

CONNECTION

Summer 2014 — May through July 2014



Inside:

Calpaca President's Message...Page 3

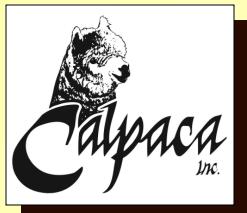
Calpaca Member News...Page 4

A Few Thoughts On Various Alpaca Business Models...Page 6

Hand Processing Fiber...Page 8

Alpaca Owner Association (AOA) News...Page 10

How Hot Was It?...Page 19



California Alpaca Breeders & Owners Association
Connecting members to Calpaca, the industry and each other

2014 Board of Directors

President

Laurie Findlay

Alpacas of El Dorado
4535 Boo Bear Lane
Somerset, CA 95684
530-642-8082

info@alpacasofeldorado.com

Vice-President

Karen Ball

Heart & Soul Alpacas and Spinnery
14514 Oak Meadow Road
Penn Valley, CA 95946
543-432-3015

heartandsoulspinnery@gmail.com

Treasurer

Karen Kelly

Arapaho Rose Alpacas
10702 Arapaho Drive
Redding, Ca 96003
530-949-2972
kskelly1@att.net

Secretary

Lisa Beatty

Rockstar Alpacas
16440 Bonney Rd
Royal Oaks, CA 95076
831-722-6560

Director

Phyl Clempson

Alpacas of Napa Reserve
1550 McKinley Road
Napa, CA 94558
707-265-0989
alpacareserve@aol.com



Left to Right

Back row: Lisa, Laurie, Karen Ball
Front row: Karen Kelly, Phyl



In California's tradition as a pioneer of progress, Calpaca was the first—and is the oldest—regional alpaca association in the Northern Hemisphere. Calpaca and past and current members have been leaders in the American alpaca industry since 1989.

Its member farms are home to some of the oldest and most respected bloodlines in North America.

Calpaca Membership Chair

Pam Brady

Oak Valley Alpaca
2044 South Ranchero Rd.
Valley Springs, CA 95252
209-772-3906

oakvalleyalpacas@yahoo.com

Connection Editor

Dianna Jordan

Alpacas of Somerset Farm
PO Box 190 (mailing)
Somerset, CA 95684
530-620-6033
DLJORDAN@live.com

Calpaca Members Serving on the AOA Board of Directors

Bonnie Potter—President

Fair Winds Alpacas
530-823-2820
FairWinds Alpacas@aol.com

Dianna Jordan—Vice President

Alpacas of Somerset Farm
530-620-6033
DLJORDAN@live.com

Tom Petersen—Director

Alpacas All Around
916-660-1918
tapetersen48@hotmail.com

Affiliations

Alpaca Owners Association "AOA"

8300 Cody Dr Suite A

Lincoln NE 68512

402-437-8484

402-437-8488 Fax

www.alpacowners.com

www.alpacaregistry.com

Alpaca Research Foundation

"ARF"

www.alpacaresearchfoundation.org

International Lama Registry

"ILR"

www.lamaregistry.com

Alpaca Fiber Coop of N America (AFCNA)

www.AFCNA.com

www.americasalpacas.com

AFCNA DIRECTOR/CALPACA MEMBER

Cynthia Kuhlmann

530-272-1218

Cynthia@SierraRoseAlpacas.com

Staying Connected

Keep up with member and Calpaca News

Calpaca Website

<http://www.calpaca.org/>

Group Emails

calpaca1@googlegroups.com

Calpaca Facebook

Calpaca— California Alpaca Association

**WHO SUPPLIED THE COVER PHOTO?
IT WAS IN MY FILES?**

THE CONNECTION BASICS

**Advertising Prices,
Submission Guidelines on
back page**

Calpaca President's Message

As I sit here writing this while watching over our pregnant dams due to give birth over the next several weeks, I feel it is a good time for reflection on times past and what lies ahead in our Calpaca and alpaca futures.

In the last ten years I have seen an industry change dramatically, maybe not as fast as some of us would want, but still change and grow. Ten years ago, these animals were sold as the “Huggable Investment” but even then we knew it was all about the fiber.

The alpaca industry has actually created jobs that we might have never known existed. It has created “Mini Mills” and shearers, CO-OP’s and markets for raw fleece and yarn. We have more vet students studying camelid medicine than ever before. Alpacas created a need for specialized transporters and people who have become famous training alpacas and who have become judges. We’ve got authors who now write books about alpacas and a TV program dedicated to shearing. And who ever heard of “EPD’s and histograms until you became involved with alpacas.

The marketing of these animals has changed the most in the last ten years. From expensive print media to the explosion of Social Media! How many of us now sell alpacas and alpaca products using Social Media? The future knows no bounds.

Now is the best time for all of us to become involved with our local and national affiliates. We are again on the brink of exciting changes and are beginning to realize these animals are livestock and in order to move our industry forward new and very different livestock models need to be looked at and explored.

The camaraderie, the team spirit, the willingness to help one another achieve a common goal is what drew us to this industry and what keeps us engaged and that should never change. The current and future alpaca investors are much different than we were ten years ago and they are looking into our industry in a very positive way. They know they are reaping the benefits of our past knowledge, hard work and committed breeding programs. By working with our local and national affiliates we can continue to direct the changes and move our industry in a positive direction.

I look forward to seeing what the next ten years will bring.

Laurie Findlay, Calpaca President

Calpaca Member News

CHANGE IN MEMBER INFORMATION:

Change in address:

Maureen and Larry Macedo
Macedo's Mini Acre
11175 Golf Link Road
Turlock CA 95380
209-648-2384

Nancy & Dave Helwig
925 Sterling Alpacas, LLC
10451 Valley Drive
Plymouth CA 95669
209-245-3438

Change in email address:

Gaye Cornell: 1fiberfool@gmail.com

Calpaca Member On AFCNA Board of Directors

Congratulations to Cynthia Kuhlmann of Sierra Rose Alpacas in becoming one of the newest members of the AFCNA BOD. Thank you for your willingness to serve our industry.

