

# CONNECTION

Winter 2013



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

## 2013 Board of Directors

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## Calpaca Membership Chair

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## Connection Editor

### ***Dianna Jordan***

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



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.

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### **CONNECTION BASICS:**

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Cover photos submitted by:  
Top: EBA Oaks Alpacas  
Bottom: KT-Lee Alpacas

## Affiliations

### **Alpaca Owners and Breeders Assoc.**

"AOBA"

5000 Linbar Drive, Suite 297  
Nashville TN 37211  
615-834-4195  
Fax: 615-834-4196

Email: member@aobamail.com  
Website: www.alpacaowners.com

### **Alpaca Registry Inc** "ARI"

5901 N 28th St — Ste 100  
Lincoln NE 68504  
402-437-8484  
402-437-8488 Fax  
Ari@alpacaregistry.net

### **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

## **Fall 2012**

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To the Calpaca Membership,

First and foremost, "Happy New Year", I hope is it filled with happiness and harmony.

As the new Calpaca board President I pondered over the holidays what meaningful thoughts I could convey to the membership. As an alpaca owner and breeder for nine years and from my sales background, I always start focusing on goal setting this time of year. I look back on my accomplishments and forward to new ideas and changes I will make. There, I said that dreaded word, "CHANGE". Lot's of people don't like change, some people thrive on it but most of us are content to ride the routine of life.

When you are in a relatively new industry like ours we have to change a lot, because we have to grow. It can be painful to some and that is why it is called "growing pains", but if you want to make it easier just focus on making one small change instead of many changes. A small shift in our thinking or focus, a paradigm shift as they say, just even thinking a little differently can help you accomplish your goals. Whether your focus will be on selling alpacas, selling products, marketing or moving all that fiber out of the garage, focus on accomplishing one thing.

Calpaca can help you make these changes happen because we are changing. We are going to be able to help you market better, sell your alpacas, sell your products and move your fiber all by moving our website to Openherd. Just that one change of our website can help our membership come together and accomplish their goals. Calpaca is a leader in our industry and we have to show other affiliates that we are the leaders and forward thinkers because we are not afraid to grow and change.

Laurie Findlay

2013 Calpaca President

"Home"

"Hold on, to me as we go

As we roll down this unfamiliar road

And although this wave is stringing us along

Just know you're not alone

Cause "Calpaca" is going to make this place your home"

*Written by - Drew Pearson and Greg Holden*

*A take on the song sung by Phillip Phillips, 2012 winner American Idol*

### ***A Message From The Connection Editor***

As Laurie said, some exciting changes are coming for Calpaca members in the next few weeks and months. One of them is the Connection becoming an online publication beginning with this edition. I think you will see that little has changed in the publication except....Calpaca ranch members not only have FREE classified advertising possibilities but all business card ads are FREE too. These FREE offers are only available to ranch members and in the online publications (Winter, Summer, Fall). The Spring Connection and the annual Membership Directory are being combined into one hard copy you can keep with you all year. The publication will focus on marketing tips and ideas. If you want to get your ads into the hands of Calpaca members this publication will do that. Check page 27 for ad prices and deadline.

The Connection is your publication and focused on Calpaca members so please keep contributing photos and articles to share. If you would like to see specific topics please let me know.

I wish you a safe and prosperous New Year,

Dianna Jordan, Connection Editor

# Membership Meeting Minutes—11-10-2012

**Welcome** - President Dennis Rabe offered thanks for Dale and Jan Davis and Alan Kyker for opening their ranch and hosting the meeting. Dale welcomed everyone and gave out "important details."

Dennis asked that everyone make certain that they have signed in before leaving for the day.

## **Secretary Report – Dennis Rabe in Kay Rodriguez's absence**

A Motion was made to approve the August Membership Meeting Minutes by Karen Kelly. Joyce Judy Seconded the Motion. The Minutes were approved by the Members in attendance.

**Treasurer Report – Dave Scroggins** - Dave gave a budget update showing that while funds are down, Calpaca is still in good shape.

**Membership update – Joyce Judy** - Joyce announced that after several years as Membership Chair Lin Murray decided it was time to turn the job over to someone else. Joyce also announced the new Membership Committee and that we had 13 new members this year. She then turned the floor over to Larry Macedo, one of the Members of the Membership Committee, who spoke with enthusiasm about coming up with ideas on how to retain existing members and to hopefully encourage new members.

## **Marketing – Laurie Findlay**

Laurie reminded everyone that we still had Winagenerator tickets to sell. Each Board member has a packet of 10 and she has more that are available.

Additionally the Board has metal Calpaca Member signs available for purchase.

Our website/email has been having difficulties, so we are in process of having Open Herd build us a new website. We hope to have a beta version available to view at the next Membership meeting. If you haven't already created basic Open Herd account, please do so as soon as possible...this is FREE. Once this is done, Laurie will send you an invite to join the new gmail group account for email. In the meantime we are continuing to use members@calpaca.org

Laurie announced that starting with the Winter Connection, we will be going digital rather than having a hard copy. We will have one annual hard copy, which will be the Spring edition, that will also include the Membership Directory. Ad pricing will be different for the on-line editions and the Spring edition.

In the absence of Dianna Jordan, Dennis spoke about the **AOBA Student Design Competition – Participating Schools Needing Sponsors: Lots of entries and interested schools for this year's competition. Contact Ruth Fugua at hickorybuffalpacas@comcast.net or go to the student design website at <http://www.alpacafashion.com/forms.asp>**

## **Board Bylaws Changes voted by the Board**

In Article II Purpose and Objectives

Section 1. Purpose: The purpose of the California Alpaca Breeders Association is to promote the well-being of Alpacas, address the concerns of Alpaca owners and encourage the spread of Alpaca ownership and the use of their fiber.

*Change the words "well being" to "best management practices"*

*Change to word "spread" top say "encourage alpaca ownership and the use of their fiber"*

## **Vote on changing the Bylaws to reflect that we are a 501c5 non profit.**

In Article II Purpose and Objectives

Section 2. Objectives: The objectives of the California Alpaca Breeders Association are as follows:

(g) Conform to the standards of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code...

