

CONNECTION

Spring 2012



California Alpaca Breeders & Owners Association
connecting members to Calpaca, the industry and each other

2012 Board of Directors

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Alpaca Research Foundation

"ARF"

www.alpacaresearchfoundation.org

International Lama Registry

"ILR"

www.lamaregistry.com

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A Message From Calpaca's President

The dark cold days of winter can make us doubt what we do. But the spring brings with it cria bouncing across green pastures to stop and snuggle with their dams. And it is in that moment, we forget the drab winter days of scooping poop in the rain, and pause to take a deep breath and remember why it was that we became alpaca owners. Our energy and hope for tomorrow is renewed while we enjoy the freshness of an alpaca spring day. Our industry is in much the same shape as those harsh winter days. We need to work together to create a new energy that attracts future alpaca owners and breeders. Let's help each other build a strong association that benefits new and old members alike. And one day, we will all be able to take a moment to step back and admire what we have created together. As a group working together, we are stronger. As a group, we are CALPACA.

Dennis Rabe, President

A Message From The Connection Editor

READY...SET...DOUBLE CHECK...SET...TRIPLE CHECK.....SEND

I am sure the previous editors must have felt this way as they prepared to send, or take, their inaugural edition of The Connection to the printer. Over the years the Calpaca Connection has evolved into a primary source of communication and information for Calpaca members. From my experience and observations, now more than ever, alpaca owners need to feel a connection with their peers and industry. I see our quarterly "Connection" publication as a member benefit that helps fill these needs. As the current editor, my intent is to continue the work of those who came before me by offering an interesting, useful, and informative publication for our Calpaca members.

That explains my OCD behavior in preparing the publication, checking for accuracy, checking for accuracy again, and again, and again. You are reading this so I must have finally gotten up enough courage to hit SEND...setting the wheels of publication in motion - not to mention the deadline I had to meet.

As you turn the pages of the Spring Connection you will see some new and some familiar pieces of the publication. We have two regular columnists. Laurie Findlay will author "**Inside the Show Ring**" and Lin Murray will share tax information in "**Tax Tips.**" You can look forward to their information in future Connections. There is a "**Focus on Fiber**" section and we had two contributors in this edition. We also have a "**Calpaca Activities**" section. This section is for articles about Calpaca or Calpaca members and activities in the community. This edition's article is about "**Ag Day at the Capitol.**" You will also see a new section in the Classifieds titled "**The Trading Post.**" If you have goods or services you would like to trade, this is the place to post it.

My goal is for you to find the contents interesting and of benefit to you. If you have any ideas or suggestions, an article you would like to submit, a column you would like to write, or just want to provide some feedback please let me or a board member know.

Sincerely,

Dianna Jordan, Connection Editor

Meeting Minutes—2-11-12

The Meeting was called to order at 10:40am. All Board members present. Dennis welcomed everyone and thanked Deb and Kirk Galway for having us at Menagerie Hill Ranch. Dennis asked for first time attendees to a Calpaca meeting, and we had 3 first time attendees. Dennis welcomed them all.

Secretary report – Kay requested a motion to approve the Minutes from our last meeting as posted in the Connection and on the web site. Dale so motioned and Bonnie seconded. The Motion carried.

Treasurer report – Dave advised that the changeover is almost complete. Taxes have been sent to the accountant prior to the transition. Dave is looking at new banks to lower our charges and closing accounts that we are no longer using. Calpaca is still strong financially and Dave is working at making everything a little easier to keep track of. He has made new forms for the accounting of the debt cards and reimbursement forms. Also, all paperwork is now to be kept with the treasurer.

Membership report – Joyce did not get an update from Lin Murray prior to this meeting but renewals are coming in. We are still looking for ways to add value to your Calpaca membership so if you have any ideas, the board would love to hear them.

Old Business:

Quarterly meeting announcements – looking for 2013 meeting places – we have the May meeting scheduled for the Scroggins ranch, Colusa Riverside Alpacas but February, August and November are still open for 2013.

May – Date change to May 19 – Robin and Richard Vasquez – R&R Alpacas

August – Laurie Findlay – Alpaca of El Dorado

November – Karen Kelly – Arapahoe Rose

New Business:

Member for the year Announcement – Dennis and the board were very pleased to announce that this year Citizen of the Year went to Dale Davis for all that she has contributed to Calpaca and the alpaca industry. Dale a driving force behind so many events and Calpaca is so very fortunate to have her as a member. Dennis also gave Dale the honor of drawing for the Winagator. After shaking the box up several times, Dale drew the name of Dennis Lily of Lily of the Valley Alpacas as the Winagator winner! Congratulations Dennis!

Marketing - Laurie Findlay will now be taking over the marketing projects and is looking for the next item or items to be raffled. If you have any ideas please contact Laurie.

Facebook/Open Herd – Calpaca is now on Facebook and we are working on Open Herd. Make sure you friend us and keep up with the last goings on around the Calpaca membership.

Calpaca is looking for a new Connection editor and RFP are being reviewed right now for the editor. The next issue will have a really quick turn around and we need articles and pictures for the editor so we can meet the mailing prior to our May meeting.

Board Special Meeting – January 28, 2012

The board had a special meeting on January 28th at Origin's Coffee shop to review the Calpaca by-laws and figure out where we wanted Calpaca to be in the next few years. The following is just a quick over view of things that were discussed at the meeting.

The first item was Calpaca's purpose and objectives. Our purpose is to promote the best management practices and encourage alpaca ownership and use of their fiber. Our objectives are being met by the Camelid Symposium, our quarterly meetings, our shows, AG day, brochures; email blasts our web site and Facebook page. These are just a few of the things that Calpaca does for its members.

We also reviewed our Bylaws. Discussed what each board member is responsible for and how to keep our organization strong and what to do to give our members more value to their membership. One thing we had not been doing but will start doing is keeping a sign in record at each of our meetings. We had 36 ranches at this meeting. We discussed all the articles – Offices, Membership, Meetings, Voting, Directors, Officers and Other Provisions. Some verbiage changes may be needed in the future and all voting members will be advised when a change needs to be made with a vote. We believe it is best done at election time.

We reviewed the 2012 calendar – we are a very busy organization.

In moving ahead, we will be trying to match what we do in the future with our purpose and objectives.

Our shows were reviewed on how to make them stronger. Our shows will now be one ring until entries improve. We will need more volunteers as we move forward and sponsors. Another key to the success of a show is the herd sire service auction. California Classic has a very strong support group while Gold Country is still in need of some work.

When we got to Finances there were a lot of things for improvement and accountability. We will be creating a Budget template for the event managers. Also a Check Request form to be included with the receipt for reimbursements and a debit card template to keep track of their usage. We need to get our 1099 IRS forms to anyone that we paid more than \$600 to in a year. And lastly, how to create more revenue for the organization.

Minutes continued on page 18....Minutes

Welcome New Members

Calpaca welcomes our newest members in 2012:

Williams, Troy & Holly, Alta Vista Ranch, 4020 Palisade Road, Reno, NV 89521

775-847-7516, altavistaranch@gmail.com

Joaquin, Nadine, Alpacas at Bear River Ranch, 4600 Wilson Town Rd, Lincoln, CA 95648

Mailing address: 2443 N Jack Tone Rd, Stockton, CA 95215

209-986-9892, nadinejoaquin@live.com

Broughan, Tom & Julie, Verde Vista Farm, 10228 Blue Light Lane, Auburn, CA 95603

916-206-5872, ophirmama@sbcglobal.net

Pieper, Darrel & Barbara, Panorama Ranch, LLC, 18560 Plainview Rd, Bend, OR 97701

Mailing address: PO Box 2170, Sisters OR 97759

541-317-4623, alpacas@panoramaranch.com www.panoramaranch.com

Calpaca's Member Of The Year 2011

The Calpaca Member of the Year was announced at the February Calpaca Meeting. The recipient became very clear as Dennis Rabe read the reasons this individual was selected by the Calpaca Board of Directors for this special recognition:

- * This member has distinguished themselves at all levels of leadership in the Alpaca Industry
- *This member is a great team builder who manages to bring new as well as experienced breeders together as volunteers at our CALPACA events
- *This member has an enthusiasm for, and is well educated in all facets of the alpaca industry
- *This member's fingerprints are all over what CALPACA is today demonstrating a vested interest in our meetings, shows and the Symposium
- *This member has always set an excellent example for our industry of what an alpaca rancher is, and inspires us all to be better alpaca owners.
- *I have never seen this person celebrate hard earned triumphs, inside the ring and out, at the expense of another breeder
- *This member has and continues to inspire me to think beyond my ranch, to think in terms of what is the best thing for CALPACA , and for our industry
- *This member is well known for an absolutely positive, optimistic attitude and can-do spirit
- *Despite having a big personality, this member will likely hate having been chosen because of her basic humility
- *This member could best be described as the life spark of CALPACA
- *For all her hard work in getting the formulation for the Bar Ale alpaca pellets to where they are an ideal fit for alpacas, I am surprised they haven't renamed them the "Davis Delights"

Our member of the year for 2011 is Dale Davis

Featured Ranch

Menagerie Hill Ranch



From the back deck of Deb Galway and Kirk Howard's home in the English hills area north of Vacaville, you look out upon the rolling knolls and oak trees that make up the neighboring 3,000 acre Timm Ranch. When the Galway-Howard family moved there in 1998, they soon found it took a lot of time and energy to mow the five acre parcel, so they purchased some sheep to help out. A herd of Boer Goats soon followed along with heavy involvement in the local 4H. Their children each had 3 or 4 projects a year. Kirk leads the County wide Archery Project and Deb leads the County wide Alpaca Project. Deb is also Secretary for the Solano County 4-H Leaders Council.