Upcoming Calpaca Events

2014

August 9, Membership meeting — David and Sheila Scroggins—Colusa Riverside Alpacas

October 18-19 Gold Country Gathering Alpaca Show, Grass Valley, CA

November Membership meeting — Karen Ball & Russell Ratti —Heart and Soul Alpacas and Spinnery

For current member events check: <http://www.calpaca.org/events/>

2014 Membership Meeting Topics are All About Fiber



The February meeting was hosted by McCarty Creek Ranch www.mccartycreekranch.com

Steve Murray from Lassen View Alpacas Bureau, co-hosted the discussion on “Shearing Preparation”. Topics included preparing your ranch, animals, helpers, fleece, etc.



The May meeting was hosted by Alpaca Country Estates www.california-alpacas.com

Lin Murray, Karen Kelly and Dale Davis provided presentations on how to prepare your fiber for sale, fleece shows and Spin-Offs.

The August Membership Meeting will focus EPD's and utilizing the results in your breeding program to maximize fiber quality production.

August Calpaca Membership Meeting Saturday, August 9, 2014 10:00 am

**Dave & Sheila Scroggins—Colusa Riverside Alpaca Ranch
6909 Codorniz Rd., Colusa, CA 95932 530-458-4022
dnsranch@citlink.net www.colusariversidealpacas.com**

10:00 — General Membership Meeting

12:00 PM — Lunch will be provided, please bring your own chair and drinks.

1:00 — Educational Program — Sheila Scroggins - Using EPD in your breeding program, power point presentation (. Topics include how to navigate AOA (aka ARI) EPD search capabilities, Comparison of Histograms with EPD values, How to interpret EPD values, Examples of EPD breeding pair results, and questions and answers. Presentation materials will be provided.

- PLEASE RSVP AND BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR**

A FEW THOUGHTS ON VARIOUS ALPACA BUSINESS MODELS

So - you want to be an alpaca farmer? Well then, I commend you on your discerning taste in livestock! Cute, and possessing lively personalities, they do seem to have an almost magnetic and hypnotic effect on many folks.

OK, now "*Snap out of it...!*", to quote Cher, in responding to a lovesick Nick Cage, swooning over her in the 1980's movie, "Moonstruck". As romantic a notion as being in the alpaca business can be, it's important to realize that there's a lot more to creating a successful alpaca business than having a warm & fuzzy appreciation of their personalities and appearance. Depending upon what model of business set-up you adopt, there will be many different things to be considered before taking the plunge. If you are going to become an alpaca owner/breeder, you must be concerned with the costs of proper barns and fencing, and providing a plentiful supply of pasture grasses/hays that don't contain dangerous endophytes, the never-ending poop clean-up, veterinary & medication expenses, deaths/injuries, the emotional and financial pain of the occasional dead cria, annual shearing, not to mention a significant devotion of your time, sweat and energy.

Still interested? Great! Now let's get down to business! And let's make no mistake about it – this is a business. It requires not only that you possess or are willing to acquire the necessary animal husbandry knowledge and skills, but that you also understand the basic fundamentals of being self-employed and operating a successful business.

The US alpaca industry is still a "young and evolving" industry, relatively speaking. It's also one that is divided into a number of sectors, some of which are not yet very well established or populated. After 10+ years in the industry, this is my take on how things are shaping up. It is by no means the complete picture, but I think fairly well describes it in broad strokes:

- 1) There are seedstock producers who are dedicated to creating the highest quality breeding stock possible, and pushing the envelope of possibilities in various ways - in terms of longer-held low micron, of ever lower micron, of tighter uniformity, greater brightness, greater staple length or overall shearing yield. Some are pursuing various combinations of the above. Some do so without regard to color and some focus on only one color or a narrow range of colors. They control herds of varying size, and either sell a small number of animals at a fairly high unit price, or use economy of scale to their advantage by selling more animals at a somewhat lower, but still significant price. They may also sell culls that fail to qualify for their strict breeding requirements for a reduced price. Most of these farms also realize some income from breeding fees to studs or herdsires that they own.
- 2) Another sector takes those highly evolved seedstock animals and uses them in a breeding program to produce herds of good, consistent quality fiber-producing animals and attempts to make a living by selling raw fiber. My own opinion is that this particular sector is one that is best structured in parts of the country where overhead and other out-of-pocket costs such as shots, feed and labor can be kept to a minimum. Herd sizes in this sector would ideally be large (think cattle), and per animal annual profit from fleece sales would be small, but the overall multiplier effect of volume would realize a decent profit for the farm owner. Oh, and you'd better be prepared to shear all of those hundreds or thousands of animals yourself, to keep out-of-pocket costs at a minimum, and to help ensure that you actually turn a profit against total expenses! There are not yet very many farms occupying this sector, and earning a full-time income in only this kind of venture. In a future commercial fiber industry, these would be the farms supplying the bulk of the raw fiber for processing. Farms such as this may or may not elect to create a secondary revenue stream through participation in a hide and/or meat market in order to maximize profitability.
- 3) A third sector is farms that are a hybrid of the first two types - folks who raise high quality animals, focusing on ever-improving quality, some of whom they sell to others. These farms also attempt to sell raw fiber. They are **only interested in the livestock side of the business**, and have no desire to produce or sell intermediate stage or finished fiber products.
- 4) A fourth sector is folks who are **only interested in the fiber side of the industry**. This sector is composed of processing mills, fiber artists who may work exclusively with alpaca fiber or work with a blend of many types of fiber that include alpaca, creating either artistic products, high fashion or utilitarian type of garments and accessories, or some combination of all types of fiber products. Some of these businesses may choose to mainly rely on buying wholesale finished product for re-sale to the public. Another subset, may engage in a combination of these things.

Continued on next page....

5) The fifth sector is comprised of people who are engaged in some combination of all of the above, in an attempt to maximize profits by adopting the vertical integration model of profitability, and satisfy their own personal desires to be in **both** the livestock **and** value added fiber product business. This model, in my opinion, for the interim time being, may likely contain the greatest number of successful alpaca businesses. Some of these folks may participate in one or more of the existing fiber co-operative exchanges, either in addition to or instead of creating their own products from the fiber they produce.