Change this one item to "the standards of Section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code"...

A Motion was made by Rick Brand and seconded by Maureen Macedo and the members attending passed the Amendments to the By-Laws.

***Minutes continued on page 15....Minutes***

## Calpaca News

### Exciting New Calpaca Website

One of CALPACA's main goals with our website is to help our members market their farms online. Our website already gets good results in search engines but when visitors come to the CALPACA website they don't find much information about each of your farms - especially your alpacas - and the overall design and organization is in need of revamping.

So we are engaging Openherd.com to design us a brand new website that will integrate their Affiliate Program (similar to <http://www.mainealpaca farms.com/>). This will enable each one of you that has a Farm Membership to have your complete farm profile, sales lists, online store, blog, and additional web pages. This will create a much more engaging experience for visitors and make it more likely that they will go to the next step of contacting you.

The Openherd Affiliate Program allows your sales lists and other pages you upload to Openherd to be automatically displayed on the CALPACA website, saving you time by managing things in one place using Openherd's system. This will all be included in your CALPACA Farm membership fee and does not require a paid membership with Openherd.

In the next few weeks we will be contacting our membership with instructions on how to put your farm information up on Openherd and ultimately on our CALPACA Website.



We hope you are excited about this new member benefit to improve your online marketing. If you have any questions about this new website, please contact Laurie Findlay, President, CALPACA, [alpacasofeldorado@hughes.net](mailto:alpacasofeldorado@hughes.net)

### The Connection Has Gone Green

Over the past several years the Calpaca Connection has evolved into a valued Calpaca membership benefit and publication. Recently the Calpaca Board of Directors made the decision to move 3 of the quarterly issues to online only availability. This 2013 Winter edition is the first to be online only. The 2013 Spring Connection will be the only hard copy printed and will include the 2013 Calpaca Membership Directory.



### 2013 Camelid Symposium Update

Another informative Camelid Symposium was held on January 19-20, 2013 at the UC Davis Vet School and Hospital. This year saw an all-time high attendance of faculty, staff and students from UC Davis. Registered attendees included 92 camelid owners, 26 veterinarians and 3 vet techs. This year there were camel owners in attendance too.

A huge thank you goes out to the tireless team of volunteers that work so hard every year to bring about such a valuable educational experience. The speakers were excellent and as always the topics were timely.

## Derwydd Alpacas Featured Host Ranch November, 2012



**Jan and Dale Davis  
Derwydd Alpacas  
24485 Derwydd Way  
Esparto, CA 95627  
dale.davis@yahoo.com  
Jan: 530-908-1506  
Dale: 530-908-3534  
www.derwyddalpacas.com**

Derwydd Alpacas, is located on fifty acres of gently rolling hills, nestled in California's Capay Valley, just west of Sacramento. Jan Davis, with the help of her daughter, Dale, raise 50 alpacas on a ranch that is also home to an almond orchard. Breeding alpacas and a passion for the alpaca industry are the primary focus on the ranch. For the past fifteen years, Jan has been raising alpacas and has become known as an owner who strives to breed alpacas of superior quality fiber and soundness, and a tireless supporter of the alpaca industry.

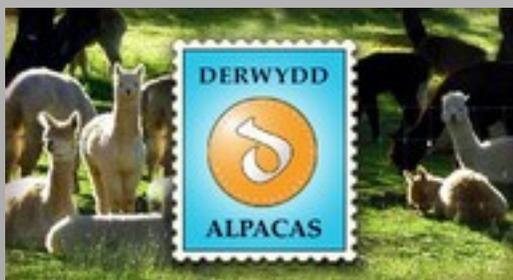
The Derwydd herd includes 20 exceptional, full Peruvian dams (both Suri and Huacaya), fourteen herdsires, 7 Huacaya and 7 Suri, with a heavy emphasis on Accoyo, currently active in the breeding program.

Even with this small number of topflight herdsires and prize-winning females in the herd, Jan & Dale have been able to breed a variety of color, outstanding conformation, and award-wining fiber into the crias born on the ranch.

With a number of color champions at all show levels, Derwydd crias are demonstrating Jan's vision. Jan prides herself in being honest, ethical, and willing to help her customers and other breeders succeed. With sincere passion, she believes in the Derwydd Alpacas tag line, "Where Breeding is an Art," and she feels breeding for superior fiber should be drawn into every owner's breeding program.

Jan wants to have fun in this business – and in life. At a vibrant, young 88 years of age, she's a role model for breeders who not only want to fully enjoy the true benefits of raising alpacas, but who want to promote the success of the entire alpaca industry.

Jan and Dale love the alpaca industry and wants others to share its benefits.



**Calpaca Membership Meeting**  
**February 9, 2013**  
Arapaho Rose Alpacas  
10702 Arapaho Drive  
Redding, Ca 96003  
530-223-3364  
kskelly1@att.net

**Agenda**

**9:00am to 10:00am**— Continental Breakfast

**10:00am to 12:00pm**—Business Meeting

**12:00pm to 1:30pm**—Lunch and beverages will be provided. If you would like to bring desserts that will be grand.

**1:30pm-3:00pm**—Speaker: Darby Vannier from ARI will speak about EPD's and parentage validation.

**3:00 Following the afternoon program** Lin Murray and I will give hands on skirting instructions. Please bring your own unskirted blanket and learn how we successfully skirt for show or sale

There is plenty of room if someone is bringing a trailer/animals

**Chairs will be provided**

**530-223-3364**

**No Power?  
No Problem!**

**WIN-A-GENERATOR**

**Support the Calpaca  
Scholarship Fundraiser**

\$25 per ticket

(Only 150 tickets)

Tickets will be available at the  
Calpaca meetings or contact a  
board member.