Deb ran into CALPACA past president Bruce Nelson in Vacaville at Kid Fest, and he planted the seed of owning alpacas. After visiting some local ranches, and with her accountant's advice, she purchased her first alpacas. The Menagerie Hill herd now stands at 23 alpacas and 3 guard llamas. Their website details their purpose. "We are a small family run ranch. Our mission is to become a sustainable, profitable operation

while, holding true to our family values of honesty, integrity, fairness and helpfulness. We believe it is our responsibility to treat our animals, our land and the environment with the utmost care and consideration."

This spring the ranch will be hosting its "First Annual Spring Production Sale". The plan is to make room for this year's cria crop and allow Deb to work on rejuvenating the pasture. She told us they are breeding for color (and obviously fineness and great conformation). Services offered by the Galway-Howard's include: agisting, breeding, ranch consulting, ranch tours, start-up training and more. They are always happy to help customers and visitors alike. The Menagerie Hill Ranch store offers alpaca fiber, yarn, products and other homemade items.



Deb and Kirk enjoy having livestock (even though it makes traveling difficult), and find there is something magical and peaceful about the alpacas. Based on their experience with a variety of species, alpacas are a better money maker (even in this market) than the sheep and goats. So they are working on reducing the menagerie to focus on alpacas.

From all of us at CALPACA, thanks for hosting the February Meeting, and being great alpaca owner representatives to the future ranchers in 4H..



Calpaca Membership Meeting

May 19, 2012 (Changed to 3rd weekend because of Mother's Day)

R&R Ranch LLC
Robin & Richard Vasquez
325 B Denio Ave, Gilroy, CA 95020
408- 842-5233/408-710-0676/408-710-7911
rv@lovethemalpacas.com

Agenda

Calpaca Continental Breakfast available before and during the business meeting

10:00am to 12:00pm—Business Meeting

12:00pm to 1:30pm—Lunch --Tri-tip, beans, green salad and bread supplied by Robin & Richard. Please bring a salad or fruit salad or dessert to share.

1:30pm-3:30pm—Guest speaker Ian Watt will speak on two topics:

1. **A Snapshot of the 2010 US Alpaca Clip** - in an attempt to get a better understanding of just what US alpaca growers are producing, Ian took data from his OFDA 2000 fiber testing service, applied it against ARI data on color, sex and age numbers and then created production figures using average fleece weights from various parts of the USA. Ian will be supplying these research papers, discussing the information in them and then applying that information against industry development goals after looking at what it all means to both the alpaca breeder and grower in the US. Listen to a story based on FACT, the real-life situation we are all in today and some ideas that might just cause you pause as to where you are going with your breeding program!!
2. **Creating A Fodder System** – with the cost of quality feed continuing to rise, many ranchers are creating their own systems to grow fodder as a supplement to regular forage. Ian will provide guidelines for developing your own system and answer questions about the process.

3:30pm—After the speaker there will be a wine social and a tour and walk through of Richard and Robin's mill. Depending on weather the swimming pool will be available to the very brave.

Want to turn the trip into a weekend getaway? Gilroy is close to San Juan Bautista, Santa Cruz, Monterey and Carmel. There are many local hotels within 3 miles of the ranch.

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS!

**WIN-A-GATOR
WINNERS**

Attendees of the February Calpaca meeting anxiously waited, with raffle tickets in hand, for the drawing of the winning ticket for the John Deere TX Gator. Dale Davis, newly named 2011 Calpaca Member of the Year, reached in and drew the winning ticket.

**Congratulations
Dennis and Nancy Lily
Lily of the Valley Alpacas**



Tax Tips

Taxes...did you know?

By Lin Murray, Lassen View Alpacas

I've always enjoyed looking at tax documents...it's a sickness I know but...I really do enjoy it. I took the H&R Block tax course in the 80's, studied accounting for a time then took another tax course in 2011....just for fun.

This year, I had the opportunity to work as a registered tax preparer and as such, had lots of time to peruse articles, documents and tax regulations. What better thing to do than share my knowledge to better prepare our alpaca businesses for tax season?

Since Steve shears, we do receive 1099 MISC every year that we use when filing our taxes. The IRS has tightened requirements to ensure self-employed people are claiming all their income. IRS requires reporting of the following:

Amounts greater than \$600 per calendar year

*Payments for services performed for a trade or business by people not treated as its employees.
Examples: fees to subcontractors.*

If you fail to file a correct 1099 MISC by the due date, you may be subject to a penalty. The amount of the penalty is based on when you file the 1099. The penalty can be as much as \$100 for each form not filed.

What does this mean to you? If you are paying individual for services such as shearing, breeding, transporting etc. and they are not being paid as an employee you should be issuing a 1099 MISC to that individual.

To file the 1099 MISC, you will need the individuals TIN (tax payer ID number)

A Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) is an identification number used by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the administration of tax laws. It is issued either by the Social Security Administration (SSA) or by the IRS. A Social Security number (SSN) is issued by the SSA whereas all other TINs are issued by the IRS.

Taxpayer Identification Numbers can be any of the following

Social Security Number "SSN"

Employer Identification Number "EIN"

Individual Taxpayer Identification Number "ITIN"

Taxpayer Identification Number for Pending U.S. Adoptions "ATIN"

Preparer Taxpayer Identification Number "PTIN"

To get a TIN from an individual, you can ask them to fill out a W-9, found on the IRS website. This form will be filled out by the individual with the appropriate TIN that you will use to issue them a 1099 MISC.

Due dates for the forms to be filed are:

to Recipient: January 31

to IRS: February 28th

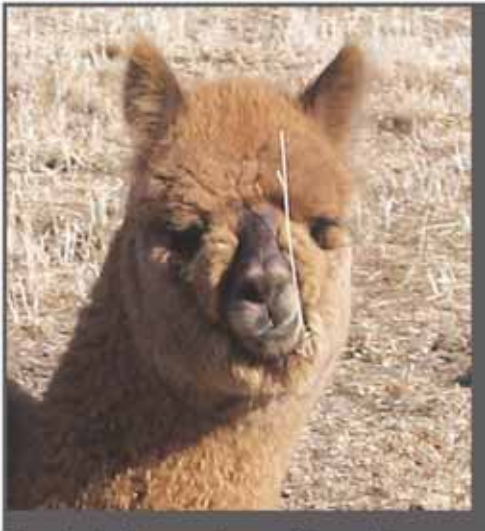
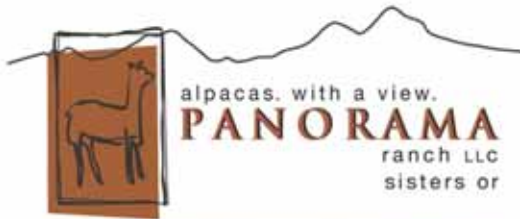
Payments for non-employee compensation should be recorded in box 7 of the 1099 MISC.

Scannable forms **must** be used so do not download the 1099 MISC form from the IRS website.

Software is available that can be used to appropriately fill in the 1099 MISC or the forms can be ordered from the IRS.

This article is for informational only and not intended as tax advice. Further information can be found at the IRS website www.irs.gov

As new members of Calpaca
we look forward to meeting
you at this year's Classic.



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whole family,

When you have finished with biking, hik-
ing, golfing, skiing, rock climbing, fishing,
kayaking, whatever...plan one more stop
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magnificent view of the peaks of the
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Our top notch alpacas are spoiled and
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 - Tango >..... (super suri AARF herdsire)
 - Merengue
 - Paso Doble >..... MSA Pinot Noir
 - Salsa
- dob: 2011 June "dance troupe"*

- along with:*
- Buccaneer..... Capt. Morgan
 - Cadbury..... Young Accoyo Carmello
- dob 2010; Jr. herdsires
ready for breeding*



Darrell & Barbara Pieper
Scott, Julie & Meghan Pieper

www.panoramaranch.com
sisters, oregon

Focus On Fiber

Suri the Versatile Fiber, You Bet!

By Terri Swanson, 925 Suris of Sterling Alpacas

LET'S PLAY JEOPARDY!

Me: I'll take "Fiber" for \$1,000.

Alex: The answer is: "Versatile"

Me: "What is... suri alpaca?"

I hear a deafening silence and some groans in the audience. Oh shoot, that's right, most people and even alpaca owners believe that suri alpaca fiber is *only* good for lace weight yarns and fine textiles. Waiting to hear if I was correct seemed like an eternity, while the last eight years flashed through my mind...

