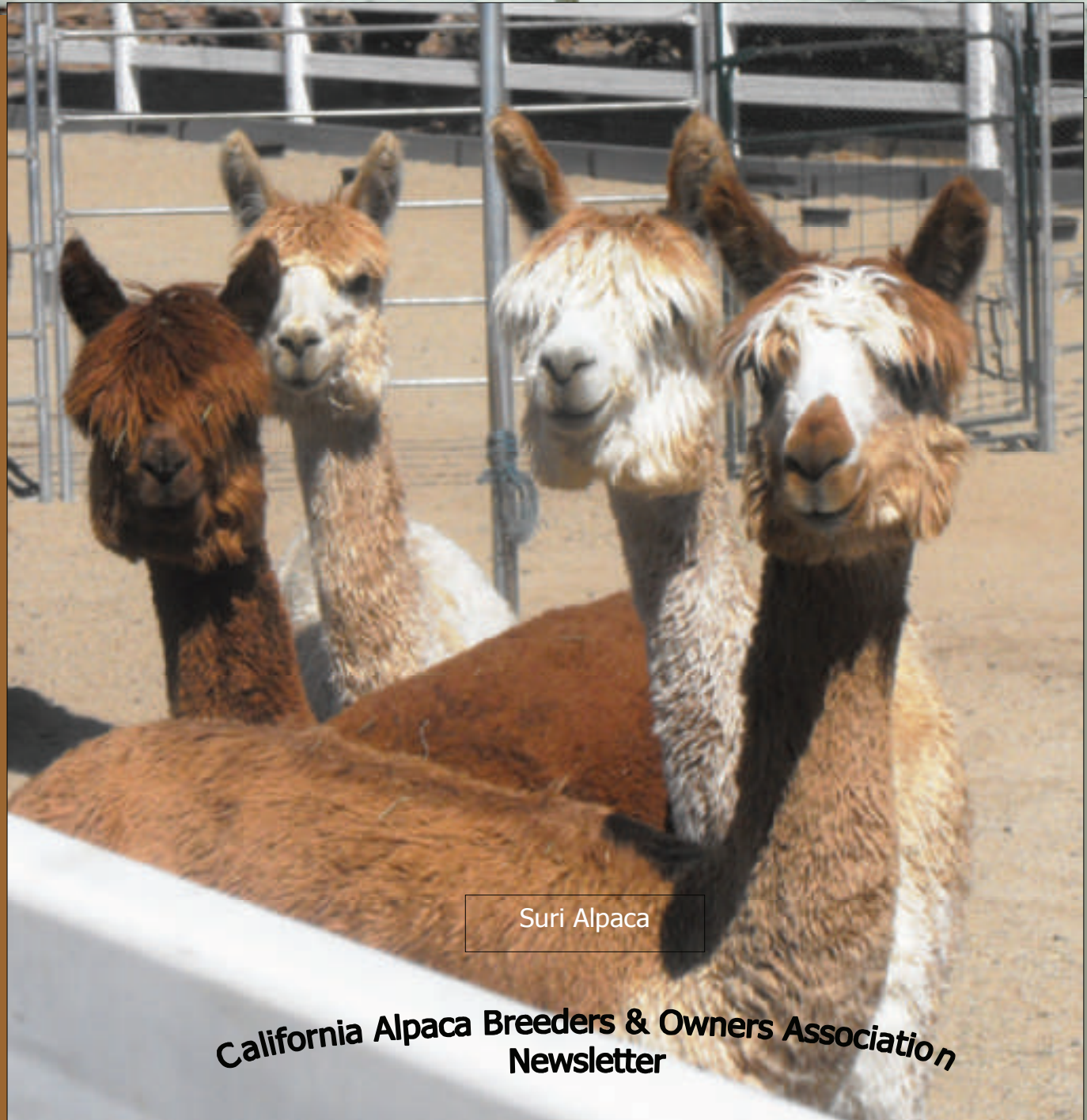


CONNECTION

Winter 2011



Suri Alpaca

**California Alpaca Breeders & Owners Association
Newsletter**



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Newsletter Quarterly Deadlines:

Spring: April 11th

Summer: July 11th

Fall October 11th

December / Editor's Choice
Deadlines are Firm!

Advertising Prices
Look on Page **

Guidelines for submitting articles and graphics **Page 26**

Thank you!

for articles submitted to
this **Winter Issue:**

Cynthia Kuhlmann
Sheila Scroggins
Dianna Jordan
Shauna Shipley
Aase Frederick



Photo; Debbie Emery
Maremma Puppies napping

Affiliations

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Website: www.alpacaowners.com

Alpaca Registry Inc **"ARI"**

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402-437-8484
402-437-8488 Fax
Ari@alpacreregistry.net

Alpaca Research Foundation **"ARF"**

www.alpacaresearchfoundation.org

International Lama Registry **"ILR"**

www.lamaregistry.com

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

www.AFCNA.com
www.americasalpacas.com

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Lin Murray

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Winter 2011

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Throughout the issue:
Classified Ads

Important Links, Information and
Articles are to be found throughout
every issue!

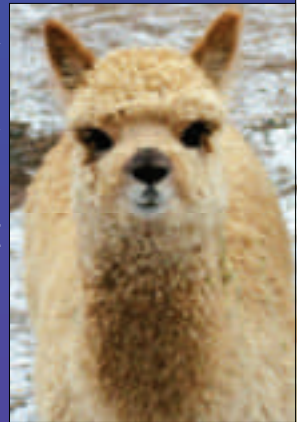
Are your ***Herd sires*** producing ***Blue Ribbon Winners?***
and ***Color Champions?***
At Washoe Valley Alpacas ***Mine Are!***

Ice Storm ARI #123616 – proven full Peruvian, ½ Accoyo, ¼ Alianza, pure white and the only known grandson of both PPeruvian Caligula G4572 and PPPeruvian Yupanqui 6018. 5 ribbons including a Blue. His first cria, Wind Storm ARI #31161794, a duplicate of his magnificent sire, won a Blue Ribbon and the Color Championship in his first show at AlpacaFest West 2009. In May, 2010, Ice Storm sheared 13.5 lbs of dense, crimped fleece. A true herdsire !



My Prince Valiant – ARI #1177862– proven True Black great grandson of the incomparable PPPeruvian Royal Fawn 6014. Again, 5 shows, 5 ribbons, including a Blue. Prince was evaluated by world renown alpaca judge, Dr. Julio Sumar and received primarily “Excellents” during his evaluation. Pictured here on the right, is his first cria, **Washoe Valley’s El Diablo**,

ARI #31161848 won a Blue Ribbon and the Reserve Color Championship in the Medium Fawn class at AlpacaFest West 2009. Diablo is also the maternal grandson of 4Peruvian Pachacuti 6011. Prince’s sire ATV Valiant ARI #817315, won 3 Blue Ribbons.



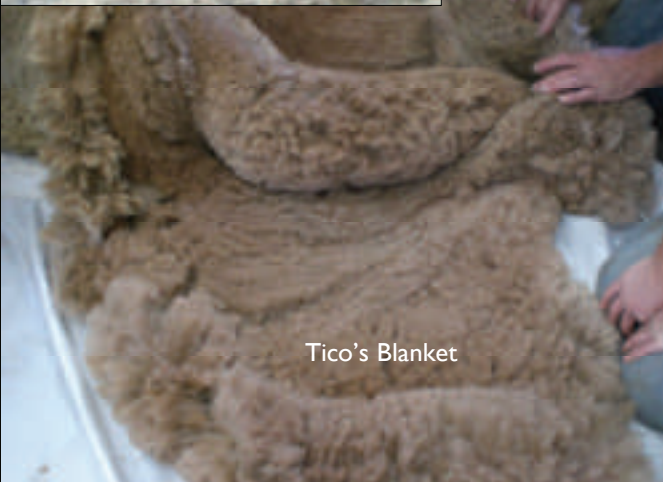
Notice a trend here?

Derwydd Bueno’s Akupana ARI #30033825 – co owned with Derwydd Alpacas and Alpacas All Around. Proven light fawn with black genetics, full Peruvian, 75% Alianza, 25% Pinaya. Son of the legendary Peruvian Bueno G173 and Derwydd Luciano’s Peruvian Cungasca, a True Black, multi color champion dam. His first cria, Derwydd Akupana Qilitta ARI #31191746 has won 6 Blue Ribbons, 4 Color Championships and a Reserve Color Championship to date. Is Bueno in your herd ?



Washoe Valley Alpacas Proudly Introduces:

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"The Story"

By Aase Frederick

EBA Oaks Alpacas, Yreka CA

I often listen to NPR Radio (out of Ashland, OR) while I am driving around doing errands. They have a program on, most afternoons, called simply "The Story" sometimes two stories, but *always* interesting, sad, funny or just unusual (they are available as Podcast's on your iPod and I use that a lot too, to unwind and sometimes just to listen to someone else's problem or solutions to same)! So I thought I would call this little piece "The Story". Some might find it interesting and some may wonder why this "story" is not about alpacas, just to find out, that it is, as always, partly about alpacas.

Alpacas are always part of most any story I tell, and that has been the case since 1999. We, Duane (husband and co-owner of EBA Oaks Alpacas) and I, were living in a small town called Creston, in Central CA, in those days, and we decided to go to the Paso Robles Holiday Faire, at the Paso Robles Fairgrounds (in November of 1999). I had also read in local paper, that there was an "open house" where they were going to have some Llamas and some Alpaca on show. They had a picture of an alpaca face in the paper, so, of course, I had to see what the rest of them looked like! Long story short, by the end of December we were alpaca owners and had met and talked at length with Eric Hoffman, the "alpaca" guru and author of the Complete Alpaca Book, so we were both very confident that we now knew everything there was to know about those creatures!

