

New Mexico Alpaca Breeders Meeting

Saturday, December 19, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Leslie Stoddard.

This NMAB meeting was held before the annual Christmas Party hosted this year by Sandy and Lee Liggett of Whispering Spirit Alpacas in Sandia Park. Thanks to the Liggetts for enthusiastically opening their home for a very entertaining evening.

Members present: Leslie Stoddard, Mickey Wright, Bob and Louise Hazen, Scott Lewis, Luca and Melinda Tossani, Robert and Cheryl Louie, Lee and Sandy Liggett, John and Carolyn Fifield, Evelyn Simons, Susan and Kent Sasser, Russa Bates, Bruce Campbell, Anne Stallcup, Tim and Diane Blackburn, and Bob and Cyndi Wargowsky.

Leslie introduced our newest members, John and Carolyn Fifield, from Fence Lake, NM. **Welcome!** The Fifields shared with us their experiences so far with their new alpacas and John offered assistance to members on website design.

Our new secretary, Marilyn Knudsen, was unable to attend the meeting but the July minutes are posted on the website. The minutes were approved by Anne Stallcup, seconded by Melinda Tossani.

Our treasurer, Mark Hogan, was also unable to attend. Leslie will contact him for the treasurer's report.

Old Business:

2009 NM State Fair

Mark was not available to provide a final financial accounting of the state fair. A final report will be posted on the website.

Bob Wargowsky mentioned all the positive feedback he received from exhibitors on volunteers helping to unload and locate assigned stalls. He thanked all of the many volunteers – things seemed to run well (including the passes). Bob agreed to be the barn supervisor at the 2010 NM State Fair. Great news! He also stated that he thought an increase in fees for exhibitors would be a mistake.

Susan also expressed appreciation for all of the volunteer help in moving the obstacle course.

One negative experience: Leslie had \$100 worth of product stolen.

New Business:

Suggestions for the 2010 State Fair

1. Improving signage (banners)
2. Waiving performance entry fees (Susan has been paying these for the kids she works with but she can't continue to do so)
3. Enforce the "no selling" rule for **everyone**

Board of Directors Elections

The election for the Board member positions of president, treasurer and membership chair will be held before the July meeting. Nominations will be accepted at the NMAB membership meeting in March.

Alpaca Registry

Leslie is now on the Communications Committee of ARI and she asked that members let her know of any concerns, questions or problems with ARI. She suggested that ARI's Alpaca Academy would be very good for new breeders.

The Alpaca Fiber Symposium

The symposium in Denver was attended by NMAB members Anne Stallcup, Susan Sasser, Bob and Louise Hazen, Lee and Sandy Liggett, and Larry and Barbara Roybal. AFCNA (Alpaca Fiber Cooperative of North America), NAAFP (North American Alpaca Fiber Producers) and the Suri Network all had representatives there. The symposium has arranged for testing of alpaca fabric to verify claims such as water repellency and fire retardance. Testing is being done at Gaston College. Anne stated that the symposium is a great resource and suggested that we add a link to their website on the NMAB site (www.alpacafibersymposium.com). Mickey suggested that we have some members of the alpaca fiber symposium for the next NMAB seminar. Susan suggested that more of us go to the next symposium.

Other Fiber Issues

There was a lively discussion on the importance of crimp in processing fiber. Robert Louie suggested Dr. Julio Sumar as a good source of information.

Possible ways to process our membership's collective fiber: fiber pools, co-ops, i.e., Espanola Valley Fiber Co-op (Anne is a member) and Jemez Fiber Arts (Mickey and Evelyn are members).

The next meeting was scheduled for March 6, 2010 to avoid TxOlan and the Phoenix show. It will be hosted by Susan and Kent Sasser.

The meeting was adjourned and the Christmas party began.