



## **MEMBER MEETING JULY 30, 2011**

- Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Sandy Liggett, President, at 12:50 PM.
- Attendees: Larry Roybal, Peggy Rustin, Sherry Willis, Vivian Cadwallader, Kathy Richardson, David Hunter, Mary MacGyver, Carla Bleicher, MaryAnn Andrews, Evelyn Simons, Mickey Wright, Tim Blackburn, Diane Blackburn, Kathy Herman, Bill Herman, Linda Kahlich, Anne Stallcup, Sandy Liggett, Mark Hogan, Mary Black, Carolyn Fifield
- Welcome: Sandy Liggett welcomed new attendees and thanked Mickey Wright and Evelyn Simons of Aspen Ridge Alpacas for hosting the meeting. New attendees included Kathy Richardson and David Hunter of Puerto Del Sol Alpacas; Vivian Cadwallader of Zia Ranch Alpacas; and Rex Vane of Dream Catcher Ranchito.
- Approval of Minutes: Minutes from meeting on 2/26/2011 were read by Carolyn Fifield. Motion to approve minutes was made by Bill Herman and seconded by MaryAnn Andrews. Minutes were approved as read.
- Board Membership Changes: Sandy Liggett reported that no members ran for the open positions. Carolyn Fifield has agreed to be Secretary and Bill Herman has agreed to be Vice President. Motion to approve these appointments was made by Sherry Willis and seconded by Linda Kahlich. Motion was approved.
- Thank You to Departing Board Member: Sandy Liggett and attendees thanked Anne Stallcup for the central role she has played over the years in NMAB as she steps down from her position of Vice President. Anne assured the group she would remain an active participant in NMAB.
- Board Reports:
  - Membership: Linda Kahlich reported that membership is down to 28 farms and 3 of those are associate memberships. Discussion followed in which attendees suggested that possible reasons for low membership included poor economic times, lack of focus on fiber, meetings held too far away, and lack of educational programs at meetings. Suggestion was made to send out a survey to non-member alpaca farms in New Mexico in an attempt to better understand the needs of alpaca breeders who are not currently members of NMAB. Sandy Liggett agreed to develop and send out the survey.
  - Communications with NM State Fair: Anne Stallcup reported that the State Fair refused the option of a fleece and performance show this year when informed there would be no halter show. There is a new general manager, and had there been a halter show, she was informed the judge's fees would have been cut 50%, and there would have been no free passes – parking or otherwise. Cash prizes for performance show would have only gone to 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> places and been cut by 50%. No adults would have been eligible for cash prizes. Additionally, everyone would have had to check in on Saturday morning.

- Financial Report: Mark Hogan reported that there is currently \$7078.00 in the checking account and \$5232.00 in the CD. He also suggested that based on previous years, it would take about \$20,000.00 to put on a show.
- Corporate Status: Sandy Liggett reported that when she sent in the application and check to incorporate, the application was lost. She questioned attendees regarding the level of interest in continuing the process based on the low membership and lack of volunteering for committees. She explained that dissolving a corporation could be difficult should the need arise. Discussion followed in which attendees indicated that membership historically went up and down, and they felt that being a non-profit organization provided opportunity for acquiring grants, provided deductions for sponsors, and may show other non-member farms that NMAB took its role seriously. A vote was taken and the majority of farms voted to go forward with incorporating. Sandy agreed to hand carry the paperwork to Santa Fe.
- Educational Programs: Bill Herman reported that 26 people attended the nutrition seminar. He had sent 4 AOBA e-blasts to 10 western states and there were attendees from other states along with those from New Mexico. Unfortunately, NMAB lost \$970.00. However, the speaker, Robert Van Saun, PhD, from Pennsylvania State University, provided excellent information. Dr. Van Saun is a ruminant nutrition expert and trains veterinarians on camelid nutrition. Bill shared some learned information regarding alpacas being very similar to human type 2 diabetics in the way they handled diet and stress, and the need to use caution when administering intravenous fluids to alpacas with greater than 5% glucose content. Dense materials were provided by the speaker and it was suggested they be posted on the NMAB website.
- NMAB Website and Uses: Sandy Liggett asked attendees their opinions about non-members being allowed to post events/information on the NMAB website. A discussion and vote followed. Attendees voted unanimously that only members of NMAB should be allowed to post on the website.
- Discussion Groups: Attendees were broken out into 3 groups to discuss the following topics:
  - NMAB's Participation in a Three State Supershow: The group felt that NMAB should further explore this option. MaryAnn Andrews agreed to call Gordon Teal Farm and also research possible New Mexico venues such as Bosque and Santa Fe Fairgrounds. Cheryl Louie agreed to call the Amarillo Show to gain some insight. Kathy Herman had agreed at the last meeting to be the 2012 Show Committee Chair and Tim Blackburn and Barbara Roybal had previously agreed to be committee members. Kathy requested additional committee members. Bob Louie, Cheryl Louie, Linda Kahlich, MaryAnn Andrews, Evelyn Simons, and Anne Stallcup agreed to join the committee. Committee agreed to stay in contact with Treasurer, Mark Hogan, as they proceed with any show plans.
  - National Alpaca Day: The group agreed that funding should be provided for press releases, brochures, radio/TV spots, etc. And it was suggested to post information about it on the website. Kathy Richardson volunteered a billboard that could be used by NMAB to promote the organization and National Alpaca Day. Discussion followed regarding the need to determine the amount of money it would take to develop the art work for the billboard and the need for the billboard to direct viewers to the NMAB website. A motion was made by Sandy Liggett to allow the board to spend up to \$5000.00 for advertising. Motion was seconded by Cheryl Louie, but attendees did not approve. The motion was amended to give the board permission to spend up to \$3000.00 for advertising and was seconded by Bill Herman. Motion was approved. A committee was formed that included Anne Stallcup, Sandy Liggett, Mark Hogan, Linda Kahlich, Mickey Wright and Kathy Richardson. No attendees volunteered to chair this committee.

- Fleece Related Activities: The group reported they would like to develop a mill directory for members and post in on the website; provide members with on-going education regarding fleece processing at national mill level, smaller mill level, and personal or spinners/weavers level; and keep membership informed of Alpaca United status on a regular basis. A committee was formed that included Bill Herman as Chair, and Vivian Cadwallader, Mary Black, Carla Bleicher, David Hunter, Larry Roybal, Barbara Roybal, Peggy Rustin, and John Fifield as members. Committee agreed to provide some form of fleece related education at each NMAB member meeting.
- Alpaca United: Sandy Liggett gave a brief overview of recent Alpaca United activity including a recent invitation to establish a “Center for Excellence” by North Carolina State University College of Textiles. A handout was provided to attendees and it was suggested that the handout be posted on the NMAB website.
- Ranch News - Talk Around: Attendees reported what is going on at their individual farms.
- Raffle: Successful raffle was held.
- Next Meeting: Meeting will probably be in October. Date and location to be determined.
- Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.