Eight years ago, Nancy Helwig of 925 Suris of Sterling Alpacas started her adventure raising and breeding suri alpacas. She was attracted to the suri breed because of their elegance and luscious, shimmering, hypoallergenic locks flowing in the breeze. From day one, Nancy's mission was to improve fiber quality through breeding, to promote and support the alpaca fiber industry, and to legitimately answer a ranch visitor's #1 question "What do you do with the fleece?" So Nancy asked her fiber-loving sister to join her... that would be me...to help on the fiber side of the business. I have always enjoyed working with fabric and yarns, so when Nancy showed me samples of suri locks, it was love at first sight.

I began my quest to learn as much about suri as possible. Eight years ago, there was a pitiful amount of information regarding suri fiber, so I turned to the people I thought could help me, namely, other suri breeders. But many of the suri breeders responded to my queries with a glazed, discouraged look while telling me their fleeces were in a box in their garage. As frustration set in, I signed up for informational seminars about alpaca fleece. The seminars I attended concerning alpaca fiber were very informative... if you were a huacaya breeder. Most suri questions were addressed as an aside with little or no detail. I also found that many alpaca breeders seemed to compare the qualities between huacaya and suri. I must insist that in the spirit of fairness, the alpaca industry needs to forget about comparing huacaya with suri. Although they are both alpacas, comparing their fleeces is like comparing apples to oranges.

Surely fiber processors would be able to help me. Although I found all the processors friendly and helpful, I was often encouraged to blend suri with other fibers, preferably merino wool. They insisted that suri can only be spun in lace weight unless it is blended. We were not about to blend our precious "hypoallergenic" fleece with wool.



Finally it dawned on me... why not learn from the experts? For three years I volunteered at every fleece show I attended. I do have to say, this is the best way to learn everything there is to learn about fiber. The judges are so appreciative of good volunteers that they take the time to teach while they work. Alas, I learned a lot about huacaya, but not so much about suri. Being an avid supporter of fleece shows, we submit many fleeces for judging. In order for the judge to remain impartial, wouldn't you know it? I had to leave the room while suri fleeces were being judged!

It seemed everywhere I turned, there was little information about suri and, from the little I gleaned from "experts," I was told "You can't do anything with suri." "It won't felt." "It is hard to hand-spin." "It won't spin into anything heavier than lace-weight yarn." And "It's too heavy."

I'm an obstinate Swede: *Nobody* tells me I cannot do something! So I set out to disprove all the suri fiber stereotypes.

Article continued on page 15...Fiber

SUPER GLIDE PICKER

Revolutionary Production Picker



*** Large Fiber Picker For The Alpaca Cottage Industry ***

**Increase Your Fiber Production With Ease,
With This One Of A Kind Fiber Picker.**

- * Over 725 Picking Points * Large Tubs To Catch The Fleece ***
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Inside The Show Ring with Laurie Findlay

What if I told you that you could enter just one alpaca at a show and actually come home with the possibility of 8! Championships and or Awards. Would you be interested? The IAO show that we just came back from in Ventura was just such a show. For the first time EVER – and I don't know yet IF they will do this again next year.. but they allowed alpacas to enter BOTH the Commercial AND the Cottage Halter shows simultaneously.

So consider the possibilities. Your alpaca entered in the Commercial Halter Class under its color and type wins a 1st place, you move into the Championship and, by golly you win that. AND then onto the Supreme and you WIN that! Then just this year for the first and possibly the only time you can also enter this alpaca in the Cottage halter class. And if you win that color class and get a Championship you now have 2 Championships on one animal. Now in Cottage if you win a Championship you are eligible to be in Spinner's Dream. So you win that too. So NOW you have 2 champion banners and 2 CUPS! Then, just for fun, you enter "Best Head" and you win that one as well. Not to mention the "Cottage Walking Fleece Class" and you win that too – Highest Scoring Fleece!

Don't forget.....you entered this animal's fleece in the Commercial Division fleece show at IAO. Wow, this animal also garnered a Grand Champion in the Commercial Division of the fleece show. And because your alpaca had the highest points it now wins "Supreme" which is similar to "Best in Show". OR Maybe you entered the fleece in the Cottage Division fleece show and you won 1st Place, Color Champion AND Spinners Dream Fleece! So...there you have it.... One alpaca, the possibility of 8 Awards or Championships!

But WAIT if you have a Suri you could win 10! Championships and or Awards. For the very first time, IAO had a "Processing Length Championship" for your Suri's that were previously shorn! They had a championship in both the Cottage AND Commercial Divisions. If your Suri won a first OR second place in its halter class it was eligible! So here we have another opportunity to win 2 more banners! A big "Thank you" for shearing your Suri.

IAO had endless awards and recognition for your breeding program.

So to lay out in a list all the possible awards that IAO has:

Possible Class Entries:	Possible Award
Walking Fleece Cottage	Highest Scoring Fleece Breed
Cottage Halter	Color Champion
	Spinners Dream Breed
	& if Suri:
	Suri Processing Length Champion
Commercial Halter	Color Champion
	Supreme Breed/Gender
	& if Suri:
	Suri Processing Length Champion
Commercial Fleece	Color Champion
	Supreme Breed
	Longevity of Fineness Champion Breed
Cottage Fleece	Color Champion
	Spinners Dream Breed
Best Head	Best Head Breed/Gender

This is an amazing show! Your alpaca is looked at by no less than two judges PER Division – Both Cottage AND Commercial Division had 2 judges EACH. I am telling you I cannot wait until next year when IAO will be one of the shows I put on my calendar.....How about you???

Laurie Findlay, Alpacas of El Dorado

Picasso



Eventyrgaard Alpaca
Gretchen and Airell Nygaard
Sonora, CA
209-928-5959

GLR Picasso

Shavano

X

Rockstar's Peruvian Paloma

2010 AAA Futurity Res. Color Champion
2010 GWAS Res. Color Champion
Micron; 15.8/4.1/26.0/0.9



SINCE 1981
Brad and Jandy Sprouse
Maple City, MI
231-228-3859

Focus On Fiber

Fiber Sorting and Grading Class!

By Janis Bass, Moonlight Alpacas

On March 3-4 a Camelid Fibre Basic Farm Sorter class was held at Rancho NC in Valley Springs, CA, hosted by Brenda and David Barbosa. Ruth Elvestad taught the class. Ruth is the Manager of the Natural Fibre Centre & Testing Lab at Olds College Centre for Innovation in Canada. Thirty people attended the class, and after introductions went around the room, it was clear this was a very diverse group including alpaca owners, fiber artists and millers.

Ruth shared some information about the lab and how fiber samples are tested, then reviewed histograms and how to understand the information on them. Next came a discussion about shearing, whether for show fleeces or commercial processing. Responsibility of the producer, shearer and the fiber sorter, grader/classer were defined. We were reminded that “while good shearing will not improve the fleece of your alpaca, poor shearing can ruin it.” Preparation for shearing day was outlined with a good checklist to keep things organized and moving in the right direction.

The topic then switched over to the fiber itself. We learned that a fleece must meet several criteria – micron, lack of guard hair, handle, style and character, and length. Ruth emphasized, “Uniformity within each of these characteristics is the ultimate goal of the breeder”. Careful shearing, sorting grading and handling of fiber when harvesting can eliminate many of the problems.

Each student was given some raw fleece and we began grading it, using a worksheet and fiber samples that had the micron measurements so a visual comparison could be made. Ruth gave wonderful examples of how to determine things like handle and density. Once everyone was finished, Ruth took all of our numbers and put them on a spreadsheet to see the overall points the fleece received. We then decided the best processing method for this fiber and discussed whether blends of other fibers, such as wool, cotton, bamboo, etc. would be appropriate, as well as how much to blend. Ruth’s mantra: consider fit to function. Always think about the end product of your fiber. Several more practice tests were done, then day one was over.

Day two started with a Q & A session to make sure everyone was on the same page. David Barboza, an AOBA judge, spoke to the class about the importance of using EPD’s as well as setting herd goals. He encouraged us to “pick a direction you want to go and use the information you have learned here” to set goals, then put them in writing, making sure that you post them someplace where you can review them often. David emphasized that our goal as breeders should be “Reproductive Soundness”. All good reminders that we need to be passionate about our future collective herd.

Finally, the class was turned outside into the sunshine to lay our own fleeces out on skirting tables. They were graded twice, once before skirting and once after. This was a good way to compare the raw fleece to the skirted fleece, and gives insight as to how a fleece judge might determine the scores. There was help and encouragement from Ruth and David, as well as the students helping each other out. All too soon, we were all packing up our fleeces and heading for home, some as far away as Washington. Everyone taking with them new friends, knowledge, and the courage to dig those fleeces out of storage and start skirting.



