

# CONNECTION

Summer 2012



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

## 2012 Board of Directors

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Top row (L to R) Dennis, Kay, David  
Front row (L to R) Joyce, Laurie

## Calpaca Membership Chair



### **Lin Murray**

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## Connection Editor



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## Affiliations

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### **Alpaca Registry Inc "ARI"**

5901 N 28th St — Ste 100  
Lincoln NE 68504  
402-437-8484  
402-437-8488 Fax  
[Ari@alpacreistry.net](mailto:Ari@alpacreistry.net)

### **Alpaca Research Foundation**

"ARF"

[www.alpacaresearchfoundation.org](http://www.alpacaresearchfoundation.org)

### **International Lama Registry**

"ILR"

[www.lamaregistry.com](http://www.lamaregistry.com)

### **Alpaca Fiber Coop of N America (AFCNA)**

[www.AFCNA.com](http://www.AFCNA.com)  
[www.americasalpacas.com](http://www.americasalpacas.com)

## Calpaca Website Administrator

*Joan Clappier*

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### ***A Message From Calpaca's President***

The most common questions you probably here when you encourage an alpaca owner to join CALPACA is “why should I belong to CALPACA? What will it do for me?” I have had owners ask me if CALPACA would help them sell their animals, if it would get more people to stop by their ranch, would it give them more credibility over other ranches that did not belong. Simply belonging to CALPACA will not provide any of those things. Associations are built around people, who through their common interest benefit from belonging to a group where they can share their ideas, experiences, hopes and fears. The association's leadership exists simply to manage the finances and create opportunities for the membership to gather and share their knowledge. Association benefits are found among the individuals and their collective knowledge. These benefits come from working together to learn how others in our industry have approached the same projects we are about to undertake. The potential for CALPACA is that when these individuals choose to work together to brainstorm ways to make their shared vision better, they are capable of “creating their own weather”, which can propel our entire group forward. Found in these tornados of change are leaders, visionaries, planners and workers. It takes all types of people with all levels of commitment to create the perfect storm. Without everyone's participation, the association's strength is diminished to no more than a transient dust devil, disappearing quickly from sight. So when you are asked “what will the association do for me?” the answer is nothing, unless you participate in the association, because that is where the answers to your questions can be found. In the bigger picture, will belonging to this association really make a difference in the alpaca industry? I think it can, because when we all work together, we are a force to be reckoned with, because together, we are CALPACA.

*Dennis Rabe, President*

### ***A Message From The Connection Editor***

Welcome to the summer issue of the CONNECTION. For many of us the birthing season is behind us and we are enjoying the results as they prunk around the pastures. I am excited to share the information and articles gathered for this issue of the CONNECTION. I want to extend my appreciation and thank you to those who contributed.

Lin Murray tells us how to receive ‘Gifts from the IRS’ on page 8. If you want to learn the “ins and outs” of Spin-off Competitions check out Julie Roy's article starting on page 10. Laurie Findlay gives us a peek into the world of the “Road Warriors” on page 12. Read about Calpaca members, the Hoeflinger and Bradys, in the news on pages 16 and 22. Joyce Judy presents the “Winners” from the California Classic on page 24. Starting on page 25 is a wonderful article about a very special girl and her very special PR alpaca written by her proud, and rightfully so, mother Sharon Turner. On page 28, Carrie Hull talks about the breeding for uniformity.

Don't forget to check out the Classified section. Remember, listings in the Classifieds are FREE to Calpaca members. Details can be found on page 34. Have you thought about placing your Business Card in the Connection? The pricing is reasonable and that is a great way to let other Calpaca members know about your business or ranch.

I hope you have a wonderful and safe summer.

*Dianna Jordan, Connection Editor*

# Meeting Minutes—5-19-2012

**Welcome** – Dennis welcomed everyone to our quarterly meeting at R&R Alpacas, Robin and Richard Vasquez. Dennis thanked them for having us and meeting was called to order at 10:35. All Board members were present except Laurie, who was on cria watch.

**Approve minutes** from February meeting as posted on web site – Dave Scroggins made motion to approve minutes and Joyce Judy seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer Report** – Dave advised that we have \$94,208.00 in our combined accounts. That includes all show accounts, Connection, Maximizer and regular checking. We are updating Quick Books to make accounting easier for everyone. Dave also advised that our insurance carrier, Allied Insurance can cover our shows and that will save us more money.

**Membership Report** – Joyce was happy to say we have 132 total members with 13 new members since January. We are looking to start a membership committee that would consist of 3-5 persons to come up with ideas to improve our membership benefits and find ways to retain existing members. Anyone interested, please contact Joyce or Dennis.

**Connection Update** – Laurie and Dianna were not present but some Members did get their Connection the day before our meeting and reported that Dianna is doing a great job! We will be trying to get the Connection out 1 month prior to our Quarterly meetings so due dates may be changing in order to accomplish this.

## OLD BUSINESS:

**CA Classic** – follow up report – Joyce received many questionnaires back and the main problems this year were parking fees for the public and electrical issues for the venue. We will be working on ways to fix these problems. All in all though, the show was a great success and was well thought of by those who attended.

**UC Davis Scholarships Awarded** – Dave advised that two \$2,000 scholarships were awarded this month and the two students that received them are Alice Chad and Emily Mietrzeda. The scholarship fund and endowment funds were started in 2008 by Rick Brady. Since that time, Calpaca has put in \$21,688 in the endowment fund and given at least \$2,000 or more in scholarship money. The endowment fund was sort of lost for a few years as to where to send money so to get back on track; we will be giving the endowment fund \$5,000 this year from the general fund and \$5,000 in 2013 to get caught up. The goal is to get \$100,000 in the endowment fund so the interest will pay for the scholarships.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Winagenerator** – Laurie will be handling this from now on but Dave brought the generator to meeting and has the tickets ready to go! Tickets for the new raffle will be \$25 each with a total of 150 tickets being sold. This is a John Deere 4001 with wheel kit for easier moving. We want to congratulate Dennis Lily from Lily of the Valley Alpacas for winning the Winagator at our February meeting. Good luck to all that purchase generator tickets. We hope to hold the drawing at Gold Country Gathering.

**Lambtown** – Joyce advised that the show will be October 6-7 this year, a two day event. Calpaca will only have a booth this year and we are looking for volunteers to man the booth at the show. Cost of rental space is \$35. We want to be toward the front of the venue and not in the back with the sheep as before. If you are interested, please contact a board member.

**State Fair** – Dennis has been looking at the State Fair registration book and deadline for entries is June 15. Fees are very reasonable for this event and gets more public than any of our shows. Alpacas are eligible to enter any of the llama classes and you must enter all class divisions to go for the championship. Deb Galway advises that this is the best marketing with more than 8,000 people going through the barns a day! This is an air conditioned building and show dates are July 26-29 but entry deadline in June 15. There is a lot of paperwork to fill out, so don't miss out!

**Gold Country Gathering** – Kay is trying to get the forms done so we can open registration and spin off. Our Judge is Sara Jane MacLennan and the show dates are October 20-21, 2012. We are looking for volunteers for many positions, so please contact Kay or Eva if you would like to help.

**Symposium update** – The Symposium board was not present but they are still waiting to close the books from this year and move forward to 2013. 2 alpacas were auctioned off at California Classic to support this event so we look forward to more information as it becomes available.

*Minutes continued on page 18....Minutes*

## **Welcome New Members**

### **Calpaca welcomes our newest members:**

**Barros, Jim and James**, Simi Valley, CA

**Evans, Megan**, Winters, CA

**Zacho, Christine**, Grasshopper Springs Ranch, Pearblossom, CA

**Zarcufsky, Rama**, Furry Friends Alpacas, Arcata, CA

## **Calpaca Industry Volunteers**

Volunteers are unpaid helpers who are without a doubt, the backbone of strong organizations, associations, and events. As a group, volunteers donate countless hours of a limited and valuable resource...time. As individuals, they share their valuable time and unique talents with others. The following Calpaca members have extended their volunteering beyond our local affiliate to serve the alpaca industry.

