

# CONNECTION

February 2018



Peru Photograph - Snow Covered Alpacas Peru by Craig Lovell



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

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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.

Calpaca represents alpaca owners, breeders, and enthusiasts in California and beyond. We promote the well-being of alpacas and education of the public about alpacas, alpaca fiber, and alpaca products. We support each other through shared information and experiences, and host meetings, speakers and shows for the benefit of members and the public. We invite you to join us!

Calpaca Membership Meetings are held quarterly on the second Saturday of the second month of each quarter.

### **Calpaca Membership Chair**

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## **Affiliations**

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www.alpacaregistry.com

### **Alpaca Research Foundation "ARF"**

www.alpacaresearchfoundation.org

### **International Lama Registry "ILR"**

www.lamaregistry.com

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#### ***Calpaca Members:***

Business Card: Free

¼ page \$15

½ page \$30

FP \$55

Contact Dianna

DLJORDAN@LIVE.COM

Dear Calpaca Members,

*Hi. My name is Charlene. My favorite food is pizza. I like alpacas. I am your President now.*

It is hard to follow in Karen Ball's footsteps! I feel like a toddler in the alpaca industry, but I come to serve you with a lot of passion and a smile. The following is the rest of the team:

Steve Aitchison – Vice President  
Maureen Macedo – Secretary  
Tracy DiPippo – Treasurer  
Cynthia Kuhlmann – Directory at large

Your Board of Directors (BOD) met in January to review progress and set goals in line with Calpaca's vision and purpose. I am pleased to be working with a board of directors that share a vision focused on alpaca fiber. In addition to the funds donated to the AOA Student Design Competition, the BOD voted to fund a new Calpaca scholarship. The board has charged myself and Cynthia Kuhlmann to appoint a Fiber Committee who will be tasked with

- 1) selecting scholarship recipients for California textile students to participate in the AOA Student Design Competition.
- 2) coordinating fiber collections like we did last year for the Alpaca Coalition of America.
- 3) gathering resources to help owners make choices building fiber business.

We have seen a general decrease in membership and seek to identify the needs of California's alpaca owners. To start, the Board seeks member input as to what needs are, and are not, met through our Calpaca Web site. There is a desire to revamp the site, update information, and pictures. Tracy DiPippo, [tracid318@aol.com](mailto:tracid318@aol.com), is collecting JPG photos that are 980 x 340. Keep an eye out for opportunities to help with the redesign.

The California Classic Round Up is on track to be a great show! If you do not show animals, please consider joining the fun Calpaca community as a volunteer! The Walking Fleece Show needs a number of helping hands! In general, I find that volunteering pays richly in the knowledge I gain.

A special thank you for all the understanding participants in last fall's Gold Country Gathering. It is a lot of work to pull a show together, and a very tough decision to cancel. Tracy DiPippo is grateful for the positive feedback received in that time of fire and crisis.

Our Quarterly Membership meetings and the featured speakers/activities that follow are a huge opportunity to learn from others, laugh with others, and network. Join us! Mark your calendars now for the second Saturday (possible announced exceptions for holidays) of February, May, August, and November.

May 2018 be a fantastic year for all!

*Your friend,*

Charlene Schmid, 2018 Calpaca President



# We're Gettin' Together For A Meeting

**When:** Saturday, February 10

**Where:** Derwydd Alpacas

24485 Derwydd Way OR 24497 CR 23 CA, 95946

Either address will get you there

**Time:** Membership meeting starts at 10:00am

## Potluck Lunch

Smoked salmon, water, beer, soda, wine, will be provided

There are lot of electric outlets for crock pot dishes!

Please bring your favorite side dish salad or dessert to share



## Member Meeting

### Participative Planning Session

This is an opportunity to define what we want in the new 2019 Calpaca Camelid Symposium

Here is the opportunity to do some out-of-the-box thinking about the Symposium. Perhaps presenting topics and speakers that go beyond camelid medicine. If you are unable to attend you are encouraged to send your ideas to Dale Davis before the meeting. There will be break-out sessions for those in attendance to discuss the ideas presented.

Before the meeting everyone needs to send Dale one idea for a topic, or a specific speaker, or a general area you would like to see a presentation on. Remember that we have the opportunity to look beyond camelid medicine with our new symposium. Include it with your RSVP - attending... or RSVP NOT attending.. Everyone has a stake in defining our new Symposium.

**RSVP [dale.davis@yahoo.com](mailto:dale.davis@yahoo.com)**



## Don't Miss This Meeting

This is your opportunity to be a contributor to one of the premiere symposiums for camelid owners and enthusiasts to be offered on the west coast.

## Have You Booked Your Shearing Yet?

Shearing time is just around the corner. Recently a request was sent to Calpaca members asking for information about shearers they knew of or used. Please note: the shearers included in this list are being provided as a resource and aren't necessarily recommended or endorsed by the Calpaca Board. In no particular order:



Gina Gouvia:  
[EVPacas@hotmail.com](mailto:EVPacas@hotmail.com)

Tom Krasny:  
360-413-7487

Sergio Balcorta  
530-761-1987

Steve Mortimer  
209-988-3396

Joe Swink (prefers texts) available  
weekends only  
Cell 209-840-0136

Alex Crawford (had worked with Josh Swink)  
Email: [acrawfordshearing@gmail.com](mailto:acrawfordshearing@gmail.com) 530-613-9355

Brian Gnizak, Shear Relief LLC  
[shearreliefllc1@gmail.com](mailto:shearreliefllc1@gmail.com) 330-317-6135

Cody Fifield, High Country Alpaca Services  
928-245-8482 [codyinc86@gmail.com](mailto:codyinc86@gmail.com)



Shearing will be available at the  
California Classic

## HOW TO PICK A SHEARER

**Steve Murray, Shearing Services LLC, author**

*This article originally appeared in the Winter 2014 Connection*

The time to start the process of selecting a shearer for your alpacas is not two weeks before you want them shorn. In fact, most probably any shearers still available at that short notice are not the ones that would be your first choice. The time to start the process is January 1st. Do not procrastinate, for capable shearers book quickly and early.

If you are a new alpaca owner the place to start is to talk with other alpaca owners in your area. They will have a good idea who is working in your area and what time of the season to be prepared.

Next, call each shearer and ask if they might have room in their schedule for your herd. If they do, ask a few questions....

