

# From the ALSA Board of Directors

This message is to address the statements that we are ignoring the desires of members who want ALSA and the ILR to work together. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are taking this matter very seriously and would like nothing better than to have one strong and united show association. On May 3 we sent the ILR Board a letter requesting specifics about their proposal, but have not received any reply. If we are to work together, we really need to talk to each other and not just spread rumors and speculation in social media. We are sending an invitation to the ILR Board for a face-to-face meeting to discuss this matter like reasonable business people.

Please remember that ALSA has never stopped supporting the Registry by requiring registration of llamas entered in ALSA shows, even though the ILR Show Division was created to directly compete against ALSA. The division that exists in the show community was not created by ALSA, but we are willing to do our part to resolve it without neglecting our duty to protect the best interests of our loyal members.



A publication of the Alpaca & Llama Show Association

#### www.ALSAShow.org

The new ALSA Committees are being formed now for 2015. Here is a list and information below of the committee liaisons as of July 14, 2015.

We will post the chairs and committee members very soon. ALSA Committee members are selected by the Chair of the Committee and serve a one year term starting July 1 of the current year. The Committee Chair is selected by the BOD liaison of the Committee and also serves a one year term starting July 1st of the current year. The exception to this is the Regional, Grand National, and Fiber Committees which serve a one year term starting December 1st of the current year - following the conclusion of the Regional and National shows of that year. As Committees are selected, it is recommended that members are diversified as to their geographic regions to offer complete membership representation.

Committee Chairs should submit a Committee Report to their BOD liaison for each month's BOD meeting after it has been approved by all their committee members. (Minutes 8-15-06) Recommendations from committees are to be a consensus of the majority of Committee members, not just the opinion of the Chair. It is helpful for the BOD to even include the total votes (not names) of the Committee members on an issue in your report.

#### **ALSA BOD**

President: Paul Schwartz, WY • 307-752-2386 • pschwaerz@fiberpipe.net
Vice President: Jim Doyle,TX • 940-488-3163 • jimbod@marikollamas.com
Secretary: Cheryl Juntilla, CO • 606-970-640-8028 • c.juntilla@aol.com
Treasurer: Patricia Wattigney , LA (non-board member) • 504-394-3817 • pkmini2@aol.com
Debbie Andrews, IL • 217-346-2372 • dllogcabin1@yahoo.com

Allen Davis, IN,• 765-278-7665 • allendavisllamafarm@gmail.com Susan Leslie, TX, • 830-401-0819 • leslielanellamas@gmail.com Terese Evenson, KY • 606-473-0119 • asgaardllamas@yahoo.com EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Robin Turell, TX • (non-board member) • 281-516-1442 • llamas@alsashow.org ALPACA COMMITTEE:

Susan Leslie, TX, Liaison, BOD • 830-401-0819 • leslielanellamas@gmail.com TBA

#### **ELECTION COMMITTEE:**

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#### ETHICS COMMITTEE:

Cheryl Juntilla, CO · Liaison · 606-970-640-8028 · c.juntilla@aol.com FIBER COMMITTEE:

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TBA

#### Finance & Budget Committee:

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#### **Grand National Committee:**

Cheryl Juntilla, CO · Liaison · 606-970-640-8028 · c.juntilla@aol.com

Glenna Overmiller, Chair, KS. 785-282-6489 • twincreekllamas@yahoo.com Patti Wattigney,LA. 504-394-3817pkmini2@aol.com Robin Turell,TX. 713-249-3893 • figranch@flash.net Wally Juntilla,CO. 970-640-8028 • wdjuntilla@gmail.com

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#### **Handbook Committee:**

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#### Judge's Committee:

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TBA

#### Membership Committee:

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#### **Nomination Committee:**

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#### Performance Committee:

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#### Policy & Planning Committee:

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#### Protest Committee:

Cheryl Juntilla, CO · Liaison · 606-970-640-8028 · c. juntilla@aol.com Publications, Promotions, & Marketing Committee:

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#### Regional Committee:

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#### **Show Management Committee:**

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#### Website Committee:

Susan Leslie, TX, Liaison, BOD • 830-401-0819 • leslielanellamas@gmail.com TBA

#### Youth Committee:

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The views expressed herein are those of the authors. Before undertaking any new regime with your llamas, you should always consult with your veterinarian. Only they can tell you what is best for your situation. We invite submission for unpaid articles and photographs.

Email to Showring@figmentranch.com or mail to: Ruby Herron, c/o Showring Magazine,17102 Mueschke Rd., Cypress,Tx., 77433

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PLEASE THANK ALL THE EARLY BIRD SPONSORS OF THE 2015 ALSA GRAND NATIONALS.



About the cover.

I have been so blessed to have been able to grow up surrounded by this wonderful world of llamas...

My journey into the world of llamas began 10 years ago, although it feels like it was just yesterday. I started leasing this little black llama for a 4-H project. Little did I know, at the time, what an impact llamas would have on my life. Now, many parades, P.R. Events, and show ring wins beneath our belts, the little llama I started with so many years ago is retired. I am hoping to start a farm of my own within the next few years. This llama, among countless others, has influenced the course and direction of my life in more ways than I can imagine.

#### Daniel Ingleman



## **Letter From The Editor**

Here is your 2015 Summer edition of the Showring Magazine. Inside you will find all sorts of information that will be helpful to you throughout the summer and the rest of the year.

There has been lots of rain and it looks like there is plenty of hay and the pastures are all green. It is still getting plenty hot so make sure all your animals are cool.

Many of the articles and information found in this Magazine may be found on the ALSA website, www.alsashow.org. If you have any questions, please contact me or the ALSA office.

The cover photo used in this Summer edition of the Showring Magazine is of Daniel Ingleman and Two Socks. This is such a classic picture and thanks to Daniel for letting me use it.

I have received some wonderful articles, too. Any information that you have concerning your Camelid will probably be helpful to someone else – so please send me what you have. If you can't write a paper (and who can), don't worry! I will help put it together and have you work with me so we can get it right!

If you have any ideas for articles, etc. that you would like to see in the Showring, please let me know.

Congratulations to the new members of the ALSA BOD and thanks to Kitty and Charles for serving on the past board.

I also want to commend the members for getting out and voting.

I hope everyone is going to the 2015 Grand Nationals in Park City Kansas. It looks like it is going to be a great three day event. There will be an addition of Alpaca Halter, lots of

fleece classes and fiber artist.

Blessing, Ruby Herron Editor 713-249-8523 showring@figmentranch.com

# **2015 ALSA Board of Directors**



Jim Doyle - Vice President Central Region



Cheryl Juntilla- Secretary Rocky Mountain Region



Allen Davis Buckeye Region



Paul Swartz - President Rocky Mountain Region



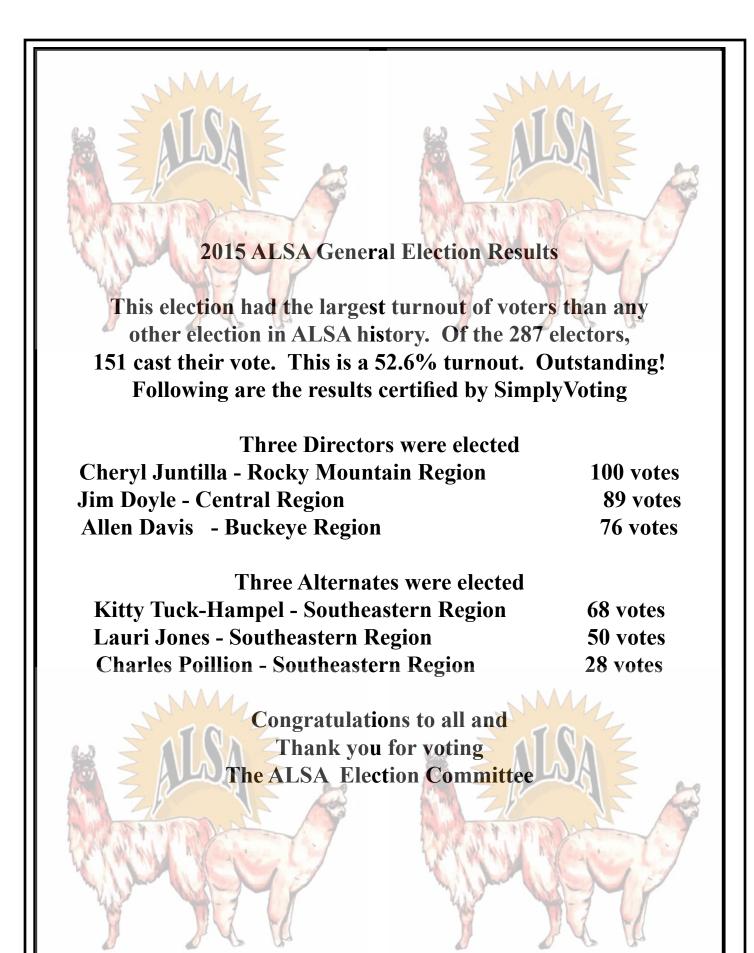
Terese Evenson Buckeye Region



Debbie Andrews Great Lakes Region



Susan Leslie Central Region



## Letter From The President

Dear Members,

First, I would like to thank all of the members who took the time to vote in our election. It shows there is a new energy of involvement in our membership to move ALSA forward. Second, I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time on committees, to the brave soul who scoops the ring. Without you the show wouldn't go on. Finally, thank you to Kitty and Charles for time served on the ALSA Board. Preparations are moving forward for Grand Nationals. If you

haven't heard, we are adding alpaca halter classes this year. So



tell your friends on the other side of the fence to please consider coming to Park City, Kansas with their alpacas and make this a great start to including alpacas at your local shows and possibly Regionals in the future.