This overall scenario will change over time, as the numbers of animals and their quality & uniformity peaks and stabilizes. In my opinion, we are yet dozens of years from that time. It requires that sufficient tons of fiber of uniform color, micron and staple length **be available annually** to sustain it. As this occurs, larger scale mills will arise to process this available quantity of raw material and meet the growing consumer familiarity and market demand for the finished goods those mills will create. At this point, the other paradigms will likely recede to a niche position.

As I stated earlier, this is not a perfect description, but is a fairly close portrayal of the basics of things as they now stand and may evolve.

This is an exciting and challenging time to be in the alpaca related businesses. As with any business venture, hard work, dedication, persistence, creativity, flexibility **and** a keen eye on the bottom line will be necessary to ensure success.

OK – you may now resume hugging your alpacas!

Bill Goebel is a former teacher, actor, stained glass artist, and long-time computer programmer. Bill lives and works in the foothills of the Appalachians, in southeastern Ohio. Together with his wife, Louise, they have owned & operated Renaissance farms for the past 10 years. They run a mixed purpose alpaca farm, where they maintain a herd size of between 30-40 animals. They are seedstock producers, and also offer stud services to their string of high quality breeding males, sell animals and, of course, are busy adding value to their annual clip of fleece, producing dyed and natural color yarns and carded fiber, both knitted and felted clothing accessories and artistic pieces, as well as buying wholesale and re-selling manufactured alpaca products! They also operate an online store, as well as attend dozens of venues for product sales each year. They also spend time mentoring a number of farms. Bill is a former member of the board of directors of the OABA affiliate, and is a long-time forum moderator on Alpacanation. Oh, and yes, Bill has been known to hug an alpaca or two!

Bill and Louise can be reached at:

Bill & Louise Goebel
Renaissance Farms
59048 Randerson Rd

McArthur, Ohio 45651
Phone (740) 596-1468
Fax (740) 596-9565
bill@renfarmsohio.com
louise@renfarmsohio.com
www.renfarmsohio.com



Bear River Alpacas

4600 Wilson Town Rd.
Lincoln, CA 95648

Nadine Joaquin
209 986-9892



Fairview Alpaca Ranch

Margo Knapp

661.822.1001
info@fairviewalpacaranch.com
www.fairviewalpacaranch.com

21200 Traveller Place
Tehachapi, CA 93561-7866

HOME OF CHAMPION "PACIFICA'S PERUVIAN PACHENGA"

Hand Processing Fiber

Written by Theresa Pitts, Deepstep Creek Alpacas, www.deepstepcreekalpacas.com and reprinted with permission.

Skirting

Here at DSCA, we have 60+ alpacas that I need to process their fiber. I currently work a full time job (from home) and Tony works most weeks out of town. This leaves me the daily chores of scooping poop, feeding animals and general farm maintenance after putting in an 8 hour day at work. This doesn't leave a lot of time to do what I really love, PLAY WITH MY FIBER. So, I have been experimenting with ways to process my fiber, quickly and efficiently. I am publishing a series of articles on what my process is and along the way, I'll let you know what works and what doesn't work in my environment. Please note, my goal is to get as many fleeces done in the limited amount of time that I have. If I were processing only a few per year, I may do things a little different. This is not intended to be a rulebook on how to processes your fleece, but to give you my perspective and let you determine what works for you and what doesn't. There are a lot of different ways to do this and as long as you end up with a product that you like, that is all that really matters.

First, I layout my fiber on my skirting table and pick out any obvious belly/guard hair, short cuts or areas that are too matted or have too much VM to make it worthwhile to clean. In doing this, some of the dirt and vm fall out of the fiber. Once this is done, I will push the fiber to the side and start hand picking/skirting the fiber by taking small handfuls and picking them apart and removing any vm that I can easily pull out. If the tips are too matted or messed up, I will cut them off. I find I have to do this with my huacaya cria fleeces that weren't shorn shortly after birth. They pick up everything are are pretty nasty to work with. Plus the tips are very brittle and wouldn't be good to have in the final product. If there is a lot of mats, tangles or exploded vm (itty bitty pieces of hay that you just cannot pick out by hand), I will use a single hand card to pull the lock through. This will comb out the lock and a lot of the tangles and vm. Once I have finish the handful, I set it in a pile of fiber that is ready to be washed.

Since my method of processing fiber includes drum carding the fiber to pull into roving or roll into a batt, I don't worry about keeping the locks lined up or laid out in a specific manner. At this stage, you could also "finger pick" the fiber into a fluffy cloud. This finger picking has to be done as the step right before putting it into the drum carder, so if you do it now, you will still have to do it again after you wash it. But, it may make the second picking easier if you do it now as well. This is a personal preference and the value of it may vary from fleece to fleece.

Washing Fiber

Now, my personal preference is to wash the fiber before I spin it. I would strongly encourage you to do so as well. Although alpacas don't have lanolin they do have dirt!! And lots of it!! They sweat and the dirt gets mixed with it and it makes for some funky smelling and feeling fiber. ***Please note, my alpacas are not housed in a controlled environment on concrete. There are some farms that do this, so dirt/sweat may not be an issue***. I prefer to wash the fiber in my kitchen sink without the mesh bags that a lot of people use. I began washing in my bathtub with mesh bags, but I found that the fiber didn't come as clean and I needed to wash the bags 7 or 8 times before it was completely clean. So, I fill up my sink with hot water and use a combination of Orvus Paste, some cheap nice smelling shampoo and Peroxide. I use a small amount of Orvus and shampoo (about the amount that you would use to wash your hair) with a few glugs of Peroxide. Orvus paste does the hard work. It gets the dirt and sweat out. The cheap shampoo just gives it a good smell and the Peroxide really helps get your light color fleeces nice and bright. If I am washing white fleeces, I use a lot of Peroxide. Being in GA, we have orange alpacas, not white. The clay makes it very difficult to get them that really bright white that is so nice.