Does he come with or without help? Some shearers work alone and expect the owner to provide help. Others come with help for which you will pay extra. Find out so you can plan.

Ask how long it takes to shear a single alpaca. Any longer than 12 minutes or so and you should move this person down your list of candidates. Shearing is stressful for the animal and a skilled shearer will never take more than 15 minutes per animal. Seven to nine minutes is the sweet spot.

If show fleeces are important to you ask if he can shear a fleece in one piece. For suri owners, ask if he is comfortable shearing suri fleece.

Ask for several references. Then call these people and ask...

Is he on time and professional in appearance and action?

Does he do a good job shearing? That is, when he's done does the animal look good and is the fleece in excellent condition with very few second cuts? This is really important!

Does he have bad habits? Ex. Smoking, spitting, cursing, animal abuse etc.

Does he cut the animals with the shears? No cuts are the rule but accidents do happen and a minor nick or two during the day is within normal parameters. If you get reports of large, long, deep cuts move this shearer well down your list.

Finally, if this is a shearer with whom no one is familiar, ask him if he sharpens his own combs and cutters. A good competent shearer is not likely to send combs and cutters out to be sharpened, and will have spent the time and money to learn how to properly sharpen his equipment. This is not a hard and fast rule, but may give you an idea of how committed this shearer is to do good work at a reasonable price.

The most important take-away is to start the booking process early. The longer you wait the likelihood of having to settle for the less qualified and /or least professional shearer increases.

# Phrenic Nerve Disorder... "What Is That?"

*Hint....it's not a good thing!*

## **Remington Steele's Story**

**By Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm**

After nearly thirteen years of raising and caring for our alpacas there seems to be no end to experiencing and learning something new. This is our story about a Phrenic Nerve Disorder diagnosis.

### **History**

The first indication something might be wrong with our Remington Steele was an episode of flared nostrils and open mouth breathing on an extremely hot day in the summer '17. I hosed down his belly and it seemed to help so I attributed the episode to heat stress. I observed another episode a few days later and again cooled him off by spraying his belly. Over the course of the next few weeks I noticed he was staying cushed more, interacting with the other juveniles and weanlings far less than normal and seemed disengaged from what was going on around him. On closer observation I noticed although he wasn't breathing through his mouth his breathing was extremely labored. When cushed his back would rise and fall because of the abdominal breathing. It was quite apparent that his breathing was not normal. His weight gain had also stalled and his body score was below normal.

On 10/2/17, at the age of 7 months, he was diagnosed with Phrenic Nerve Disorder. I learned that this was not a common disorder in alpacas and the only suggested "treatment" was to create an environment that was relatively stress free and add Vitamin E to his diet. It was suggested that I separate him from the other juveniles, start feeding him alfalfa because he was underweight and start him on a Vitamin E supplement.

The prognosis at the time was guarded at best. Vitamin E treatment and reduction of stress was the most common approach that could result in a positive outcome. That and the tincture of time...they either relearn how to breathe, grow out of it or both.

My treatment protocol was to put him in with a group of females that were receiving extra calories through the addition of alfalfa to their diet. This group included his dam. He started nursing and she started producing milk again. This close relationship with his dam seemed to provide him comfort and less stress. I also started him on a Vitamin E supplemental powder added to his pellets. I later switched to liquid Vitamin E also added to his pellets.

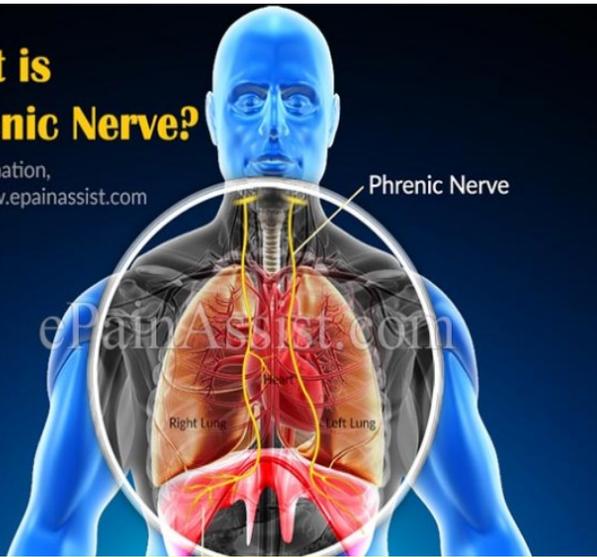
I pulled him from the three fall shows he was scheduled to attend. Then the waiting began.



You may not have heard of the phrenic nerve before. I certainly hadn't before I started my research on this condition. The phrenic nerve controls the diaphragm muscle, which controls the breathing process and it is one of the many vital bodily functions that is keeping you alive as you read this. When the diaphragm contracts, the chest cavity expands and creates room for inhaled air. Breathing is an involuntary action and something you don't have to think about. It is the phrenic nerve's primary function to carry out this process without you having to command your body to do so. When the phrenic nerve is damaged, it can prevent normal breathing.

## What is Phrenic Nerve?

For Information,  
Visit: [www.epainassist.com](http://www.epainassist.com)



Although this is an illustration of a human diaphragm it accurately shows the location of the phrenic nerve. The phrenic nerve is actually a twin nerve, with one on the left side and one on the right of the diaphragm. The nerves serve to send signals between the brain and the diaphragm. Breathing is an interesting bodily process because although you usually do not have to think about doing it, you do have the ability to hold your breath or to take a deep breath. The phrenic nerve is responsible for handling these decisions. The phrenic nerves contain motor, sensory, and sympathetic nerve fibers. These nerves provide the only motor supply to the diaphragm. When the nerve is damaged, this control is lost.

The hiccup reflex can be triggered by phrenic nerve irritation, making the diaphragm contract abnormally, resulting in a small intake of air. The most severe impact of phrenic nerve damage is **diaphragmatic paralysis**, which prevents the patient from being able to regulate breathing on his or her own.

## Alpaca Specific Report

### Diseases of the Respiratory Tract

Christopher Cebra, in Llama and Alpaca Care, 2014

#### Diaphragmatic Paralysis

Phrenic nerve degeneration and diaphragmatic paralysis have been reported in the scientific literature and anecdotally in a variety of locations worldwide. The largest study found the disorder only in alpacas less than a year old, but clinical experience suggests that all ages of camelid are susceptible, and many have demonstrated enough normal respiratory function to suggest that this is an acquired lesion. Multiple cases have been identified at specific farms, some sharing a common ancestor. Most clinical cases are bilaterally affected; unilateral cases may exist but may appear normal without extensive examination.