### **Alpaca Owner and Breeders Association (AOBA)**

#### **Board of Directors:**

**Tom Petersen**, Alpacas All Around, AOBA Director

Liaison: GIRCOM, Communications Committee, Affiliate Communication

**Dianna Jordan**, Alpacas of Somerset Farm, AOBA Director/Secretary

Liaison: Communications Committee, Affiliate Communication, Fiber Committee

#### **Committees:**

**Kathleen Friend**, Friendly Farm Alpacas, Affiliate Grant Committee

### **Alpaca Registry, Inc. (ARI)**

#### **Board of Directors**

**Bonnie Potter**, ARI President, Fairwinds Alpacas

Liaison: GIRCOM

#### **Committees:**

**Joan Clappier**, Opus Two Alpacas, Government and Industry Relations (GIRCOM) secretary, joint committee between ARI and AOBA

### **International Alpaca Odyssey Show (IAO)**

#### **Board of Directors**

**Kay Rodriguez**, Lazy K Alpacas, President and chair

**Jan Davis**, Derwydd Alpacas, Treasurer

**Lisa Thies**, K-T-Lee Alpacas, Director

**Dale Davis**, Derwydd Alpacas, Director



## Featured Ranch

### R&R Ranch

R&R Alpacos Ranch is operated by Richard and Robin Vasquez. This holistic ranch is located on 20 acres on the south bound side of Hwy 101 just north of Gilroy California. The land was once a prune orchard planted and taken care of by Robin's father and then from 1990 to 2005, it had been used for row crops. Richard and Robin decided to turn the land back into a working ranch and began the search for a livestock animal to raise. From the day they discovered alpacas, it has been a whirlwind adventure. In May of 2006 they brought home their first 23 alpacas and two guard llamas. The herd has grown quickly and they now own over 150 alpacas. They have two teams of Maremma's that watch over and protect the herd.

Most recently the Vasquez's have become very interested in and have invested in the fiber aspect of alpacas. Richard and Robin went to New Hampshire to participate in an educational course taught by the "Coarse Broads" about sorting and grading fibers for the textile industry and Robin is now an apprentice in the sorting program. They have also purchased fiber milling equipment and are learning more about fiber and its processing requirements every day. The long term goal is to

establish a line of alpaca products.



Richard and Robin are continuing to learn about fiber and adjust their breeding program to produce the highest grade, most profitable fiber possible. Their tag line is "We Love Them Alpacas" and they want the world to know just how great they are. Their goal is to have healthy and happy alpacas. Contact Robin for a ranch visit to see the operation first hand.

Richard and Robin Vasquez  
325 b Denio Avenue  
Gilroy, California  
95020-9203 USA  
Ranch Ph:(408) 842-5233  
Richard Cell: (408) 710-7911  
Robin Cell: (408) 710-0676  
[rv@lovethemalpacas.com](mailto:rv@lovethemalpacas.com)



## Calpaca Membership Meeting

**August 11, 2012**

Alpacas of El Dorado  
Scott and Laurie Findlay  
4535 Boo Bear Lane  
530-642-8082

info@alpacasofeldorado.com  
alpacasofeldorado@hughes.net

### Agenda

9:00am— Continental Breakfast available before and during the business meeting

**10:00am to 12:00pm**—Business Meeting

**12:00pm to 1:30pm**—Lunch Pot Luck! Please bring dishes to share and we'll provide beverages and other extras.

**1:30pm-3:30pm**—Guest speaker : Joe Preston from Open Herd — “Marketing Obstacles and Successes”

**3:30pm**—Social Wine Tasting

**Please RSVP**

**REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS!**

**Parking is limited—NO TRAILERS PLEASE!**

**No Power?**

**No Problem!**

**WIN-A-GENERATOR**

**Support the Calpaca  
Scholarship Fundraiser**

**\$25 per ticket**

**(Only 150 tickets)**

Tickets will be available at the  
August Calpaca meeting or  
contact a board member.



**John Deere G4000H  
4000 Watt Honda Gas Engine  
with handle and wheel kit**

## Tax Tips

### Gifts from the IRS?

By Lin Murray, Lassen View Alpacas

One feels that the IRS does not often *give* ...but in carefully reading your IRS regulations some "gifts" can be found. I have a favorite, often miscalculated deduction. Most of you probably take this deduction but the IRS actually gives you a bit of a gift on this one.

This deduction is found in your business travel expenses. Traveling to a show or dropping a female off for breeding? Is this an overnight trip? Most of you know that your meals are 50% deductible on these trips as long as the expenses are not "extravagant". Reading the instructions for the Schedule F, there is a short note in the instructions regarding travel expenses.

The Schedule F instructions say you can "deduct expenses for farm and business travel and 50% of your business meals and entertainment. But there are exceptions and limitations. See the instructions for Schedule C". So you turn to Schedule C and are instructed that "business meal expenses are deductible only if they are (a) directly related to or associated with the active conduct of your trade or business, (b) not lavish or extravagant and (c) incurred while you or your employee is present at the meal." Most people know this but many do not read much further. If you do, you will find a section called "**Standard meal allowance**". In this section is the gift from the IRS! This section reads:

**Standard meal allowance.** Instead of deducting the actual cost of your meals while traveling away from home, you can use the standard meal allowance for your meals and incidental expenses. ***Under this method, you deduct a specified amount, depending on where you travel, instead of your actual meal expenses.*** However, you must still keep records to prove the time, place, and business purpose of your travel. The standard meal allowance is the federal M&IE rate. You can find these rates on the Internet at [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov). Click on "Per Diem Rates" for links to locations inside and outside the continental United States.

What does this mean to you? Let's say you go to the California Classic Show and stayed in Pleasanton. You've bought your ticket for the dinner. You paid \$30 for your ticket. You bought lunch too....maybe \$6 for your sandwich. So the \$36 is deductible at 50% or \$18. When you log-on to the [gsa.gov](http://gsa.gov) and enter Pleasanton you will find the Meals rate for that area is \$61! Using the per diem rate of \$61 x 50% you can deduct \$31 for that day's meals instead of \$18.

Most cities have a per diem rate of \$46 for 2011 and are still holding at that rate for 2012 but do check the table for the city you are staying in – there can be some big savings. An important note: the first and last day of travel is only calculated at 75% of the meal & incidentals rate.

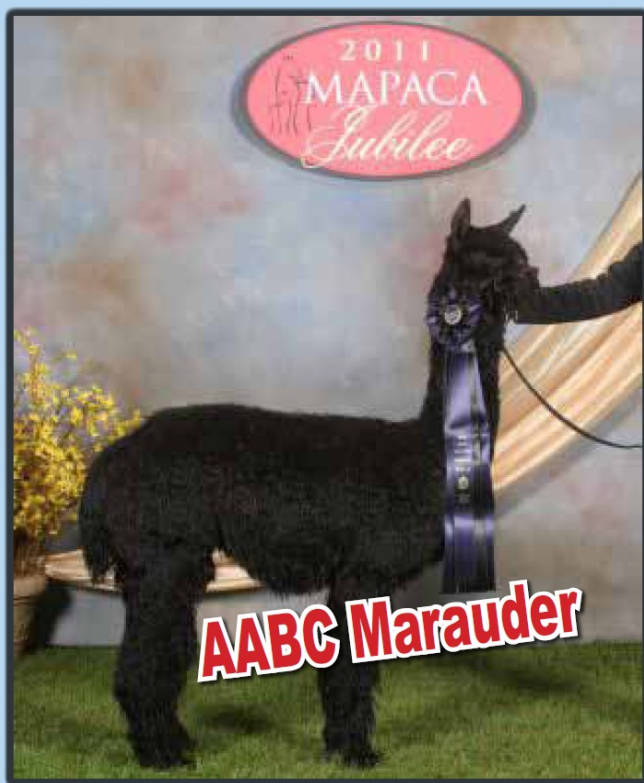
ie: the last day at Pleasanton would be  $\$61 \times 75\% \times 50\% = \$23$  per person.

I keep a spreadsheet of cities traveled and look up the cities as I go and enter the rates so at the end of the year, I can easily calculate the total deduction.

This article is for informational only and not intended as tax advice. Further information can be found at the IRS website [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

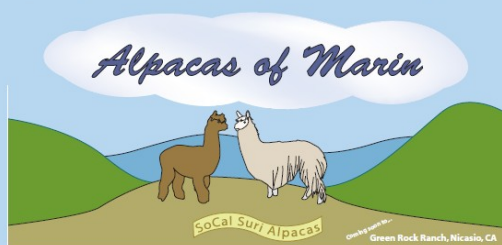
## Coming soon to Alpacas of Marin Champion AABC Marauder

*My first SURI is a Multi-Champion True Black Herdsire!*



### See what Kathy Stumpf of Prairie Lake Alpacas has to say about him:

"WOW! When we saw this male, we knew we had to have him! We purchased him just before he entered the show ring at Mapaca. Solid, true, blue black with locking to rival any white, Marauder impressed the judges as well! Champion at 2010 Mapaca, the judges comments included that he was the "most unique black male they had ever seen in any country!" They liked him so much that they kept him in the ring after naming the Judges Choice winner to specifically call out his attributes to the audience and stated later that they would have named him judges choice, but, due to the fact that he had been belly shorn, they had to give it to the other male as they could not adequately compare density. We can't wait to have him start his breeding career! Thank you Gail Campbell for allowing us to purchase this magnificent male."