Next we build a LOT of fences, we build enough paddocks to house a hundred alpacas—my husband just does not know how to do anything half way! We build a hay barn, not big, just enough to take care of enough bales to feed the now 6-alpaca herd. We had bought our first two females, a pregnant female and her half sister, who was one. We had two geldings, with terrible fiber and two (so-called) potential herdsires (ha-ha) but they had *great* bloodlines! We then bought another older pregnant female, with a six-month old female cria at her side. So, by 2003, we had fourteen alpaca. The area we lived in was *very hot* during the Summer months and it was a constant struggle to keep the animals comfortable.

Then, in 2002, Duane started his habit (a very bad habit, to say the least) of having some major medical "thing" happen, that year it was a very bad infection in his knee, after some minor knee surgery, and it put him out of commission for three months. Also in either 2002 or maybe it was 2001 we were at an Calpaca Meeting at the Derwydd Ranch and I somehow volunteered to do the Show Program and Advertising for the Calpaca Fall Show in Grass Valley. I had no idea what I was getting into, but I had a great team of helpers and everything worked out well - then in 2002 I also volunteered to do the Calpaca Newsletter, called the Connection. The Connection, in 2002, was a 8.5 X 11 folded-in-half, black and white photo-copied masterpiece! It was printed and mailed to the membership (of less than a hundred) to get the Minutes from the last Quarterly Meeting to the Membership to vote on (approve or disapprove at the next Meeting) a few business cards and sometimes a little bit of useful information about alpaca stuff, and that was it. I won't bore you with the details of how that turned into what, some people now call the Calpaca Magazine, allowing the Calpaca Membership to buy advertising for very reasonable prices and also get free classified ads, show off their photos and write articles pertaining to alpaca (or not). Also, in Spring of 2003, we moved to Yreka, CA.

It has been great fun, sometimes frustrating and sometimes downright depressing, to have done this "magazine" for over eight years now—the first six years were unpaid and it was not until I found out that Calpaca was paying a great deal of money to the person producing the Show Program, that I wrote to the BOD and asked for the same treatment (but at a much cheaper price), which they graciously agreed to and I also, without being asked, swore to never tell anyone that I was a "paid volunteer". I have to say that made the newsletter a little easier to produce and also, at that same time, we found a local printer and mailing company, so I no longer had to "paste and ship" the Connection, that was done by the Metro Printing and Mailing Co. (Sacramento, CA).

I now make my first MAJOR mistake (up until then I had made minor mistakes, in almost every Connection, and since it was now a major production, still coming off my desktop and still with a "staff" of me and me, although Duane would help put stamps on, when we still were doing that... leaving out someone's business card, or not giving them credit for a photo—and, for reasons only known to the individuals doing it, it now (about two years ago) became very popular to make a BIG complaint to the current BOD of Calpaca, the President would contact me and I would do my best to come up with a workable solution (as I had done before, since, up until then, mistakes were handled by the person telling me of the mistake and me emailing the corrections to the whole Membership, as soon as I could, with lots of apologies going along with it, or maybe sometimes not *lots*!)

The biggest mistake I have made since 1999, was to get involved in producing the Show Program for the 2008 Classic Show and I will regret that for the rest of time and, despite my working hard on it, have not made complete peace with that period of time and the outcome of that involvement. At that same time, I also produced the biggest Connection ever, it was 52 pages long!

This is the end of "The Story" and I want to thank those of you that have become friends through doing this job for so long—there are so many positive things that have happened to me because of this Connection—I have many loyal and wonderfully supportive followers, I especially wanted to thank Bruce Nelson and Bonnie Potter, both were Presidents of the BOD for a long period of my tenure as Editor and *always* had my back. Also thank you to Lin Murray for being one of the people that would take time out to send me an email saying "great job", when, I must say, most of the time I knew the Connection had been received, when I got my first complaint :)

We have to sell our ranch, health reasons and the economy finally broke our backs (literally in Duane's case) and hope to have help and support in that phase of our story. It is unimaginable to think of not having alpacas and LGD dogs around us every day, but we have to move on.

Thank you for reading my story and a very special thank you to those of you that have supported me and my job as Editor, a BIG thank you does not seem enough, so you get a big hug too!

Aase S Frederick

Aase@4fast.net

President's Message

Presidents letter (submitted for the Winter 2011 Connection)

The beginning of each new year signals the start of a new CALPACA board. With the wonderful guidance of Rick and Pam Brady, in conducting the election, the membership has added two new members and one returning member to the CALPACA board. Sixty of the 167 ballots were returned, representing a 36% voter turnout. **Dennis Rabe** was elected to a second two year term and **Laurie Findlay** and **David Scroggins** were elected to their first two year term. Returning to the board for the second year of their terms are **Jack Jordan** and **Kay Rodriguez**. While they were not elected, we would like to thank Janis Bass for participating in the election, and I am sure we will find a way to keep her busily involved with CALPACA! The board convened on January 11th and worked out the board positions for 2011. They are: President: Dennis Rabe; Vice President: Laurie Findlay; Treasurer: Jack Jordan; Secretary: Kay Rodriguez; Director: David Scroggins. The new board would like to thank the tireless efforts of Tom Petersen and Dale Davis. They have had a tremendous positive impact on CALPACA. Knowing the passion they have for the alpaca industry and for our Association, you can be sure we will continue to have their help in making our organization the very best place for alpaca owners. The new BOD is comprised of a group of caring alpaca owners that understand the issues facing the CALPACA Membership. We will be doing our best to make sure that CALPACA is working for our Membership. On behalf of the whole Board of Directors, we welcome your input, and look forward to a great year in 2011.

Did you know there are paid positions available from CALPACA? We have them listed on the website under "About CALPACA". There you will find a form for submitting a proposal or resume to be considered, based on your experience and creative plan for that position. In the past we had filled these positions with volunteers, but with the kind of time commitment we ask of each position, the BOD decided it was more than fair to pay a stipend for the amount of work they involve. During these tough economic times, and in response to queries by the membership, the board has committed to make all paid positions available to the membership for proposal, and this year we will be advertising the availability of those positions to the entire membership for bids. The type of positions include: *Newsletter Editor, Show Managers & Superintendents, Spin-off Judge, Show Announcer, Show Photographer, and Show Program Director*. If you have any questions, check out the position guidelines on the website and give us a call, we would be happy to tell you what the expectations are for the job.

Don't miss the opportunity to host a CALPACA meeting. We have 4 meetings per year, the first of which will be at Alpacas All Around, 4300 Hansen Road in Loomis, on February 12th ([please look for details on the Calendar Page ** of this Connection issue](#)). Please take the time to check the website for the parameters of what it takes to host a CALPACA meeting, the BOD will be requesting your proposals soon and the available spots fill up quickly. There is no better way to get your peers to your ranch, for them to learn who you are and what you have to offer, than to host a CALPACA Meeting!

Let's do all we can to help make our organization stronger! Let us know what is on your mind; we can only make things better, when you let us know what matters most to you.

Have a safe winter,

Dennis Rabe

Calpaca, Inc.

President



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Calpaca Quarterly Membership Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2010—held at Derwydd Alpacas

Our meeting started at 10:30 am. All board members present except Dennis. Tom thanks Dale, Jan and Allen for having us at their new home, finished or not.

We had 2 first time attendees at this meeting, Glen Waddell from Sawdust Alpacas in Reno, NV and Dave and Sheila Scroggins from Colusa Riverside Alpacas in Colusa CA.

Next we ask for approval of August minutes (posted on Calpaca website), Dale made motion, Bonnie second, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jack Jordon gave an accounting of Calpaca's monies. There has been a lot of action in the various accounts with 2 shows closing and the Symposium going into full gear. Calpaca still is a very strong organization.

Kay Rodriguez gave a brief accounting of the Gold Country Gathering. First, did everyone have a good time and second, did we want to do the show again. It was a very positive yes to both questions. Eva Fisher and Kay Rodriguez will move forward on the 2011 GCG. Kay will have the closing numbers prior to the end of the year.

Camelid Symposium: Bonnie advised that registration is open and the dates are January 15 & 16. Early bird registration will close on December 15. There are a whole lot of new speakers and wonderful topics that can be reviewed on the web site. Please get your registration in early; this will be one event that you do not want to miss.

California Classic: Joyce Judy advised that the new dates for CA Classic are April 30, May 1. Our new judges are Helen Humphries (Huacaya – black thru white) and Stephanie Gilpies (all Suris and grey and multi huacaya). The new dates are for 2011 only because Easter fell on our normal weekend. Our spin off judge will be Janice Bass and registration should open around the 15th of December so get your spin off entries ready. Kay Rodriguez will be barn manager for this year's event.

Dixon: Dale Davis wants input from everyone on how you see this show playing out. There are a lot of options to make this 1 day show a big success. This is an exceptional marketing experience both for the animals as well as for fleece. The big success was the 4H performance classes. What can we do to expand on this? Should we add a newbie show clinic? Training for various show position like gate keeper, ring steward, recorders and color checkers? There are so many possibilities here and Joyce and Dale want everyone's opinion. If you have ideas, please let them know.

