



## Whoa! That Went Fast

OMG! What a whirlwind 5 months it's been for us at Over the Rainbow. For those of you who haven't been paying attention, we moved! All of us ....well, actually some of us. Now we live at Over The Rainbow Alpaca Ranch in Hector, MN. We got a brand new barn, new fence, new gates to gnaw on, new pastures. And let me tell you, it's all just swell.

I want to personally invite each and every one of you to visit my new home. We have a nice office where Sara does some desk work, we have a nice nursery for the babies that will be born this year, and we have plenty of space to run and roll and...poop. So come on out—it's not that far. We all want to show you around.

Anyway, enough of that. Welcome to *Chat with Rainbow* for

2016. I hope you enjoyed our ramblings last year as much as I did. In this issue, you'll find the following sections:

**Client Corner**, featuring YaYa's Alpaca Farm, owned and operated by Karl and Monica Blandin.

**Educational Corner**, featuring new learning opportunities offered by Over the Rainbow (with a lot of help from me) and the launch of AlpacaU.

**Events** is an important section. Look here for ways to promote your business and network with others.

**Breeding Bulletin**. It's breeding season (I just love breeding—there are so many boys clamoring after me). Get your plan in place. We have some very fine boys out here that might be perfect for you.

**Bragging Book and Odds and Ends**. Fun stuff.

### Breeding Bulletin!

One thing I've learned. In Minnesota, we've got to plan new babies carefully so they're not born when it's freezing outside. So that means May through early October our barn is hoppin' busy with boys coming and going, girls getting all girly and .... shhhh ....breeding going on.

Over the Rainbow is expecting 15 new crias by the end of the summer. Good grief! Of course, mine will be best behaved and probably one of the cutest too—just like Rupert. (Speaking of Rupert—Sara sold him. Barb is pissed—she really likes Rupert).

Here's our Line-up, 1 or maybe even more who might be per-

fect for your girls and herd:

**Majestic Peruvian Ransom:** Sara and Barb have been looking for just the right *white* herdsire to join the other good looking boys on Herdsire Row. A boy that is fine, dense, award-winning, easy to handle, fleece to dye for (get it?), and... ready to breed.

Lo and behold, they found him in Ohio at Majestic Meadows:

- The son of MFI Peruvian Light Sabre, a multi-champion and Judges' Choice winner;
- The grandson of Jeremiah (interestingly, my old barnmate Sheri, is Ransom's aunt, and Sheri is a nice girl if I say so my-

self.

- The winner of many blue ribbons from all over the country and five (5) banners so far. (you know, if I competed for a banner, I'm sure I could get one too but Sara tells me I'm dreaming!).

**Snowmass Apotheosis** is a stunning dark brown boy with a bunch of ribbons and banners. His fleece is very fine—under 18 micron, consistent throughout. And the coverage is what we all like. BTW: Apotheosis tends to have girls. We like that. At least Sara likes that. I'm not sure I like the competition but I'm not worried. **I have an award winning newsletter.** Who needs blue ribbons!

**Snowmass Kahuna Sunrise.** I know this light brown champion quite well. He sired my sweet girl, Summer, last year. And she is one cutie. Kahuna is at least a 13 time champion so far. He's fine like silk, sweet temperament, and is traveling all over the country showing off. He and Apotheosis will be home here soon.

**Black Storm.** Pitch black, extremely fine, full face and great coverage all over. Beautiful crias. In fact, both born last year are in Sara's show string this year. It's hard to get in the show string. And both of Black Storm's kids made the cut for MOPACA.

FYI—we're in the hunt for fawn herdsire to join Herdsire Row. Stay tuned.

We said good bye to Matilda last fall. She's on her way to her new home in Canada.

Ginger Spice moved to Tennessee. Too bad—I liked her. But we like her owners too.

Over the Rainbow and Foggy Bottom are taking animals to MOPACA in April.

## Introducing.....AlpacaU

All year long, Sara helps farms figure out what to do, and to problem solve. She teaches alpaca owners how to take care of us alpacas and how to do the stuff everyone needs to know.

That led her to the realization that learning must never stop. Skills must be honed, knowledge must be shared.

Tadah....Introducing *AlpacaU*—the place where all alpaca farmers can learn new stuff, get new skills, try their hand at scary things, and become mentors to others.

Offerings will be a mix of Mini-series—topics to take you to the

next level, wherever you start from — single classes with topics of great importance focused on the health and well—being of the animals, as well as your business, to a Boot Camp—a tremendous opportunity to immerse yourself in the world of alpacas.

The first Mini-Series begins in March and is geared toward new or slightly new owners. The 2nd Mini-Series is all about being a breeding farm, with the goal of being successful.

This summer and fall,

AlpacaU will feature guest speakers on single topics that will include:

- Cria care
- Neonatal wet-lab
- Ruminant nutrition
- Parasite management
- Focus on fiber
- Skin Issues

There should be something for everyone. So stay tuned and watch for emails announcing classes.

**Y**aYa's Alpaca Farm is located in Garden City, Missouri. Nice place I hear. Five of our animals now call YaYa home. Karl and Monica have just the biggest barn ever. Plenty of room.

