

The Journal of RMLA

RMLA 

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association



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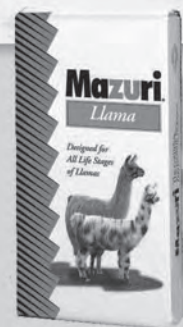


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The Journal is a quarterly publication of the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association ("RMLA"). The RMLA Journal Committee and the Board of Directors reserve the right to select and edit all articles and advertisements submitted.

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Journal Submission Dates, Ad Rates and Specifications

Issue	Submission Deadline	Mailing Date
Spring	February 20	March 20
Summer	May 20	June 20
Fall	August 20	September 20
Winter	November 20	December 20

Ad Type	Width x Height	Member	Non-Member
Business Card	3.5"x2"	\$15	\$18
1/4 Page Horz.	7.5" x 2"	\$24	\$36
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1/3 Page Vert.	2.5" x 10"	\$35	\$48
Half Page	7.5" x 5"	\$48	\$72
Full Page	7.5" x 10"	\$78	\$117
Back Cover	7.5" x 7.5"	\$60	\$90
Inside Cover Front or Back	7.5" x 10"	\$96	\$144
Two Page Spread	15" x 10"	\$200	\$300

- **Classified Ads**—Member \$10 for up to 50 words
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- Ad rates are quoted per issue. Lock in the current rate by purchasing the same ad for four consecutive issues and receive a bonus of a 10% discount.
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RMLA Journal Co-Editor – Kathy Stanko
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Dear Members:



Does anyone besides Ron & me feel a change in the world of lamas? It feels like the energy is grow-

ing into something new, something different than the lama world of the past. When we look around, we see a renewed interest in our much beloved lamas.

Changes abound at RMLA also. We are excited - first to talk about another new feature in the Journal: The RMLA Talent Network. This is your place to connect. So just what is a Talent? Webster's defines it as 'a special natural ability or aptitude'. Wikipedia suggests that talent is a group of aptitudes useful for some activity.

We define Talent as your passion! The one thing that gets your energies going. Pumps you up. And excitement and warm fussies abound.

We all have at least one talent. So check out the Talent Network (on page 20); your talent just might be needed. All of the contact information you need to get started is listed. And if you are of the inkling to start something new yourself, but might need a team to do it, contact us at rmlaeditor@gmail.com and we will see if we can get you connected.

The new RMLA Youth Annual High Point Award program has been approved by the Board and is positioned at the starting gate for January 1, 2014. Just in time for the National Western Stock Show! See page 14 for more information on this program.

And in case you missed the announcement RMLA now has a page on Facebook. Check it out. You can find the link on the website: www.rmla.com.

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RMLA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Lougene Baird



If you were one of our members who were not able to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting, you missed a wonderful time and a beautiful Colorado afternoon in Evergreen, Colorado. Many of those attending have mentioned to me that it was one of the most enjoyable, informative membership meetings in their memory.

This opportunity was made especially enjoyable by Jim and Marta Haas who graciously opened their home to the membership. Marta shared her amazing and beautiful fiber art - painting with fiber. Marta's special technique uses fiber dyed with brilliant colors. After the meeting, Jim and Marta put out a tasty spread of delicious food and drink. We also were able to see their herd of llamas and enjoy the beautiful pastures. Thank you, Jim and Marta, for making us all feel welcome and giving us the time to renew old friendships and meet newer members.

2013 has been a productive year for your organization. We have had several members step

up into new volunteer positions bringing with them fresh, new ideas for RMLA. As we go into 2014 you will get to meet these new volunteers and Directors.

Here are a couple items I would like to address that were discussed at the Annual Meeting.

Fairplay Race is in need of more llamas for race day. Please consider bringing a couple llamas to Fairplay, contact Gary Carlton for details: 303-503-1324. As discussed at the Annual Meeting, the event proceeds pay for about 88% of RMLA's liability Insurance. Without these proceeds, RMLA would be hard pressed to purchase liability insurance. All RMLA events have liability insurance if needed because of the Fairplay Event proceeds. Please support the Fairplay event. Go up and help, take a llama or two and have a fun day. It is a sight to see and experience if you haven't been there before!

For several years, the Board was hesitant to have an RMLA Facebook page. During member discussions at the meeting, members voiced that it would be

a good idea.... for many reasons. Following the meeting the new Board met for a short meeting to elect officers. We took up one more item and approved an RMLA Facebook page. Brianna Cozzetto volunteered to Chair this new way we will be able to communicate. We followed that vote with a motion that Federal Regulations - COPPA - will be followed to protect information regarding our Youth members. Thank you to our members for letting your opinion be known.

Ron and I both wish each of you and your families a beautiful, peaceful holiday season. If you are traveling, be safe. We both really enjoyed seeing so many of you special folks while we were in Colorado and New Mexico.

Lougene



EVENTS!

National Western Stock Show
January, 11-26, 2014

Jan. 11th -
2:00pm An afternoon with Llamas & Alpacas
2:30pm Llama / Alpaca Shows

www.NationalWestern.com

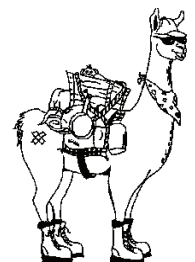
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Tickets: Click on Tickets.

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MEETING MEI

By Lanette Earley & Kathy Stanko

As the weather turns cooler and images of warm blankets, mittens and stockings fill our thoughts...Imagine... living in a tropical area where rice, wax-apples, pineapples, bananas, mangos and papayas flourish, but there are not really fiber bearing animals, except for the native monkeys,

Being hand spinners interested in all fibers, it just so happened that Mei arrived within the week of our teaching spinning lessons and was soon spinning wool on the spinning wheel like a natural! With this cross cultural exchange program, we were soon learning what types of handicrafts Mei's family in Taiwan was creating and Mei was learning about ours.

As luck would have it, we were able to take Mei to our monthly gathering of fiber enthusiasts ... we call it "Spin Day"! There Mei was able to meet spinners, weavers and knitters from the Western Slope and touch many different



Sika spotted deer, and Formosan black bears!

This summer the Earley family was fortunate to have Hsin-Mei You from Pingtung County in Taiwan stay with us for several weeks. Mei (May) was here on the International 4-H Youth Exchange Program (IFYE) and we became one of her host families here in Colorado!

types of natural fibers including llama. Since they really don't have native fiber animals in Taiwan, fibers and fiber animals must be imported.

Touching these natural fibers and talking to spinners and weavers was a wonderful experience for Mei. Kathy Stanko in-



vited us out to her llama ranch so Mei could have a hands-on experience with llamas. Off we went, traveling to see the local sights, as IFYE's love to do! We soon saw that Mei was also a natural with animals.

Mei is 26 years old and has been a 10-year 4-H member and 4-H leader in Taiwan for several years. She has just completed her University Education in Taipei City this spring and is returning home this fall to be a formal high school teacher, teaching agriculture.

After seeing photos of Taiwan's beautiful landscapes, varying from beaches to snow-capped mountains, we sent a hand spindle and lots of llama fiber back to Taiwan with Mei. There are sure to be winter days when the weather does



get rainy and cold ... and just in case that snow from Tai-

continued on next page

Meeting Mei, continued

wan's highest peak, Yushan, with an elevation of 13,110 feet, comes down closer to Pingtung County!

So just what is IFYE? IFYE is a two-way international cultural exchange program for 4-H alumni and other young adults, over the age of 18, interested in a rural living experience. Participants live and work with host families in another country. Both the IFYE and the host family learn about each other's culture and

share life experiences by participating in the host family's daily life.

Whether you are an IFYE student travelling abroad or a host family here in the United States, IFYE is a fun, educational, life-changing experience. It provides an opportunity to promote "Peace Through Understanding" as you live the culture. IFYE representative alumni have found the IFYE experience has enhanced their employability,

international awareness, and language skills.

The application deadlines to become an IFYE Representative occur between November and mid-January depending on the state. A selection process follows. Applications for host families can be considered at any time. For more information, go to www.ifyeusa.org or call Courtney Loflin, State Coordinator of 4-H International Programs here in Colorado at 970-491-2711.



