

CONNECTION

Winter 2016



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

2015 Board of Directors

President

Karen Ball

Heart & Soul Alpacas and Spinnery
14514 Oak Meadow Road
Penn Valley, CA 95946
543-432-3015
heartandsoulspinnery@gmail.com

Vice-President

Charlene Schmid

Integrity Alpacas
7490 N. Meridian Road
Vacaville, CA 95688
530-400-2684
charleneschmid@me.com

Treasurer

Karen Kelly

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

Secretary

Sandra Wallace

Alpacas of Marin
11660 Pt. Reyes Petaluma Rd.
Nicasio, CA 94946
626-818-3148
woodwan@earthlink.net

Director

Steve Aitchison

Epic Alpacas
5273 Hornitos Rd
Cathays Valley, CA 95306
209-769-1358
steve@epicalpacas.com



Left to Right
Karen Kelly, Karen Ball, Sandra Wallace, Steve
Aitchison, Charlene Schmid



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

AOA Board Member

Bonnie Potter—President

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

AFCNA Board Member

Cynthia Kuhlmann—Director

Sierra Rose Alpacas
530-272-1218
Cynthia@SierraRoseAlpacas.com

Affiliations

Alpaca Owners Association "AOA"

8300 Cody Dr Suite A
Lincoln NE 68512
402-437-8484
402-437-8488 Fax
www.alpacaowners.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

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Dear Calpaca Members,

Turning the page on a successful 2015 and gearing up for 2016, I am pleased to tell you that we have a great group of people to serve you on your board. I am once again honored to represent our organization as president. I want to encourage you throughout the year to reach out to your board members with your thoughts, concerns or suggestions. We are here to serve you. In review, here are a few of things we have accomplished over the last year.

We FINALLY have a payment button on our website for online payments.

Your treasurer Karen Kelly has done a fantastic job consolidating accounts and saving us much in banking fees.

We ventured out and planned a successful joint show under the International rules with SOJAA and IAO.

We just had our strategic planning meeting and have some great goals to make our organization even better in 2016!

For those of you who were unable to attend the Camelid Symposium make sure to get it on your calendar for next January. This is a fantastic event for the hobby alpaca owner or alpaca veterinarian. There is ALWAYS something to be learned. I can't thank the Symposium organizers enough for the effort they put out to keep us up to speed on the ever changing practices in raising these creatures.

Our calendar of events for 2016 has some wonderful opportunities. We are hosting 2 AOA certified shows, the California Classic this spring and the Gold Country Gathering which will be returning to the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley this fall. We have our quarterly membership meetings planned for the year with great host ranches and educational pieces to keep you inspired.

Like many of you I was drawn to this lifestyle by the adorable alpacas themselves but what I did not realize is how wonderful the alpaca community is. We are unlike many other animal breeders in that there is no alpaca owner stereotype. We come together from all walks of life and economic status with our love for these animals as our only commonality. I always appreciate spending time with alpaca people and I look forward to seeing you all at our events throughout the year!

Sincerely,

Karen Ball, 2016 Calpaca President

THE 2016 CALPACA BOD

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VICE PRESIDENT - Charlene Schmid

TREASURER - Karen Kelly

SECRETARY - Sandy Wallace

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE—Steve Aitchison



Left to right—Karen Kelly, Karen Ball, Sandy Wallace, Steve Aitchison, Charlene Schmid

**February Calpaca Membership Meeting
Saturday, February 13, 10:00 am**

Colusa Riverside Alpacas, David and Sheila Scroggins
6909 Codorniz Rd, Colusa, CA 95932
Colusa, CA 95932

10:00 AM—General Membership Meeting—Breakfast snacks, coffee and juice will be provided before and during the meeting

12:00 PM —Lunch— Pot luck—Main dish, water, plates and silverware will be provided. More main dishes would be appreciated.

1:00 PM— Guest Speaker—Dr. John Madigan. Dr. Madigan is the principle researcher in the “Clinical Trial of the Madigan Squeeze method for treatment of equine neonatal maladjustment syndrome”, the medical name for “dummy foal” syndrome.

“We want all our fellow Calpaca members to know that Dave & I used Dr. Madigan’s “Squeeze” research method on a cria born this spring with severe symptoms of a dummy cria. All of those manifestations amazingly were reversed with the “squeeze maneuver”. There are few things in life that are this simple, easy, that have such profound positive results. This is something every alpaca owner should learn to do. Some of the most exciting news about Dr. Madigan’s research is that he and the UC Davis Mind Institute are collaborating on research between his findings in animals and autism in humans.”