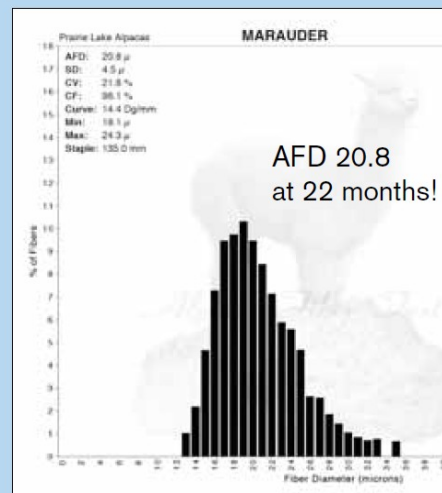


Sandy Wallace 626.818.3148 • e-mail: woodwan@earthlink.net  
Standing at Alpacas of Windy Hill through the summer 2012.  
Call 805-386-2394 to arrange breedings.



## AWARDS

- 🏆 First 2011 PAOBA Breeders Showcase
- 🏆 First 2011 MAPACA
- 🏆 Second 2011 MAPACA Fleece Show
- 🏆 First 2010 MAPACA
- 👑 Champion 2010 MAPACA
- 🏆 First 2009 MABA
- 🏆 Reserve Champion 2009 MABA



## Focus On Fiber

### What I Learned from Alpaca Spin-Off Competitions

By Julie Roy, Alpacas of Anza Valley

#### When the Results Come Back... It's like Opening a Christmas Present

The Priority Mail box arrived just before Thanksgiving. I quickly opened it because I knew the results from the Virginia Alpaca Owners & Breeders (VAOBA) Handcrafter's Spin-Off which I entered 3 months earlier waited inside. I mailed in 3 samples of my huacaya grey breeding program to get an objective evaluation on the quality of the fleece from a judge on the east coast. I selected fleece samples from a grey juvenile, a grey yearling and a 2 year old rose grey male I wanted to use as a breeder. (I choose to enter Spin-Offs because I only need to send in 2 ozs of skirted fleece and I get back the un-spun fleece and a small skein of spun yarn along with the spinner's comments on 14 different criteria.) The registration fee was nominal and the shipping fee was certainly within my budget. ***I anticipated they would do well... maybe a blue ribbon?***

I choose to enter Spin-Offs because I only need to send in 2 ozs of skirted fleece and I get back the un-spun fleece and a small skein of spun yarn along with the spinner's comments on 14 different criteria.

I pulled out the first bag of the un-spun 2 ozs of fleece and a very beautiful small skein of medium grey spun yarn. The written comments on the score card were very positive and the total of 85 points put my juvenile grey female in first place out of 5 entries. How exciting, AAV Twilight's first "Blue Ribbon"... now to the next bag of fleece. The scorecard showed a total of 86 points and out of 6 entries in the grey yearling class, AAV Dusty's Donovan took first place. His medium grey skein of yarn felt just scrumptious.

***Okay... a reality check here.*** I've earned several blue ribbons in the past because I only send in the ones I feel are the best, however; I knew this VAOBA was a difficult show... many large east coast breeders submit fleece to be judged at this show. After all it's the feedback from the judges that really motivates me to submit my samples. ***So any placement is all right with me.*** What were the chances that the rose grey male's fleece would also be appraised as high quality? Sweeping all age groups within a color category would be quite an accomplishment for a small breeder like me.

I'm sharing this little story with you to encourage you to consider submitting some of the fleece from your best alpacas to one of the numerous Spin-Offs around the country.

I hesitated only briefly... I wanted to know the results on the judge's scorecard and find AAV Breitling's Durango's placement. The comments were positive. The points added up to 82 and the placement... OMG, positioned his entry in first place out of 3. I became giddy as I pulled out 3 beautiful blue ribbons from the box. Out of 14 grey entries, my little ranch took 3 firsts, the animals did not have to leave their paddocks and I received the results in the mail! ***How great is that?***

I have been entering Spin-Offs for several years now and these VAOBA show results were among my best total placements for 3 entries. I'm sharing this little story with you to encourage you to consider submitting some of the fleece from your best alpacas to one of the numerous Spin-Offs around the country. It really is easy! (Read the simple rules below.)

#### Using Spin-Off Results for Marketing Purposes and Making Breeding Decisions

It's impressive to a prospective client to see a "***wall of blue ribbons***", however; that's not the only reason I enter these competitions. I have learned so much about my fleeces from the spinner's comment cards. The valuable feedback and small hand-spun skeins of yarn assist my decisions in many ways. I compare and contrast the results of the same alpaca over multiple year spans. I display the skeins for prospective alpaca owners to feel and gain knowledge about fiber in general.

These small Spin-Off skeins aid my decisions on which alpaca fleeces I select for commercial processing too. Based on the results I settle on which fleeces I will blend and the best ways to process the rest of the blanket.

One well skirted blanket can yield about 3 – 4 bags of fleece for Spin-Offs through out the year. I frequently register the same alpaca for multiple Spin-Offs, just so I can get a variety of spinner's remarks. When I receive a uniform and consistent written result about a certain alpaca, then I know the outcomes are valid and I will publicize those results. (See scorecard examples at the end.)

I also include the written results into the equation when I make some of my pairings and breeding decisions. And if a collection of comments are not as favorable for one particular male, then at the time when I need to determine the future of that male, it's easier to decide that he would be a better "fiber boy" instead of a stud.

.....continued on next page

At a recent halter show, I brought the written cards and samples of yarn from 2 years of Spin-Offs to illustrate the quality of fiber from the offspring of my main grey stud. The alpaca breeders that purchased breedings to him liked handling **“the proof of quality”** of offspring he produced. They could touch the product and read about the character of the fiber. These small samples aided their final decision to go with him over other grey males.

### How To Register For A Spin-Off



1. Choose a show that offers an AOBA Certified Handcrafters Spin-Off and plan early to prepare your fleece. (They accept entries about 3 - 4 months prior to a show because the spinners need the lead time to judge.)
2. Complete the Online Registration Form, or print out the written form.
3. Select a uniform 2.5 ozs of prime blanket fleece with at least 3 inch staple length. Skirt it and place it gently in a clear gallon bag (I find when I keep all the tips facing in one direction; I get better marks for “Presentation.”)
4. Weigh the bag to be sure you will have more than the minimum 2 ozs and not over the maximum 4 ozs allowed. (They deduct points if your sample falls outside the requirements.)
5. Make a copy of the ARI certificate and include a photograph no larger than 4x6 of the alpaca in full fleece. (I place mine in a clear plastic page protector.)
6. Print a copy of the website generated fleece tags. (If the show is not using online registration, then you will need to write out the DOB, date of last shearing and determine the days of growth of fiber since shearing.)
7. Place the fleece tag in your bag of fleece.
8. Mail your samples with the appropriate check amount to the Spin-Off coordinator before the postmark deadline. (I also include return postage so that I receive my samples and ribbons back after the show.)
9. All entries are judged prior to the show and the results are on display for the entire weekend of the show. It's fun to visit the show if you can and then compare your results to the others in the same class.

### Conclusion

You have no animals to enter, haul, show, or clean up pens all weekend. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3..... And sometimes the show organizers will promote the winners with inclusion on their websites and also email blasts – **free advertising!**

Perhaps, you have those “special” fleeces that you have reserved. Maybe you just haven't gotten the time to skirt and prepare the whole blanket for a fleece show, so instead pull out a little more than 2 oz and get it working for you. Before time runs out on the shearing year, why not get your fleeces into the hands of the spinners and go home with a spun sample of alpaca's fleece for your marketing package.

Your sample is compared to others in the same class and based on this objective evaluation; ribbons are usually awarded 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> place along with some special judge ribbons. You will be given the spinner's evaluation card along with your alpaca's spun fiber. This sample can then be used for unlimited marketing purposes. And the cost for these results is... **priceless!**

*Julie Roy and her husband Don have operated Alpacas of Anza Valley since the fall of 2004. The Roy's specialize in inspiring and educating the new alpaca owner by providing a free newsletter, seminars and a series of educational interviews of experts in the alpaca industry. They offer a full service of boarding, breeding and alpaca sales. Julie is a certified business coach for entrepreneurs around the country. She is an active member of the Board of Directors for the SoCalpaca affiliate and has served as the chair of the Education Committee for 2 years. She is also a member of the Joint AOBA – ARI Education Committee since the fall of 2010.*

*Julie can be reached at 951-763-4222, [www.AlpacasAV.com](http://www.AlpacasAV.com)*

**.....See examples of completed score cards on page 14**

## Inside The Show Ring with Laurie Findlay

### *ROAD WARRIORS*

**By Laurie Findlay, Alpacas of El Dorado**

Sometimes it's not the alpaca show that's the battle; it is how you get there.

