

Minutes – Calpaca – May 12, 2007

Bruce Nelson, Calpaca President, opened the meeting at 10:30 AM at the Southern Cross Farm, home of Tom and Robin Houts and family. After welcoming everyone and introducing all the first time attendees, each member introduced him or herself and told where their ranch is located.

The minutes of the last meeting, February 10, 2007 were approved as published on the website.

Rick Brady, Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. The Silent Auction at the CA Classic generated \$6,600.00+ for the UC Davis Scholarship fund.

Summary:

Checking at last meeting	\$ 7,764.61
Adjustments	\$ 40.15
Income	\$18,535.36
Expenses	\$ 4,549.01
Checking 05-11-07	\$21,710.81
Balance in Savings	\$13,486.39

Membership – Lisa Theis was not able to attend. Bruce reported that there are 229 (farm and associate) members and 19 new members since the February meeting.

Old Business

1. Joyce Judy and Diana Jordan reported on the CA Classic. There were 486 entries. The Herdsire Breeding Auction generated \$13,350.00. There is a real need for MORE volunteers at next year's CA Classic.
2. AWE – The Reno show was a great show. There were more volunteers at this show then in Portland. Thank you Calpaca.

New Business

1. CA State Proclamation – The national Alpaca Ranch Day is September 29, 2007 (the date of the Pronk). AOBA has asked that each affiliate contact their governor and request a proclamation. Our proclamation has been written and is on Arnold Schwarzenegger's desk waiting for his signature. We are hoping that he will sign it on the front lawn and then present it at the Pronk (or his representative will present it).
2. AB1050 – the review before committee was postponed again, but is now scheduled for May 14, 2007 in the afternoon. Bonnie explained the procedure. The BOE asked for an amendment that we agreed to in order to move it along. They took out the section that would exempt feed and medication. There will definitely be a ruling on whether to pass the bill out of committee. Public parking is available in a lot at 10th and L Streets. The meeting starts at 1:30 pm. Be sure to arrive early, as there are security checkpoints to go through.

3. AG Day – The AG day on the Capitol steps was a BIG success. We had a wonderful booth displaying our fiber end products and an animal pen with a couple of cute animals. There was a lot of interest by the state senators, congressmen, and staff.
4. County Zoning Laws – Recently, Bruce was contacted by Solano County and informed that he had too many animals on his ranch. Solano County would only allow 2 alpacas per acre, equating them to horses. Bruce argued that alpacas should be classified as sheep, thus allowing him to have 10 alpacas per acre. Several Calpaca members sent information regarding their county. Armed with this information along with articles from Dr. David Anderson, Steve Hull and a letter from Dr Wilson of UC Davis, Bruce presented his case. With the assistance of the County Agricultural commission, his case was won. Solano County will now allow 10 alpacas per acre, the same as they do for sheep. Calpaca hopes to get much of this information on the website soon, so that others facing the same problem will have some guidance in how to deal with the county zoning laws.
5. Pronk – Naomi Flam was not able to attend. There will be a few things different this year. There will be an early bird registration (with a reduced fee). There is no room to expand beyond what has been planned. There are a few changes in the layout of the barns, the show ring, and the vendors' locations. There will be two show rings this year.
6. Endowment Fund – Rick Brady reported on the Endowment Fund. The two silent auctions will add greatly to the fund, as well as provide scholarships for next year.
7. Sock it to Me – Last winter, 3000-4000 alpaca socks were sent to the troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Some other group coordinated this program. This fall, Calpaca hopes to do something similar. We have a contact at Travis AFB that has agreed to ship the socks. The logistics have not all been worked out yet. Jeanne Dorrance has volunteered to head up the committee.
8. AFCNA – Jan Sherrill presented a concept to make it easier to transport the fiber down to New Mexico. The difficult (and costly) part of participating in the co-op is boxing and shipping the fiber. Jan suggested that we have collection points in CA, and then we rent a truck and drive the fiber down. There are many details to be worked out, but if we can do this, we can present this plan to other affiliates and the fiber co-op can grow. David Barboza has volunteered to drive the truck. Jan is working on the details, but she needs all Calpaca members to join the co-op now. She will make a presentation to the Calpaca board for funding.
9. Calpaca membership – Bruce suggested that we reestablish the practice for paying for the Calpaca membership of a brand new breeder (\$50.00 for the first year) when selling them their first alpacas. It is a very nice gesture to make to new breeders.
10. UCDavis Camelid Symposium – The first weekend in January (5 and 6) 2008 is the date of next years symposium. There will be three tracks for beginners, advanced breeders, and veterinarians. The llama industry will be more involved this year.
11. A big thank you was given to the tax committee for starting the discussion that eventually has led to AB 1050. We also have to thank Bonnie and Joan for all their research.

Motion to adjourn was called for. After lunch, the members were able to attend two workshops. Robin discussed skirting fleeces. Tom demonstrated many herd management techniques. John Mahr also demonstrated teeth trimming.