Paid positions to support Calpaca: Tom Petersen and the board have been working on RFP (request of proposals) for various paid positions within our organization. The Connection, different show positions, spin off judges, this are all paid positions and if there is something that you might like to do, please look for the forms on the Calpaca web site. We are currently taking RFP's for Connection editor and some of the jobs for CA Classic.

Election Slate – we are pleased to announce the candidates for this year's Calpaca board:

Janis Bass, Moon Light Alpacas—Laurie Findlay, Alpacas of El Dorado—Howard Kuhlmann, Sierra Rose Alpacas—Dennis Rabe, 101 Alpaca Ranch and Dave Scroggins—Calusa Riverside Alpacas.

The election process: Tom Petersen advised that Pam and Rick Brady of Oak Valley Alpacas have once again offered to handle preparing and sending out the ballots. This year, we are asking that everyone mail their ballots back since we will be announcing the new board at the Symposium. The present board is about to lose Tom and Dale. Dennis is running for 1 more term if re-elected.

AOBA News: Tom Petersen has sat in on the first AOBA/Affiliate meeting and the group is now called the AOBA Affiliate Roundtable. 12-15 affiliates out of 45 are participating in the teleconferences. AOBA is aware of the importance of these meetings and is willing to listen. Goal right now is to focus on what is important to the membership and hot topics are education and fiber. More on this as it becomes available.

ARI EPD Update: Bonnie is now an ARI board member and wants us all to be aware that ARI is very customer oriented. Bonnie wanted to know how many people have been participating in the EPD program. The first calculations have been completed and now ARI and IAC have joined forces to create one EPD program. ARI will be merging all the IAC data soon and it will be available to all that have enrolled. This is very exciting stuff! More to come on the EPD program.

AFCNA Update: Joyce advises Jan and Dale are a collection point for anyone wanting to send fiber to the co-op. They will collect fiber until the end of December. AFCNA is now sorting and grading fiber in house now in Tennessee. They also made their first \$100,000! As always, they are looking for your fiber. Please do not let it sit in your barn or garage; get it out to a place that can do something with it.

Cal Expo Llama/Alpaca Event July 2011: The board has been approached by the local Llama group to put on a joint show/event during Fair at Cal Expo. If anyone would like to take this on and make it happen please contact a board member. Dave Scroggins showed some interest in this.

Student Design Competition – Once again Calpaca has given \$500 to support the local students in the area to get alpaca into more garments. Last year competition had 2 students sponsored by Dale Davis and Bonnie Potter make it to the top. Let's make that happen again. The best way to get alpaca more commercially known is to have the future designers start working with it. We are also looking for members who are willing to donate fiber, cloth, and yarn for this project.

Other items:

Rick Brady is looking for white yarn at a good price (Pam is taking dyeing lessons) and is also looking for someone in the Calpaca membership to apply for the AOBA Grant committee. Rick's time is up and he is looking for a replacement. Please contact Rick if you are interested.

The TAP Herd Sire Showcase is coming in February 26 to the Dixon Fairgrounds. Don't miss this opportunity to show off special stud muffin or buy that special breeding at a reduced rate. Fee is \$100 for 1 stud muffin, \$160 for 2. This is a great advertising opportunity.

Kay and Dale advise that the International Alpaca Odyssey is returning to California in March of 2011. Their new venue will be Seaside Park in Ventura, CA on March 19-20. A whole lot of new things are planned for this year so please go to www.iaoshow.com and check out the new rules and fun things planned.

Joyce advised that there are 800 llamas in Montana that are in need of help. She will keep us posted on what they need.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15. and a potluck lunch was provided by all and after lunch Dale and Allen showed us how to do our own fecal tests and how to read the slides. Danny Mora talked after to advise us on how to treat what we found. Calpaca donated \$250 for Dale and Allen to find a microscope and centrifuge to be given away at the end of meeting. This was open to anyone that did not already own their own. And the winner was Kristen Grimund!

Submitted respectfully by

Kay Rodriguez

Editors Note: Printed exactly as submitted, with no corrections or additions done by the Editor

Classified

For Sale: CCR Valienza DOB 7/9/05 Dark Brown Bred Female \$4000

Valienza is a 1/2 Peruvian girl sired by Inti-Sapa. She has dark vicuna markings that create her striking appearance and wonderful presence. Her confirmation is impeccable from her bite to her dead straight legs. She is bred to SilverCoyo Outlaw for a May 2011 cria and comes with a free breedback.

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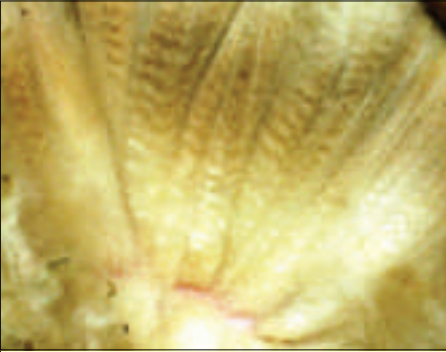
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EPDS: "THEY'R HEEERE"

By Sheila Scroggins

An EPD is an Expected Progeny Difference (EPD). It has been my experience that when you ask an alpaca breeder if their alpacas have been EPD tested and what are their herdsire's values, I usually get a look of utter astonishment. They have of course, heard of EPDs, but seem to be confounded by the thought that someone might ask. I doubt if a person was shopping for a bovine stud they would get the same response from a breeder.



Alpaca Registry, Inc., (ARI) and Ideal Alpaca Community (IAC) have recently joined together for the good of the alpaca industry and will have one registry for EPD determination and dissemination. As a new owner and breeder, I was looking for a means to gauge and guide my breeding. We knew we were starting out with improved and unimproved stock and what would get us to a better herd quickly. I learned early it was EPDs. Our business breeding practices became predicated on EPDs, so the news of this merger was good news for us.

As a Nurse Practitioner all choices for diagnosis and treatment of disease is driven by what we call the gold standard. This kind of decision making tool is not unique to medicine. The gold standard provides the practitioner with a means to an end that is tried and tested. The gold standard is the diagnostic that gives you the most information, the most reliability of information, at the least cost. Just like in medicine, the gold standard in all livestock breeding is the Expected Progeny Difference.

"EPD is a measure of the expected differences in performance of a sire's progeny when compared to the average progeny of all sires evaluated within the same breed. This prediction is based on actual performance, progeny performance and relatives' performance. (1) The bovine industry has somewhere around 18 EPDs for cattle. They have EPDs on such things as meat marbling with fat, carcass weight, and dam pelvis diameter. I include this information for you to see just how much breed information is possible with EPD calculations and ultimately EPD determination for a given species. It also tells us that it is possible to change or develop new EPDs as long as they are heritable traits.

EPD's are nothing new. They have been around in other livestock species since the 1970s. I believe that in order to understand EPDs in the alpaca industry we should look to the bovine industry. The bovine industry has a long history of tried and tested practice with EPDs. The EPD processes between the two industries are identical, only the animal traits vary. This allows us to look at Bovine EPDs and extrapolate their years of usage to the Alpaca. The goal of an EPD for any industry is to determine the likelihood of a desired trait or conversely the likelihood of an undesirable trait in the offspring of either a male or female we are choosing to breed. In other words it is a statistic gamble where your expectations are significantly statistically higher with one breeding animal over another.

EPD's for female alpacas are as relevant as those for males. However, a female will be bred approximately 1 to 12 times in a lifespan, but a herdsire can be bred hundreds of times. His contribution to the genetic pool is much greater than that of the female simply because of his numbers of progeny compared to a female. Hence the herdsire EPD has more significance and influence on the genetic pool and therefore his progeny.

EPDs allow a breeder to make breeding decisions based the probability of a positive genetic trait which then leads to a more rapid improvement with each generation for development of that trait. Say for instance you want more density of fiber in your offspring. A sire with an EPD trait for density is your choice. When that offspring is born you breed again to a sire with this same EPD trait or better for density determined from EPD studies. In the second generation you have more density and so on. You could breed to a beautiful expensive sire with incredible density and could get a cria with more dense fiber. But you could also, if you used EPDs as your criteria for breeding, choose the sire that is half the stud fee and yet get twice the density. In other words, the EPD is sort of an insurance policy where you are more likely to get what you want and are less likely to take an expensive gamble.

But we must be cautious in breeding for singular traits. Breeding for one trait can cause a big gamble in other traits. Generally, as we breed for finer and finer fiber, the genetics for animal size changes. Animals with finer fiber are smaller, since birth weight is a highly heritable trait. (4) No one trait stands on its own genetically. We will encounter with genetic engineering, the outcome of unintended consequences if we have a hyper focus on one singular trait. Therefore, multiple trait EPDs should be considered above singular traits in our decisions with whom we breed.

Accuracies associated with EPDs grow with the size of the sample of animals being tested. This leads us to our next two assumptions about EPDs and that is that all animals should be tested regardless of their quality and all progeny should be tested. The larger the pool of genetic trait information, the more accurate the resultant EPD will become. If only the good animals are tested the average or mean becomes skewed. The EPD on a young alpaca will initially be based on the alpaca's relatives and is therefore going to be less reliable than if this alpaca had progeny being tested. (2) This reduces the accuracy for this particular alpaca's EPD until he or she adds progeny data into the calculation. So, a given alpaca's EPD could change over time. (2).

