

Calpaca May 9th Quarterly Meeting Agenda

Location American Pride Alpacas, Shingle Springs, California

| Meeting started 10:45; 29 attendees; Ended 12:40 **7:03pm**

Bonnie Potter started the meeting welcoming everyone, thanking Donna and Conrad of American Pride Alpacas for hosting us at their ranch, and providing a very nice venue...on a beautiful spring day. Larry Mercedo of Mercedo Mini Acres was attending his first CALPACA meeting. Will who agists at American Pride was also at his first meeting

Secretaries Report:

1. Approve minutes from February 14, 2009 meeting that are posted on Web.
Tom Peterson moved, seconded by Laurie Findley, Passed by all.

Treasurers Report:

1. CALPACA Funds status

Jack reported that we are running a \$45-50,000 balance in the checking account, which is fairly constant year after year. \$3,000 was contributed by the auction at the Ca Classic. The endowment at Davis has been growing nicely, and when we reach \$200,000 it should be self perpetuating. The Software (QuickBooks) is coming up to speed as Jack fine tunes the way the accounts are set up. Jack reported that we are getting the checking accounts consolidated so they are easier to manage. Jack also reported that this year we have a pro forma budget for 2009. While we have always had the special events budget, the addition of a pro forma budget helps to manage the annual expenditures.

2. Feedback on Calpaca acceptance of credit cards *Jack Jordan*

The credit card transactions for the Classic equaled \$20,000, a new feature that made it much easier for participants to pay and spend money at the Classic. This should be a great addition for future events. The fees that are charged by the companies that provide the service vary greatly, so we are reviewing options for using the best vendor for CALPACA. The added convenience for paying Dues and ads etc. is much appreciated by the members

Membership Report:

1. Membership Status

We have 203 members, including 14 new members in 2009. The membership is continuing to grow.

2. Member Directory

Lin is working on the CALPACA directory, so everyone has a hard copy. While we were considering not having a hard copy, everyone seems to want it. After a little glitch with the printer, Lin expects to have the final copy ready for distribution soon.

Committee/Event Updates

1. CA Classic Update

Diane and Joyce presented a synopsis of how the show went. Diane thanked all the volunteers. She said that the volunteer staff went well. \$3045 was taken in for the Silent auction which benefits the UC Davis Scholarship. Yoder was auctioned off to Marge Smith and the money will be used for the symposium. While he was initially going to be for a one years use, Dale Davis donated Yoder to the winner. 450 alpacas participated

with 146 ranches in attendance. Joyce said that she had received some good feedback on the show, and she is still looking for more feedback so they can make the show even better for next year. Discussion of the use of sod in the arena, and the need for more lights. Also the dumpster needed a ramp and maybe a second dumpster. There is a need for a hose to water the area north of the arena to keep the dust down and also dust in the show ring. Bonnie thanked all the volunteers that came forward to help, and apologized to the membership for the Vet that called in sick, and the backup it created in the check in line.

2. Lambtown Update

Joyce provided an update on Lambtown. The show will occur Oct 3rd, in Dixon CA. We will be participating in having a fleece show, and a fiber boy pen sale. There will only be room for ~120 animals. Pricing will be kept uniform and relatively low and CALPACA plans to provide a care kit for giving to the potential buyers. There will be a performance demonstration. Joyce is working on the budget for the event. There is an opportunity to sell the fleece at the end of the fleece show. The question came up as to whether the show would be all inside or outside as well. This is the first year for us to participate in selling fiber animals. They won't need to be registered, but they will need a CVI and will be inspected by the vet as they arrive. The objective is to keep the price for the vendors down as well. The question came up about the CALPACA booth and whether we would have a better structure of working the booth, and the opportunity to be able to give out really good information about the industry.

Old/Unfinished Business

1. Fiber on the Foot

John Foulke attended Fiber on the Foot. Unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate. John said he was able to make many contacts with people in the northern part of the state. There was a big turnout of the general public. Sunday was the better of the two days. It was a very informal event that let's the public know what Alpacas are all about. CALPACA sponsored the event with a \$500 grant, The event was spearheaded by Irene Fuller.