Photo by Haley Jessup

Fiber...Continued from page 10

My quest started by doing my own washing, carding and, yes, learning to spin. Despite my instructor's insistence that I learn with wool (she should have known better!), I learned on suri. I quickly found that I was able to spin beautiful sport-weight yarn. Yes, you heard me... sport-weight! A month later, I entered my sport-weight skein in the fiber arts competition at the Monterey Pronk, and it won first place in the People's Choice yarn competition.



Despite sending samples of sport-weight yarn to a number of mini mills, I was amazed at the differences in the final products. I would get lace-weight yarn back with a note that stated "We did the best we could." Needless to say, finding the right processors is a must for suri breeders! Remember this was seven years ago, and we were trying to stock a farm store with yarns that our customers wanted, *and* we were determined to meet their needs. There are some extremely accommodating processors out there who can even make beautiful semi-bulky 100% suri yarn.



Does suri felt? Yes, indeed! With my homemade batts, I decided to experiment with wet felting. I had never tried felting before, and I did find that, yes, you can felt suri. Admittedly, some suri fleece felts better than others. It seems their fiber can often take on the personality of the alpaca itself: our most obstinate alpacas have more difficult fleece to felt! I found felting suri was easy and much faster than I expected. Flat sheets of felt can be transformed by the use of shaping molds to make hats, etc. You also can use flat sheets of felt for sewing projects and make all sorts of garments, too. All those original felt sheets were made into alpaca cut-out Christmas ornaments so Nancy can remember her foundation herd each and every year.



Next was to make knit-to-felt projects with my sport- to bulky-weight yarns. I found most suri loves to be felted in the washing machine. It is always a surprise how the project will turn out. I have found that, as a general rule, suri gets "fuzzier" in an agitating-type washing machine, but comes out smoother in my front-loading machine loaded with a few tennis balls. If a project comes out too fuzzy for my taste, I simply needle-felt the project to smooth out the fuzz. Sometimes, I find the quirky results that are "hairy," "fuzzy" or "nubby" make the project more appealing. We have customers who love the crazy results.

It is no myth, but pure fact, that suri loves to be woven. The strength of suri makes a perfect warp, and the resulting cloth has a beautiful drape and glow. I have made several projects with suri as a warp and huacaya as the weft, and the results are fabulous.



How is suri to dye, you ask? It's to die for! Suri takes acid dye beautifully. Our hand-painted dyed yarns are a big hit with our farm store customers. Don't think your yarn has to be white in order to dye it; fawns, browns and grays are gorgeous when dyed. You can also dye raw fiber, batts and rovings.

Nancy and I have been so excited about the versatility of suri fiber that we began to share what we've learned. We hold seminars on understanding alpaca fiber, with an emphasis on suri. We teach workshops and give step-by-step instruction on how to work with alpaca fiber. We also have open ranch days for the local community where we demonstrate fiber processing. We show our ranch visitors fiber being processed from raw to finished product. People are amazed at the processes and truly appreciate the work that went into their ranch store purchases.

BACK TO JEOPARDY

Alex: You are correct! SURI ALPACA FIBER IS VERSATILE

Yippee! We all win!!!

Calpaca Activities

AG Day at the Capitol, 2012

By Bruce Nelson, Ahh...Sweet Alpacas

This year's AG Day at State Capitol was once again a huge success. We were able to draw considerable attention, from both the Legislators and the media with the help of a special presentation. Dozens of Legislators and their staffs were drawn to the Calpaca Booth. Hundreds of Calpaca brochures, encouraging folks to visit a ranch near them, were handed out. TV cameras and various newspapers also stopped by. All and all it was a very good day for Calpaca and our Alpacas.

First of all, I want to thank Joan Clappier, Debbie & Mark Emery, Dave Scroggins, and Tom Petersen for all their hard work pulling it off. Along with very special Thanks to **California Assembly Member Linda Halderman, District 29** and her Chief of Staff **George Andrews**, Legislative Asst. **Kirstin Miller**, and intern **Stephanie Silveira**. Tom & Dave helped Joan set up an impressive booth filled with finished North American Alpaca Products to be



Stephanie Silveira & Kirstin Miller

viewed. Debbie set up her spinning wheel and began to spin. Dave and Tom positioned themselves outside the pens armed with Calpaca brochures, while Mark readied his camera for some great shots. And then the Show Began.

Promptly at 10:00 Assembly Member Halderman and most of her Assembly Staff arrived at the pen (dressed in jeans and boots instead of normal Capitol attire). George, the Chief of Staff, took his position at the gate acting as both "barker" and doorman for the various Legislators. Linda along with Kirstin and Stephanie, got in the pen with First Tuesday (Linda's Rose Gray Alpaca) and 3 of my alpacas. With 3 attractive ladies, and 4 adorable alpacas in the pen, the best thing for me to do was just get out of the way, and let the ladies do their thing. And what a job they did. I was amazed at how quickly Kirstin and Stephanie learned to answer everyone's questions regarding the alpacas. You would have thought both of them had been around alpacas quite a while (Linda must have given some great education ahead of time). George did a great job of directing the various dignitaries from the Capitol into the pen, keeping a steady stream coming to get their hands on the alpacas. He also saw to it that various 4-H, and FFA groups had access to the alpacas.

Kim-Xuan Nguyen arrived a short time later to make a special presentation to Linda. Each year during Farm Days, Kim does a spinning demonstration for our ranch visitors. Last year she even brought her friend Charlie to spin (that's right men can do it too). We provided Kim with some fleece to spin, and she fell in love with the cria fleece from First Tuesday. She took the fleece home, and made a beautiful shawl from the fleece.



Kim-Xuan Nguyen & Linda Halderman

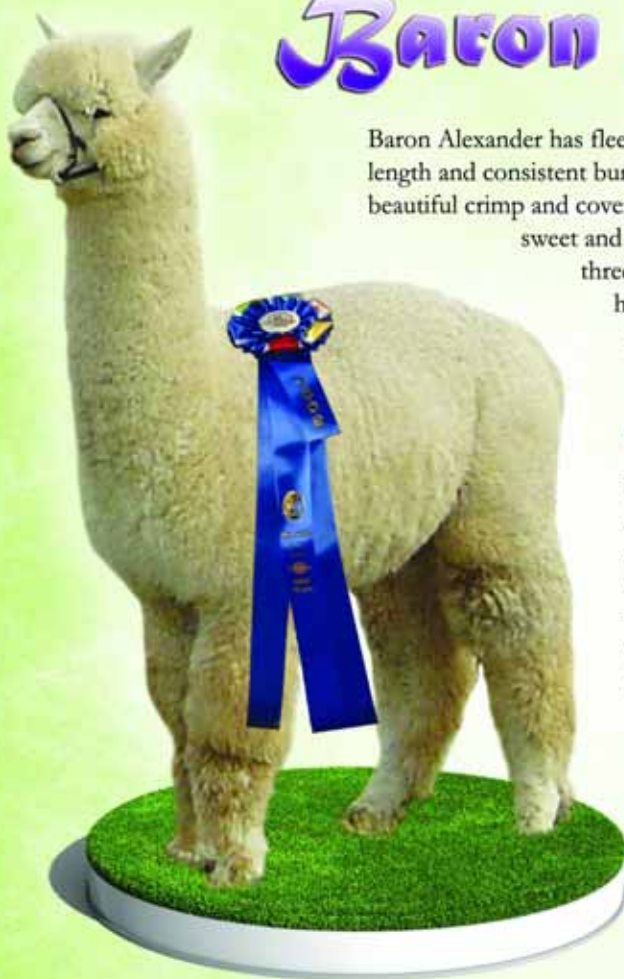
With Linda holding First Tuesday, Kim presented her with the Shawl. Mark, along with the photographer for the State Assembly, and the photographer from the Farm Bureau all jumped into action. Each of them took several great photos, of Linda, Kim, First Tuesday and the Shawl. I was told that several photos were already circulating throughout the Capitol before noon!

Kim wrote a description of the shawl and the process for Linda, and I would like to share what she wrote to Linda with you.

I met First Tuesday and started working with her raw fleece this past September. Alpaca is a wonderful fiber in that you really can spin it "straight off the animal" without washing it. I hand-combed the locks to align the fibers then spun fine singles. Once there was enough, I plied to make a two ply yarn. The completed yarn was then washed before being wound into balls for knitting. Since I didn't blend all of first Tuesday's fleece but worked with it in small sections, you can see the variation in her colors as gentle striping in the shawl

Article continued on page 22....Ag Day

Baron Alexander



Baron Alexander has fleece you just want to crawl into. He has long staple length and consistent bundling throughout his ultra fine, bright fleece with beautiful crimp and coverage from his fuzzy face down to his toes. He is sweet and has a well balanced body with solid bones. At over three years old, he is showing a lack of halo or guard hairs in his very large prime area. 2011 Fleece Stats (3 years old): 20.2 AFD, 4.3 SD, 21.1% CV!

Selective Breeding

Baron Alexander is the product of six generations of extremely selective breeding choices with lineage from extraordinary giants of the alpaca world including 6Peruvian Accoyo Elite, Peruvian Hemingway, PPeruvian Vengador, PPPeruvian Royal Fawn, PPeruvian Guellermo and Peruvian Benatton, one of the most successful alpaca dams in the U.S.