Bilaterally affected camelids usually display an acute onset of progressive dyspnea, with tachypnea, flaring of the nostrils accompanied by expansion of the chest and paradoxical contraction of the abdomen during inspiration, and expansion of the abdomen during expiration. Some appear also to have spinal neurologic signs, including weakness, ataxia, proprioceptive deficits, and knuckling, accompanied by palpable cervical instability in severe cases. Pulmonary sounds are usually normal unless the camelid has aspirated feed or saliva, although the extreme respiratory effort may increase the overall level of noise. Cyanosis and poor body condition may be present but are not consistent findings.

A variety of neurologic conditions, including vertebral body malformation, abscess, and instability, parasitic migration, tumor, degeneration, and trauma may all be causative and require treatment. Vitamin E deficiency may be a factor in nerve degeneration as well.

Treatment efforts have mainly been supportive or directed at an underlying neurologic disease. Supportive treatments could include administration of nasal oxygen or mechanical ventilation. Treatments of the neurologic disease vary and could include anti-inflammatories, antibiotics, antiparasitics, and vitamin E. Prognosis is guarded. Camelids that are in overt respiratory distress or have aspirated are unlikely to thrive. Others appear to tolerate the respiratory compromise and slowly acclimate to it, using the accessory muscles of breathing to drive their respiratory efforts.



Is breakfast ready?

### Current Report

Fast forward to 1/29/18...his breathing pattern is normal, he weighs 61.5 lbs which is less than our average 11 month old but his current weight gain is in line with an alpaca his age. He has slowly become more active, is cushing less and is more engaged with his surroundings. He has also stopped seeking comfort through nursing.

His personalized feeding routine is simple and predictable for him. He and his dam Daisy have learned they will be fed separately. When I come to the barn in the morning they move to the gate which opens to an area where they can eat without interruption by the other members of their group. Each receives a combination of Calf Manna and Bar Ale pellets with 3cc's of liquid Vitamin E on top.

Why is his dam included in this special feeding regimen? Well, genetics has not been widely discussed as a possible cause of Phrenic Nerve Disorder and the genetic factor is as of now unknown. We did not intend to test this genetic possibility and we wouldn't have if we had known he was affected. We were so excited and encouraged about the outcome of the breeding that produced Remington Steele that we bred his dam back to the same herd sire. Because the symptoms did not present until he was older there were no "red flags" or signs of a problem when we did the breeding. Studies have shown that alpacas diagnosed with Phrenic Nerve Disorder have gone on to produce healthy crias with no associated problems. We hope this is the outcome with this repeated breeding.

We will have the answer in early April 2018. In the meantime, with every day that goes by the future is looking promising for "Remmie."

Fortunately we are still on the journey to health and recovery with Remington Steele. I think because he was older when the disorder presented the odds were in his favor for recovery. Of course, time will tell and everyday he improves is a blessing.

As you will read in the next article the outcomes can be heartbreaking.

NOTE: Charlene and I have videos to share. Once I have the file finished I will send out an announcement and the link.

## Phrenic Nerve Disorder... "What Is That?"

*Hint....it's not a good thing!*

### *Memento's Maleku's Story*

*By Charlene Schmidt, Integrity Alpacas and Fiber*

I'm a newbie on a steep learning curve. This is our story about a Phrenic Nerve Disorder diagnosis.



So, you see the signs that the phrenic nerve is not functioning; the diaphragm is paralyzed. Once seen, never forgotten.

#### History

On 12/17/17, at the age of 22 days, Memento's Maleku was running crazy in the "north winds." I noticed he was breathing with flared nostrils. I thought he was just catching up with the excitement of the herd getting out to clean remaining mulberry leaves. But, his breathing didn't slow. And, he was sort of dragging his hind leg.

My first thought was to give him thiamine, but my concerns grew as it appeared neurological. My fears instantly went back to the loss of Susanna to West Nile. I contacted Julie Dechant and described what I was seeing. She did not think it was consistent with West Nile. I then contacted Danny Mora, and at the end of a similar conversation recalled the flared nostrils and belly movement with breathing. The moment I mentioned that, Danny immediately knew what questions to ask and right away knew, phrenic nerve. I had to google that one. P H R . . .

I tried to find information, and started talking with friends. Vitamin E is the direction that was suggested most prominently.

There is very little information as to the cause of phrenic nerve degeneration, and little information that has resulted positively for the alpaca.

I have yet to find any source that explains the cause of the disorder. It is a challenge to pinpoint the role of Vitamin E, despite the popularity of its use in the treatment plan. There is not a clear genetic connection, and not much data to imply a genetic predisposition. And to be explicit, Vitamin E is neither a cure or a research validated cause.

There is one "big" study of 11 alpacas that can be reviewed at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1939-1676.2010.0661.x/pdf>, published by Byers, Barrington, Nelson, Haldorson, Holt, Callan. This is a retrospective study that examined medical records from a 10-year period and identified 11 alpacas with confirmed diaphragmatic paralysis admitted to Washington State University and Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospitals between September 2003 and October 2009.

#### **RESULTS:**

The 11 alpacas ranged in age from 2 to 12 months. Fluoroscopic imaging confirmed the presence of bilateral diaphragmatic paralysis in the 7 alpacas that were imaged. Arterial blood gas analyses showed hypercapnea, hypoxemia, and low oxygen saturation. Seven alpacas died or were euthanized between 2 and 60 days after onset of respiratory signs. Histopathologic

examination of tissues found phrenic nerve degeneration in the 6 alpacas that were necropsied and additional long nerves examined demonstrated degeneration in 2 of these animals. Two animals had spinal cord lesions and 2 had diaphragm muscle abnormalities. No etiologic agent was identified in the alpacas.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND CLINICAL IMPORTANCE:**

The etiology for diaphragmatic paralysis in these alpacas is unknown. A variety of medical treatments did not appear to alter the outcome.

This road didn't take me very far, so I started down the Vitamin E path. I began with the following article and took these nuggets of information, then contacted the vet directly.

