

MAPACA



Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

June 2003

Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 6

MaPaca

Officers:

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Paul

Connor,

Vice

President:

Brandon

Boyd,

Treasurer:

Alan

Anderson,

Secretary:

Nick

Melfi,

Member at

Large:

Kim

DeVos.

M a P a c a

Newsletter

Editor:

Alice

Brown.

President's Message:

Well the numbers are in and the Jubilee appears to have been the greatest success ever! MaPaca treasurer Alan Anderson reported at the General Membership meeting on Sunday June 22nd that the Jubilee for 2003 should have an excess of \$45,000 this year. This is even more of an achievement when you consider that we rented more space at prices almost 20% higher, meals cost more, there was no income from seminars, we had more judges, sponsorships were about the same or slightly higher than the previous year.

This great news should mean that 2004 may once again, not bring any increases in pen rentals, meal functions, etc and in fact some costs may go down for some breeders if the Board agrees to approve the plan of charging pen rental fees according to desirability of the location. If agreed to, a farm that is willing to take a location in a less frequented area of the hall may only pay \$150 per pen instead of \$225; while a farm that would like "prime space" right in the middle of all the action, along the entrance row, or around the show rings might pay \$400 per pen. Farms that are gracious enough to purchase sponsorships would continue to receive thanks and acknowledgement at all of the functions, during the entire show, and in the Newsletter, in addition to the other benefits associated with that specific level. I've seen a "Herdshire Row" which I noted at another show. Possibly the "Diamond Sponsors" would also receive a pen on Herdshire Row to display one of their prize Herdsires during show hours.

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If anyone has any comments, suggestions or ideas please email me at: paul@bigskyalpacas.com.

Elections As noted elsewhere, Alice Brown has agreed to chair the nomination committee for this year's MaPaca Board of Directors. I urge you to consider running for the BOD. It is a two-year term. We usually meet an additional 3 times per year in addition to the General Membership meetings. It is crucial that breeders of all sizes and interest levels be involved. It is often thought that the Jubilee is the only function of MaPaca. Once someone has served on the Board you realize there are many other issues that are addressed and worked on in the course of each year. Hopefully the four days that we get to spend at the Jubilee each year are considered enjoyment and an opportunity to contribute to your fellow breeders with some volunteer time. In any case don't let the size of your farm have any influence on your decision to run. Especially if the present Board agrees to expand future Boards to seven members, small farms, even someone who may be agisting, should be represented. Please consider running and contact Alice Brown ASAP at fpalpacas@aol.com.

Membership- We have shrunk from over 280 members at one point to about 218 at this moment, that is after having several new members join this year. Personally, we give new customers that purchase from us a paid membership to MaPaca for their first year. With the monthly Newsletter being a reality for over 18 months now, it adds a nice touch for new breeders to see that there is monthly communication going on. We must continue to focus on beneficial activities such as seminars in conjunction with General Membership meetings, regional fleece seminars, and other educational activities. While the Jubilee is the only focus of many breeders, there are also many members that do not consider shows the primary reason for owning alpacas. I am afraid those are the members we are losing. Once again, reflecting back to elections, if you happen to be a member who does not show at the Jubilee, you are still welcome to run for the Board of Directors – you may represent more of the members than you think.

Paul Connor

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MaPaca meeting notes: June 22, 2003

Treasurers Report: Jubilee accounts, Total income from the Jubilee just over \$280,000

Jubilee expenses total \$231,000 as of 6/22/03. There are about \$3000 in outstanding bills to be paid.

Total profit from the Jubilee is about \$46,000.

Total MaPaca funds on hand as of 6/22/03: \$116,933.86.

The raffle and silent auction did very well.

Membership dues are doing well.

We had a lot of additional unexpected expenses, but the reason we did so well was because of the great work of all the volunteers. (Comment by Nick Melfi).

Suggested changes for the Jubilee – More promotion for the animals in the raffle and silent auction.

It was suggested to look into changing the MaPaca membership year from Sept.-Sept. to Jan.1 – Jan.1. If this can be done according to the By Laws then the 3 months from Sept to Jan will be free to current members and renewal notices will go out for renew just before Jan. 1.

Nick Melfi wants the Diamond and Platinum sponsors in the June and July Newsletter and just the Diamond sponsors in August.

Nick Melfi said next year's show will also be a success! Next year there will be an auction which will be by Celebrity Sales. They will shortly start the selection process. The 1st and 2nd place ribbon winners from 2003 will be given first option of being in the auction. Next year there will again be 4 rings. We would like to develop a pool of handlers perhaps to help breeders out when their alpacas are scheduled in two classes at the same time.

