to work and camp together developing friendships while connecting with our public lands.

This 2013 season we are lucky to be going to one of the state's most beautiful locations for one of our overnight projects: Lake Isabelle, in the Brainard Lake Recreation area. This will be our third time working up in this area though we have taken the last two years off to allow some of our previous work to take root. In past years we have also been fortunate to involve volunteer llama wranglers in this project which volunteers absolutely love and the local communities seem like to cover in their media! In the past we have worked with a gal named Lauren but I know her life has been getting busy over the last couple years and she may not be able to connect us to the llama community as she has in the past. I was wondering if any of you might be able to get the word out about the need for help packing in on this restoration

project?

We will be heading into the wilderness area on August 8th and heading back out on the 16th. There are 35 people going up for a four day weekend and then 10 will stay all the way till the 16th. In the past it has taken 8-12 llamas to pack everything in but we would be happy with all the help we can get. Thanks so much for your time and please let me know if I can answer any questions about WRV or this project, or if you can help connect us with the llama packing community. You can also read more about the two on our website at:

www.wlrv.org or

<https://www.wlrv.net/index.php?>

[sec-](#)

[tion=events&action=list&type=projects#event1061](#)

(the direct link to the Isabelle project)

All the best,

Jarred Roberts (I'm the one in a red shirt in the photos with the llamas!)

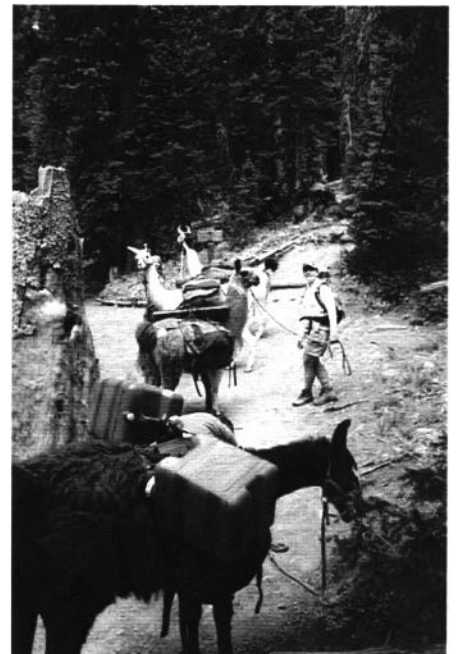
Community Programs Director

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers

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[303.543.1411](tel:303.543.1411) - Ext 1

www.wlrv.org



Llamas Looking Out

by Glenn & Kathy Stanko - Iron Horse Ranch, Whitewater, CO.

On Saturday March 16, 2013 we participated in an event called Fruita Farm Day. It was sponsored by Fruita Co-op in Fruita Co. and the theme was "A celebration of agriculture in the Grand Valley". There were 42 exhibitors, seminars on raising chickens, free horse-drawn carriage rides, and lots of animals for everyone to learn about.

The FFA and 4-H kids volunteered to help and had fundraisers. The 4-H kids kept us fed and satisfied cooking burgers and dogs for lunch. For their efforts, they raised \$700. The FFA kids helped unload, set up and tear down. Plus they had a booth where they helped the younger children build tool boxes. For this they raised \$1000. Attendance was somewhere between 1500 and 2000 people. A really big show for the Grand Valley.

As members of the Grand Mesa Alpaca & Llama Club we had a booth in conjunction with the RMLA. We took 4 girls thinking they could 'rotate' into our trailer as they became tired of all the hands reaching in. The event began at 9 AM and by 2 PM all 4 llamas were in the trailer looking out!!! And we still had 2 hours to go!!!

Jude Sirota, llama-lover, friend, and non-club member, joined us for a fun spinning demonstration. Visitors could touch the fiber on the animal, watch the process of turning fiber into yarn, and touch the soft final product!

Lots of questions about llamas were asked and answered: guarding, spitting, fiber, packing. We passed out lots of business cards for folks to get back to us if they needed more information. One lady who asked about a guard llama for her goats ended up adopting a llama from the Southwest Llama Association. We are very happy to be a part of that placement.