**Ruminants/Vit E article:** [https://www.dsm.com/markets/anh/en\\_US/Compendium/ruminants/vitamin\\_E.html](https://www.dsm.com/markets/anh/en_US/Compendium/ruminants/vitamin_E.html)

*The liver accumulates vitamin E, although not to the extent of vitamin A, and exports vitamin E in combination with very low density lipoproteins (VLDL) for use by other tissues. In general, vitamin E is disseminated to body tissues by mass action and in proportion to intake. A continuous intake of vitamin E is required in order to maintain vitamin E concentrations in cellular membranes throughout the body.*

My thoughts: It is hard to overdose Vitamin E.

*Relatively little storage of vitamin E occurs in the body. The liver is not a true storage organ for vitamin E. It contains only a small fraction of total body vitamin E stores, in contrast to vitamin A, for which about 95% of the body reserves are contained in the liver. Unlike vitamin A, there is no known plasma transport protein for vitamin E, which is transported to and absorbed by tissues in association with lipoproteins (Traber, 2006).*

*Various forms of stress, including weather extremes, social dominance interactions, feed or water deprivation, hauling, handling, disease exposure, trauma and toxins, all contribute to increased vitamin E requirements. For improving immunocompetence, vitamin E supplementation is needed at levels beyond those needed to support optimal growth.*

My thoughts: Stressors deplete the Vitamin E stores.

*Serum vitamin E levels are higher in summer and fall than in the winter and spring seasons (Miller et al., 1995), which likely reflects the vitamin E level of forages consumed in the months prior to sampling. Besides seasonal effects, herd and time since parturition affected serum vitamin E and selenium concentrations (Miller et al., 1995).*

My thoughts: Green grass provides a lot of Vitamin E.

*Vitamin E displays a wide variety of deficiency signs, more than any other vitamin. Deficiency signs differ among species and even within species. Blaxter (1962) reported that muscle degeneration and muscular dystrophy appear to be the one vitamin E deficiency syndrome common to all species. White muscle disease (WMD), also known as nutritional muscular dystrophy or nutritional myodegeneration (NMD), is the major clinical manifestation of a vitamin E or selenium deficiency in newborn calves, lambs and kids.*

My thoughts: This might account for the observed weak back leg.

*The young also tend to lack a normal suckling reflex and may be unable to stand or walk.*

### **FLASHBACK—**

My thoughts: This was clearly an issue with the dam's first cria. Levi started with zero suckling reflex.

It just so happens that Maleku's dam lost her first cria in 2016 at 32 days old. The necropsy for Levi indicated a degenerative diaphragm, and the blood draw from the dam at the time of death revealed very low levels of Vitamin E. After breeding the dam, I choose to supplement Vitamin E at the trimester points of the next pregnancy with A, D, E, and B paste.

I contacted the author of this Vitamin E article via e-mail and she replied right away. Her advice was, and consistent with Dr. Mora, high levels of Vitamin E and continued supplementation. She recommended a product that she has found to be the best absorbing form of Vitamin E in ruminants.

I followed that source, spoke with the nutritionist and had the recommended forms of Vitamin E overnighted as it seemed time was of the essence. The little guy was struggling to breath, he was not focused on eating, just breathing. He was dropping weight.

**Conclusion:**

The mega-dose of Vitamin E was administered on 12/19/17 at 24 days old. This was followed by daily supplementation of liquid Vitamin E.

Maleku gained back the weight lost in the few days prior gaining 4.2 pounds in the next 11 days. Maleku was playing with the other cria, gaining weight, but still breathing with abdominal distress and that rear leg still seemed weak. With each day, my hopes grew. New Year's Eve.

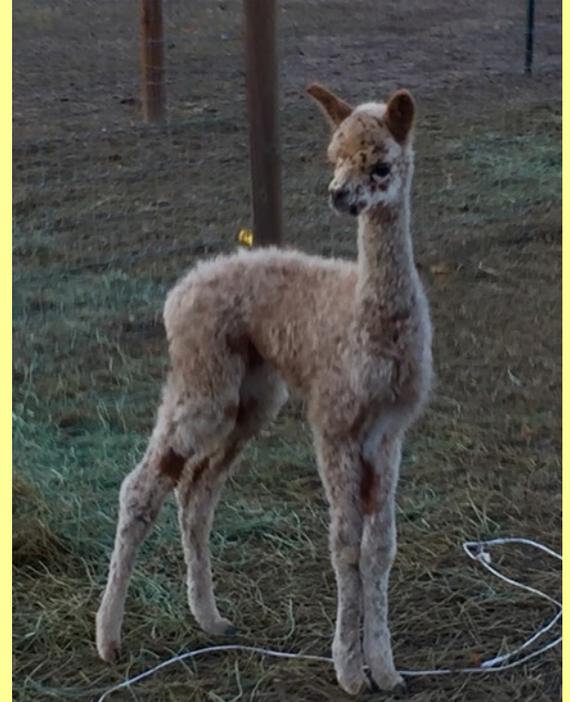
I sat out with the herd while crazy country folk shot illegal fireworks for a good half hour at midnight. Maleku seemed to be struggling to breath, more so than in the last couple of days. At one point, he did a funny flop from the cushed to his side. He didn't move.

I went over and pulled his lifelessness onto my lap and rubbed his back and neck briskly. Rather soon after, he snapped up, got off my lap, and pretended nothing was wrong.

1 point for the stressful fireworks.

I watched Maleku closely on January 1<sup>st</sup>, and he seemed to fall right in place with his progress.

The morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 38 days old, I found Maleku was no longer struggling to breath. The necropsy focused on the phrenic nerve, and in addition to tissues that essentially had no oxygen, there was no apparent cause for the degenerative phrenic nerve.



Memento's Maleku - RIP

I recently had Dr. Mora out to the ranch for a different issue. He reviewed the necropsy from both of the cria, Levi and Maleku. We drew for a Vitamin E check on the dam, and again, her levels are very low. Although low Vitamin E levels in the dam may or may not be related to the malformation of the phrenic nerve in utero, it certainly does not hurt.

**Moving forward:**

The advice from those that have reviewed the necropsy reports recommend the Vitamin E levels for the dam are normal prior to breeding and Vitamin E supplementation should continue through any future pregnancy and/or as necessary for the dam's health.

## **Here's What You Need To Know About The Walking Fleece Show**

Although it has been a competition in previous years done by waiver, in 2017 AOA added the Walking Fleece competition to their Show Rules book. Since its inception, this new AOA competition has evolved and may be different than what you have experienced at an AOA show in the past. A full explanation can be found on pages 67-69 in the 2018 Show Rules book. It is important for exhibitors who are participating in this competition to familiarize themselves with the new format adopted in the 2018 show rules book.