Also new this year, we have made the finished products a point class and the Grand National Committee has gone all out to make the fleece classes one of the best ALSA has had.

I hope everyone will consider coming to Park City, Kansas in October. I would like to meet all of the members of ALSA. If you can't attend I understand, but please consider sending in that shawl or hat for the finished products class or a shorn fleece. It's a way you can be in the competition of the Grand Nationals and who knows, for just the cost of postage it could net you a National

Championship. I hear the prizes are great!

**Best Wishes** 

### Paul Schwartz

# Office Talk

Hello everyone.

I hope each and every one of you is having a wonderful summer, full of lots of events for your llama, alpaca and family! ALSA has had a lot of shows this spring and summer, so I hope you have been able to attend some and you are having a good time! Kuddos to all of the winners and to all of the exhibitors!

As of today, July 20, 2015, ALSA has 111 LIFE TIME members, 242 Regular members, and 151 Youth members. That is a total of 502 members. However, by the time you read this letter, we will have added more. Memberships come in daily!

Also as of today, we also have 69 sanctioned shows. This, too, will be added to by the time you read this! If there not a show in your part of the country, let's talk. We can put our heads together and create one!

Speaking of shows, I wanted to announce the four regional shows we will be offering for 2015.

- Rocky Mountain Regional –
   September 5 -6, 2015 –
   Cheryl Juntilla, Judge
   Barb Harris, Superintendent
- Western Regional –
   September 12 -13, 2015 –

Kim Yates & Margaret Drew, Judges Joy Pedroni, Superintendent

- Central Regional –
   September 25 26, 2015 –
   TBA, Judge
   Mark Willy, Superintendent
- South East Regional –
   October 9 11, 2015 –
   Judie Moser, Judge
   Kathy Devaul and Cheryl
   Lambert , Superintendent

If another regional show is offered for 2015, we will be sure to contact you.

Follow this link for more information about the regional shows: http://www.alsashow.net/regional.html Be sure to look at your emails from ALSA, there also may be another regional show coming soon!

NOW - Let's talk about the 2015 ALSA Grand National Show of Champions......

**FOURS SHOWS IN ONE** that is being held in Park City Kansas, Oct. 22-24, 2015.

- 1. There will be the 2015 ALSA Grand National Show which offers Llama Halter, Llama Performance, Driving, Adult Showmanship, Special Needs classes, Costume, and more.
- 2. There will be the 2015 Grand National Youth Show which will

- offer Youth Llama and Alpaca Performance, Youth Judging and Youth Showmanship.
- 3. There will be the 2015 Grand National Alpaca Show which will offer Alpaca Halter, and Alpaca Performance.
- 4. And finally there will be the 2015
  Grand National Llama and Alpaca
  Fleece Show which will offer
  Llama Walking Fleece, Llama and
  Alpaca Shorn Fleece, and 4 new
  categories of Llama and Alpaca
  Finished Products which are
  eligible for Advanced, Novice, and
  Youth entries! Follow this link for
  more information about this
  exciting new addition:
  http://www.alsashow.net/fiber.html

Please follow this link to find out all the information about the Grand Nationals

http://www.alsashow.net/national.html (There is also information found in this Showring Magazine.)
Also inside this issue of the Showring, you will find information and lists of our "Early Bird" sponsors.
We would love to add you to this list. You will also reap lots of benefits!
Follow this link to see the sponsorship levels:

http://www.alsashow.net/national.html

Oh, and just a reminder, you will get TRIPLE ALSA points at the Grand Nationals!

I also wanted to make sure that you all know that I am available to help!

I have spoken to a few of you members recently and I hope we were able to resolve all of your issues!

Please let me help AND if you are deserving of a certificate or award and you have not received it OR you have lost it, please let me know! Let's get you another.

Have a great summer, full of wonderful memories!

I hope you see you all at the 2015 Grand Nationals this October!

Y'all be sure to call me if you have any questions and/or concerns!

Robin
Your Executive

Secretary of the Alpaca Llama Show Association

281-516-1442

llamas@alsashow.org



#### **Letter From Past ALSA The President:**

In my last President's letter, I would sincerely like to congratulate Cheryl Juntilla and Allen Davis on their election to the ALSA Board, and Jim Doyle on his reelection. We had an amazing turnout with over 50% of the membership voting, and that is a wonderful thing for ALSA. I honestly hope that even if those elected weren't your candidate, that you stand behind them and give them your full support. I also hope that each of you will step up and volunteer to serve on committees, at shows, or however you think you could best serve.



I would like to thank our committees and Chairpersons. They have worked tirelessly for the benefit of ALSA and should be commended for their diligence. Many committees went above and beyond what was asked of them. Our Publishing Committee continues to make Showring the foremost llama magazine around. The Performance Committee revamped the entire performance section, taking great care to keep ALSA's performance categories true to ALSA. Our Handbook Committee issued a handbook benefitting us into the future through savings on printing costs and producing a sturdier handbook. I offer thanks to our Youth Committee who always kept us in touch with our youngest members, and to the Election and Nomination Committee that always produces top-notch elections. Our Grand National Committees have put on amazing shows. This year their goal is to be bigger and better. Our Fleece committee brought about new divisions to enhance fleece finished products. Our Judge's committee rewrote the Judge's teaching manual, the Judging manual, the breeder's clinic information as well as holding multiple clinics. They also brought our Judge's Committee files into the modern age by digitizing all files. This will save time and money with all future judges and Judge's committees. I could go on and on about the amazing people we have volunteering for ALSA. They all deserve a thank you when you see them next. Better yet, volunteer to serve with them and be a part of something great.

Serving on the Board of Directors was quite a unique experience. I was lucky to work with Patti Wattigney who is one of the best Treasurer's ALSA has ever had. She is always on top of our finances and willing to give us the advice to keep ALSA financially stable. I have also been blessed to work with many individuals on the Board, past and present. Each person brought their own experiences and well as knowledge of situations. They work tirelessly; and probably more than anyone would ever guess. I thank each and every one of you for your dedication and courage to step out of your comfort zones and onto the ALSA Board of Directors. Of course there is also Robin Turell, our ALSA Secretary (better known as the voice of ALSA). Thank you for always having a kind voice and for working endlessly to keep ALSA running smooth, and the Directors always informed. You are an asset to ALSA.

I need to thank my amazing family who had to endure seeing and hearing many things said and written about me and learning the lesson of "rise above". My husband Michael, my kids Kendra, JG and Jordan often had to put their lives on hold so I could take care of ALSA business. You guys were troopers and I'm so lucky to have you. I'd also like to thank my cell phone provider for not turning off my phone (or charging me thousands of dollars) for the crazy amounts of hours I spent a day on calls. When I joined the Board of Directors I lost my Mom. As I'm leaving the board, I have just lost my sister. Thankfully, in between I gained many amazing friends across the US with a mutual love of Ilamas. These people are my Ilama family.

I will leave you with these closing thoughts: Learn from the past, but don't live in it. You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.- Shirley Chisholm

Thank you again,

Kitty Tuck-Hampel





#### October 22:

Judging walking fleece and check in of all shorn fleece and finished products

#### October 23:

Judging of shorn fleece and finished products

#### October 24:

Any follow up judging after the alpaca halter show.

#### **Pricing Structure:**

Regular class prices are \$25/entry for all fleece classes including walking fleece, shorn llama fleece, shorn alpaca fleece and finished products. Exception, youth pay \$10/entry for finished products. In addition, there is a special "buy-in" price of \$150. This entitles the ranch/household (no exceptions) to enter 10 items for the low price of \$150. There must be 10 entries. Any additional entries are \$25/class. Entries can be any combination of fleece classes, i.e., shorn fleece llama and/or alpaca, walking fleece and/or finished products. Entries must be from one household.

#### **Finished Products:**

These classes have been moved from optional to regular in *Part O of the 19th edition handbook*. They include 5 classes of a. knitted/crocheted items, b. woven items, c. felted items, d. handspun yarn, and e. other. In addition, the above will be offered for novice, advanced and youth.