2. The Alpaca Fiber Symposium

Diana Jordan attended the event in North Carolina, where the use of alpaca fiber is promoted to the textile industry. Diana said it was great to see so many people that were very excited about the potential for fiber in the textile industry.

3. CA AG Day March 24

We sponsored a booth at the State Capital to teach our legislators and their staffs about the alpaca industry. Tom talked about where we were located and the placement of the booth. We were able to see many of the people *in the Know*. We gave an alpaca scarf to Maria and two pair of alpaca socks to Arnold. We had Arnold and his entourage visit the booth. The secretary of Ag talked to Bonnie about the industry and used the information she shared with him in the speech he gave later. Tom emphasized that now is the time to educate our legislature about the alpaca industry. We did receive a letter thanking us for participating. They estimated the attendance at 3,500 people. Bonnie thanked all the volunteers, in particular Irene Fuller and Bruce Nelson for bringing their merchandise and alpacas

4. TAP UCD Scholarship/Scholarship Fund Raiser

Bonnie recognized their contribution to the Scholarship Fund.

5. UCD Symposium Fund Raiser

Dale Davis sponsorship of the Yoder auction was recognized by Bonnie and Dale was thanked for helping us bring in great speakers for the symposium for the education of our vets and future vets.

6. AWE

Bonnie reported that Kay had announced that AWE would probably head back to Oregon. Bonnie thanked the members that had volunteered their time and helped in the show. The attendees hoped that the show would come back to Reno, just not on Easter Weekend.

New Items/Additions

1. Calpaca Trailer

The trailer is currently residing at Derwydd Alpacas. It was originally purchased for hauling CALPACA supplies. The tires need to be replaced. The original price is \$7,000. The current book value is \$2,400. The dilemma is in getting the unit to and from shows, with no one to haul it. The issue that came before the group was to see if they had any ideas for using it. Joyce offered the concept of using the trailer for clip collection and/or for keeping the show supplies stored.

2. Legislative Activities

Tom indicated that it appears that all but one of the election propositions look like they will fail.

3. 2009 California State Fair Participation

We have been invited to participate like we did last year. The event is held from the 21st of August through Labor Day. Bonnie asked for some feedback on who might be willing to help, bring alpacas, or in doing something with fiber arts. The folks who came last year had a really good time. The question came up as to when the animals would be coming in. First thing in the morning the animals could be brought in close to the booth and the second/afternoon group would be led in from the parking area, or the volunteer could stay the entire day.

4. Goals for 2009

- Marketing is the key new goal; Dale Davis is Chairing the committee with Joan Clappier as co Chair. They will be organizing the committee and developing marketing materials and opportunities for the membership.
- Tom Peterson will be helping us identify and recognize the key people in the legislature to contact and partner with.
- We will continue to enhance our relationship with UC Davis, so we have great support for our animals
- We will also get all our financials in order so we are in complete compliance with the accounting rules we need to follow.

Announcements

Ken Rosenfield brought to attention of the board and the membership the recent sale at a livestock auction of a group of alpacas. Ken's concern is the potential of people purchasing alpacas and then disposing of them at auction at some point when they no longer want to have them. He recommended that we have a position on what to do to in the future. Discussion among the group at the meeting was that we need to be careful of how we market the alpacas and who we market them too. Essentially it is the irresponsible owners that are providing a potential problem for the industry.

Bonnie suggested that we get together to develop a policy that could be accepted by

new owners. The suggestion was also made that we start a rescue association that will help with protecting the unwanted/dispersal alpacas.

Kathleen Friend will have a seminar on her ranch soon about marketing to new buyers.

Next Meeting August 8th hosted by Dave and Jeannette Miller at Sierra Nevada Alpacas, Reno, Nevada

Following the meeting we had a wonderful lunch provided by Donna and Conrad with potluck dishes provided by the members. After lunch, Dr. Julie Dechant from UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine gave us an update on the problems and diseases they have been seeing that we should be concerned about. Ian Watt discussed Objectively Measured Fleece Traits and how to get selection value from them. Following the presentations, Joyce Judy gave a fleece skirting demonstration and discussed preparing fleece to send for processing.

Minutes submitted by Dennis Rabe, Secretary