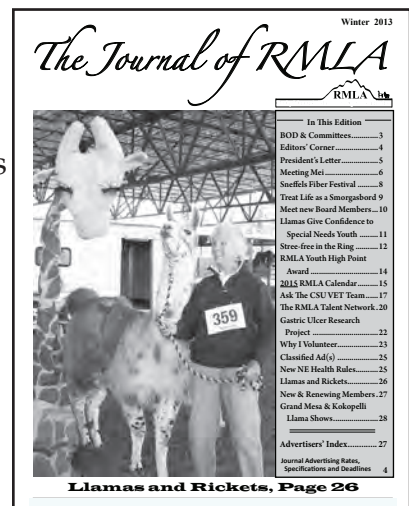
THE GIFT OF GAB

Do You Have the Gift of Gab: in person, online, Skype, texting, Facebook, phone; or any and all ways possible? Well, maybe you want to share this talent with RMLA, its members and with the Journal. We need an Advertising Manager who likes to meet and greet and share all things wonderful about alpacas, llamas and RMLA. And, if there are 2 of you out there, welcome aboard. Share the fun. Team work is a bonus for all the members.

The Journal is going great guns right now. But we need your talent to complete our team. Kathy, Ron & Marilyn are fun and easy to work with, honest, and no bad vibes. We like ideas and we share the load! And we appreciate everyone's thoughts and ideas and say 'Thank You' all the time.

Not much time is needed, just your desire to 'talk' with people. You make the contacts, get the interest going, get the commitments and we take care of the rest. All the ads and money will come to the co-editors so we can take care of the details.

If you are interested or want to know more, please contact Kathy and Ron at RMLAeditor@gmail.com. Come on and help out RMLA, the members and The Journal. It's easy and you'll enjoy the experience. ...and who knows, you might get some lama biz too!



SNEFFELS FIBER FESTIVAL

By Jim Firor, Fiber Mountain Fiber Mill, Hotchkiss, CO & Kathy & Glenn Stanko, Whitewater, CO

It wasn't just another fiber festival. It was the first Sneffels Fiber Festival in Ridgeway, CO, a beautiful place with fantastic facilities. The Sneffels Fiber Festival was put on by the tireless volunteers of Weehawken Creative Arts (weehawkenarts.org). We can just hope they had as much fun as we did.

As it turned out two RMLA members had booths (side-by-side no less) at the Festival. Kathy Stanko was there with friend Jude Sirota. Together they had numerous wool and llama items from roving to finished products. In Jim Firor & Diane Perry's booth, you could find everything from felted art pieces, to yarn, roving, and whole fleece from their alpacas, Cashmere and Angora goats, and Icelandic sheep. Plus you could learn all about fiber processing at their Fiber Mountain Fiber Mill. Our proximity worked out well, as we could share two different kinds of racks we had brought for displaying items.

Approximately 50 vendors participated in the Fair. Items

ranged from the very artistic to the very basic. Booths adjacent to us offered small felt items, alpaca roving, yarn and roving made from Angora rabbit, and yarn and woven items made with plant-dyed wool. Two vendors that stood out were the handmade felt items, including full-size rugs imported from a village in Kazakstan, and another offering beautiful felted paintings.

Throughout the day Saturday mini-courses and demonstrations ranging from making a felt Christmas ornament, crochet and Fair Isle style knitting to brushing an angora bunny were offered. And two men, including Jim, had their spinning wheels clicking! Outside, at least for a couple of hours, you could find Glenn Stanko with the llamas, Patty 'Yak' with her yaks and several pens of alpacas

and sheep. Very fun for young and old alike until the monsoon rains came in and all the animals went home.

Attendance was wonderful during



Jim Firor



the two-day event. The folks who came were just so much fun and so enthusiastic. One woman kept coming back to try on the purple hat...but 'no, not yet'. She bought the hat just as the closing bell was ringing on Saturday afternoon.

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At the Annual Meeting:
Outgoing Board member Jerry Dunn with incoming
Board Members Katy White and Brent Holt.



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Treat Life as a Smorgasbord

By Mary Sievers, Collbran, CO

How many times have you told yourself you'd never be able to do something, or try something different, and if you did, it wouldn't be good? What if you gave yourself permission to try something new anyway?

While reading a book a couple of years ago, the author encouraged his readers to read another book, *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain* by Betty Edwards. I told myself my granddaughter was the artist; I couldn't draw a straight line. While in my favorite bookstore, I came across the book, picked it up and quickly told myself that it was too complicated. I wouldn't have the patience or ability to draw.

A few months passed, and I again came face to face with the same book. This time I thought what the heck, maybe I'll try. Amazingly the author convinced her readers (and me!) that they could draw. She shared a different way to



perceive drawing. All of a sudden my mind was saying 'wouldn't it be fun to make llama note cards?' So I did.

It was a delight to give the note cards as gifts, and to even sell a few. Credit has to be given to my llamas. Ever since the first touch I have had the desire to work with their fiber, catch a cute photo, and now draw.

So what have you told yourself that you can't do, or if you do try, it won't be perfect? What do you have to lose if you try that metal work, woodwork, spinning, weaving or knitting you have been thinking of?

Treat life as a smorgasbord. Try doing different things that interest you. You'll like some, dislike some, and go crazy over other things. Have a little fun, sample life, and surprise yourself!



Meet the New Board Members

Brent Holt and **Katy White** were elected to the RMLA Board this past August. They will each serve a 3-year term. Welcome and Congratulations!

Brent Holt was raised on a Kansas farm near Dorothy's place. He is a Navy veteran serving in Patrol Squadron 49 in Jacksonville, Florida and Keflavik, Iceland. After completing his military service, he attended the University of Texas at Arlington. Brent has owned his own insurance agency for almost 40 years. He is currently with the Colorado Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company specializing in Farm and Ranch Coverage.



Brent and his wife, Donna, operate Sunrise Ridge Alpacas in Sedalia, CO. They presently have 14 fantastic alpacas. Although Brent had many years experience being around llamas and alpacas, his actual ownership began just 4 years ago.

Now if running a ranch wasn't enough, Brent and Donna have 7 children scattered all over the world right now. Plus they have two granddaughters and a new puppy just for fun. Two of their sons raise alpacas, llamas, donkeys and who knows what else on a farm just outside of Winchester, Tennessee. The rest of the clan is in Houston, Dallas, Oklahoma City, Colorado Springs, Sedalia and Afghanistan.

Brent's current interests are rescue (transport), quality limited breeding, fiber production, felting and showing. (Editors' note: Brent and Donna can create, in felt, some incredible western hats). We are excited to have Brent share his many talents with the RMLA membership.

Katy White retired in 2000 from numerous positions in the field of Information Science. She has a PhD in Information Science from the University of Illinois. Katy and her husband, Jerry, operate Pear Tree Llamas in Midway, Utah. Presently they have 17 llamas, 2 cats, and 2 crazy Old English sheep dogs, Clancy and Angus. Visit their website for a summary of their ranch history (www.PearTreeLlamas.com).



Katy's first husband, Clark Partridge, was a professional large format landscape photographer. As he grew older and his health failed, he needed a pack animal to carry his equipment, but he was afraid of horses. On a 1996 summer hiking trip into the Wyoming Wind River Mountains, he decided to rent some llamas. They rented two which they packed with for five days. They both enjoyed the llamas so much that they promptly bought four of their own. Of those original four, two (Ms. Snooks, who is now 25 years old, and Senor Pisac) are both still happily enjoying life at the Pear Tree Llama Ranch.

After Clark passed away, Katy married Jerry White. Presently, Katy and Jerry enjoy taking their llamas to public events such as parades, business promotions, trail clean up, etc. For three years they hosted a one-day event, Llama Fun Day, at their ranch. The focus of this event was education and allowing people to get hands-on experience with llamas. They also participate at shows and Katy has become very interested in fiber.

I asked Katy to share a favorite 'herd' story. She writes:

I have always been impressed by the communicative abilities of llamas...both with their own kind and with humans. One day I was working on halter training with Pachacutec (our orphan cria). I wanted him to move into a corral area but he planted all four feet and refused to budge. Our then alpha male named Kokopele, stood by and watched curiously as I tried to persuade Pacha to move. No luck. Finally I turned to Koko and said "Koko, I need help." Koko wiggled his ears, moved forward, and gently nudged Pacha in the butt in the direction of the corral. Pacha obediently walked into the corral. I turned and said "Thank you, Koko". Koko dipped his head gracefully, then turned and wandered slowly out into the pasture with the rest of the herd.

