

# *The Journal*

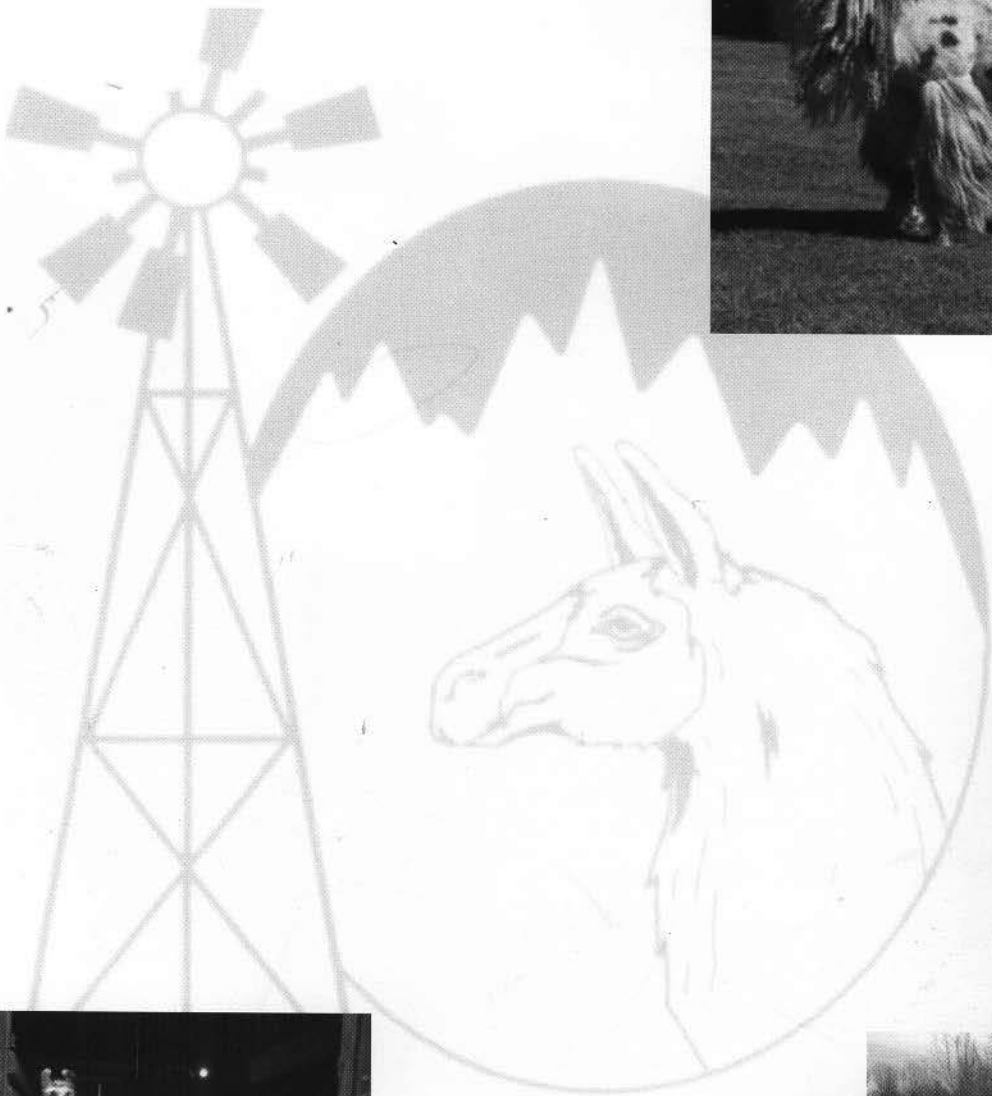
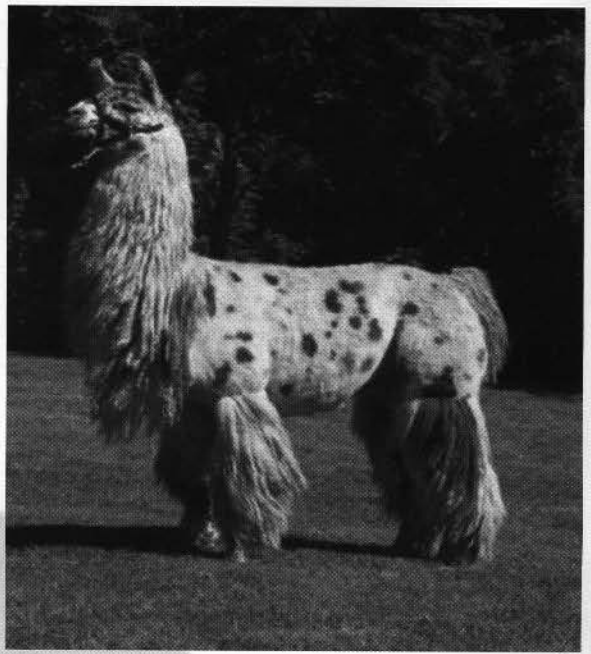


*Fall 2005*

**RMLA**   
Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

*Conformation, Personality, and  
Fiber.*

*Momento's got it all!*



*Now you  
can,  
too.*



*BAL Oh, Appy Day*

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*BAL Marciae*

*We will be offering a limited number of outside breedings to this  
very special male. Call for details!*

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ERIE, COLORADO



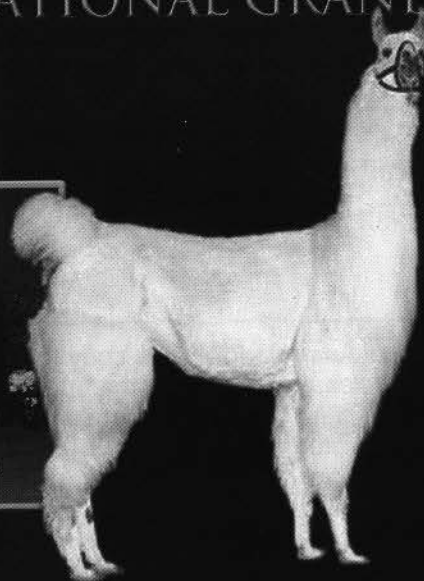
CONGRATULATIONS NISHA  
2005 ALSA NATIONAL GRAND CHAMPION



Photo by David



Photo by Alva



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## Journal

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# *The Journal*

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# *Fall 2005*

### **On the Cover:**

Llamarage's Maserati stands guard as FFF Chirimeister wanders over to see why this person has a strange thing in their hand (a camera) and not food!!

# President's Message

As we close out another busy season of events and get ready for the long nights of winter it is my pleasure to take over the helm as your new president. I hope I am up to the challenge of running this great organization of ours. I would also like to welcome Steve Quackenbush, Cheryl Juntilla and Bob Hance to the board. They all bring with them new insight and much enthusiasm and I look forward to working with them in the coming year. Also thanks to Jerry Dunn for all her years of service to RMLA. I will miss you.

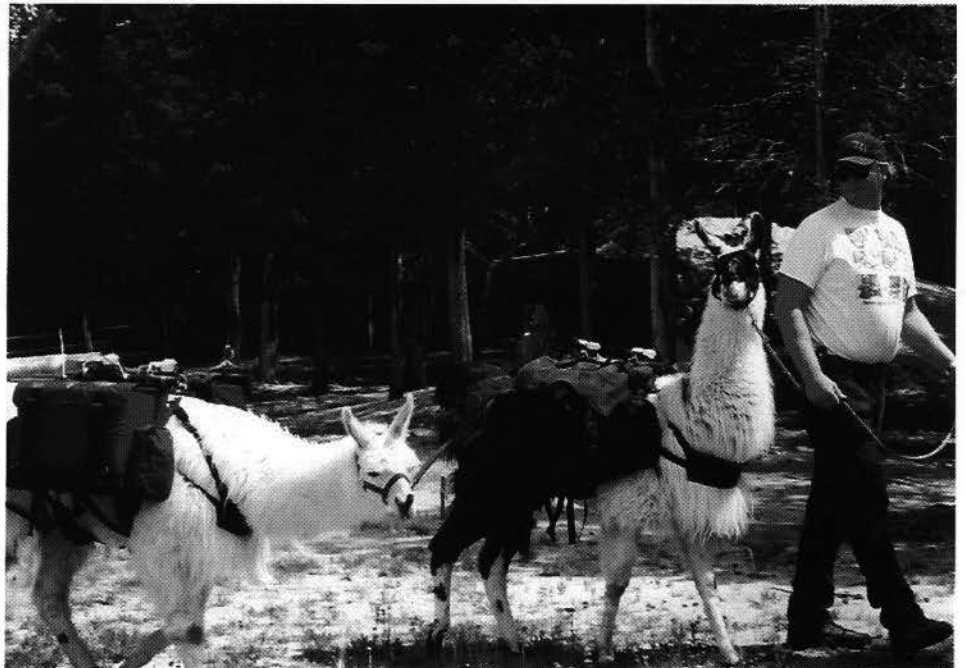
I would also like to welcome our 7 new youth members, Abigail & Megan Casey, Andy Darter, Kira & Neve Douglas, Laura Ann Edmondson, and 40 new adult members, Kate & Michael Blackburn, Cindy Campbell, Patricia "Pat" Carter, Tim & Paula Casey, Karen Childress, Todd Evans, Andrea Brown, Les & Sheri Flynn, Chela Grey, Mark Kuehn, David & Jill Hodges, Christine Hylemon, Ish Phillips, Joyce & Dennis Johnson, Nancy Liquori, Robin Young, Teresa & Victor Loya, Julie & Fred Matthews, Laura McNamara, Paul Johnson, Sandra Nolan, Robin Hergenroeder, Carolyn Ownby, Nina Pedersen, Kate Roach, Ralph William & Donna Marie Shoemaker, Sara Spoerri, Tessa Nicolet, Wade & Suzanne Thomas, and Gloria & Jerald Weatherman. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact any of the board members. We are here to serve the membership.

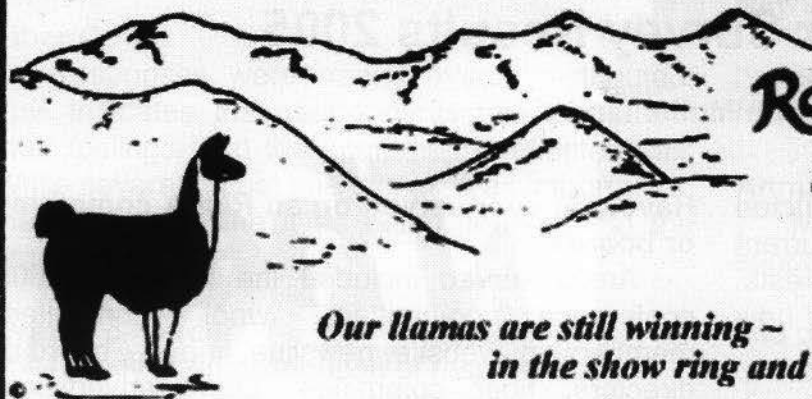
Thanks to all the volunteers who have worked so hard to put on the events we all enjoy. Without you they would not succeed. To all the members, new and old alike, think about volunteering. It's a great way to get involved and to meet people.