Oh, and the age old question of "What's the difference between a llama and an alpaca?" was answered by having alpacas 4 booths down. Very convenient wouldn't you say?

We want to thank the Fruita Co-op for a very fun and educational day. Great thanks to RMLA for sponsoring us at this event. And thanks to Jude Sirota for coming out to play with us.





Leadville Trail 100 Hope Pass Aid Station

The participants of this little hundred mile fun run have dubbed it as the race across the sky. With the hopeless crew it is quite simply a labor of love. The hope pass aid station is made up of three parts magic, four parts dedication, and the rest is comprised in, sweat, teamwork, and the joy of giving something back.

A lot of runners over the years have stated that as they have reached the highest and most difficult part of this course that they were having thoughts of dropping out of this event. But then as they were rounding the corner and could see this big wilderness aid station that is surrounded by llamas with Mt, Hope towering above them. It became a source of inspiration and had given them the strength to continue on toward the finish line.

Hope Pass is not for everyone, as there are only two types of volunteers at 12,000 feet. Those who. Hope. That they can make it back down the Mountain in one piece and never look back at this high Alpine nightmare. And then there are those, who become Hopeless and cannot wait to return year after year.

Hope pass aid station has evolved over the past several years along with the rest of this event, serving up new technology that has brought to us the gift of solar energy that is now feeding our water systems, lap tops and other energy hungry electronic items that once used a ton of batteries.

While this event has kept up with the ever changing times. Hope Pass still takes pride in operating on a simple side of life whenever possible. From the amazing deep blue tones that fill the alpine sky during the day light hours to watching the sun set and transcend into darkness, when the endless sea of man made stars return back down the pass in the form of head-lamps and humans, taking on the form of our very own milky way.

Enjoying the warmth of our camp fire and a simple meal in the gentle tones of the crackling light. Hiking to the top of the pass and taking in the unspoiled wilderness views stretching out in all directions. The thrill of setting up the camp and the anticipation of the race to come. Watching the pack llamas and their contentment between loads while resting in the tall Summer grass. Picking wild Strawberries and mushrooms along the trail on the way up the Mountain. Hope pass is quite simply four days of heaven. These are just a few of the ingredients that make us all hopeless.

Join us for the 2013 Leadville Trail 100 Aug, 15th through Aug, 18th

For more information contact Gary Carlton
gary@jmhfarm.com 303-503-1324 or Vicky Foster
vlfooster@aol.com 303-591-6199





Cold Weather Surfing

By Glenn Stanko - Iron Horse Ranch, Whitewater, CO.



In the wonderful cold weather of Western Colorado I have the opportunity to surf the channels. One day a while back I came across a nature program where a naturalist is at a zoo with kids to show them exotic animals..

On this particular trip the 'professional' was showcasing llamas. For 5 minutes all he did was try to show the kids how llamas spit. Great PR!?!?! The llamas never spit, but did that get mentioned? No. So, I had had enough.

"Mad as heck and not gonna to take it anymore." There is a program called Stockshow Confidential airing on RFD TV. Their main focus is to showcase young people working with their animals in the show ring. I contacted them because they do segments on the NWSS and I figured they could do some good PR for llamas. After a few days of e-mail correspondence they agreed to meet with someone from the llama show. So I contacted our show superintendent for the NWSS llama event and a couple of RMLA Directors to tell them what was going on.

After some discussion I decided to head over to the Stock Show to be the go-between. After all, I created this monster. So, after kissing the llamas and petting the wife? . Oops, other way around, off I went. I really didn't tell anyone, just a chosen few, why I was there in case it did not happen.

Now one of the questions that they were going to ask was, "What did the NWSS mean to the llama people? Your thoughts on that one.

Well needless-to-say, the production people and I never made contact. Am I disappointed? Yes, but not really. I put in the perspective of the Purple Ribbon: do you stop showing if you do not get the Purple Ribbon each time you try?