So a bit about YaYa's farm. Funny farm name, but Sara explained it has a meaning—if I remember right, Karl's grandkids call him Ya. Easier to say than GrandPa I guess. So YaYa it is. Anyway, Karl is a country western connoisseur and has a collection of records—the vinyl kind — that is unbelievable. Very cool.

Karl and Monica just recently got

married. So I guess they're still newlyweds. I wasn't invited to the wedding. Not sure why - must have been an oversight. I would have added character to the reception.

They have a FeltLoom at that farm and Karl is busy felting away making some very neat stuff. Sara's a bit irritated she doesn't have a FeltLoom anymore. Here's something cool: they grow barley fodder for the alpacas. We had fodder at Foggy Bottom—it was great. I loved it. I guess I'm going to have to talk to Sara and Bryan about getting some for us here.

News Flash! Karl is the new owner of Standing Ovation (Stan), who was born while we were living at Foggy Bottom. Stan is quite nice and Sara says will be a great herdsire. His dad is Snowmass Matrix—a very big honcho in our world. Sorry to see Stan go. He's going to get fodder again. Dang!

## EVENTS: Mark Your Calendars!

**Shearing:** 'Tis the season. We can hardly wait to get these winter coats off. Over the Rainbow has their own shearing day....April 25. And then Foggy Bottom will shear later. I don't care when they are scheduled. Sara will go, but I'm staying home.

Sara tells me I should remind everyone that when you shear your fleece, look carefully at it, and pick at least 2 fleeces to enter into the fleece shows. Treat those fleeces carefully when you bag them. (keep reading—there's a Fleece Show in your future).

**Midwest Farm & Fiber Festival:** Sara and Barb have been very busy this winter starting this new venture. I've heard them talking about how important it is to promote the products made by my fleece, and that Minnesota has fallen behind other states in doing this. Well let me tell you something:

falling behind is not a good thing. Here's what you need to know:

*Midwest Farm & Fiber Festival*

*October 22, 2016: 9 am—5 pm*

*Isanti County Fair Grounds;*

*learn more about it and sign up @ [www.midwestfff.com](http://www.midwestfff.com)*

**Midwest Alpaca Fleece Show.** Our region needs a way for alpacas to strut their stuff. Ribbons are nice to get. And alpaca owners want to see ribbons on their fleece. So Sara and Barb are launching a Fleece Show that they intend to get AOA certified. The show will be conveniently held the same day as the Farm & Fiber Festival; judging the day before by Wade Gease, and then the fleeces on display at the Festival.

So...when you're shearing, keep the fleece show in mind. More about it at [www.midwestfff.com](http://www.midwestfff.com). I'm excited to go see my fleece on display.





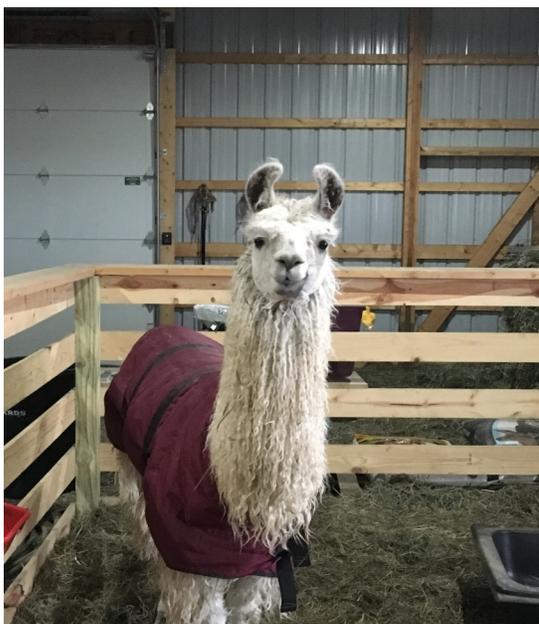
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*Owned and operated by Sara and Bryan Peris, Over the Rainbow is quickly becoming an elite breeding farm in the Midwest. Sara began her life with alpacas in 2009 with the purchase of her first bred female. Since then there has been no looking back. Mentored by Double "O" Good Alpacas, one of the country's elite breeding farms, Sara has received extensive hands-on training in herd health and management, breeding, neonatal care, and conformation and fleece analysis. And each year, Sara takes time out of her busy days to focus on her continued learning from some of the best in the industry.*

*She has an eye for the best. The herd has grown to include color champions and multiple ribbon winners, crias with fleece that "will take your breath away", (to quote one national judge) and personalities to boot! See for yourself – get introduced to Rainbow, the most remarkable, personable and delightful alpaca you'll ever meet, and the proud author of this newsletter (help with typing from Sara).*

## Bragging Book



Meet **Worthy Wager**, Over the Rainbow's resident guard llama.



Rainbow's cria **Summer Squeeze**. First cria from **Snowmass Kahuna Sunrise**.

**Got an animal you want to brag about?**  
Send us your picture and a brief description  
and we'll post it here for you.

**Our Motto: Apples don't fall far from the  
tree. Pick a good tree!**