

CONNECTION

MAY 2016



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

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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.

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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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Greeting Calpaca Members,

As summer approaches and the show season comes to an end I hope everyone has their animals shorn and ready for the heat. At the conclusion of these two seasons I always take a moment to reflect on what my goals are for my alpacas and my breeding program. For me, post shearing is the beginning of my next seasons “crop”.

Some of the things I ask myself are: what are my goals for my fiber? How can we do things better next year to meet those goals? Do I need to change the time I shear for cleaner fleeces or later for longer fleeces? Do I need to make any dietary changes? I love to visit other ranches while they are shearing too as there is always something to glean. I also evaluate my breeding animals, are they producing what I am breeding for and if not do I want to continue to breed them?

This year Calpaca pioneered the AOA certified Walking Fleece Competition at the California Classic Roundup. I think it was a super success, informative and educational for all who participated. This fall, due to popular demand, we are bringing back the Gold Country Gathering at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley. This will take place October 15th & 16th. This show is going to be a great one! In addition to the halter classes there will be both a fleece competition and a walking fleece competition, 3 ways to have your animals evaluated at one venue!

Our next Calpaca membership meeting is May 14th at Epic Alpacas. Visit the website for details. I encourage all Calpaca members, owners and breeders, to try and attend as many Calpaca events as you can. Whether you have fiber animals, a breeding program or just pets, Calpaca is here to help with education, networking and marketing as well as providing a wealth of resources.

See you at the next event,

Karen Ball (2016 Calpaca President)

Calpaca Member News

WELCOME NEW CALPACA MEMBERS

Josh and Kristie Swink, PO Box 1085, Penn Valley, CA 95946 swinkjosh@gmail.com

Tracy and Donald Pellegrino, Faith and Fleece Alpacas, 7660 Bradley Rd, Somis, CA 93066
626-716-0943 td.bulldogs@hotmail.com

Megan Kukla, Kukla Farm & Family, 8237 Hillrose St., Sunland, CA 91040, 818-606-9133 mkooks2002

UPDATES TO THE MEMBER DIRECTORY

Add **Tom Houts** to Southern Cross Farm

Add **Shari McKelvy**, Shari's Suris, 1920 Main Street, Morro Bay, CA 93442, 805-772-9665, shari@morrofleece.com

Alice Bechtold (listed at the back) added email address: Alicescreations@gmail.com and phone: 530-274-2325

Kathleen Friend changed phone to 530-592-3340 and her email to: 4whitesocs@comcast.net

Pat Sjostrom stated her email should be: sjostrom.pat@gmail.com

Staying Connected

**Keep up with member and
Calpaca News**

Calpaca Website

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

Group Emails

calpaca1@googlegroups.com

Calpaca Facebook

Calpaca— California Alpaca
Association

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Gold Country Gathering Returns!
Oct. 15-16, 2016**

**California's favorite show is back
and better than ever!**

Halter Show — Judge David Barboza
Walking Fleece Show — Judge Wini Labrecque
Fleece Show — Judge Wini Labrecque

Keeping with tradition there will be a Potluck with
Wine Tasting Saturday evening

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

Upcoming Calpaca Events

2016

May 14 — Membership meeting at Epic Alpacas, Cathey's Valley, CA

August 13-Membership meeting at Ranch of the Oaks, Lompoc, CA

October 15-16—Gold Country Gathering Alpaca Show, Fairgrounds, Grass Valley, CA

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

DON'T MISS CALPACAS QUARTERLY MEETING!!! HOSTED BY EPIC ALPACAS

**May 14th at 10:00 AM
5298 McCay Rd, Catheys Valley, CA 95306**

SCHEDULE:

10:00 AM - General Membership Meeting

12:00 PM Potluck Lunch (Main dish, water, plates and utensils will be provided.
More main dishes would be appreciated)
Please bring chairs for the presentation! Presentation will be indoors.

1:00 PM - Guest Speaker - Ian Watt

Objective Measurements for Better Breeding

(the presentation will focus on understanding the various methods available to help measure your breeding development and improvement using objective data. Ian will discuss the elements of histograms, how the stats relate, and how important each one is to your particular breeding goals; he will also discuss follicle density tests (using skin biopsies), and more - including a live demonstration of how to take a biopsy sample.