In closing remember this...though we are all different we all have one thing in common, our love for these wonderful animals.

Always just a phone call away,

**Paul Schwartz**





# Rocky Mountain Llamas

Since 1978 ~ Raising, Training  
and Loving Llamas

*Our llamas are still winning ~  
in the show ring and on the trail*

Examples from 2004 National Western & Laramie Llama Festival:  
*High Spirits*: Grand Champion Performance & 1st, Light Woolled Adult Male  
*Suprinca*: Grand Champion Light Woolled Female  
*Jester's Grand Finale*: 2nd Medium Woolled Female  
*Inca's Legacy*: 3rd Juvenile Light Woolled Female

*What makes winners? Good breeding and good training are  
essential for both performance and halter showing.*

Are your llamas and alpacas as easy to work with as you'd like?  
Are they easy to catch and halter? Stand for grooming? Toenails?  
Do they lead nicely on a loose lead? Load in vehicles?  
Jump obstacles? Go up and down stairs? Back smoothly?  
Can you brush their legs and pick up their feet?

If you'd like to learn more about training your llamas, making them more manageable and fun to work with and show, consider our training clinics:

**Basic: Training Llamas and Alpacas for Willing Cooperation ~ One-day class**  
Learn all the essentials for easy management as above, plus grooming, toenail trimming, obstacles, and loading in vehicles, including vans.

**Packing with Llamas ~ Two-day clinic**

*First day:* The practical method to teach your llamas to accept a pack saddle and panniers, and how to properly pack the panniers.

*Second day:* A lunch hike with your llamas lightly packed, learning to ford streams in various situations, cross bridges, other obstacles.

To receive clinic outlines and schedules, phone, write or  
email us at [llamas@rockymtllamas.com](mailto:llamas@rockymtllamas.com)

For every llama and alpaca activity,  
properly functioning equipment is essential!

See the best at our website at  
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Web Announcement!  
Visit our new ranch website!  
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We have llamas available for all purposes: potential studs, packers,  
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# RMLA Member Survey Results 2005

Annette Mulholland

A survey of the membership was conducted this past spring in an effort by the then current board to identify members' needs and interests. The board was also trying to get an idea of how current services and programs are supported.

Surveys were distributed via the RMLA newslines to members who had given an e-mail address and mailed to those who did not.

Response was very good. Of 213 members, 48 responded to the survey--a 22.5% response rate.

Members were asked a variety of questions about length of membership, use of services, involvement in RMLA and what they like and do not like about the organization.

Most of the respondents have been RMLA members for 1-6 years, with the remaining number evenly distributed between 7-19+ years.

Following is a summation of the responses returned for the survey.

## **In the past year, how many times have you used the RMLA library?**

67% of the members did not use the library at all. Several people said the library was valuable to them when they were new members.

## **Have you ever attended an RMLA conference?**

About half of the members had attended a conference at one time or another.

## **How often do you visit the RMLA website?**

More than half of the members use the website consistently, with the majority visiting the site about once a month.

## **Do you purchase an RMLA calendar?**

Of the choices listed, 30% marked either "as a gift," "for yourself," or "to support RMLA." About half of the members didn't mark this at all.

## **Have you ever served on an RMLA committee or board?**

Areas served included the following: 2005 conference committee, wool committee, membership, website, newslines, finance, board of directors, fiber committee, journal/advertising, research and youth.

69% had not served on either a committee or board at any time in their membership. One member expressed frustration over wanting to volunteer, but not feeling welcome by current committee/board members.

## **Would you support RMLA taking on a promotional/marketing role?**

60% said they support a marketing/promotional role provided that the board proceed with caution. From the responses given, there seemed to be an uncertainty about what marketing meant. For some it means selling animals, for some it means telling people about the organization, for others it is a combination of both.

## **Have you ever attended and/or organized an RMLA event?**

75% of the membership had either taken part in a sponsored event or helped put one together.

## **Two questions were offered for youth: Are you a 4-H member and Do you attend youth shows sponsored by RMLA?**

Less than 1% responded to these questions. This just means that mostly adults filled out the survey.

Next, members were asked to rank RMLA services in order of importance to them. There were 13 areas of interests offered. Rank order was defined as number one being a high level of interest. RMLA offers a lot of different services and benefits do not appeal to all members, however, members who responded were sensitive to that fact and tried to respond accordingly.

For example, the fiber co-op and research are areas that hold a limited interest for members, but they also see a value in providing these services.



### **Fiber Co-op**

Responses were nearly evenly distributed. This indicates that respondents are torn about their feelings, and their comments reflected this: While several do not see this area as important to them, they do see it as being important to the organization.

### **Events calendar**

A fairly even distribution of responses here.

### **Research**

Again, members recognize this as being an important service. Numbers were fairly evenly distributed.

### **Events insurance**

Almost half didn't think this was important, while the remaining responses ranged from 1-8.

### **Library**

Again, members were torn about this area. While they don't really use it, they do believe it is important.

### **Conferences**

Half found this to be important, half did not.

### **Youth scholarships**

Most members did not find this important.  
RMLA Member Survey Results 2005

### **Network of camelid owners/enthusiasts**

Members found this very important with more than half of those responding saying that the social aspect of the organization is important to them.

### **Journal**

No other area received a top-heavy ranking like the Journal. More than half said the Journal was the most important service that RMLA offers them.

### **Directory**

Most members placed this area of importance in the top five.

### **Website**

Again, this area ranked as one of the most important to members--second only to the Journal.

### **Newsline**

Rankings were evenly distributed, with a handful of members who didn't know about the Newsline.

### **Annual calendar**


Members ranked this as a less important, but supported service.

Finally, members were asked what they liked and didn't like about RMLA. While this is a loaded question, comments were thoughtful and well-directed.

What did they like most about RMLA? Most like the opportunity to be in touch with other llama and alpaca owners both for camaraderie and education. Members found that within the organization there is a wealth of information and expertise among the membership that holds value for them.

What didn't they like or felt needed improvement? Most comments pointed to communication being an area in need of improvement. Others pointed to marketing, research, conferences, the journal and the politics of the board.

All comments were given anonymously to the board for their consideration at the July conference in Glenwood Springs. A forum was held at that time as a follow-up to the survey in order to plan a direction for the organization over the next five to 10 years. It was well-attended, and again, most of the people who participated had thoughtful and constructive ideas about strengthening the RMLA membership.



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# The Next Five Years: Setting Goals for RMLA

Teri Nilson Baird

In an informal, optional gathering at the RMLA summer 2005 conference, a group of members gathered to talk about where they would like for RMLA to be in 2010. The Board had accepted a proposal that we hold a session at the conference, time permitting, for the Board to hear from the membership about RMLA: what's good, what's bad, and how we could do better. This information would be used to help the Board understand what budgeting priorities should be for the coming years. The Board's intent was not to drive the discussion, other than covering some general topics. Annette Mulholland and Teri took notes on an easel so everyone could see and expand on the suggestions. While we had hoped to have enough people attend to do breakout groups on a number of topics, we were limited by time and attendance and were able to cover only three: Communications, Membership, and Marketing.

## Communications

The Journal was a hotly-debated topic. Should RMLA publish four issues per year, or drop it down to two? Should RMLA hire a professional editor and publisher to put out a more eye-appealing publication? Would this be worth the cost? Members were concerned with the consistent timeliness of publication overall. It was suggested that Journals be planned a year in advance, for topics and calls for articles, and it was suggested we evaluate the Journal every other year, or perhaps every year. The membership debated the pros and cons of putting part of the Journal on the web page. There was concern that although we may reach more people, we may lose members who only join for the Journal. Old advertisers should be contacted again to encourage them to begin advertising again. Besides the Journal, RMLA communicates with the membership in various ways; the e-mail list, open meetings and events. It would be helpful if there were a sorted list of members by area on the web page. The Board should consider reaching out to various state associations in the Rocky Mountain region to find a way to work together. RMLA members should go to their emergency management offices in each county to offer help and advice during weather or other emergency.

## Membership

The group picked a target of a membership of 350 people. RMLA should attract new membership by appealing to owners who have only one or two animals, or who are new to owning camelids. Hikers in their 20s

and 30s may find camelid ownership appealing. RMLA should consider an associate membership for people who don't themselves own animals but are involved with people who do: vets, feed store owners, tack and product vendors, and area event coordinators. Both youth and adult memberships should be cultivated, realizing these are two very different paths. Breeders and sellers could include a first-year membership with each animal purchase and include it in the selling price. A pro-rated membership should be offered. RMLA needs to increase visibility so that people know where to find us. The organization should be marketed as a resource so people know where to find us. Advertise the availability of the library and networking with longer-term owners for a mentoring program. A new owner (lama 101) package could be provided to breeders to be given to new owners with each sale.

## Marketing

In 1998, at the Grand Junction Conference, membership voted to support marketing efforts to try and advertise the many benefits of owning animals. Half of the proceeds from Caring for Llamas and Alpacas which were previously assigned to Research were to be diverted toward marketing efforts.

What does this mean in 2005? RMLA should concentrate efforts on developing materials to help with public outreach. Educating people and selling animals should naturally go together, since once people learn about the animals they tend to want one. Or two. The group was interested in developing a marketing committee, in order to facilitate some of the ideas. People with some marketing skills should be included on the committee.

How do we reach people? Target the hiking population at Gart's or REI stores. Be at big events, such as Estes Park's Wool Market and the National Western Stock Show. Publish articles for hikers in their publications. Target wildlife organizations and the Sierra Club. Target fiber aficionados. Hold open houses with signs for visibility and local community notices. Get together with several farms and make it fun! Mentor potential owners. The tent at Estes Park should be sponsored by RMLA. More information in the barns at NWSS, including a potential powerpoint presentation. Work together with a marketing program at a local university to teach owners how to best market the lifestyle and pleasure of owning these wonderful animals.

# LLAMA SHOW IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NWSS 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Jerry Dunn, Llama Show Superintendent

**Yahoo!** Put on your western duds and join in the fun as the NWSS 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual llama show come to Denver in January, 2006.

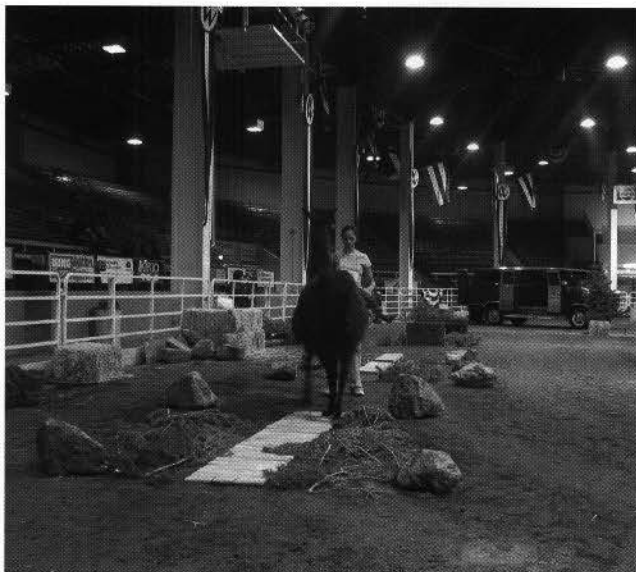
The NWSS staff has dozens of special presentations and events celebrating their notable history in Denver. Having the llama show in the middle of it all will enhance the diversity of this amazing livestock event.