**John Deere G4000H  
4000 Watt Honda Gas Engine  
with handle and wheel kit**



## 75<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**Kenny is turning 75 this year!  
We are celebrating his 75<sup>th</sup> year by selling  
75 of the 150 alpacas at the KT-Lee  
That will give us a herd of, yep, you guessed it, 75!**

**This is not a fire sale  
We are not going out of business  
Alpacas will not be selling for \$75 (well, maybe)**

**There are 5 farms/breeding programs represented – many buyer incentives**

**Quality alpacas, not so quality alpacas  
full accoyos, full Peruvians, mixes  
all colors, greys, blacks**

**Kenny is not as helpful as he used to be – and he is not getting any younger**

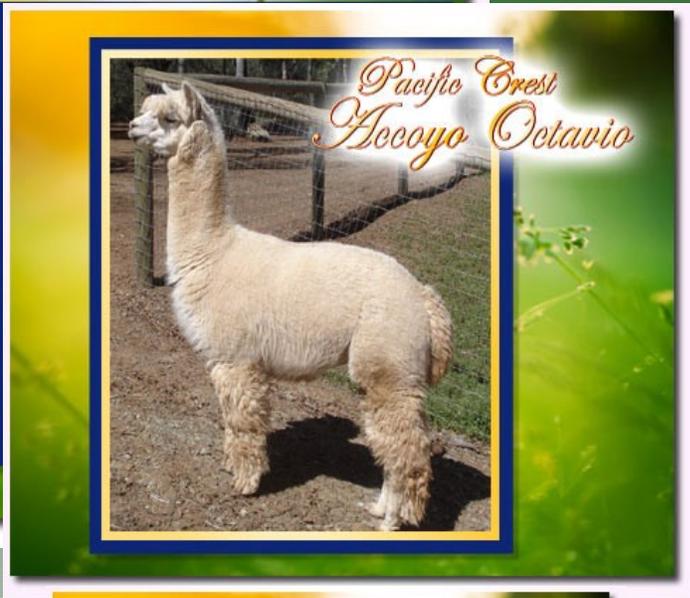
[www.KTLeeRanchAlpacas.com](http://www.KTLeeRanchAlpacas.com)

559-760-3969

[kt-leeranch@netptc.net](mailto:kt-leeranch@netptc.net)



*Crescent Moon's  
Krypton*

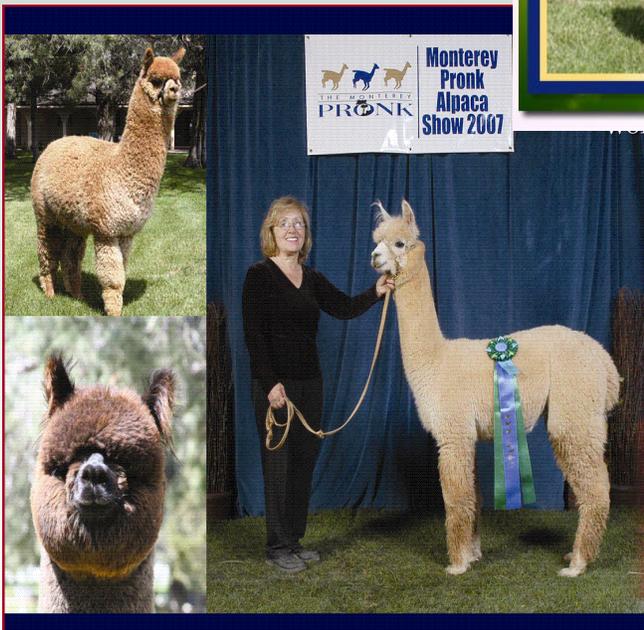


*Pacific Crest  
Accoyo Octavio*

**Breeders of  
Elite Alpacas**  
World Class Genetics  
in Northern California



*Crescent Moon's  
Private Reserve II*



Monterey  
Prunk  
Alpaca  
Show 2007



**American  
Pride  
Alpacas, LLC**

4350 Hilltop Lane  
Shingle Springs, California 95682  
[www.AmericanPrideAlpacasLLC.com](http://www.AmericanPrideAlpacasLLC.com)  
Donna Poplawski, MD • 916-761-7783

## The Cost Of Putting On A "Really Good Show"

Have you ever wondered where your money goes when you enter a show? As an exhibitor just what are you getting for your registration fees? The following incomplete **DRAFT** of a show budget will give you a really good idea of what it takes to put on a "Really Good Show."

### EXPENSE

<b>Facility</b>	Amador Pavilion (Thur thru Sun)	\$3,600.00
	Barn near Pavilion (Thurs thru-Sun)	
Country Market		\$800.00
Live stock office	all weekend	\$300.00
Parking	Flat Rate Parking for the entire event	\$2,500.00
	Security Rover (Sat/Sun)	\$240.00
	Security Guard (Fri/Sat/Sun)	\$240.00
	Security Guard Overtime (Fri/Sat/Sun)	\$320.00
	Dumpster (30 yard)	\$810.00
	<b>Ramp at end of Dumpster</b>	\$30.00
	Bleachers Large (2)	
	Chairs (100)	\$93.75
	<b>Barricades (20 to make Ring)</b>	
	Stage Sections	\$270.00
	Tables (35)	\$320.00
	Handwash stations	\$200.00
	Elec(53)	\$2,000.00
	Clean-up of area (3 hrs)	\$60.00
	Staff Labor	\$410.00
	Restroom Attendants (1 male & 1 female)	\$640.00
	Cocktail Tables	\$80.00
	Fairground Labor Pen forklift	\$450.00
	Banner Hanging (forklift)	\$93.75
Insurance (not determined yet)		\$0.00
	<b>FAIRGROUNDS TOTAL</b>	
<b>RING</b>	PA rental	\$2,233.00
Pens - 800 Panels	IAO Sponsorship - Free AD	\$1,500.00
	Panel Shipping	\$750.00
	Ordez Labor (5*8*1 ) 60ish hours	\$1,200.00
	Lunch for setup crew	\$117.61
AOBA Show fees - Halter	270*\$6	\$1,620.00
AOBA Show fees - Spinoff	70*\$6 an entry	\$420.00
AOBA nonShowDiv Fees		\$450.00
AOBA Show Division Application Fee	Halter & Spinoff AOBA Registration	\$300.00
<b>Advertising</b>		
	AOBA email blasts	\$200.00
	Newspaper ad or Radio	\$2,500.00
	Web site	\$600.00
	Envelopes, name badges, printing et al for packets	\$350.00

