

New Mexico Alpaca Breeders Membership Meeting

Saturday, January 17, 2009

Rancho de los Suenos, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Call to Order

Members Present:

Mark Hogan, Bob Hazen, Louise Hazen, Bill & Kathy Herman, Dan Wright, Sally Wright, Lee & Sandy Liggett, Cynthia Daly, Mary Black, Bob & Cyndi Wargowsky, Anne Stallcup, Susan Sasser, Luca & Melinda Tossani, Evelyn Simons, Tim & Diane Blackburn, Sherry Willis & Peggy Rustin, Barbara & Larry Roybal

Welcome

Vice President

Cynthia Daly

Thanks were expressed by Cynthia to our generous hosts who fed the lot with delicious homemade enchiladas and wedding cookies!

Miscellaneous Announcements

- 1) Woman in Bloomfield needs homes for male and female alpacas.
- 2) East mountains couple needs homes for 5 alpacas and Great Pyranees bonded to a male alpaca
- 3) In these hard times the number of animal rescues is increasing. Bob provided care for a llama that had been attacked and received no compensation for the care and time he spent.
- 4) Llama rescue needs bales of hay. In order for llama to be placed previous owner must relinquish ownership, before llama is able to be placed in new home.
- 5) Can we consider our contributions to the rescue situations tax exempt? Sandy & Lee will bring info on this to our next meeting or it will be posted on the web site if obtained prior to that.
- 6) Julia Berry has a trailer for sale for \$1200

Newsletter

- 1) Info sent in to be posted to the newsletter has been slow in coming. Do we continue it?
 - a) Suggestion made to change it to a blog format. As a membership, our contributions would also be relied upon for the information in a blog. So, no info, no blog, or sporadic blog.

b) Could we use the newsletter or blog to address issue of alpacas or llamas needing care or adoption? Blog would be more timely format if it's being read.

c) Topics to be addressed might be obtained from websites of individuals with expertise in the issue with that individual's permission. Ex. Mike Safely publishes educational info on his web site on topics of interest to the industry. Would we be able to use them as resource?

2) Suggestion made to stagger election for board members. Louise Hazen motioned that this be passed. Anne Stallcup seconded the motion. Sandy Liggett will check bylaws to see if this is in accordance or if bylaws need changing.

Treasurers Report – Mark Hogan

- We are \$1500 ahead and have a working balance of \$14,862.
- We have \$5K in a CD that we could take out or roll over. It was agreed that it's best to roll over the CD.
- The NM State Fair paid us \$1500.
- Still need to pay taxes for 2008

Membership Report – Melinda Tossani

- New Members : Sally and Dan Wright of Lazy DS Alpacas and Donkeys Ranch of Pecos NM

Survey Results – Cynthia Daly

- 12 surveys returned and were in favor of keeping the halter show at the venue of the NM State Fair
- One issue addressed by the survey was whether attendance at the NM State Fair would be affected in light of the current economy. Rick Metcalf indicated to Roberto that the TXolan Show attendance was down about 10%.
- A superintendent for the alpaca show at the state fair is needed
- Rob has approached Rick Metcalf about superintending the NM State Fair
- Rob to arrange meeting with Melissa (State Fair agent) and Leslie and Anne
- Anne brought up issue of inadequate security provided by the State Fair and the possibility of providing/hiring our own security. There were several volunteers to spend the night at the venue to provide security.
- Problems associated with the State Fair continue to be the same that we have been dealing with since the beginning of our association with the organization.
- Bob suggested that some of the issues might receive attention if they were brought to the attention of individuals above Melissa's position in a diplomatic manner. She may lack the authority but doesn't want to admit the fact.
- The fact that the Alpaca Halter Show makes money for the State Fair would seem to be reason for them to meet our needs.

- Anne's opinion is that at the current venue we will be limited to a level 2 show
- Bob's opinion is that it is possible to have a level 3 show at the current venue
- the show will attract a positive number of entrants if the fees for entry are reasonably priced.

Code of Ethics – discussion

- there is thought that as an organization we need to have an ethics statement
- issues related to the statement include: 1) enforcing adherence to ethics statement, 2) who does policing and 3) consequences of violating the policy
- to what areas does the statement apply
- as an NMAB member must you meet a set of “minimum standards”
- would those in compliance get something equivalent to the “Good Housekeeping Seal of approval
- Lee moved that we establish a committee to look at a Code of Ethics, there was one dissenting vote cast by Bill Herman.

Website – Anne Stallcup

- number of website visits declined in Aug. and Sept
- there was an increase in the number of visits coming through an outside link
- the more authoritative the website, the higher it will appear on search engines
- excellent for marketing our goods, animals and herdsires
- please submit corrections and additional information for the member page
- submit info about events to be posted to the calendar in a timely fashion.

Miscellaneous

- proposal made for reimbursement of \$100 to host of the holiday socials and quarterly meetings. All in favor
- the development of a mission statement for the organization is needed. Discussion around what a mission statement encompasses. Decision made to send to the board for discussion.
- Handweavers Guild Convergence will be held in Albuquerque July 18 – 25 of 2010. NMAB needs a presence at this event

Education

- we need input for upcoming seminars and educational events. Suggested topics were nutrition EPDs, fecal analysis and sorting fiber

Next Meeting

Sandy and Lee Liggett volunteered their home and ranch for our next meeting. The date will be April 18 2009, Susan and Kent's 28th wedding anniversary!

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Sasser
Secretary New Mexico Alpaca Breeders