We are very pleased to have Katy's sharp mind and perspective on the many ways of showcasing the value of llamas and alpacas.



Llamas Give Confidence to Special Needs Youth

By Linda Hayes Llama Linda Ranch,
Glenwood Springs, CO

Linda Hayes of Glenwood Springs, CO welcomed the local high school's Special Needs class to Llama Linda Ranch last summer. The teenagers enjoyed learning some basic care information about llamas, as well as being

He was originally given a very gentle PR llama to work with, but insisted on using a different one. With little help from others he was able to lead the llama through all the obstacles. His teachers could not believe the progress he made in just that one day.



The instructor said the llamas allowed the kids to "come out of their shell". As he watched the students have fun, he commented that working with the llamas helped the teens learn lessons not possible in a classroom.

able to groom and lead them. The youth also completed an obstacle course with the llamas. One autistic boy had amazing success while showing his llama how to negotiate each obstacle.

The kids finished by taking a short walk around the farm, each leading their own llama. Although some of the youth were a little unsure of the animals when they got off the



bus, by the end of the day they did not want to leave.

Linda's Llama ranch is an official rescue center with Southwest Llama Rescue. <http://SouthWestLlamaRescue.org>. She has multiple rescues available for adoption. Several are trained and gentle; perfect for new owners or children. Contact her at llamas@skybeam.com or 970 379-4576.



← Right now RMLA does not need Board members, Katy and Brent stepped up, big thanks to Brent and Katy. What the org needs right now is an energetic Journal Ad manager! Give it a try... you'll like it! ... and you'll like working with Kathy and Ron too! ... or check out other opportunities on page 20.

Keeping Yourself Stress-free in the Alpaca Show Ring

by Linda Hayes, AOBA, ALSA & ILR Judge

Do you have the jitters when you lead your alpaca into the ring? This is normal. After all, you are being judged on your ability to make sound breeding and purchasing decisions. Besides that, your skill controlling your alpaca will be on the line. Then, to top it all off, your peers are watching.

Unfortunately, the more nervous you are, the more your alpaca picks up on it. So, how do you keep that stress in check? It's really quite simple. But it all starts before you even get to the show.

The most important thing is to make sure your alpaca is well trained. Yes, trained for the halter ring. First, teach them to trust you by taking them for walks around your barn yard. Make it enjoyable for them by giving them treats, letting them eat some grass or visit a neighboring pen to sniff another alpaca. If they are comfortable being led by you at home, they will bond to you in the ring and go where you ask. Let them know that you are their safety net.

This means that when you do take them into the ring they will walk in a balanced manner instead of pulling off to the side. And by walking balanced the judge will be able to see their conformation more easily. And while you are at it, teach them to walk briskly as that shows off good conformation the best.

All this will only happen once they trust you and that comes by taking the time to walk with them over many sessions at home.

Teach them to stand quietly while being inspected. Have a friend do a quick touch in all the spots the judge will be looking. Have your friend "get in and get out" without doing anything in depth. Just a quick touch so the alpaca learns it's not the end of the world.

When they stand quietly for even a moment, give them a reward. Remember, petting is not a reward. It may be for you, but the alpaca doesn't like it. Instead, give them a treat or just a loose lead for a moment. Having pressure taken off their head is one of the biggest rewards you can give them. By now you are probably thinking... "But my alpaca will be jumping all over". That is because he hasn't bonded with you yet. Go walk some more.

Once you get this far you can have your helper gently separate the fleece or touch the tail. Most alpacas like to have the tail rotated. Gently move the tail in a circular motion while holding it at the base. Once they get used to what you are doing they will relax and enjoy it. That becomes another treat you can give them.

The next step is teaching them to stand balanced on all four legs. To accomplish this

you will need to teach them to back up at least one step. This is a whole other lesson but basically you move into



their space and perhaps use pressure on the lead until they step back. Then you can ask them to step forward again and with practice you can get them to put their feet exactly where you want them. If you don't think it's possible, take a look at the performance ring. Those alpacas can be moved one foot, one inch at a time, so never say never.

An alpaca that is balanced will show off his correct conformation the best. They will stand better for "hands on" than if they are off balance and feel out of control.

The next step is showing teeth easily. Try putting some honey or something else that he likes on your fingers. Also try massaging the gums. This is another relaxation technique that they love. It just takes a while before they understand

continued on next page...

Attention Annual Members!

The membership year runs from April 1st to March 31st each year. In order for your listing to appear in the annual Membership Directory your renewal must be received by the end of March!

Please don't forget to renew - either online at www.rmla.com or by sending a written application and dues to

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Keeping Yourself Stress-free in the Alpaca Show Ring, continued

what you are doing. The honey helps. Be sure you know the best way to show teeth (another lesson in a future issue). I see so many people who show teeth while their thumb is sticking the poor alpaca in the eye - not a good thing for instilling confidence.

Once the training is done you have a couple more things to do before you get to the show. Make sure the halter fits. If that nose band slips down on the cartilage of the face, the alpaca is going to panic and all your training is out the window. The nose band should fit as far up under the eyes as possible. Check for size. If it is too small, the halter won't go up on the face as far as it should. I see this in the ring with a good third

of the exhibitors, so be sure and double check it.

Next, make sure you know what class you are in and when it will be. If there is any possibility of interference with an overlapping class, get someone who can have the alpaca ready for you to take in the ring. (Or show it for you.) Nothing gets an animal off to a bad start as much as being pulled from his stall and rushed up the aisle because the exhibitor is worried about being late for the class.

There you have it. It's that simple. Once you have all your ducks in a row (or alpacas in a line), you won't be nearly as nervous and you will send a more relaxed message to the alpaca. He has learned to trust

you and will be better behaved in the ring. All that training at home will have been worth it. This is the point where showing becomes really fun and winning is just the icing on the cake.



Linda Hayes has been a certified judge since 1993. She is currently a training judge, helping newcomers feel comfortable judging in the show ring.



RMLA Youth High Point Award

By Brianna Cozzetto Pueblo, CO



The new RMLA High Point Youth Award program begins January 1, 2014.

The new program was developed to encourage more youth members to join RMLA. Any youth under age 18 (as of January 1st) who is a member of RMLA is eligible to join. They do not have to own their own llama/alpaca; they can borrow from anyone! There are numerous ways to get points such as, showing, community service, and referring new members to RMLA.

RMLA Youth Membership has declined over recent years. Since I took the position of Youth Committee Chair, I have searched for ways to encourage more kids to join RMLA and participate in the many and varied activities. I came to the conclusion that more recognition and rewards were needed to encourage our youth to interact with their llamas/alpacas and the public.

I have shown llamas since 1995 when I was 11 years old. I thought back about what type of program I would have liked to have seen. The new RMLA Youth Awards program is based on that. My ideas for the new program have come from organizations such as ALSA, AjPHA, 4-H, and FFA.

Currently the ONLY program that offers high point awards is ALSA and that is

nationwide for ALSA Youth members who attend ALSA Shows. What about the 4-H kids? The FFA members? Kids who participate in events like the Fairplay Llama Race, parades, Fun Shows, clinics or Colorado State Fair Demonstrations? These youth will be recognized for all their efforts through RMLA. RMLA is going to be the FIRST organization to reward Youth for all of their work with camelids.

This is a regional program open to ANY and ALL kids under 18 who are or become RMLA Youth members and live in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado. They do not have to own their own llama/alpaca. Animals do not have to be registered! The animal used must be a camelid. Here are some of the ways to earn points:

- ◇ Shows - ANY show!!! - ALSA, ILR, AOBA, 4-H, Fun shows, etc.
- ◇ RMLA sponsored events earn DOUBLE points!!
- ◇ Community education/ involvement with llamas - parades, visiting nursing homes, llama demonstrations, etc.
- ◇ Clinics - show clinics, llama/alpaca health clinics

- ◇ Recruiting new youth or adult members
- ◇ Receiving sponsorships for youth awards

2014 is the "pilot" year of this new program. (After the initial year, we will evaluate what worked and what didn't work and make appropriate adjustments). The program begins January 1, 2014, so that the National Western Stock Show will be included and this date coincides with the start of the 4-H and FFA year.