Below is a portion of the AOA show rules book from page 67 listing the key points of an AOA Walking Fleece Competition:

***The Walking Fleece Show is an opportunity for the exhibitor to enter a fleece competition where the prime fleece is evaluated while still on the alpaca. Each fleece is judged individually against the AOA Walking Fleece Judging Scorecard on an absolute basis in contrast to halter judging which is judged on a comparative basis relative to the other alpacas in the class.***

***Conformation is not assessed.***

***An AOA Walking Fleece Scorecard will be completed for each alpaca in the course of the evaluation/judging process.***

***Placements are made on a highest point basis once all evaluations are completed and tabulated. Oral comments by the Judge may be given during the hands-on evaluation.***

***This is a time consuming competition, and exhibitors must be cognizant that they may need additional handlers, particularly if they are also participating in the regular halter classes which could very well be occurring simultaneously.***

***Each alpaca in a Walking Fleece class is evaluated in the ring individually.***

***Exhibitors/handlers should make every effort to keep the alpacas in that class in the ring area until all of the scores for the alpacas in that class have been tallied.***

***While waiting, an exhibitor may transfer control of that alpaca to a handler if that exhibitor needs to be in the halter ring with another alpaca.***

Just like a fleece show, walking fleece is divided by breed type, Color Group, Age division and lastly by single color designation if there are enough (4 or more of a single color designation) to divide out. Male and female alpacas will show in the same class in the same way they do in level I, II and III fleece shows.

A score card will be used, just as in a fleece show, and a judge will evaluate your alpaca's fleece verbally giving scores to a scribe which will be tabulated, transcribed to a master judging sheet and then later disbursed with ribbons to the class participants. The judge may give other oral comments during the hands on evaluation. Once the scores are tabulated, they will be placed 1st – 6th in each class. Once the entire color group has been before the judge, then the highest score will be the Color Champion and the second highest score will be the Reserve Champion. This is an absolute system of judging, unlike a halter class which is a comparative system of judging.

*Continued on page 15.....*

**What to expect:**

Your class will be announced over the sound system. Generally, a walking fleece show taking place at the same time as a halter show will start at a different color group than where the halter show is starting on that day. This is done so that the same alpaca is not due in the halter show ring at the same time as it is due in the Walking Fleece ring. When your class is called, you are required to bring your haltered alpaca to the walking fleece ring and check in with the gate keeper.

Depending on how many alpacas are in your class, and how many arrive before you, will depend on when you go before the judge. Unlike halter, you do not need to line up by birthdate. It takes between 4 and 6 minutes on average for a judge to evaluate each alpaca. If you are due in the halter ring with another alpaca, it is important to check in with the walking fleece gate and let them know that you will come as soon as you are finished in the halter ring or may need to go 1st in line for judging in the Walking Fleece. Communication is the key. It is important for you to show in your assigned class. The new show rules do allow for a handler swap for the alpaca to remain at the show ring after judging should the handler be needed to show in another show ring. Remember it is important to stay in the area until the entire class has been judged and dismissed in case there are ties and the judge needs to see your alpaca again. The score sheet will need to be tabulated and then transcribed for each individual participant, and all registered participants for a class will need to be judged before any ribbons are handed out. *For a full explanation of the AOA rules on procedures during a Walking Fleece Show, please refer to the 2018 Show Rules Book page 76.*

Just as in a halter or fleece show, ribbons are awarded for 1st – 6th place. A score card will be provided for ALL participants, regardless of whether a ribbon is awarded.

**When will you get your results?**

As stated before, scores will need to be tabulated and transcribed, added up a second time and checked for accuracy by two different people. Once the entire class has been judged, transcribed and the sheet signed by the judge, the score cards and ribbons may be distributed. If an alpaca has not made it to their assigned class due to a ring conflict, then the score cards and ribbons will be held back until that alpaca has been judged. Just like a fleece show, alpacas may be moved from one color group to another by the judge. If an alpaca needs to be moved by the judge due to a color change which was not found at color check, they will either be asked to return to the correct class if it has not been held yet, or it will be added to the score sheet for a class which has already been judged as long as the ribbons have not been distributed yet for that class.

**How many alpacas need to be in a color group to hold a championship?**

It is the same as the fleece show or the halter show. 10 for Huacaya, 8 for Suri.

*Continued on page 16.....*

## **Are there any special awards in the Walking Fleece competition?**

Currently in the 2018 show rules book there are no special awards allowed to be offered for a walking fleece competition

## **What is the Walking Fleece Judging criteria and points?**

### ***Huacaya Points***

*Fineness and Handle (20)*

*Uniformity of: Micron (10), Length (5), and Color (5) Style:*

*Character (Crimp) (10) and Staple Type/Density (5)*

*Brightness (10)*

*Absence of guard hair (10)*

*Absence of impurities/stains/fleece damage (5) Maximum*

*Point Total For Huacayas: 80 points*

### ***Suri points:***

*Fineness and Handle (20)*

*Uniformity of: Micron (10), Length (5), and Color (5)*

*Style: Lock Structure (10) and Density (5)*

*Luster (20)*

*Absence of guard hair (5)*

*Absence of impurities/stains/fleece damage (5)*

*Maximum Point Total For Suris: 85 points.*

*Continued on Page 17....*

## What is expected of me when I go before the judge?

Stay calm. Breathe. Relax and listen! Walk your haltered alpaca up before the judge and hold the alpaca firmly while the judge does the evaluation. Conformation is not assessed; the judge will be only looking at the fleece characteristics. All AOA registered alpacas are eligible to show in the walking fleece competition, including geldings and non-breeders.

## Can my spouse/partner/mother come in the Walking Fleece ring with me during the evaluation?

Usually. Please ask before entering the ring, as it is entirely up to the judge.

## May I record the process with my camera / phone or recording device?

You must ask before recording the judging process. The Judge will let you know if permissible.

## May I ask questions during the judging process?

Please respect the judging ring by not asking questions or trying to engage the judge in conversation.