Frieda Goodrich said that she spoke to Nancy Johanson and Nancy said there should be a lower limit to the number of pen spaces that larger breeders can occupy.

Show Committee – Nick and Cristy Melfi will do it next year if they have to, but they would like to offer the opportunity to others.

Auction: When should we do the auction? Between Friday and Saturday, most prefer Saturday. An additional staff person will be needed for the Show Committee and that includes an auction coordinator. Nick Melfi said that he would do that.

The old small arena in the old building will now be used only for auctions. They took out the bleachers and put in movie-theater type seats. This is where the auction will be held. Kit Hower and Frieda Goodrich volunteered (with stipulations) to be on the Show Committee. Lou DeVos will do the food again next year.

The terms of Alan Anderson, Nick Melfi, and Paul Connor

will end August 31 unless they run for re-election and are re-elected. Brandon Boyd and Kim DeVos are still on the board. The Nominating committee chairperson will be Alice Brown. Barb Nuessle will also be on the committee. A third person is needed and will be recruited.

It was decided to send \$3000 as a donation to Dr. Purdy and \$3000 to Dr. Anderson for the emergency notification system.

Educational seminars will be held free of charge at the farm show complex in January. People volunteering to man the booth at the farm show will be strictly volunteers. Andrea MacDonald will write an article for the Newsletter about the farm show. A list of interested people from the farm show needs to be made available. Andrea MacDonald made the motion for MaPaca to do the free Educational seminars at the PA Farm Show and Kim DeVos seconded the motion.

Minutes from the MaPaca meeting should go in the Newsletter.

A theme must be chosen for the 2004 Jubilee. If anyone has any suggestions, let Kit Hower or Frieda Goodrich know.

The Jubilee will be held the last weekend in April 2004.

Frieda Goodrich suggested that MaPaca use Able Publishing to do the Brochure for the Jubilee next year.

We have until July 15th to get the complete show committee chosen.

Kim DeVos will be the board liaison for Ads in the Jubilee brochure.

Kit Hower commented that the nominating committee must make sure when speaking to prospective MaPaca nominees, that they are willing to be at the Jubilee all 4 days.

Kim DeVos said we need a marketing chairperson for the Jubilee. We want to expand our marketing besides just in PA.

It was suggested by Andrea MacDonald that breeders offer their show fleeces for sale after the fleece show is completed. This could be advertised in spinning magazines. Also, we should do a fleece to shawl at the Jubilee.

The April edition of Vogue magazine features alpaca shawls selling to the rich and famous for \$1500.

The four months chosen to hold MaPaca meetings are January at the PA Farm Show, April at the Jubilee, June and September at member farms.

MaPaca Eastern Alpaca Jubilee Sponsors

DIAMOND

- 1. **Gail S. Campbell**, Ameripaca Alpaca Breeding Co. Inc., West River, MD;
- 2. **Diane & Mike Beaver**, Alpaca Ventures, Sidman, PA;
- 3. **Rebecca Black/Mitchell Rales**, Glenstone Farm, LLC, Potomac, MD;
- 4. **Bob & Lou Eustance**, French Hollow Alpacas, Bondville, VT;
- 5. **David & Laurie Feller**, Sunset Hills Farm, Butler, PA;
- 6. **Libby & Jerry Forstner**, Magical Farms, Inc., Litchfield, OH;
- 7. **Ed & Charlene Friedman**, Mountain Edge Alpacas, Boalsburg, PA;
- 8. **Mary Forte Goodman**, Mary's Alpacas, Miami, FL;
- 9. **Mike & Kim Harnett**, Heart's Desire Farm, LLC, Shinnston, WV;
- 10. **Robert & Louise Hebler**, Acorn Alpaca Ranch, LLC, Millis, MA;
- 11. **Connie Linn**, Linn Alpaca Suri Farm, Glen Mills, PA;
- 12. **Nick & Cristy Melfi**, Melfi Farm Alpacas, Hillsborough, NJ;
- 13. **Craig & Page Nitterhouse**, Shasta Springs Alpacas, Chambersburg, PA;
- 14. **Diane & Leon Rosenberg**, Meadowgate Farm Alpacas, Lawrenceville, NJ;
- 15. **Tim & Gwen Smith**, Smith-Haven Farm Alpacas, Flemington, NJ;
- 16. **Bud & Gail Stewart**, Rocky Run Alpacas, Malvern, PA;
- 17. **Mike & Robin Tierney**, Maple Brook Farm, Westfield, MA;
- 18. **Linda Berry Walker**, WoodsEdge Wools Farm, LLC, Stockton, NJ;

A Big Thank You to Our Diamond Sponsors!