#### **Sponsorships:**

We would like to offer some nice prizes at the GN for the Best of Show in Shorn Llama Fleece, Shorn Alpaca Fleece, Walking Fleece and Finished Products (youth and adult). In addition, we would like to award a Peoples Choice for finished products youth and adult. In order to do this we need some help in the way of sponsorships. Please consider donating to this show. By sponsoring the fleece show, you will be recognized by signage at the ALSA Grand National, noted on the website Grand Nationals sponsors page and mentioned throughout the national show.

All entry tags are available on the ALSA website.

All llamas and alpacas in fleece classes have to have an ALSA number. In addition all fiber artists have to have an ALSA AS number.

# 2015 ALSA Youth Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to
Darby Jones of Stockdale, Texas
and
Cody Carroll of Corsicana, Texas.
They will each receive \$500.00



# STATE FAIR

The Kansas State Fair Llama Show Friday September 11, 2015. 2000 N. Poplar, Hutchinson, KS.

Judges: Allen Davis

Contact Information:
Glenna Overmiller
785-346-4365
twincreekllamas@yahoo.com

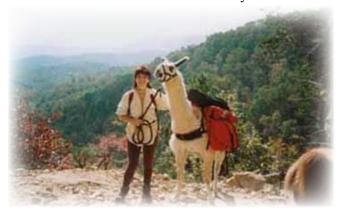
Show Information:
Susan Sankey
www.kansasstatefair.com

\$4700.00 in premiums.

My Life With Llamas

Artist, Sandy Sgrillo, was born in Waterbury, CT. and raised in Thomaston, CT. At age 11, she and her family relocated to Lakeland, FL where she attended high school, and then to Miami, where she attended Miami-Dade College of Graphic Arts. She graduated and majored in computer graphics, desktop publishing and photography. Stained glass was one of her hobbies and interests, but has now developed into a career.

Her diverse list of past careers includes stage performer, dancer and set/costume designer of her own families' live entertainment show called "Somethin' Funky". She also was able to meet and work with many celebrities as a professional Limousine Chauffeur in Miami for 10 years.



In 1998, Sandy re-located to the spectacular

Smoky Mountains, where she opened another unique business, "Smoky Mountain Llama Treks", where she offered llama treks and nature hikes on scenic mountain trails for tourists and locals



She sold the business after 11 years of wonderful hiking with her herd of 14 pack llamas.

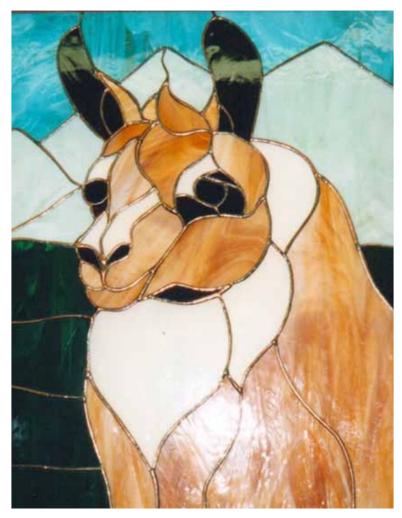


Sandy has been designing and creating stained glass windows and wall hangings for over 25 years.

Her work is very unique and creative..."I like using many mediums like natural stones, sliced agates, glass nuggets, copper metals and glass beads", Sandy admits.

Although her specialty is animals, like llamas, cats and dogs, and beautiful nature scenes, there are classic Victorian style windows and also very different abstract windows.







What makes her work stand out are the color choices, the designs and the variety of substance in her windows. One of the special projects Sandy does are her photo windows...she can permanently insert ANY photo into a stained glass window(behind clear glass). Some of her suggestions are wedding photos, baby photos, kids and grandkids and especially popular are the pet photos.

Sandy does many "Memorial Windows" for those special lost pets and show llamas.

Sandy accepts custom orders for your special hard-to-fit windows, doors and transoms.

Sandy Sgrillo 1839 Creek Hollow, Sevierville, Tn. 37876

www.peacebypiece.vpweb.com llamahiking@aol.com glassartist@hughes.net

> 865-430-2101(studio) 865-428-6042(home)

# Llamas Help Wimberley, Texas Flood Victims

WIMBERLEY, Texas -- Help comes in all forms and fashions, and in Wimberley this weekend, it came via llamas.

Susan Leslie and the Wilson County Llama Project are bringing their llamas from home to home helping



deliver supplies and smiles to people off Hashke Road. The street was cut off after Fischer Store Road Bridge collapsed during the heavy flooding two weeks ago. The llamas can carry packs full of food and cleaning supplies up to 100 pounds.

Not only are these animals spreading smiles -- they are also playing a part in the clean-up. Sunday, KVUE went along as the llamas brought supplies to homeowner Clay Hoblit. Hoblit's home was flooded with water but his family made it out safely. Now, they're cleaning up and trying to figure out what can be saved.



"I ran out of Cheetos, this is perfect, and I'll take some lime too," he told volunteers, laughing. Check out this story on KVUE.com: http://kvue.tv/1Iy8OWc



Ana and I were back in Wimberly today, this time to shear llamas. Much of their pasture land had been under water, they were still scared, you could tell.



We had the opportunity to get a tour of the Blanco River and see what the floods have done at shore line. Seeing a child's swing set hanging 30 feet up in the trees, metal roofs twisted and wrapped around trees. Wish there was more we could do to help these families.

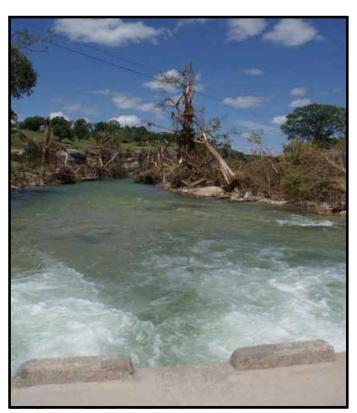












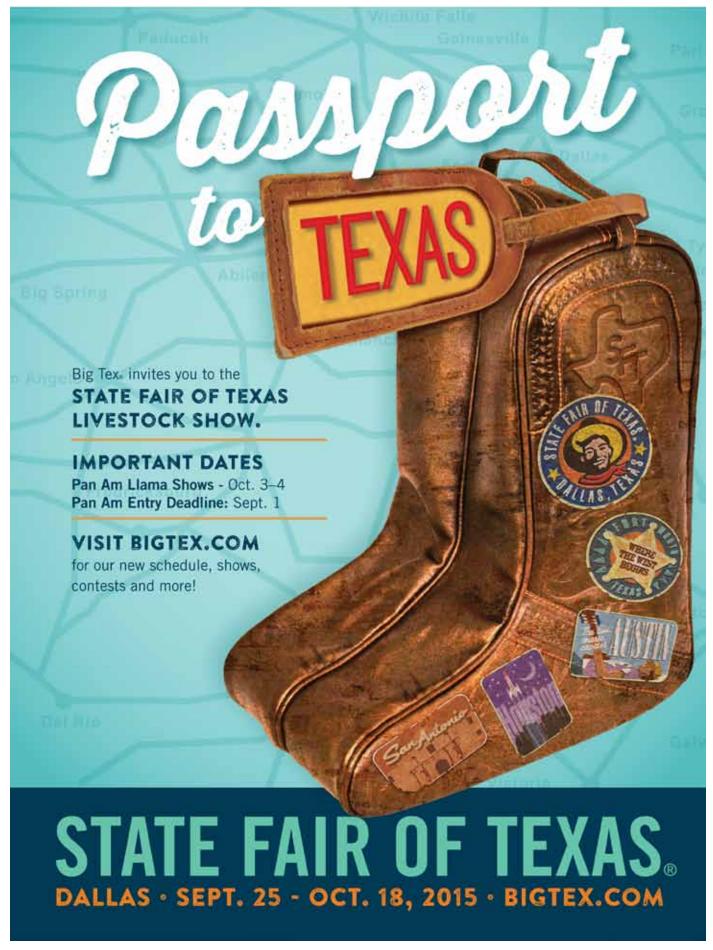








Thanks to Susan Leslie and the Wilson County Llama Project for helping the Wimberly flood victims.



**North Montgomery freshman Megan Fruits** wanted to win the top Montgomery County 4-H Llama Show award for her family. When Megan was named Overall Points Winner, she was ecstatic.

"I am really happy to win this year," Megan said. "This is my third time to win the award and the sixth time somebody has won it from my family in the last nine years."

Megan, a fifth-year 4-H member, is the daughter of Erin and Matt Fruits.

The champion llama is named Erin Go Braugh. Coincidently, Megan's mother is named Erin too.

Erin is a leader, along with her husband Matt, in the Montgomery County Llama Club.

Megan's brother, Isaac, has also won the top award several times.

"It means a lot to win this because my family is so involved with the Montgomery County Hoosier Hummers Llama Club," Megan said.

Megan was also crowned Grand Champion Non-Breeder with Hunter Hutchison finishing as Overall Showmanship Reserve Champion.

Megan also won Halter Best of Show. Makhalea Young was named Halter Reserve Best of Show.