DRAFT

Postage/Shipping		\$7.70
	Show Program Manager	\$500.00
	Show Program printing	\$579.15
	Class Listings - Kinkos;	\$195.40
	Alameda County Taxes	<b>\$155.00</b>
	Pay Pal Fees	<b>\$605.97</b>
	Credit Card Fees	<b>\$380.42</b>
Sponsor Ad Expense	Cost of Connection free ads for sponsors 8 1/2 page (@\$85) 10 1/4 page (@\$40)	<b>\$1,080.00</b>
<b>Ribbons</b>	Halter	\$1,500.00
	Spinoff	\$150.00
<b>Champ Awards</b>	40 @ \$20	\$800.00
Silent Auction Expense	Table Cloths	\$200.00
Herdshire Auction Expense		\$400.00
Event Manager		\$0.00
Halter Super Expenses	Halter Super Only	\$3,500.00
Volunteer Perks Hotels	For Volunteers who are not paid but are working more than 2 days full time at the show.	\$350.00
Spinoff Spinner/Judges	\$10 a skein (plus postage of \$25)	\$700.00
Show Vet 1		\$1,800.00
Show Vet 2		\$0.00
Judge Expenses - Halter	Hotel, trave/per diem	\$3,500.00
Registration Software		\$900.00
Volunteer Perks (Meal vouchers)		0
<b>Miscellaneous Show Expenses</b>		\$500.00
Hospitality Table	water, juice, donuts, muffins, etc	\$500.00
Saturday Dinner	\$25 per person for wine tasting PLUS taxes, etc.	\$2,900.00
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$46,901.75</b>

### SOURCES OF INCOME

Sponsors <b>BUDGETED TO EQUAL ABOUT 25% OF THE INCOME</b>
Herdshire breeding auction
Show Program Ads
Calpaca Halter Entries
Non-Calpaca Entries
Optional Halter Entries
Spin-Off Entries
AOBA nonShowDiv Fees
Calpaca Stalls - 15 stalls Full Pr @ \$160 each
Calpaca Stalls - 100 Early Registration @ \$135
Non-Calpaca Stalls (10) Early
Non-Calpaca Stalls (5) Late
Vendor Spaces
Tables & Chairs Rental
Sat Nite Wine Tasting covers the food cost

**DRAFT**

As you can see, there are a lot of expenses most of us as exhibitors might not even think about and they add up. The Calpaca Board and event management do everything they can to keep the costs down while providing the essentials required to put on a great show. It is always a balancing act between taking care of exhibitor needs and what the show can afford to provide based on projected attendance,

## **HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE BIRTHING SEASON**

(or “What do you mean, I have seven dams due in a two week span?”)

*By: Laurie Findlay, Alpacas of El Dorado*

### **THINGS TO HAVE ON HAND IN ADDITION TO YOUR CRIA KIT**

Box of Plastic Exam Gloves

Novascan Liquid

Vitamin B Complex

Aspirator, Newborn Size

Extra Towels

Extra Sheets

Twice as many cria coats

Hair Dryer

Extension Cords

Radiant Heat

Alpaca Pen set up with food and water

Dr. Pollards Lactating Herb Stimulator

Cell Phone

Vet's #'s

Neighbor's Phone #'s

Wristwatch

Clear Karo Syrup

Extra Film Canisters

2 Gallon Freezer Zip Lock Bags

These helpful hints are just what they are. I am not an expert but, this was a great help to me when this past month I found I had seven dams due at about the same time and I am alone at the ranch the majority of the time.

The absolute first thing I did was to have a meeting with my pregnant dams and beg them not to give birth at the same time. Thank the Lord they listened and had them a day apart. The month before the seven were due I called my vet and let her know of the impending births. It was nice to know she would not be on vacation and would be available in case any birthing problems should occur. Next, I made sure I had extras of all the items I would expect to use. I also keep them at hand, either in my birthing kit, or in my vet room so when I see a delivery coming I am not running around my house and garage trying to locate everything.

Also, don't forget to replace items used, like novascan and gloves. We set up a nursery in the back of our barn for newborns. After a delivery, I bring mom and cria to one pen, where we have suspended a radiant heater from the ceiling. It really helps in the cold winter we have here. I have hay, water, and sheets down on the ground ready to dry the cria. I use a hair dryer and have noticed as soon as I start drying the cria and they warm up they begin the suckling motion. As soon as I see that I put the cria coat on or towel and begin to strip the dam's teats of her plugs. I use a warm moist towel to do this and I haven't found a dam that doesn't like the feeling of it. They seem to feel calm once I gently massage their teats.

Once the cria starts looking to nurse it is nice for them not to have to pull the plugs out. We like their first try and nursing to give them good results. If the cria stops suckling, we syringe up some clear Karo syrup and give a small amount orally to the cria. They should get the energy to start suckling again. When the cria is standing I dip the navel with ½ novascan and ½ water in my film canister. Then I sit and watch the cria nursing to make sure they are actually sucking on the teats and swallowing. I then leave them alone to bond. I always give the dam alfalfa hay and her minerals and plenty of water. I find they are really thirsty after giving birth.

One of the things I have observed is sometimes a first time mom does not get the nursing “thing”. Every time the cria wants to nurse, mom just spins around. Since I am alone, I have also let my neighbors know I might be calling them during birthing season in case I might need someone to hold the dam while I put the baby under mom. Keep your neighbors phone numbers programmed into your cell phone.

Vitamin B Complex really comes in handy when a new mom just doesn't want to get up and nurse her cria. Sometimes as you can imagine the birth is very tiring or traumatic for the dam. We find 5 cc's SQ of Vitamin B Complex really give mom some energy and boosts her back up so she is willing and ready for her new baby.