When you think about it, there are many women I know that are driving trucks and hauling trailers packed with alpacas to the many shows throughout the spring and fall. Formerly some of these women held corporate jobs, were in sales, teachers or stayed at home and raised their family. In the world of "Alpacas" these women sometimes have to be the ones to pack the truck and trailer and drive all across the U.S. if they want to attend these shows. I am trying to be one of them.

Some of us call ourselves "Road Warriors". We get up before dawn, load up our alpacas, our gear and ourselves and head out on the road. I usually claim "shotgun" so I can appear as a lookout. I find citing particular animals along the road and commenting on various sites must be soothing for the driver. We've got our GPS along and various other devices to keep us headed in the right direction noting various motels and eateries along the way for the drive back home. There are some amazing truck stops on the road and after you've been doing this awhile you get to know which ones have the best bathrooms, coffee and of course the best food. Not to forget, the wonderful motels we stop at along our way.



Usually we try and connect with other "alpaca transporters" going the same way and meet up for lunch or dinner. We did this on the famous 2011 Futurity run heading towards Grand Island, Nebraska. All heading in the same direction we connected by iPods, Laptops, and cell phones with other show goers in Laramie, Wyoming. I80 had become closed going over the pass so we all stopped at a very nice Mexican restaurant for lunch. It was a convergence of alpaca ranches and transporters. Alan Cousil and Jude Anderson, Randy and Barbara Coleman, Dale Davis, Dee Souza, myself and a few other people pulling in for the wait. After a great lunch we all headed up I80 to go over the now opened pass.

It was great traveling together, kind of a "wagon train", and we women, the "Road Warriors" felt a camaraderie with our fellow alpaca transporters. Gradually noticing the weather getting a little dicey my duty became to keep the driver calm by my running commentary of the fact that the road was not only getting icy but seemed to be getting more narrow as the snow was coming down harder and harder. I kept thinking "where are the signs for chain controls?" not realizing that you are really on your own once you get out of California. After seeing several truck and trailers veering all over the road and witnessing many cars sliding off the road, we decided to check in with our fellow transporters and see what their thoughts about continuing on might be.

It was decided that we pull off at the next truck stop, fuel up and decide what our next plan would be. As luck would have it, exactly when the "Road Warriors" turned into the truck stop, a Motel 6 appeared. Our driver decided that she had had enough for one night listening to my hyperventilating and we got the last room available. With tequila and wine in hand I communicated with the rest of the wagon train by lap top. Randy and Barbara Coleman being well seasoned drivers continued on into the night, stopping only to put their chains on. Alan and Jude, deciding to follow, later made a comment, Crikey! "I couldn't even use my chains, my trailer doors were frozen shut, and I couldn't even get them out!" Justin Timm and crew, who were hauling for Park View, were stuck on an off ramp trying to get to their motel less than a half mile away. All of us connected through the internet, by the "Road Warriors" safe in our motel room, tequila and wine in abundance. All eventually getting to our destination in Grand Island, we had stories to tell for all to hear.

So the next time you are on the road and you pass a truck and trailer with a woman driving, give her a "High Five!" she might be a "Road Warrior" and heading to or from parts unknown. She'll most likely be packing tequila, wine and an internet device to connect with all of her fellow alpaca aficionados.

*6 Peruvian (Accoyo) Chachapoya*

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**E  
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***Co-owned with Pucara International  
and Derwydd Alpacas***

# Focus On Fiber

...continued from page 11

## Judge's Scorecards

For illustrative purposes, I included 2 Judge's comment cards for the same fawn yearling female alpaca. The fleece was skirted from the same blanket and submitted at the same time to 2 different shows; STAR and ABR Fall Festival in the fall of 2010.

As you can imagine I'm thrilled with the results of the ABR... getting a total of 100 points out of 100 seems like the ultimate triumph. However; I learned more about the fleece from the judge's comments from the STAR show. I feel the comments reveal more about the crimp, staple architecture, uniformity and fineness characteristics of the fiber and yarn that I can use in my breeding programs. I'm also delighted with the 82 points and a 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of 9 entries.

I hope that you will review the 14 different characteristics and consider how valuable the feedback would be for your alpaca herd. Regardless of where you place in any given show, entering a Spin-Off and getting the results mailed back to you, is like **anticipating the opening of a long-awaited Christmas present.**

FAV Green Jazzy Dec 5/25/08

### HANDCRAFTERS' SPIN-OFF JUDGE'S SCORECARD - HUACAYA ©AOBA 2007 TO BE COMPLETED IN INK

SHOW: STAR 1st Annual Spin-off Competition CLASS NO.: H-FAWN-B ENTRY NO: 95 PLACEMENT: 2 OF 9

Criteria	Points possible	Points given	Comments
First Impression	10	8	soft, fairly clean
Staple Length - min. 3"	5	5	4 3/4-5 inches
Cleanliness	10	9	quite clean, very little VM
Lack of Second Cuts	5	5	1 tiny 2nd cut
Lack of guard hair	5	3	almost no guard hair
Crimp	5	3	weak, but organized
Staple (Architecture)	5	3	moderate structure
Uniformity	10	9	mostly uniform
Fineness	10	9	very fine
Hand	5	4	nice, but tips detract
Ease of Preparation for Spinning	10	8	fairly easy, had to open tips
Ease of Spinning	10	9	some sticky spots due to tips
Hand Feel, Softness of Yarn & Loft	5	4	nice softness, medium loft
Brightness	5	3	medium brightness
Weight - deduction *see rule book		0	
<b>Total points</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>soft attractive yarn</b>

Judge's Signature: Kate Menzies Date: 11-3-10

### HANDCRAFTERS' SPIN-OFF JUDGE'S SCORECARD - HUACAYA ©AOBA 2007 TO BE COMPLETED IN INK

SHOW: 2010 ABR Fall Festival Spin-Off CLASS NO. 112 ENTRY NO. 108 PLACEMENT OF 3 6/25/09

Criteria	Points possible	Points given	Comments
First impression	10	10	Gorgeous! Great presentation
Staple length - min. 3 inches	5	5	Good length
Cleanliness	10	10	Very Clean!
Lack of second cuts	5	5	
Lack of guard hair	5	5	
Crimp	5	5	
Staple (Architecture)	5	5	
Uniformity	10	10	
Fineness	10	10	
Hand	5	5	
Ease of preparation for spinning	10	10	Easy
Ease of spinning	10	10	Easy!
Hand feel, softness of yarn & loft	5	5	A lovely soft yarn suitable for baby wear & next to skin
Brightness	5	5	
Weight - deduction if less than 2 oz.			I would process into a fingering or sport weight.
<b>TOTAL points</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE Barbara Edelman DATE Oct 15, 2010

**COLOR CHAMPIONS**  
**SIRED BY COLOR CHAMPIONS**



**HOT STUFF**  
**3x Black RCC**  
ARI: 31542180



**WISP OF SMOKE**  
**1x Color Champion**  
**1x RCC**  
**Solid Med Rose Grey**  
ARI: 31802451

**GVA KOOTENAY**  
**1x Color Champion**  
**Light Fawn**  
ARI: 32102161



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## Calpaca Members In The News



### Shear Adventure

By Jodie Reyna  
Mid Valley Publishing staff  
Thursday, April 12, 2012

*Dinuba resident and Reedley High School instructor Roger Hoeflinger, right, trims the toenails of an alpaca while the animal is being sheared earlier this month. Hoeflinger and his wife raise and sell alpacas and products made from alpaca fleece.*



A dream that began as a brochure hanging on a refrigerator for 10 years is now a reality for Dinuba residents Roger and Maxine Hoeflinger. Roger Hoeflinger's dream of starting his own alpaca herd became a reality four years ago. He houses 14 alpacas on a three-acre ranch owned by Lowell Kliewer just north of Reedley. He also cares for 8 alpacas owned by Kliewer.

Hoeflinger, who is also a 25-year history teacher at Reedley High School, recently called on his unlimited crew of Reedley High students when the animals needed their annual shearing this spring. The students gladly lent a helping hand over spring break. Of the 16 students who turned out for the event on April 2, some were Future Farmers of America members, including Breanna Jacobsen of Squaw Valley.

"I like animals, so it's fun for me," Jacobsen, a junior, said. "I am a barrel racer so I am used to working with horses, but alpacas are more like cats — they each have their own personality." This is the second year that Jacobsen has attended the shearing activity. She is also one of many students who Hoeflinger has hired to assist him with the animals year-round.

Every Wednesday after school, Jacobsen and her sister, Victoria Gray, work at the ranch and help train the young alpacas to prepare them for shows. Gray said she has enjoyed getting to know the animals over the past year, however, she discovered that alpacas are known for occasionally spitting. "It's fun, but I don't like getting spit on," she said. One of her jobs is to train the alpacas to stand close enough to a her so their trainer can lift up their lips in order for the judges to see their teeth.

