

Calpaca Quarterly Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2009

Hosted by David and Jeannette Miller at Sierra Nevada Alpacas, Reno, Nevada
Membership Meeting Started at 10:30 AM.

Bonnie welcomed the 32 members in attendance and thanked David and Jeanette for hosting the meeting. First time attendees and guests were introduced.

Secretaries Report: Dennis Rabe

1. Approve minutes from May 9, 2009 meeting that are posted on Web.
Minutes were approved and the members were invited to peruse the minutes from the general meetings and the board meetings that are posted on the website.

Treasurers Report: Jack Jordan

1. Status of Calpaca Funds
Jack announced that the account is stabilized around \$50K, with the amount moving up and down depending on events.
2. New Calpaca Accounts
All the accounts have been created under the corporation and the signature cards are signed and recorded. Also we are increasing the areas where members are able to pay online with their credit cards for CALPACA activities.
3. The Quickbooks software is being used and is helping to make the process of completing our tax forms more streamlined. The tax forms for last year have been filed and we are compliant with all of our reports.
4. Jack reported that the endowment fund has nearly \$30,000 in the account.

Membership Report: Lin Murray

1. Lin reported on our Membership Status: 210 total members – 176 Farm members 34 Associate members
5 new members in the second quarter
Stan Anderton and Jan Peterson – Placerville (Farm member)
Randy and Janis Bass – Alameda (Associate member)
Jane Lilliard and Elizabeth Loud – LL Alpacas Wilton (Farm member)
Sefan and Lesa Dalthrop – Pilot Hill (Farm member)
Pauline and Ron Bowen – Shingletown (Associate member)
2 renewing members in the second quarter
Rick and Cindy Shipley – Montague (Associate member)
Mark Allen – Cameron Park (Associate member)
2. Membership Directory
The directory is out after the printer finally got it right. Lin reminded everyone that they are responsible for updating their farm information, it can be done online, and she can help the member through the process.

Committee/Event Updates

1. Update on Alpaca Fiber Fair at Lambtown in Dixon October 3rd
Bruce Nelson reported on the event for the committee. There are usually 3-4,000 people that come through the event, primarily fiber oriented people. There will be an

AOBA certified fleece show, and there will be a “fiber boy” sale at the event. There will be 6x6 pens with at least two animals in each pen. There is a maximum sale price allowed for the fiber boys of \$500. The uniform pricing is being used to try and keep the pricing affordable for first time buyers. We will also make sure there will be more than one alpaca on the purchasing farm. The new buyers will be connected to a Mentor ranch so the buyers have all the support they will need. Members do not have to have a CVI or have their alpacas registered to participate, and it costs \$35 per animal to enter them. People can also sell their fleeces at the show, at the conclusion of the fleece judging with the option of putting a fleece in the “show and sell” event. The forms for the event are on the website, with sponsorships available for \$200. Bruce asked for volunteers for the CALPCA booth so we have a member available to answer questions, and to provide our handouts and information and collect “leads” for use by the members. The booth will be at the front of the show, and it will also be a way to make sure people know where the Alpaca area is located. The Calpaca booth representatives are key to getting the information we need and all the volunteer help we can get will be appreciated. Leads from events are distributed first to the booth volunteers and then to the general membership. There will also be 3 performance demonstrations.

2. Update on UC Davis Camelid Symposium Jan 16-17, 2010

Bonnie reported that the dates are for the **Third** weekend in January. This was done to have the ability to get a particular high profile speaker (Dr. David Anderson) for the event. Cost should be similar to last years price, and there will be more information coming soon, but as always, we will have lots of great speakers, great topics and very pertinent information for the membership

3. CA Classic 2009 Feedback and 2010 Update

Dianna Jordan reported on the difficulties in processing the credit card charges for the 2009 show, and the hope is that all of the problems have been resolved. The 2010 show is locked in and the committee will be looking for volunteers and sponsors. Bonnie reminded everyone that the show is not possible without the volunteers. We are able so save lots of money by not having to hire people for key positions. The 2009 committee received great feedback and will be incorporating the feedback into the 2010 show.