PLATINUM

- 1. **Alan & Patti Anderson**, Wild Rose Suri Ranch, Havre de Grace, MD;
- 2. **Dennis Balbac/Monica Kline**, A Suri Farm, Myerstown, PA;
- 3. **Jim & Gini Barker**, Sweet Briar Suri Farm, Burton, OH;
- 4. **Stephanie & Mike Barnhart**, The Alpaca Trading Co., Uniontown, OH;
- 5. **Sharon Brown/Jim Webb**, Virginia Alpaca Breeding Co. Inc., McLean, VA;
- 6. **Marcel & Francie Carbone**, Keystone Alpacas, Aurora, OH;
- 7. **Bob & Lee Ciszewski**, Almost Heaven Alpacas & Guest House, Augusta, WV;
- 8. **Glen & Susan Cook**, Blue Ribbon Alpaca Breeding Co., Gaithersburg, MD;
- 9. **Tilly Dorsey**, DAFI Alpacas, Butler, MD;
- 10. **Ben & Lynda Fisco**, Humming Hill Suri Farm, Newbury, OH;
- 11. **Nancy Johanson**, Alpacas of Brookhollow Farm, Boonton, NJ;
- 12. **Carol Karsten**, Hidden Hill Farm Alpacas, Antrim, NH;
- 13. **Otto & Herta Kuczynski**, Donna & Al Elser, Thompson Hollow Alpacas, New Kingston, NY;
- 14. **John & Lauren LoVerde**, Fleecy Dale Farm, Lambertville, NJ;
- 15. **Tommy & Mendy Royster**, Crosswinds Farm Alpacas, LLC, Richmond, VA;
- 16. **Alan Clark/Hernan Torres**, Finca Alta Vista, Honesdale, PA;
- 17. **Kelly & Paul Zanella**, Spa Alpacas, Ballston Spa, NY;
- 18. **The Alpaca Group**, Andes Alpacas, Lightfoot Farm, Maple Brook Farm, Royal River Alpaca Farm, Skyview Alpacas.

A Big Thank You to Our Platinum Sponsors!

A Brief History of MaPaca

As Ernie Kellogg of Double "O" Good Alpacas, Gainesville, VA, shared with Alice Brown

MaPaca was founded in 1996 formally by Linda Berry Walker, Ernie Kellogg and 9 or 10 other founding members. The first MaPaca Jubilee was held on May 10, 1997 at the Double "O" Good Farm in Virginia, which was a Mother's Day weekend. Ernie says he remembers it well. That first Jubilee was attended by 32 breeders and there were 128 alpacas present, according to Ernie. He said, "That was one of the first alpaca shows ever, other than the AOBA conference."

The following two years, both 1998 and 1999, the MaPaca Jubilee was managed by Hugh Masters of Serenity Alpacas in Asbury, NJ. The show was held at the Sussex County Fair Grounds in Northern New Jersey. As Ernie remembers, both years were cold and rainy and about 32-36 breeders attended.

In 2000, Ernie Kellogg said he found the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and it was decided this would be a great place to host the MaPaca Jubilee. That first year at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex was actually the fourth MaPaca Jubilee. The show was attended by 120 breeders and 700 alpacas. In 2001, the fifth annual MaPaca Jubilee was attended by about 150 breeders and about 900 alpacas. The year 2002 saw the MaPaca Jubilee increase to about 254 breeders and about 1100-1200 alpacas. Ernie Kellogg managed the MaPaca Jubilee for those 3 years, 2000,2001, and 2002.

So, what does Ernie Kellogg have to say about this years MaPaca Jubilee, the Seventh Annual MaPaca Jubilee. Ernie said, "They did a very good job this year pulling things together." One suggestion from Ernie, "The directions to the Farm Show Complex need to be changed on the MaPaca web site to reflect the changes in the exit numbers."

Classified Ads:

(It was suggested that we offer a classified ad section in the MaPaca Newsletter for members ONLY! So, here you have it, the new MaPaca Newsletter Classified Ads. Any member may post an ad for alpaca and/or alpaca farm related equipment and items. The ad should include a one sentence description and contact information such as phone number and email. We will run your ad for one month, if you do not sell the item and wish to run it again, let me know. If we have the room we will run it again. This will be a free service to current MaPaca members ONLY. Please send your one line ads to Alice Brown 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ, 08360 or fpalpacas@aol.com or call 856-697-8127.)