The next step for our industry in trait testing is to combine DNA testing with EPD testing. The two combined together will improve significantly the accuracy of EPDs. (2) DNA testing is an inevitability in the alpaca livestock trade just as was EPD testing, it will simply come down to how long we will do business outside the gold standards of practice of all other livestock businesses. Kevin DeHaan, technical services director, of IGENITY® states that, "It is very important for all producers to start understanding the potential benefit of the inclusion of DNA information in EPDs," he further says. "It comes down to mitigating risk and picking animals that truly are superior at a younger age." (2)

This now brings us to a discussion of where to go from here. If you have not already guessed, getting every alpaca tested, will come with a price. It is going to weed out animals or pedigrees that are poor performers in EPDs. If you are the owner who has been promoting an animal and making money, your taking a risk if you get the animal tested and it turns out he is a beautiful but his EPDs are not. This is the conundrum for all alpaca breeders. If you're a small breeder and are building a herd, EPD's seem a reasonable premise upon which to choose your foundation. If you are well established with an existing foundation it does not sound so enticing. If you have chosen a pedigree you are integrating into your herd, the "EPD on these pedigrees will show what you are really putting into your herd and give you a basis for making changes." This quote succinctly states this conundrum by Fred Knop in his article "Do your EPD Homework". (3) Knop further advises bovine bull purchaser to have as a goal of top EPDs in every category. In other words your EPD trait choice in a sire should be multiple trait improvement and should enhance what you already have in the breeding female. (3) So when you think about it, whether you're a large breeder or small breeder, we are all coming from the same place with this new breeding tool. One breeder is building the other is rebuilding.

Breeders often say they can predict their herdsire's breeding performance, and they usually can. Many herdsires will pass along good fiber to their offspring, because we have seen improvement in their progeny through observation of their cria. The question however belies, will that improvement translate to the next generation. That is the question that EPDs can answer in advance of a progeny for the breeder.

So what are those traits we want to build into our EPD database. The traits today, may not be the traits we look for in the future. But for sure, the bedrock of traits now and forever, will be the desired qualities of fiber. We can test for whatever trait is a desirable trait in the animal. The only requirement is that it must be a trait that has a high degree of heritability.(4) And as we know, heritability can vary significantly from one trait to another. In the alpaca industry we are in the infancy of understanding genetics and heritability of our livestock. All you have to do is look at the bovine industry to know how much we lack in knowledge of our species genetics. But then we don't have entire university systems researching our species either.

EPDs are measured for Alpacas in deviations above or below the norm or average alpaca. So if you want to breed improvement into your herd the last thing you want is a breeding pair whose EPDs are average, and worse, a breeding pair whose traits are worse than the norm. We usually breed traits with only the herdsire in mind, and that is ok if you are looking to improve over the dam in one generation, but if you are breeding for excellence, then both partners EPDs should be considered. We would never have had the renowned racehorse Secretariat, had Penny Cheney chose the colt only with the consideration of the Stud's prowess in speed. In fact, the quality that made Secretariat the champion he was, was the genetics for endurance he inherited from his mother.

But let's talk about a species more close to home, sheep. The National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) is the clearinghouse for sheep EPDs, established in 1986. (6) If you look at the establishment of EPDs in sheep in 1986 you can see the mirror image of the state of EPDs in the alpaca industry today. Ideal Alpaca Community was instrument in the development of a statistically reliable sample with inclusion of alpaca trait data from a number of farms. (5) The entire purpose of this sampling was to create a statistically reliable pool of alpacas in enough numbers to produce reliability in a sample size. Simply stated, Ideal Alpaca has provided the industry a reliable average trait determination for a number of alpaca fiber traits in a statistically sound sample size of alpacas. Because of IAC's historic work, we can now begin to measure EPDs in all registered alpacas.

In 2010 we made a giant step in our livestock industry with the inclusion of EPD testing and dissemination for all ARI members. But like all change, it can be painful to some, or a godsend to others. I believe in the end, it will save this industry. Help us move out of this recession. Focus us toward a viable national fiber producing industry, and create a fiber market, with the finest natural fiber in the world. I also believe the show industry will continue to be prominent part of our industry. People will always want to see and grade fiber. Buyers or breeders will always want to breed to a winner, and who knows, maybe EPDs will come to be included in show placing criteria. Bovine and sheep industries both use EPDs and yet they both still have a thriving show industry.

1. Retrieved 11/26/2010, Terminology, EPD Information; PDF file, **EPDs (Expected Progeny Difference)** - A measure of the expected differences in performance of a sire's progeny when compared to the average progeny of all <http://www.bovine-elite.com/Terminology.pdf>
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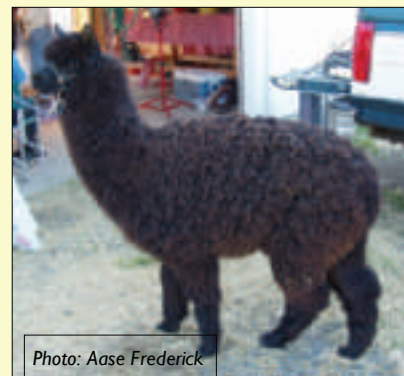


Photo: Aase Frederick

The (almost) Perfect Storm

By Cynthia Kuhlmann

Sierra Rose Alpacas, Grass Valley, CA

November 20th, 2010 is a date I will not quickly forget. That was the expected birth date of our newest cria, and luckily for us, he decided to come one week early. Manchu's Maverick of Sierra Rose was born on a beautiful sunny day, November 14th, at 9:30am. We were grateful for that sunny, warm (relatively speaking) day in November and the ease of his birth, his early stamina, nursing and pooping. It did not take Maverick long - with his abundantly soft mocha curly fiber, and curious, sweet temperament - to learn to love sunbathing himself, chase the chickens, and romp and play with the others.

And as life would have it, Howard and I had just picked up our newest herd of 7 suri's just a few weeks earlier and we were all getting to know one another. They had come from a lower elevation, and were not yet accustomed to the change in temperature, related to elevation differences. Having raised only huacayas so far, we were getting to see that there really were differences between the two types of alpacas.

As that week progressed, we kept hearing about snow coming to the Sierras. This is our first year in Grass Valley, and at 2700 ft. elevation we are considered the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and we did not really expect much snow. After all, we have had this property now for 4 years, working on building the ranch, and had not yet had much snow (just an inch or two). But we prepared as best we could for the coming cold. We made sure we had enough cria coats on hand for the babies, and ordered a couple of large (adult) alpaca coats just to have them on hand should we need them.

Well, on that fateful day, November 20th, we awoke to a beautiful sight - 3 inches of snow overnight, and snow continuing to fall! Were we glad Maverick came one week early, on a spring-like day, and not that day!

We went out to check on and feed the alpacas, and saw some of the new suri's shivering. They had stayed in the shelters, but were just cold. We tried putting the largest cria coat we had on hand (the adult size had not yet arrived) on the most shivering suri, but it was simply too small and would not stay on her - even with infamous electrical tape trying to hold it together over a body that was simply too large for the cria coat. We did succeed in having it flop off her, flapping around her side, and getting her running around the pasture with it half on and half off. THAT warmed her up alright. No more shivering for the moment.

Clearly, that was not the solution, and we felt we needed one *now*.

After making a few calls, we were fortunate to get in touch with Jennifer Powers of Aero Ranch Suri Alpacas and she had some wonderful suggestions for us! The biggest hits were two ideas that really worked wonders.


Jennifer suggested going to a used clothing store and finding winter vests that zip to put on the alpacas. She also suggested giving them 'hot tea' - warm/hot water with electrolytes to drink. After shopping around, I was able to find men's Med, Large and XL parka vests on sale at my local K-Mart. What a find! We spent less than \$10 per vest versus the \$45 for the cria coats that were on their way. We were a bit concerned about getting them on the girls, but it turned out not to be an issue. We simply slipped their front legs into the vest armpits, and zippered them up over their backs. These didn't quite cover their rumps, but it did the trick! Jennifer also suggested getting them 'warmed up' a few days in advance of cold storms by giving a bit more alfalfa to them, to turn up their internal furnace.

The hot tea is a favorite!! It is a little more work for us to slog it to them in buckets filled from our sink, but they sure just drink it up!! Sometimes we add a small amount of electrolytes, and other times, not. We'll make some hot water changes to our ranch to make that task easier to do in the future. We now have a snow sled to carry our hay/alfalfa to the gang, as the hay cart wheels we have could not go through that much snow. We purchased that after this storm and we have not needed to use it yet, but that will be another story, for if/when we get that kind of snowfall again. We got lots of support from Jennifer - always checking in to see how else she could help. Thank you Jennifer for your thoughtful suggestions and support!!

That first day and night of snowfall we got about 9 inches of snow! These handy tips made all the difference in keeping our 'kids' warm. We saw no more shivering! And Maverick? Well he had two cria coats on to keep his week old body warm, and he chased and played and did all the good, cute things a cria does... We also gave all the alpacas plenty of fresh straw for bedding (they LOVE that!) and made sure their shelters were in good, secure, dry shape. We made sure the crias and nursing moms were in shelters at night to keep them out of the snow. Getting in out of the cold does not seem to come naturally to some of them. The suris have that figured out, and so has Maverick, but his mom? Not always.

It was a fun and challenging time and we're glad we don't live like that all winter long! This is California after all! But it is this type of adventure that helps us all to grow; care for one another's needs, and appreciate all the days we have - whatever comes our way. We wouldn't trade it for anything!






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Calendar of Events

Quarterly Calpaca Membership Meeting

February 12, 2011

Alpacas All Around is pleased to host 2011's first Quarterly Meeting.