Winners will be announced at the Rocky Mountain Regional Show in Castle Rock, CO in September 2014. High Point and Reserve High Point will be awarded in 4 age categories: Sub-Junior, Junior, Intermediate, & Senior. A special award will also be given to the Overall High Point winner! Vinyl banners will be given to winners with their name on it to be displayed for years to come! Cash rewards will depend on how much money is collected from sponsors.

To participate, youth must be a youth member of RMLA as of January 1, 2014. The cost of this membership is just \$10.

continued on next page...

What a great stocking stuffer for the kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, or cousins! Cheaper than any toy and guaranteed to build skills that will last a lifetime! Once you are a youth member, go to www.RMLA.com/youth to get registered in the program. Once you are registered, just enter your participation in events and activities online.

Full details and rules can be found on the website at www.RMLA.com/youth.

If you would like to sponsor an award, contact me or a RMLA Youth Member (they will receive points for this!). If you sponsor a High Point Award your name/business name will be added to the bottom of the banner. Sponsorship forms will be available soon!

If you have any questions please contact Brianna Cozzetto, RMLA Youth/4-H Chair- 719-371-4839; brianna0215@yahoo.com



The RMLA Youth High Point Rules link is at the top of www.RMLA.com/youth webpage.



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2015 RMLA Calendar!!

We need 13 great camelid photos for the 2015 RMLA calendar! Please submit your photos to us at bcllama@blackfoot.net or by mail to RMLA Calendar c/o Dick Williams, P.O. Box 1070, Plains, MT 59859. The selection of photos to be used will be made in early May, but please don't wait until the last minute.

There will be room for 25 business card ads on the calendar which will be taken on a first come basis for \$20 each.

Please send your business cards along with a check made out to RMLA to the same address.



Jerry Dunn and Lougene Baird at the Annual Meeting

SPINNING LLAMA AND ALPACA

By Chris Switzer

52 pages of helpful info: fiber ID, description, Suri, Paco-Vicuña, cleaning & collecting, washing, storing, micron testing, shearing, preparation, blending, dyeing, spinning, marketing & selling, plus 5 projects. 3rd edition. \$18 plus \$0.63 CO tax and \$2.50 shipping. (\$21.13 total)

Chris Switzer, 1236 Glacier View Lane.,
Estes Park, CO 80517

Sneffels Fiber Festival, continued

On Friday, a wonderful lady and her 'interior designer' friend came through and were drawn to the 4'x4' machine felted llama-fiber pieces. She had just purchased new pillows for her couch. So which piece would go with the pillows? 'Well since you live so close, just go home and get the pillows and let's take a look.' So off they went, to return in about a half-hour. We

took the felted pieces out in the sunlight, again. 'Well, now, how is it going to look on the new couch?' What, you can't go get the couch and bring it down? Oh well, take the pieces and go check it out. About an hour later she was back, with her advisor, and they had decided! Yeah. They both bought one. What wonderful memories. We will definitely look forward to this event next September.



Letters from Members

Kathy and Ron

The last Journal was outstanding - you're doing a great job! I want to keep an ad in there at all times. I'm working on a larger size one right now, and I should have something for the winter issue.

The website is fantastic too - thanks for all you do for RMLA.

Sincerely,
Mary Vavrina
Rocky Mountain Llamas
Longmont, CO
September 30, 2013

(See Mary's ad on page 9.)

Ask The CSU VET Team

By Kathy Stanko & the Colorado State University Camelid Vets & Interns

Hello! We have two great topics in this issue: what causes fallen pasterns and urinary tract problems. We hope this information is helpful to all of you. A side note: be sure to check out the update on the C3 Ulcer Research project currently underway at the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The results of this study will benefit all of us.



We want to welcome **Dr. Kathryn Bach** and **Dr. Luisa Taylor**, this year's interns in Livestock Medicine & Surgery. Kathryn Bach grew up in northeastern Connecticut on a small family farm where they raised dairy cattle and pigs. Her interest in livestock started when she was quite young in 4H. Kathryn received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in animal science from Cornell University. After a short stint teaching high school science, she went back to school to gain my VMD at the University of Pennsylvania. She began her internship in livestock medicine and surgery at CSUVTH this fall.

Luisa Taylor grew up in northern New Mexico on a large sheep ranch. She became

interested in veterinary medicine as a young girl, caring for a large variety of animals, in-

TOPICS:

- **Fallen Fetlocks**
- **Urinary Tract Infections**

cluding sheep, llamas, horses, cows, as well as the family cats and dogs. She attended CSU for her undergraduate degree as well as for vet school. She really enjoys living and working in Colorado! Thank you both for answering our questions.

Question: Several of our readers have submitted questions about fallen fetlocks in llamas. Plus several articles from owners' experience and various theories have been written. But has any research been conducted on why this happens?

Response by Dr. Kathryn Bach (Intern, Livestock Medicine and Surgery) Fallen fetlocks (fetlock hyperextension) are a common condition that has baffled llama owners for years. It appears to affect llamas of all ages and very little is known about the causes of this condition. Many theories have arisen over the years; however, very little research has been done in order to prove any of these theories.

Much of the anecdotal information revolves around animals that have been gelded at an early age, i.e., before 14 months. Normally, as an animal reaches sexual maturity,

the increased levels of testosterone or estrogen result in closure of the growth plates in the bones. In animals that are gelded early, it is hypothesized that the growth plates fuse later than normal allowing for the limbs to grow excessively long. These longer limbs, consequently, may become less stable and result in the dropped fetlocks. Since this condition does not always occur in males that are gelded at an early age and is also observed in intact male and female llamas, this theory does not completely explain the cause of this condition.

Another common theory has to do with llamas that are being fed a higher plane of nutrition. Historically, llamas have been used as pack animals and did not have access to the high quality feeds that they now receive. This decrease in physical activity coupled with the increased plane of nutrition can result in an increase in body condition. This theory does appear to hold some merit, as llamas carry approximately 2/3 of their body weight on their front legs and many of the animals with dropped fetlocks are affected in their front limbs. However, not all animals that are affected have increased body condition. And dropped fetlocks are also seen in animals that are used regularly for packing. So where does that leave us? Recently, there has been

continued on next page

some research from Oregon State University that may link dropped fetlocks in llamas to decreased liver copper concentrations¹. Copper is known to affect the enzyme lysyl oxidase. This enzyme is responsible for proper cross linking of the collagen fibers that make up ligaments and tendons that support the fetlock. The low copper levels may cause decreased lysyl oxidase activity leading to poor ligament and tendon strength and resulting in stretching of the ligaments and tendons and dropped fetlocks.

The OSU researchers also found that animals with dropped fetlocks have increased serum zinc concentrations. Increased zinc in the diet interferes with copper absorption and could be responsible for the decreased liver copper concentrations.

As you can see, with so little research done on this topic, it is difficult to determine what really causes dropped fetlocks. Until further research is done, we are left with a lot of theories and not a lot of answers.

¹Reed, S.K. 2008. A molecular and morphologic study of idiopathic fetlock hyperextension and suspensory apparatus breakdown in the llama. MS Thesis in Veterinary Science, Oregon State University. <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/8958/Final%20copy%20thesis%20Shannon%20Reed.pdf?sequence=1>

URL Shortened To:
<http://goo.gl/8KWJHC>

Question: What kinds of Urinary Tract issues do camelids develop (stones, infections, etc)? How can an owner know if an animal might be experiencing a urinary tract problem? Are the signs/symptoms different in males and females? Are these issues related to certain foods or feeds? What is the cause? The cure? And the prevention?

Response by Dr. Luisa Taylor (Intern Livestock Medicine and Surgery)

Camelids are susceptible to development of urinary tract infections (UTI's), as well as urinary stone formation (uroolithiasis). The male and female camelid each have very unique risks regarding the urinary tract due to differences in anatomy. Females are more frequently affected by UTI's than males due to the short length of the urethra. Alternatively, males are more often affected by urethral obstruction from urinary stones due to the long length and narrow diameter of the urethra.