*Courtesy of Judy Schroeder, Show Superintendent*



# 101A El Jefe's Morro



Stud Fee:  
\$750



Year	Value	Accuracy	Rank	Rank%
EPD	0.947	0.927	10218 of 20999	71.1%
SCAEPD	-0.186	0.927	7518 of 20998	35.2%
SP	-0.202	0.927	12888 of 20999	61.7%
SEW	-0.872	0.92	8024 of 20998	37.2%
BC	-0.838	0.872	18728 of 20999	89.8%
SCMCI	-0.499	0.945		
TM	-0.28	0.182	12688 of 20999	60.8%
MSL	1.712	0.44	3522 of 20998	16.8%
FA	0.971	0.984	3092 of 20998	14.4%



Top 1% EPD (#7) in Fleece Weight Sired by the great El Nino's Accoyo El Jefe!

Morro passes on density and fiber length to his cri-

Year	Value	Accuracy	Rank	Rank%
2017	0.92	1.00		
2016	0.88	0.92		
2015	0.72	0.88		
2014	0.64	0.87		
2013	0.58	0.84		
2012	0.53	0.84		
2011	0.48	0.80		
2010	0.44	0.77		

## 2 genetic wonders—Back on the Market

Year	Value	Accuracy	Rank	Rank%
EPD	0.947	0.927	10218 of 20999	71.1%
SCAEPD	-0.186	0.927	7518 of 20998	35.2%
SP	-0.202	0.927	12888 of 20999	61.7%
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MSL	1.712	0.44	3522 of 20998	16.8%
FA	0.971	0.984	3092 of 20998	14.4%

# Silver Rose Memento

Four of Memento's six offspring are either rose grey (3) or silver grey!

He also carries the appaloosa gene!

To schedule your breeding, contact either co-owner—

Bruce and Joan Nelson  
Ahh... Sweet Alpacas  
707-448-9157 [sweetalpacas@cs.com](mailto:sweetalpacas@cs.com)

Charlene Schmid  
Integrity Alpacas & Fiber  
530-400-2684  
[charlensschmid@ms.com](mailto:charlensschmid@ms.com)



Stud Fee:  
\$500





## My Adventure with U.S. Dept. of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration AKA – What? I need a USDOT number?

If you are on Facebook you may have read the uproar over the new regulations pertaining to hauling animals over state lines for commerce brought to you by FMCSA (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration).

The way the regulation reads is if you are hauling animals for commerce, meaning, selling animals, taking them to shows to win prize money, breeding for fees, writing off your mileage on your taxes. This is considered commerce. This also includes bass fishermen hauling trailers and competing in tournaments. It is a very broad regulation, very confusing and time consuming. So, heck why not, I just jumped right in to see how hard it was.

The most significant piece of information I learned was by calling our California CHP. I goggled California CHP – Commercial Vehicle Section 916-843-3400 and asked them many questions. They were very happy to answer all my questions on whether I needed a USDOT number. Mainly if I goggled CVC (California Vehicle Code) 34500 under F, I got some real pertinent information. If your Truck's GVWR is over 10,000 and your Trailer is over 10,000 which combined = 20,001 you will need a USDOT number. Mine was not. If the combination of your Motor truck and trailer when coupled together exceeds 40ft. You will need a USDOT number. Mine does so I win!!!!

To obtain a USDOT number, it is very easy, but a little confusing. You must get it on the internet by going to <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/> (FMCSA) *once there you can click on all kinds of questions and answers and apply for your USDOT number. I recommend giving the application the least amount of information possible. Don't make it sound like you have a fleet of vehicles unless you do. You are most likely a sole-proprietorship hauling livestock occasionally going to shows to win ribbons . We do this for recreation, for fun! Don't make it sound like it is a large company with a fleet of vehicles, unless it is. The cost of obtaining a USDOT number is free. But, beware.....the compliance companies will start calling you as soon as you hit the done button and have successfully gotten your USDOT number. I just told each and every one of them that we do not speak to compliance companies.*

After you have obtained your USDOT number you should receive a letter and/or phone call from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation FMCSA asking you to call them to complete the process. This puts you into a que and within 12 months you are required to either have a safety inspection of your truck and trailer or have an on line inspection which I am hoping for. You are required to have on board, a fire extinguisher, a First Aid Kit and reflective cones or triangles, plus log book.

A couple of mistakes I made. Don't bother the DMV, they will throw you down a rabbit hole. Don't be proud of your farm name and tell them you sell animals and transport them as part of your business. Keep it on the down low.

LASTLY – this is my experience with the DOT and obtaining a number as I felt I had to comply. Your needs could be different than mine. My hope is to share with you my experience of actually obtaining the USDOT number.

Laurie Findlay, Alpacas of El Dorado



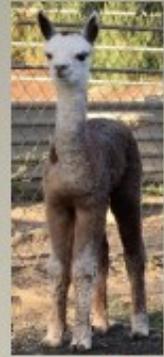
## FTAF's Privateer

ARI# 32318326

### Follicle Density

Density: 71/mm2  
 SP Ratio: 12.1 to 1  
 Secondary: 21.9  
 Primary: 30.1  
 Glandular Presence: 4 out of 4

Throws Color of Dam!



Privateer's First Mate



Darcy Phillips  
 (707) 295-8677  
 RareGemAlpacas.com

Stud Fee \$1,000

### Fiber Stats

2017 AFD 21.1, SD 4.6, CV 21.8, CF 96.7%  
 2016 AFD 20.5, SD 4.6, CV 22.4, CF 97%  
 2013 AFD 16.4, SD 3.2, CV 19.7, CF 99.6%

Trait	Rank	2017
AFD	816 of 22959	Top 5%
SDAFD	2309 of 22959	Top 15%
SF	865 of 22959	Top 5%
%F>30	685 of 22959	Top 5%
MC	3307 of 22959	Top 15%
SDMC		
%M	4759 of 22959	Top 25%
MSL	8919 of 22959	

### Crimson Knight of SierraRose, Modern Rose Grey, ARI 35231554 DOB 6-11-14



Crimson Knight of SierraRose takes after both his sire and dam for retained fineness. Crimson always turns heads with ranch visitors. He has a good presence, gorgeous, fine, bright, crimped fiber with nice bundling. He sports a nice typey head, with full cheeks, good bite, compact body. Both his sire SierraRose Sterling Knight, and dam, SierraRose Camille at 9 years and 8 years, are still in top 1% EPD in AFD and other categories. Check them out!

He carries an awesome pedigree, including Danko, 4PPeruvian Legacy, Peruvian Hemingway, Crescent Moon's Rayo Del Sol and Kirwin, Lionheart's Connagher, you simply can't go wrong with his genetics in your herd. He would be an outstanding breeding for blue-eyed whites. Unproven. Introductory Breeding Fee \$750.