Where we are: 4300 Hansen Road Loomis Ca

Phone #: 916 660.1918

Directions: Please Google Alpacas All Around

As always the business meeting will be from 10-12

Lunch from 12-1:30

Guest speaker 1:30-2:30

Social Hour(s) 2:30—?

Parking areas will be marked, if you are doing an alpaca transfer, or arranging a mobile breeding, please let us know (susan.petersen89@yahoo.com) and we will send you additional information on trailer parking.

We have very convenient trailer access for the trailer nervous!

We will provide: Sufficient seating, coffee, water, juices, fruit and breakfast snacks in the morning and wine (local wines) cheese and breads for the post speaker social time

You should: RSVP and bring a potluck item for lunch.

Please RSVP to susan.petersen89@yahoo.com on your attendance and pot luck item.

Our speaker: Assembly member Linda Halderman M.D. Dr. Halderman is an alpaca owner, a General Surgeon and a nationally recognized author. Her perspective on the issues facing California's economic recovery will be of great interest to us.

Sue and I look forward to seeing you on the 12th



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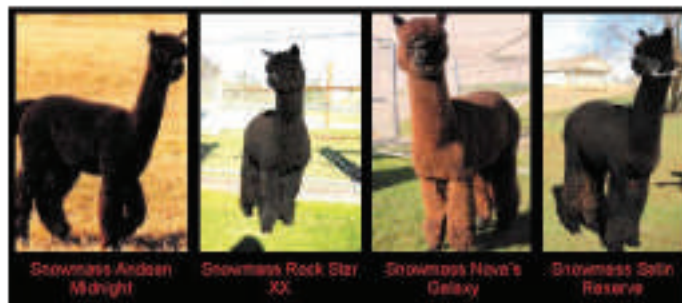
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Alpaca Magic

By Shauna Shipley

With the New Year dawning and the reflection that comes with it, I'm sitting here contemplating my place in the Alpaca Farming Industry. It is 2 years now that I've owned an Alpaca. We've had one born to us and we've acquired another in partnership. Three years ago I barely knew what an Alpaca was and now I'm eagerly anticipating a breeding and a birth, the California Classic, and my own property for my animals. When I was first asked to write an article for the Connection, I was too overwhelmed with what I knew and what I yet had to learn to be able to put a cohesive thought down on paper. Now I can at least tell you how I met these magical animals and what they've come to mean to me.

In 2008 I was a 911 dispatcher and going through a divorce with two teenage children. The previous two years had been especially painful at work as well with some tragic outcomes to emergencies I'd been involved in. My relationship with my family was near non-existent and by early 2008 I felt like there was nothing left of me. At the urging of a friend, I took a trip to Big Springs, California to visit with my dad, who also was retired from Law Enforcement. He'd just bought some property and was building shelters and a hay-barn for his new Alpaca farm. It was January and not at all warm outside but for the first time in a long while I enjoyed time with my dad and found myself laughing.

It's always easier to look at other people when it's too painful to look at yourself. I caught myself watching my dad, his mannerisms, his language, and his behavior. I was waiting to see the hardness I grew up with. I wanted something to validate how I was feeling. I never saw it. My dad was cheerful, chatty, and helpful. Finally he asked me if I wanted to see his Alpacas. (They were still being agisted while he built their pens). We took a trip over to EBA Oaks Alpacas and met up with Duane and Aase who were more than happy to walk me through their pens and introduce me to their herd. If I was moved by my father's new personality I was completely overwhelmed by these friendly and curious animals.

My first experience was one of chaos in a pen of about 25 four legged, long necked, big eyed, multi-colored animals who stood as tall as I did and who weren't afraid to come nose to nose with me. Their lack of respect for personal space was almost offensive yet easily forgiven because of their innocent nature. I was witness to spitting arguments and pronking little ones. It was sensory overload that had me laughing again. Worse yet, Aase and dad were tending to an injury so I was left on my own in this pen. I could have reached out and touched them but I kept my hands in my pockets. These fellows gave new meaning to spitting mad! I was amazed that I could feel touched without being touched. My healing had finally begun.

Later that year I made another trip to my dad's with the friend who'd urged the first trip. I spent much of my time just sitting in the pens, letting myself be surrounded by these wonderful creatures. Being near them was therapeutic for me. My friend instantly fell in love with them as well and after some discussion about the potential of owning our own farm and a few false starts and disappointing rejections on our offers, we purchased one of my dad's animals. The risk to reward ratio was too good to pass up.

With the purchase of Gigi, we began an immersion style learning of the Alpaca culture. We made several more trips to my dad's farm in Big Springs over 2009 and 2010. While helping on dad's farm, I learned how amazingly symbiotic Alpacas are with our Earth, something I truly value. We attended the California Classic and met a lot of fantastic people who shared with us their experiences and uses for Alpacas. I was taught how to knit, three times, and given a pair of knitting needles to get me on my way. I learned that the people who own these animals are compassionate, friendly, and helpful. We were invited to visit other farms and enjoyed rich hospitality along with abundant information and education.

Most of all, I was amazed to see the number of people from the emergency services as Alpaca owners. My experience with people over the past 15 years has been in a mostly negative light, obviously due to the nature of the business I was involved in. Studies have shown that having a dog or cat can reduce your stress levels and add value to your life. Its true, I have both a dog and a cat and its nice to have that unconditional love to come home to after a wretched day. What I've found with Alpacas however, is that they don't just bandage that stress, they truly seem to heal it. Based on my observations, it seems that Alpacas transform or take away altogether the stress and pain experienced in life. There is something truly magical about Alpacas that adds value and comfort to our everyday lives beyond their soft, hypoallergenic fiber and sweet dispositions, which supports my favorite motto from my dad's farm, "Magic happens here!"

Shauna Shipley is the daughter of local rancher Rick Shipley, owner of Argonaut Farms, in Montague CA.

Quick Tip...How to Help an Adult Alpaca “Burp”

By Dianna Jordan,
“Alpacas of Somerset Farm”

The first time we had an alpaca with a bellyache/colic we didn't know what to do. We had owned alpacas less than a year and had not faced a situation like that before.

We found her cushed with her hind legs out to the side. She would go from side to belly, up then down, switching from side to side. She refused any offering of food. She definitely did not want to stand and walk. When we thumped her belly it sounded like a ripe watermelon. To make matters worse, she had a cria at her side.

We called a local mobile vet, but they wouldn't be able to make it out for a couple of hours. Not wanting to wait, we did what most new and inexperienced alpaca owners would do, with access to UC Davis; we loaded her and the cria into the trailer and headed off toward the Davis Vet School. We were not sure what to expect to find when we opened the door to the trailer, but it certainly wasn't what we found! Our girl, who had been in such obvious pain and discomfort, exited the trailer as if she were entering a show ring...head and tail up, almost a prancing gait, and a look on her face that said “here I am.” She did not look like an alpaca in distress!

We were baffled at the almost instant turnaround. Of course the Davis crew wanted to run some tests, do an ultrasound, and find out what was going on. With our lack of knowledge and experience we wanted to know too. At one point in our discussions someone mentioned that it wasn't uncommon for horses to present with the same symptoms, which seemed to have passed when they arrived. We joked that maybe the trailer ride caused the distressed animal to pass the gas and relieve the symptoms. Many \$\$\$'s later, we loaded her and the cria back in the trailer and took them home. The statement about the trailer ride was filed away in that “special recall” place in my brain.

Now fast forward four years...same female, same symptoms, our response: different! This time I took her temperature (it was normal), gave her some probiotics and moved her and the cria to a smaller holding pen so I could monitor her “output.” An hour later she was still uncomfortable and wouldn't stand for her cria to nurse. I thought about our options, and then the successful outcome of the trailer ride (four years earlier) popped out of its special place and into my head.

We thought, “why not?” Hooked up the trailer, which would have to be done anyway, if we took her to our veterinarian, and we loaded them into our trailer. She cushed immediately, placing her belly on the floorboards of the trailer. My goal: take them on as bumpy a ride as I safely could. This was not at all difficult since our driveway is dirt and not exactly smooth! Instead of carefully slowing down at the double set of speed bumps on the paved part of our road I went over them with every intention of causing a big jolt in the trailer.

I drove about 5 miles on a winding road, turned around into a dirt parking lot, full of ruts (we have a lot of those around here) and then headed home. I went over the speed bumps without slowing down again and headed up our own bumpy driveway. When I opened the trailer door she was standing there obviously ready to jump out. She pranced back to the pen, practically inhaled the pellets and buried her head in the hay I gave her. Relieved, I watched as her hungry cria nursed away.

Over next few hours I kept a close eye on her. After an obviously fulfilling meal, she took a long drink of water, cushed, and shortly after starting vigorously chewing her cud. I later discovered evidence that her elimination processes were working just fine. And the next morning she rejoined her herd mates and settled right back into her routine.

NOTE - In this case, we were able to “burp” an alpaca by taking her on a very bouncy road. Somewhere during that trip she was able to pass the air bubbles that were causing so much discomfort. Obviously if she had still been down in the trailer and exhibiting all the other symptoms we would have turned right around and headed off for help.



CHECK YOUR EXPIRATION DATES!

*By Laurie Findlay,
of Alpacas of El Dorado*

The New Year is a great time to check all of your medicine bottles for their expiration dates. The story below serves as a lesson of what happened to us and warrants telling as a constant reminder of how these animals health are in our hands.