Awards

1st Place, Walking Fleece, IAO 2011
1st Place, Halter, AlpacaMania 2009
1st Place, Fleece, AFW 2008 (1 of 12 white)
3rd Place, Composite, AOBA Nationals 2008



Sire: DDF Royal Dutch
2009 2nd Get of Sire NW Alpaca Showcase
2006 AOBA Highest Scoring HA Fleece
2006 3rd Fleece AOBA National Conference
2005 1st Halter at Heart of the Valley



Dam: Mardy Ann



Grandsire: 6Peruvian Accoyo Elite

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...Minutes continued from page 4

The last topic covered that day was membership and how do we expand it? Ways to improve it could be to review the list on a yearly basis and contact non-renewing members and find out why they left. Start a membership committee and help it build membership in the association. Also review the ambassador/mentor program and strengthen the goals and direction we are looking for it to go in the future.

These are just a few of the things that were discussed at this all day meeting.

Shows/Events

Dixon Caper – The halter show has been canceled and Calpaca will now have an information booth only.

Gold Country – Kay advised that we lost a lot of money last year on Gold Country and wanted to know what the membership would like to do. We already have halter judge Sara Jane confirmed for this year and will have to let fleece judge Wini Lebreque go because the fleece show cost us too much money for so few participants. We only had 70 fleece entries last year and that does not even cover the cost of the ribbons for the fleece show, so this is the first of the things that must go. Talk went on about it going to a 1 day show, but that would mean canceling the BBQ and no one wanted that. Ken Hibbits stepped up and volunteered his services in whatever capacity we needed to make the show a success. We will be taking Ken up on his offer and he will start the show with a seminar on “How to Show” for those who have never shown or need a refresher on show ring etiquette and how to show your alpaca to its best advantage. Also brought up, do we keep Gold Country an AOBA show or make it a non-AOBA show. The answer was keep it AOBA. Everyone present voted yes to this. Kay also asked that everyone think about volunteering for this show because last year we could not find people for key parts of the show and this was part of the reason we lost money. Kathleen Friend stepped up right away for the Herd Sire auction and Dale volunteered to help her with this. Also Dave volunteered to be our announcer for this year’s show. We are still looking for a silent auction person and some other key personnel. If you are interested, please contact Kay at krodriguez@lazyk-blue.com or Eva Fisher at Eva@junipercreekalpcas.com.


Symposium update – Bonnie advised that this year Symposium was a huge success and they are already meeting to plan next year’s event. Bonnie wanted to remind everyone that one of the perks of being a Calpaca member is a discount on fees for this fantastic event.

AG Day – Bruce Nelson advised that AG Day is March 21 at the Capitol and this will be the 5th year that Calpaca has been a sponsor of this event. This year, alpaca owner and Assembly member, Linda Halderman MD will once again be there to get as many staff members aware of alpacas and what we do with their fleece. We will have both animals and product to show.

IAO Show – Kay advised that this year’s IAO show is coming up March 24-25 at the Seaside Park in Ventura, CA. She is looking for volunteers to help make this show a success. Karen Ball and Jennifer Powers are also available to transport and show your alpacas if you are unable to attend. A small fee will apply but this is a one of a kind show with International judges and new rules. So don’t miss out.

TAP Herdsire Showcase - Bruce Nelson also announced that this year’s TAP Herd Sire Showcase is going to be March 31 at the Dixon Fairgrounds and entries are now open. Don’t miss this great opportunity to showcase your herd sire.

CA Classic Update – Joyce advised that registration is now open so don’t miss out. When she gets to 350 entries the show is sold out! Spin off is closed and going to the judge. We had 70 entries this year for the spin off. Jill McCloud will be our judge this year and we will have just one ring going. Dale advised that there are still sponsorships available so contact her soon as they are selling fast. Mark your calendar for April 21-22 and we hope to see you there!



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Sired by multiple champion
Dam is producer of champions

"Hot Stuff"
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3X Color Champion
Sired by multiple champion
Dam is producer of champions

A great opportunity to own award-winning alpacas with superior bloodlines!

A photograph of a light brown alpaca standing in front of a green hedge. The alpaca is facing left, with its head turned slightly towards the camera. It has a thick, shaggy coat and small, dark eyes. The background is a dense, dark green hedge. The ground appears to be a mix of dirt and grass.

For Sale: Only \$1,500.00 to own Ismael, the bloodlines of award-winning Derwydd Peruvian Inti-Sapa.

Also For Sale:
Bronson- \$1,500.

A photograph of a brown alpaca named Bronson standing in a white picket fence enclosure. The alpaca is facing left and has a red sash with a white flower pinned to its side. A person's hand is visible on the left, holding the fence. The background is a blue sky.



ari
alpaca registry inc

Alpaca Registry

Certificate of Registration

VF BRONSON
SIGNO OSTRY (J05037)

4PERUVIAN LEGACY 6016
Huacaya P102703 - Peru - 100%

SNOWMASS LEGACY GOLD
Huacaya P007103 - United States - 97

NEVE'S LUX
Huacaya P103040 - United States - 30

COLTEN
Huacaya P04071 - United States - 70

ALJO'S NEVE
Huacaya P102032 - United States - 91%

Aplica IDE: 31167902
Number: 1046
Date of Birth: August 29 2008

Country of Huacaya: United States
Country of Birth: United States
Primary Color: 360 - Bay Black
Secondary Color:
Head Color:
Markings: 6
Tails: 11/1027100
Ear Tag:

Sire Owner at Time of Conception:
SIGNO OSTRY (J05037)

VF LEGALLY BRONZE
Huacaya P04071 - United States - 100

PERUVIAN SNOWMASTER
Huacaya P04040 - Peru - 100%

SNOWMASS SNOWMASTERS SHRAZ
Huacaya P04040 - United States - 100

PPERUVIAN LILLY 403
Huacaya P100710 - Peru - 100%

VF SONATA
Huacaya P1027103 - United States - 70

4PERUVIAN LEGACY 6016
Huacaya P102703 - Peru - 100%

COCO'S ONTX
Huacaya P000103 - United States - 70

CRESCENT MOON'S PANACHE OF COCO
Huacaya P014032 - United States - 0.5%

BACKTÖTER SIRE ALJO
Huacaya P102034 - United States - 70

ACHACOLLO COCO
Huacaya P1027103 - Peru - 70 00%

Each Owner at Time of Conception:
SIGNO OSTRY (J05037)

Sire Owner at Time of Birth:
SIGNO OSTRY (J05037)

HUACAYA

Lance- \$2,500.

 <h1>Alpaca Registry</h1>		<h2>HUACAYA</h2> <h3>Certificate of Registration</h3> <h4>VF LANCE</h4> <p>SIRE DEXY (00671)</p>	
<p>Alpaca ID# 30874213</p> <p>Gender: Male</p> <p>Date of Birth: March 11, 2017</p>		<p>4PERUVIAN LEGACY 6815</p> <p>HA 7030335 - 2015</p>	
<p>Country of Birth: US</p> <p>Country of Sale: US</p> <p>Previous Owner: US Reg</p> <p>Ownership Code: 10000000</p> <p>Microchip: 10000000</p> <p>Color: White</p> <p>Line Number: 10000000</p> <p>Other: 10000000</p>		<p>VF LEOPOLDO</p> <p>HA 7030375 - United States - WH</p>	
<p>VF SHOWFLAKE</p> <p>HA 7030397 - United States - WH</p>		<p>MISTER ANTONIO</p> <p>HA 7030399 - United States - WH</p>	
<p>WVA LTD ANGIE</p> <p>HA 7030407 - United States - WH</p>		<p>PERUVIAN HERMOSA Q17</p> <p>HA 7030409 - 2017</p>	
<p>PERUVIAN SNOWMASTER</p> <p>HA 7030403 - United States - WH</p>		<p>PERUVIAN BENATON W27</p> <p>HA 7030410 - 2017</p>	
<p>PERUVIAN FELIX G406</p> <p>HA 7030411 - Peru - WH</p>		<p>PERUVIAN ANGELA 617</p> <p>HA 7030412 - 2017</p>	
<p>PERUVIAN SNOWMASTER</p> <p>HA 7030403 - United States - WH</p>		<p>PERUVIAN LKLY 4015</p> <p>HA 7030413 - 2015</p>	
<p>SNOWMASS SNOWMASTER'S SHRAZ</p> <p>HA 7030414 - United States - WH</p>		<p>PERUVIAN JESUSA R0662</p> <p>HA 7030415 - 2015</p>	
<p>PERUVIAN JESUSA R0662</p> <p>HA 7030415 - 2015</p>		<p>PERUVIAN JESUSA R0662</p> <p>HA 7030415 - 2015</p>	



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PVA Prince of Persia

DOB August 5, 2009
Suri Male – ARI# 31722117
Medium Fawn

Prince of Persia is an absolutely stunning suri herdsire who boasts the very best of Park View Alpaca's genetics. His sire Corneliani of PVA had a stellar show career including 1st at the 2006 AOBA National Show and 1st at the 2007 IAO. His dam Fantasee Princess of PVA is a Mahogany Prince daughter who has produced numerous champion offspring herself. Prince of Persia has a gorgeous suri head, correct square frame and thick, ropery, independent locks. Before his first shearing, Prince of Persia turned many heads when he walked by, a veritable curtain of gold shimmering past. Now shorn, his fleece has grown back curly, bright and lustrous.

