

Calpaca November 2004 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held on November 13, 2004 at the ranch of Bruce and Joan Nelson, *Ah...Sweet Alpacas* in Vacaville, CA. President Gary Bergeron called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. All board members were present except David Lee, who was excused. In his absence, Pam Brady was appointed to serve as recording secretary.

Gary welcomed all the members attending and thanked Bruce and Joan for the use of their ranch. Then members introduced themselves and told where they are from.

The minutes from our last meeting were approved as published on the website.

Rick Brady gave the treasurers report. As of 10/31/04 our checking and savings account balances equal \$23,265.61.

Diane Hoschler, the membership chairman was absent due to illness. It was reported that there are six new farm members and that brings the total to 168 farm members.

Old Business

- **Rick Brady reported on the Grants, Donations and Scholarships**
\$500 to Fiber on the Foot, Red Bluff
\$2000 to ARF
\$2500 to establish a Calpaca Scholarship at UCD School of Veterinary Medicine
- **Bruce Nelson reported about the Calpaca Members List**
We are now Calpaca@yahoo.com. He cautioned members to use discretion when posting to the group. Seminars, workshops, open houses, farm dates are acceptable. The BOD will post items of interest. Advertising alpacas for sale, breedings, agisting services, etc. are NOT. The Calpaca Connection is the proper forum for advertising. If you are not receiving Yahoo Groups posts, please contact Bruce Nelson later in the day.
- **Rick Brady reported on the new Calpaca Web Site**
We have a contract for a new Calpaca Web Site design. Amy Moulton of Chameleon Web Design has been hired and the site is under development. When it is up and running, there will be a section to advertise ranch events, members events, and seminars, clinics and workshops.

The current Calpaca website is www.Calpaca.org. Bruce offered a special thanks to Paul and Sands Bellizzi for securing www.Calpaca.com for the organization. It was available and we didn't want there to be another organization to use it and confuse them with our Calpaca.

- **Mike Scott reported on the Calpaca Storage/Cargo Trailer**
It has been completed and is parked outside. At the lunch break, be sure to go out and look at it.

Bruce thanked Mike Scott for all his work in getting the trailer, designing the outside graphics, and setting up the inside storage properly. Now the board is looking for a member to provide storage space for the trailer.

- **Schedule for Quarterly Meetings**

The schedule is all set for 2005, and there are requests already for 2006. The Board of Directors is still working on the Policy for Meeting Hosts. It should be finished before the next meeting, and will be sent out to those who have committed to host a meeting. It will also be put up on the web site for all members to review.

- **Dale Davis reported on Shows – past and present**

The Alpaca Fest West was a rousing success. All the accounts have not yet been settled, but she felt that the show would break even. It is an expensive show to put on due to the venue location. SoCalpaca is investigating changing the location for 2005.

AOBA has some major changes in the 2005 Show rules. You can look on the AOBA website to download all the specific details. Dale mentions some particular items of interest:

- Every animal must be micro chipped and have a certificate of health from a vet prior to arrival at a show
- Every animal must have an ARI registration
- AOBA is raising the rates to certify a show
- The organizers of a show must report to the California Department of Agriculture that a show is being held
- There is a new color class – Roan, white fiber in the fleece. They are going to be more specific in the grays definition.
- The shearing rules have been revised – trimming around the eyes is acceptable and the under belly can be sheared to alleviate heat stress.

The next Monterey Pronk will be April 22-24, 2005 at the Monterey Fairgrounds. It is a full fleece halter show. There will NOT be a fleece show. There will be a Fiber Arts show as last year. Many volunteers will be needed to work on the planning and at the show.

The AOBA Fiber to Fashion will be held in Atlanta, GA from February 22 to 27, 2005.

New Business

- **Gary announced that today was Election of Officers**

Most of the ballots had been returned in the mail and more ballots were collected at the meeting. The ballots will be counted after the mail delivery today. Each candidate was given time to make a statement.

- **Membership Status**

A question was brought up about the status of “out of state” Farm Members. The Board of Directors wanted to table the question until the newly elected BOD could review the current By-Laws and bring a proposal to the membership. It is not certain that there even needs to be any clarification. Since it was an issue that could effect the election (one of the candidates lives in Nevada), the membership wanted to deal with the issue today. Vicki Arns made a motion, and Bonnie Potter seconded it. *Out of state members have the same rights of membership as in-state members.* The vote was favorable. Since this is not the proper way to amend the by-laws if needed, the vote merely represented the wishes of those members present.

- **CALPACA Connections Report**

The Calpaca BOD and the SoCalpaca BOD are investigating combining the *Connections* with the *SoCalpaca Paca Tracks*. This might be called the *California Paca Tracks* and would fairly represent both organizations. This idea has both plus’s and minus’s. Overall it seems like an idea that has some merit and could be worthwhile in the long run. Right now we are just investigating this “opportunity” with SoCalpaca. We would still need an editor to coordinate the Calpaca side of things, and we believe that it would make the production side of things much easier.

Aase Frederick announced that the Connections is late and being held hostage at the Internet publications company.

- **Pat Mead reported on the State of the Fiber Industry and the Co-op**

- **Mike Scott reported on Micro-chipping alpacas**

Mike Scott, Rick Brady, and Bruce Nelson attended a USDA meeting put on by the assistant Secretary of Agriculture. The USDA is moving toward requiring all livestock animals to be identifiable. Also, when animals are moved around the country, i.e. across state lines, moved to other farms, etc. the USDA wants a record kept. It might be that each ranch, farm, show location, etc. will need an identifier. At the current time, AOBA recommends that an alpaca be micro chipped on the back of the head, below the left ear. The USDA applauds the alpaca industry’s proactive approach. Dale Davis recommends mico-chipping cria at two weeks. Gary Bergeron suggests four to six weeks.

- **Rick Brady mentioned that the board is working on an Alpaca Vet Resource list for our members**

The list is intended to be beneficial for members new to the business. Each ranch has a vet that they use on a day to day basis, but this list is for “What to do in case of an emergency”, after hours or weekend problems, how to get in touch with UC Davis, etc. This list would be available on the website. Rick will be sending out an email to members requesting recommendations on vets to add to the list. A member requested that the board put together a list of shearers and transporters.

The business meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm. A pot lunch followed the business meeting. Bruce and Joan supplied a pot of soup, a pot of chili, and bar-b-qued pork for

sandwiches. During lunch the tellers counted the ballots. Joan Clappier, Kay Rodriguez, and Donna Pointer were elected to the open positions on the board. The new board of directors immediately held a meeting where they elected Bruce Nelson, President, Donna Pointer, Vice President, Rick Brady, Treasurer, Kay Rodriguez, Secretary, and Joan Clappier as the director at large.

After lunch, Danny Mora, DVM gave a very informative talk about pasture management. And then he gave a “hands-on” demonstration of micro chipping an alpaca.