Hoeflinger is thankful for the assistance that his students have provided during the shearing events and throughout the year. When his granddaughter was born in Michigan, Hoeflinger said he called upon his students to watch his herd for three weeks and was especially proud of their dependability and the great job they did.

During the shearing event, each alpaca yielded up to 6 pounds of fleece. Some of the alpacas, especially the males, had fleece that was several inches deep. The shearing was performed by a professional shearer, Kris Kelly of Redding. Cutting the alpacas' fleece does not hurt them and is necessary to keep them cool during the hot months ahead in the Central Valley.

Not only did the Reedley High students assist in bagging the fleece and weighing it, but they also helped with other care for the animals such as dusting them for fleas and ticks, weighing them and taking them back out to pasture.

Hoeflinger said the alpacas have turned out to be a solid investment opportunity with a viable end product — fleece. Hoeflinger offers quite a sales pitch and said their fleece is comparable to cashmere, lighter weight than wool, and seven times warmer. It is primarily used for making knitted and woven items.

**...Alpacas In The News continued on page 22**

# Black Peruvian Royal Forest



**Color Champion Fleece, 2004 OABA AlpacaFest**  
**Handspinner's Choice Fleece, 2002 AOBA National Show**  
**Breeder's Choice Fleece, 2002 AOBA National Show**  
**Reserve Grand Champion, 2001 Kentucky Classic**  
**Nine-time Blue Ribbon Winner**

- 1/2 Accoyo BLACK herdsire (son of the incredible FAWN Accoyo male, PPPeruvian Royal Fawn)
- His dense and fine fleece with high-frequency crimp has earned Champion, Handspinner's Choice and Breeder's Choice awards!
- Black Forest consistently passes his gorgeous head, strong bone structure, and extraordinary fleece to his offspring.
- He is a proven producer of many Champion offspring and sire to some of the best blacks in the country.
- Black Forest produces color, color, color: He's had only nine white or beige offspring out his first 156 registered crias.

**Friendly Farm Alpacas is thrilled to bring this legendary Champion-producer to the West Coast. Reserve a breeding today to get your cria from Black Peruvian Royal Forest!**

**Some of his Offspring...**



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Alpacas**



Kathleen L. Friend, Chico, California  
[www.FriendlyFarmAlpacas.com](http://www.FriendlyFarmAlpacas.com)

***...Minutes continued from page 4***

**Quarterly Meetings –**

August – Alpacas of Eldorado – Laurie and Scott Findlay

November – Arapaho Rose Alpacas – Karen Kelly

February 2013 – looking for a meeting place – if you are interested, please contact a board member.

**Elections** – Elections to be held at November meeting. If you are interested in running for the Board, please contact Dennis or a Board member. Rick and Pam Brady have agreed to send out ballots. Dennis term will be up and Dave and Laurie have the option of running for another 2 two years.

We will be having a new web designer working with Joan as Amy has sold Chameleon Design. Amy worked hard to find a buyer who would work with us on the changes we want to make and help with the trouble on our email. It has been eight years since the web site has been revamp and we are looking for a new look. There has also been some trouble with Mac's and our email system along with a spam attack. We are working on all this and will keep you all posted.

We also would like to remind everyone that Calpaca now has a Facebook page and we are also looking at starting an OpenHerd page. We also have Calpaca signs for \$30 each.

Our next meeting will be held at Alpacas of Eldorado.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

Ian Watts gave a presentation on ways to reduce your feeding costs and thoughts on processing your fiber.

## **AlpacaMania 2012**

<http://www.sojaa.com/AlpacaManiaHalterShow.asp>

**AOBA Certified Level II  
Spin-off, Halter, and Fleece Show.**

**Saturday Night Live Stud Auction and dinner,  
Silent Auction, People's Choice Fiber Arts Contest, photo contest, AFCNA fiber collection**

**Halter Judge: David Barboza  
Fleece Judge: Arturo Pena**

**October 13-14, 2012  
at The Expo, Central Point, Oregon**

**Early Bird registration closes 9/3/2012  
Early Bird bonus: Free 1/4 page ad in the show program.  
Registration closes 9/19/2012**

**We are looking forward to seeing you at the show!**



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## Congratulates

Deja Vu Alpacas  
Patricia Kemberling  
on the purchase of  
*Affaire' de Coeur's*  
Shania  
and  
4-Sight's Prudence  
AND

*Las Flores del Altiplano*  
Patrick Borunda and  
Marit Federcell  
on the purchase of  
4-Sight's Madison  
and 1/2 interest in  
4-Sight's Applause

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## Introducing our new Champion Studs



### LKR Total Eclipse

AWARDS

1st 2011 IAO Cottage Halter

1st 2011 California Classic

**Color Champion**

2011 California Classic

1st 2011 Alpacamania

**Color Champion**

2011 Alpacamania

1st 2011 Alpacamania

*Breeders Best*

1st 2011 Gold Country

Gathering

**Color Champion** 2011 Gold

Country Gathering

**2nd Breeders Best** 2011

Gold Country Gathering

1st 2012 California Classic

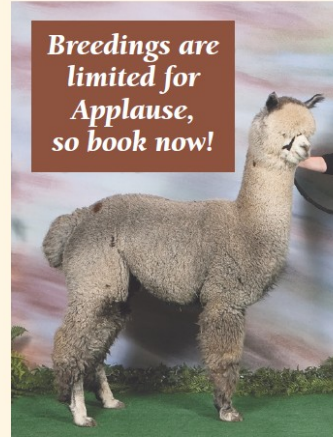
(no Champ)

1st 2012 AOBA Nationals

**Color Champion** 2012 AOBA

Nationals

**Undefeated in halter!**



### 4-Sight's Applause

AWARDS

1st 2011 California Classic

1st 2011 AOBA Nationals

1st 2011 Alpacamania (shorn)

1st 2011 Gold Country

Gathering

**Res. Color Champion**

Gold Country Gathering

1st 2012 IAO Cottage Halter

**Color Champion** 2012 IAO

Cottage Halter

**Best Head** 2012 IAO

**Spinners Dream** 2012 IAO

1st 2012 IAO Commercial

Fleece

**Color Champion** 2012 IAO

Commercial Fleece

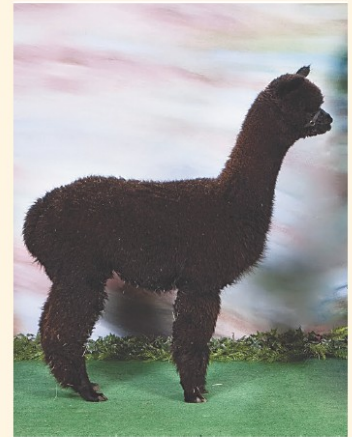
**2nd Commercial Halter**

**Reserve Color Champion**

Commercial Halter

3rd 2012 The Futurity

1st 2012 GWAS



### 4-Sight's Charlie Black

AWARDS

1st 2011 IAO Cottage Halter

1st 2011 IAO Walking Fleece

4th 2011 AOBA Nationals

1st 2012 IAO Cottage Halter

**Res. Color Champion**

2011 IAO Cottage Halter

1st 2012 IAO Walking Fleece

3rd 2012 GWAS

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**Kiernan Offspring at the 2012 CA Classic**

- \* Two Color Champions
- \* Five First Place Winners
- \* Two Second Place Winners



**Blue Ribbon Winners ~ OVA Regan, OVA Tara,  
OVA Redmond, OVA Crisdean & LV Fletcher**

Photos by Maureen Macedo



Derwydd

Accoyo

Ch'aska



**IAO Supreme Fleece  
2010**

**Sire of...**



**IAO Supreme Male Suri 2012  
IAO Spinners Dream Suri 2012  
IAO Supreme Fleece 2011**

**A California Accoyo  
Suri Herdsire C.A.S.H.**

**co-owned by Derwydd Alpacas and Alpacas of El Dorado  
Book YOUR breeding today!**

### ...Alpacas In The News continued from page 16

The Hoeflingers are members of Calpaca, the California Alpaca Breeders Association and have participated in numerous shows, including the California Classic Alpaca Show held in Pleasanton in the spring as well as the Gold Country Alpaca Show held in Grass Valley during the fall. Hoeflinger said they have never left a show without one of the animals earning a ribbon.

Not only does Hoeflinger consider his alpaca herd a business, but he also said they help provide him with peace of mind. "They help take the stress off. They are very peaceful animals," he said. At the end of a long day, Hoeflinger said he enjoys standing out in the midst of the pasture, listening to the sound of the animals which is similar to a soft "humming" noise.

In keeping with the Triple "J" Alpaca theme, Hoeflinger has named each new alpaca that he has purchased with a name that starts with "J." It has even become a game among his wife and three children to see what new "J" names they can invent.