Just about the beginning of last March I noticed that a few of my fall born cria were starting to get crooked front legs. I looked at my computer and saw that I was overdue for giving A & D vitamin shots to several of them. We gave a round of shots that weekend. Feeling good about it I started to halter train for the up and coming shows. About a day later I noticed one of my black crias who is coming 4 months old looked a little down. Very subtle, but not playing with the rest, laying down a lot, but otherwise normal. She was nursing, eating hay and grazing. I watched her for 24 hours and still not satisfied I moved her and her mother into our corridor to keep tabs on them. The cria, Dawn, cushed while she ate, a big circle around herself so she didn't have to move much. She seemed rather depressed and when she did walk she looked stiff legged to me. I called one of our vets, Dr. Michelle Ing and I asked her if I could bring her in that day. I took both mom and cria to Michelle's and by the time I got there the cria was like a limp dish rag. We carried her to the examining table and drew blood. She was put on IV's with glucose, vitamin B and Michelle examined her. This cria has very dense thick fleece and tons of leg coverage. What I hadn't noticed were how swollen her leg joints were. Michelle asked if she had been given vitamin A & D as I usually do. But for some reason this cria had escaped getting any vitamin A & D. Michelle was sure she had Rickets. She gave her an A & D shot (500,000 IU of A and 75,000 IU of D, SQ). We decided to keep her at Michelle Ing's until we saw improvement.

I then went home and got my bottle of A & D and read it. First of all this bottle contained 100,000 IU of A and 10,000 IU of D, not nearly enough for growing cria. Not to mention, my bottle had expired quite some time ago. I suddenly felt sick to my stomach as I had just given several of my cria the expired vitamins. I called my friends who also have alpaca and much to my surprise they were going through the same thing. They had been giving their cria expired vitamins. Now they were experiencing the same problems as I was. When I got the blood results back my cria had a vitamin D level of 19. If you read Dr. C. Norman Evans Field Manual, the latest book, he calls for levels of vitamin D to read between 250 and 400 for a normal range. You can see, my cria fell way lower. We purchased a new bottle of A & D from Dr. Ing and proceeded to give all of our cria and yearlings new vitamin A & D shots. Dawn, the "Ricket" cria is expected to make a full recovery. I will keep reminding everyone to look at their expiration dates on their medicines and use the dosages recommended by your veterinarian. When you buy these drugs and vitamins and you don't have a large herd, you can easily not use them up before their expiration date. Just something else to keep in the back of your mind.

Accessing the "Members Only" section on the website:

To access member information, if you forgot your Log-In ID or your Password, do the following:

1. Go to Calpaca website: www.calpaca.org
2. Click on "Members only" Username: **calpaca** Password: **alpacapeople**

This brings you to "member info login". Click on "Forgot username/password". You will be e-mailed your login information within 24 hours. Once you have been issued a username and password, you can access your personal data page and make any updates you choose; including changing your password to something of your choice.

Herdsires

4 x Get-of-Sire, color champion and too many blue ribbons to count – **Derwydd Peruvian Inti-Sapa** is a winner - both in the show ring and in his progeny! One of his off spring, medium fawn ALR Inti-Sapa's Peruvian Ruffo earned Reserve Champion at the 2010 AlpacaMania fleece show (class of 19). Inti has a 22 micron fleece at 7 years old! He started his breeding career at 2 years of age. With 57 registered females and 40 males on the ground, Inti-Sapa is one of the West Coast's hottest herd sires. His fleece is dense with a very high frequency and low amplitude crimp (S/P ratio 11.8; follicle density 47 –biopsy at 61 months). Inti-Sapa will be at Alpacas at Lone Ranch in Southern Oregon from April through September and is available for lease & lease to own.

Call Richard or Renate at 541-826-7411 for details.

Derwydd Inti-Hatun will be making his way back to **Macedo's Mini Acre** from February through the end of May... Book your girls now! Larry 209-648-2338 or Maureen maureenmacedo@aol.com

Ahh...Sweet Alpacas introduces the two newest members of their Herdsire Row, **Ahhh Sweet's Enrique** and **Ahhh Sweet's Rocky**. Both have settled several females. **Enrique** is a Full Peruvian **Rose Gray** from the **Luciano/Platinum** line, and took 1st Place at AFW 09. **Rocky** is Light Fawn, with a micron of **18.1** at 3 yrs. **Rocky** combines two legendary bloodlines, **Legacy** and **Victor**. Introductory fees for both boys are **\$500**. Visit www.sweetalpacas.com or call **707-448-9157** for more information. And don't forget our established Studs, **Gladiator**, **Glacier**, **Cirrus**, **Grey Ghost**, and **LV Silver Sage**. So far Little Sage has produced 7 cria, 3 Rose Gray, 2 Silver Gray, and 2 Black..... *Discounts offered for multiple breedings.*

An amazing alpaca ready to produce a quality cria! **Alpacas of Baragon** introduces its namesake herd-sire, Terra de Luz Cochiti's Baragon. A beautiful fawn macho boy, Baragon has some wonderful lines with Aspen Ridge Augusto's Cochiti as his sire. Visit our website to view the impressive lines of Baragon: www.loveofalpacas.com

Email: alpacasofbaragon@aol.com or call Linda Nicolosi at 805.698.0980 to discuss your breeding goals. Stud fees are currently \$800, which is a steal in today's market!

Classified

For Sale: 2 Females! CCR Valienza w/female cria at side DOB 7/9/05 Dark Brown Bred Female \$5000

Valienza is a ½ Peruvian girl sired by Inti-Sapa. She has dark vicuna markings that create her striking appearance and wonderful presence. Her confirmation is impeccable from her bite to her dead straight legs. She has a bay black CCR Malato female cria at her side and is bred to SilverCoyo Outlaw for an May 2011 cria.

Sunny Acres Alpacas 559-323-9608 See her at www.SunnyAcresAlpacas.com




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Herdsires

Standing at West Ranch Champion... **Bloodlines that you want...**

Skywalker by Posiedon (MF), Tequila Victor's Light (WH), Godfather's Pacino (WH), Luciano's Orsino (MSG) and Dundee's AJ Stormcat (TB). **Call 805.698.4540** for seasonal breeding specials and drive-by super deals! See www.alpacasatwestranch.com for details about these superior Herdsires.

BROOKFARM ~ Alpacas in the Valley of the Moon. Proven award-winning huacayas. Accoyo/Alianza/Snowmass genetics. **Multiple breeding discounts.** Beautiful cria on the ground. Contact us now for discounted pricing: 707-996-0350 www.brookfarmalpaca.com

BROOKFARM'S P. ROCK OF GIBRALTAR Full Peruvian COLOR-CHAMP, MF, Inti-Sapa son. Dense fleece, low amplitude high frequency crimp & high luster.

HVLA BLACK JACK TB COLOR-CHAMP. 2007-OFDA-2000 identified as Finest Black in Country in age. Superfine fleece, dense, well-defined crimp & luster. Proudly co-owned with Alpacas All Around.

SILVER ROSE MEMENTO $\frac{3}{4}$ Peruvian; classic silver grey. Blue Ribbon Winner Correct conformation, strong stance, beautiful head, full coverage and beautiful fiber.

HEMIPERU LEGOLAS Hemingway/PPPAuzengate genetics. White. Strong and proud. Correct conformation, lovely fleece. Gorgeous cria to view.

Offering for the first time: **ACCOYO AMERICA MARINER** by National Champion PCA Hemmingway-Accoyo NATILUS and by 5Peruvian Chanchani 8690, a first pick from the famous Don Julio Barreda's Accoyo herd! Bloodlines count and Don Julio Barreda picked his best for Greg Mecklem's herd.

\$1,000 with a breed back if you get a boy the first time. Even though, in this case, getting a boy may be the greatest breeding investment for your herd. Limited time offer!

Also, offering **TODDITO'S ELVIS**, producing black and grey - 50% off at \$1,000.00 and Christopher B Charming introductory at \$500. CALL Jeanne at Adore Alpacas (831) 636-6600

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 4 Color Champs and 2 Reserve Champs, as well as multiple Blue Ribbons. Incredible Accoyo Express bloodlines at an outstanding price.

Stud Fee: \$2200 Calpaca members get a 60% discount

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

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

Sierra Rose Alpacas introduces several handsome males for your consideration as potential herdsires. **Sterling Knight, ARI 31068185, a modern dark silver gray**, a Kirwin son, won First Place 2009 AFCNA Continental Fleece Show and Fourth Place 2009 World Fleece Show. He has settled his first girls. His fleece is fine, crimped and has good staple length. **Sierra Rose Bronson, ARI 31551816, Dark Rose Grey**, has a handsome face, a typey head and proud bearing. He has excellent conformation, a good bite, a good temperament. He carries NGG Cahuide's Smokey Bear genetics, a bay black male out of Accoyo Cahuide. **Revolution, ARI 30450431, is a handsome dark brown suri**. With his beautiful head, elegant conformation, and proud bearing, he is instantly recognizable as a son of the legendary Captain Morgan.

Also available is **Kohl, ARI 31551939, a non fading true black**, out of High Point Touchstone, an Aussie Rockford son. He boasts a nice hand and soft crimped fiber. **O Solo Mio, ARI 1122398, a 6 Peruvian Ninaya son, is a full Peruvian white male** who carries fine micron and crimp into his 5th year. Also available is **Cowboy Bebop, ARI 1122718, a pattern suri male** who is an Aguascalientes son.

