

CALPACA QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES 2.12.11

Meeting was called to order at 10:20 am. All board members present. The new board for 2011 is Dennis Rabe, President, Laurie Findlay, Vice President, Jack Jordan, Treasurer, Kay Rodriguez, Secretary and Dave Scroggins, Director. Dennis thanked the outgoing members Tom Petersen and Dale Davis for all the hard work and support over the past two years. And Tom and Susan Petersen were also thanked for inviting us all to their ranch for this meeting.

First agenda item was to approve the December minutes as posted on the web site. Joyce Judy made motion and Russell Raiti second. Motion Approved.

Treasurer Report – 2011 Budget – Jack advised that Calpaca is still very strong financially and is working on the 2011 budget now. All our income comes from dues and shows. Calpaca gives a lot of support to other ententies like the UC Davis scholarship/Endowment fund, Fiber on the Foot, Lambtown, AG Day at the capitol and many other things. These things all cost money. Calpaca currently has about \$100,000 combined in all accounts and we could continue to support all our activities and donations for a while, but with a 10% loss of membership and shows not bringing in what they use to, we may have to go to alternate funding ideas. Dave Scroggins has come up with a raffle idea that might help us keep up with all our donations. Dave will keep us posted on this idea as it is researched more.

Membership Report – Lin Murray was on hand to collect any membership fees that have not been sent in yet. We are down about 60 members so far this year. We had 2 first time attendees at this meeting, Teresa Crowley from Shingle Springs and Caroline Waddell from Sawdust Alpacas. There were 7 new members in that last quarter. Bruce Nelson advised that he and Joan give a Calpaca membership to all new buyers at their ranch.

OLD BUSINESS:

UC Davis Symposium – Joan advised that the Symposium was a huge success and in the end had 141 attendees. Their first meeting for the 2012 Symposium is next week and once again the planning committee is looking for topics that you would like to hear. One thing they would like to try for next year is tiered pricing for Calpaca members. Everyone thanked Joan, Dale, Jan and Bonnie (Jan and Bonnie not present) for all their hard work on this prestigious event.

Affiliate Roundtable – Laurie, Tom and Dennis all listened in to the last conference call of this group. There are 90 affiliates and only 12 people (3 from Calpaca) where on this call. There is a rotating faciliator that runs the calls for 3 months and it seems disjointed and not very organized. There are still no minutes from the last call. All agreed that they would continue to listen in and see if there is any improvement in this group. An effective way to talk with AOBA needs to be found.

New Business:

AG Day – March 23 at Capitol – Bruce Nelson will once again take some of his well behaved boys and will have help from Dave Scroggins. Maureen Macedo will be getting spinners together and Joan Clappier will have end products for view. This is a great way to get CA government involved in local agriculture.

Last year it was pointed out that alpacas were the fastest growing livestock in CA. This will be the 4th year that Calpaca has participated in the event and we now sponsor to make sure that we get that great spot in front!

California Classic – Joyce is right on schedule with the plans for this year's show. They are still looking for some key volunteers so if you have some spare time and would like to help, please see Joyce or Robin. Spin-off is now closed and ended up with 85 entries, proving that alpaca breeders are true procrastinators! Dale advised that there are only 6 big sponsorships left and a big THANK YOU to all sponsors who signed up early. Sue Petersen is in charge of the wine tasting event and compliance check. Joyce is still looking for someone to handle the silent auction on site. If you want to place an ad in the show program, please make sure you have your reservation in and ads by March 29. All vendor spaces are sold out! Joyce also wanted to make sure everyone books their rooms with the host hotels so we can get free rooms to help pay for the cost of the judges. Mark your calendars for April 30 and May 1!

Llama show at State Fair – Maureen Macedo is working with Cal-ILA on having alpaca join the llama show at State Fair this July 22-25. They will be in an air conditioned building. Performance, showmanship and other classes are being worked on right now. If you are interested in attending or helping, please talk to Maureen.