Eventually, Hoeflinger hopes to retire and move himself, his wife and his alpaca herd to Michigan where Hoeflinger is originally from and where his children and granddaughter currently reside. For now, Hoeflinger is growing his herd in Reedley and offers farm tours for individuals or groups. The Hoeflingers have alpacas for sale and also sell items made from alpaca fleece. For more information you can check out their website at [www.triplejalpacas.openherd.com](http://www.triplejalpacas.openherd.com).

## More Calpaca Members In The News



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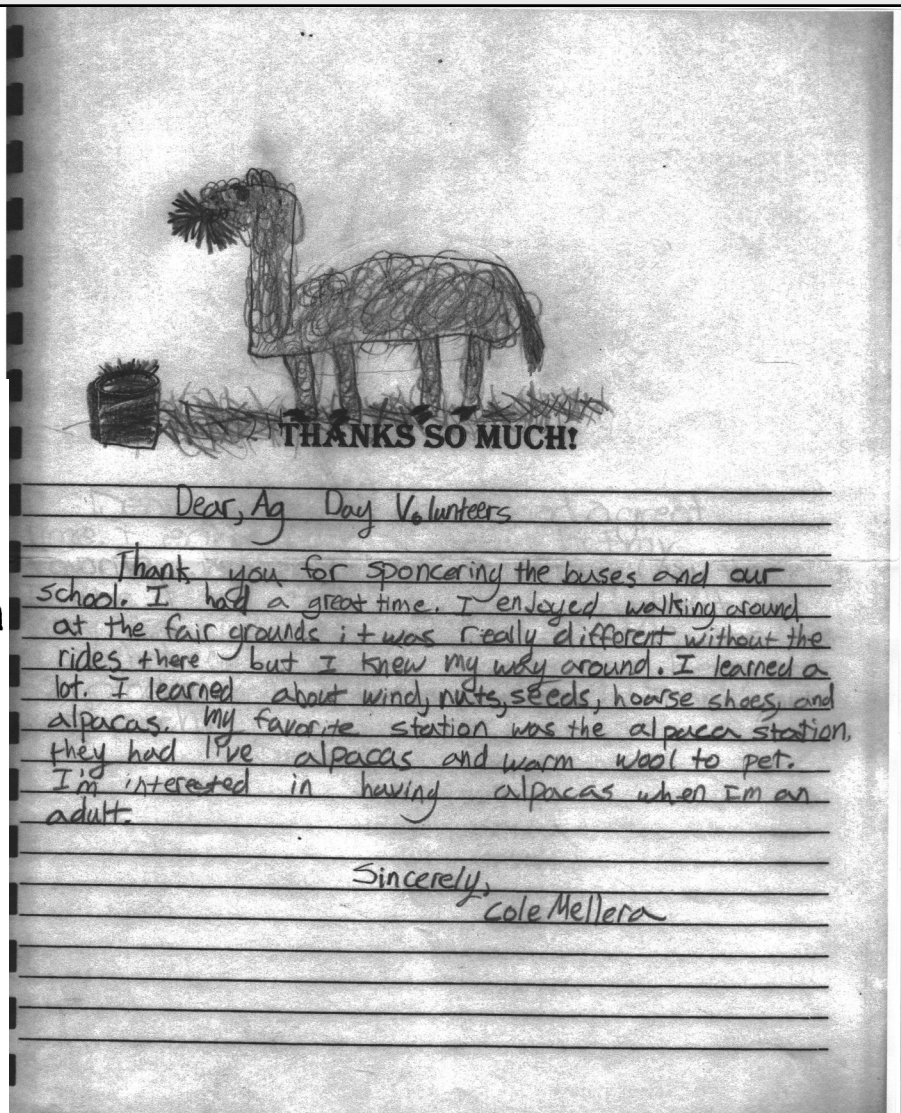
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**Dear Rick and Pam Brady:**

**Calaveras County Farm Bureau would like to thank you for your participation in the Calaveras County Agriculture Awareness Day. Without the dedication of individuals such as you, this event would not be a success.**

**Thanks again**

**Approximately 720 children attended Ag Day this year.**





FOLLOWING IN HIS SIRE'S  
FOOTSTEPS...  
STANDING STUD NOW  
AT  
ALPACAS AT WINDY HILL

# AWH APACHE'S MESCALERO

## SHOW CAREER

### JUVENILE

2010 SWRAS - 1st/Reserve  
2010 AWE - 1st  
2010 Futurity - 2nd  
2010 California Classic - 2nd/Reserve  
2010 GWAS - 1st  
2010 Nationals - 3rd

### YEARLING

2010 Gold Country Gathering - 1st/Res  
2010 Gold Country Gathering- 1st, B&O  
2011 SWRAS - 1st  
2011 SWRAS - 1st, B&O

### 2 YEAR OLD

2011 Gold Country Gathering - 1st  
2012 SWRAS - 1st/Reserve  
2012 IAO - 1  
2012 California Classic - 1st  
2012 Nationals-- 1st

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## AND THE WINNERS ARE....2011 CALIFORNIA CLASSIC HALTER SHOW

by Joyce Judy, Event Manager

### CALIFORNIA CLASSIC BREEDERS CHALLENGE

At the 2011 California Classic we tested a new fun way for California Classic attendees to get additional recognition and alternative competition. The California Classic Breeders Challenge (CCBC) was run behind the scenes, so no one really knew about it until after the show. Going forward, we will be making running announcements of who is on top (for the moment) to keep the excitement going and making a final announcement and presenting an award at the end of the show on Sunday afternoon.

The format of the event continued to promote the individual accomplishments of each alpaca, while simultaneously highlighting the cumulative achievements of the owner and breeder. And it was ALL FREE to the attendees who had a halter entry in the show.

There were 3 categories set up based on number of entries (halter and optional classes) and points awarded for each ribbon placement won by a given ranch.

The winners of the CBCC were:

Classic (1-4 entries) – Aero Ranch Suri Alpacas with 44 points

Tuxedo (5-9 entries) – Oak Valley Alpacas with 71 points

Top Hat (10 + entries) – Alpacas at Windy Hill with 116 points

So what does this tell folks? It tells folks a bit more about your breeding program. Even though it was only one farm, they had one alpaca entered in various classes and got 17 points! It tells you how you compare to your peers. So the more alpacas and classes a person enters, the more points they receive.

### PEOPLE'S CHOICE FIBER ARTS EXHIBITION

Some people had left the fairgrounds when the winners of this competition were announced, so I wanted to take an opportunity to say congratulations to the People's Choice winners. There were some simply stunningly beautiful entries.

First – Alpaca Shawl and Broach – Dee Souza of Alpacas La-Dee-Da

Second – Nunofelt Green Jacket – Cookie Cutter

Third – Purple Multi Color Jacket – Donna Morris – Luv R Pacas

Fourth – Wet Felt Purple Jacket – Cookie Cutter

Fifth – Knitted Brown Scarf – Donna Morris – Luv R Pacas

Sixth – Nuno Felted & Beaded scarf – Sandi Ridge

### YEAR OF THE SURI

We had more Suri Championships than Huacaya. Jill MacLeod said, "I never thought of California as having many Suris, much less such beautiful ones. I had a couple of large classes where I really had difficulty deciding since they were all so good." We hope that Suri breeders will continue to make the California Classic Show a successful one in the future.



**THE "SHUTTER BUG"  
STRIKES AGAIN AT  
THE CLASSIC!**



## A Very Special “P.R.Paca”



Most everyone has one. You know what I’m talking about. A “P.R. Paca” so to speak. A very personable alpaca that greets your ranch visitors. We have Jasper. Jasper has a few friendly alpaca friends that also greet our ranch visitors, but Jasper is different. Not only does he greet people who come to see him, he travels off-ranch to visit people. Two years ago Jasper became a registered animal assisted therapy alpaca. His registered handler is our now 12 year old daughter, Kaylynn. Together they visit people in nursing homes, hospitals, our local library and anyone else who could use a smile and a distraction from what ever ails them.

Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) and Animal Assisted Activities (AAA) have been utilized for many years. The benefits have been documented by thousands of health care professionals and educators. The most common animal used for such activities are dogs. When Kaylynn first suggested the idea of registering Jasper as a therapy animal many doubted that it could be done. After all, alpacas are herd animals, don’t typically enjoy being handled, have a tendency to stress easy and can smell a little “barny.” Kaylynn and Jasper proved the doubters wrong. Jasper has no problem hanging out with people away from

his herd, enjoys posing for pictures with everyone he visits and even walking with disabled individuals. As far as the smell, well that’s what makes a suri an appropriate choice. Kaylynn gives him a shower before his visits.