Call for more information. **Howard or Cynthia Kuhlmann 707-373-6871 cell; 530-272-1218** ranch, Sierra Rose Alpacas,

Herdsires

Alpacas All Around invites you to checkout these Herdsires: **HVLA Black Jack** (ARI 1191011), co-owned with Brookfarm Alpacas, Multi-champion non-fading true black, with *BLUE* ribbon offspring. **2007 OFDA** Fiber Testing identified **Black Jack, FINEST BLACK HUACAYA in the country** for his age. **Derwydd Bueno's Akupana** (ARI 30033825), co-owned with Derwydd Alpacas and Washoe Valley Alpacas, light fawn, show ring success, excellent fiber statistics, and *BLUE* ribbon offspring. **AKU's 2009 AlpacasAllAround** crias, all female, including one true black. **Cinnamon's Legacy** (ARI 30613324), multi blue ribbon/reserve color champ, light brown, just beginning his breeding career. Contact Susan Petersen 916.660.1918.

Tom and Susan Petersen **Alpacas All Around**

916.660.1918 susan.petersen89@yahoo.com www.alpacasallaround.com

Enhance Your Future with the Greatness of Their Past Solid Foundation Genetics Are Ageless

If you are looking to add some solid and valued genetics to your breeding program, **Alpacas of Somerset Farm** (Dianna and Jack Jordan) offers the following proven herd sires for your consideration.

CF Cuzco (1100259) WH, Sire: Eastwind's Andino, GSires: 4PeruvianPachucuti/5PeruvianChaccu

Followill Emilio (842819) BG, Sire: Snowmass Peruvian Highlander, GSires: Peruvian Don Julio/Peruvian Bueno—co-owned with EBA Oaks Alpacas

Eastwind's Blade (30502710) MB, Sire: Victor's Hemiaccyo Viking, GSires: PPeruvian Victor/Peruvian Hemingway.

Check them and their progeny out www.alpacasomersetfarm.com, or call for more information 530-620-6033.

Distinction, Maturity, Harmony, Patience, Heritage, Legend: **Jack Daniels!** Just like the fine product Our Jack is named after, this stud can bring satisfaction to your ranch. Square conformation, density & coverage – this is what Jack can bring to your herd. Fee \$500 **Macedo's Mini Acre in Stevinson, California.** **Contact Maureen or Larry at macedosminiacre.com or call 209-648-2384 or 209-648-2338 Agist or drive by, Jack is ready!**

FDA Rembrandt by El Nino-This stunning El Nino son is producing top shelf crias. Long stapled, bright soft even fleeces, huge bone. They are truly stars.

FDA Skywalker by Poseidon-With these proven genetics and color, Skywalkers' offspring are winning Championships, check out his black and brown winners.

Accoyo Carmello- Suri- Accoyo Baron Lafite son out of Accoyo Ramilio daughter. Style, lock luster, winning and producing fine silky fleece.

FDA Captain's Picasso-Black suri-Multiple Champion himself, producing extraordinary crias.

Come check them out at **Flying Dutchman Alpacas** - www.fdalpacas.com or call 831 809 1147

925 Suris of Sterling Alpacas, where suris have a silver lining, 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.

New to California - Callaway Jaxon, a gorgeous silver stud out of Axtion Jaxon, a non-fading true black male that won four Reserve Color Championships and Get of Sire over two white males! Callaway's 1st and 2nd year histograms reflected 19.0 and 19.5 microns respectively. He's soft, he's dense and has great conformation; plus he's a real nice guy! Co-owned by **Retiredice Alpacas** and **Alpaca Shire**. To make a date for your girl, contact *Paige Romine* at paige@retiredicealpacas.com or

Vicki Arns at vickiashire@vom.com

Alpacas of El Dorado

Would like to announce our partnership in co-owning this amazing Full Accoyo Suri Herdsire - **DDF Accoyo Armani**, with Derwydd Alpacas and Super Suris Alpacas.

Although outside breedings will be closed until next fall - talk to us about buying a female bred to this outstanding male. He has many champion offspring on the ground. Check him out at the TAP Herdsire Event!

Primitivo of the Shire. Dark gray suri; Blue Ribbon Halter and Blue Ribbon Spin-Off winner. 100% Suri offspring (well, two out of two so far) 100% Female (both girls) and 50% BLACK (one is white). Check him out on www.alpacanation.com/alpacashire and contact Vicki Arns to make a date for YOUR females. (707) 938-5412 or email vickiashire@vom.com.

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SHEARERS (as of Fall 2009)

Kris Kelly
Ktkelly@charter.net
530-226-1971

Eddie Dunham.
theshearer@macnet.com
503-864-4240
cell: 503-805-7409

Brett Crosby
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Paul Smith
alpaca_shearing@callsouth.net.nz
(note: alpaca_shearing, underscore not space)
Starting in California from mid-May onwards as long as needed.

Alan Godsiff
Phone 541-549-2202

Highland Shearing Bruce MacLean
509/485-2132 (Washington)
HarmonyCottage@bmi.net
Portland vicinity.

Sharon Allen
(Chiloquin OR area only)
Ballen004@centurytel.net

Steven Mortimer
Sandy Acres Alpacas
Escalon CA 95320
209-505-2959 ranch cell
209-988-3396 Steven's Cell

Steve Bell's Shearing
541-913-9959
OR, WA, ID, CA, NV

Jerry Lane
jdlane@gotsky.com
Green Valley Alpacas of Rescue
(El Dorado County CA)
3613 Walnut Drive
Rescue, CA 95672
(530) 672-0710
(916) 606-9063 Cell

Russell Murray
530-604-3830
5245 Woodview Dr
Redding CA 96002
murray44185@yahoo.com

you can use the **Advanced Search** feature of the **Ranch Finder** on the **Calpaca website (www.calpaca.org)**. Search for "shearing".

AGISTMENT (Boarding) Services

Ruth, Dave and Caitlin Gomez, El Corazon en las Nubes, MALIBU, CA

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Years in camelid business: 11

Able to agist: Females (and crias), call about males
Fee: \$3.50/day Includes: Daily care with hay, supplemental pellets, minerals, microbiotics, toenail trimming, inoculations and worming. Special needs and training \$15.00/hr. Crias under 3 months free, half rate until weaned at 6 months. Vet bills at cost.

Birthing and shearing extra, discounts on multiple animals – please inquire.

Veterination: Jana Smith DVM

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Cria Announcement:

Alpacas of El Dorado would like to introduce the highly anticipated birth of a Rare, **Full Accoyo, Fawn Suri male. *El Dorado Accoyo Cloud Warrior*** is exactly what we wanted from our **Accoyo Ever After by Torbio and 6Peruvian Accoyo Chachapoya!**

Check him out!

Flying Dutchman Alpacas- Accoyo Ch'aska criations

Accoyo Chaska X FDA Diamond's Milana (Accoyo Carmello daughter, out of Accoyo Kahuna daughter!)

Wait to you see **Star Trooper** in the ring in 2011, luster, style and genetics deep.

FDA **Sparkling Candy** by Chaska- This fawn beauty has a silky fleece, lovely luster and style, stunning!

Brookfarm ~ *Alpacas in the Valley of the Moon*

Introduces several new crias out of all of our herdsires:

We have multiple cria on the ground, and have been very impressed with what they have produced so far. Come visit Brookfarm to see our new additions in true black, brown, beige, fawn, white, and shades of grey.

We are proud to announce the first 2 cria born at **Moonlight Alpacas! Luna de Lydia** (dam: Lydia VanGelder of the Shire) and **Elvira** (dam: Willow otS), Sire of both cria: Primitivo otS. **Luna:** a stunning pure white. **Elvira** is black with white diamond on nose. Both girls showing amazing luster and lock.

Also:

Morpheus: pure black male with tight locks, very dense and loaded with luster. Dam: Cinnamon Rose;

Cassiopeia: med. Brown, long, lovely locks. Dam: Chocolate Rose; Sire of both: His Eminence.

Killian – a pure white male, lots of luster, gentle. Dam: Baby's Breath Sire: Accoyo Apache.

AGISTMENT offered at **Sierra Rose Alpacas**

Located in **Grass Valley** (foothills) invite you to consider us when looking for a home for agisting your alpacas. We offer competitive rates, with a full time ranch manager on site. We keep a good watch on the alpacas and have gentle, trustworthy interaction with them daily.

Rotational grazing principles are used to provide year-round pasture. We also feed them orchard grass hay, alfalfa when needed, free choice minerals, and supplemental pellets are given daily.

We will have lots of room in the late Summer-Fall as we will be **tripling our fenced pasture areas** beginning this Spring. We are fortunate to have three Veterinarians available to us and we are close to U.C. Davis if need be.

Call for more information: (530) 272-1218 Ranch

(707) 373-6871 Cynthia Cell

Owners Howard and Cynthia Kuhlmann

Cynthia@SierraRoseAlpacas.com

www.SierraRoseAlpacas.com

925 Suris of Sterling Alpacas is pleased to announce that Sterling Vindication's first offspring landed in November.... a gorgeous tuxedo male loaded with lustrous, locked gray fleece. A big bright spot to complete our birthing season! Pictures available on request :-).

Alas de Angel Alpacas is proud to announce our 2010 births resulted in two girls and two boys. **Star, Hamilton, and Angel** are all out of Our Peruvian Cirrus and carry his amazing crimp! **Dusty** is out of ASA's Grey Ghost and is quite the boy, and amazing medium brown.