There will be performance classes for the youth (including sub juniors), open performance, and halter classes for light, medium and heavy wool llamas. The addition of a costume class reflecting the western theme will be exciting to participate in and watch.

Saturday in the llama barn a workshop with hands on demonstrations will be headed up by Dani Varela and Sherry Adamcyk. There will be an opportunity to learn about fiber, training, and other llama activities, such as packing, driving, and 4-H. An arena will be available for visitors to lead your llamas around safely in the center of the barn.

Our judges will be Darrell Anderson from Indiana and Darlene Vaughan from Wyoming. The hand woven championship trophies were created by Judy Wolff-Mills.

Below: Jordan McHenry working the obstacle course with her llama Durango.



Above: Tiffany Quackenbush with Fudge.com and Bailey McHenry with Calico Kidd in Showmanship.

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



# ROCK-N-M LLAMAS

MIKE & PATTI MORGAN

Arkansas City, KS (620) 442-4996

Buena Vista, CO (719) 836-4510

# Herdsire Auction Benefits RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth

**Gayle M. Woodsum**

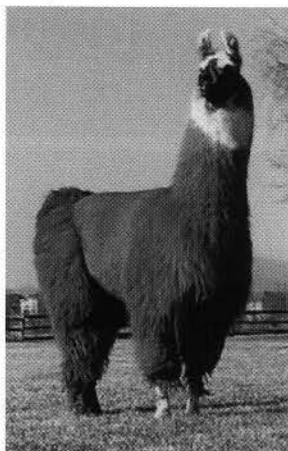
Laramie, Wyoming, August 13. The Laramie Llama Festival, a three-day youth and double open llama show, played host to a unique fundraising event this year. Saturday evening provided all attendees with a free dinner and an entertaining auction, the proceeds of which went to support the RMLA traveling Fiber Co-op Booth.

Conceived and organized by then RMLA President, Julie Heggie, the auction featured 10 herdsires well known in the Rocky Mountain Region. Breedings to the diversely beautiful males were generously donated by their owners and auctioned off to the highest bidder by professional auctioneer Cody Westbrook, who also donated his services.

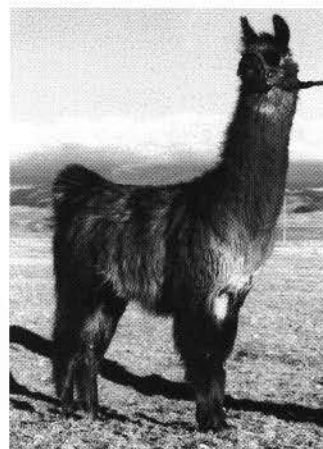
All but one of the animals stood on display throughout the weekend, on a herdsire row set aside specifically for this purpose. Many of the males were also shown at the Laramie Llama Festival.

To help attendees fully appreciate the recipient of the auction profits, RMLA Fiber Co-op manager Judy Wolff-Mills brought the entire booth and its award winning contents to be in operation during the Festival. As is often the case when the booth travels to various events, Judy spent most of her time promoting not only the wares for sale, but educating visitors on the many amazing qualities and uses of all kinds of lama fiber, as well as information on llamas in general. Her extensive knowledge and patient assistant netted an impressive number of sales for such a small event.

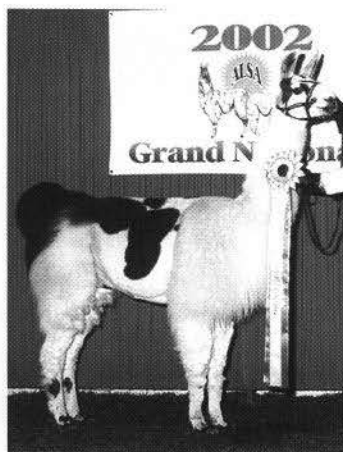
The herdsires breedings auctioned off were as follows:



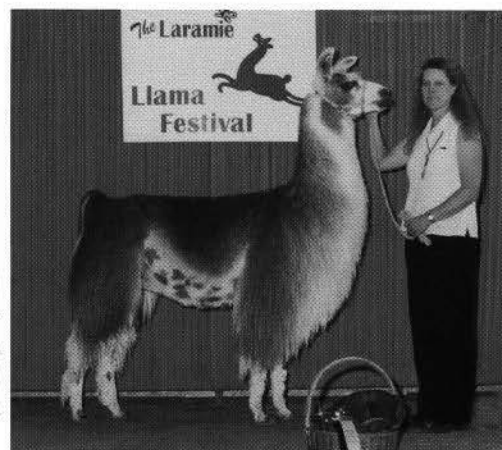
Cadfael, a full Peruvian tan medium wool ALSA Halter Champion and shorn fleece winner, owned by Sharon and John Beacham of Salida, Colorado



Bolivian Innovations Silver Lining, a silver, medium wool ALSA Halter Champion owned by Gayle Woodsum and Julie Heggie of Laramie, Wyoming



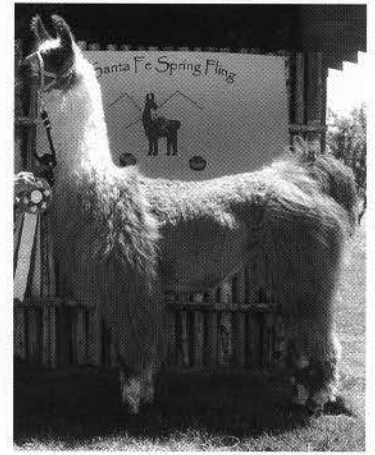
PHF Doc Marten, a paint classic light wool ALSA Halter Champion owned by Stan and Judy Wolff-Mills of Wellington, Colorado



TSX Independence, a suri-type gray and white medium wool ALSA Halter Champion and ALSA Performance Champion, owned by Rob and Jill Knuckles of Grand Junction, Colorado



Soquoma, a full Peruvian gray medium wool ALSA Halter Champion, owned by Wayne Rankin of Reno, Nevada



Beto, a 3/4 Peruvian medium wool brown and white ALSA show ring champion, owned by Jan and Sherry Adamcyk of Kiowa Creek, Colorado



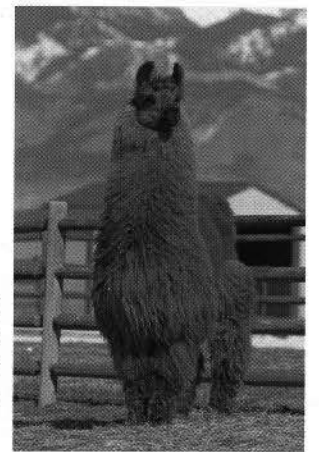
GNLC Ripcurl, a silky black heavy wool ALSA Halter Champion, owned by Carol Ann Tallmon of Colorado and Weatherford, Texas



Argentine Isidro, a full Argentine appaloosa heavy wool import, part owned and donated by Jane Sheppard and Jerry Uherek of Beasley, Texas



WL Laces Sand Dollar, a suri-type appaloosa heavy wool ALSA Halter Champion, owned by Gayle Woodsum and Julie Heggie of Laramie, Wyoming



Kobra's Phantom, a half Argentine light brown heavy wool ALSA Halter Champion, donated by Larry and Leila Crumrine, and currently owned by Linda Boyd of southern California

Breedings were purchased by Steve & Leslie Schubert, Judy Glaser, Wally & Cheryl Juntilla, Rob & Jill Knuckles, Carolann Evans, Jan & Sherry Adamcyk, Gayle Woodsum & Julie Heggie, and Amy Hatch.

A \$1300 donation was made to RMLA in support of the Fiber Co-op.

# Youth Corner: Leapin' Llamas 4-H Club - Boulder, CO

Corey Lohman, age 13

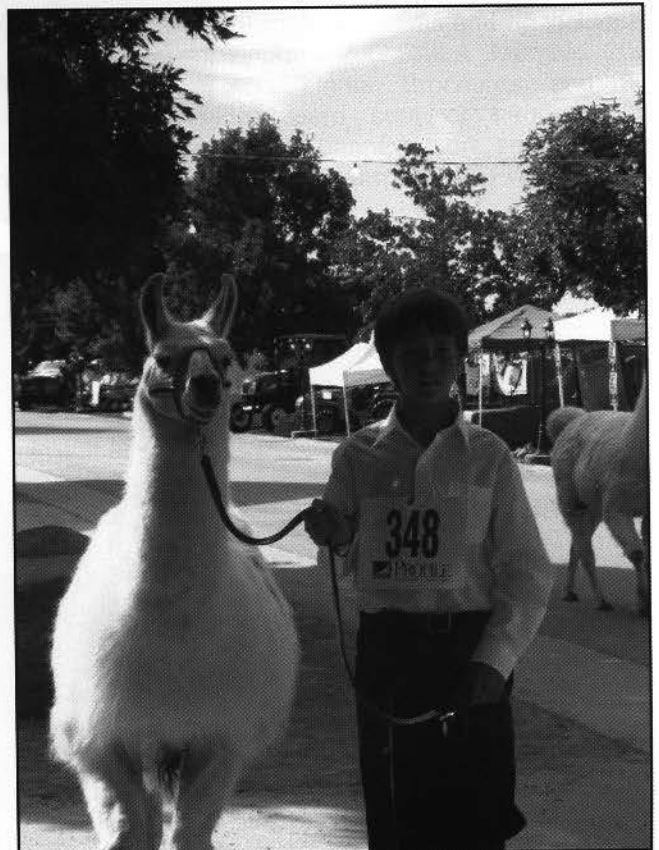
As the dust motes floated in the air and the cows next-door mooed loudly, a busy scene was unfolding. Llama's were being blown and brushed, or walked around so as to be ready for the show. After a 3 year hiatus, our favorite genus, Lama, returned to the Boulder County Fair.