I gently push the fiber down into the water. Don't put too much in at one time and don't put too much in a single washing. If you do, then it won't get as clean. This is very important, YOU CAN AND WILL FELT SOME OF YOUR FIBER IF YOU GET IN A HURRY. Don't agitate the fiber. Let the fiber sit for about 30 minutes. Gently remove the fiber from the water. You can squeeze the fiber to get the water out, just don't twist it. Repeat this procedure at least one more time. You may find that you need to do this an additional time as well.

After your are satisfied that the fiber is clean, run a sink of hot water and add some nice smelling, cheap hair conditioner (just a squirt is needed) and a glug or 2 of white vinegar (to restore the PH of the fiber). I find that I only need to rinse once. If you rinse more than once, then save the conditioner and vinegar for the last rinse.

Let the fiber sit for about 30 minutes. Then remove and place in a mesh bag and place in a top load washing machine and use the spin cycle to spin the water out. Make sure that it only spins and does not add any water. I usually wait til I have several bags to spin (saves on electricity).

After spinning the fiber out, I remove the bags and place them outside in the sun to dry.

AlpacaMania 2014

<http://www.sojaa.com/AlpacaManiaHalterShow.asp>

**AOA Certified Level II
Halter and Fleece Show.**

**Saturday Night Live Stud Auction and dinner,
Silent Auction, photo contest
Halter Judge: Jude Anderson
Fleece Judge: Ken Hibbits**

**October 11-12, 2014
at The Expo, Central Point, Oregon**

Early Bird Registration closes 9/2/2014

Early Bird bonus: Stall Fee \$125 (after 9/3 \$140)

Registration for Fleece Show closes 9/24/2014

Registration for Halter Show closes 9/30/2014

www.alpacareg.com.

There have been many exciting changes...check them out at

<http://www.sojaa.com/AlpacaManiaHalterShow.asp>

We are looking forward to seeing you at the show!



Alpaca Owner Association (AOA) News

AOA Leadership Council Notes

Chair: Tom Petersen, AOA Director
Attendees: AOA Affiliate Presidents
Guests: Bonnie Potter, AOA President
Darby Vannier, AOA Executive Director
Meeting: Conference Call – June 9, 2014
7:00pm Central Time / 8:00 PM Eastern Time

AOA received some questions from Affiliate Presidents in advance of the meeting. AOA Board Member, Tom Petersen addressed these questions.

- There was a concern raised about the increasing number of IRS audits that farms are facing and where members can find information. Tom indicated that this was something that is being addressed around the country at various training events where speakers who have helped farms through audits have been giving tips. Additionally, AOA Board Member John Ferrante recently wrote an article in the 2014 Herd Sire Edition of Alpacas Magazine that addressed this topic as well. Lastly, the AOA Government & Industry Advisory Committee (GIAC) has also been working on educational information which will eventually be made available to members.
- The next question raised was asking how the industry is going to prepare for the large decline & shift from shows and animals sales to that of fiber production. Bonnie and Tom mentioned that this will continue to be a large part of discussion for the Board of Directors.
- There was also a question about AOA's requirement that a certain percentage of all affiliate's members must be members of AOA in order to remain in good standing as an affiliate. Tom explained that this is a topic that the Board of Directors has already begun discussing and will have a more in depth discussion about it at their face-to-face retreat at the end of July.
- The last question raised was about the possibility of AOA setting aside a portion of every show registration for a fund to be made available for alpaca rescue groups. This is a discussion that the Board of Directors will have to have in the future.

Operations – Affiliate Relationships - - AOA Executive Director, Darby Vannier

Darby discussed a renewed focus on building the relationship between affiliates and AOA. He said that this relationship is very important because the industry can achieve more success working together than it can working separately. There are a variety of things that AOA is doing to expand this relationship. With the release of the new online system (sometime at the end of the year), affiliates will see expanded opportunities, recognition, and privileges. This will include an Affiliate locator which will be termed as 'Find a Regional Alpaca Organization' since those outside the industry may not know the term 'affiliate'. This will produce a list of affiliates with contact information and websites and will encourage people to join their local affiliate. In addition, the hope is that when someone joins AOA, they get a welcome email to AOA that also lists the affiliates that are located near them along with links to the affiliate websites and an encouragement to join their local affiliate. Affiliates will be listed in the Alpaca Owners Guide, and also continue to see the current, or expanded discounts on perks such as leads, Alpacas Magazine advertising, advertising in the Alpaca Owners Guide, and other things. With all these new features that will be utilizing contact information, it is imperative that affiliates keep their contact information with AOA up-to-date. This includes the current listing for the Affiliate President. Lastly, Darby said that Becky Farley in the AOA Office has been assigned as the affiliate point of contact.

Please call the office and ask for her for anything you need assistance with and she will be happy to help you.

Operations – Communication Strategies - - AOA Executive Director, Darby Vannier

Darby discussed the organization's large emphasis on communication. This includes eBlasts (AlpacaGrams), Facebook, Twitter, the AlpacaLink Newsletter and two communication tools. The first is an Online Community that features a new topic every 1-3 weeks. The topics remain open for comment and discussion for about 4 weeks and everyone is encouraged to participate. The Online Community can be found at: <http://community.alpacaassociation.com>. The final new tool is a blog that is written by Darby. He will be featuring a new blog entry every 2-3 weeks. These will range in topic from current issues to educational items, or even just personal opinion on something. The blog is meant as a more informal method of communication for Darby, as Executive Director, to stay in touch with the membership. The blog is available at: <http://blog.alpacaassociation.com>.

Continued on page 11.....