Dixon Caper – Joyce is waiting for Calpaca to decide what kind of show the Dixon Caper will be. A vote was put out to the group at this meeting to decide the basic format of this 1 day show. AOBA or not AOBA? Vote was to do a non-AOBA show and make this a teaching show. Do you want to learn to be a gate keeper, ring steward, or recorder? How about registrar or Super? Want to learn how to show your alpaca? How about a timed race through the performance course against a sheep? These are all things that have been discussed and will be worked on for this show. Lambtown is a great place to sell your fiber. Karen Kelly, Lin Murray and Gabrielle Menn advise they skirt and clean their fleeces and get top dollar for them. So prepare your best fleeces, or last year's show fleeces, and sell them at Lambtown!

Gold Country Gathering – Kay needed to know if we wanted to go 60/40 again this year? Yes was the response. Do we want another fleece show this year? Yes was the response. Everyone said they would like the BBQ back along with the fire pits and heat lamps. If we could make the rain go away, that would be appreciated too! Kay is filing for certification this week, so mark your calendar for October 22-23 in Grass Valley for another great Calpaca event. We will be looking for volunteers and a few paid positions. Announcements will be going out soon. Halter judge will be Wade Gease. Will announce fleece judge as soon as we hire someone. Spin off, fiber arts and fleece to shawl will all be coming back again this year.

Updating Web site – The board would like to see that Calpaca web site updated some. There are things on the web site that need to be easier to find. Did you know that you can post your upcoming events on the Calpaca web site? Email your information to Joan Clappier and she can get it up on the web site.

Are you interested in being the next Calpaca Connection editor? The board is taking requests to be considered for this job. Do you want to do the Show Program for CA Classic? There is an RFP for that

and more coming for Gold Country. Connection deadline is February 15. Please submit your application to Dennis Rabe.

Location for 2011 and 2012 meetings – Our next meeting will be held at Renaissance Ridge Alpacas in Mount Aukum, CA. The board is still looking for August and November locations. Please contact a board member ASAP to be considered for this year and we need 2012 sites also. Please go to the Calpaca web site, Members Only, for guideline for hosting a Calpaca meeting.

Build a Tent – AOBA has given \$10,000 to Nick Hahn to start making alpaca a brand name. Don't know who Nick Hahn is? Have you seen a cotton ad? See the brand? Now you know who Nick Hahn is. A steering committee is being formed and a tier level of support is being funded. Calpaca would like to be a voting member on this very important mission. Deadline for the 1st step in this goal is today, February 12. A motion was put to the membership present to become part of this voting group. Jack made motion and Deb second. Motion was approved and Jack will do this tonight with credit card so Calpaca can be a voting member. This is a very big step to making alpaca fiber known as the amazing fiber we all know it is. Several of our membership have already signed up and may be considered to be on the steering committee. More on this in the meetings to come.

ARI – EPD update – Dave Scroggins advised that ARI is running behind on getting all the EPD data entered since it joined with IAC. Some of the information is up but it may be 2-3 more months before more data is available.

Do you know that Tom Petersen is running for ARI board? Dianna Jordan for AOBA board? Kathleen Friend is now on the Grant Committee? We have some of the most devoted people to make our industry a success.

Bruce Nelson advised that the TAP Herd Sire Showcase is at the Dixon Fairgrounds on February 26. There are 62 great boys for you look at for 2011. There will be a raffle again this year to support the Camelid Club at UC Davis and the parade of Stud Muffins for your viewing pleasure. Don't miss out. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm.

Kay advised that IAO is still open for registrations and that there are a lot of new things happening this year. The fleece show is now being copied by AOBA and this could be your first chance to try the new categories of Get of Sire and Produce of Dam. The show will be March 19-20 at Seaside Park in Ventura, CA. Cottage will be judged by Wade Gease and Sally Brendan from Kansas Fiber Mill and Commercial will be judged by Peter Kennedy from Australia, Val Fullerlove from England and Dr Julio Sumar from Peru. There will also be a walking fleece show. For more information in IAO, please go to www.iaoshow.com.

Russell Raiti and Karen Ball announced their engagement and the joining of their 2 ranches. The new name will be Heart and Soul Spinnery, since Russell also purchased a new fiber mill! Congratulations and good luck!

Meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm. A pot luck lunch was provided by all and our guest speaker was Assembly Member Linda Halderman MD.

Next meeting, May 14, at Renaissance Ridge Alpacas in Mount Aukum. Look forward to seeing everyone there.