Meagan and Mason McCollough finished in a tie for the Intermediate Costume contest. Makhalea Young was named champion of the Advanced Costume

Contest.



Something new to the llama show was the addition of a free public show. Members of the audience were asked to lead a llama through an obstacle course.

Isaac Fruits and Snickerdoodle participated in Sunday's Montgomery County 4-H Llama Show. Fruits was named Reserve Grand Champion Performance and Overall Showmanship Champion.



Janessa Hall at the 2014 ALSA Grand National



# Thanks To All The 2015 ALSA Grand National Early Bird Sponsors

Sponsor:	Amount:	Sponsored:
Park City Kansas	\$6,500.00	GN Show
Judie and Stan Moser	\$514.00	Fiber \$250.00 - Youth \$264.00
Jim and Mary Nell Doyle	\$500.00	GN Show
Rick and Mary Adams	\$500.00	GN Show
Karen Kinyon	\$500.00	Alpaca
Ruby - Robin - Sean	\$250.00	GN Show
Wally and Maryan Baker	\$160.00	Fiber
Allen & Sue Davis	\$150.00	Fiber \$100.00 - Youth \$50.00
Michael Morgan	\$100.00	Fiber
Robin Buettenback	\$100.00	Alpaca
Shannan Fisher	\$100.00	Alpaca
Jim and Geri Rutledge	\$100.00	Alpaca
Gerald and Tracy Pecka	\$100.00	GN Show
Cindy & David Ruckman	\$25.00	GN Show
Friends of ALSA:	<b>923.00</b>	art Snow
Rob and Jill Knuckles	\$100.00	GN Show
Barb Harris	\$50.00	GN Show
Sally & Jeff Rucker	\$100.00	GN Show
Adryce Mathisen	\$100.00 \$100.00	GN Show
•	\$100.00 \$100.00	GN Show
Larry & Deanna Lewellyn	•	GN Show
Ruby - Robin - Sean	\$50.00 \$100.00	GN Show
Marcie Saska Agnew & Bob Burton Allen & Sue Davis	\$100.00	
	\$100.00	GN Show
Niki & Jeff Kuklenski	\$100.00	GN Show
Kristy Brown	\$100.00	GN Show
Sandra & David Lockwood	\$100.00	GN Show
Cheryl & Wally Juntilla	\$100.00	GN Show
Cindy & David Ruckman	\$100.00	GN Show
Carlos Mendoza	\$100.00	GN Show
Paul and Karen Schwartz	\$100.00	GN Show
Leslie and Steve Schubert	\$100.00	GN Show



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- ♦ Largest Harley Davidson Store in KS
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## 20 Restaurants

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Kristy Brown Brownderosa Llamas - WI

Niki & Jeff Kuklenski JNK Llamas - WA Paul & Karen Schwartz ChanTar Llamas - WY

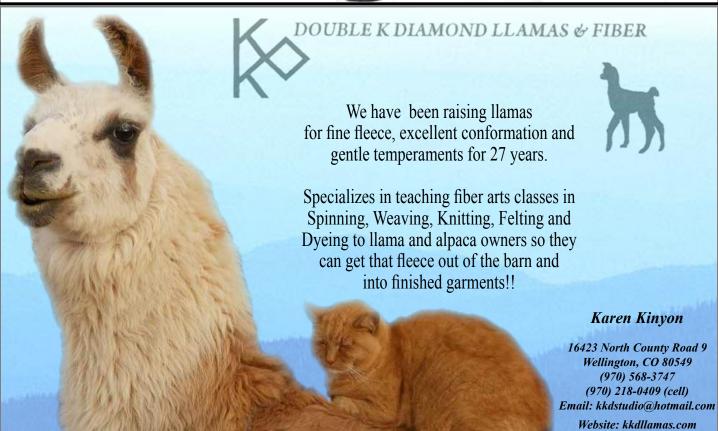
Allen & Sue Davis Rose Cottage Llamas - IN Leslie & Steve Schubert Cedar Cliff Llamas - CO

Marcie Saska Agnew & Bob Burton 2 Bit 2 Ranch - TX Sally & Jeff Rucker Stage Stop Llamas - CO Adryce Mathisen Bahamas Llamas - TX

Larry & Deanna Lewellyn Foothills Llamas - CO

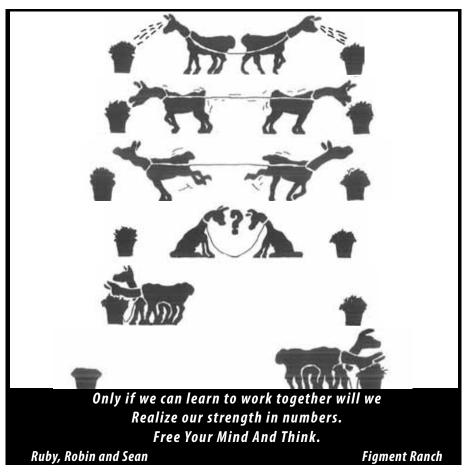
Ruby - Robin - Sean Figment Ranch - TX Barb Harris Wildcat Llamas - CO

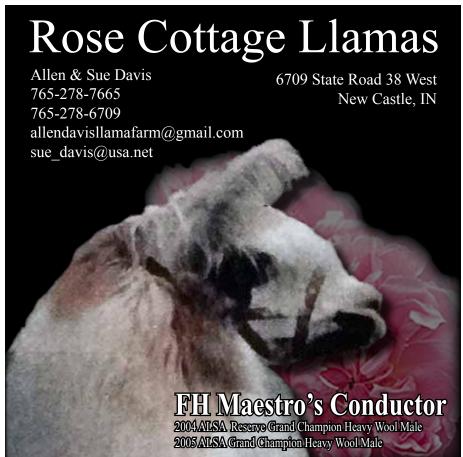




























# "Tons of fun at the ALSA **Advanced and Beginner** judging clinic."





Thank you Hank Kauffman for being a fabulous instructor. !!

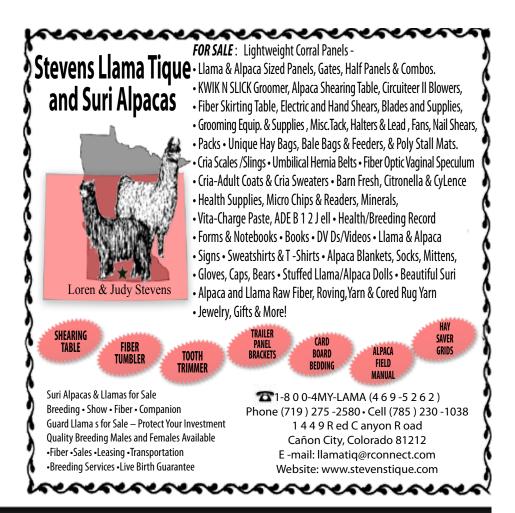
Thanks to Jens Rudibaugh, Lauren Wright, Ana Reese, Harvey Poole, Terry White, Kathie Schatz, Leigh Snyder for attending the clinic.



A special thanks to the members of the Freedom Riders 4h club for helping out at the clinic as handlers . !!



# Stevens Llama Tique and Suri Alpacas



#### ALZA Western Regional Championships

#### Pirates of the blamaribbean

September 12-13, 2015 Red Bluff, CA

Head Judge: Margaret Drew 2nd Perf Judge: Kim Yates

Buperintendents: Ron & Toy Pedroni Email: joy@blackcatllamas.com www.blackcatllamas.com



# How we sold 180 Llama Rugs in 8 months.

This story begins at Figment Ranch Llamas in Cypress Texas and what we did with a barn full of shorn llama fiber

Our llama wool had been stored for years with the best of intentions to make some llama rugs for the house. We had always bought llama rugs from other people and we decided we wanted to make some rugs from OUR llama wool! The problem was we always had an excuse why we could not take it to Paint Rock Texas where the fiber mill was. It was one of those "going to do things".

Sean, one of the Figment Ranch partners, was cleaning out the barn and came up to the house and informed us he was going to trash all the bags of fiber unless we did something.



We both had an idea! Since we were going on a road trip to New Mexico in July 2014, we agreed to pull a trailer and drop the fiber off in Paint Rock and get a hall runner made for the house and maybe a rug or two. We dropped the off the bags of fiber at Ingrid's Hand-Woven Rugs in Paint Rock, Texas and the manager, Reinhard, said he would let us know how much fiber we had and then we could decide exactly on what we wanted to make.



In a couple of weeks we got a call from Reinhard and he told us that we had 2,400 pounds of llama wool which equated to about \$18,000.00 in finished rugs. Wow!

We took a big breath and told him to hold off on making anything just yet. We wanted to talk it over and decide what we wanted to do. Having never sold llama rugs before and the fact that \$18,000.00 was a lot of money to spend, we needed a plan! Would that many llama rugs sell? Would people buy them? Would we get stuck with a closet full of llama rugs?