I also think it helps to put experience nursing moms next to new moms that have just had a cria. At one time all four of my new cria were nursing at the same time.....peace. **Here is a must....**don't forget to put your watch on in the morning. I watch the dam that seems uncomfortable and mark the time. I get everything ready, and keep looking at that dam. Once her water breaks, I get my towels ready and watch her from a distance. Don't forget, once the cria's head and legs are out, the dam may rest before pushing again. I will clear the membrane off the cria's head so it doesn't inhale fluids. Once the baby drops and after mom has had a chance to sniff it, I gently pick up the cria, swathed in a towel or sheet and carry it up to our barn with mom following. I always face the mom so she can see me taking her baby and will want to follow. I keep track of when labor has started, the length of delivery, when nursing starts and when the placenta has dropped and I add that to my notes on Alpaca Ease (my record keeping program). The next time this dam delivers I will have an idea on how things will go with her.

We have found the 2 gallon Zip Lock bags are perfect for placentas. I write the name of the dam and date of birth of the cria. Like.....Skye cria 3/7/2007, works great when you are dealing with seven births.

Finally you cannot have enough cria coats. I always have extras on hand of all sizes. Suri cria seem to get colder than huacaya cria. I have been know to double coat a cria or put a towel on the cria first with a cria coat over to keep them extra warm.

Remember, don't panic if things look like they are going wrong. Call your vet and if you have alerted him ahead of time, he will be prepared. I keep my truck hooked up to my trailer pointed in the direction I might be headed in case of an emergency. Update our Alpaca Ease software or whatever you might be using for record keeping. Keep good notes so you can look back next year and have an idea what to expect. Take lots of pictures to show your friends and keep a bottle of wine waiting so you can toast yourself for a job well done. Yes, things might not go smoothly, but most of the times they do and if you are organized and well stocked it will make you feel a lot more confident.



*6 Peruvian (Accoyo) Chachapoya*

**A  
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f**



**ALPACAS of  
EL  
DORADO**

**E  
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r  
a  
d  
o**

*Likely one of the rarest  
Accoyos in America today*

***Females Bred To Chachapoya  
available!***

***[www.alpacasofeldorado.com](http://www.alpacasofeldorado.com)***

***Co-owned with Pucara International  
and Derwydd Alpacas***

***...Minutes continued from page 4***

**Quarterly meeting announcements** – Dennis mentioned that we are looking for the last two 2013 meeting places

**February 2013** – Karen Kelly – Arapahoe Rose

**May 2013** – Davd and Sheila Scroggins – Colusa River Alpacas

**August 2013** – Available Date

**November 2013** - Available Date

### **Events**

**Gold Country 2012 update:** Eva Fisher - Eva noted that once again we had beautiful weather and a good time was had by all. She asked the Members attending the meeting if they wish to continue the show in 2013 and got a resounding Yes.

**CA Classic 2012Update:** - Joyce reminded everyone that of the new dates for the Classic of April 13-14, 2013 and that the Judge is Peter Kennedy from Australia. She also spoke about new show rules coming up where we could have Group awards, rather than Color Championships. These new rules are designed with smaller shows in mind.

**Symposium** - Dale indicated that Registration is Open and we have some great presenters

### **New Business:**

Dennis announced the new Board of Directors:

Laurie Findlay

Kay Rodriguez

Karen Kelly

Phyl Clempson

Before the adjournment of the meeting, Laurie offered poems about Dennis and Dave and thanked both for their hard work on the Board.

### **Meeting Adjourned for Lunch**

After lunch the new Board Officer positions were announced:

Laurie Findlay, President

Kay Rodriguez, Vice President

Karen Kelly, Treasurer

Joyce Judy, Secretary

Phyl Clempson, Director of Marketing

## **Upcoming Calpaca Events**

### **February 9, 2013**

Quarterly meeting—Arapaho Rose Alpacas, Karen Kelly, Redding, CA

### **March 16-17, 2013**

IAO Alpaca Show— Sacramento, CA

### **April 13-14, 2013-**

California Classic Alpaca Show— Pleasanton, CA

### **May 2013 –**

Quarterly meeting, Colusa River Alpacas—Dave and Sheila Scroggins, Colusa, CA

## **Tips for Maximizing Your Alpaca Fiber Harvest**

By Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm

For some alpaca ranchers, fiber is the primary product. For others, breeding and selling alpacas is the primary product and fiber is secondary. Either way, all alpaca ranchers will reap a harvest of raw alpaca fiber every year. That raw fiber has the potential to add to the bottom-line of your alpaca business operation. This article discusses ways you can maximize the potential income from your fiber harvest...from breeding decisions to preparing for processing.

### **What are your fiber production goals?**

The first step in maximizing your alpaca fiber harvest is to know what outcomes you want. The quality of the fiber your alpacas produce is the direct result of your buying and/or breeding decisions. Do you have specific goals for your fiber production? Are you breeding for fineness, density, staple length, uniformity, consistency in color, etc? Do you know and understand the value gained from some of the tools available to you as a fiber producer? Do you understand how to use the information in a histogram to make breeding decisions that will improve the quality of the fiber individual alpacas produce? Do you research the progeny of the herdsires you select to see how their "stats" hold-up over time? Do you do the same for your production dams? Do you look to these "stats" or show results, or both, to determine your breeding decisions?

### **What are your pre-shearing practices?**

Do you keep your pastures clean and free of debris and stickers year round? Do you use feeders that minimize the amount of loose hay that creates the "birds nest" affect at the crook of the neck area? Do you provide good nutrition leading to healthy fiber? Do you strive to keep the stress levels to a minimum so you don't experience "tender" fleece? Do you do all you can to ensure your alpacas are sheared when their fleece is dry? If you answered yes to these questions, you have created a good pre-shearing environment for maximum results.

### **Who does your shearing?**

Another critical step in successfully shearing for maximum value, is selecting a knowledgeable and efficient shearer. You want to make sure your shearer understands fiber characteristics well enough to know when the traditional "blanket" area can be expanded, or needs to be reduced, based on the quality of the fiber. Shearers can also identify the fiber for purposes of separation and bagging as it comes off the alpaca. The shearer should strive to keep second cuts (short pieces of fleece caused by going over the same spot twice with the second cut being shorter) to a minimum. These second cuts (nubs) can be seen on the cut side of the fleece and need to be removed before processing.