Signs of a lower urinary tract infection as well as urethral obstruction can be variable, but the main sign is frequent

posturing with no urine or small amounts of urine expressed. If urination is observed in the animal, the urine may be red tinged (bloody) or cloudy. In cases of urethral obstruction, the animal may appear painful and demonstrate colic (evidence of abdominal pain).

The cause of a urinary tract infection is most often attributable to bacterial infections such as *E. coli* or *Klebsiella spp*, therefore the treatment includes antibiotics. Bacterial culture and antimicrobial sensitivity test of the urine is recommended to ensure appropriate antibiotic selection and to minimize the development of recurrent or resistant infection.

Urethral obstruction from urinary stones is reported less often in camelid species than in small ruminants. While the specific cause of stone formation is largely unknown, possible causes include mineral imbalances, early castration, urinary tract inflammation, decreased water intake, or a combination. If recognized early, stone formation can be managed medically, but the long-term prognosis is guarded due to recurrence of stone formation. If complete urethral obstruction occurs, it can be life-threatening and surgical intervention is often necessary.

Prevention of urinary stone formation includes feeding a well-balanced diet, supplementation with salt (NaCl) to encourage increased water

continued on page 21

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Supplement #2

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

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Cover Photo:

Two year old Aubryenne Cozzetto, in a very red Christmas dress, is holding the 15 year old Grand Valleys Avalanche also dressed for the holiday. Photo was taken by Brianna Cozzetto.

Brianna sent in two photos, both are on the main page of RMLA.com in full color!

Happy Holidays

If you have a terrific, non-advertising photo you think qualifies for a front cover (or anyplace), send it to RMLAEditor@gmail.com and you'll be given full credit regardless where it's placed.

Thank you,

Co-Editors, Kathy and Ron

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Talents abound. Here are just a few of the ways you can use yours. You can jump in, support RMLA activities and its members with just the amount of time and energy that works for you – small projects, one-time only projects, on-going projects. The choice is yours. Take a look. New adventures abound.

- ◇ Gary Carlton has been single-handedly organizing the Fairplay Llama Race for 10 years. Thank you, Gary! Now he needs additional folks to assist with planning, connecting with past sponsors and maybe even finding additional sponsors. This has been a great event for promoting the ‘wonder’ of llamas and it has grown every year. So jump in, offer your talent(s) and have a ton of fun. Contact Gary at 303-503-1324 or gary@jmhfarm.com. The 2014 Fairplay Llama Race is July 26th.
- ◇ The llamas participating in the Fairplay Llama Race are getting tired also. With the increased attendance and public participation over the last two years, many llamas have been doing double and even triple duty. Gary is looking for an additional 20-30 talented llamas for the 2014 Race. Contact Gary at 303-503-1324 or gary@jmhfarm.com
- ◇ An additional 6-8 llamas are needed for the Leadville Trail 100 / Hope Pass race. This event is August 16-17, 2014. Contact Gary Carlton at 303-503-1324 or gary@jmhfarm.com to join the fun.
- ◇ The Journal Staff needs an Advertising Manager (or co-managers) now! Do you have the ‘gift of gab’ on the phone, on Facebook, e-mail? Do you like meeting new people? Do you like bragging about llamas and alpacas? Well then, jump in and join our team. Your talents will be greatly appreciated and rewarded. Contact Kathy & Ron at rmlaeditor@gmail.com

Ask The CSU VET Team, continued

intake, as well as always having fresh water available at all times. Urine acidifiers in the feed can be used. They are specifically helpful in preventing or treating struvite crystals, but they also can increase water intake and may help flush out other types of crystals when used periodically.

General Urolithiasis Prevention Recommendations:

- **Provide Fresh, Clean, Warm Water at ALL times**
 - Cold water can decrease intake during the winter
 - Make sure water does not freeze in the winter
- **Provide Electrolyte water along with fresh water**
 - Use a commercial electrolyte mix
 - As a substitute for a commercial electrolyte mix, you can use a combination of non-iodized

dized table salt and lite salt

- 15g table salt and 15g lite salt per gallon of water
- **Increase salt (NaCl) Intake:**
 - Helps for all forms of urolithiasis
 - Use non-iodized salt
 - Free choice White Salt block
 - 2-5% Dry Matter Intake (DMI)
 - 0.4 to 1 g/kg BW/dy
 - Mixed with feed pellets or dissolved in water and sprayed on the hay.
- **Decrease or remove any Alfalfa hay from the diet of animals prone to urinary stones.**
 - Oat Hay or
 - Grass Hay
 - Believed to be most important for calcium based crystals by reducing calcium excretion and amino acid metabolism to oxalate.

- **Decrease Phosphorus and Magnesium Intake**
 - Most important for struvite urolithiasis
 - Phosphorus, No More than
 - 0.25 to 0.30% DMI
 - 50 to 60 mg/kg BW/dy
 - More likely to be high in grain
 - Magnesium, No More than
 - 0.12-0.18% DMI
 - 25 to 36 mg/kg BW/dy
 - More likely to be high in hay
 - You will need to have a feed analysis for minerals done on all of your feed to determine if these are in the appropriate level.
- **Restrict additional grain feeding**
 - Decreases phosphorus intake and may help control struvite crystals

Great information! If you have a question, please send it to Kathy Stanko at tur-keytrots2@gmail.com.



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Update: Gastric Ulcer Research Project

By Stacey Byers, DVM, MS, DACVIM

Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital

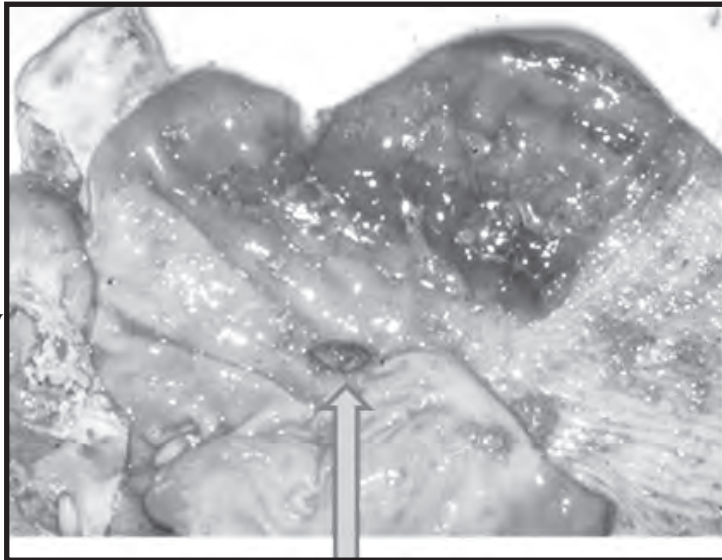
The camelid C3 ulcer study is still in progress. We are still working on perfecting the laboratory measurement methods and proper dosing of our investigative compound. Sample collection is fairly labor intensive for a couple of days as we place an intravenous catheter in the jugular vein and a prepu-tial catheter to collect urine. Samples are collected every few hours for 36-48 hours.

The alpacas do not have any lasting side effects from either of catheters, just the frustration of being housed in the livestock hospital for a couple of days and being caught up to collect blood and urine. We include a buddy so the alpaca has some company which decreases stress while being inside.

For those people who aren't familiar with what C3 ulcers can look like and the potential sequela to an ulcer perforating into the abdomen, here is an image from a necropsy of an alpaca.

This image shows the in-side surface of C3. Some of the

ulcerated area is the reddened tissue, the green material is remaining ingesta present, and you can see a few pieces of grain in the lower left side. There is a perforation in the center of the picture. Prior to perforation, the C3 wall becomes thin and loses its normal protective func-



tions. This allows bacteria to be absorbed into the blood stream and potentially leak into the abdomen causing peritonitis. If the ulcer perforates, ingesta from C3



flows into the abdomen. We are unable to save the animal at this point due to the severe peritonitis, infection, and septic shock that follows.



We have not received any additional donations in the past quarter, so please consider giving an end of the year tax deductible donation to the research program. We have received \$1000 to date from 4 ranches and 1 veterinary clinic. 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-cvmb.colostate.edu/vth/Pages/default.aspx>) 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).