PLEASE RSVP TO STEVE - Steve@EpicAlpacas.com

WE WANT TO SEE YOU THERE!





Laurie Findlay Calpaca Citizen of the Year Award

At the February 2016 meeting the Calpaca Board of Directors announced Laurie Findlay was selected as the Calpaca Citizen of the Year.

Scott and Laurie Findlay first purchased alpacas in 2003. They boarded their 5 alpacas with Alpacas by the Sea in Montara, CA while they searched for property in the foothills of northern California. Over the next few years they continued to purchase both suri and huacaya from different parts of the U.S. and finally were able to bring their herd home to Somerset, CA, where they reside today.

Laurie became involved with CALPACA serving on the board as Vice President in the 2010/2011 year and then becoming President until 2014.

2012 Laurie helped open our current Calpaca facebook page which now boasts 226 members

In 2013 Laurie was instrumental in joining Calpaca with OpenHerd.com and providing our membership with their own websites and the ability to market their alpacas and products nationally.

In 2013 Laurie facilitated the Calpaca Student Camelid Club, which allowed the Camelid Club of U.C. Davis join Calpaca in all events and receive information on line.

During her term as President of Calpaca Laurie was able to move the “Connection” into an on line magazine with the one hardcopy being the membership directory going out to the members.

To this day, Laurie continues to volunteer with SCLAR, “South County Large Animal Rescue” as a registered Disaster Service Worker trained in responding to large and small animal rescue and has been deployed in the Sands Fire, the King Fire and the Butte Fire.

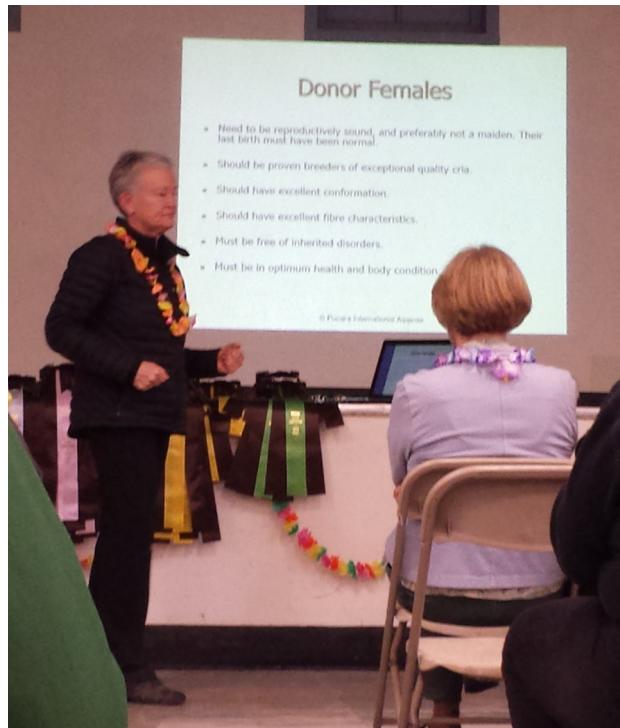
WHY SHOW MATURE ALPACAS

By Laurie Findlay, Alpacas of El Dorado

Recently it occurred to Scott and I that we would really like to get comments on how our stud males were holding up with their fiber qualities as they were maturing. What better way than taking them to an alpaca show that happened to have two senior judges nationally known. The California Classic Round Up in April provided us with just that. Certainly a risk, but worth the reward. We decided to enter four of our mature males, ages ranging from 5 years old to over 7. All males were breeding and some have cria on the ground and in the show ring.

The risk of course is having the judge tell you your animal should not be used for breeding and luckily that did not happen, but the reward was having a judge tell you your alpaca was still showing uniformity of micron across both sides of his blanket and displaying an expression of beautiful crimpy fleece that is still very processable. And very exciting to us to have a nationally known judge award one of our suri males with a Reserve Color Championship stating that his fleece showed great regrowth, style, silky hand and great luster for his advancing age.