If you would like to read even more about this “squeeze maneuver”, check out these online resources.

[The Manuel of Equine of Neonatal Medicine](#), this reference includes videos to see the method.

Check out this PDF instructions on how to do the [Madigan Foal Squeeze Method](#) (MFSM).

Finally, read a much more detailed article on [Dr. Madigan’s research on his Squeeze Method](#) from EquiManagement.

I hope no members of Calpaca miss this amazing presentation. If you have any questions about the presentation please feel free to call or write Sheila Scroggins of Colusa Riverside Alpacas.

The presentation will be indoors and chairs will be provided.

PLEASE RSVP TO SHEILA dnsranch@citilink.net

Calpaca Makes History—Again

By Dianna Jordan, Connection Editor

Calpaca is a pioneer of progress in the alpaca world. It was the first, and is the oldest, regional alpaca association (affiliate) in the Northern Hemisphere.

The first Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA) certified alpaca show was sponsored by Calpaca and held in Grass Valley, CA.

And now, the Calpaca sponsored 2016 California Classic Alpaca Show has received a waiver from the AOA Show Committee to hold the first Alpaca Owners Association (AOA) certified Walking Fleece Show. The Walking Fleece Show was offered during the West Coast Alpaca Show (a Calpaca/SOJAA/IAO) sponsored but non-AOA certified show) in October 2015.

Using testimonials, projections of the amount of expected participation of these new classes in future shows, and the value of this feedback to alpaca breeders the Calpaca BOD approached AOA asking for a waiver to include the Walking Fleece Show in the California Classic.

A big thank you to the Calpaca BOD, the CA Classic Event Manager, the primary AOA show committees and Margie Ault (Show System Administrator) for granting the waiver for the Walking Fleece Show. If the classes are deemed a success chances are there will be discussions, and hopefully action taken, to add the Walking Fleece Show to AOA's standard class offerings. This is a huge step in recognizing the value of the breeding programs that support the Cottage/Artisan industry.

Not all alpacas have what it takes to win the ribbons and banners in the halter classes. However, many have what it takes to produce fabulous fleece for the active Artisan market that continues to support our fledgling fiber market. I think this is exemplified in the comment made by one of the exhibitors at the West Coast Alpaca Show:

“We are, after all, a fiber industry, right? We happen to own the “Spinner’s Dream” suri from the WCAS. I LOVE that one of our “lesser” males took the top score over him in the WCAS walking fleece. It validated my opinion that for a hand spinner, this male has fantastic fleece even if he doesn’t have the perfect conformation and sexy ropey locks.”

If the possibilities of serving the artisan community resonates with you and you want measurable and objective results to guide your breeding program I urge you to seriously consider participating in the Walking Fleece Show at the California Classic.



The first informal meeting of alpaca owners was in 1987. The name “Calpaca” was adopted in 1989 and there were 29 ranch members.

The Walking Fleece Show—WIIFY

By Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm

Through a Q and A format Charlene Schmid, the California Classic Event Manager, has done an excellent job of communicating the details of the NEW (first time ever for an AOA Certified Show) Walking Fleece Show being offered at the 2016 California Classic. You might be reading these email messages and posts on Facebook and wondering what's this all about and "What's In It For Me (WIIFM)" to enter my alpacas in yet another class? These are great questions for any of us watching our budgets and managing our marketing dollars.

I want to share my thoughts with you about why we feel the Walking Fleece Show has value. Our breeding program focuses on serving the requirements and priorities of the already established Artisan (Cottage) fiber industry. We feel the Walking Fleece Show provides us the opportunity to receive feedback that will assist us in planning our breedings and evaluating the results. Because every breeding decision we make is critical, we use several different tools in the planning process. We intend to use the objective and measurable score card results from the Walking Fleece Show as another tool. That's right, a score card much like the one you receive when entering your fleece into a fleece show. A documented evaluation by the judge that you can add to your tool box of resources you use as you plan your pairings and/or market your alpacas.

For those of us who have shown in the halter classes, and haven't found ourselves at or near the top of the class, wouldn't it have been nice to get one-on-one feedback from the judge? To learn what the judge saw in those alpacas standing ahead of us that they didn't see in ours? Especially when the results are based 60% on the fleece characteristics. The oral reasons given by the judge are fleeting and unless jotted down are easily forgotten.