### **How do you prepare for shearing day?**

Effectively preparing (organizing) for shearing day cannot be over-stated nor over-rated. The larger your herd, the more critical the preparation. If you have ever experienced a disorganized shearing, you know the importance of pre-planning. Fortunately, preparing for shearing day can be done months or days before the event. Following are some things to think about in preparation for shearing day. It is not all-inclusive and can be modified to meet your individual needs.

Schedule your shearing date well in advance. Exceptional shearers are booked months in advance. In fact, in some cases, the shearers write their own schedules and let their regular customers know when they will be available.

*...Continued on next page*

Arrange for help on shearing days. Many ranches work together and exchange "labor" by assisting each other on shearing days. The number of helpers you need depends on how large your herd is, how many days you will be shearing, and if you plan on doing regular herd maintenance (vaccines, toe nails, tooth trimming, etc) at the same time.

Prepare your fiber collection bags before shearing day. Purchase clear plastic trash/garbage bags, create labels for the bags to record alpaca's name and date of shear, and attach the labels to the bags. You will need a minimum of two bags for each alpaca. One for the blanket and one for the neck and britch area.

### **Preparing your fleece for processing**

Whether you are preparing your fiber to send to a mini-mill or one of the fiber cooperatives or pools, there are certain steps you can take to help ensure you receive maximum return on your raw fiber. Whether you do it yourself, or expect the processor to do it for you (which will add to the expense of processing), your fiber needs to be skirted, cleaned, sorted, and graded.

Skirting is the process of removing undesirable fiber from the edges of the blanket. Generally, this fiber is easy to spot when the blanket is placed cut side down and spread flat on the skirting table. It is noticeably different in quality and characteristics from the blanket. This fiber is usually described as being too hairy and is thicker, straighter, and coarser than the other fiber. To remove the fiber, grasp the fiber you wish to remove between your thumb and index finger and pull. You will need to apply pressure with your other hand against the blanket to keep from pulling the usable fiber from the blanket.

It is during the skirting process that any "second cuts" are removed. The second cuts are easily seen when the blanket is flipped and the cut side is exposed. Looking across the blanket, the second cuts will look like little nubs of fiber. Hint: to ensure removal of all of the second cuts, take an index card or other stiff piece of paper and run it across the cut side of the blanket. The second cuts will come to the surface and stick to the paper.

Beware of the "Terrible Toos" identified by former AFCNA Board Member Starr Cash who has graciously given her permission for this collection to be used by anyone promoting effective fiber preparation. The "Terrible Toos" are the most common reasons certain fiber is labeled as having NCV (no commercial value). NCV fiber is just what it says, of no value to the processor meaning no value to you as the producer. Most of the "Terrible Toos" can be eliminated during the skirting process.

The "Terrible Toos" include fiber that is:

- too short -- less than 1.5"
- too long -- more than 7.5"
- too tender – take a few strands and holding on to the ends, quickly try to pull it apart by snapping (if the fiber breaks, it is too tender)
- too stained – mostly a problem with whites
- too full of vegetable matter (VM) or other contamination (feels "crunchy" when you grab a handful of fiber and squeeze)
- too matted
- too molded – usually happens when fleece is wet or damp when bagged
- too buggy - infested with moths or other insects
- too hairy - topknots, tails, and lower leg hair, excess guard hair

*...Continued on page 19*

## **When You Have to Evacuate — What to Bring and What to Do**

***If wildfire is threatening your home and you need to evacuate...***

### **Attire and Equipment:**

Wear only cotton or wool clothes

Proper attire includes long pants, long sleeved shirt or jacket, and boots

Carry gloves, a handkerchief to cover your face, water to drink, and goggles

Keep a flashlight and portable radio with you at all times

Tune in to a local radio station and listen for instructions

### **Family Members and Pets:**

If possible, evacuate all family members not essential to preparing the house for wildfire first

Make sure to designate a safe meeting place and contact person

Relay your plans to the contact person

Evacuate pets

Contact the local Humane Society for pet assistance if needed

### **Vehicles:**

Place vehicles in the garage, pointing out with keys in the ignition

Roll up the windows

Close the garage door, but leave it unlocked

If applicable, disconnect the electric garage door opener so that the door can be opened manually in the event of a power outage

### **Essential Items:**

Important documents (bank, IRS, trust, investment, insurance policy, birth certificates, medical records)

Credit and ATM cards

Medications

Prescription glasses

Driver's license

Passport

Computer backup files

Inventory of home contents (consider videotaping if there's time)

Photograph the exterior of the house and landscape if there's time

Address book

Cell phone and charger

Personal toiletries

Change of clothing

Family photo albums and videos - only if you have time!

Family heirlooms - only if you have time!

Place essential items in the car, **however, not until you are about to leave!**

*...Continued on page 20*

Why is it so important to take care of the "Terrible Toos" before sending your fiber for processing? Well if you don't, the processor will have to because any of those things included in the list can play havoc with the processing equipment. There are a few other things to consider too. Generally, freight charges are determined by weight and there is no sense paying for something that is going to be discarded. Depending on the processor, you may be charged by incoming weight instead of outgoing so again, why pay for something that will be discarded. Another important consideration for the future is that in handling and examining the fiber as it comes off your alpacas you will gain a greater understanding of the actual quality of the fiber being produced by your individual alpacas and your herd as a whole.

### Helpful Hint

Schedule a time to prepare your fleece for processing. Experience has shown if you don't schedule it, preparing your fleece for processing will be put off or it will not be done at all. If you can get enough help, you can actually arrange for the fiber to go directly from the alpaca to the skirting table. This gets it all done at one time and you don't have to think about it anymore until next year.

The alpaca industry is beginning to experience a shift in focus from strictly breeding and selling to explore new ways, and expand existing ways, to grow the fiber industry. Current economic conditions have shown to be an incentive for many breeders to take a closer look at the fiber end of the business.

Our alpacas will continue producing an annual harvest of incomparable fiber. It is up to each of us to promote "the fiber of the Gods" by getting it into the hands of the consumer. That is the only way we can build the future fiber industry.