Operations – Marketing -- AOA Executive Director, Darby Vannier

Darby had a variety of things to introduce with regard to national AOA marketing efforts. He discussed that there is a new focus on conveying that alpacas are an agricultural business, focus on them being a great addition to family farms all over the United States, and adding in both discussion and placement of alpaca products. This new focus can be seen in the recent ad placed in a special publication of USA Today which went out to more than 200,000 farms, ranches, and law makers around the country. An image of this ad can be seen in Darby's recent blog post. Additionally, this focus was utilized in the development of the National Alpaca Farm Days materials, which are available to anyone who signs up for Farm Days. Darby encouraged everyone to visit <http://www.alpacafarmdays.com> to sign-up today. AOA Association members can sign-up for \$25, all others can sign-up for \$35. Darby also mentioned their newly developed online marketing spot that they will use to promote Farm Days later in the year. It can be seen at: <http://youtu.be/u2Luuj8K9c0>

Darby also discussed changes with regard to Alpacas Magazine. These include elimination of the distribution agreements with Barnes & Noble and Tractor Supply due to the fact that the magazines were not selling and AOA was actually having to pay money to put them in these stores only to have the vast majority of issues thrown away or recycled. Instead, AOA will be keeping these issues and has already begun sending a recent copy of the magazine out to people who have requested information on alpacas through the AOA national marketing efforts. Additionally, AOA will be mailing a copy of the most recent Alpaca Owners Guide to all leads from about the past 14-16 months. Darby stated that the Alpaca Owners Guides and Alpacas Magazines do the association and industry no good sitting in the AOA store room and as such, they will be getting them in the hands of folks who have already expressed an interest in owning alpacas and participating in the industry. This will give great exposure to alpacas and to those who have chosen to advertise in Alpacas Magazine or the Alpaca Owners Guide.

Board Strategy & Planning -- AOA President, Bonnie Potter

Bonnie Potter discussed the fact that many things have been up in the air in order to get the two organizations combined. We have not been able to do formal strategic planning yet because of the focus on getting operations going as a single organization. We hope to begin that process in the future, but goal setting and short-term planning has already been taking place. Handling the regular business along with the more strategic issues has been difficult and time consuming. The AOA Board of Directors will be meeting for a special retreat to discuss more complex issues including committees, marketing, board structure, strategic planning, policies & procedures, and a variety of other things. Bonnie stated that they are working to keep things working well while new items are also developed in order to ensure that members continued to be served. Bonnie also encouraged affiliates to participate in the online community, surveying, and other areas. Lastly, she noted that there is a large focus being given to finding ways to provide more value for members.

Questions

Ian Watt asked about promotion of farms on the website only if they paid extra and not all AOA Members who have paid to be members. Darby conveyed that the plan for the new online system is that all Registry (\$15/year) and above will now be listed on the Farm & Ranch Locator. This listing will include the ranch name and limited contact information. However, there will be options as part of marketing programs to get additional details like a website link added to the listing. This will ensure that when someone new to the industry searches for farms and ranches near them, they will see all AOA members, and not just a limited subset



OAK VALLEY ALPACA

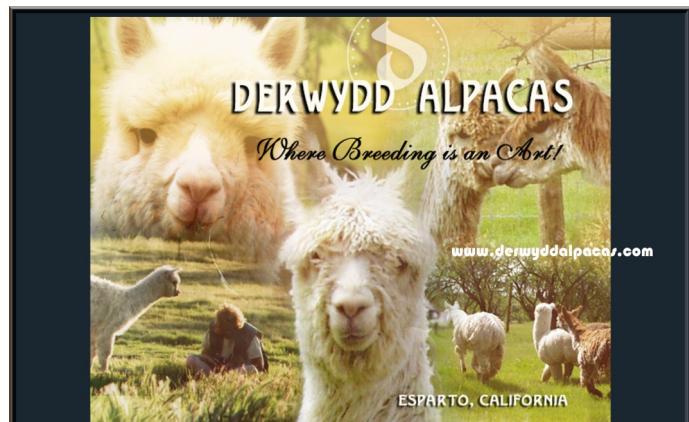
**SHOW QUALITY HUACAYA'S
BREEDING ~ SALES ~ BOARDING**

www.oakvalleyalpaca.com
www.alpacanation.com/oakvalley.asp
brady-ova@att.net



RICK & PAM BRADY

2044 South Rancho Road
Valley Springs, CA 95252
home/business 209.772.3906
mobile 209.304.9233

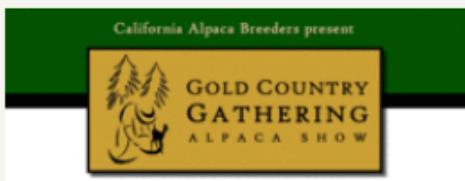


DERWYDD ALPACAS
Where Breeding is an Art!

www.derwyddalpacas.com

ESPARTO, CALIFORNIA

Register NOW for TWO Great Fleeces Shows



Enter both shows and ship your fleece to Arapaho Rose Alpacas. We'll take the fleeces to AlpacaMania and Gold Country Gathering. You can pick up the Fleeces at Gold Country Gathering or have them shipped back to you.

One shipping fee = Two great shows with evaluations from two different judges!

Register TODAY!

Gold Country Gathering www.calpaca.org

AlpacaMania www.sojaa.com

Gold Country Gathering Fleece Show – Registration Now Open!

The Fleece show will be judged by David Barbosa and will be on display October 18 & 19 at the GCG Halter Show. **Mail Fleeces to:** Karen Kelly - 2680 Tarmac Rd, Redding CA 96003 OR **dropped off** at the ranch 10702 Arapaho Dr, Redding CA 96003 **BEFORE** September 27th 2014. Judging will occur at the ranch on October 7th and 8th. Fleeces will be transported to GCG and displayed. Fleeces can be picked up at Gold Country Gathering or sent back to you for a nominal fee of \$9.

Consider registering for AlpacaMania and get two evaluations from two judges for one drop off or Mail in. We will transport the fleeces to both shows.

AlpacaMania Fleece Show – Registration Now Open!