We are thrilled to add him to the Alpacas of El Dorado breeding program and look forward excitedly to his future offspring. Multiple generations of color and no Macgyver in his background – a perfect outcross. Limited breedings available for \$1,000.

AWARDS

First place, ABI 2011

First place, AlpacaMania 2011

First place, SWRAS 2012



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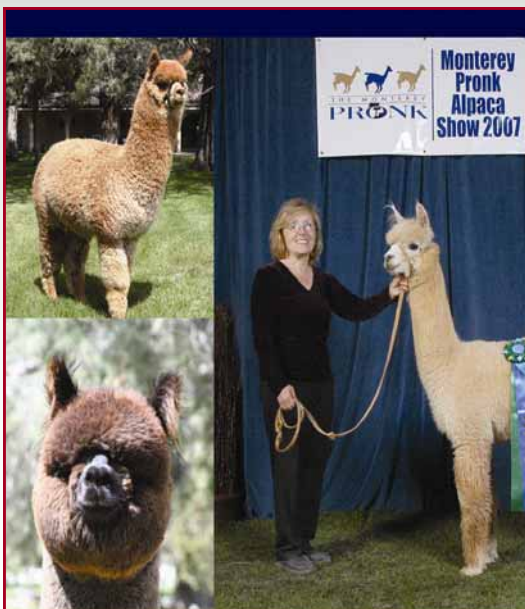
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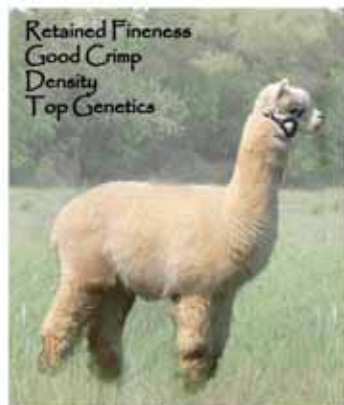
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High Luster

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at 4.5 years



Snowmass Genetics
Retained Fineness
Staple length
Good Crimp

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AFD 22.0 SD 4.3 CV 19.6 SF 21.1
at 4 years

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BOOK YOUR BREEDINGS TODAY



...Ag Day continued from page 16

Alpaca lace shawls can be hand washed but will have to be reblocked after washing. If you're not familiar with washing knitted lace, you can contact me and I can wash and block it for you if needed.

I hope you like the shawl, it was wonderful working with First Tuesday's fleece!

Kim-Xuan Nguyen

Linda graciously allowed us to display the shawl in the product booth where Debbie & Joan were able to show people (especially the legislators) the finished shawl, and then point to the pen next to it and show the animal that produced the fiber. This made quite an impression and many of the legislators, reinforcing our message regarding the alpaca industry. The next day Linda emailed me to telling me that she was wearing the shawl at the Capitol that day, and getting a great deal of positive reaction to alpacas.

Over the past few years, Calpaca has certainly raised the awareness of Alpacas and the Alpaca Industry in the State Capitol. And I do believe our industry is being very favorably received. Secretary of Agriculture Karen Ross gave us quite a huge plug on stage, asking Linda if she had brought her alpacas again this year. Sec. Ross then made a point to direct everyone's attention to our booth. The Farm Bureau paid us a great deal of attention, planning an in depth piece on alpacas, Linda and her shawl, and the end products from alpaca fiber in an upcoming Magazine Article. The Executive Director of the California Agricultural Communications Coalition, Eric Stein also spent a great deal of time with the alpacas. Eric is very interested in promoting our industry, especially in the social media.

All and all, it was a very successful day. I hope to follow-up on some of aspects in more detail in the next issue. Once again, Thanks to Joan, Debbie, Mark, Tom and Dave for a great job. And what more can I say about Dr. Halderman and the entire Staff from California Assembly District 29, Fresno/Clovis. Thank You.

QUECHUA RADIANCE

Super Luster

Dense

Winner

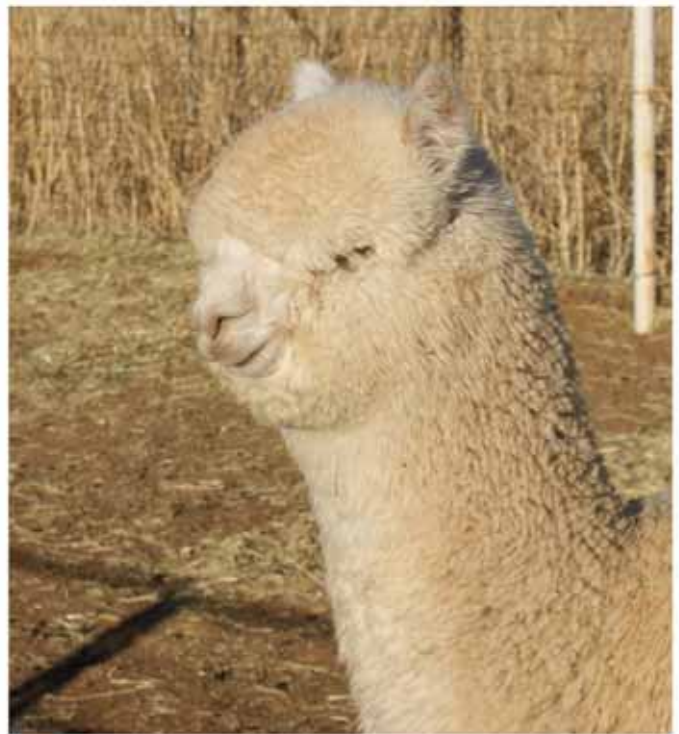


Quechua Radiance is quite a "head turner", or at least the judges seem to think so! his luminous fleece demonstrates extreme locking to the skin, and it drips with luster. Radiance has SOLID BONE structure and a perfect conformation. His dam, Q'orianka was legendary on the show circuit and she has been one of our top producers. Both she and his Accoyo sire bring density to Radiance, and we are thrilled to have their handsome son. Radiance sells with 3 breedings reserved for our use---we don't want to lose track of this boy.

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Susan and Tom Petersen—Alpacas All Around

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Karen Ball and Russell Ratti—Heart & Soul Alpacas and Spinners

Pam and Rick Brady—Oak Valley Alpaca

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101A Skywalkers White Saber

2009 AFD = 19.0 SD = 3.8 %>30 = 1
 2010 AFD = 19.1 SD = 3.9 %>30 = 1
 2011 AFD = 20.3 SD = 4.0 %>30 = 1.5



7 Cria Due in 2012

EPD Results

Trait	2010	2011
AFD	-1.513	-1.043
SDAFD	-0.423	-0.325
SF	-1.67	-1.098
%F>30	-6.48	-4.763
MC	+3.263	+2.396
SDMC	+1.597	+1.033
%M	-0.792	-2.039
MSL	-1.054	+1.264
FW	+0.658	+1.048

101A Skywalkers Justice

2011 California Classic
Brown Color Champion

2010 Gold Country Gathering
Brown Color Champion

2010 California Classic
1st Place Brown Juvenile



4 Cria Due in 2012



1 Cria Due in 2012

101A El Jefe's Morro

2011 California Classic
Fawn Reserve Color Champion

2010 Gold Country Gathering
Fawn Reserve Color Champion

2010 California Classic
Fawn Color Champion

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Where suri alpacas are sterling