Kaylynn has been working with some of her other alpacas to try and “make” another AAT alpaca. After working with a few of them for a year now, she has realized that they are not made. Sure we have some halter trained alpacas that will walk with anyone, won’t kick or spit but we still have one big problem, they don’t want to have anything to do with leaving the ranch. They tolerate leaving with a buddy but we don’t want our animals to “tolerate” people.

We recently took Jasper to the Muscular Dystrophy Camp in San Diego for a second year in a row. Upon arrival, the kids were chanting, “Jasper, Jasper, Jasper!” As we unloaded Jasper from his air-conditioned SUV and he heard the kids shouting his name, he held his head high and tugged toward his adoring crowd. Eighty kids, all with a range of disability circled us. We start our presentations by introducing Jasper, explaining what the heck an alpaca is, then move on to questions from the crowd. Next, each individual camper was able to pet, feed, and walk Jasper. This is where Kaylynn and Jasper shine. Kaylynn will often take the hand of a child and help place it on Jasper. Jasper will move closer if needed especially if the child is in a wheelchair. He seems to sense when an individual has limited mobility and adjusts accordingly. He will even brace himself and allow an unstable child to lean on him for support.



One camper in particular made an impression on me. He was a tall boy who shuffled when he walked and needed help getting around. When it was his turn to visit with Jasper he didn’t say anything. He made no eye contact. We asked him if he wanted to feed Jasper and we placed a small handful of hay in his twisted hand. He motioned his hand toward Jasper and Jasper gently nibbled at the hay. “Great job!” I replied and then asked if he wanted to walk Jasper. He loosely took the second lead that was attached to the halter. The boy, his counselor, Kaylynn, and Jasper took a short stroll around the circle. The boy dropped his lead to pet Jasper then shuffled off. What makes this amazing is right after the boy left, the camp director hurried over to report to me that this particular child had not participated in anything. She was amazed and thankful for such a special interaction. After every visit Kaylynn and I reflect on the days events and talk about all of the smiles, interactions and small victories that Jasper’s visits invoke.

.....continued on page 37

# Sierra Bonita's Maccoyo Maximum (MAX)



**Special  
Breeding Fee \$ 1,500**

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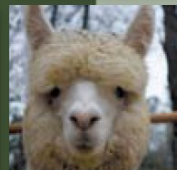
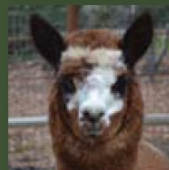
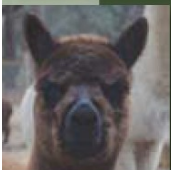
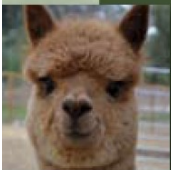
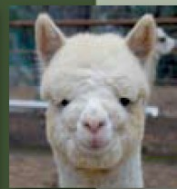
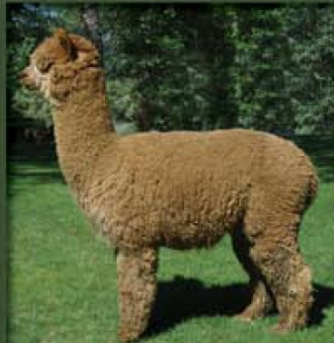
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## Secret To Success—an often overlooked heritable trait may be effecting your fiber!

by Carrie Hull, Certified Sorted Systems, LLC

[www.fibersorting.com](http://www.fibersorting.com)

Spring and Summer bring crias and new breeding decisions. Breeding decisions are at the very base of sustainability as they determine the outcome of our future "raw material" - fiber. Looking at your fiber harvest last year as a whole can help you determine sustainable goals for your future clips. Perhaps you want to produce a certain grade or length of fiber. Maybe you want to control the cost to grow your fiber a bit better. Understanding each individual alpaca's fiber attributes and planning an appropriate breeding based on the strengths and weaknesses of the animals involved are the building blocks to achieving those goals.

Breeding decisions are a bit more complicated than choosing a male with some "bling" (show winnings) behind them. Knowing what fiber traits are passed on in the male as well as the female is vitally important. Then knowing what your individual animal has to pass on is key.

In the Spring 2011 Alpaca Magazine, Dr. Norm Evan's enlightening article "Fiber Observations Based on Veterinary Field Study" gives us insight to those heritable traits:

"...the male appears pre-potent to pass these traits: density, number and activity of sebaceous glands, and variation (spread) in micron diameter between the primary and secondary fibers....**The most commonly overlooked heritable male fiber trait is the variation in size between the primary and secondary fibers**... It seems to take only one generation to come in but it may take up to 3 generations to breed those large primary fibers back down to 30 microns or less."

When I read this part of the article a light bulb turned on! One of the biggest fiber challenges that we see is the lack of uniformity in micron between the primary and secondary fibers. It is a problem that we are seeing more and more; now I understand why. Just one wrong breeding decision which introduced a large difference between primary and secondary fibers in micron can take many generations to improve. Worse yet, it can negatively contribute to the future offspring of the animal created by the breeding. It creates a devastating snowball effect on your fiber!

Our goal should be to produce uniform fiber. Uniform in micron, length and character. When we talk about uniformity of micron we have to consider the fact that alpacas are dual coated animals, who have both primary and secondary fibers. It should be our goal to have primary and secondary fibers within 3-6 microns of the secondaries - a challenging but worthy goal. Dr. Evans article points out that while an alpaca may have fairly fine secondary fibers, for example 18-22 microns, many have accompanying primary fibers in the 35-38 micron range - a variation of 12-15 micron from the secondaries. In Certified Sorted language, we call this type of fleece "Hairy but Nice" or "H" grade. This type of fiber is not best suited for commercial or mini-mill yarn production. While yarn can certainly be made from this type of fiber, there are undesirable results. The finer secondary fibers become the core of the yarn, while the heavy primaries come to the outside of the yarn, and often shed with use. With the heavier primaries on the outside of the yarn, it contacts the skin and can also produce "prickle" factor, even though the secondaries are well below the 30 microns we use as a guideline. In short, it doesn't create a product that positively promotes alpaca fiber!

While dehairing this type of fiber in the mini mill is an option, wouldn't it be better to address the cause of the problem as a permanent solution. The cause of the problem in this instance is the commonly overlooked heritable male fiber trait - the variation in size between the primary and secondary fibers.

*...Continued on next page*

You can learn to identify the difference in micron between the primary and secondary fibers with some training. Sometimes the difference is so large that it is readily apparent to any open-minded person. A sorter trained in the Certified Sorted System can also assist you. It is best to look at the fiber that has been shorn off the animal. Pulling samples will often get you a lot of secondary fibers with less primary fibers. Primary fibers stay in the skin better than the secondaries when pulling a sample out. Also looking at fiber while on the animal is equally unreliable, it's difficult to view individual fibers. Once you have the fleece it is important to open it fully to view the individual fibers. Be sure to view the fiber over different backgrounds and with good light so that you can see any off-colored fibers as well. Equally important is to view as much of the fleece as possible as alpaca fleece is often highly variable across the blanket. Ideally, an Individual Sort Record produced by a Certified Sorter or Apprentice in the Certified Sorted System should be available - the sorter will have identified the grade of the secondary and primary fibers across the fleece. A histogram graph may also give some indication of the variable between primary and secondary fibers. If you look to the far right you will see some heavier fibers out there. Although the bars may be very small, they still indicate that those fibers are there and will effect your textile product. SD above 4 or CV higher than 20 can also indicate a lack of uniformity of that 2-4" square. Just be aware that the histogram only measures what is found in a sample and not the entire fleece.

Uniformity in micron between the primary and secondary fibers might be the most important fiber attribute of the century! It improves all grades of fiber from ultra-fine to robust! Now that we understand that it is a male heritable trait and how to identify the micron difference through sorting the fiber and histogram testing, we can make breeding decisions that create the elite textile fleece (uniform in micron, length and character) which certainly improves our sustainability as alpaca fiber and cria producers!