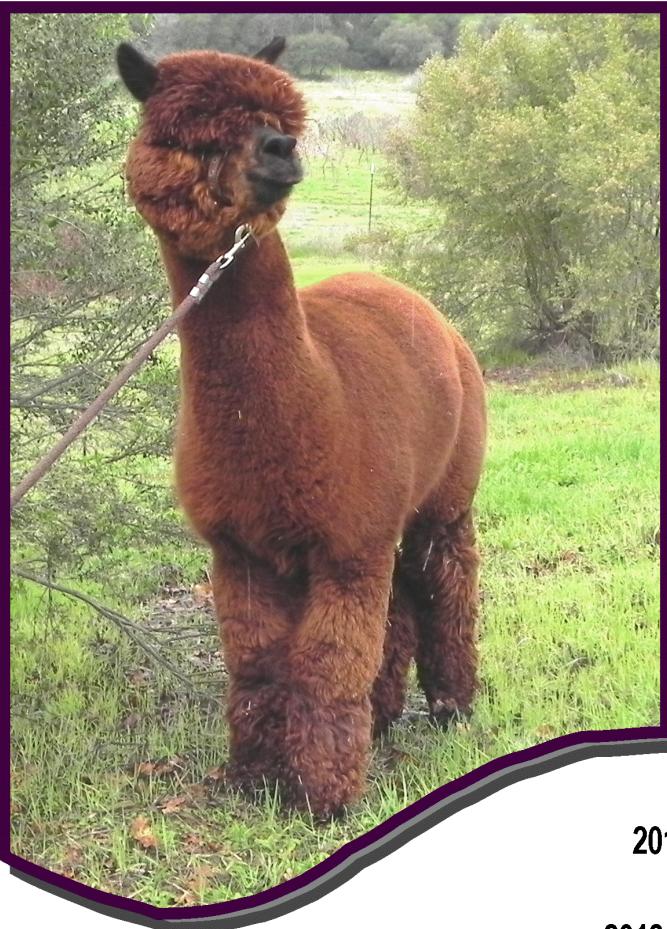
The Fleece show will be judged by Ken Hibbits and will be on display October 11th & 12th at the AlpacaMania Halter show. Deadline for mail-in fleece for AlpacaMania only judging is September 24th, 2014. **Mail Fleeces to :** Karen Kelly 2680 Tarmac Rd, Redding, CA 96003. **Drop off Fleeces to:** Beverly Brehm 1075 Washburn Ln Medford, OR 97501. If you are NOT entering fleece in Gold Country Gathering plan to pick up your fleeces at AlpacaMania. Those fleeces entered in both shows will be taken to Gold Country Gathering and displayed. Fleeces can be picked up at Gold Country Gathering or sent back to you for a nominal fee of \$9.

Consider registering for Gold Country Gathering and get two evaluations from two judges for one Drop off or Mail in. We will transport the fleeces to both shows.

OVA

Peruvian Crisdean the Explorer

ARI # 3196944



The best new
kid in town....

**Introductory
Breeding Fee: \$750
Drive by: \$500**

Awards

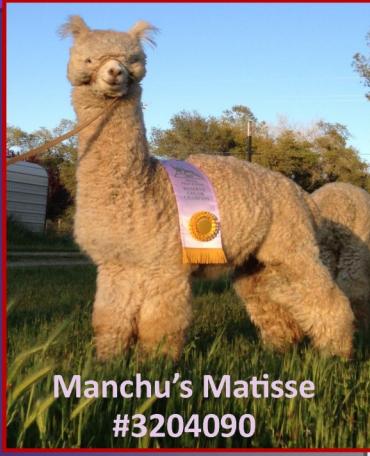
- 2013: 1st & Reserve Color Champion, Halter,
Gold Country Gathering
- 2013: 1st Breeder's Best Three, California Classic
- 2013: 1st & Color Champion, Halter, California Classic
- 2013: Color Champion, Group Color, California Classic
- 2012: 1st and Color Champion, Halter,
Gold Country Gathering

Contact Tom or Susan Petersen
916-660-1918, susan.petersen89@yahoo.com

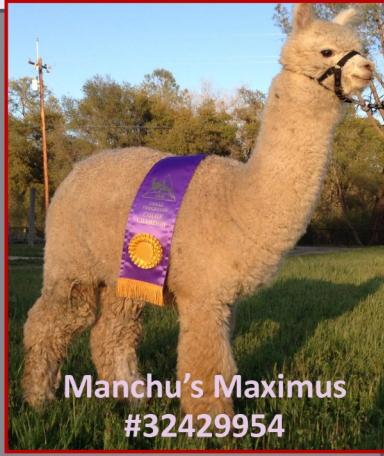


Too many Champions at
Alpacas All Around!
Come check them out. Pick any for
purchase and increase the
PURPLE in your herd.

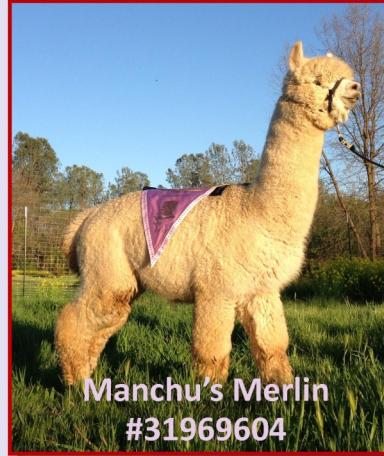
Tom 916-996-5210 Susan 916-705-3065



Manchu's Matisse
#3204090



Manchu's Maximus
#32429954



Manchu's Merlin
#31969604

Derwydd Alpacas

Where Breeding is an Art!

We offer the best support in the industry
We have TOP genetics
Accoyo - Peruvian - Color
Suri and Huacaya
at affordable prices...
We are there for YOU

And we are a heck of a lot
OF FUN!

Give us a call or email
come see us!

www.derwyddalpacas.com
530.908.3534*dale 530.908.1506*jan
dale@derwyddalpacas.com



Herdsires

Menagerie Hill Ranch announces our newest herdsire, Snowmass Velvet Legend! Legend's pedigree is deep with Snowmass black & grey. At 18.3 microns in his third year, his fineness is holding nicely. In fact his 2013 EPDs are stellar! With an AFD of -1.739 and a ranking in the top 2.5% he can make a big impact on our breeding program and yours! Legend has already settled several girls with pregnancies confirmed. We'll be using him to breed quite a few of our girls this spring, but there is still room on his dance card for your girls. We have set his breedings at an introductory price of \$750. But that price will likely rise after we see what he produces. Get your breedings now and take advantage of his great genetics! Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners.
www.menageriehillranch.com 707.290.7915

WHERE THERE IS SMOKE...THERE IS FIRE! Alpacas of Somerset Farm proudly introduces our multiple color champion (five color/reserve color champions between them) Huacaya herdsires. "**Wisp of Smoke**" is a classic medium rose grey...with no spots! His sire is a multiple color champion producing color champions. "**Hot Stuff**" is black and HOT, HOT, HOT. His sire is a multiple color champion producing color champions. **ATTENTION SURI BREEDERS: "GVA Kootenay"** is a light fawn, 3/4 Accoyo, multiple blue ribbon winning Light Color Champion. His top knot sports a fashionable streak of mahogany. His fleece is fine, with a cool slick hand, locking that holds to the skin, with density and luster to burn.