It was now October 2014 and time for the 2014 ALSA Grand National Show. Robin, another Figment

Ranch partner, and the Executive Secretary of ALSA, was extremely busy, so we just put our rug decision on the back burner.

At the ALSA Grand National Show I had time to visit with people that had made and sold llama rugs. Most of them sold the rugs but said it took them a very long time to sell. They all suggested not to buy any big ones because they sell really, really slow.



After some deliberation we decided to get fifty rugs, mostly the smaller 2'x3' rugs with just a few 4'x6' rugs just to see what would happen. We figured over a period of time that if we could sell all fifty, we would then decide what to do with the rest of the fiber.

On November 20, 2014 we picked up the 50 rugs at Ingrid's. We also made arrangements to go to the Tomball Farmers Market that following Saturday to try and sell some rugs.

Sean fixed our small trailer to carry and display our rugs so people could enjoy the "touchy feely" aspect of all the rugs. All we had to do was pull up to our spot, pull the trailer ramp down, put up our tent and "viola" we would have an instant rug store.



It has been an unbelievable success. Figment Ranch Llamas has been in the llama business for almost thirty years and if someone had told us we would be selling rugs, we would have told them they were crazy. We are known primarily for our Performance Champion Llamas. To date we have sold over 180 rugs and we just picked up another order of 60 rugs.

We are at the Tomball Farmers Market every Saturday from 9am until 1pm. To be a success you cannot just have rugs made, put them in a closet and expect people to come and buy them.

We have missed a few Saturdays because of low inventory or we had to go out of town but we try not to! Consistency is so important in sales. People are used to us being there and come back over and over to get their "potato chip rugs" as we call the llama rugs! (You can just have one!) We also found that we have sold a couple off our web site.



People have no idea about a llama rug until they see them, touch them, smell them, and see how they are made. They have no idea what a beautiful, natural and sturdy rug they are. They are amazed at how easy they are to care for, and that they are pet friendly too!

We have lots of repeat business and customers are constantly referring us to their friends. Some of our

customers have bought as many as eight rugs. Surprisingly we also sell the larger rugs. Our runners, 2'x 6', 2'x8', and 2'x10' are also very popular.

Just for a trial we got four saddle blankets made from llama fiber the last time we picked up our order and have already sold two of them. We will probably be ordering more.

It just goes to show you that you learn something new every day and that you should never under estimate the value of llamas.

**Ruby Herron** Figment Ranch







## WEST NILE INFECTION IN CAMELIDS

Michelle Anne Kutzler, PhD, DVM, BS; DACT Oregon State University michelle.kutzler@oregonstate.edu (e-mail)

Introduction West Nile virus (WNV) was first discovered in 1937 in Africa and since then has spread to the Middle East, Europe, Asia and in 1999, North America. A flavivirus, WNV is transmitted by mosquitoes to birds, its natural host. Although uncommon, WNV may be transmitted to humans or other mammalian species by mosquitoes. In countries where WNV is enzootic, antibody seropositive rates in ruminant species approach 62%, although clinical signs of WNV infection in these species is infrequent (Olaleye OD et al 1990; Omilabu SA et al 1990). In the United States, WNV antibody status was determined from healthy unvaccinated camelids (171 alpacas and 42 llamas) from 22 farms in 13 states (California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Montana, New Jersey, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin). Seventy-seven percent of farms had one or more seropositive animals. The rate of seropositivity on a farm was 70% from six farms located in Colorado, Maryland, South Dakota and Texas. As this data would suggest, camelids are at low risk of developing clinical signs associated with WNV infection. However, neurologic disease does occur and WNV encephalitis is the documented cause of death in more than two dozen camelids in the United States. It is likely that more cases have occurred without a diagnosis being made.

Clinical Manifestations As evident from the serosurveillance research described above, the majority of WNV infected animals are asymptomatic and covertly fight off the infection. Similar to humans and horses, clinical manifestation of WNV disease in camelids is broad. Initial clinical signs of WNV disease in camelids will develop within 7 days of exposure and may include lip twitching, facial tremors, ear and head shaking. Fever (rectal temperature >103>F) may or may not be present. Neurologic signs progress to neck and full body tremors, anorexia, ataxia, extreme agitation with vocalization and paresis. However, some camelids have shown none of the initial symptoms and/or displayed sudden collapse or colic-like symptoms before progressing into the final stages of the disease (recumbency, seizures, and death). With rare exception, once neurologic signs develop, the animal succumbs to fatal WNV encephalitis within 4 days.

Diagnosis Presumptive diagnosis can be made from history and clinical signs. The time of year human and equine cases are diagnosed varies by geographic location due to occurrence of mosquito blooms as well as migratory patterns of birds but in most states is from July-October (WNV season). As described

above, the clinical signs are variable, such that any recumbent, neurologic or just plain sick camelid may be suffering from WNV in addition to other problems.

Assays that determine virus neutralizing antibody titer within serum or cerebral spinal fluid samples currently available include plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT) or microtitration neutralization test. The PRNT is currently run through National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) at two dilutions (1:10 and 1:100). The microtitration neutralization test is currently run at Oregon State University and Cornell University at ten different dilutions (1:8 up to 1:4096). Both serologic tests are run on cell culture and take 5-7 days to determine results. Unfortunately, neither test is definitive at diagnosing acute WNV disease. Positive titers do not differentiate from vaccination or previous subclinical WNV infection. Clinically normal unvaccinated animals are capable of developing serum virus-neutralizing antibodies (1:8-1:1448) following natural exposure. Negative titers also do not rule out acute WNV infection as the clinical disease induced by the viremia may supercede the animal's humoral immune response.

We have begun work to develop an IgM capture ELISA assay for diagnosing acute WNV infection in camelids. This assay is available for humans and horses as well as chickens and rodents. In these species, the IgM capture ELISA can differentiate between acute and previous subclinical infection or vaccination titer. Additional diagnostic tests important for confirming WNV infection are only available post-mortem and include utilizing reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RTPCR) and immunohistochemistry on neurologic tissues. Although RTPCR by far more sensitive than immunohistochemistry for identifying virus within samples, false negative results may occur when RTPCR is performed on formalin-fixed tissues or autolyzed tissues, where the viral RNA is too degraded. For this reason, fresh (frozen) and fixed tissue samples should be submitted for confirming or ruling out WNV.

Treatment Treatment of animals showing clinical signs of WNV disease should be directed at reducing CNS inflammation as well as administration of virus neutralizing antibodies. Anti-inflammatory therapies including intravenous flunixin meglumine (0.5 mg/lb [1.1 mg/kg]), DMSO diluted to 6% in 0.9% saline (0.45 g/lb [1.0 g/kg]), prednisone sodium succinate (1.0 mg/lb [2.2 mg/kg]) and mannitol 20% solution (0.45 g/lb [1 g/kg]) have all been used with limited success.

Passive immunotherapy with hyperimmunized plasma has been used successfully in the treatment of bacterial and viral diseases in dogs, sheep, horses and man (Kinde H et al 1991; Madigan JE et al 1991; Snydman DR 1990; Macartney L et al 1988; Jones GE, et al 1989). The premise behind treatment with hyperimmunized plasma is to increase the circulating antibody concentrations that will enhance the animal's ability to neutralize the infection. There have been two published case reports in humans in which plasma containing high virus neutralizing titers to WNV was used as an adjunct therapy for treating clinical WNV disease (Haley M et 2003; Shimoni Z et al 2001). We have administered normal llama plasma with high antibody titers against WNV (Triple J Farms, PLA 6887309780M, Bellingham, WA) to healthy naïve alpacas as well as in alpacas with clinical WNV encephalitis. In healthy naïve animals, the duration for which passively transferred antibodies persisted was dependent upon the plasma WNV antibody titer and the volume of plasma administered, with antibody titers persisting for at least seven days following plasma transfusion of 900 ml with a WNV antibody titer >1:45. In camelids with clinical WNV infection, passive immunotherapy has yielded mixed outcomes that may have resulted from the stage of the disease in which of treatment was initiated. Animal studies involving St. Louis encephalitis virus, a flavivirus similar to WNV, suggest that the timing for successful application of antibody administration to prevent encephalitis is between 4-6 days after infection (Roehrig JT 2001). Early treatment with normal camelid plasma with antibodies against WNV to clinically ill camelids during WNV season will provide the best opportunity for a recovery and will not be detrimental if WNV is determined later to not be the cause.

