



New Mexico Alpaca Breeders (NMAB) Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, February 21, 2016

Humming Desert Alpacas, Budaghers, New Mexico

Educational Fiber presentation: Fiber artist, Judy Chapman, was introduced by Pam Groff, and gave a brief discussion on needle felting using natural fibers. Her contact info is Judy Ball Creations, 540-661-2748, (e-mail) chapmanjk2@aol.com.

President David Hunter called the meeting to order at 1:20pm MSD.

Board secretary, Mickey Wright, was unable to attend the meeting; Diane Blackburn read the minutes from the October 2015 meeting.

After noting a correction to the minutes, removing a statement suggesting that Bill Herman had volunteered to lead the by-law review committee, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Pam Groff; and seconded by Jeannie Wells. **MOTION PASSED**

Bob Hazen stated that the NMAB by-laws require that we hold staggered elections for board members. 2015 was an anomaly; all board positions were vacant at the same time. Members in attendance agreed the current President and Treasurer would be two-year terms and either the Secretary and Membership positions would be maintained for a two-year period; the Vice President term is one year.

Membership dues; during the March 2015 meeting it was decided that dues would be suspended indefinitely. Pam and Anne believe we should reinstate charging membership dues as stated in the by-laws. The benefits are voting rights, and a “Ranch listing” on the NMAB web page.

Cheryl Louie suggested that \$100 is to high of an expense since NMAB doesn't offer benefits compared to the value that TXOLAN and AOA offers for the same costs. General discussion continued.

Bob Hazen made a motion to reinstate dues, Bill Herman seconded the motion; (before voting took place Pam Groff requested the motion be amended to reduce dues for 2016 \$75 (full ranch membership and \$25 for Associate Ranch membership). Bob Hazen agreed to amend the motion. **MOTION PASSED** by a majority based on a show of hands.

Kathy Richardson expressed concerns that NM Ranches do not appear on a search for affiliate Ranches

of AOA. Anne clarified that NM is part of TXOLAN, who is an affiliate to AOA and NM Ranches are in fact listed under the TXOLAN header. No action needed.

David printed bylaws from our web pages and found them to be outdated. Bill Herman found the most current version in minutes from a past meeting; Bob Hazen will make sure the most current version is uploaded to our web site. Follow up item for the next NMAB meeting.

Proposed 2017 NM Alpaca Show; (general discussion)

PROS:

Show of hands indicated 9 farms would be interested in showing.

Show will rejuvenate and revitalize our organization.

If held the same weekend as Festival of the Crane in Socorro, possibility of attracting thousands of visitors

Socorro Mayor is willing to subsidize certain costs

Travel to a local show would be less costly

Offers visibility for small Farms/Ranches with limited travel budgets.

CONS:

Concerns about open-air building without sides;

David, Kathy, Cheryl and Robert have visited the location site;

The lack of "Side panels" on the building seemed to be a game changer for the Socorro facility;

Organizing a show is costly; we would need to intensify our fund raising efforts to have sufficient funds to support a show;

The entire membership would have to get involved to have a successful show.

Working with the state fair board was a very negative experience; we lost money because of decisions made by the "State Fair staff" thus the past NMAB Show Chairman refused to work with them again.

Conflicting dates with ABQ Balloon Fiesta and Taos Wool Festival and possible the ABR show, Anne will check those dates.

Search for other covered venues around NM hasn't been successful.

Dorene suggested that NMAB be cautious and not "financially over commit" to early in the discussion process.

Pam asked that we build up our education program and reputation in the Industry so we could attract others to a NM Alpaca Show.

Rhonda said that she attended an NMAB Show (at the NM State Fair Grounds) prior to having animals, and thought it was a very good show.

By the general consciences of the attendances, further discussion will continue at future meetings.

In February 2016, David attended a "Camelid Workshop" at UC Davis; he is willing to share all printed materials with the NMAB membership.

David suggested that we share hay resources information, and post to our web pages. David and Kathy have found a new hay supplier, in Durango, CO, Dick Lunceford, 970-946-4682, two string orchard grass, \$7.00 a bale. You load! Information was made available to the General NMAB membership.

Rhonda has been a vet tech for over 20yrs. She is willing to teach a workshop on how to test fecal samples; she will run labs for NMAB members for a small fee.

NMAB owns a "microchip reader", which is available for membership use. David is storing the reader. Anne said the reader was purchased for use at the NMAB shows. She thought NMAB owes other equipment but did not know where the equipment was currently located. Bill Herman is storing the sprayers. No other information was available.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer, Tehani Hogan, shared information regarding Mark Hogan, (past Treasurer). He has been making periodic installments to repay the suspected embezzled funds from NMAB. The payments have been received on an irregular timeline. Discussion from the membership suggested that he owed NMAB approximately \$12k. There was no action taken regarding this matter.

Bill Herman, Communications Chair, is sending out member communication using Mail Chip, which is a free service.

Bob Hazen, Web Master, will provide instructions for updating information on Open Herd accounts. It's possible to have info flow through to social media sites.

Tom Freese; Financial Audit Committee, have initiated a financial statement review; everything looks reasonable based on the documentation provided by the Treasurer as of this date. Additional will be

made available to the membership as it is developed.

General Discussion:

By-laws state the end of the fiscal year is Jan 31st. A new financial statement will be provided at year-end.

Kathy Herman has confirmed arrangements for Deb Hill, Cloud Dancer Alpacas owner and managing editor of Alpaca Magazine, to present a one-day seminar, *Creating Small Farm Financial Stability*, April 23, 2016. (bio attached). Cheryl and Robert Louie will host Deb at their home in Los Lunas at no cost to NMAB. Cheryl requested funds to offset the costs for table and chair rentals and \$ for cleanup.

The NMAB Board suggested NMAB will pay for lunch and snacks throughout the day. Members present agreed by general consent that the cost for NMAB members will be \$75 per Ranch (2 people). We will open attendance to non-NMAB members based on availability of space. David offered to create a registration spreadsheet to provide to Tehani with registration information.

Pam Groff attended seminars conducted during the TXOLAN show. She brought back handouts to share.

Kathy Herman has arranged to have Sally from The Shephard's Mill, present at her guild meeting in ABQ, and suggested that NMAB request her to stay an additional day so that she could address NMAB as well. No action taken.

David is taking weaving classes with Liz Gipson, at New Mexico Tech. She is the author of the newly revised and updated "Weaving Made Easy" publication and instructor in four video workshops from Interweave. Liz has offered NMAB three individual workshops. (See attached) Contact David if interested.

Anne Stallcup made the motion to adjourn, Kathy Richardson seconded.

Anne introduced book "last chance llama ranch " Hillary Fields.

Save the Dates:

Anne Stallcup is hosting a series of spinning workshop at her ranch in March. (See attached flyer)

Our next quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, June 11th at Barbara and Larry Roybal's Ranch in Pojoaque, NM. 12:00pm

The October quarterly meeting will be held Saturday, October 15th, at the home and Dorene and Tom Freese, Los Lunas, NM.

December Christmas party will be held Saturday, December 10th, 4:00pm. (TBD, location in Albuquerque)