For more information on these impressive young males visit www.alpacasofsomersetfarm.com then contact Dianna or Jack Jordan, 530-620-6033 to book your breedings.

EI R Cash, an EI R Luciano son, now standing at Macedo's Mini Acre. Cash is a harlequin grey boy, who's throwing lots of different colors. Offspring conformation and fleece characteristics are stunning as well. Other studs available as well. www.macedosminiacre.com or maureenmacedo@aol.com Larry's cell 209-648-2338

For Sale

Menagerie Hill Ranch announces our third annual Spring Alpaca Sale! We started in 2008 with five alpacas and are now at 32. It's time to make room for our spring cria. In breeding alpacas our goal is continuous improvement in fiber quality, while maintaining excellent conformation and producing vibrant color. Bloodlines include Peruvian Hemingway, Ppperuvian Yupanqui, Ppperuvian Auzengate, Snowmass Royal Promise, Ppperuvian Cahuide, Pperuvian Caligula, MSA Peruvian Brunello, Peruvian Grand Moreno, and more. Package prices are 20% off.

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners www.menageriehillranch.com 707.290.7915

The best 10 alpacas on our ranch for sale, \$10,000. Daniella, Handsome, Pershing, Tori, Noche and 5 more. Located 10 miles from Fresno. **Barb's Alpaca Ranch**, raising alpacas since 2002! 559-834-4934

Suri or Huacaya alpacas for sale, males and females. Plus, Derwydd Inti-Hatun offspring for sale at Macedo's Mini Acre. We're breeding for colorful patterns and these stunning dark brown "chip off the old block" kids need to go somewhere they can be used! Extremely reasonable pricing, especially if you take more than two! www.macedosminiacre.com or maureenmacedo@aol.com Larry's cell 209-648-2338

For Sale

Is there anyone in California who doesn't have Derwydd Peruvian Inti-Sapa crias? There are 128 registered crias of the ground - 72 F, 56 M - we have many of them, all gorgeous, great fleece, 2 champions. We are ready to share him with you. Check out the details at <http://alpacasontheweb.com/StudDetails.asp>? Or call Renate at 541-821-8071.

Agisting

Menagerie Hill Ranch is a full service, family run ranch offering **agisting, consulting, sales, support and alpaca fiber products**. Our agisting service includes quality feed/water, routine husbandry, vaccinations and other care. Alpacas on a long term agisting plan receive free shearing. Owners are welcome to visit any time and we will help you learn how to care for your alpacas. Veterinary care, breeding, training and other services are extra. Standard rate \$3.50 per day. We are located in the English Hills area of Vacaville, close to Hwy 505.

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners www.menageriehillranch.com 707.290.7915

Transportation

Dave Scroggins of **Colusa Riverside Alpacas** is now providing alpaca transport services for the west coast. Dave charges standard fees for transport service for the states of Washington, Oregon, Nevada and California. Dave's prime consideration is your alpaca's health and safety, and your satisfaction. Call for a quote anytime and please consider Colusa Riverside for your future transport needs involving the West Coast. **530-458-4022**



Calpaca is pleased
to announce the



5th Annual **Gold Country Gathering**

October 18-19, 2014
Nevada County Fairgrounds
Grass Valley, CA

www.goldcountrygathering.com

Judge:

Kathy Klay - Halter



Level III Halter

Costume Contest

Spin-Off

Fiber Arts Display

Thank you last years sponsors

Friendly Farm Alpacas

Renaissance Ridge Alpacas

Alpacas of El Dorado

Derwydd Alpacas

SoCal Suris / Alpacas of Marin

Shiloh Springs Alpacas

*Use SCIENCE
to improve your
herd...*



MSA Hemingway's Bogart
Nationally Renowned EPDs
Outstanding Follicle Density

colusariversIDEAlpacas

**ALPACAS OF
EL
DORADO**

Scott & Laurie Findlay
1535 Boo Bear Lane
Somerset, CA 95684

ranch 530-642-8082
cell 650-355-4200
info@alpacasofeldorado.com
www.alpacasofeldorado.com

Hand-Spun-Alpaca-Yarn
Alpaca-Finished-Items & Gifts
Alpaca-Sales
Shearing-Service

Steven Mortimer
Owner/Shearer
30526 Hall Avenue
Escalon CA 95320
209-988-3396
shearing@sandyacresalpacas.com
www.sandyacresalpacas.com

Menagerie Hill Ranch

Deb Galway
4071 Norman Court
English Hills, Vacaville, CA 95688
707 455 8211
deb@menageriehillranch.com

Agisting ★ Breeding ★ Products
Ranch Tours ★ Sales ★ Service

101

Alpacas Ranch

**ALPACAS
OF SOMERSET FARM**

SELECTION
QUALITY
VALUE
&
SERVICE

Jack & Dianna Jordan
Alpacas of Somerset Farm
www.alpacasofsomersetfarm.com
530-620-6033 DLJORDAN@live.com



ZZ Alpacas
 Dave Zandberg & Sue Zofchak
 Alpaca Yarn, Alpaca Fleeces, &
 Alpacas for sale
 503-787-1203
WWW.ZZALPACAS.COM
ZZALPACAS@YAHOO.COM
 PO BOX 1226
 DALLAS, OR 97338



Barb's Alpaca Ranch
Barb Bray
 BBRay9403@gmail.com
www.barbsalpacaranch.com
 9403 So. Claremont Ave.
 Fowler, CA 93625
 559-834-4934