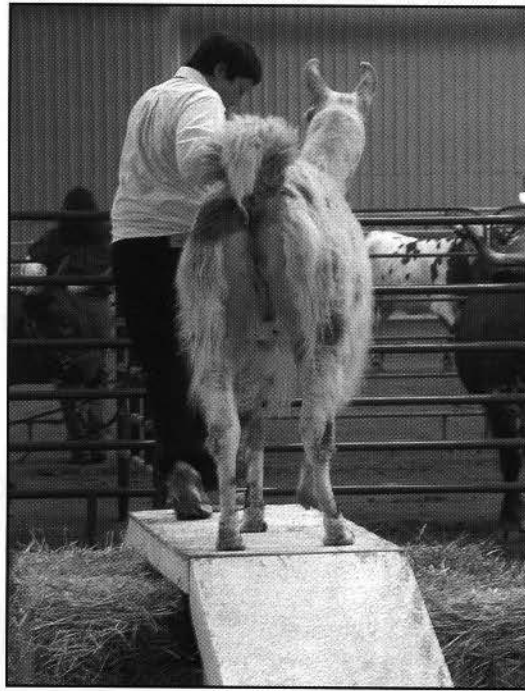
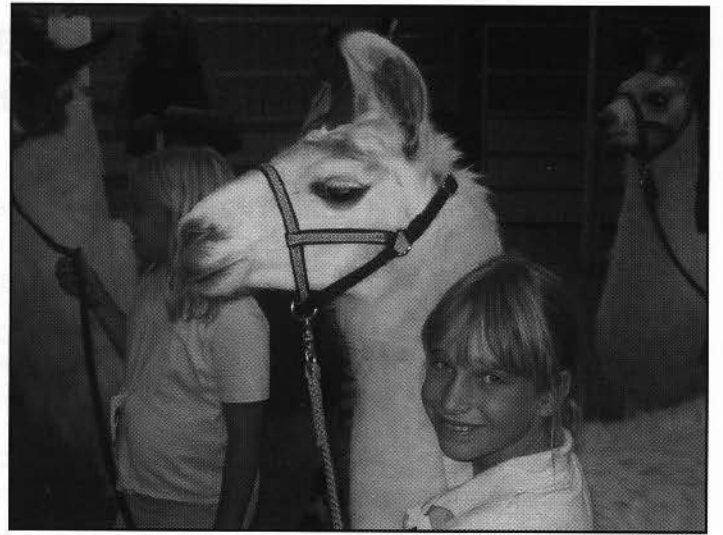
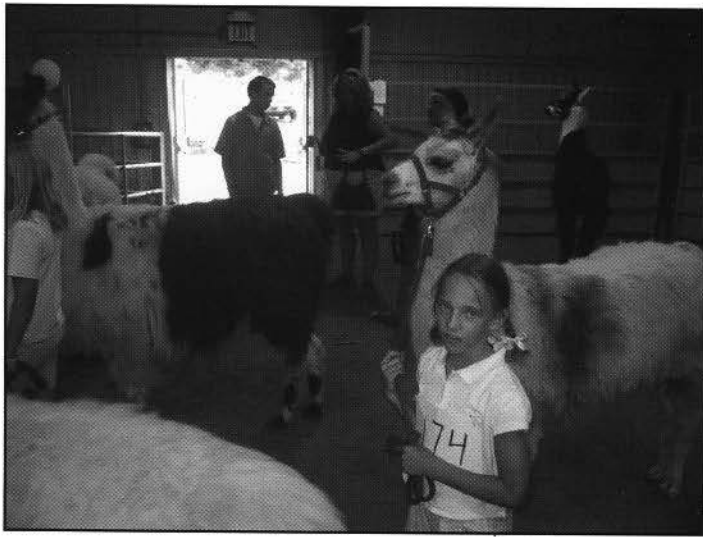
The show, held at the Boulder County Fair grounds on Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup>, consisted of four classes: Pack, Obstacle, Public Relations, and Showmanship. Each class was split into junior, intermediate, and senior groups. Ribbons were awarded for first through fourth place.

The show was sponsored by RMLA and was organized by the year old Leapin' Llamas 4-H club of Boulder County, their sponsor is Rocky Mountain Llamas, and the 4-H'ers work with Bobra Goldsmith and L'illette Vasquez. Their 4-H leader, Leigh DiNatale, was superintendent of the Llama show, and well-known Llama trainer and owner Mary Beth Hartsough acted as Judge. Participants, parents, and observers all agreed the show was a great success!

## *Leapin' Llama club member comments:*

- ❖ "It was just fun." Naomi, 11.
- ❖ "My favorite thing was winning two second places." Sara, 9.
- ❖ "It was fun walking around and seeing how the llamas react to different animals like cows and horses." Alyssa, 10.
- ❖ "My favorite part of the fair was showing my llama." Forrest, 11.







# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of RMLA

## December 4, 2004, Approved September 2005

### Highlands Ranch, CO East Ridge Recreation Center

The meeting was called to order by President Julie Heggie at 1:05pm. Board of Directors present were Julie Heggie, Jerry Dunn, Patti Morgan, Lougene Baird, Annette Mulholland, Teri Baird and director elect Larry Lewellyn. Paul Schwartz was absent (approved). A total of 26 members were present; a quorum is 42.

**SECRETARY REPORT:**

The minutes of the 2003 Annual Meeting were read. Nick Gerber moved to accept the minutes as read. Tony Gross seconded and the motion passed.

**TREASURER REPORT:**

Lougene Baird presented the Treasury Report as follows:

General Operations:	\$3,300
Life Member Savings:	\$7,404
Liquid Asset:	\$62,948
Marketing Research:	\$2,727
Medical Research:	\$6,053
Special Production-CFL&A:	\$20,015
<u>RMLA Bookstore:</u>	<u>\$2,506</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$104,959</b>

Last reconciliation of all accounts 11/9/04. Current bank accounts, statements not received. All invoices are paid. All deposits are made. Fiber Coop checks have been written and are ready to mail pending status from bank on sales deposits against consignment checks – will mail 12/11/04. \$7000 excess funds were transferred from Bookstore to CFL&A Production. This leaves \$2606 in Bookstore for remainder of December and early January to pay Fourth Quarter royalties and other expenses.

**Form CFL& Productions:**

\$350 = 5% of CFL&A profits transferred to Medical Research.

\$350 = 5% of CFL&A profits transferred to Marketing Research.

\$7600 transferred to Liquid Asset account: leaving the reserves to pay for the next printing of CFL&A near \$20,000.

From 12/4/04 to the start of the 2005 membership drive, the anticipated expenses are:

1. Fall (December) Journal	\$2000
2. Spring (February) Journal	\$2000
3. Insurance	\$3000 to \$4000
4. Sponsorship for NWSS	\$60
5. General Misc.	\$1000

Anticipated Income from Journal: \$1200. Net anticipated expenses \$6000 to \$8000. As always, it is a pleasure to serve the RMLA membership as Treasurer.

Lougene then explained briefly about the state of the treasury, starting with her tenure as Treasurer (1994) and fielded questions.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**BOOKSTORE** - Jan Adamcyk (submitted): Sales have been steady. 2004 sales to date are \$1,610 CFL&A, \$300 Youth 4-H Project Manual, 9 liability signs. Sales represent a wide variety of customers including breeders, vets, extension offices, rescue groups, etc.

**CALENDAR** - Julie Heggie: To date income of \$1,490 (\$1,040 in sales and \$450 in advertising). Cost of \$2,011.90. 138 calendars left to sell.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION** - Annette Mulholland: The conference plans are proceeding on schedule. Speakers & demonstrations have been secured. About 100 leaflets were handed out at Nationals.

**ELECTION** - Teri Baird: New directors are Julie Heggie and Larry Lewellyn. 138 ballots were received (a quorum). Maggie Merrill Brown again received ballots and counted votes.

**EVENTS** - Jerry Dunn: There were a total of 30 events sponsored by RMLA in 2004. 8 clinics/ workshops, 5 fun events and 18 shows. In addition, there were 18 packing events directed by RMLA members. 11 Proofs of Insurance were issued – all event coordinators and participants were in compliance with established guidelines and no incidents were reported. Approximately 200 RMLA Journals, 200 Service Directories, 400 Llama Brochures and 50 membership applications were sent or handed out. Banners, Release of Liability banners were sent to each event. The RMLA booth was on display at EPWM and the Douglas County Fair.

The 2005 Events list received so far was handed out. Annette Mulholland moved and Teri Baird seconded to accept the events list. Passed by the Board of Directors.

**Fairplay Special Report:** Receipts for the 2004 Fairplay walk/run are \$1,877. An additional 200 entrants are expected for 2005. Gary Carlson did a wonderful job of organizing the event.

**FIBER** - Julie Heggie: A proposal was handed out for comments. The proposal was to send the Fiber Booth to at least 4 events (NWSS, EPWM, Taos and Grand Nationals). Travel expenses, i.e. fuel and motel will be paid to the volunteer who takes the booth. Consignment fees will be changed to 0% for the Booth volunteers who take it, set it up, man it, and tear it down. 14% to RMLA members and 50% to non-RMLA members. Comments received from the membership were favorable.

**GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS** – Teri Baird: Teri has been working as part of the Livestock ID Committee of the U.S. Animal Health Association since October 2003 on the

permanent ID plan for Camelids. Her report is part of the RMLA Website. In general, permanent identification will be required in the future. Right now, microchips are the camelid industry choice, but more research is needed. The cattle industry will take the lead and conservative estimates are that permanent ID for cattle will be in place by 2008.

Contact is also continuing with the Wyoming State Vet (new) on Brucellosis and TB requirements. Dialog with New Mexico State Vet is also underway.

4-H ADVISOR – Maureen Bergenfeld: A survey was passed around to determine which, if any, manual was used for 4-H llama projects. The Colorado 4-H agents will meet Monday, December 6; dialog will continue to try to get a “standardized” version of the llama project book.

YOUTH – Barb Harris (submitted): Barb would like to pursue the recognition of an “RMLA Youth” each year; needs the BOD approval and will have guidelines in place by Conference time. Also would like to encourage youth to pack – maybe organize a “treasure hunt” type of situation – contact Barb or Tony Gross with any suggestions. Tony and Mary Gross have put together a 4-H manual on fiber; another suggestion is to encourage youth with a felting party, etc.

LIBRARY: No Report

PACK – Tony Gross: 2004 had some great events; thanks to Jim Osmun, Roger Miller, Kris Brewer, Jerry Dunn, Dick Williams. Tony wrote 3 articles for the Journal and all were well received with good feedback. Tried to put together a “rendezvous”; will try again in 2005. Trips are being planned already. Special thanks to Jim Osmun for organizing the LD-100 Aid Station event. Tony would still like to see liability issues for pack trip organizers addressed.

MARKETING – Annette Mulholland: The RMLA Booth was set up and reported on. It attended EPWM as part of the llama Marketing Tent. Has since been updated with newer pictures; still needs some repair. It’s biggest liability is that it is cumbersome. Encouraged members to send pictures and keep it updated. Also, can be used at any event by request to Jerry Dunn.

Jim Osmun also showed llama pictures integrated into the LD-100 2004 Book and the Continental Divide Trail Association (CDTA) newsletters; great marketing opportunities with organizations such as these.

MEMBERSHIP – Bob and Barb Hance: 2004 totals: 27 youth, 4 young adult, 41 life members and 362 members. Adding up to 416 voting members. New members since 4/1/04 include 5 youth, 2 life and 57 adult.