Prevention We performed a vaccination trial with 84 camelids (14 intact male alpacas, 10 castrated male alpacas, 4 non-pregnant female alpacas and 56 castrated male llamas) using a formalin-inactivated, commercial WNV vaccine (WNV Innovator, Fort Dodge). Animals selected for this study had not been previously exposed to WNV, which was confirmed by selection of animals from WNV-negative areas. Vaccinations consisted of 1-ml injections via a 22-gauge needle and were administered intramuscularly in the semimembranosis and semitendonosis muscles. All camelids received three vaccinations at three-week intervals. Fifty-five llamas received an additional fourth vaccination three weeks after the third vaccination. Local or systemic reactions did not develop following vaccination. Following first vaccination, 14% of alpacas and llamas developed virus-neutralizing antibody titers of 24±2 and 26±5 (mean±SD), respectively. Ninety-six percent of alpacas and 90% of llamas developed virus-neutralizing antibody titers following second immunization of 169±4 and 97±5 (mean±SD), respectively. Following third vaccination, 100% of alpacas and 96% of llamas developed virus-neutralizing antibody titers of 545± 4and 446±4 (mean±SD), respectively. Virus-neutralizing antibody titers were still present in 93% of alpacas at 42 weeks and 81% of llamas at 27 weeks following initial immunization but mean±SD titers had decreased to 62±3 and 51±3, respectively.

To summarize the vaccination trial results, we found that camelids develop a humoral immune response to vaccination against WNV similar to that observed in horses, however a third vaccination was necessary to achieve similar virus-neutralizing antibody titers that persist for several months following immunization. However, it is not known what antibody titer would be protective against clinical WNV disease in alpacas. We have recently completed data collection on research in which we experimentally challenged vaccinated and unvaccinated animals with WNV. Preliminary results from this study will be presented during the meeting. It is important to mention that data is not available on the efficacy of this vaccine (WNV Innovator, Fort Dodge) at lower doses (<1 ml). In addition, there have not been any published reports on the safety or efficacy of other commercially available WNV vaccines. Veterinarians should not make assumptions that vaccinating camelids with lower doses or with alternate WNV vaccine products would produce similar results. Annual revaccination against WNV is somewhat controversial as natural exposure to WNV may provide lifetime protection. If annual revaccination is recommended, boosters (1 ml) should be administered intramuscularly and given within 3-6 weeks prior to WNV season to ensure adequate antibody titers during periods of susceptibility.

Acknowledgements This research has been generously supported by the Alpaca Research Foundation, Willamette Valley Llama Foundation, Alpaca Association of Western Washington, Southwest Washington Llama Foundation, Triple J Farms and Fort Dodge Animal Health. Literature Cited

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# Breeders Thoughts On Showing & Judging.

THE ORIGNAL COMMENT: A thought and something that we were discussing on the bucket of our Kubota the other day....Should there be levels of judging of farms....meaning big breeder/win everything vs small breeder trying to make a name for themselves. I am definitely not attacking or envying anyone....but feel when some breeders go to a show and win everything....is that really an attraction for new/smaller farms?....I know for us....we hold our own at big shows, but know that we will never have that "crown".....and that's ok because we enjoy the company of llama folks so much more.....I know I'm thinking out loud....but it is something that I think is not as positive as it could be.....A show is a show is a show....thoughts?

- •.....Although I am not involved in the llama show industry I do have plenty of experience in the show ring. What I have learned is that the winners are always in my barn. They don't always win in the show ring but I raise the kind of sheep I can be proud of. I sell lots of sheep to those who like my type. I stand behind every sale and I am honest about everything. My customers return because of this. I consider the shows and sales my family reunions. Don't get me wrong. .... I love to win.....I just don't focus on that ribbon.
- ..... I think that conformation is conformation. If you are all going for the same "standards" then you should all be judged on the same level. I don't think it would do any good to say that your animal won an award in halter at a "lower" level. In a way we already have this as a lot of big name breeders don't attend all of the smaller county fair shows (at least in the midwest) so they are usually smaller classes with more local participants. On the flip side I do think this is a great

- idea for performance and with the different class and experience levels we have done just that. I think a lot of new people (or experienced handlers with new llamas) would get discouraged and not participate if they constantly had to compete against the elites in performance. It allows each llama/handler team to compete with animals who are at the same training level as they are.
- ..... I am a small farm. I own one breeding male and co own two breeding males. Four females and a soon to be gelding. I usually have 2 crias a year, sometimes one. I started in 4h as a youth. Never had more than 10 llamas at one time. I spent a lot of money. When I was 16, instead of buying a car, I bought a breeding male for \$7500!!!! \*\*\*\* (born on our farm) was my fame, not a total fortune for a "small" guy who births one or two females a year. I have no hopes of having a big herd of llamas. Point is...I took a gamble entering \*\*\*\* in the futurity. Did I expect our names to be called for 1st? Absolutely not...after all I was a small guy just getting started. I was stunned and will never forget winning and walking out of the show ring dropping my trophy! It may never happen again, but I'm thankful it did. Now I haven't shown in nearly two years. I'm not sure I agree with the big guys always win. But they either 1) invested a boat load of money for their win or 2) have put a lot of time into selective breeding. Do you have more money or more time? Its that kind a thing.
- .... Since the llama bubble has burst, you may see more of us small breeders. We have to watch our breeding betters as we have fewer crias. I think we spend more time with our llamas. I could be wrong but I think we do. I don't plan on getting rich raising

llamas. Breaking even would be a blessing. There is a certain reward of being mobbed when I bring a handful of carrots into the llama field. I'm even training another pack llama. This summer we are going packing. He is not a classic llama in fact he is a huge half argentine stud but he is gentle and in his way lovable.

- ..... I'm a (very) small breeder, but I still enjoy the challenge of trying to beat the "big guys". Judging should only be based on conformation, so if my animal places lower than one from a big farm there is a reason for it. It pushes me to be more selective in my own breeding program. And when my animal beats theirs it makes me really proud! As \*\*\*\* said, the big breeders who win have invested either a lot of time or a lot of money to get where they are, they should also be proud of what they've accomplished with their herds.
- ..... Not everybody has a lot of money to spend on a big herd. I believe conformation is number one,not who you know or how much money you have. Judge the animal not the owner.
- ..... Also a small ranch. Conformation is key. Still see occasional judging where ribbons are based on the wrong end of the lead rope or on personal biases i.e. height. A llama doesn't have to be as tall as a giraffe to have correct conformation (although some have both). I get great satisfaction sticking to showing the same llamas & knowing that most have been born on my ranch gives me much pride. Don't always win but don't have to.
- ..... It is like that in all livestock shows. The difference between having a hundred animals to chose your show string from or showing the only two you have. We do the best we can to live the dream.
- ..... We have 3 female and 3 males maybe \$1000.00 invested but outstanding blood lines.

- ..... We are a small breeder (30 now, and at one time 65) but told ourselves a long time ago that we are not going to grow our herd to 100 or 200 for control and herd management reasons. We will be selective in our purchases and buy from these larger breeders that are the biggest supporters of the llama industry. While I think \*\*\*\* has a very good question but the larger breeders are what give me the incentive to win in the show ring. I truly believe the small breeder can produce champion llamas.
- .... Not sure that the number of animals in your herd defines you as a big breeder rather I would say it does not, there are plenty of people with herds of 30 animals or less that I would consider "big breeders", and there are plenty of farms with herds of more than 30 that I would consider small breeders, then there are the people with herds of over two hundred that lose more crias in one year than I breed in two years that are in their own world, some folks have posted how many crias they have each year and I find this information quite interesting. I have frankly lost touch with how many crias people have each year but certainly quantity does not equate with quality. note there are plenty of "big breeders" that have never won a major national halter grand championship, I agree that having an ostentatious award on your mantel does not automatically equate with quality but it is of some value in assessing what you are doing. Perhaps \*\*\*\* could further define what he means by the term "big breeder" but I suspect it has to do with more than just numbers.
- ..... I normally have two crias a year, occasionally up to four, but rarely and I have not bred in the last two years except for outside breedings
- ..... My only requirement is that the judging be fair. Our animals do well in that case.
- ..... First, if anyone feels that we need classes for

small breeders, they probably also believe we should give awards for last place and no one should ever lose. There is no place for this in llama showing or in life. We are small breeders, for 20 years we have maintained less than 20 animals and never had over 4 cria a year. Every animal we show I feel has a chance of best of show any day against anyone, if it doesn't you will not see it being shown and it definitely will not be breed, it will more than likely live out it's days guarding sheep, goats or Alpacas. With that being said I expect someone who is having 30+ cria a year to dominate at shows because they should, they have more to choose from. I will smile and shake their hand when they beat me and smile bigger and shake their hand when I beat them. Since someone mentioned when the judges are fair, I feel it is right to speak to judges showing...If any judge shows an animal that is not worthy of winning on any given day, they should not be judging! Judges more so than anyone should walk in the ring with something they know is a winner. If you want to win in the show ring there are two simple things to make it happen...

Get educated and work hard, it doesn't take big money and it doesn't take big numbers..

- ..... We were going to stop breeding but we had a couple of studs who over rode that decision the last two years. Both are now in double quarantine. I did do some select breeding to 9 females. My problem is that all llamas look great to me. \*\*\*\* used to tease me because I would purchase llamas that were friendly and cute rather than exploring their linage. Being a small breeder does not mean you produce and inferior product. It just means that you need to watch conformation and fence jumpers a little better.
- ..... Life isn't fair, never will be. There will always be someone with more \$\$\$, more time, more animals. It's part of the challenge. Big farms naturally have more crias to choose from. Doesn't mean you can't beat them, just means you need to develop a great eye

and bring your best stock to the shows. I feel like it's never been a more "level" playing field than \*now\* in the llama industry. Prices for the very TOP animals are within reach of most all of us!!