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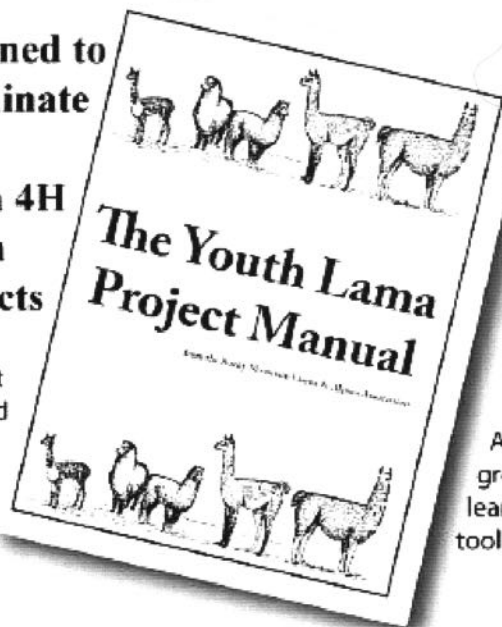
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How About 1,000,000 Eggs??

By Kathy & Glenn Stanko - Iron Horse Ranch Whitewater, CO.

Well it wasn't quite a million, more exactly: 43,200 eggs. Ever wonder how long it takes to collect that many eggs?

Thank you Hickman Family Farms of Fruita Colorado. The annual egg donation to the Western Slope Food Bank of the Rockies helps to feed our neighbors throughout Western Colorado.

The 18 lucky egg hunters this year were from the Noah's Ark Kindergarten School. As to be expected, little hands were everywhere, reaching out to touch the llamas. A great number of big hands were also reaching in! Smiles abounded. Questions were non-stop.

This year each of the children got to plant a magic bean (i.e., jelly bean), give it a little water and then wait to see what grew. What surprised faces when the kids came back to see that their seed had grown a beautiful multicolored sucker!

We also want to thank RMLA for their sponsorship of this fun event. I suspect we will be participating in this event again next year. Very fun for everyone involved!



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CSU Veterinary Hospital to Study Gastric Ulcers in Camelids

By Stacey Byers, DVM,MS, DACVIM

The veterinarians at the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital are studying methods to diagnose and treat C3 gastric ulcers in camelids. Currently, there are no reliable methods to accurately diagnose gastric ulcers in live llamas and alpacas. So, veterinarians rely on animal behavior, clinical signs, and gut instinct (sorry for the pun) to make a presumptive diagnosis. Further, because we cannot accurately diagnose gastric ulcers in camelids, we do not know if our preventatives and treatments are successful. There hasn't been any published research identifying the rate of occurrence of gastric ulcers; however they are commonly found on postmortem examinations in camelids that died or were euthanized for unrelated causes as well as in animals where they were suspected.

Our planned research has several phases:

- Phase 1: Investigate several products that can be administered orally and have different absorption between normal camelids and camelids with gastric ulcers. Then a simple blood test can be performed after administration to detect ulcers.
- Phase 2: Develop a model to induce and visually evaluate gastric ulcers through a surgically placed gastric cannula. This will allow us to visually monitor ulcer development and the response to various treatments, and compare our visual findings to the results from the blood test.
- Phase 3: Evaluate the ulcer test and ulcer treatment methods in camelid patients with suspected naturally occurring gastric ulcers.

We received a generous donation several years ago from a client that lost an alpaca due to a perforated ulcer and peritonitis. Only recently have new methods and resources become available to actually move forward with this research. This original donation will support Phase 1 research to identify a potential diagnostic test for ulcers. However, these funds are not sufficient to cover all of the research costs for Phases 2 and 3 to investigate the efficacy of different treatments and to show the value of the test in every day patients. Currently we are only using 4 animals to reduce costs during Phase 1 of the research. This is expected to take at least 6 months.

Additional research animals and resources will be required as we progress into Phase 2 and 3. We expect additional costs to complete this research to approach \$7000-10,000. This is higher than originally mentioned in an email sent to RMLA members

due to additional charges that we discovered we will need to cover. The funds will be used to help pay for the following:

- Animal care and housing costs
- Laboratory supplies, medications for ulcer treatment and prevention
- Laboratory sample testing
- Student salaries to assist in animal care
- Laptop computer for data collection and analysis, and preparation of manuscripts for publication of results

We expect to complete the first 2 phases in in less than 2 years. As discussed above, phase 3 will be a clinical study, and we will be enrolling client-owned animals to verify our diagnostic and treatment protocols. This phase will take an additional 1-2 years depending on the time needed to recruit sufficient animals into the study. As this project continues, we will keep RMLA members informed on our findings through articles in the Journal.