The comments certainly made us feel we were right to continue to use these males in our breeding program and allowed the public to see how males were holding up in their advancing ages. I would highly recommend bringing your older gentlemen out just for the comments alone from the judges. And the judges also appreciated the opportunity to be able to get their hands on older males and see how they were maturing.



Special Presentation on Embryo Transfers in Alpacas

Before the Saturday night dinner at the California Classic Senior AOA Jude Anderson gave a very informative talk about ET in alpacas. She talked about her personal experience with the procedures when used on females from her alpacas in Australia. She discussed the pros and cons and risks and rewards of the process. Those in attendance were invited to ask questions and in her usual manner Judge Jude answered them with directness and thoroughness.

In Case You Missed the February Calpaca Meeting Presentation by Dr. John Madigan

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.



Calpaca members watch intently as Dr Madigan explains and demonstrates his “Squeeze” technique on an alpaca. His breakthrough discovery is impacting the horse world and achieves the same results in alpacas.

Llama Enthusiast

Supports Unique Clinical Opportunities

When Joy Pedroni of Black Cat Llamas needs veterinary assistance with her small herd of 15, she knows exactly who to call – Dr. Julie Dechant, a specialist in the veterinary hospital's Large Animal Clinic. Pedroni is a long-time client and has been a great resource for students.

"I can't say enough about the hospital," Pedroni said. "The compassion everyone shows is paramount for me. They always make me and my animals feel like we're the most important ones there."

On several occasions, Pedroni has been the driving force behind llama and alpaca rescues, and brought dozens of camelids to the hospital. The rescued animals generally come from defunct sanctuaries, owner abandonments and hoarding situations. Brought to the hospital for wellness examinations, sterilizations, hoof trimmings and sheerings, the camelids Pedroni rescues provide great learning opportunities for students who are eager to work on animals they normally would not see on their hospital rounds.

Pedroni sometimes utilizes her llamas as pack animals on camping and hiking trips, and says that this is an increasingly popular activity among camelid enthusiasts. Llamas participate in events and shows, similar to horses and dogs, and Pedroni uses hers as goodwill ambassadors in parades and agriculture events for children. Llamas are even brought to hospitals and retirement communities as therapy animals. As these activities increase and ownership becomes more commonplace, the hospital's camelid medicine services provide a much-needed resource for the community.

Every January, the school hosts the Camelid Symposium, a hugely popular two-day event that attracts hundreds of owners from across the western United States. Pedroni serves on the planning committee for the symposium, always enthusiastic about promoting camelid health.



DVM students assist with wellness examinations for rescued camelids.

BEACH PARTY 2016 CALIFORNIA CLASSIC





*Photos Courtesy of
Donald Crowder*

5 Steps to “Peace of Mind” When Someone Else Takes Your Alpacas to a Show

By Julie Roy

Do you remember your first time taking alpacas to a show? Do you remember the anxious, excited feeling? For you... maybe it's a recent memory? For me it was AlpacaFest West in Nov. 2005. And that's when I got bit by “the show bug!”

Now fast forward through 11 years of showing alpacas and it's time for the California Classic Round-Up. Due to a conflict in the dates of the show, I would not be able to attend. However, that show bug was strong and I wanted to send my newest juvenile males! But how...? The show was over 550 miles away!

What if I prepared my alpacas and someone else could take them for me? It sounded simple; many alpaca breeders share the responsibilities in this way. Once before I relinquished the care of 2 of my juveniles to a very experienced breeder and they did fine. However, this time the closest ranch that met those criteria was about a 4 hour drive away and it just wasn't feasible.

The other option was to prepare a new alpaca breeder who would be going to their first show. So we set about to do just that. We decided to have them bring their 3 juveniles over to my ranch with plenty of time to train them along with my 5 young ones. Weather delays only allowed 10 days prior to the show departure day to get all the training completed. With the urgency upon us, I set a plan in motion to cover all aspects of a successful showing.

Since the handlers would be first timers, it was important to get them ready too. Here are the 5 steps we took to ensure a good experience for alpacas and handlers.