To ensure your donation gets to the right place, please note 'camelid ulcer research' in the comment box.

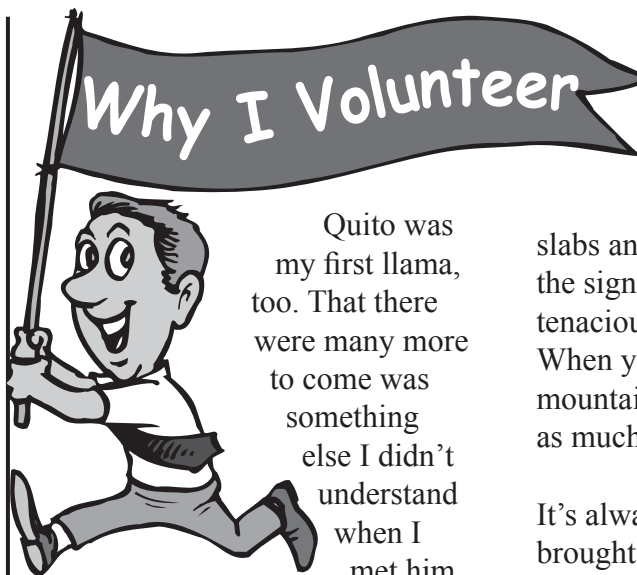
If you have questions about the study, please contact Dr. Stacey Byers at 970-297-5000 or srbyers@colostate.edu.

Llamas and Estes Park

by Gayle M. Woodsum
Walden, CO

...and the Scheme of all things Meaningful

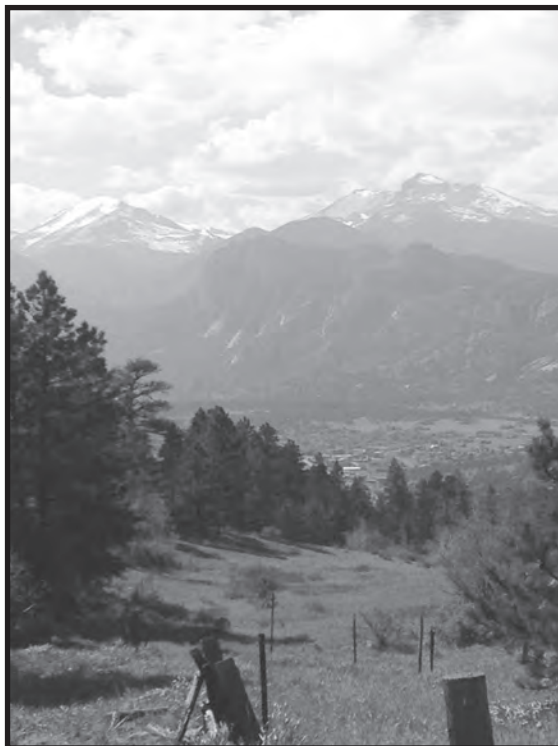
Author's Note: I've been showing llamas at the Estes Park Wool Market for 15 years, and served as its llama show superintendent for 10 years. I retired from that job this year, so that I could return to the simple hardworking joy of showing my own llamas there. But it wasn't an easy decision – there are so many things about being superintendent I will miss; so many memories that made volunteering a delight of great meaning.



Quito was my first llama, too. That there were many more to come was something else I didn't understand when I met him.

Nevertheless, they were the reason I made my way to Estes Park in the mid 1990s. Barbara brought me to the wool market there to watch a llama pack demonstration.

The demonstration was interesting



enough. But it was Estes Park that grabbed onto me. Walking through the fairgrounds, it seemed as though there was a kind of weight



to the air. The mountains around the park roll down on themselves in rocky slabs and velvety slopes, topped by the signature blue green peaks and tenacious snows of the Rockies. When you're in Estes Park, the mountains insist that you feel them as much as see them.

It's always been llamas who've brought me to Estes Park. After Quito, there was Jafar and Chakote, the first llamas I ever had a part in showing. They were just two among nearly 500 of them who took center stage in the early years of what would become one of the largest and most popular wool markets in the United States.

Every June, what happens in Estes Park takes stock of the evolving events of my life in the greater world as both rotate toward an unknown future. The collection of memories pilots more of my life than it would seem they should. The film reel of reflection clicks and whirs continuously, telling me something I don't always understand but hang onto just the same.

- The year of deep snow that kept the llamas' legs wet in the snow ring.
- Showing llamas to Virginia and Hank who years later would teach me to become a llama judge in my own right.
- Linda, who first envisioned Wool Market and ran it for so

There's a distinct possibility that at some point in time, all roads of meaning pass through Estes Park, Colorado. In 1873, Isabella Bird visited Estes Park when the only other human resident was mountain man James Nugent and the one human dwelling was a small log cabin. Her adventures were first published in 1879 in *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*.

I read *A Lady's Life* before ever going to Estes Park, and by the time I got there, it was full of hotels, condominiums and souvenir shops. Barbara was my mountain woman and Quito, the irascible pack llama, was my pony. Quito was Barbara's first llama, bought to ease pain that came from decades worth of hauling 60-pound packs on her own back, up and down mountains on this and that side of the world.

continued on next page

- many years because she knew the mountains would help make it one of the greatest.
- Jane, Sharon, Bobra and Virginia who were once the life of every Estes llama party I attended, but are all gone now.
 - Lougene zipping through the llama show on her electric golf cart, running a top notch event for years before me.
 - The roar of the crowds cheering on the leaping and limboing llamas who fly and crawl more charmingly with every round of applause.
 - Sitting in Tim's truck with him, sheltering ourselves from the cold, sharing sweet life stories and planning Wool Market details for what turned out to be the last weekend of his life.
 - The year Sam vacuumed sugar out of my fuel tank and Bo loaned me his hitch to replace the one of mine that had been stolen.
 - The day Jerry let me cry on her shoulder when an exhibitor from the Midwest screamed at me that all my llama rescue work was destroying the llama industry.
 - How Jim told me the negative effects of my relationship breakup would last seven years and I hoped he was wrong but it turned out he was right.
 - A dozen years of children showing my llamas, then growing up and away, except for Laurel who keeps growing up and staying.
 - The parade of show llamas I've led for the silly joy of

ribbons and trophies.

- How year after year, Rhonda and Nancy clerk and announce and work 12-hour days and call it their annual vacation.
- The year we watched from the grandstands as the High Park fire started and rose like a cloud in the distance.
- Which was the same year I was bald and sick from cancer and everyone loved me and took care of me and I knew they meant it.
- Patti, who put new decals on my trailer as a surprise – wiping out the decals of my lost past and helping me show the world a glimpse of my claims to a better future.
- Cheryl and Wally, who gave up showing their own llamas so she could judge and he could take over all the performance burdens and be solicitous and carry things for me when I was in pain and couldn't stop thinking about the rogue cells marching through my body.
- Lora, who came to judge one year while battling her own cancer, then came back to judge again when I was fighting mine, and came again this year, still fighting the disease that now tags after us both, just to be a friend.

And always, always, the silent soar of these particular mountains — the deep energy of this unexpected, not always pretty or perfect but forever beautiful and healing and eternal place in the scheme of all things meaningful.



CLASSIFIED ADS

Patricia & Maurice Cox Estate Auction. Llama-related items to be auctioned in March or April: spinning wheel; 23 halters; 3 packs nearly new; 2-wheel cart and harness - nearly new; bronze statue; stained glass picture and misc. brushes and wool carder. For more information or photos, please contact Paula (Maurice was my father) at 970-842-5575. The items are from the Patricia and Maurice Cox estate. Dr. Cox passed away in October 2013. They were very active with their llamas.

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Editors' Corner - continued

The last change we want to mention is we have 2 new board members and several new committee chairs. Check out page 3 to find out who is doing what where. On behalf of our members and the Board, we say 'Thank You' to all who have chosen to jump in. And on page 10 we have featured our new board members. We look forward to new ideas and directions from the Board.

And in closing, Ron and I are committed to making the RMLA Journal one of the best publications available in the llama world. To do this we need your support in the form of advertisements and an Ad Manager. Just please think about it!

We wish you and your families (two-legged and four-legged) Happy Holidays!