If you are interested in assisting with the funding for this research by providing a tax deductible donation, please visit the CSU VTH website (<http://csu-cvms.colostate.edu/vth>) and follow the Make a Gift link. From there, you can select the "Camelid Research and Education" fund from the Information drop down menu (about 2/3rds the way down the list). Once making your donation, if you write 'ulcer research' in the comment box, it will get to the correct fund.

Thank you everyone. It is exciting to finally be pursuing this research in memory of the many llamas and alpacas that have suffered or even died from complications associated with gastric ulcers.

We are grateful to Dr. Stacey Byers for contacting the Stankos regarding this important camelid research project. Look for project updates in future issues of the Journal. In the interim, please direct questions or comments about this project to Glenn & Kathy Stanko at turkeytrots2@gmail.com. These will be forward to the appropriate person at CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

We are delighted to have Tim Holt, DVM join us in this issue to tell us how Laser therapy can be used as an alternative therapy for pain control and healing in camelids. Dr. Holt, please take the stage!

Laser therapy in the Alpaca or Llama is a new method of therapy now being implemented with traditional therapies and also alternative therapies to help control acute and chronic pain as well as speed and improve healing of tissue injuries. There is still lacking evidence of the complete understanding of the effectiveness of the Laser in the camelid but evidence pulled from human research as well as other veterinary patients is encouraging.

At this time Laser therapy should always be considered as an alternative therapy complementing traditional medical diagnosis and treatments of conditions seen in the camelid. At this stage of treating options, Laser therapy has been used with success in the camelid for a number of issues including, pain control, healing superficial and deep muscle and skin trauma, reproduction failure especially when associated with pain, nerve paralysis, and post-surgical pain and incisional healing.

The word Laser is an acronym for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation, and there are many different kinds of Lasers utilized for Laser therapy. There is low-level Laser therapy (LLL), low-intensity Laser therapy (LILT), and low-energy Laser therapy (LELT). Lasers are classified as Class I, II, IIIa, IIIb, and IV. They are classified in this fashion to describe the potential damage they can cause to the human retina if used incorrectly. Class I and II are very low powered with little tissue penetration and can be used safely with good direction and care. Class III and IV are powerful Lasers and can cause significant tissue injury as well as retinal damage and blindness if used without proper care and protective glasses.

In brief Laser therapy reduces pain, inflammation and accelerates healing. Laser through its effect on the nerve cell and pain receptors can reduce and control pain by increasing the pain threshold and reduce the neural impulses as well as increase the release of tissue endorphins and hormonal chemical substances that helps block the perception of pain.

At the same time Laser can reduce inflammation by reducing and decreasing the release of prostaglandins and inflammatory mediators. Prostaglandins are a known inflammatory molecule and cause vessels to dilate thus increasing blood flow. They are often altered to regulate pain in individuals suffering from joint or muscular pain. Laser therapy can decrease healing time by

reducing swelling and edema following tissue trauma and injury. Healing is accelerated by increasing blood flow to the treated region and by increasing the release of the fibroblasts and collagen producing cells to decrease the time of healing.

The effectiveness of the Laser is not magic and the thought of light therapy is not new. When a Laser is applied to tissue it penetrates deeply into the tissue depending on the class of the Laser. The light photon then stimulates the physiological process at the cellular level; this is termed photobiostimulation. This photo stimulation increases the health and energy of the cell. The photons are absorbed by only the unhealthy cell.

Once the photon is absorbed by the injured or abnormal cell the photon is absorbed into the energy portion of the cell, the mitochondria. This absorption into the mitochondria results in an increase in production of ATP (the cell's energy source) which leads to normalization of cell function thus pain relief and healing. This is a very brief and simplified version of a very complex cellular action. But in summary the abnormal often painful or slow healing cell is stimulated by the Laser photons to regain normality and normal function thus reducing pain associated with healing and decrease the amount of time needed for complete healing.