- ..... For the first 10 or 12 years we were in llamas we only showed light wool in halter and did performance. Generally, we could win every light wool class both male and female and would stand grand and reserve. We were also pretty competitive in performance. Light wool has kind of died in our area, in one or two generations we were able to add fiber to our program and still have maintained a herd that can win any where based on confirmation but, now they can also win in walking fiber.
- .... Maybe it shouldn't all be about beating "them". How about just some pride of ownership? I feel good when I get third place.
- ..... You hit the nail on the head. Prices are right and the quality is higher than it has ever been.
- ..... You're right \*\*\*\*, that is why I said I smile and shake their had when they beat me and smile bigger when I beat them.
- .... Yes, you need to "love" what's in your pastures these days!! Long gone are the days where any female llama sold for \$10k plus. Keep and breed what "you" want to look at!
- ..... This post has got me fired up and of course I am enjoying a holiday weekend. I have been involved in showing since I can remember, my grand parents were dairy farmers and I can remember going to fair and sitting in the stands with Grandpa, I have shown almost everything on four feet buy goats
- .... I wasn't finished with the last post. There is always going to be someone with more animals and

more money. With education and more work, you can always beat them.

- ..... We enjoy our animals and really could care less where we place....and when we do place higher...we are on cloud nine!
- ..... It's that whole everyone wins thing that gets me going, every time. Work hard and make the right choices and it will come.
- ..... I can't speak to the halter portion of this really (though our geldings, being mostly from a single small farm, hold their own in nonbreeder). However, when it comes to performance, number of animals or "size" of farm have absolutely nothing to do with it. We have 6 ourselves. In fact, to some degree, I'd say the fewer animals you have, typically the better you might be in performance. But, it all depends on where you put your time, focus, and energy. We decided to focus on performance and not do any breeding and are reaping the rewards at many of the shows we attend, and no matter the outcome, do it purely for the fun and challenge of it.
- ..... I hope the new breeders bring their best to the shows it will be fun.
- ..... I have dilemma here from the opposite perspective I own the largest llama herd in \*\*\*\*, I have won the top herdsire at our biggest (sometimes only) show most years, and also top dam. Last year I also won top walking fleece under 24 months, champion llama, and a few more besides. If I don't show where does that put my sales? I use my show results as a sales point, I don't want to loose that selling point, but I hate showing and all that comes with it. It costs me \$400 to TB test my herd for the show season, money I would rather spend on hay, but I need to be selling. My herd size is not down to over breeding I took on 2 rescue herds, one of 97, one of 20, fact is I hardly breed

because of herd size. With the biggest herd rescue I approached the llama association over here, they (and the majority of their members) did not want to know about helping with that rescue, which cost me personally thousands in moving costs, vets bills, and feed. I need to be selling, and that to me means I need to be showing to keep on top of sales.

- ..... It takes more than just sound conformation to pull you to the front of the class. Training your llama to set-up properly, keep alert, and stand for hands-on evaluations, all play a role in winning. Grooming/ shearing your llama and overall health makes a difference too. We have seen equally beautiful llamas from small breeders lose first place spot not because the llama lacked in breeding qualities but because the qualities were not presented as well. If you feel you have equal breeding qualities to big name winners than start copying their show stance. At least you will look really good in second place. : )
- ..... Conformation alone SHOULD be the standard, but judges are often swayed by the style of the animal and the amount of fiber coverage. When light wools are shown next to medium wools, the latter most often take the blue ribbons. I've seen too many shows where if you walked in to watch a class in progress, you could not guess the wool category. I've also seen top honors awarded apparently on the basis of who is holding the lead rope when the animal has obvious conformational flaws apparent to spectators. Until associations insist that their judges move animals out of inappropriate wool classes, I think that judging will continue to be less about conformation and more about judges' preferences. Also, anyone showing llamas should also be entering the Showmanship classes. If you know HOW to show your llama to its best advantage, you can often raise it a place in the ring. Showmanship is where you become adept at doing this.

# The 2013 Lakes Basin

pack trip allowed me to visit all the lakes in the Lakes Basin, plus the high elevation Razz Lake, with the exception of the rarely visited Unit Lake. My goal this July 2nd trip was to find and visit Unit Lake for the first time. The trouble with Unit Lake is that the trail to it hasn't been maintained in very many years and like Razz requires bushwacking to find. However, Razz sees a fair amount of foot traffic heading pretty much straight uphill, and being on a steep hill there isn't a lot of deadfall obstacles that can't be navigated as they tend to fall generally downhill. In contrast, Unit Lake sits at lower elevation and the path to it generally follows a heavily forested draw that has filled with abundant boxed-in deadfall. Navigating this maze is difficult for a person, let alone a four-legged creature. It takes considerable time to pick a way through all the obstacles, with many dead ends along the way. Impassible to horses, this destination requires a very capable llama. RRR Rowdy accompanied me on this trip, as he had on the Lakes Basin loop.

Instead of starting at the Two Pan trailhead, this excursion began at the West Fork Wallowa trailhead. (See the 2013 Lakes Basin page for a map.) Thursday, going into a holiday weekend, I expected crowds to be higher than typical and getting progressively worse. There is no camping at this trailhead but it does have a grassy park and picnic area with toilets. One notable feature of this trailhead is a horse outfitter operation. This became quickly apparent at the trails are pretty much paved in horse manure, both fresh and "seasoned". Consequently, the trails are lined with non-native plant species and pesky flies are extremely abundant, including biting horseflies. Mosquitoes are also present.

The trail is otherwise quite easy to navigate, generally a very gradual climb to six mile meadow, which is actually 6.9 trail miles per the GPS. The route is forested and mostly shady, which was welcome due to the 90+F temperatures. The connecting trail to the Lakes Basin climbs west out of the valley after two crossings of the Wallowa River. Water was upper-thigh deep and flowing pretty strongly. Rowdy got his underside wet, as did the panniers, but he actually likes the water and this was a welcome cool-down. I had been splashing his underside at every shallow stream crossing along the way to help keep him cool in the high temperatures.

Some horse groups were on their way out as we went in but few other people were seen until arriving at Horseshoe Lake. The outfitters had hauled in a large group and one other other smaller group was camped. I found a grassy area where Rowdy could rest for a while. Rowdy doesn't need to be staked out as he stays pretty much put wherever we stop, just exploring the immediate vicinity.



The east portion of Horseshoe Lake, looking south

Friday saw more people, including a boy scout group, enter the area. One group included a person from Belize and another from Germany, the latter his first time to America. You never know who you might meet out on the trail. Most were quite infatuated with Rowdy.



#### RRR Rowdy at work, and at rest



The distance to Unit Lake from Horseshoe is not very far, about a half mile as the crow flies, but getting there involved lots of up and down the rather steep slopes picking our way over, under and through countless obstacles, until it finally came into view.



Unit Lake, looking south

At this point we still weren't there. We had to pick our way around more deadfall and circle up and around a rocky bluff and found a route down to the lake.



We packed out the next day, Saturday. I didn't want to get a late start out because I hadn't recorded the track in on the GPS and so the outbound route was strictly from memory. As complex as the route was Rowdy and I managed to retrace our path in reverse. There were lots of people hiking in and out that day but we missed most of them, and the trailhead parking was packed when we arrived, but the day was otherwise uneventful. In all, the hike was 23 miles.

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## **Show Schedule**

08/08, 2015 2015 Lancaster County Super Fair

Danetta Jensen 4100 N. 84th St. 402-304-6986

Lincoln, NE 68507 caninedesign@windstream.net

Judge: TBA Show Contact: Show Info: http://www.superfair.org

Other Judges: Danetta Jensen

08/15, 2015 Larry Macedo 2015 Hot August Nights

209-648-2338 11175 Golf Link Road

Turlock, CA 95380 macedosminiacre@gmail.com

Judge: Wally Baker Show Contact: Show Info:

Other Judges: Maureen Macedo

Michele Batt 08/15-16, 2015 2015 Erie County Fair ALSA Llama Show

5600 McKinley Parkway 585-737-8142

Hamburg, NY 14075 mbatt@rochester.rr.com

Judge: Rick Neal Show Contact: Show Info: http://www.ecfair.org

Laura Kwilos Other Judges:

2015 Fulton County Fair Llama & Alpaca Show Joy Bishop-Forshey 08/29, 2015

> 8514 OH- 108 419-822-6448 Waseon, OH 43567 drlamaj@yahoo.com

Judge: Tami Lash-Halter Show Contact: Show Info:

Other Judges: TrishSchneeberger-PerformanceTina Stellhorn

http://www.fultoncountyfair.com

08/29-30, 2015 2015 Antelope Valley Open Llama Show

2551 West Ave. H, Suite 102

Lancaster, CA 93536

Judge: Tor Sorensen Other Judges:

Sharon Weinsenberger

661-609-5963

sweisenberger@gmail.com

Show Info: http://www.avfair.com Show Contact:

Ginger O'Donnell



08/29-30, 2015 2015 Nebraska State Fair

501 E. Fonner Park Rd. Grand Island, NE 68801

Judge: TBA Other Judges: Catherine Steele

402-747-2301

thecsteele@gmail.com

Show Contact:

Bill Angell

Show Info: http://www.statefair.org

09/05-06, 2015 2015 Heart of Dixie Llama Show - Blue

Agribition Center, 4925 Moores Mill Rd.