Another major distinction between the feedback in the halter class and the Walking Fleece class is that your alpaca is not being judged against any other alpacas in the ring that day. In fact, there is no group judging in the ring in the Walking Fleece classes. The judge looks at the fleece of each animal individually and completes a card that is designed to provide scores (based on categories and a range of possible results within those categories.) Although the emphasis and weights given to each category may be slightly different than regular fleece show scorecards, the process is the same. ****For more information on scoring see article on page 8****

Because the fleece is still on your alpaca during judging, more than just the carefully prepared blanket that is entered into the regular fleece show is evaluated. The judge will examine your alpacas fleece across their body, onto their haunches, under their belly, up the neck, etc. and provide you a score of their evaluation. After all points are tallied, the alpacas are placed by the scores received within their designated class.

The classes are split by breed, color and age. Colors are Light, Medium, Dark, Grey/Variegated. Ages are Juvenile, Yearling, Adult, Mature. They are not split by sex unless it is a much larger show.

Hopefully, I have given enough of an overview for you to determine "What's In It For You" to enter your alpacas into the Walking Fleece Show. We intend to enter our alpacas in both the Walking Fleece and the Halter Classes. Why not? They will already be there. Actually, we plan to take a couple that will just be entered in the Walking Fleece classes. The halter classes will provide an opportunity to see how your alpacas compare to the others in the ring with them that day. The results of the Walking Fleece class will provide us with a score card for reference.

As you work through your budget it is only natural to ask if the additional entry fee is worth it. For us, we asked "is the value of documented feedback about our alpacas fleece worth the entry fee?" The answer for us is definitely yes.

The Walking Fleece Show And The International Alpaca Odyssey (IAO)

The Walking Fleece Show at the West Coast Alpaca Show was based on rules and guidelines developed by the International Alpaca Odyssey (IAO). If you are not familiar with IAO you can read about the goals and objectives of this organization at http://www.iaoshow.com/about_us.html

The following information taken from the IAO website explains the intent and reasoning behind the Walking Fleece Show. ***“As an industry we acknowledge that while it is important for continued improvement in our national herd in pursuit of a commercial fiber market, there needs to be equal recognition for the alpaca that is serving the existing small processor market today and into the future. The basis for the new set of rules is the idea that the current North American Alpaca herd can be seen as two sectors. One sector is focused on breeding goals whose outcome is the best possible alpaca for large-scale fleece production to a commercial mill. The other sector is focused on our current cottage industry model where it is the value of today’s fleece to the cottage industry processor [hand spinner to the mini-mill].”***

Cottage [Small Processor]: The Small Processor Division is focused on those attributes of a sound alpaca whose fleece will be valued in our Cottage/Craft Market, as it exists today. This division shall be judged on fleece traits valued in small processor fleece processing (hand spinners, hand processors mini-mills, etc.), with no judgment on uniformity of color. Fine fleeces with excellent handle and brightness are those that are in demand by today’s small processor. Since all colors are valued equally in the Small Processor marketplace, the color divisions will not be yarn based but base fleece coat color. The following is an example of the scoring used in the IAO Walking Fleece Show.

Huacaya	Suri
Uniformity/Consistency of micron (25)	Luster (25)
Fineness (20)	Uniformity/Consistency of micron (25)
Uniformity/Consistency of staple length (15)	Uniformity/Consistency of staple length (15)
Lack of Guard Hair (no halo) (20)	Fineness (15)
Brightness (15)	Lack of Guard Hair (15)
Uniform lock expression within style (5)	Uniform lock expression within style (5)

The AOA Walking Fleece Score Sheet

The AOA Walking Fleece Score Sheet is being modified somewhat, but not significantly, from the one used at the West Coast Alpaca Show. At the time of this writing the modifications have not been completed.

Measuring Improvement in Drips, Dribbles and Streams

Treating Urinary Tract Inflammation/Blockage

By Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm

The phrase “Urinary Tract Blockage” can send shivers down alpaca breeder’s spines, especially if they have experience with the situation. At the very worst, the condition can be fatal. Full recovery can take a few days or weeks. Days or weeks usually filled with frustration and anxiety.

I was on an extended trip when I received a call that one of our males (11 months old) was straining over the poop pile and only producing an occasional drip of urine. We had experienced this before with one of our males and had been able to turn him around quickly. In that case, we witnessed almost immediate improvement and the male has not been affected since. Although I was concerned I felt comfortable with what to do to start treating the condition. .