Although Laser therapies can be used to replace acupuncture therapy, they are often less effective in treatment of pain (especially pain that is not caused by a superficial injury), and reproductive issues. This is because the light has often already scattered before reaching a deeper acupuncture point or point of injury or pain. Although Laser is less effective in managing specific types of pain, it can be used to modulate pain in the absence of other therapies including medication and other alternative therapies such as acupuncture and manual therapy.

Laser can also work to modulate inflammation, and therefore pain, in many other parts of the body, including back pain and osteoarthritis that causes joint pain in the camelid. Laser is especially indicated in treatment of musculoskeletal conditions such as strain or sprains, chronic arthritis, tissue injury from trauma, and wound healing. One of the largest areas of Laser therapy in humans and now in other veterinary species is its affect and benefit on wounds and ulcers.

Because the photons from the Laser can activate macrophages (a cell that specifically helps clean up wounds) and increase the production of ATP (the cell's energy source), it is very effective in increasing healing activities in a superficial wound or ulcer. In recent human and veterinary clinical studies, Lasers decrease

edema after trauma and increases lymphatic flow to and from the affected tissue.

Because Laser therapy is one of the more recent components of complementary and alternative medicine practices, it is often one of the least researched and used therapies on the market today. Laser has already showed its merits as an effective pain modulator and wound healer. Soon camelid veterinarians will find this tool as useful as small animal veterinarians have. Laser therapy at this time lacks much of the research necessary to gain the acceptance of veterinarians and human medical professionals alike, but is a promising new therapy that can help with many problems commonly seen in veterinary medicine specifically the area of camelid medicine.

Understanding these basic concepts we can now see how Laser therapy may be use in the Camelid species:

1. Anti-inflammatory:

Helps control and reduce swelling and inflammation by increasing venous and lymphatic drainage and controlling the release of prostaglandins.

2. Pain Control:

Laser therapy can block and reduce pain transmission to the nerve conduction system as well as centrally (brain) by increasing the release of endorphins and enkeph-

alons, the bodies naturally occurring pain control mediators.

3. Improve Healing:

Laser therapy can penetrate the repairing cells and accelerate cellular reproduction and growth. This can be beneficial in tissue trauma, surgery and injury both in muscle injury as well as ligament and tendon.

4. Trigger Point therapy: (painful muscles)

Laser therapy can be used for sore muscles for any reason, over work, conformation, and trauma. Often Laser therapy can be used in the camelid in situations where acupuncture may not be used such as lower limb injuries or pain.

At this time Laser therapy is best utilized in the camelid in conjunction with other therapies including, anti-inflammatory medication, physical therapy, acupuncture, manual therapy, massage and routine TLC.

RMLA Fiber Booth Update

By Patti Morgan Booth Manager

The RMLA Fiber Booth travelled to Estes Park on June 7, 8 and 9th for the annual Wool Market. Geri Rutledge graciously agreed to serve as booth manager. Thank you to Geri, her family, Deeann & Tom Easley, and Cheryl & Wally Juntilla for all the great volunteer work.

Business was slow on Friday, very brisk on Saturday and non-existent on Sunday. The weather was not a factor this year as it was warm and sunny. A variety of items were sold, more DIY items than finished items. This is normal for EPWM.

Our next show is Fairplay Burro Days on July 27 and 28. As always, this is a volunteer effort and any help is always appreciated.

Other shows include the Salida Fiber Festival on September 7 and 8th (Booth managers Jill Knuckles and Cheryl Juntilla) and Taos Wool Market (Booth Manager Jill Knuckles).



Call For ads and Photos for the 2014 Calendar

By Luke Bakken

Hello RMLA Members,

This is a call for captured memories - snapshots that make you smile - images that should be shared! Please help me make the 2014 calendar a celebration by sending your digital memories to RMLAcalendar2014@gmail.com.