Nancy & David Helwig

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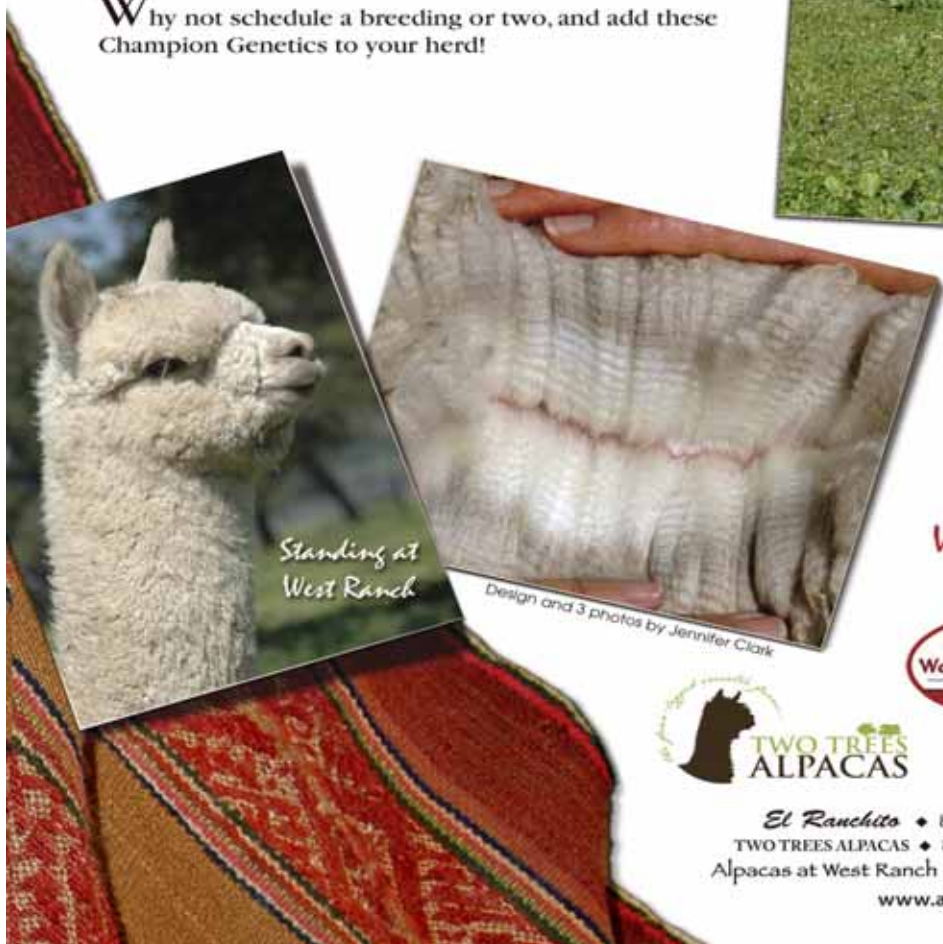
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Our newest addition to the West Ranch line-up has an all-star lineage of seasoned male Champions on both sides of his pedigree. Accoyo Manchu, Caligula, El Niño, Rolex, Ajax, Augusto, and Serono -Wow!! And, he has dynamite female genetics on both sides too!

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Why not schedule a breeding or two, and add these Champion Genetics to your herd!



*Standing at
West Ranch*

Design and 3 photos by Jennifer Clark

2011 HISTOGRAM
AFD: 17.1, SD: 4.1, CV: 24.2, Over 30mc: 0.5%

3 SHOWS - 3 WINS!
Reserve Color Champion and 1st Place - 2011 IAO
1st Place - 2011 California Classic
2nd Place - 2010 California Classic

We Believe in Your Success!



Hawk is co-owned by Two Trees Alpacas, Alpacas at West Ranch, and El Ranchito



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Herdsires

Benchmark's SilverCoyo Outlaw (1/2 Accoyo Silver Gray) Outlaw has the look, the fiber, the genes, and the ribbons to back it all up! And even better, he's passing it on. He took 1st Place Get of Sire at Southwest Regional Alpaca Show 2010 over some amazing white and fawn studs and one of his daughters won Gray Female Color Champion at AOBA National's 2010, beating out 24 other grays from across the country. Now that, is winning!! His impressive show record includes: 10 Blue Ribbons, 4 Color Champs and 2 Reserves. He's producing gorgeous grays and so far his offspring have acquired 7 Color Champs and 2 Reserve Champs, as well as multiple Blue Ribbons. Incredible Accoyo Express bloodlines at an outstanding price. *** Update *** An Outlaw daughter just won Gray Female Color Champ at SWRA 2012. This is the 3rd year in a row a different Outlaw girl has won Gray Color Champion at SWRA!!

Sunny Acres Alpacas 559-323-9608 See him and his progeny at www.SunnyAcresAlpacas.com

The Peruvian Tin Man Tin Man is a beautiful dark fawn, but the real beauty is in his fiber. He offers matchstick bundling, amazing crimp, fineness and density. Tin Man is a Shades of Gray son and grandson of the legendary dark silver gray herdsire, Peruvian Silverado. His progeny are hitting the show ring in all colors and winning, including multiple Blue Ribbons and Color Championships..

Stud Fee: \$2000 Calpaca members get a 60% discount

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Callaway Jaxon: The only silver offspring of Axtion Jaxon to date, a non-fading true black male that won four Reserve Color Championships and Get of Sire over two white males! Callaway's Fifth year histogram is 23.3 microns! He's soft, he's dense and has great conformation; and is a sweetheart to handle. He has produced silver, black, and rose gray. Contact Paige Romine, **Retiredice Alpacas**, paige@retiredicealpacas.com or ((530) 620-1415.

OUR BOYS ARE SPECTACULAR! At Heart & Soul Alpacas and Spinnery our herdsires have been carefully picked for their lineage, fleece quality and stunning conformation. Specializing in grey and black we seek to obtain the color without losing the fineness. **SURI:** *Bluegrass Peruvian Rhythm & Blues*, TB Futurity R. Champion Juvenal in 2009. Blues is blacker than black with beautiful and lustrous lock structure. Undefeated in 2011 including 1sts at the Futurity and AOBA Nationals (co-owned with XC Alpacas). **HUACAYAS:** *Hobby Horse Black Epic's Signature*, a TB son of the famous multi champion Black Epic and a champion in his own right. Signature's first cria will hit the show ring this year (co-owned with Silver Rose Ranch). *4-Sight's Snow Prince*, MSG son of KPR Challenger who is closed to outside breedings. "Prince is a multi champion including color champion at IAO in 2010 and 1st place in 2011. Holding his micron at 3 years of age at 21, WOW! **INTRODUCING** *LKR Total Eclipse (aka Boo)*, a BB multi champion! Stunning male with a gorgeous phenotype, high frequency crimp style and buttery soft handle (co-owned with Silver Rose Ranch). *4-Sight's Charlie Black*, This beautiful black is fine! At 17 microns on his second fleece Charlie shows of his Snowmas heritage. His sire is the late Snowmas Sterling Silver who was a MSG. If your looking for fine uniform fleece in BLACK, Charlie is your man. *4-Sight's Applause*, a MSG tuxedo that is stunning to look at. Applause will start his breeding career this spring. Undefeated in his first 4 shows including a first place in a class of 13 at 2011 AOBA Nationals. Watch for Applause in the show ring this year! Check these boys out at heartandsoulspinnery.com

Herdsires

925 Suris of Sterling Alpacas, where suri alpacas are sterling, has three up and coming suri herdsires "at your service"... all multiple blue ribbon winning males ready to bring your gray suri program to the next level....**Sterling Silver Dollar**, our full Peruvian MSG; **Sterling Vindication** a stunning high luster LSG; and **Sir Frederick Gray**, our MSG Captain Morgan boy. These studs share time between NoCal, SoCal, and Oregon, so please contact us through our website www.925suris.com for availability.

L Peruvian Lipton, sire of the grey multi-champion Shazam and multi-champion Pacifica's Dunemaster. Lipton has sired 50 offspring....all colors from white to TB and everything in between! Lipton is adding invaluable genetics to our herd, wouldn't you like him to add to yours? We have reduced his fees for Calpaca members, limited time offer, call us! **Luv R Pacas**, Dennis & Donna Morris, (209) 826-2610 luvrpacas@yahoo.com

WHERE THERE IS SMOKE...THERE IS FIRE! Alpacas of Somerset Farm proudly introduce our multiple color champion (five color/reserve color champions between them) herdsires. "Wisp of Smoke" is a classic medium rose grey...with no spots! His sire is a multiple color champion producing color champions. He should be ready in the fall. "Hot Stuff" is black and HOT, HOT, HOT. His sire is a multiple color champion producing color champions. Wisp and Hot Stuff are from the same dam. She has only produced color champions for us. Hot Stuff is breeding and settling now. For more information on these impressive young males visit www.alpacasomersetfarm.com then contact Dianna or Jack Jordan, 530-620-6033.

Cria Announcements

Crias abound at 925 Suris (Sterling Alpacas) new NoCal ranch location in Plymouth, CA. High luster blacks, browns and 3 tuxedo grays! 5 girls, 4 boys...and one more Spring birth to go. What will it be? www.925suris.com 805-496-0343

Moonlight Alpacas welcomes Capt. Jack, a male suri born December 13, 2011. Dam: Chocolate Rose; Sire: Bernini of PVA. This was our first breeding to Bernini – our visiting herdsire and we are thrilled with the results! We bred for head, structure & dense fiber and got them all! Capt. Jack is a beautiful dark brown with lots of luster. More pictures on our website: www.calalpacas.com or stop by and see him in person – visitors welcome!