With a feeling of some confidence I advised my home team of caregivers to start him on Vitamin C. We started with injectable and then switched to 8000mg (2000mg 4 times a day). Since in our first case there was immediate improvement within 24 hours I became more concerned when the report came back the next day with “no improvement.” I called our veterinarian, Dr. Michelle Ing, for further instructions. She advised us to continue the Vitamin C and start him on an antibiotic (Excede) just in case there was an infection. I kept hoping for daily reports of dramatic improvement like I had seen with our other male. I became more anxious every day the report came back with basically no change. The good news was he was still intermittently dripping with occasional dribbling indicating he wasn’t completely blocked. He was also drinking plenty of water, eating well, and chewing his cud.

I made the decision to increase the Vitamin C to 10,000 mg per day. I arrived home 6 days after his symptoms started. Seeing him the first time was very disturbing. He was straining so hard I was afraid he was going to cause a prolapsed rectum. He would push so long and hard his hind legs would start shaking. He would only stop straining at the pile long enough to eat and drink. He would cush occasionally but when he stood up he would return immediately to the pile.

I decided to continue with the Vitamin C and also added other natural diuretics. I made a mixture (paste) of Dandelion Root, Cranberry extract, Vitamin C and water which I gave to him 4 times a day.

I called Dr. Ing again and explained he was holding his own but all he was able to manage were dribbles and a very occasional squirt. She reminded me that the drips, dribbles, and squirts indicated he wasn’t completely blocked. We were thinking he had stones or crystals that were not able to pass through the ureter. She said she had consulted with a few other veterinarians and a couple of medical doctors and asked if I was willing to try something out of the ordinary. At this point I was looking for a miracle so I figured why not.

Dr. Ing recommended we start him on Flomax which is used in humans to reduce urinary tract spasms and swelling. My only concern was the affect the medication would have on his system. But since most medications we give alpacas are “off label” I figured it was worth a try so we started him on the drug. The dosage was one capsule a day for 7 days. I added the content of the capsules with the paste made from natural diuretics.

Although he was on Flomax and natural diuretics I continued researching natural remedies and found an herb called Chanca Piedra. Chanca Piedra is the Spanish name for Phyllanthus niruri, which translates to “Stone Breaker” or “Shatter Stone”. Chanca Piedra is also still used widely in herbal medicine in South America, it is the most popular remedy for gallstones and kidney stones

Continued on next page

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throughout the Peruvian herbal medicine, and it is also used for hepatitis, urinary infections and as a diuretic. In Brazilian herbal medicine, where it has been used for thousands of years, it is called Quebra Pedra and is an excellent remedy to remove uric acid from the urine and to eliminate stones.

I was anxious to start him on Chanca Piedra but Dr. Ing asked me to wait until he finished the full dose of Flomax. I understood she didn't want to add anything other possible remedy to the mix so we could try to measure the effectiveness of the Flomax. After 3 doses (3 days) of Flomax we began to see noticeable improvement. In my eyes progress was slow but it was measurable. The slow drips and inconsistent dribbles were becoming short spurts and then 2-3 seconds of a stream. Instead of spending close to 45 minutes at a time at the pile, he was now there for about 30 minutes.

The day after he received his last dosage of Flomax I started him on 2cc of Chanca Piedra 2 times a day. During the next few days there was continually improvement. Spurts became streams and he was spending much less time at the pile. It was close to three weeks from the time the symptoms first appeared until he was back to normal.

We will probably never know conclusively if it was the use natural diuretics, Flomax, Chanca Piedra, or the combination that solved the problem. I do know that Chanca Piedra, Cranberry and Dandelion Root extracts, and Vitamin C tablets are now staples in our medicine kit and will be used at the first signs of urinary tract problems. If I don't see results in the first day or two I am confident we will start him on Flomax.

I am not a veterinarian and am not giving medical advice. Please use your own judgement and work with your veterinarian. Flowmax is a prescription drug.

NOTE: This article has been included in the Connection in the past. I felt it was worth reprinting because, with the cold weather many of us have been experiencing having only extremely cold water available can lead to less consumption and there is an increased possibility for urinary problems.