Outlaw's Silver StarDust Our Multi-Champion and Get of Sire winning stud, SilverCoyo Outlaw continues to hit them out of the park,,, and in beautiful silver gray, no less. The latest Outlaw daughter has arrived and she's SPECTACULAR! **Dusty** is a gorgeous dark silver gray, with outstanding conformation, fiber and coverage. She looks almost identical to her full brother from last year, Gunsmoke, who sold at 4 months of age and is also very similar to her half sister, Color Champ Luna de Plata by Outlaw. We will eagerly be waiting her turn in the show ring and are sure she will follow in the footsteps of her older brothers and sisters. **Sunny Acres Alpacas 559-323-9608** See her at www.SunnyAcresAlpacas.com



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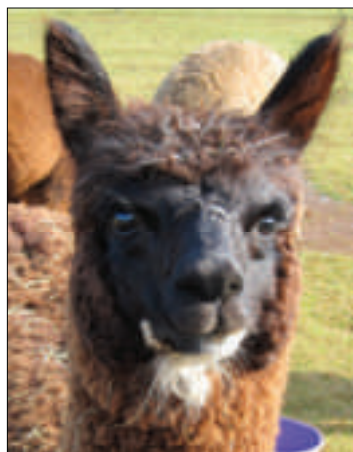
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Herd sire

New to **Alas de Angel Alpacas** are **two fabulous** boys; Derwydd Luciano's Kuraka (DB) (**El R Luciano son**), and Bailey(MSG) (**Silver Sage son**); in addition to Alas de Angel Sam (W) (**SRRA P. Glacier son**) and rounding out the lineup is Alas de Angel Esteven (MF) (**FDA Gladiator son**). First year breeding fees are \$750 each or multiple rate of \$500 each! Call to book breeding dates! (707) 998-9156 All sires have ribbons in either/or class or spin off entries!

Photo
By
Dave



See How They Shine

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**Useful (or just interesting) WEBSITES
BOOKS & LINKS**

Calpaca, Inc: www.calpaca.org

Alpaca and Llama Show Association
www.alsashow.org

Alpaca Fiber Coop of N. America (AFCNA)

www.americasalpaca.com

www.afcna.org

Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF)

www.AlpacaResearchFoundation.org

Yahoo Groups:

AlpacaSite, AlpacaGeldings, AlpacaMarket,

AlpacaMarketClassified

AlpacaBrags, AlpacaPolitics, AlpacaWatch

Links

including sources for looking up Poisonous Plants

www.feedsafe.com

**Includes information on how to obtain a home kit for
testing your hay and grasses for NITRATES**

The following link has a bunch of links to articles about poison-
ous plants and trees (at the bottom of his webpage)

http://www.vims.edu/bio/faculty/perry_je.html

<http://www.calacademy.org/research/library/biodiv/biblio/poison.htm>

<http://envhort.ucdavis.edu/ce/king/PoisPlant/>

Reference Books

“The Complete Alpaca Book” by Eric Hoffman

www.bonnydoonalpacas.com

“Alpaca Field Manual” by C. Norman Evans, DVM
Able Publishing and AG Press Inc.

“Caring for Llamas and Alpacas”

by Clare Hoffman, DVM and Ingrid Asmus

“Llama and Alpaca Neonatal Care”

By Bradford B. Smith DVM, PhD, Karen I. Timm, DVM,
PhD,

Patrick O. Long DVM

**Field Guide to Plants Poisonous to Livestock West-
ern U.S.**

By Shirley A Weathers

*The following are also advertising websites (alpaca sales,
alpaca goods and services, etc.) but do contain useful
information on their
forums & libraries of articles*

www.alpacastreet.com

www.alpacanation.com

www.OpenHerd.com

WWW.KNITCLICK.COM

www.hatshapers.com

TKA - Knitting Guild of America

www.knitpicks.com

Has useful and helpful Podcasts and well designed instructions for
beginning and advanced knitting and crocheting

www.lionbrand.com—free patterns

<http://www.siskiyounknits.com/>

Lots of useful links and information on knitting and spinning

DIY website

“Knitty Gritty” podcasts and knitting Patterns and links

Conference of N. CA Handweavers: www.ench.org

Spinners and Weavers Housecleaning Pages

<http://homepages.together.net/~kbruce/kbbspin.html>

www.alpacafibersymposium.com.

You might consider joining the symposium yahoo chat
group thealpafibersymposium.

www.ETSY.com

Your place to buy and sell all things handmade

Useful Farm Links

<http://www.alpacadelapacifica.com/scratch.htm>

**Please Contact the Connection Editor
if you have a “useful” link on your own website!
Aase@4fast.net**



Information on how to submit advertising and articles etc. to the Editor of the Connection Newsletter

(when sending checks, please make sure your ranch name is somewhere on either the check or the return address on the envelope: Make checks payable to: "Calpaca Connection")

DEADLINES ARE FIRM. You will receive emails from the Editor, in plenty of time, regarding deadlines for each issue:

Winter Issue... **Deadline will be around January 5th**

Spring April 11th

Summer July 11th Fall October 10th

Stud Services, Agistment, Cria Announcement and Classified Advertising up to **100 words** for each category are FREE for Calpaca Members

Business Cards, Herdsire and Agistment advertising is **renewable once a year, SPRING ISSUE** — Classified and Cria Announcement are renewed each issue. *Business Cards are prorated if they are received at other times of the year.*

Each page is 8.5 X 11 inches, with a 1/2 inch margin all around. So a full page ad is 7.5 X 10 Inches. Half page is 7.5 X 5.

A quarter page is 3.75 x 5 and 1/3 page is always run at just over 2.5 H X 7.5 L. You can also run a 1/2 page 3.75 X 10 H

B/W Business Card	\$40 per year
Color Business Card	\$75 per year

B/W 1/4 Page	\$25.00
B/W Half Page	\$45.00

B/W Full Page	\$85.00
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Color 1/4 Page	\$45 per issue
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Color 1/3 Page	\$55 per issue
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Color 1/2 Page	\$85 per issue
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Color Full Page	\$160 per issue
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ADVERTISING AND BUSINESS CARDS must be submitted electronically (via email), or, if the file is more than 8 MB (a full page color ad should run not much more than 2 MB at 300 dpi), copy to a CD and mail (USPS). Graphics must be submitted as .jpg files or PDF and ready to go. ***Please do not submit "WORD" documents without imbedded graphics (if you need help with that—just look under HELP on the Word program.***

I can correct some problems, but a low quality "pixelly" product is going to print that way and some other problems are not correctable at all. For example, please don't send me a half-page formatted ad and ask me to STRETCH to a full page, if you think about it, it will look like the funny mirror at the fair :)... please check it for yourselves (on computer) before you send it, to make sure the quality is what you are looking for. ***Please be sure*** the file format is what I requested and—also, please do not send me an ad that is meant for a professional print shop, those require special programs just to open them and I don't use professional "Printer" programs to create this newsletter. Please keep in mind that we now have more than 230 members at any given time so, ***please sign your emails and articles with all your information including contact phone, email and websites if applicable.***

ARTICLES AND OTHER TEXT FILES should be emailed as attachment "Word" documents. Please do NOT format your Word docs, since I have to undo the formatting to make it work in the program I use for producing this newsletter. ***Please contact me if these instructions need more explanation.***

The editor may edit articles for content and especially for length. Articles should fit about 1 to 3 pages of text (7.5 x 10). Tahoma font (size 10, 9 or 8 is great). Articles of interest to everyone are really appreciated and enjoyed by all. Articles about current events that are of importance to our industry, such as research and development of new or better Vet info, new developments in procedures or application of certain meds and supplements are all of general interest and are beneficial to all of us and can be educational or just fun! Articles about your experiences as alpaca farmers are invaluable to the newbies and also to everyone else!

PLEASE MAIL YOUR ADVERTISING AND CHECKS IN PLENTY OF TIME TO MEET THE DEADLINES!

Back Cover Photo by John Foulke

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

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" Newsletter
Free Listing on the Calpaca Web Page
and up to 100 WORDS in the Classified section
of the Connection Newsletter & Entrance to all
free Calpaca functions

Associate Membership entitles you to:

The Quarterly Calpaca "Connection" Newsletter
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
(530) 941-7855

National Disaster Rescue Information

From: Sheila Fugina, IRC Council

National Lama Intervention & Rescue Coordination Council

As a result of the networking efforts of several camelid organizations, a communication system for disaster response and relief has been set up on the web site for the International Camelid Institute (ICI). The tornadoes and floods in the Midwest were the most recent impetus to putting such a plan together, but the wildfires and droughts in other parts of the country started the discussions much earlier. Contact information and links have been provided on the site for national, regional and local agencies involved with disaster preparedness, response and relief for both people and animals. A list of owners with immediate needs such as water, pasture, hay and shelter will be posted on the site shortly, as will a list of people offering help (transportation, pasture room, water, etc.). The list will be updated often over the next several weeks as ICI receives additional information. Specific concerns and suggestions from camelid veterinarians regarding disaster response and relief also will be posted on the site.

Much of the data in several of the reports was compiled by Sandra Wallace and her team members on the Alpaca Owner and Breeders Association (AOBA) Affiliate Congress who then worked with ICI and the IRC Council to get the actual communication system in place. Though the current concern is with the problems in the Midwest, the system is intended to provide immediate communication regarding any disaster nationwide. Please inform your members they can go to ICI's web site at www.icinfo.org and click on "Help for Affected Flood Owners" under the Hot Topics section for information and help not only for this latest weather related crisis, but also for future disaster concerns.

Calpaca Connection Newsletter
c/o Aase S Frederick
EBA Oaks Alpacas
6010 Little Creek Rd
Yreka CA 96097

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