Hanks - Kathy
Co-Editors
Hanks - Ron

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NEW HEALTH RULES FOR NEBRASKA

We want all of our members to know that new health certificate rules and permits took effect in Nebraska as of May 2013. Any camelid over 6 months of age now needs to be tested for TB and for brucellosis within 60 days of entering the State. And a permit to enter must be obtained from the State.

14 Importation of Exotic Animals. In addition to those general requirements contained in 23 NAC 2-004, the following requirements shall be met:

014.01 A permit for entry shall be obtained from the Department prior to each shipment; and

014.02 The following species shall meet the additional requirements:

014.02A Camelids, including but not limited to camels, llamas and alpacas, over six (6) months of age shall be tested and found to be negative for brucellosis and TB within sixty (60) days prior to entry into the state.

For the full regulation go to: <http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/regulations/animal/tilac.html#14>

Or, you may contact the State Veterinarian, Dr. Dennis Hughes at

Dennis A. Hughes D.V.M.

Nebraska State Veterinarian

c/o Animal and Plant Health Protection/Nebraska Department of Agriculture

P.O. Box 94787. Lincoln, NE. 68509-4787

Phone:(402)471-6834 or E-mail:dennis.hughes@nebraska.gov

LLAMAS & RICKETS IN THE WEST

By Al Ellis Highline Trail Llamas Boulder, WY

Do you think your llamas are getting enough vitamins, particularly D and E? What if you are wrong? Don't make the same mistake we did by assuming things.

We live on the high desert of Wyoming at 7,000 feet, latitude 42.79. Cold at times? Yes! Windy at times? Yes! However even on those days, let alone the vast majority of the time, the sky is brilliant blue and the sun is intense. We were well aware of Vitamin D deficiency and resultant rickets, but did not consider it even a remote possibility in our area. Tragically we were wrong.

A number of years ago, we were trying to preserve some of the great old packing lines while building our outfitting business that required a large number of packers, so we were starting to produce 10 to 20 crias a year. Things seemed to be going along relatively fine with about 100 crias under our belt.

Then all of a sudden a lovely girl approaching age two rapidly developed carpal valgus. Unfortunately we didn't have her diagnosed and never even thought about rickets. No excuse, but even if we had, our impression was rickets was only a problem in crias and only a problem in other parts of the country where 'the sun don't shine'. A couple of years later we had a girl of the same

age who developed the same problem. This time we went down to the wonderful vets at CSU for a full work up.

Diagnosis: Rickets!! It turns out we also had a male that same year with much less noticeable symptoms. Rickets are most notably seen as crooked front legs where the knees touch and the feet are wide spread. In this boy, he had only the deviation in the hocks, as diagnosed by CSU

We started Vitamin D the next winter but apparently didn't get it right because one more girl - same age, same symptoms, albeit not as severe. The common thread: a growth spurt coming out of winter as they are approaching age two.

Now after a few years of experimenting, we hope we have it right. We treat all the llamas October through March. Since MDs now think that many humans are deficient in Vitamin D and recommend this supplement for older people (like me), we figure the older llamas may benefit also, even after they are done growing.

Many folks use the injectable, but we have opted for the oral ADE-B12 gel thinking it is good training for the crias with a once a week dose of about 2cc, depending on age and size. The yearlings and older animals, get 5cc mixed into a supplement every other

week. The supplement is 50% shredded beet pulp and 50% rice bran based mini pellet. Once the animals are hooked on this supplement, it is a great vehicle to add all kinds of meds and vitamins.

The same great vets at CSU are discovering most llamas they see are vitamin E deficient and believe all llamas that are not on green grass will benefit from a supplement. For Vitamin E, we are using Emcelle Tocopherol 500 IU/cc mixed 50/50 with water or wheat germ oil, then dribbled on their supplement. We are giving 500 IU twice a week throughout the winter. Once again we just drench a bit to the crias until they are old enough to start nibbling the supplement.

To drench the Vitamin D gel we found the easiest way to load and dispense a dose is with a modified syringe. Take a regular 6cc syringe for crias that get a 2 cc dose, or a 12cc syringe for adults that need a 5cc dose and bore out the end to 1/2" so the end of the gel tube fits tight against the syringe. Tip: The syringe needs to be working very smoothly, we use a bit of food grade silicone. Then squeeze the desired dose into the syringe.

To dispense, place the syringe between the llama's molars and tongue. After squeezing out the dose, hold for a few seconds

continued on next page

until the gel melts. Most of the llamas don't seem to mind the taste and take it quite easily, and in fact most will eat the supplement with the gel added and will not need to be dosed. It may take a few tries with a reduced dose of gel to get them used to it.

Most of us add a nutritional supplement to our llamas during the winter months, so the additional Vitamins D and E are easy to provide with great potential benefits and virtually no downside. The more recent blood work we have had done shows results in the upper zone of what is thought to be required. The North Sound Alpaca Association provides a link to a study covering rickets

and Vitamin D by Robert J Van Saun. It is a great resource: <http://www.northsoundalpacas.org/uploads/9/9/4/7/9947269/vitamindricketts.pdf>

A footnote from Dr. Robert Callan at CSUVTH: The condition of rickets at this older age is something we did not expect but looks to be real. The methods that Al & Sondra have utilized for supplementation are consistent with our recommendations and have worked out for them. One little addition is to spray the syringes with food grade silicone lubricant to keep them slick and functioning for multiple doses.

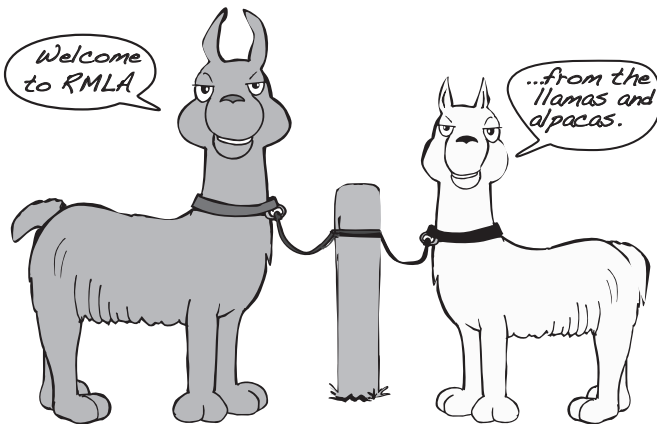
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Thank You!



New & Renewing Members Since the Last Issue



Full contact information available at www.rmla.com, click on 'Members'.

- Gary Carlton, Strasburg, CO
- Stephen & Shari Quackenbush, Castle Rock, CO
- Michaela VanderHamm, Denver, CO
- Caleb VanderHamm, Denver, CO
- Jadon VanderHamm, Denver, CO
- Dalyn Tetamore, Arvada, CO
- Susi Hulsmeyer-Sinay, Bozeman, MT

- Christian Atkins, Arvada, CO
- Sheila Dunlavy, Evergreen, CO
- Char Larson, Silt, CO
- Pat Bradstreet, Missoula, MT
- Brad & Sylvia DeWaard, Cheney, WA
- Sally & Jeffrey Rucker, Florissant, CO

Grand Mesa & Kokopelli Llama Shows Making Big Changes in 2014

By Cheryl Juntilla, Clifton, CO

There are some big changes being planned for the 2014 Grand Mesa and Kokopelli Classic Llama Shows. Actually there have been many changes to the shows over the years as the show staff continually strives to make improvements and

exhibitor dinner on Saturday evening. This made it possible for everybody to sit together, socialize and enjoy their food without having the wind blow their plates away. A separate table was provided for judges Barb Harris, Eran McCarty and Ann Bruhn so they could also enjoy the dinner after a long

awards. The prize for the first entry received went to Glenn and Kathy Stanko of Iron Horse Ranch. Paul and Karen Schwartz of ChanTar Llamas got the prize for having traveled the longest distance. Rob and Jill Knuckles of Tall Tail Ranch got the prize for having the most animals entered. Dave, Sandy and Warren Lockwood of Lockwood Dreamstar Llamas once again teamed up to win the prize for the most classes entered by one ranch, although Jerry Dunn and the kids from Bear Track Farm weren't too far behind. In retrospect we wish we could have given Sandy a prize for Best Show Theme Dressed, but we didn't get to see her safari apparel until Sunday.



adjust to economic and llama community conditions. Some changes have worked well, some not so well, and every year is a learning experience. You can rest assured one thing that will never change is our commitment to having a relaxing weekend that is full of camaraderie and fun for both exhibitors and volunteers. In 2013 there were a couple of changes that seemed to work quite well. The first was the rental of the Sagebrush Room in the Fairgrounds Community Building for the

day of judging. The dinner was catered by Hawaiian Tropics Barbeque and featured kahlua pork, teriyaki chicken and delicious side dishes. For dessert there was a big carrot sheet cake decorated with the show logo. Dinner and dessert were sponsored by La Chiripada, LLC.