Date	AFD	SD	CV	%>30
2017	19.5	4.2	21.5	1.8
2016	19.3	4.1	21.3	1.7
2015	18.2	4.2	22.9	1.5

**1st of 7 in 2017 AOA National Show**  
 Handcrafter's Spin-Off Huacaya Grey Yearling



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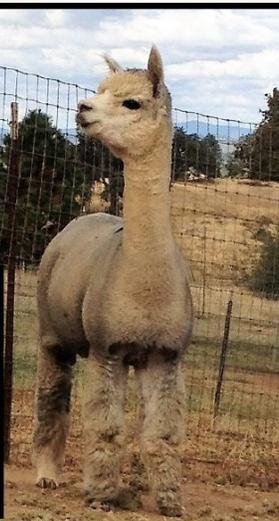
**RR GUNS KIT CARSON**  
**17 Championship Banners!**  
**More than 8 Champion Offspring!**



RR Lancelot



2016 Fleece



Centerfold



RR Donatello

**FOLLICLE DENSITY WATT)**

Density: 57.9/mm<sup>2</sup>  
 S/P Ratio: 9.8:1

In-Skin Fiber Diameter:  
 Primary: AFD 22.3, SD 3.2  
 Secondary: AFD 13.7, SD 2.5

**HISTOGRAMS**

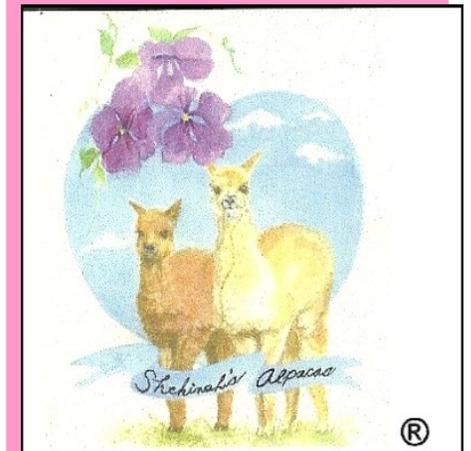
2010: 17.6/ 3.28/ 18.6/ 90mm  
 2011: 19.2/ 3.31/ 17.3/ 100mm  
 2012: 21.74/ 4.03/ 100mm  
 2013: 23.02/ 4.07/ 100mm  
 2014: 21.34 / 3.79 /17.77/ 90mm  
 2015: 22.5 /3.96 /17.6/ 90mm



Deb Galway  
 Vacaville, CA  
 Menageriehillranch.com  
 707.290.7915  
 November - April



Terrylee Severson  
 Francis, Utah  
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Owner

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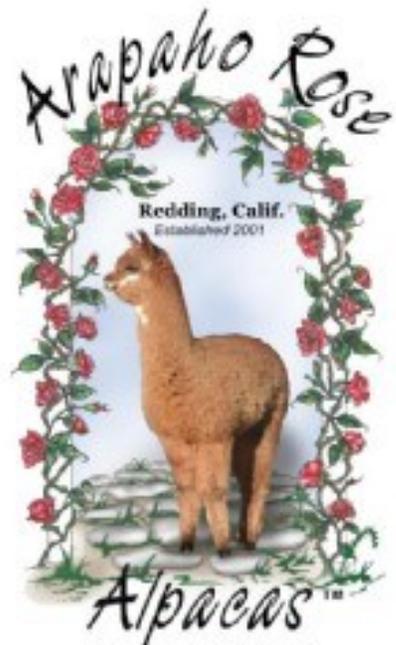
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Nadine Joaquin  
209 986-9892

## WOW—WAIT A MINUTE—WHAT HAPPENED TO MY CLASSIFIED AD?

From the editor—I sent several reminders through the Calpaca yahoo group asking those who had classified ads running to let me know if you wanted me to continue your ads in 2018. If I didn't hear back from you I removed the ad(s). All is not lost though. If you want them back just let me know and they will reappear in the May issue of the Connection.

## Alpacas For Sale

We refocused our Suri breeding program to create Suris with “Bling” (multis/patterns). With this new focus we adjusted the asking price on several of our white and light Suri and Huacaya females. These reduced prices are not a reflection of the quality or value of these girls for your breeding program. If you are just starting out, or are in the process of building your herd, don't miss the opportunity to obtain quality females at incredible prices. Check them out: [www.openherd.com/farms/214/alpacas-of-somerset-farm](http://www.openherd.com/farms/214/alpacas-of-somerset-farm) Jack and Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm 530-620-6033

**A Package of Possibilities** Package includes 3 proven females (each with a complimentary breeding) plus choice of one listed junior herdsires. 3 + 3 + 1 = 7 total in package for only \$4000 PLEASE DO NOT BE TURNED AWAY BY THE LOW PRICE! Every female and male included in this package will add value to your breeding program! Check out this “Package of Possibilities.” Refocusing our breeding goals resulted in offering quality proven females at budget friendly prices. Each female in this package comes with a complimentary breeding to your choice from our herdsires. Check them out at: [www.openherd.com/alpaca-package-deals/15960/a-package-of-possibilities](http://www.openherd.com/alpaca-package-deals/15960/a-package-of-possibilities) Jack and Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm 530-620-6033

## For Sale



Brand new Oster shears that have never been used. \$275.

PLUS

Pregtone that has only been used once \$250. .

Contact Nadine Joaquin at Bear River Alpacas for more information 209 987-9892.

## Herdsires

**Are you looking for some “bling” in your Suri herd?** SSilken's Accoyo Tesori is one of our **“Designer Suris”** herdsires. He is full Accoyo male with a solid compact frame with amazing dense coverage, luster, and a beautiful lock structure. He has produced a solid medium fawn female out of a white dam with a fawn spot. He also produced a fading fawn female out of a white dam. Tesori's sire is full Accoyo fawn & white pattern Our Accoyo Aurelius...which is a very rare coloring for a full Accoyo. Unfortunately, Accoyo Aurelius was lost in a tragic barn fire after only three years into his breeding career. In those years he produced 38 registered offspring\* making his first line genetics extremely limited and difficult to find. Tesori's dame is TSP's ACCOYO CHLOE. Chloe is Full Accoyo and comes from the famous David Gronauer Collection. Her bloodlines are very well known & RARE: Ganador and Starbuck!!! Chloe is a female par excellence in the fiber department... ultimate fineness, unmatched density & luminous luster!!!! Not sure you want to take a chance on a relatively unknown bursting with potential? **CHECK OUT OUR “YOU DECIDE THE BREEDING FEE” OFFER.** on page 28. We are expecting our first crias from Tesori in April 2018. Give us a call. Dianna and Jack Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm, 530-620-6033.