The web is the hot feature: 17,636 hits in November and 87 distinct pages averaging 28:50 minutes per page.

PUBLISHING/JOURNAL – Gayle Woodsum: The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Journal is at the printers. Deadline for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Journal is December 20, 2004: emphasis on fiber. Over the past year, the cover has been improved to a “bleed” type page which is more professional. Placement of items such as the table of contents has been standardized. Have received many compliments on the Journal and comments that show the Journal is being used as an educational tool by groups such as youth, rescue, etc.

RESEARCH – Ron Baird: For the 10 years Ron has been chairman of this committee, RMLA has worked with the Morris Animal Foundation. RMLA was a founding member of the Llama Medical Research Group (RMLG). Have received 5 proposals for 2005 funding totaling \$592,000. No recommendations have been made. Are seeing less requests for many reasons.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

IAFE Conference Report – Jerry Dunn: Jerry attended the International Association of Farms and Expos conference in Las Vegas and was a member of a panel that fielded questions for 2 hours with approximately 100 attendees.

Jefferson County Large Animal Survey – Jerry Dunn: The survey is done and brochures will be in place soon. They go to realtors, housing authority, etc. and affect with unincorporated Jefferson County lands. The guidelines deal with large animal issues on county property, i.e. animals per acre, etc. City codes will supercede.

NEW DIRECTORS ARE: JULIE HEGGIE AND LARRY LEWELLYN.

The Board of Directors made a special presentation to Lougene Baird for her 10 years and 2 months of service to RMLA. Annette Mulholland moved and Teri Baird seconded to adjourn the meeting. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.

## **RMLA Board of Directors Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter June 17, 2005 Estes Park, CO**

The meeting was called to order by President Julie Heggie at 3:12 pm. Present were Teri Baird, Jerry Dunn, Julie Heggie, Larry Lewellyn, Patti Morgan, Annette Mulholland and Paul Schwartz.

SECRETARY REPORT:

The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Meeting were read by Patty Morgan. Anette moved and Jerry seconded to approve with minor changes. It passed.

TREASURER REPORT:

General Operations:	\$5,934.84
Life Member Escrow:	\$8,061.36
Liquid Asset:	\$62,550.48
Marketing Research:	\$3,351.66
Medical Research:	\$6,478.45
RMLA Conference 2005:	\$2,582.22
<u>Special Production-CFL&amp;A:</u>	<u>\$20,165.56</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$109,124.57</b>

A list of transactions and the register report was presented to the BOD. A worksheet for the 2005 budget preparation was presented and filled in. Patti Morgan will email to the BOD for approval within the week.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**BOOKSTORE:** Reprinting of CFL&A is proceeding; a motion to print 4000 copies at a total cost of \$12,760 was approved via email. Reprinting of the 4-H manual will proceed also. A limited number of copies will be done in order to update/revise the current manual.

**CALENDAR:** Annette Mulholland noted that the ad deadline has been extended to June 25. All else is on track.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION:** Annette Mulholland reported that there are at present 55 adult and 6 youth registered. Registrations are still coming in. They are confident that the conference will not lose money.

**ELECTION:** Teri Baird will have a call for candidates by July 15 and will include something in the conference attendee's packets. Because the annual meeting will be September 23, elections need to be completed earlier.

**EVENTS:** Jerry Dunn reported that we are getting some "old" events back and all is going well. NWSS will be Jan. 15, 2006.

**FIBER:** No Report

**GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS:** Eartags have been dropped as a form of identification for camelids. Existing microchips will be grandfathered. The industry standard will be 134.2 MHz frequency, number of digits in question. Projected to be in place by 2008/2009.

The camelid americus brief was accepted and will be heard in Circuit 9 court.

**4-H:** No Report

**YOUTH:** No Report

**LIBRARY:** No Report

**PACK:** Jerry reported that Wes Mauz is putting together a chat group; will be independent of the RMLA website as it is easier and free. Jerry will check on a link or some way to put on the RMLA Website.

**MEMBERSHIP:** As of March 31, 2005 we have: 27 youth, 5 young adult, 54 life members and 213 Annual Adult members, and 27 Honorary members. This includes 25 new memberships.

**PUBLISHING/JOURNAL:** No Report

**RESEARCH:** No Report

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Larry suggested that the conference guidelines need to be revised. Annette will ask Cheryl Juntilla if, after the conference, she would work on this.

2. Membership Survey; response rate 11.6%.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Larry moved to support the Albany County Fair 4-H show in the amount of \$50. Jerry seconded. It passed unanimously.

2. Production cost of the Journal was discussed. A suggestion to raise rates was tabled. Julie will research and email with suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm on a motion by Annette, seconded by Julie. Passed.

In business conducted via email since the last meeting:

1. Annette moved to purchase a new RMLA booth at the cost of \$699 plus shipping (\$712 total). It passed.

2. Events approvals:

a. May 14; Brush Alpaca Llama Shearing Festival at Morgan Fairgrounds. Patti moved, Jerry seconded and passed.

b. Pctpber 1, 2: CCLL Pack Trials in Columbus, KS. Teri moved, Annette seconded and passed.

c. July 30, 31: Boulder County Youth Show. Patti moved, Teri seconded and passed.

3. Place RMLA official signatory on the Camelid Amicus Brief to be filed on Border Closure: Teri moved, Annette seconded and passed.

4. Larry moved and Annette seconded to place the old RMLA booth in the silent auction at the conference. It passed.

5. Larry moved and Paul seconded to print 4000 copies of CFL&A for \$12,760. It passed.

## RMLA Board of Directors Conference Call October 12, 2005

Julie Heggie called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Members present: Julie Heggie, Larry Lewellyn, Cheryl Juntilla, Patti Morgan and Paul Schwartz. Teri Baird came in late. Steve Quackenbush was present for a portion.

1. BOD Officers:

President: Paul Schwartz

Vice President: Patti Morgan

Secretary: Teri Baird

Treasurer: Steve Quackenbush

2. Board Liaison:

Bookstore: Steve Quackenbush Chairman: Jan Adamyck

Calendar: Paul Schwartz. will look at later.

Continuing Education: Cheryl Juntilla

Elections and Nominations: Teri Baird Chairman: Maggie Merrill Brown

Events: Patti Morgan (moved by Patti and seconded by Larry to appoint Jerry Dunn as Chairman; passed unanimously. )  
Chairman: Jerry Dunn

Fiber: Julie Heggie (Judy has not committed to next year ; Julie will finish out the year ; look at it after Nationals)

4-H: Larry Lewellyn

Youth: Larry Lewellyn Chairman: Barb Harris

Governmental Relations: Teri Baird

Library: Cheryl Juntilla Chairman: Sharon Herbold

Pack: Patti Morgan

Membership: Teri Baird Chairman: Bob & Barb Hance

Research: Paul Schwartz Chairman: Ron Baird

Publishing and Journal: Teri Baird Chairman: Shari Quackenbush, Larry Lewellyn has volunteered to be on the Publishing Committee.

By-Laws: Steve Quackenbush Chairman: Lougene Baird

Finance Advisory Committee: Larry Lewellyn Members: Steve Quackenbush, + 2 non BOD members

Larry moved and Cheryl seconded that Paul Schwartz be liaison to Research. Teri would be happy to help on the committee. Passed 4-1-1.

3. Final vote count for Board of Directors: Cheryl Juntilla 121, Teri Baird 100, Bob Hance 97.

4. Code of Conduct: Will have out to all BOD members in the next few days.

5. Schedule of 2006 Meetings/Conference Calls: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm MST.

OK with everyone. Julie moved and Cheryl seconded to have the Annual meeting at the Rocky Mountain Regional Show, passed unanimously. Julie moved and Cheryl seconded to have a face-to-face meeting at EPWM, 2006, passed unanimously.

6. RMLA Journal Website: Need to find out more information.

7. Calendar: close to being done.

8. National Llama and Alpaca ID Committee; USDA and committee; will have a private company do all of the movement tracking. The private company will be the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Will need to stop in Congress. May have already been signed; was a no-bid contract.

Companion legislation set up by Congress. Exempts the minor species from movement tracking; we are minor species. Would like us to do it voluntarily. May need to do a letter-writing campaign.

Julie moved to adjourn, Teri seconded; passed unanimously.

Paul called the meeting to order at 7:07pm. BOD members present were Paul Schwartz, Patti Morgan, Teri Baird, Steve Quackenbush, Larry Lewellyn, Cheryl Juntilla, and Bob Hance.

Paul welcomed Bob on his appointment.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Continuing Education Committee: Cheryl had a question as to the timing of the next conference; Paul answered by stating that the BOD had decided to have the "annual" conference every 2 years, therefore, the next will be in 2007. This does not preclude having small felting clinics, farm days, etc. Other discussion followed.

Larry commented on the 4-H committee; Maureen Bergenfeld will be the chair; will revise the manual; Jan Adamcyk will help. Have received some input from members. Will go to production when the revisions/additions are done. Will follow the 4-H guidelines and try to get it accepted by the 4-H people. On youth, Larry is meeting with Barb Harris at the Nationals. Probably next week the CFL&A will be at Jan's.

Calendar: The calendars are done; will take to Teri on Wednesday to bring to Nationals. Cost is \$12 plus shipping (if necessary). Will be sold at the Fiber Booth and at Patti's booth. Ads will go out on the web when the shipping costs have been calculated.

Liaison for Fiber Coop; Patti Morgan will step in until the end of the year.

#### Treasurer's Report:

There is a motion on the floor to accept the Treasurer's Report as mailed by Lougene; Bob, Teri and Steve have not received the report. Since everyone has not received the report, the motion was postponed. Paul also stated that the RMLA attorney has asked the BOD not to accept any reports until the audit is done.

Treasurer Steve Quackenbush expressed concerns as to being the Treasurer with a bookkeeper; Steve does not have access to the books when he needs them. Steve resigned due to these concerns. Bob Hance agreed to become Treasurer. Larry moved and Cheryl seconded to appoint Bob Hance as Treasurer, motion passed.

Steve also expressed concerns as to the backup of the records. Bob will pursue this.

Paul emailed questions to Lougene on the financials; Larry and Paul received a reply (only ones). Paul read the reply and will send copies to each BOD member.

Audit update: Are continuing to look for an auditor. Will keep up to date.

Virginia Christiansen Show: Request to be a major sponsor. Cheryl moved that we explore the feasibility of having an ad in the show book, Larry seconded. Passed.

RMLA Booth: Storing and taking it to events was discussed.

Old Business - New Business: None

The BOD went into executive session at 8:37pm for 30 minutes.

Patti moved and Cheryl seconded to adjourn at 9:07pm. Passed.

## **RMLA Board of Directors Conference Call November 7, 2005**

# Packing on the plains

Sharon Hubbard

Mention packing with llamas in the back country and most people envision tall pine forests, pristine mountain streams and breath-taking views of snow-capped peaks. However, that scenario did not apply to the southeast Kansas location of the Basic Pack Llama Trials hosted by the Cherokee County Llama Lovers on the first weekend of October, 2005.