This month at the LOCC Spring show, I was honored to received the 2013 Outstanding Youth Award. When Jerry Dunn presented the award, I told everyone that llamas help me **express myself**. In school, when people around me try to fit in, try to be the same as everyone else, llamas help me express just being me! The first time I 'Hiked for the Gold' with my own llama, my mom sent this Robert Frost poem and picture to all our friends and family. I want the 2014 Calendar to celebrate how we express ourselves, and celebrate the ridiculously awesome roads we have travelled with our camelids!

If you would like to have a business card ad in the calendar, please send me the card and \$25 payment. Checks should be made out to RMLA. I will forward payment to the RMLA treasurer. You can send a business card by email or mail. You can

send pictures by US mail too, I can scan them to use digitally. I will also be making QR codes for business and event websites. If you want your business or event QR code to link to something specific you can email me the link - otherwise I will use the website homepage, or the RMLA website. Of course, you can email or call me with questions too!

I am working with a local printer, and will be doing layout and design with him in July. Our goal is to have calendars ready for you to purchase starting at the Fall LOCC show Labor Day weekend. So, the sooner you can send me your photos and ads the better. Please try to meet a July 4th deadline for submitting all ads and photos to me. Thank you!

Luke Bakken

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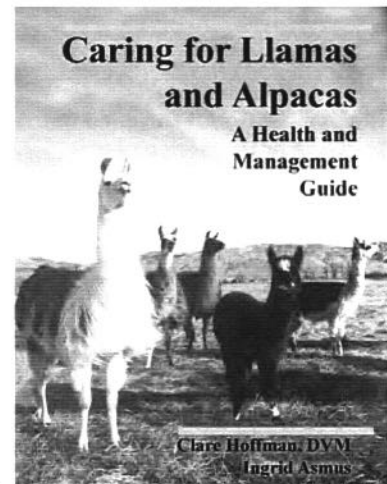
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RMLA Youth Award

By Geri Rutledge Secretary RMLA

Attention Please. It is time to revisit the OUTSTANDING RMLA YOUTH AWARD. We are proud of the youth in our organization and how they educate the general public every time they make an appearance with their llamas and alpacas. Long time RMLA Member Barb Harris created this award and still offers an entry to the LOCC Fall Classic Show to the winner as long as she remains the Superintendent. The criteria to enter includes: The youth must be a registered member of the YOUTH RMLA Association. The youth may only hold this title once. The youth must get letters of reference and this has to be non-family members. The youth is required to complete the application process giving information as to why they feel they could make a good representative for RMLA. The application should include how they will promote RMLA and llamas/alpacas in the public eye. The youth must create a project book detailing a year long record of activity with llamas/alpacas. This book must also include school and or community service activities.

Each year RMLA has had the Youth Committee review the entries and as a group they decide which youth is then chosen for the year.

History:

- 2007 Marshal Rutledge
- 2008 Stephanie Steele
- 2009 Andy Darter
- 2010 Mary Kate Steele
- 2011 Wyatt Mayo
- 2012 Virginia Dreitz
- 2013 Will be announced soon

The Award has consisted of a Personalized Belt Buckle, a Certificate, and publication of their status in the RMLA Journal. The RMLA Board can make adjustments to this award by changing dates of entry, prizes offered, and entry criteria as time goes on. We like to keep up with the times.

Over the years having presented this award, the smile on their face has just been priceless. They are usually attending a llama event, they know they have entered, they don't what their competition is and then the drum roll, too hear a brief description of the winner, and finally their name is announced. Then they eye that shiny belt buckle, and there is the name engraved, all brand

new, oh what an awesome time in the life of our youth. These youth are our future, and this is the RMLA way to celebrate.

To be eligible to apply for the 2014 award, youth must be a registered by July 1 2013. Details about applications will follow in the Journal and the youth will be mailed the application if eligible.

So if you have a YOUTH who is between the ages of 8-18, encourage them to become a Youth RMLA Member and next year they will be eligible to enter for the OUTSTANDING RMLA YOUTH AWARD.