4. Marketing Committee

The marketing committee recently had their first meeting and they are working on identifying new projects. Joan Clappier reported on what the committee is doing, and how the process is being completed. The first meeting identified the need to target marketing for the broad base Calpaca membership and as they get started on their short term goals (three booklets for selling, fleece and alpaca care), the committee will also be working on their long term goals. The committee would appreciate the membership’s email comments and suggestions.

Old/Unfinished Business

1. AWE

The questionnaire that the AWE committee sent out has been completed. The 2010 show will be at the Clark County Fairgrounds just north of Portland. The 2011 show will be back in Reno. The SOJAA representative to the AWE board is retiring (Jan Davis) and they are looking for a replacement.

2. Calpaca Trailer

The trailer is parked at Jack and Diana's, where we now have all the show material stored in the trailer.

3. Legislative Activities

The Legislature is still working on the Septic Tank Bill, but it is stalled due to the budget, as were some other pending bills at the legislative levels

4. 2009 California State Fair Update

Last 5 days in August we will have a booth at the State Fair. We will need additional volunteers to work the CALPACA booth, especially on the evening shifts. One of the problems is getting help has been the change in School start dates and conflicting vacations. Bonnie is doing pretty well with spinners and fiber artists, but she really needs some help with ranches to bring animals to have in the booth. Contact Bonnie for more information.

5. Goals for 2009: all are being worked on. The Connection Magazine is a great Marketing tool. Bonnie submitted an article that will be coming out about our newest scholarship recipients. Rick has received thank you notes from the recipients and they gave us some feedback that they want to come back to Nor Cal to have a practice that includes alpacas.

New Items/Additions

1. Camelid Community Meeting Report

Jack represented CALPACA and he reported on the national meeting he attended for us and he said they talked a lot about fiber – llama and alpaca. The commonalities in our industries make it more sensible to work together to share information and experience. The group was very pleased that we sent a representative to the meeting. www.icinfo.org has a downloadable brochure for use in Camelid Care. The meeting was very fruitful and the project this year is to build a program for helping people develop an agri-tourist destination. The llama rescue group SELRR is doing great work in this respect and we could use a lot of what they have already developed.

2. Calpaca Donation for Alpaca Industry Study

The board has decided to give a donation to help get a current and accurate research document to refute other studies that are out there and not based on good data. We challenged the association to the north and south to match our donation.

3. Change of date and location for November Meeting

The November meeting will be on the First Saturday in November; Critterville has moved to Yreka, so the location has been moved to Rick and Pam Brady's Oak Valley Ranch. Dave Barbosa will be giving the presentation

4. Elections in November for 2 board positions

Bonnie and Jack's terms will be ending this year, Bonnie has to leave the board due to term of service, Jack is eligible to run for another term if he would like.

5. 2010 Meeting Locations

CALPACA is looking for meeting sites for 2010. Please look at the form on *Hosting a Calpaca Meeting* on the website to see if the parameters are is you are interested in hosting a meeting.

Announcements

1. David Barboza suggested that you check the AOBA website for AOBA youth forms for being a hosting ranch or a donating ranch.

2. Susan Ratti has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer, they are continuing the testing; Russell would appreciate everyone's understanding that he has his hands full for right now, so he won't be able to continue transporting and shearing

until they get the situation settled. The membership has sent their well wishes to Susan and the Ratti family.

3. March 27th 2010 will be the third annual Herdsire Showcase.
4. ARI is doing BVDV testing on the samples that are sent to them if requested. The cost is less. If the ranch did the blood draw on their own, not by their Vet, they need to check with their vet to make sure the vet is okay with using the ARI BVDV test results for CVI's
5. Dave and Brenda Barboza are hosting the next in their ACE seminar series. Ruth Elvestad will be the featured speaker on Saturday, covering topics from Shearing to fiber uses. On Sunday Bret Kaysen will be speaking on assessing your alpaca herd

The membership meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

The speaker after lunch was Debby Ulrich. She presented her research on the ABC's of Llama Color. Her PowerPoint presentation was followed by some field observations of David and Jeanette's herd.

Next Meeting: November 7th (not the 14th) at Oak Valley Alpaca in Valley Springs hosted by Pam and Rick Brady

Minutes submitted by Dennis Rabe, Secretary