Early Bird Registration Deadline: March 1, 2016

Registration Deadline: March 23, 2016

No Changes After: April 1, 2016

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW.....<http://www.calpaca.org/page/2567/california-classic-show>



101 Alpacas Ranch

Dennis & Vicki Rabe
831.663.2684

900 El Camino Real North
Prunedale, CA 93907
vicki-dennis@101alpacas.com
www.101alpacas.com

Ater's Alpacas

Mailing Address
2251 Rita Court
Santa Clara, CA 95050-5617

Phone: 408.246.8506
Fax: 408.244.4018
Cell: 408.497.1289
e-mail: info@atersalpacas.com
Web: www.atersalpacas.com



Barb's Alpaca Ranch

Barb Bray

BBray9403@gmail.com
www.barb'salpacaranch.com

9403 So. Claremont Ave.
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Maureen & Larry Macedo
11175 Golf Link Road
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Roger & Maxine Hoefflinger
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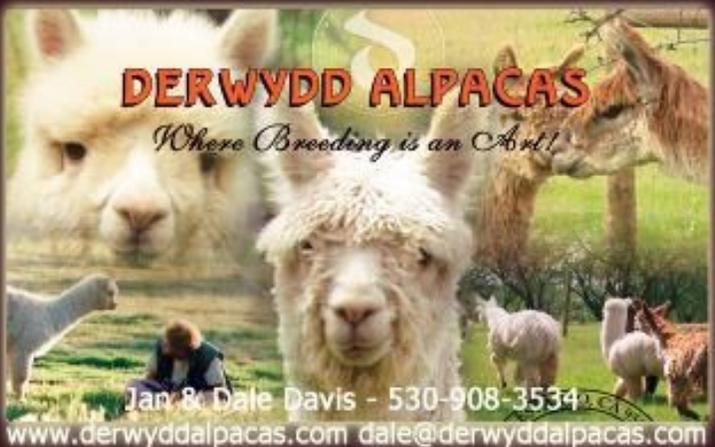


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Herdsires

Menagerie Hill Ranch introduces our newest herdsire, **LV Silver Sammovar by Vantaggio!** He took the Reserve Color Champion in gray at the California Classic 2015 where judge Sharon Loner called him a "Fantastic Male", finer even than the juvie in the class!

Sammo scored very high in Walking Fleece at the 2015 West Coast Alpaca Show, taking First Place. Judge Wini Lebreque noted he was very fine, dense and uniform with the blanket extending quite far down the side and a low amount of guard hair. She was so taken with Sammo that, in the awards ceremony, she commented that she thought he might have taken the Winners Cup! This is high praise for a 2 year old gray male!!!

With gorgeous silver gray fleece, excellent conformation and a perfect bite, we believe Sammo can make a big impact on our breeding program and yours! He's already settled his first girls with cria due any time. And we can't wait to see what he produces! We've set his breedings at an **introductory price of \$750**. Get your breedings now and take advantage of his great genetics at a great price!

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

Attention Suri breeders. We are thrilled to announce we have added an **EXTREMELY RARE Pucara Kahuna son** to our breeding program. Queen's Prince Henry is proven and is one of only two pattern (white with fawn blanket) Pucara Kahuna sons actively advertised as herdsires.* Breeding for patterns or not, a breeding to Henry offers the opportunity to add the genetics of a high impact herdsire the caliber of Pucara Kahuna to your breeding program. Breedings are \$500 for a drive by or \$750 if your dam stays at our ranch. Check him out at <http://www.openherd.com/alpacas-for-sale/112639/queens-prince-henry>. *We have done our homework and found only one other currently standing as a herdsire and verified this with Kahuna's owners. Call today for more information Dianna and Jack Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm, 530-620-6033.

For Lease: Two times light fawn Reserve Color Champion ALR Inti-Sapa's Peruvian Ruffo is available for lease with unlimited breedings - \$3000 for 3 months. Check him out at <http://alpacaontheweb.com/StudDetails.asp?ID=90&DetailType=Dam>. His crias include black! Questions? Call us at 541-821-8071 or email renategyuro@gmail.com



Deb Galway
Owner
707.290.7915
deb@menageriehillranch.com
www.menageriehillranch.com
4071 Norman Court
English Hills
Vacaville, CA 95688

Agisting ★ Breeding ★ Products ★ Ranch Tours ★ Sales ★ Service



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

Sierra Rose Alpacas—We invite you to consider us when looking for a home for agisting (boarding) your alpacas. We have owned alpacas since 2006. In our early years, we too agisted, so we know how important it is to find a good home for your alpacas. We offer very competitive rates, with a full time ranch manager on site. We provide gentle, trustworthy interaction with them regularly. Visitors comment on how friendly our alpacas are.

We feed them orchard grass hay, alfalfa when needed, free choice minerals, and supplemental pellets are given daily. We work closely with our agistors to give you and your alpacas the care you want such as birthing (cria watch), cria care, halter training, husbandry, education, etc.

Come visit if you are considering a new home for your alpacas. When you purchase alpacas from us, we offer limited free agisting also. Howard and Cynthia Kuhlmann, 530-272-1218

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