Questions: Brianna Cozzetto 441 Olive Street Pueblo, CO 81005 brianna0215@yahoo.com or Geri Rutledge buckshollow@wildblue.net 402-366-9304 Be happy to answer any questions you have.



2012 Winner Virginia Dreitz with her buckle

2013 RMLA Outstanding Youth

By Brianna Livengood-Cozzetto

This year the recipient of the RMLA Outstanding Youth Award is Luke Bakken! Luke is very deserving of this award as he is involved in many RMLA activities. These activities include showing at RMLA sponsored shows, hiking, and other sponsored events. This year Luke will serve on the calendar committee and provide some fresh new ideas.

Not only is Luke involved in RMLA, but he has many outside activities, and most of them include his llama. He visits a retirement community each spring and fall with his llamas and alpaca. The residents are always happy to see them!

Luke is working on his Eagle Project for Boy Scouts and as part of his project he is having a fundraiser in which he is visiting school and giving llama history presentations to hundred of families. He also visited a large school as part of their foreign language program fundraiser for Heifer International.

School presentations, parades, hikes, shows or just spending time in the practice pen, Luke is truly an ambassador for the entire llama community!

Congratulations to Luke Bakken your 2013 RMLA Outstanding Youth!!

To be eligible for the 2014 Outstanding Youth Award you must be a member as of July 1st, 2013. Applications will be due on November 15th and the winner will be announced at the beginning of the year. The Outstanding Youth will receive a Montana Silversmith Custom Belt Buckle along with a certificate and a banner. Application will be printed in the fall journal and also emailed to the qualifying Youth Members.

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Colorado Llama Ranch

By Kristan Blood Rescue Intern

Local llama rancher Linda Hayes has opened her barn to rescued and surrendered llamas. The ranch, Llama Linda Ranch is now an official adoption center for South West Llama Rescue (SWLR). With the poor economy, price of hay and extreme weather, llamas are in need of the adoption center to help rehab them and find new homes. Now owners can surrender their llamas if they can no longer care for them properly.

The South West Llama Rescue will allow these animals to be re-homed to carefully screened persons. The adoption fee is minimal but the new owner must agree not to breed the animal and that they always have a companion llama.

The rescue llama herd at Linda's is always changing, but there are currently two pairs of llamas available for adoption. The first pair is Sarah and Piler, and the second is CZ and Sweety. If you are interested in adopting

please contact Linda (Contact info at end of article)

Llama Linda Ranch is located at the corner of County Roads 114 & 110 between Carbondale and Glenwood Springs, Colorado. If you think you might want to adopt a llama or just want to learn more about them give Linda a call. She will gladly show you around but you need to make an appointment. Call her at 970 379 4576 or email llamas@skybeam.com

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4. You have a space for one logo/business card and 3 additional pictures (about 250px H x 300px W). (in color please!) Images may be optimized for faster web browsing.
5. You can have a table of information if you wish.
6. All your contact information, web links, address, phones, email web link(s), etc.
7. Please, no real estate or financial institution ads.

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Go to the website menu Service Directory/ Advertise, fill out the form, digitally or download it to get started!

Since this is a new adventure for us all, some things may change and/or other benefits added as per the needs/requests of the RMLA Board and Committees, IRS rules for non-profits, RMLA members and/or the webmanager.

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There is no deadline to get started. When the page has been created and published online, that date will be your anniversary date for renewal each year.

Questions? Contact Ron Hinds @ 303-646-1320 or rockymtnlama@gmail.com

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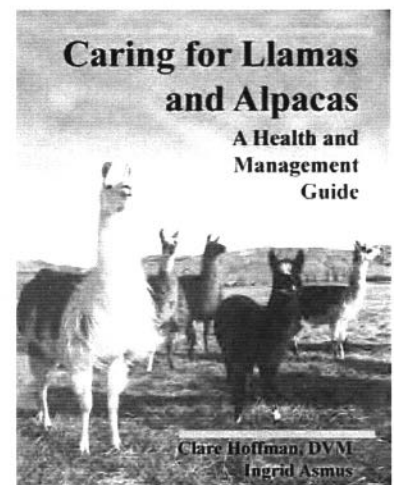
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