Step 1 – Prepare your alpaca to be handled by someone else

- Ask for volunteers who want to learn about alpacas to spend 30 minutes a few times before a show helping you out. I needed 5 additional volunteers to join the 3 first time handlers going to the show. I wanted to create a “Show-like environment” and have all alpacas training at the same time.
- After the initial halter training lessons by me, I let a volunteer walk the alpaca back and forth in a confined space before taking them out into a big field. This builds their confidence and I can watch to see how the alpaca is reacting with a stranger.
- If you have an unruly alpaca then attach it to one or two other alpacas on a three-way lead to get it to calm down. Give the alpacas some time to work out their squabbles. Then once they are walking in unison, hand them over to another handler.
- If you have multiple alpacas to train, then switch handlers during each training session several times.
- Practice having each alpaca line up with the handler standing in front and off to the side several times.
- Practice walking in different environments with different distractions present.
- Practice loading and unloading in a trailer. Practice standing still inside the trailer with multiple alpacas.

Step 2 – Prepare the Handler

- Once each handler is comfortable working with an alpaca then it's time to create a “mock show.” Always remember to breathe! Remember to stay calm and relaxed.



- Practice lining up like in a staging area. Practice the crowding and try to keep your alpaca still.
- Practice entering the area on command and walking on a diagonal in front of a “mock judge.” And then line up profile to the center of your mock show ring. Practice lining up the alpacas in a straight line with their toes pointed forward and balanced on all four feet. Then practice stepping to the left side of the alpaca and holding that pose.
- The next part is the tricky part if you try to rush it too much. Practice holding each alpaca as your “mock judge” comes around and checks the bite and tail-lifting of each alpaca. Keep your alpaca calm as the “judge” feels the fiber in several areas. The handler should work with each alpaca to the point that it doesn’t resist standing still while someone else touches it all over.
- Practice keeping the alpaca still while the “judge” walks around behind them.
- Then the fun part... practice accepting a ribbon and walking the alpaca in front of the line-up. The alpaca should start walking with just a little encouragement from you.



Step 3 - Prepare all the tack and supplies

- Make a list of all the supplies you normally take to a show. Go over the list with the handlers to be sure that every aspect is covered. Give them the original CVI and a copy.
- After you fit each halter to each alpaca, mark them in some way so that the handler will know for sure which one goes with which alpaca. If you are splitting supplies, be sure to put your name on the things you want back.
- Provide special show leads that are different from the barn leads.

Step 4 - Practice at the show

- Let the alpaca become familiar with the new surroundings.
- Walk the alpacas once you get your stall set up. Practice taking them in and out of the show ring. Practice walking on the diagonal and standing still. Have someone else join you in the ring to pretend you are in a line-up.
- Practice showing the bite and lifting the tail with ease. Get someone else to assist you.
- Practice walking around with a “mock ribbon” in front of the alpaca. We use leis around their necks.



Step 5 - Prepare to receive them back home

- Prepare a quarantine area for all the returning “show- kids.”
- Prepare an area for the transfer of your tack and supplies. Go over your list with the handler.
- Remember to collect your ribbons and the show materials that the handlers got for you.

Well the show is over; the alpacas are back at the ranch and out of quarantine as I write this. I’m pleased with how well they all behaved and the handlers didn’t have any surprises. During their 4 days away, I maintained in contact with the handlers and answered some of the logistical questions as they came up. I shared their exuberance as they showed each alpaca and won ribbons. Then smiled to myself knowing that I had prepared the alpacas and the handlers the best I could.

Julie & Don Roy have been raising show quality huacaya alpacas since the fall of 2004 on their ranch, Alpacas of Anza Valley, in southern CA. Julie offers a diversity of educational services with free emailed newsletters, e-books, audio CDs, seminars and individual coaching on the subject of “Alpacas Made Simple” for the “newbie” alpaca owner. She can be contacted at www.AlpacasAV.com or Julie@AlpacasNextDoor.com 858-361-6321

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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 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!!!

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://alpacasontheweb.com/StudDetails.asp?ID=90&DetailType=Dam>. His crias include black! Questions? Call us at 541-821-8071 or email renategyuro@gmail.com



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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

www.SierraRoseAlpacas.com



Sierra Rose
Alpacas

An Environmentally Friendly Way
to Enrich Your Family's Lifestyle

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