Agistment (Boarding) Services

Agist your alpaca in Northern California. Agisting can afford you the opportunity to reap the investment growth benefit and pleasure of alpaca ownership without the need for property and time investment. Colusa Riverside Alpacas is a full service alpaca ranch with 10 acres of lush pastures. We are just off interstate 5 north of Sacramento. Fees are \$4.00 per day which includes close supervision, herd health, and healthy pasture living. Vaccinations, veterinary visits, shearing and special needs services are charged separately. Discounts available for multiple animals. The health and welfare of your alpaca is our highest priority. Contact Dave or Sheila Scroggins 530-458-4022 or dnsranch@citlink.net or www.colusariversidealpacas.com

Goods and Services

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For Sale

For Sale: Package of 3 Bred Females \$7000 Package of 3 quality girls, 2 proven dams and 1 maiden. Dams range from white to dark fawn and are nice, solid girls. Outstanding Package price! For details see them at www.SunnyAcresAlpacas.com

DOWNSIZING FARM: 10 Beautiful huacayas. Very reasonable prices. Will only go to a very good home. Females and geldings. Call/email for further info and pricing. MM Farms, Placerville, CA. Marilyn Mignosa, (530) 642-0150; marilynmignosa@aol.com.

Female Huacayas For Sale or Barter: Nice girls for sale. \$2K and up. Many colors. Got land but low on cash? Let's make a deal. Let's barter future crias for room and board. Contact Vicki Arns at the Alpaca Shire, (707) 938-5412 or email vickiashire@vom.com. www.alpacanation.com/alpacashire Please, serious inquiries only.

Fiber males for sale: Perfect pair for the fiber artist. Dyeing and felting and spinning, oh my! One suri, one huacaya, both white. Huacaya has less than 20 microns. Both for \$800 or best offer. Contact Vicki Arns at the Alpaca Shire, (707) 938-5412 or email vickiashire@vom.com.

Menagerie Hill Ranch announces our first annual **Spring Alpaca Sale!** We started in 2008 with five alpacas and are now at 23. It's time to make room for our spring cria. In breeding alpacas our goal is continuous improvement in fiber quality, while maintaining excellent confirmation and producing vibrant color. Bloodlines include Peruvian Hemingway, Ppperuvian Yupanqui, Ppperuvian Auzengate, Snowmass Royal Promise, Ppperuvian Cahuide, Pperuvian Caligula, MSA Peruvian Brunello, Peruvian Grand Moreno, and more. Our web site is still under construction so don't believe the prices listed. Package prices are 20% off.

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners www.menageriehillranch.com 707.455.8211

Property 10 acres for sale in Sonora, CA \$275,000. Good parcel for alpacas or llamas. Close proximity to experienced Camelid vet. With agistment possible while you develop your ranch. For info/photos see www.zzalpacas.com or call 510-303-5530

The Trading Post

Attention Weavers: I will trade a breeding to any of our herdsires including our multiple color champion herdsires (Huacaya or Suri) for a loom and/or weaving lessons. Check them out at www.alpacasomersetfarm.com and then let's make a deal. Dianna Jordan 530-620-6033

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To Grieve Or Not To Grieve, That Is The Question

David Scroggins, Colusa Riverside Alpacas

To grieve or not to grieve for an alpaca is the question, or is it? We as humans have always grieved for lost loved ones. Whether it is the loss of a mother, father, brother, sister or even a friend, we grieve at different levels depending on our relationship. We even grieve for those that we may not know personally, but circumstances move us. The word to grieve means "To feel great sorrow and to distress mentally". This of course is the obvious for most of us, but do we really think about our grieving for animals and how they affect us. The following is a look into one unprepared alpaca owners grieving and how it could affect you.

My wife and I entered the Alpaca business two years ago. When starting our business we read articles, looked at animals, attended seminars, and over the last couple of years had help from many new friends. Needless to say we have learned a lot in the quality of the animal and how to care for them. We knew that alpacas could live to the ripe old age of 25 or older and did not ponder one of our alpacas dying, especially a cria's death. After all, we lived on a ranch and have had horses for over 25 years. All our horses have lived to old ages and we had not experienced having a foal or one dying for that matter. The topic of alpacas dying and the potential for grieving was not really discussed by friends, at seminars, or articles we read. Thus, I found myself unprepared for this rude and sad awakening. We did know that there are many poisonous plants out there waiting to harm our Alpacas, we knew however we could control their environment. We knew that alpacas could become sick with parasites etc. and we could also control that with good maintenance. We also knew that alpacas had birthing problems occasionally but that was why we had veterinarians. We unfortunately could not control the 4 cria and one yearling death we experienced over the last two years.

It started with our yearling who acquired a rare Auto Immune Disease. I can vividly remember our veterinarian explaining to us he was very sick and that he should be euthanized. I was shocked and unprepared. I began to grieve inside and started asking myself many questions. How could this happen? Was it something we had done wrong? Why am I grieving for this animal? It is not human. It is livestock. But then I realized that we eat livestock like cows and sheep but not an alpaca. I also realized that we name our alpacas, sometimes after our own children or grandchildren. Could it be their vulnerability as a herd animal, or is it the animal's kind disposition and large endearing eyes? Could it be all of the above and more? The answer is yes. This is the side of the business which some new alpaca owners are not prepared.

Within a month we lost our second alpaca by the mother accidentally stepping on the cria. I again grieved for the cria. A few months later we lost another cria who lived approximately 1 week. The cria died from sepsis, more than likely from failure of passive transfer (FPT). And once again, questioned have we done something wrong and whether this was a business I wanted to continue.

In 2011 we lost our third cria. We made another trip to U.C. Davis for a Dam with a serious dystocia.

Two months later and our most recent cria death were a premature cria and that weighed only 9 pounds. We transported her also to U.C. Davis. To make a sad story short after 4 days of progress, the cria turned for the worst on the 5th day and we had the cria euthanized. This type of cria death is the hardest to deal with because of the emotional roller coaster. Dealing with the emotional side of trying to save a life of an animal, especially that has significant potential, can cloud the financial decision as to when to put down the animal. This also can compound the grieving process. Should we have done more or less?

To grieve for an alpaca is not a question of to grieve or not to grieve, it is a fact, and you will feel sorrow and distress. The sorrow and distress will certainly not be as great or as long as losing a loved one, but you will feel it. Some have said we have had really bad luck. Luck, whether good or bad, has nothing to do with relieving the grief. Whether it is one alpaca or five, your emotions to that one alpaca death will affect you. I wrote this short article in an attempt to bring recognition to this fact. If you decide to get into the alpaca business, or are in the business but have yet experienced a death, be prepared to grieve for these kind animals. Also be prepared to question your ability in taking appropriate action in caring for your alpacas. If you know someone or are mentoring someone who is thinking about entering into the alpaca business, why not discuss the potential death of an alpaca and make sure they are prepared, if being prepared is even possible. Grieving for an animal such as an alpaca is not an unnatural emotion, and will more than likely not affect your wanting to raise and care for these animals. The fun side of the business outweighs the bad and if anything the experience will make you a better person. I know I am.

Send Advertising and Articles via email attachment (or CD's via snail-mail) to:.

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Alpacas of Somerset Farm
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Somerset CA, 95684
530- 620-6033
dljordan@live.com

Make checks payable to: Calpaca c/o Dianna Jordan and mail to PO Box 190, Somerset, CA 95684

DEADLINES ARE FIRM! Both advertising copy and articles must be received by the deadline or they will not be published until the following issue. Payments for advertising must be received within seven days of submitting advertising (via email) or mailed with CD's.

Winter December 15th Spring April 15th Summer July 15th Fall October 15th

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Stud advertising and **Cria** announcements **with pictures** and text are considered paid advertising.

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Note: Please allow 1/2 inch margins when submitting copy electronically

It is not necessary to use a specific margin size. Use either Times New Roman or Arial (size 10). and either Times New Roman or Ariel when submitting articles

ADVERTISING AND BUSINESS CARDS must be submitted electronically via email or CD.

File format must be: .jpg (jpeg)

If the file size is large, send it on a CD. Please remember that a low quality file will not print that well, especially ½ or full page color ads, so if you want quality ads and business cards, send them on a CD to ensure quality.

If you do not have your ad or business card in electronic format and you do not own or have access to a scanner, you may arrange with the Editor to mail a hardcopy (actual business card or good quality copy of your advertisement) and have it scanned. If your business cards are done professionally, the designer will often provide you with artwork on a CD as a courtesy.

Please submit your advertising the way you want it to appear, Stud, Agistment and Classified advertising will appear the way it is submitted. The Editor will not re-write them.

ARTICLES AND OTHER TEXT FILES should be emailed **as attachments**, using Microsoft Word (if possible). You can also send text directly in an email but it must be exactly as you want it. The Editor will "copy/paste" your email text directly into the newsletter layout. **The Editor does not correct author errors (spelling, grammar, etc.)**

The editor may edit articles for content and especially for length. Articles should fit about a page of text *8.5 x 11), Ariel font, 10-point. If the subject is of high importance to the membership, an article may run two or more pages.

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Upcoming 2012 Calpaca Events

May 19 Quarterly Membership Meeting,
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August 11 Quarterly Membership Meeting,
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October 20-21 Gold Country Gathering,
Grass Valley, CA

November 10, Quarterly Membership Meeting,
Arapaho Ranch, Redding, CA

See the events section of the Calpaca site
www.calpaca.org for details

The Calpaca Connection
c/o Dianna Jordan, Editor
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"Captured At The Classic "
Photos by Maureen Macedo



Look for more information about the 2012 California Classic in the Summer Connection