Maureen & Larry Macedo
Alpacas & Miniature Horses
Macedo's Mini Acre
 Schedule your visit TODAY!
 20721 State Highway 140
 Stevenson, California 95374
www.macedosminiacre.com
 209-648-2384, Maureen or 209-648-2338, Larry



Where suri alpacas are sterling
 Nancy & David Helwig
 925 Sterling Alpacas
 10451 Valley Drive
 Plymouth, CA 95669
 209-245-3438
sterlingalpacas@yahoo.com
925suris.com



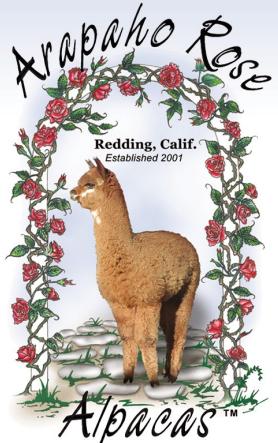
Triple J Alpacas
 Roger & Maxine Hoeflinger
 888 E. Davis Dr.
 Dinuba, CA 93618
 559-591-3321
roger@triplejalpacas.com
www.triplejalpacas.com



SOUTHERN CROSS FARM
 Tom Houts, PhD
 Robyn Houts
 Alpacas
 Fiber & Finished Goods
 Full Breeder Services
 Alpaca Judge
 8485 Burchell Road
 Gilroy, CA 95020
 Phone (408) 848-2893
scfalpacas04@yahoo.com

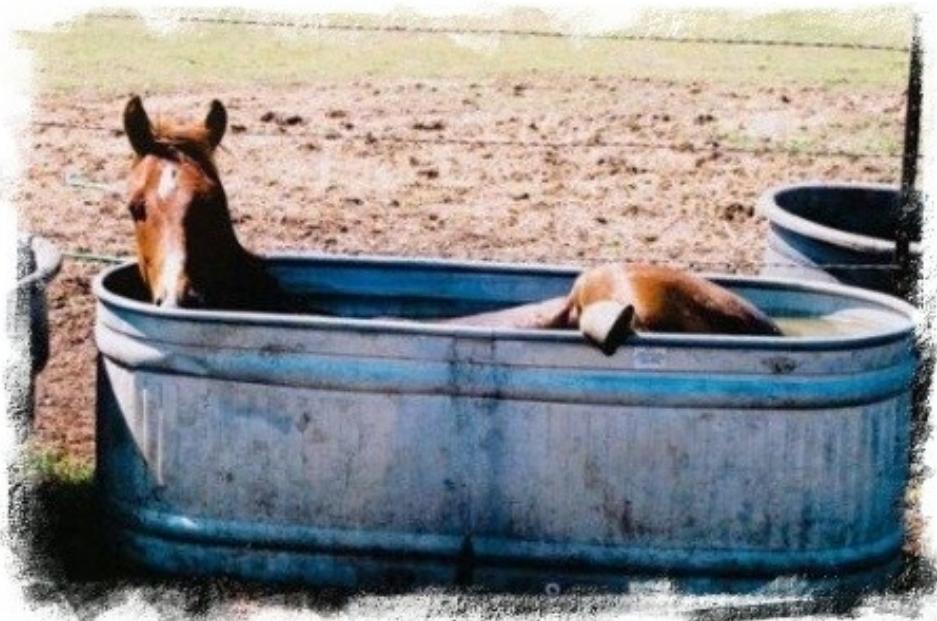


TIMELESS AND AFFORDABLE
 CUSTOM STAINED GLASS
 FROM YOUR PHOTOS
 McCarty Creek Ranch
 KIM BISCEGLIA
 530-833-5431
MCCARTYCREEKRANCH@YAHOO.COM



Arapaho Rose
 Redding, Calif.
 Established 2001
 Alpacas™
 Karen S. Kelly
 10702 Arapaho Drive • Redding CA 96003
 530.223.3364 • kskelly1@att.net
www.ArapahoRose.com

It's Been
HOT-HOT-HOT!!



ALPACAS
AT LONE RANCH

Richard & Renate Gyuro
Richard@AlpacasOnTheWeb.com
(541) 821-8071

www.AlpacasOnTheWeb.com

Celebrating 28 Years!!
Established in 1985

Vicki Arns
21740 Burndale Road
Sonoma, CA 95476
Ph (707) 938-5412
vickiashire@vom.com

www.alpacanation.com/alpacashire

The Connection is the official Calpaca publication created to connect members to Calpaca, the industry and each other.

Business Card and Classified Ads (Stud, Agistment, services offered, for sale) up to 100 words are **FREE** for Calpaca Farm Members - \$1.00 per line thereafter. Non-Member and Associate Member rate is \$1.00 per line per issue (\$5.00 minimum). The **FREE** ads are available for the online Connection (Summer, Fall, and Winter) only. Ad pricing for non Business Card ads for the online Connection:

Color 1/4 Page \$15 per issue
Color 1/2 Page \$28 per issue (8.5Wx5.5H)
Color Full Page \$55 per issue (8.5x11)

Stud advertising and **Cria** announcements **with pictures** and text are considered paid advertising.

The Spring Connection (May) is combined with the annual Membership Directory and is the **only hardcopy** publication a year. Ad prices for the Spring Connection:

Business Card B/W \$10
Business Card Color \$20
Color 1/4 Page \$45 per issue
Color 1/2 Page \$85 per issue (8.5Wx5.5H)
Color Full Page \$160 per issue (8.5x11)

ADVERTISING AND BUSINESS CARDS must be submitted electronically via email or CD. File format must be: .jpg (jpeg) or PDF. If the file size is large, send it on a CD. Please remember that a low quality file will not print that well, especially ½ or full page color ads, so if you want quality ads and business cards, send them on a CD to ensure quality.

If you do not have your ad or business card in electronic format and you do not own or have access to a scanner, you may arrange with the Editor to mail a hardcopy (actual business card or good quality copy of your advertisement) and have it scanned. If your business cards are done professionally, the designer will often provide you with artwork on a CD as a courtesy. **Please submit your advertising the way you want it to appear, Stud, Agistment and Classified advertising will appear the way it is submitted. The Editor will not re-write them.**