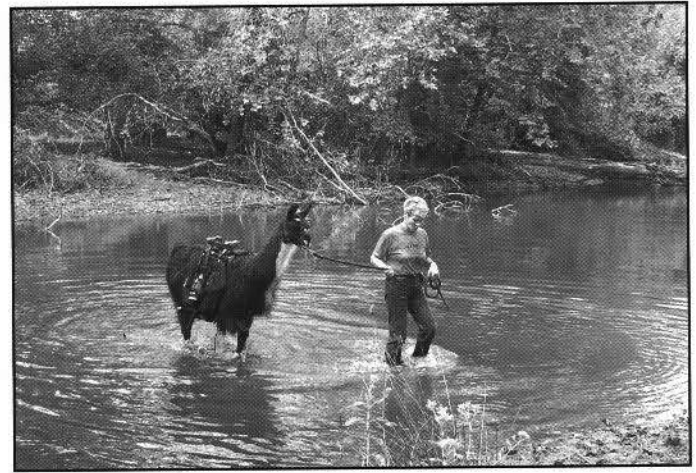
Sanctioned by the Pack Llama Trial Association and sponsored by RMLA, the two-day event took place along the banks of the Spring River on the Kansas-Missouri state line. Although the terrain is generally flat, there is considerable variation in the landscape with cultivated fields, tree-lined pastures, small hills and heavy timber.

Weather conditions are another primary difference between high and low altitude packing. During the summer and early fall months when conditions are generally ideal for packing in the mountains, the plains are experiencing intense heat and humidity. The best weather for packing in Kansas comes between late October and early spring.

## Basic pack trial requirements

To earn PLTA certification at the basic level, which is "designed to evaluate the llama's natural ability," pack trial participants must successfully complete two different three-mile courses within an established time frame and with an elevation gain of 250 to 500 feet. Where no elevation gain is possible, another mile is added to the course.

The greatest challenge for this trial was creating a four-mile course on less than 200 acres without repeating any part of the trail. That was accomplished with a GPS and a lot of ingenuity on the part of CCLL's Shane Eckhardt, experienced "flatland" llama packer and joint owner of the property where the trials took place.



The course must include at least five obstacles found in a natural packing environment, including a jump, water and deadfall. This trial also featured many of the optional obstacles including thick brush, rock rubble, tight places, gates, picking up the llama's feet and trail traffic—in this case two people accompanying the hikers on a 4-wheeler. The same course was used both days, with the direction reversed on the second day.

There are also five manageability tasks typically encountered at the trail head (haltering, tethering, accepting packs, etc.) which are performed each day before hitting the trail. Packs and saddles are weighed to insure that each llama carries exactly ten percent of their body weight (pack weights are increased at the advanced and master levels), and each llama's heart rate is checked before, during and after the hike.

## On the Trail

Part of any packing experience is being prepared for changes in the weather. The sky was overcast with the and temperature in the upper 60's at the start of the first day. By the time all the preliminaries had been completed and we were ready to hit the trail, the temperature had



risen to the mid 70's where it stayed for most of the day.

The first mile was an easy walk around the perimeter of a large bean field. A light rain began to fall just as the group left the bean field, crossed over an abandoned railroad right of way, and started along an old mining road that led into the woods. After a quick stop to put on rain jackets and throw protective covers over the llamas' packs, the group continued on through the woods to the first two obstacles—a long expanse of deep soft sand, and then up a steep incline to weave through a long stretch of saplings, tall grass and underbrush. The rain ended and the sky cleared shortly after the group stopped at the halfway point for a 30-minute lunch break under the trees near the river bank at the edge of woods.

The last two miles meandered around the perimeter of a large cattle pasture with several side trips through tall grass and brush, and back into the woods to the water hazard at the edge of a large pond. The final quarter mile followed the fence line of a large field occupied by a sizable herd of curious female llamas, sparking a noisy exchange of excited snorts, warning clucks and half-hearted splutters between the packers and the ladies.

Unlike the first day when rain was the only weather factor and the only unplanned event was an impromptu roundup when one llama slipped his tether during the lunch break and went for a stroll along the river, the second day was a test in endurance for the llamas as well as the two-leggeds. There was a good southerly breeze, but with extremely high humidity and the temperature



near 90°, heat stress became a major concern. And since the direction of the course was reversed from the previous day, there was little protection from the sun during the first two miles.

With a slower pace, several stops to rest and more time spent at the water hazard, the llamas appeared to be holding up well. But soon after entering the woods, one of older llamas went down on the trail not far from a small pond. After removing his pack and saddle the llama was led into the pond and tethered to a log. Standing belly deep for thirty minutes in cool water soon brought his temperature and heart rate back to normal. The lunch break was extended to an hour, allowing all of the llamas and their handlers more time to rest.

The group finished the last two miles at a much slower pace with frequent rest breaks and a longer stop at the edge of another pond where some of the llamas went wading. At the end of the trail, with their packs and saddles removed, their undercarriages hosed down and their thirst satisfied, the llamas settled down for a nap under the shade trees before loading up for the trip home.

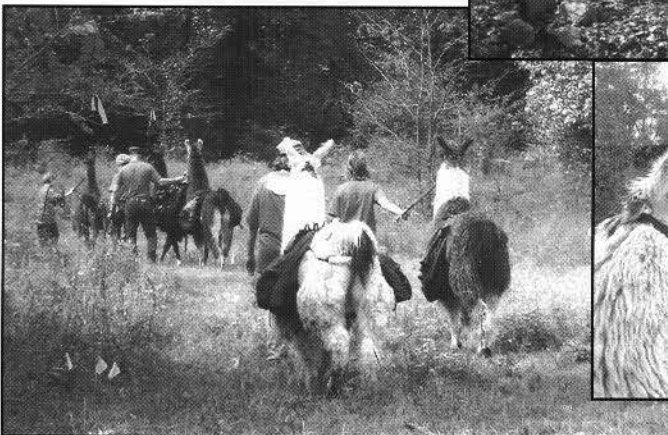
The next test for the six llamas that earned their basic certification is the advanced trials. That presents a logistical problem since PLTA currently requires a minimal elevation gain of 750 feet at that level. That's a bit difficult to achieve on the plains, but certainly not impossible for a group of dedicated and determined flatland packers!

Sincere thanks to RMLA for sponsoring this event and to The Pack Trial organizers:

Joyce Johnson  
Tammie Eckhardt  
Patti Morgan

And their assistants:

Shane Eckhardt  
Sharon Hubbard  
Kayla Eckhardt  
Joyce Wilson



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KOBRA'S MIGHTY JOE YOUNG

## KOBRA'S MIGHTY JOE YOUNG

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Grand Champion-2004 EPWM (Gold)

Grand Champion-2004 Wyoming State Fair (B)

Reserve Champion-2005 CAL-ILA Grass Valley (Ponderosa)

Reserve Champion-2005 Sierra Nevada Show (Silver)

Reserve Champion-2005 Laramie Llama Festival (Red)

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# A Recipe Against Bear Invasions

Bobra B. Goldsmith

For those of us who live and keep our llamas or alpacas in bear country, the danger from bears can be significant. In recent years, bear attacks on llamas have been increasing. A few months ago a herd of llamas was attacked. One was killed outright. Another was so badly injured that he had to be put down. All the other llamas but the two who were physically mauled by the invading bear jumped the fences and got away. But one female llama ran through the surrounding woods so frightened that she did not see a sharp drop-off and died as a result of the fall. In an earlier case a llama had a rear leg badly torn but managed to escape by jumping his fence and running down the nearby mountain highway. In Colorado, these bear attacks have occurred on both sides of the Continental Divide, the most recent being near Estes Park.

Fortunately, the Colorado Division of Wildlife has provided information about a fairly simple procedure, which can deter bears from coming onto property marked by rags soaked in ammonia.

Tyler Baskfield of the Colorado Division of Wildlife recommends the following method:

- **Rags**--Use any old rags from washcloth size to half a dishtowel size. Any that will absorb moisture well and hold it should be good. I imagine that old sweatshirt material would be especially good, and even old socks seem to work.
- **Placement**--The rags are to be placed at 4-foot intervals around the perimeter of the area to be protected. They should be nailed, tied, or wired to trees, fences, or posts at variable heights ranging from 2 feet to 4 feet.
- **Ammonia-soaking**--The rags are to be soaked in ammonia every three weeks.

Apparently the odor of the ammonia is so offensive that the bears do not want to approach the protected area. Some friends of mine who live high in the woods west of Evergreen had bears come right onto their porch several times until they used the Ammonia-Rag Procedure. They have not had bears approach their house, nor have they seen

them on their property since, except once when they had not re-dipped the rags while their llamas were away at my farm for training. Another family, who lost three llamas as a result of a bear attack, has also hung up the ammonia rags and has not had any more bear invasions since. They also found that putting a bowl of ammonia in their fireplace prevented raccoons from coming down the chimney.

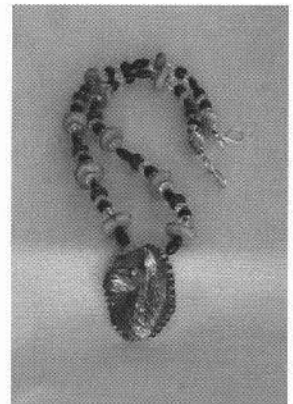
There is no doubt that bears have become far more prevalent than they used to be, at least in Colorado. They are causing problems not only in the higher mountain areas, but also in towns along the Foothills. Let's hope that by sharing the information about the use of ammonia-soaked rags, fewer llamas will be killed or maimed during the seasons when bears are foraging for food. In fact, all of our animals and people, too, could be safer.

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## Custom Designs

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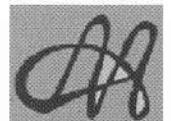
*Lots of Llama  
Designs*



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# CAMELID WORKING GROUP ANNOUNCES NEW WEB SITE ON ANIMAL ID

Camelid Working Group Press Release July 29, 2005

In a continuing effort to keep the llama and alpaca community informed on development of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) for camelids, the Camelid Working Group (CWG) has established a new web site.

The purpose of the new web site is to increase NAIS awareness among llama and alpaca owners, keep owners updated on CWG activities, provide the opportunity to give input on developing the camelid ID plan, and help owners make the transition to meeting the anticipated coming laws.

The CWG web site contains all of the CWG press releases to date, a section on frequently asked questions, background articles on animal ID, Federal Register Docket comments, and a list of CWG members and their contact information. You may access the web site at [www.camelidid.org](http://www.camelidid.org).

The CWG will continue to keep the llama and alpaca community informed on development of the NAIS for camelids. Up-to-date information on the NAIS, including the recently released drafts of the NAIS Strategic Plan and Program Standards, is available at the USDA web site:

<http://www.usda.gov/nais>.