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to improve your herd...



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...Continued from page 18

### **Ways to Prepare Your Home if There is Time:**

#### **Inside the House:**

- Close all interior doors
- Leave a light on in each room
- Remove lightweight, non fire-resistant curtains and other combustible materials from around windows
- Close fire-resistant drapes, shutters, and venetian blinds
- Turn off all pilot lights
- Move overstuffed furniture, such as couches and easy chairs, to the center of the room

#### **Outside the House:**

- Place combustible patio furniture in the house or garage
- Shut off propane at the tank or natural gas at the meter
- Close all exterior vents if possible
- Prop a ladder against the house to provide firefighters with easy access to the roof
- Make sure that all garden hoses are connected to faucets and attach nozzles set on "spray"
- Close all exterior doors and windows
- Leave exterior doors unlocked
- Turn on outside lights
- If available and if there's time, cover windows, attic openings, and vents with plywood that is at least one-half inch thick
- Wet down wood shake or shingle roofs before leaving
- Fill trash cans and buckets with water and place where firefighters can find them
- If you have an emergency water source (pool, pond, etc.) and/or portable pump, clearly mark its availability so it can be seen from the street

***Be prepared! It will likely be dark, smoky, windy, and hot. There may be airborne burning embers, no power, no telephone service, and poor water pressure.***

**REMEMBER, THERE IS NOTHING YOU OWN WORTH YOUR LIFE! PLEASE EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY WHEN ASKED BY FIRE FIGHTERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.**

*Information compiled from LivingWithFire.info*

Editor's Note: Many articles have been written about evacuation procedures for ranches. I saw this information and thought it would be useful for alpaca owners because it focuses on our homes.

## Agistment (Boarding) Services

**Agist your alpaca in Northern California.** Agisting can afford you the opportunity to reap the investment growth benefit and pleasure of alpaca ownership without the need for property and time investment. Colusa Riverside Alpacas is a full service alpaca ranch with 10 acres of lush pastures. We are just off interstate 5 north of Sacramento. Fees are \$4.00 per day which includes close supervision, herd health, and healthy pasture living. Vaccinations, veterinary visits, shearing and special needs services are charged separately. Discounts available for multiple animals. The health and welfare of your alpaca is our highest priority. Contact Dave or Sheila Scroggins 530-458-4022 or [dnsranch@citlink.net](mailto:dnsranch@citlink.net) or [www.colusariversidealpacas.com](http://www.colusariversidealpacas.com)

**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 per day. We are located in the English Hills area of Vacaville, close to Hwy 505. Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners [www.menageriehillranch.com](http://www.menageriehillranch.com) 707.455.8211

Boarding now available for females or geldings at **Macedo's Mini Acre, Stevinson, CA.** \$2.75 per day, includes pasture with hay and mineral supplements. Special needs or veterinary care at cost. We offer sales and marketing assistance, as well as assistance with maximizing your fiber harvest. Contact Maureen at [maureenmacedo@aol.com](mailto:maureenmacedo@aol.com) or 209-648-2384 for more information.

## Cria Announcements

**Alpacas of Somerset Farm** had 14 crias in 2012. Four Suris (two males and two females) and ten Huacayas (eight males and two females). Check them out at [www.alpacasofsomersetfarm.com/criacrib/html](http://www.alpacasofsomersetfarm.com/criacrib/html)

## For Sale

**Lazy K Ranch** will be relocating. We do not know where yet but we cannot stay in Nevada. So, in preparation for the move we are giving away 20 pet/fiber boys and our females start at \$250 and go up from there. If you see something you are interested in, please make an offer. Please check out our web site at [www.lazyk-ranch.com](http://www.lazyk-ranch.com). 775-970-5155

**EBA Oaks Alpacas** –the animals (approx 55), **the farm and all alpaca equipment is for SALE!** We have been trying to keep this farm and alpaca breeding operation going for the past 7 years, but have been completely unsuccessful in our attempt to make it work for us! It seems that since Duane's severe illness's, starting in 2005 (C-diff and a stroke). Please call **Aase Frederick** at **530-842-3504** and check our website and Open Herd as time goes on – we are really hurting and need help in getting ourselves out of this, hopefully still able to function!

## For Sale, continued

**Menagerie Hill Ranch offers quality huacayas for sale in a wide variety of colors.** In breeding alpacas our goal is continuous improvement in fiber quality, while maintaining excellent conformation and producing vibrant color. Bloodlines include Peruvian Hemingway, Pperuvian Yupanqui, Pperuvian Auzengate, Snowmass Royal Promise, Pperuvian Cahuide, Pperuvian Caligula, MSA Peruvian Brunello, Peruvian Grand Moreno, and more. Visit our new web site to see what we have to offer. Or better yet, come by for a visit. We're located near I-505 in Vacaville. Package prices are 20% off.

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**Macedo's Mini Acre** has Derwydd Inti-Hatun females available, some at breeding age. Moonshine, Jane's Jazz, Crystal to name three. Hat threw his lovely dark brown color. Call for special Calpaca Pricing! macedosminiacre@gmail.com Larry's cell 209-648-2338.  
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**El Dorado Playmate of GVA!** She is the most lustrous suri cria we have ever produced and maybe the most lustrous we have ever seen! Out of GVA's award winning Miss June of GVA who was 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 2011 National Show and 6Peruvian Chachapoya, who is quite possibly the last full Accoyo suri male import that is still breeding today and also one of the rarest. Chachapoya is closed to outside breedings but we have females available with his offspring at side included and also females that can be sold bred to him. [www.alpacasofeldorado.com](http://www.alpacasofeldorado.com) or 530-642-8082.