1. Millcreek Manure Spreader, ground driven, 20 bushel \$600.00; John Deere 72" Bellymount Finish Mower \$1600.00; Snapper Walk Behind Mower \$300.00. Contact Nick Melfi, 908-369-3276 or

Watch for an up and coming article entitled, "What's in a Name?" Due to space constraints, I was not able to put the article in June's Newsletter. However, this feature story will be in a future issue, so watch for it!

—Thanks for your patience. Alice Brown

Editor's Ramblings:

Have you ever seen pictures of a sloth? Those slow-moving arboreal animals of the tropics that appear green due to growth of algae on their fur, seem to forebode what may happen to my alpacas if this rain keeps up. I don't mean to sound complaining after the drought of last summer, but it has been raining so much, I'm about sure my alpacas are starting to show signs of a greenish tint to their fleece. The poor things, having to stay in the barn so much this time of the year. I'm sure they had enough of the barn with all the snow this past winter. Now they are stuck in with the rain. When the rain stops, they venture out briefly, only to have it start raining again and they all make a mad dash for the barn again.

It has been so wet and humid that things don't have a chance to dry out between bouts of rain. Not only that, I have had a farm visitor cancel THREE times! And why is that? The rain every weekend. We rescheduled again for this coming Saturday at 3pm. At first the weather men were saying no rain on Saturday, but wouldn't you know, now they are calling for rain again on Saturday and Sunday! I'm sure this lady really wants to buy some alpacas, but at this rate she may never have the opportunity. Of course, who would want to buy green alpacas anyhow!!!!

I'm writing this article on the Friday before the MaPaca meeting at Nick Melfi's. I'm hoping that some of you will be there. We need input. MaPaca needs direction from it's members. We are growing larger as the alpaca community grows and MaPaca, I'm sure, wants to keep in stride with this growth. Molding an organization to best serve it's members is not a one man job, nor is it a five people job, it is a project that needs to glean ideas from each of it's members.

I'm hoping to meet some new faces at the meeting and perhaps some will share a story with me. I'm always looking for something to share with the other members. If you cannot make it to the MaPaca meeting, but you have a story for the Newsletter, please send it to me at fpalpacas@aol.com or phone me at 856-697-8127.

I hope you enjoy the article in this issue, "What's in a Name?" Alan Anderson sent me the suggestion for this article several months ago and

I've been thinking about it ever since. I just have not had the opportunity to follow through on his great idea. However, this month I was determined to write this story. I send out several emails to farms that had interesting farm names and those that were included in the article are those that wrote back to me and shared the story about the origins and meaning of their farm name. I want to thank those that responded. (Due to space constraints, this article will be in next months Newsletter.)

Just as this article was the brain child of some else, I would like to encourage you all to send me your ideas. Even if you don't have the time to write a particular article, if you send it to me I may be able to write it myself. So, please feel free to send me any and all article ideas that you may have and let me develop them. I would certainly be appreciative.

Do I sound like a semi-broken record? Probably, but if I had not sent emails out to 15 farms I would not have an article for this months newsletter. No one sent me anything and so I had to get things together myself for this months newsletter. It can be a little overwhelming when you have 8 blank pages to fill and no one else has sent you any contributions and it is all on you to fill those 8 pages.

As I understand it, and if the weather man is right (Yeah right!), we should dry out a little this coming week. Perhaps the algae that is growing behind my barn where the water tends to sit will dry up. I'm rather tired of walking through MUD!. And believe me, where I live it is hard to get mud as the soil is quit sandy! But we do have mud, lots of mud.

One good thing about all the rain is that it is making it much easier to get out stumps with our tractor, "OLE BLUE." "BLUE has been doing a lot of work. We used him today to pull out at least 20 small to medium sized stumps, and also to grade out part of the pasture that we are clearing. When the work was done and "BLUE" was safely tucked in in the garage, I patted him fondly and said, "Good job, Ole Blue." I'm really glad that he is not a "Couch tractor," and likes to work hard, just like Fred and myself.

Alice Brown

MaPaca Jubilee Fleece Show 2003

This year's Jubilee Fleece Show was the most successful Jubilee Fleece show ever! More entries, early finish, and printed show results available at the show! None of this could have been possible without the help of the wonderful, patient, eager volunteers. If any of you know these people, be sure to personally thank them. They are responsible, along with the other show volunteers, for making this year's Jubilee so successful.