The camelid ID plan is still under development by the CWG. Please submit your comments or questions to the following CWG members.

Teri Nilson Baird: [teri@brokenwindmill.com](mailto:teri@brokenwindmill.com)  
Karen Conyngham: [72040.3361@compuserve.com](mailto:72040.3361@compuserve.com)  
Sheila Fugina: [bsfugina@pressenter.com](mailto:bsfugina@pressenter.com)  
Dr. Julie Ann Jarvinen: [jarvinen@iastate.edu](mailto:jarvinen@iastate.edu)  
Marsharee Wilcox: [mwilcox@spt.com](mailto:mwilcox@spt.com) or  
[evllamas@bellatlantic.net](mailto:evllamas@bellatlantic.net)

## USDA Privatizes National Animal ID System Movement Tracking Database

Camelid Working Group Press Release December 28, 2005

A decision by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to have a private entity track animal movements in the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), announced by Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns on Aug. 30, 2005, represents a significant change from the original NAIS plan which had the federal government responsible for animal tracking and has sparked controversy within the livestock industry. The NAIS, a national program intended to individually identify livestock and track their movements, is under development by USDA and state agencies in cooperation with industry. Tracking animal movement is essential to the NAIS to enable 48-hour trace-back of any animal when there is a risk it has been exposed to a disease of concern. Rapid trace-back will facilitate prompt disease containment and maximize protection of America's livestock.

To meet NAIS objectives, USDA only needs four pieces of information from the movement tracking

database: the animal's ID number, the date the animal was moved, the premises ID of the site to which the animal was moved and an "event code" describing the situation or place where the animal was sighted. Many small and mid-sized cattle operations, however, also want to utilize the NAIS movement tracking database to trace herd management information, but they do not want to share their management data with the government. When a bill exempting any information collected for the NAIS from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) stalled in the House of Representatives, cattle industry leaders pressured the Secretary of Agriculture to privatize the movement tracking database. In turn, non-cattle species groups and the Livestock Marketing Association have voiced strong opposition to Secretary Johanns' decision to privatize the database, arguing the decision has made the NAIS into an unfunded federal mandate that would place the total cost of the NAIS on producers.

USDA has proposed that it have a "portal" leading to multiple movement tracking databases administered and funded either by species groups, e.g., breed registries or associations, or by commercial database providers. Individual states with existing laws that prohibit movement tracking data from being held privately could also apply to the USDA to track movement for livestock in their jurisdiction. The USDA portal would be used by animal health officials to access a movement database only when necessary. Any state or private database tracking animal movement must be able to meet USDA's requirement that animal movements be traceable within 48 hours of discovery of a "disease of concern." Certain state animal health officials and species group representatives have concerns regarding the timeliness, integrity and confidentiality of movement data held by the private sector and the potential costs to producers for reporting movements to a private database. They prefer the original plan in which USDA would administer and fund this NAIS function.

Currently, neither the potential cost to report movement nor the specifics of the proposed change regarding the movement tracking database are known. There are calls for USDA to conduct a cost/benefit analysis for a tracking database to provide a baseline for potential cost to producers. The US Animal Health Association Executive Committee intends to hold a face-to-face meeting with Secretary Johanns and representatives of stakeholders affected by the NAIS early in 2006 to discuss these issues.

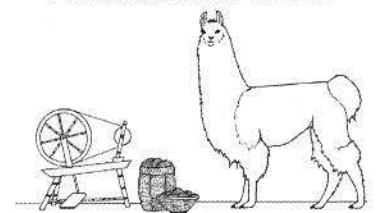
Other aspects of the NAIS remain unchanged from the original plan. States will continue to assign premises ID numbers to properties where livestock reside, and USDA will assign the new 15-digit numbering system for use with ID devices. Approved identification devices, including microchips, should begin to be available in early 2006. Until more information is forthcoming from USDA, camelid owners are advised to register their premises with their state animal health agency or department of agriculture and stay aware of other ID program activities specific to their state.

Up-to-date information on the NAIS is available at the Camelid Working Group (CWG) web site: [www.camelidid.org](http://www.camelidid.org) and on the USDA web site <http://www.usda.gov/nais>. The camelid ID plan is still under development by the CWG, but input from the llama and alpaca community is needed so a plan can be developed that meets the needs of the camelid industry while satisfying USDA requirements. We invite your consideration and discussion of how the camelid registries or breed associations might function in maintaining a movement tracking database for our industry. Please submit your comments or questions to the following CWG members.

Teri Nilson Baird: [teri@brokenwindmill.com](mailto:teri@brokenwindmill.com)  
Karen Conyngham: [72040.3361@compuserve.com](mailto:72040.3361@compuserve.com)  
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Dr. Julie Ann Jarvinen: [jarvinen@iastate.edu](mailto:jarvinen@iastate.edu)  
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## Editor's Note:

I am very thankful for the opportunity to try my hand at publishing this very important journal. I hope regular readers as well as those that may happen upon this issue find it educational and informative.

While I've put together complex business documents for almost 20 years in my professional career, it doesn't compare to trying to put together a complete printed and bound journal. It always looks easier from the other side. To compound the situation, I figured I had plenty of time to learn the ropes, having been unemployed for the past six months and no relief in sight. But, the best laid plans of mice and men (or is that llamas and women....?). No sooner had I accepted the challenge of editor, than an ideal job for my qualifications suddenly appeared, which I gladly accepted and one in which requires me to travel. So I hope you all forgive the lateness of this, my first issue as editor and I will strive to be more punctual with future issues.

I want to thank everyone that helped put together articles, photos and especially our paid advertisers. Without everyone, the journal would not happen. I also want to thank Teri Nilson Baird, the RMLA board, Gayle Woodsum and my husband for their support.

I intend to always include an article from the youth, so please keep them coming. In 2006, each issue will have a theme. Our winter issue will focus on your tips and tricks to keep our animals safe, healthy and happy during the difficult winter season. So please send me your articles and pictures, and advertisements. I'd love to hear your feedback and suggestions on how we can improve on this fine publication and make it a valuable asset to the RMLA membership.

I look forward to seeing you in the show circuit.

Shari Quackenbush  
Editor@RMLAJournal.com



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# 2005 Conference at Sunlight Mountain Resort

Cheryl Juntilla

The 2005 Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association Conference took place July 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> at Sunlight Mountain Resort in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. More than 100 people gathered for the event, including outstanding speakers, a variety of vendors and RMLA members and guests from eleven states. The Conference brought together the young and the old, veterans and novices, fiber artists and packers in a beautiful mountain setting. Those who attended enjoyed many educational sessions as well as opportunities to network and socialize with old and new acquaintances.

The assembled roster of speakers included: Colorado State University Professors Robert J. Callan, DVM, PhD., and Eileen Sullivan, DVM, gave highly informative presentations on health issues. They were joined by Murray Fowler, DVM, from the University of California, Davis, who is one of the most sought after experts on camelid health in the world. Shirley Weathers' class on protecting llamas from plant poisoning was of great interest to many people.

Those whose main interest is packing had the opportunity to learn from experienced outfitters Charlie Hackbarth and Stan Ebel and to learn the principles of Leave No Trace camping from Bill Walsh. Also of interest to packers was a discussion about the use of public lands led by Bobra Goldsmith and Richard Doak, the Recreation Program Manager for the White River National Forest.

Anyone desiring to improve their showmanship skills could do so at classes taught by Mary Beth Hartsough and Linda Hayes. Jerry Dunn provided an informative introduction to cart driving and attorney Carol Lamm gave an excellent overview of legal issues about which llama owners should be aware.

It was easy to tell that the people attending Karen Kinyon's dying and felting classes had a good time, as their laughter could be heard all the way from the condominium decks to the main lodge building. Further evidence of her students' satisfaction was the pride with which they modeled their hats made in the felting class. Chris Switzer's carding and spinning class was so much fun that those attending complained that it did not last long enough and that a full day should have been allowed for it. Sharon Beacham pulled double duty, serving as judge of the ALSA Shown Fleece Show on one day and teaching a fiber judging class on the next.



**Above and Right:** Robert J. Callan, DVM, PhD, during his presentation on various health issues.

**Far Right:** Cathy Wittrup and Patti Morgan working on their team's winning Lama to Shawl entry.



**Below:** Judith Wolff-Mills, Annette Mulholland, Mary Gross are paying rapt attention in one of Andy Tillman's hands-on fiber analysis sessions. (Tony Gross doesn't seem quite as interested.)



Many people enjoyed the opportunity to see the rare paco vicunas brought by Phil Switzer and the display of items made from their incredibly soft and fine fiber. A session on the important issue of lama rescue was led by Gayle Woodsum and Chela Grey. Everyone enjoyed Andy Tillman's after-dinner slide presentation, which included photos of llamas and alpacas taken during his many trips to South America, and it seemed that almost everyone at the Conference attended one of his hands-on fiber analysis sessions. The latest demographic information from the International Llama Registry presented by Sally Rucker indicated that among the changes taking place in the lama industry is a shift to more small ranches rather than large breeding operations.

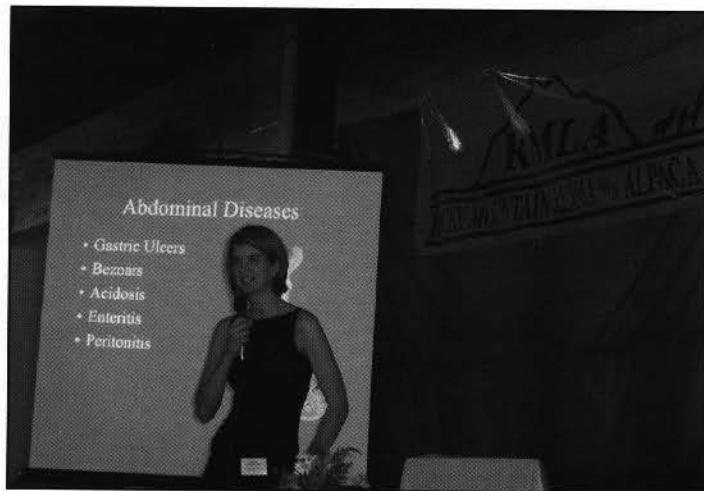
**Below:** Sherry Reed (on left) examines the wares of vendors Linda Hayes (center) and Chris Switzer (on right).



**Above:** Packing for the dinner hike.

Youth activities included judging classes taught by Barbara Harris and the kids especially seemed to enjoy designing a performance course and then judging adult volunteers as they "competed." Paula Casey supervised a youth craft session during which the participants used their imaginations to create individualized llama wall plaques. Tim Casey and Tony Gross did a great job leading the youth hike on Friday afternoon. Both youth and adult participants enjoyed Tony's geo-caching session, which followed a demonstration of GPS units provided by REI instructors.