Huntsville, AL 35811

Judge: Cathie Kindler

Other Judges:

Nancy Miller-Borg

256-538-2672 alallama@aol.com

Show Contact:

Nancy Miller-Borg

Show Info:

09/05-06, 2015 2015 Heart of Dixie Llama Show - Crimson

Agribition Center, 4925 Moores Mills Rd. Huntsville, AL 35811 Judge: Rick Neal

Other Judges:

Nancy Miller-Borg

256-538-2672 alallama@aol.com

Show Contact:

Nancy Miller-Borg

Show Info:

09/05-06, 2015 2015 LAMAFEST

MSU Pavilion East Lansing, MI 48824 Judge: Mary Jo Miller-Halter

Other Judges: Eran McCarty-Performance

Don Topliff

517-655-5988 dktopliff@gmail.com

Show Contact:

Sheila Miller

Show Info: http://www.lamafest.com

09/11, 2015 2015 Kansas State Fair Llama Show

2000 N. Poplar

Hutchinson, KS 67502

Judge: Allen Davis

Other Judges:

Glenna Overmiller

785-346-4365

twincreekllamas@yahoo.com

Show Contact:

Susan Sankey

Show Info:

http://www.kansasstatefair.com



Sharon VanHooser 2015 Houston Llama Show Costom.

09/11, 2015 2015 Kansas State Fair Llama Show

2000 N. Poplar

Hutchinson, KS 67502 twincreekllamas@yahoo.com

Show Contact:

Judge: Allen Davis Show Info: http://www.kansasstatefair.com

Other Judges: Susan Sankey

09/12, 2015 2015 Wild N Wooly Holly Jensen

1117 18th St. 402-631-9812

Aurora, NE 68818 rhjensen94@yahoo.com

Judge: Nick Hauptly Show Contact: Show Info:

Other Judges: Catherine Steele

09/12-13, 2015 2015 ALSA Western Regional Championship Joy Pedroni

> Tehama County Fairgrounds 707-447-5046

Red Bluff, CA joy@blackcatllamas.com

Judge: Margaret Drew Show Contact: Show Info:

http://www.blackcatllamas.com Other Judges: Kim Yates

Glenna Overmiller

785-346-4365

09/12-13, 2015 2015 NC Mountain State Fair Llama Show Vicki Sundberg

910-269-1422 1301 Fanning Bridge Rd.

Fletcher, NC 28732 homesweethome 3@yahoo.com

Judge: Bill Feick Show Contact: Show Info:

http://www.mountainfair.org /2015/zz.pdf

Tamara Johnson Other Judges:

09/25-27, 2015 2015 Oklahoma State Fair Llama Show Joy Swihart

405-387-9413 3001 General Pershing Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73107 swihart@pldi.net

Judge: Cheryl Juntilla Show Contact: Show Info: http://www.okstatefair.com/content

/livestock-competitions

Pat Bodkin Other Judges:



10/02-03, 2015 2015 Spooktacular HLAA Fall Llama Show Robin Sturgeon

Marion County Fairgrounds, 7300 E. Troy Ave. 765-572-1184
Indianapolis, IN 46239

gsturgeon@tds.net

Judge: Joy Bishop-Forshey Show Contact: Show Info: http://www.hlaa.us

Other Judges: Mary Jo Miller Susan Ellenburg

Deborah Yeagle

10/02-03, 2015 2015 Spooktacular HLAA Fall Llama Fleece Robin Sturgeon

Show

Marion County Fairgrounds, 7300 E. Troy Ave. 765-572-1184
Indianapolis, IN 46239 <a href="mailto:gsturgeon@tds.net">gsturgeon@tds.net</a>

Judge: Deborah Yeagle Show Contact: Show Info: http://www.hlaa.us

Other Judges: Susan Ellenburg

10/16-18, 2015 2015 Georgia National Fair - Green Kathy Devaul

Georgia National Fairgrounds 229-347-1698

Perry, GA 31069 <u>kdevaul@bellsouth.net</u>

Judge: John McDougall Show Contact: Show Info: http://www.ssla.org

Other Judges: Kathy Devaul

10/16-18, 2015 2015 Georgia National Fair - Orange Kathy Devaul

Georgia National Fairgrounds 229-347-1698

Perry, GA 31069 <u>kdevaul@bellsouth.net</u>

Judge: Tor Sorensen Show Contact: Show Info: http://www.ssla.org

Cheryl Lambert

Other Judges: kathy Devaul

10/16-18, 2015 2015 Southeastern Regional

Georgia National Fairground

Perry, GA

Judge: TBA Show Contact: Show Info:

Other Judges: Cheryl Lambert



Brennda Gilmore 2014 ALSA Grand Nationals

10/16-18, 2015 2015 Southeastern Regional

Georgia National Fairground

Perry, GA

Judge: TBA

Other Judges:

Cheryl Lambert

Show Contact:

Cheryl Lambert

Show Info:

10/22-24, 2015 2015 ALSA Grand National Show of

Champions

1279 E 85th St. N, Kansas Pavilions

Park City, KS 67147

Judge: Bill Feick, Margaret Henry, Hank

Kauffman

Other Judges: Deb Yeagle-Fleece/Alpaca

Halter

Glenna Overmiller

785-346-4365

twincreekllamas@yahoo.com

Show Contact:

Show Info:

http://www.alsashow.org

11/07, 2015

2015 Fall Driving Fest and Performance

Show

46324 Rolling Oaks Dr.

Friant, CA 93626

Judge: Nicholas Hauptly

Other Judges:

DeeAnn Forrester

559-341-0621

ALSA Office

performancellama@yahoo.com

Show Contact: Show Info:

DeeAnn Forrester

http://www.teamjorjio.com

He survived the Montana Large Animal Sanctuary, was one of the first to enter the hospice group of our triage work during the biggest large animal sanctuary rescue in history, then came to live at Llamas of a Coral Dawn with 10 other llamas who

escaped that nightmare barely holding onto life. Toothless, hollow-eyed and stiff jointed, Oscar took over as king of the ranch as soon as he put on a few pounds. For the next four and a half years, he ruled with a kind but firm, spirit, teaching us all about dignity and courage with a dash of irrepressible haughtiness.

The night before he crossed to the rainbow bridge, Oscar stood over me on his favorite lookout hill, humming what I later learned was his farewell song, knowing how

much we will all miss him. "Now cracks a noble heart. Goodnight, sweet prince; And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

Gayle Woodsum — at Coral Dawn Ranch, Hebron, Colorado.







July 14, 2015

http://www.alsashow.net/July\_14\_2015\_ALSA\_Monthly\_BOD\_Meeting.pdf

## June 9, 2015 (addition)

http://www.alsashow.net/Addition%20to%20June%209%202015%20BOD%20meeting%20minutes.pdf

June 9, 2015

http://www.alsashow.net/6\_09\_15\_BOD\_Minutes.pdf

May 12, 2015

http://www.alsashow.net/5\_12\_15\_BOD\_Meeting\_Minutes\_%282%29.pdf

May 5, 2015

http://www.alsashow.net/5-03-15%20Special%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf

April 26, 2015

http://www.alsashow.net/4-26-15%20Special%20Meeting.pdf

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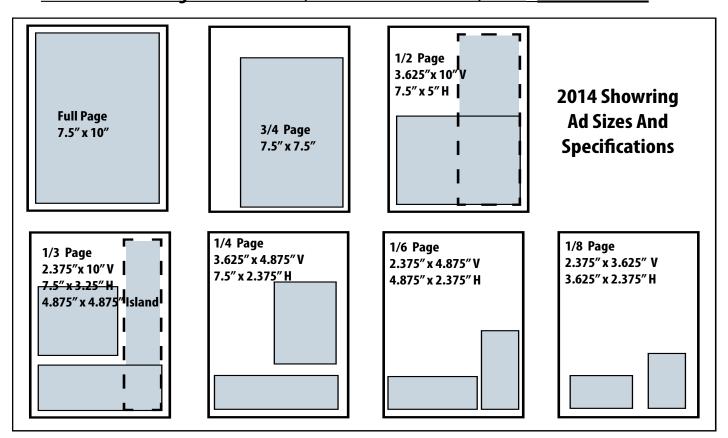
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