During dinner the results from the Grand Mesa performance classes were announced and ribbons awarded. We also announced the winners of some of our special traditional

Thanks to our generous sponsors, including Enstroms' Candy, Religious Experience Salsa and Commercial Specialists, Inc., we were able to give door prizes to all of the exhibitors. The Grand Junction Dodge dealership donated tote bags to carry the goodies home. A very special "Thank You" goes to Mary Sievers, who donated enough packages of note cards featuring her original drawings of llamas to

continued on next page

give one to every ranch, the judges and the volunteers. We also have to thank Charlie Hackbarth of Mt. Sopris Llamas Unltd, who donated halters and leads as prizes for the youth performance exhibitors. Trophies for Grand and Reserve Champions in the Grand Mesa show on Saturday were donated by Rob and Jill Knuckles. Grand Champions in the Kokopelli show on Sunday received bags of Mazuri feed donated by Purina Mills and presented by Kirk Dailey. The Kokopelli

While we are thanking people, we can't leave out all the volunteers who work so hard to make the shows a success. It really is a teamwork effort with all of the members of the Grand Mesa Llama and Alpaca Club pitching in and helping wherever they can. While Leslie Schubert and Janine Faussonne helped with check in, Rob and Jill Knuckles and Glen and Sue Troutd helped with setting up the arena. During the shows John Hilker and Mary Sievers kept the



Reserve Champions got buckets of minerals donated by Ranchway Feed. In addition to sponsors who donated prizes, there were monetary donations from too many sponsors to list here and we truly appreciate all of them. We also have to thank our vendors, Petra Janes who sold collectible llama items, Brent Holt of Farm Bureau Insurance and Charlie Hackbarth. They were all very good sports about dealing with the challenges created by wind and occasional rain showers.

performance courses set up and running smoothly, while Paula, Abby, Meghan and Erin Casey helped with clerking and handing out ribbons and prizes. Even though Mary Wickman isn't a member of GMLAC, she came all the way from Woodland Park to serve as clerk for the fiber show and help out any where else she could. At the end of the show, a whole bunch of exhibitors pitched in to dismantle the performance courses and clean up the arena and their help was greatly appreciated. We also really appreciate those who helped to pack up the leftovers and clean the Sagebrush Room.

The other big change in 2013 was the addition of a Fiber Showcase in which exhibitors entered items made from llama fiber. We have always promoted llama fiber by including shorn fleece and walking fiber classes. A few years ago we added a Fashion Lead class in which the llama's fiber and an item made from its fiber were both judged and given a composite score. That proved impractical for many people so the Fiber Showcase was added to give people the opportunity to enter their hand crafted fiber products regardless of whether a particular llama was entered in the show. There were separate divisions for Youth, Beginner and Experienced, with classes for Knitted or Crocheted, Woven, Felted and Other. We got a nice variety of entries that really displayed the beauty, usefulness and versatility of llama fiber and hope to see even more next year.

In addition to the fiber judge Ann Bruhn awarding ribbons to items in the Fiber Showcase, exhibitors were given ballots to vote for their favorite item in the Fiber Showcase and the item getting the most votes would win a special People's Choice award. When the ballots were counted, it turned out to be an exact tie between two items. The ballots were recounted and examined for

hanging chads or any evidence of voter fraud. Handwriting was carefully analyzed to ensure that nobody had voted for themselves more than once. After all that it was still a tie, with a shawl woven by Rob Knuckles and a scarf knitted by Jill Knuckles both getting the same number of votes. That actually worked out okay because they could share the prize, which was a beautiful handcrafted ceramic yarn bowl donated by Mike and Cindy McDermott of SunCrest Orchard Alpacas and Fiber Works.

It seemed to be a weekend for ties. Every year there is a Grand Mesa Versatility Award given to the llama that accumulates the most points while showing in halter, at least one performance class and at least one fiber class. This year two llamas got the exact same number of points, even though one of them scored higher in fiber classes and the other scored higher in performance classes. The 2013 Grand Mesa Versatility Co-Champions were Foothills Kodiak shown by Janine Fausson and Tall Tail's Grayson shown by Jill Knuckles.

We hope that everyone had a wonderful time this year and that you will all come back next year. We've got the Mesa County Fairgrounds in Grand Junction, Colorado, reserved for the weekend of **May 17**

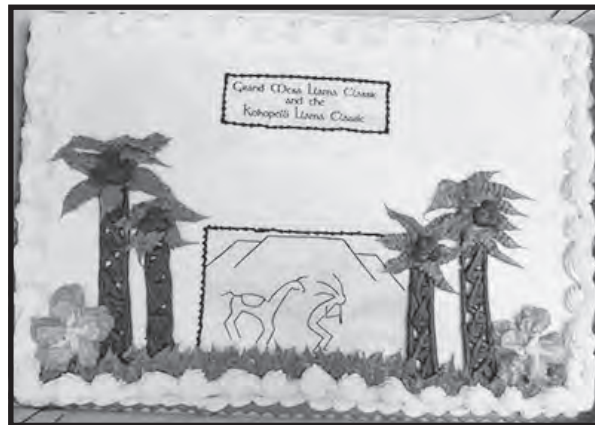
and 18, 2014, and are pretty excited about the changes mentioned at the beginning of this article. Here's the first change - We have run out of corny pirate jokes and the Black Pearl llama trailer is sailing off into the sunset. The Jolly Roger flags, shark fins and smoking cannons are gone and the new theme for 2014 will be "Peace, Love and Lamas." So dig deep into your closets for tie-dyed t-shirts, bell bottom jeans and love beads and get ready for a dose of nostalgia (if you can remember that far back.)

So what's the other change? There is a clue in the theme "Peace, Love and Lamas." Some of the local alpaca owners who came to the 2013 shows saw how much fun we were having and asked if they could join us in 2014. We have had some preliminary discussions and are working

on the best way to add ALSA alpaca classes to our schedule without interfering with the llama classes. As far as we know, this will be the first time an ALSA show on the Western Slope has included separate alpaca classes. We are entering uncharted territory but are optimistic that it will work out well and give everybody a chance to meet new people and make new friends. The more the merrier! So that is why there is only one "L" in

"Peace, Love and Lamas." We will be sending out entry packets via e-mail as soon as possible. If you weren't at

the shows last year and want to be added to the list, please send an e-mail to cajwdj@aol.com. If you would prefer to have a hard copy sent via regular mail, please call me at 970-434-6092.



A Postscript From The Editors

We are overwhelmed with wonderful articles. Please keep them coming. We also wanted you to be aware that our page limit is driven to some extent by our advertising revenues. For this issue, we had to postpone 2 articles and shorten up a couple of announcements. So while you are reading this issue, please think about advertising in the Journal.

Thank you. *Ron & Kathy*

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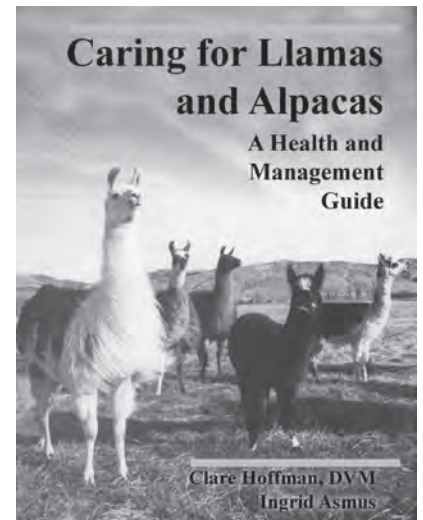
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