While not busy in a class, attendees could shop at the vendors booths for a variety of items



**Above:** Eileen Sullivan, DVM, during her presentation on abdominal diseases.

**Right:** Jerry Dunn and her assistant Lloyd Wamsley found a shady spot to speak to the participants in the cart driving class. **Below:** Mary Mauz, Irene Phillips and Mary Sievers are shown here plotting their strategy for the Lama to Shawl contest. **Below Left:** Helen Cole proudly models the hat she made in Karen Kinyon's felting class.



including tack, books, garments, signs, fiber products and gift items. Buffet lunches on Saturday and Sunday provided opportunities to socialize, win door prizes and enjoy entertaining slide shows prepared by Wes Mauz and Tim Casey. One of the most popular optional activities was the Saturday evening dinner hike, during which participants used llamas to pack blankets and supplies to a secluded clearing in the aspen forest where they enjoyed a picnic dinner with wine tasting and gourmet treats including shrimp, cheeses and crudités. Another highlight was a Goal Setting Session during which Directors Teri Nilson-Baird and Annette Mulholland fielded suggestions and ideas from an enthusiastic group of RMLA members.

The Conference was a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when people work together, regardless of their individual interests, and its success was due to the efforts of too many people to list. A hard-working and dedicated Committee was supported by many people and publications who helped to spread the word about the Conference and by extremely generous sponsors and silent auction donors. Most importantly, there is no way to adequately thank the many RMLA members who donated their time to teach classes and share their knowledge and experience with others. It is that spirit of volunteerism which makes RMLA such a great organization.

Recognition is owed to the participants in the Lama to Shawl competition who helped raise money for the RMLA Foundation while demonstrating how much fun it is to create garments using lama fiber. The winning entry was a beautiful woven triangular shawl in natural shades created by the Central Colorado Loomatics, a team whose members were Ann Bruhn, Patti Morgan, Cathy Wittrup and Mary Wickman. Second place was a child's vest knit in a blend of blue, white and purple created by the Wild Wooly Women of the Western Slope, also known as Mary Mauz, Irene Phillips, Mary Sievers, Jill Knuckles and Cheryl Juntilla.

**Below:** These folks are absorbing information in Karen Kinyon's fiber dying class.



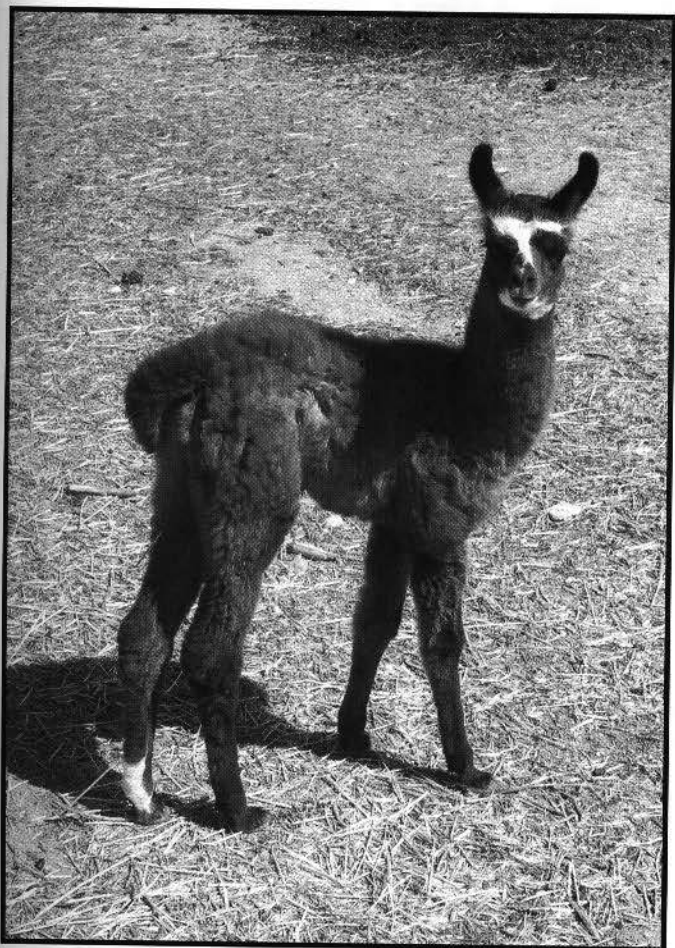
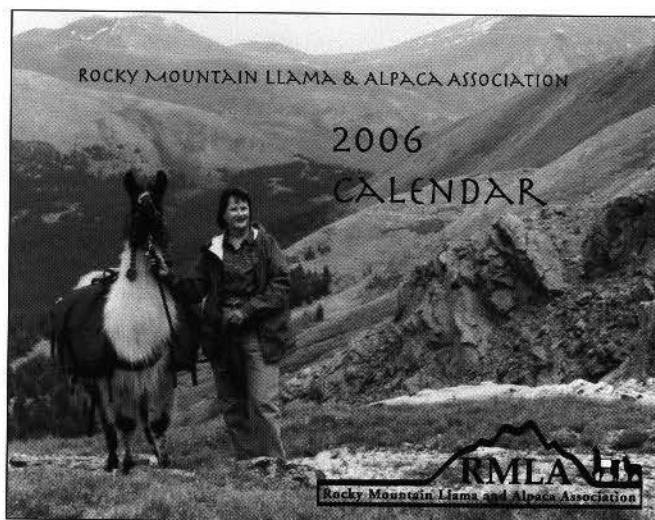
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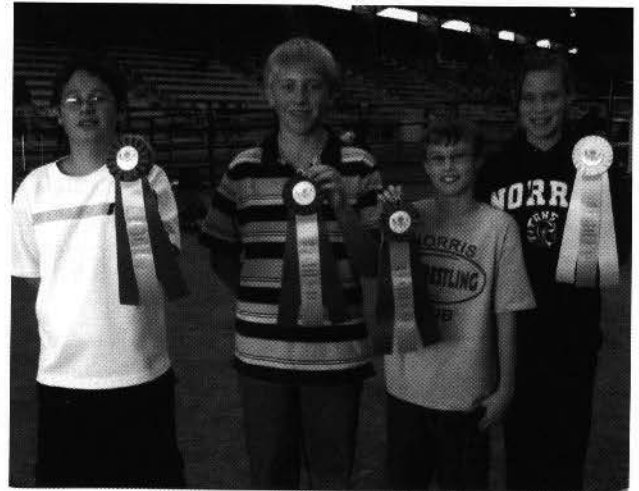
# Rocky Mountain Regional

Geri Rutledge



Rocking to the tunes played by Sally Rucker.....Jerry Dunn and Bobra Goldsmith show the crowd how to step.

*Highlights and pictures from the Rocky Mountain Regional in Castle Rock, Colorado In September*



These 4 youth were REGIONAL winners in the Youth Judging Competition. They will go on to Nationals and represent the Rocky Mountain Region.

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Drew Schendt (Broken Bow, NE),  
Cody Steward (Hickman, NE),  
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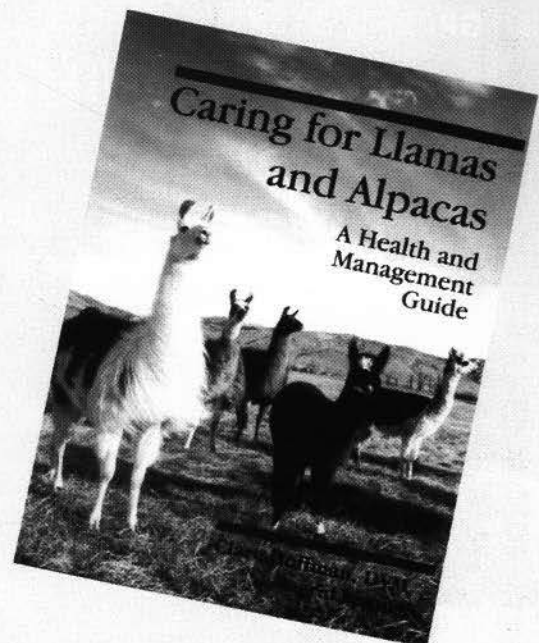
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# Government Relations Report

Teri Nilson Baird

This year, government relations has taken several steps of national significance. The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is moving forward, although still on a voluntary-compliance basis. The target date for mandatory compliance is still January 2009 but a large animal disease outbreak could easily move that date up, so it is not too soon to be planning for coming eventualities.

How do you know if you need to identify an animal?

Any animal that will be sold after the effective date will need permanent identification. Any animal transported to a show will need to be identified. Any transport requiring a CVI (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection) will likely need to be identified as well.

What method of ID should you use? The industry has stated loudly that microchips are the preferred method.

Right now, the new chips that are compliant with the ISO international standards are not widely available.

Readers for the new chips are even more scarce, although at some point that will change. Existing 125 frequency chips implanted now should be acceptable

for the life of the animal, but you will need to verify the availability of a reader for them if you are going to a show or auction.

When should you do it? It depends. How often do you transport your animal, and to what events? Alpacas are now required under AOBA rules to be microchipped for an AOBA show. ARI was talking about requiring chips prior to registration. If your animal never leaves your premises, no identification is required. If you do not plan on showing or selling your animal for a few more years, it would be wise to wait to see how the ISO-compliant chips are finding their way to market. Until the reader base has been upgraded within the veterinary community, these new chips will be available but probably not widely used.

The Camelid Alliance, of which I am a member, is a volunteer group comprised of six people from across the country. The group was formed to deal with government relations when ILA folded.

The Camelid Alliance filed a legal brief with the 9th Circuit Court on the appeal by USDA to remove the temporary injunction which kept the Canadian border closed to import of llamas and alpacas. RMLA was a signatory to the brief.

The attorney handling the brief for us lost a great deal in Hurricane Katrina. His Biloxi, Mississippi office was completely destroyed and his home and office in New Orleans took some damage as well. Contributions to the \$20,000 cost of the legal brief are still being accepted at the following address:

Spyridon Koch Camelid Legal Fund  
Attn: Marsharee Wilcox  
3214 Eves Way  
Hampstead, MD 21074

Please consider making a donation to defray the legal expenses of this case.

I will be attending the upcoming meeting of the US Animal Health Association in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

There are daily meetings about the animal identification plan, along with the regular activities of the ID Committee. I sit on that committee, as well as on the Committee on Diseases of Cattle, Bison, Camelid and the Animal Welfare Committee. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with your questions and concerns.

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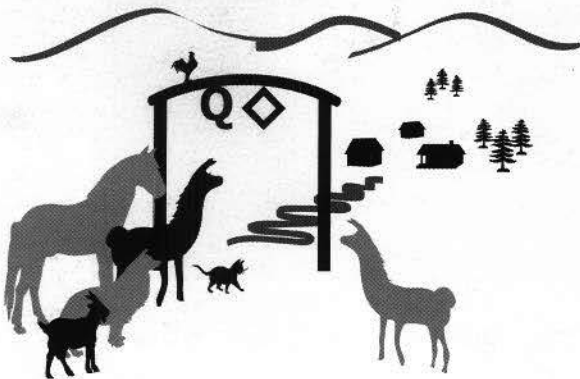
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