**Property** 10 acres for sale in Sonora, CA \$275,000. Good parcel for alpacas or llamas. Close proximity to experienced Camelid vet. With agistment possible while you develop your ranch. For info/photos see [www.zzalpacas.com](http://www.zzalpacas.com) or call 510-303-5530

## Goods and Services

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**This applies to online publications only (Winter, Summer, Fall)**

## Herdsires

**L Peruvian Lipton**, sire of the grey multi-champion Shazam and multi-champion Pacifica's Dunemaster. Lipton has sired 50 offspring....all colors from white to TB and everything in between! Lipton is adding invaluable genetics to our herd, wouldn't you like him to add to yours? We have reduced his fees for Calpaca members, limited time offer, call us! **Luv R Pacas**, Dennis & Donna Morris, (209) 826-2610 [lvrpacas@yahoo.com](mailto:lvrpacas@yahoo.com)

### **Benchmark's SilverCoyo Outlaw (1/2 Accoyo Silver Gray)**

Outlaw has the look, the fiber, the genes, and the ribbons to back it all up! And even better, he's passing it on. He took **1<sup>st</sup> Place Get of Sire at Southwest Regional Alpaca Show 2010** over some amazing white and fawn studs and one of his daughters won **Gray Female Color Champion at AOBA National's 2010**, beating out 24 other grays from across the country. Now that, is winning!! His impressive show record includes: 10 Blue Ribbons, 4 Color Champs and 2 Reserves. He's producing gorgeous grays and so far his offspring have acquired 7 Color Champs and 2 Reserve Champs, as well as multiple Blue Ribbons. Incredible Accoyo Express bloodlines at an outstanding price. \*\*\* **Update** \*\*\* **An Outlaw daughter just won Gray Female Color Champ at SWRA 2012. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row a different Outlaw girl has won Gray Color Champion at SWRA!!**

**Discounts available for Calpaca members. Sunny Acres Alpacas 559-323-9608** See him and his progeny at [www.SunnyAcresAlpacas.com](http://www.SunnyAcresAlpacas.com)

Add some color to your herd! El R Cash, sire of 2012 AOBA National Spin Off winner CeeCee Ryder, Harlequin grey, Luciano son OR LMM J Tiberius, grey son of Starr Trekk, unproven OR Sundance Kid, unproven grandson of Lipton - all stud fees at Macedo's Mini Acre currently \$500. [macedosminiacre@gmail.com](mailto:macedosminiacre@gmail.com) Larry's cell 209-648-2338. [www.macedosminiacre.com](http://www.macedosminiacre.com)

**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](http://www.alpacasofsomersetfarm.com) then contact Dianna or Jack Jordan, 530-620-6033 to book your breedings.

## Trading Post

Looking for cuteness that you do not have to shear? Our miniature horse filly, Shelly, is available for sale or trade. We are looking for a two horse trailer. Shelly is AMHA eligible (she is 24" tall at the withers) Beautiful bay and very easy going. Ground work has begun, very willing to learn and SWEET personality! Maureen's cell 209-648-2384 [www.macedosminiacre.com](http://www.macedosminiacre.com)




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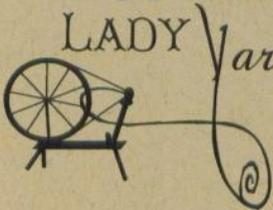
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### FREE BUSINESS CARD ADS FOR CALPACA RANCH MEMBERS

Attention Calpaca Ranch Members: one of your member benefits is the inclusion of your business card in every online edition (Winter, Summer, Fall) of the Connection. Just follow the guidelines for sending graphics to the Connection editor found on page 26 of this issue of the Connection. Also, check out the ad pricing for online editions.

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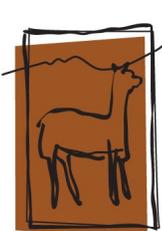
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I

Send Advertising and Articles via email attachment (or CD's via snail-mail) to:

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Calpaca Newsletter Editor  
Alpacas of Somerset Farm  
PO Box 190  
Somerset CA, 95684  
530- 620-6033  
dljordan@live.com

**Make checks payable to:** Calpaca c/o Dianna Jordan and mail to PO Box 190, Somerset, CA 95684

DEADLINES ARE FIRM! Both advertising copy and articles must be received by the deadline or they will not be published until the following issue. Payments for advertising must be received within seven days of submitting advertising (via email) or mailed with CD's.

## **DEADLINES**

**Summer July 1**

**Fall October 1**

**Winter December 1st**

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

Paid Advertising rates are as follows:

**Business Card ads are FREE for the online Connection (Winter, Summer, Fall)**

**Pricing for non-business card ads:**

Color 1/4 Page \$15 per issue  
Color 1/3 Page \$18 per issue  
Color 1/2 Page \$28 per issue (8.5Wx5.5H)  
Color Full Page \$55 per issue (8.5x11)

It is not necessary to use a specific margin size. Use either Times New Roman or Arial (size 10). and either Times New Roman or Ariel when submitting articles

**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.**

**ARTICLES AND OTHER TEXT FILES** should be emailed **as attachments**, using Microsoft Word (if possible). You can also send text directly in an email but it must be exactly as you want it. The Editor will "copy/paste" your email text directly into the newsletter layout. **The Editor does not correct author errors (spelling, grammar, etc.)**

The editor may edit articles for content and especially for length. Articles should fit about a page of text \*8.5 x 11), Ariel font, 10-point. If the subject is of high importance to the membership, an article may run two or more pages.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPRING CONNECTION AND MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

The Spring Connection will be the only hard copy printed in 2013 and will include the 2013 Calpaca Membership Directory. Take advantage of this opportunity to put your information in the hands of Calpaca members.

**Absolute deadline for this issue is April 1st**

### BLACK AND WHITE

Business Card	\$10
Quarter Page	\$25
Half Page	\$45
Full Page	\$85

### COLOR

Business Card	\$20
Quarter Page	\$45
Third Page	\$55
Half Page	\$85
Full Page	\$160

**NOTE: All ad copy and payments must be received by the deadline or your ad will not be included in the publication.**

Send Advertising and Articles via email attachment (or CD's via snail-mail) to:  
Dianna Jordan  
Calpaca Newsletter Editor  
Alpacas of Somerset Farm  
PO Box 190  
Somerset CA, 95684  
530- 620-6033  
dljordan@live.com

**Make checks payable to:** Calpaca c/o Dianna Jordan and mail to PO Box 190, Somerset, CA 95684