Menagerie Hill Ranch introduces our newest herdsire, **RR Gun's Kit Carson (KC)**. With 17 Championships and 21 1st Place wins, it's no wonder that more than 8 of his offspring are Color Champion winners! KC took his first championship at 8 months of age. Since then, his fleece has maintained its length, fineness and uniformity, and he remains one of the best grey males in the country.

His kids still win big in the ring...2016 Gold Country Gathering KC son 4-Sights Crawford won RCC behind RR Dizzy Gillespie in Grey Male; KC daughter 4-Sight's Centerfold won CC, grey female; AND KC son RR Lancelot won Black CC. Centerfold also took CC at the 2016 ABI and the 2017 Futurity. And at the 2017 CA Classic, Lancelot won CC in both Halter and Walking Fleece.

Check KC and his cria out at: <http://www.menageriehillranch.com/alpacas-for-sale/121347/rr-guns-kit-carson>

With gorgeous silver gray fleece, excellent conformation and a perfect bite, we believe Kit Carson can make a big impact on our breeding program and yours!

For a limited time only, in celebration of our new partnership with SkyDance Ranch Alpacas, we are offering his first 5 reserved breedings at a reduced price of \$1,500. Reserve your breedings now and take advantage of his great genetics at a great price!

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners. [www.menageriehillranch.com](http://www.menageriehillranch.com) 707.290.7915

Attention those of you with GREY breeding programs! BEAR RIVER ALPACAS has two proven GREY herd sires for your consideration. \$750. For the first breeding or \$1,250. for 2. An additional \$250. Savings! Our grey Color Champion “SILVER LEGACY” sired by “LV Vantaggio By Bisturi” out of our grey “Produce Of Dam” winning Sentinel daughter or “TUFF AS STEEL” our “Never Summer's US Steel” son. Both males are outstanding with the phenotype, density, fineness that will elevate your breeding program. Sale ends May 31, 2018. Contact Nadine Joaquin at Bear River Alpacas for more information 209 987-9892.

# Herdsires

**LV Silver Sammovar by Vantaggio** 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 Lebrecque 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!!!

His first cria are on the ground and they are gorgeous! Check him and them out at <http://www.menageriehillranch.com/alpacas-for-sale/103050/lv-silver-samovar-by-vantaggio>

His stud fee of \$750 includes 60 days agisting at Menagerie Hill Ranch in Vacaville for your girl. Get your breedings now and take advantage of his great genetics at a great price! Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners. [www.menageriehillranch.com](http://www.menageriehillranch.com) 707.290.7915

**FTAF's Privateer**, ARI 32318326, is an elite-fleeced fawn over black sired by 13X banner winner SHVN Buccaneer (also the sire of FTAF's Blackbeard). His dam is Crown Jewel of PVA who also had a great run in the show ring. Privateer's 2017 skin biopsy (at 5yrs old) results are: Density 71 follicles/sqmm. SP ratio 12.1 to 1 with level 4 of 4 gland presence which correlates with what senior judges are referring to as “well-nourished fleeces”. Secondary fibers average 21.9 microns and primary fibers averaging 30.1 giving him a variation of only 8.2 microns. (Dr. Norm Evans). Additional details can be reviewed on his Openherd page <https://www.openherd.com/alpacas-for-sale/115890/ftafs-privateer>

**MHAR Blizzard by Justice** As a junior herdsire, we expect great things from this boy. He's a beautiful, bright white, with extremely dense, crimped fleece, full body coverage, and perfect bite and conformation.

At the 2014 Gold Country Gathering, judge Kathy Klay said “He's the total package!” when awarding him First Place (no CC), noting his soft crimp style and density. Most recently, his 3rd fleece spin-off entry won Judges Choice! And his 4<sup>th</sup> fleece spin-off entry won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the adult (D) class (of 8) at the 2017 AOA nationals, this in spite of being very dirty/muddy thanks to our very wet/muddy winter. His first cria is on the ground with more due this fall. We can't wait to see them all!

We want to put more of his cria on the ground. So through the end of the year, his stud fee will be \$500 for CALPACA members, including 60 days agisting at **Menagerie Hill Ranch** in Vacaville for your girl. Reserve your breedings now and take advantage of his great genetics at this special price! Check Blizzard out at <https://www.openherd.com/alpacas-for-sale/101580/mhar-blizzard-by-justice>

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners. [www.menageriehillranch.com](http://www.menageriehillranch.com) 707.290.7915

## Herdsires

**CHECK OUT OUR “YOU DECIDE THE BREEDING FEE” OFFER.** We know selecting breeding pairs is a risky business and the results don't always meet our expectations. Let us share the risk with our special offer. Here is how it works...the breeding fee is determined after the cria is on the ground and you can evaluate its value to your breeding program. There is no set minimum breeding fee and will accept whatever you decide. You can find the details at <https://www.alpacasofsomersetfarm.com/sample-contracts>. We have a few herdsires that are producing some amazing crias for us and our clients. We would like to share their genetics with breeders looking to add some genetic diversity and quality to their breeding program. Check out our herdsires <http://www.openherd.com/FarmList.aspx?Farm=214&page=hs> then give us a call 530-620-6033. Offer applies to most of our co-owned herdsires. Jack and Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm.

## Agisting

**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 daily. Visitors comment on how friendly our alpacas are. We rotate them to day pastures, and feed them orchard grass hay, alfalfa when needed, free choice minerals, and supplemental pellets given daily. We work closely with our clients/friends 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

[www.SierraRoseAlpacas.com](http://www.SierraRoseAlpacas.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 \$3.25 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) 707.290.7915 Deb Galway & Kirk Howard,

## Classes and Instruction

## Land For Sale

10 Acre Parcel For Sale \$224,000. 1C Anderson Drive Sonora Ca  
Easy access. Zoning allows for 2 houses on lot. Power and phone lines run through property. Well in place. Close to established camelid Vet. Contact [zzalpacas.com](http://zzalpacas.com)