**Alpacas in  
mainstream advertising**



# Hot Studs on the Cool Central Coast

101A Skywalkers White Saber



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

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

101A Skywalkers Justice



4 Cria Due in 2012

2011 California Classic  
Brown Color Champion

2010 Gold Country Gathering  
Brown Color Champion

2010 California Classic  
1st Place Brown Juvenile



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101A El Jefe's Morro



1 Cria Due in 2012

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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## 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](http://www.alpacasomersetfarm.com) and then let's make a deal. Dianna 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:dnsranch@citlink.net) or [www.colusariversidealpacas.com](http://www.colusariversidealpacas.com)

**Menagerie Hill Ranch** is a full service, family run ranch offering **agisting, consulting, sales, support and alpaca fiber products**. Our agisting service includes quality feed/water, routine husbandry, vaccinations and other care. Alpacas on a long term agisting plan receive free shearing. Owners are welcome to visit any time and we will help you learn how to care for your alpacas. Veterinary care, breeding, training and other services are extra. Standard rate \$3 per day. We are located in the English Hills area of Vacaville, close to Hwy 505. Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners [www.menageriehillranch.com](http://www.menageriehillranch.com) 707.455.8211

AGISTMENT SPACE AVAILABLE: Ruth, Dave and Caitlin Gomez, **El Corazon en las Nubes, MALIBU, CA** (818)707-6113 ranch, (818)324-0666 Ruth's cell, Fax: (818)879-2165 email: [malipacabu@gmail.com](mailto:malipacabu@gmail.com) Years in camelid business: 15+ Able to agist: Females (and crias), and weanlings Fee: \$3.75/day Includes: Daily care with hay, supplemental pellets, minerals, microbiotics, toenail trimming, inoculations and worming. Special needs and training \$20.00/hr. Crias under 3 months free, half rate until weaned at 6 months. Vet bills at cost. Birthing and shearing extra – please inquire. Vet: Jana Smith, DVM Our ranch is in the coastal mountains in Malibu with mild temperatures. Full mortality insurance required.

Boarding now available for females or geldings at **Macedo's Mini Acre, Stevinson, CA**. \$2.75 per day, includes pasture with hay and mineral supplements. Special needs or veterinary care at cost. We offer sales and marketing assistance, as well as assistance with maximizing your fiber harvest. Contact Maureen at [maureenmacedo@aol.com](mailto:maureenmacedo@aol.com) or 209-648-2384 for more information.

## Herdsires

**WHERE THERE IS SMOKE...THERE IS FIRE!** Alpacas of Somerset Farm proudly introduce our multiple color champion (five color/reserve color champions between them) Huacaya herdsires. "Wisp of Smoke" is a classic medium rose grey...with no spots! His sire is a multiple color champion producing color champions. "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. Both are breeding and settling now. For more information on these impressive young males visit [www.alpacasomersetfarm.com](http://www.alpacasomersetfarm.com) then contact Dianna or Jack Jordan, 530-620-6033 to book your breedings.

## **Herdshire Ad:**

### **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 **1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row a different Outlaw girl has won Gray Color Champion at SWRA!!**

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**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..

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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

**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 you're 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](http://heartandsoulspinnery.com)

## Herdsires (continued)

**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](http://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](mailto:luvrpacas@yahoo.com)

**OUR BOYS ARE READY AND WILLING TO BOOK A DATE WITH YOUR GIRLS!** All our boys have earned multiple ribbons in spin-offs and are available for dates at the reasonable price of \$500. Contact us at 707-998-9156 to reserve your spot!

Alas de Angel proudly presents: **Derwydd Luciano's Kuraka** (DB) son of **El R Peruvian Luciano**, **Bailey of the Shire** (MSG) son of **Silver Sage**, **For the Love of Jesse** (DB) son of **LV Little Sage** (Fall breeding), **Oakley of RNC** (LF) son of **Avatar**, **Something Else by Cirrus** (wh) son of **Our Peruvian Cirrus** (Fall breeding)

## Goods and Services

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#### Directions

- Combine all ingredients in a small 4 oz. spray bottle. When you use it, be sure to shake the bottle contents before spraying (the oils separates from the witch hazel).

## For Sale

**Lazy K Ranch** is having a herd dispersal sale. We must move 60 alpacas and are willing to let them go very reasonably. Breed females with female crias at side \$1,500. Bred females with male cria at side \$1,000.

Please call Kay Rodriguez at 775 970 5155 for more info.

**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](http://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](mailto:vickiashire@vom.com). [www.alpacanation.com/alpacashire](http://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](mailto: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, Ppperuvian 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.

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.....continued from page 25

Each month Kaylynn puts together Jasper's schedule of "visits" for the coming weeks. They volunteer at least once a month but as Jasper's visits become more and more sought after, his calendar fills fast. We are careful not to over schedule the poor guy. We don't ever want him to become tolerant of people but want him to continue to enjoy and work his magic.

Next week they will be volunteering for Critter Camp. A city program for underprivileged children to learn about different animals and the importance of being kind to all living critters. Kaylynn will be the only roll model their age who will be speaking with them.



Later in the month they will be in our local library where Kaylynn will read her own story, "Jasper's Big Dreams" for the summer youth reading program. Jasper is the only alpaca that visits our local libraries. You should see the looks of people who come around the corner to see an alpaca "reading" in an isle. He even has his own library card!

Of course there are the tender moments when we (yes Kaylynn too) visit Hospice patients. There is a peaceful feeling when visiting with someone who is at the end of their life and pure joy to bringing a smile and a lasting memory. After all, that is how the idea of Jasper was created. Kaylynn's late friend and mentor once said, "Alpacas are my best medicine."



Jasper is just one of several alpacas out there who do some sort of animal therapy and I am proud of them all. I just can't help but to stand aside and be amazed at the team that is, Kaylynn and Jasper Alpaca.

You can follow Jasper's adventures at [www.JasperAlpaca.com](http://www.JasperAlpaca.com) and at [facebook.com/jasper.alpaca](https://facebook.com/jasper.alpaca)

Reported by Sharon Turner, Bootleg Alpacas



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Classified Ads (Stud, Agistment and Classified) up to 100 words are FREE for Calpaca Farm Members - \$1.00 per line thereafter. Non-Member and Associate Member rate is \$1.00 per line per issue (\$5.00 minimum).

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

Paid Advertising rates are as follows:

**Business Card ads are renewed yearly, for the Spring issue, and are prorated if received at other times of the year.**

B/W Business Card \$40.00 per year

Color Business Card \$75.00 per year

B/W 1/4 Page \$25.00 (1/4 of 8.5x11) per issue

B/W Half Page \$45.00 (8.5Wx5.5H) per issue

B/W Full Page \$85.00 (Full 8.5x11) per issue

Color 1/4 Page \$45 per issue

Color 1/3 Page \$55 per issue

Color 1/2 Page \$85 per issue (8.5Wx5.5H)

Color Full Page \$160 per issue (8.5x11)

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.

## CALPACA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND INFORMATION SHEET

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

### Number of Alpacas:

Huacaya: Males \_\_\_\_\_ Females \_\_\_\_\_ Geldings \_\_\_\_\_

Suri: Males \_\_\_\_\_ Females \_\_\_\_\_ Geldings \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Farm Membership \$100.00 (First Year Farm: \$50.00)***

*Associate Member: \$30.00*

***This form is also available on line at [www.calpaca.org](http://www.calpaca.org)***

### Farm Membership entitles you to:

Two votes on Calpaca Issues  
Run for a seat on the Board of Directors.  
Receive inquiries from potential buyers.  
A Membership Directory  
The Quarterly Calpaca "Connection"  
Free Listing on the Calpaca Web Page  
Up to 100 WORDS in the Classified section of the Connection & entrance to all free Calpaca functions

### Associate Membership entitles you to:

The Quarterly Calpaca "Connection"  
Entrance to all free Calpaca functions

**Mail new Membership Applications**  
(and yearly renewals)  
To Membership Chair:

**Lin Murray**  
**Lassen View Alpacas**  
**22783 Venzke Road**  
**Cottonwood CA 96022**  
**[alpacas@shasta.com](mailto:alpacas@shasta.com)**  
**(530) 941-7855**

### Upcoming Calpaca Events

**See the events section of the Calpaca site**  
**[www.calpaca.org](http://www.calpaca.org) for details**

**August 11** Quarterly Membership Meeting,  
Alpacas of El Dorado, Somerset, CA

**October 20-21** Gold Country Gathering,  
Grass Valley, CA

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



### **Photo Credits**

Left: editor lost information ;-(  
Right: Anza Valley Alpacas

Left: Liberty Oaks Alpacas  
Right: Bootleg Alpacas  
*Janice Carabine Photography*

Left: Alpacas of Somerset Farm  
Right: Alpacas of Somerset Farm

The Calpaca Connection  
c/o Dianna Jordan, Editor  
Alpacas of Somerset Farm  
**PO Box 190 (MAILING)**  
Somerset, CA 95684



Calpaca is pleased  
to announce the

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual**

# **Gold Country Gathering**

*October 20-21, 2012  
Nevada County Fairgrounds  
Grass Valley, CA*

[www.goldcountrygathering.com](http://www.goldcountrygathering.com)

*Judge:*

*Sara Jane MacLennan - Halter*

**Level III Halter**

**Costume Contest**

**Spin-Off**

**Fiber Arts Display**

**Thank you last years sponsors**

Friendly Farm Alpacas

Renaissance Ridge Alpacas

Alpacas of El Dorado

Derwydd Alpacas

SoCal Suris / Alpacas of Marin

Shiloh Springs Alpacas