Below is a list of those volunteers that signed the helper list. If I missed anyone, please forgive me!

Once again, thank you all for the long hours and effort you put into this year's fleece show!

First Name Last Name Farm Name

Chris Armstrong Calico Moon Alpacas

Christina M. Black Great Escape Alpaca Ranch LLC

Brandon Boyd The Double E Alpaca Farm

Pamela Buntten Rocky Run Alpacas

Amanda Buntten Rocky Run Alpacas

Julie Buntten Rocky Run Alpacas

Danielle Buntten Rocky Run Alpacas

Jacob Catt Three Sons Alpacas

Linda Cormier LSC Alpacas

Andrew DuVall Briar Rose Alpacas

Cheryl Gehly Criativity Alpacas

Cyndy Henry CoolCreek Alpaca Farm

Sandy Lawrence Adirondack Evergreen Alpacas

Ann Lemon White Lightning Farm

Chris Lewis Alpaca Advantage/Oxbow Farm

Alex MacDonald Leaping Lagomorph Rare Breeds

Dona Masters Andes Dandies LLC

Barbara Nuessle Bay Springs Farm Alpacas

Claudia Raessler Royal River Alpaca Farm LLC

Mike Six Morning Moon Alpacas

Keith Stem Briar Rose Alpacas

Pat Wagner

Sue Zelazny Andes Dandies LLC

Katie Zelazny Andes Dandies LLC

—*Andrea Mac Donald*



MaPaca Members Calendar of Events

This section of the Newsletter is for MaPaca members to announce their up and coming events. As you can see, no one sent me anything to include in this issue. Please, if you are having an event, send the information to me for inclusion in the Newsletter at fpalpacas@aol.com, or Alice Brown, 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ, 08360, or phone, 856-697-8127.



Do You Want to Advertise in the MaPaca Newsletter?

Please note change if your ad is on heavy paper!

Spring is here, get those Herdsire ads in! We will insert one-page ads for members in MaPaca Newsletters. Ads cost **\$40.00** for one 8 ½" by 11" ad, on 24 pound paper or less, if you supply **ALL** the copies (they can be in color and two sided if you like). If your ad is on heavier paper than 24 pound, the cost will now be **\$60.00**. If you would like us to copy your ad, supply us one copy and we will have it copied in black & white, one sided, for **\$70.00** total. Please send copies, **along with payment**, to Alice Brown, 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ 08360 by the **20th** of the month you want your ad inserted. Make check **payable to MaPaca** and include check with inserts. Any questions, email Alice Brown at **fpalpacas@aol.com**. Thank you!

Food for Thought

Do all the good you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

—John Wesley, *Rules of Conduct*

Camelid Veterinary News for the East Coast

A recent email from Dr. David Anderson shared some updated information about West Nile Virus (WNV). Phase I of a vaccine study has been completed by Dr. Anderson and Phase II of the vaccine study is underway. Dr. Anderson is also conducting an Epidemiology study. Though funds have been collected, more is needed in support of these two studies.

There have been 6-9 llamas and alpacas suspected of having WNV in the U.S. All llamas and alpacas known to be infected with WNV have died. The poor prognosis for treatment prompted interest in developing a vaccine. Fort Dodge Animal Health markets a vaccine for horses for WNV. The Fort Dodge vaccine is not labeled for use in camelids. Dr. Anderson hypothesized that the equine WNV vaccine would stimulate antibody production in camelids as well. A study was designed to determine the reaction to subcutaneous administration of the vaccine and to determine the antibody responses resulting from the vaccine. The study used 6 llamas and 8 alpacas. Each animal received vaccine according to the dosing instructions on the label for horses. Half of the animals received a booster dose 3 weeks after the

initial injection. Blood draws were conducted on days 0, 7, 14, 21, 28, 35, 42, and 70. The blood was tested by the National Veterinary Service Diagnostic Laboratory for virus neutralization (VN) assay. No VN was detected in 13 out of 14 camelids. The one animal that did have a positive VN peaked after the booster shot, but then it dropped 7 weeks after the booster. If the vaccine were used, it would need to be administered every 2-3 months during high-risk WNV season when mosquitoes are active. Phase II testing will evaluate the effectiveness of 3 dose vaccination and prolongation of serum antibody concentration through follow-up booster vaccination.

The epidemiology study of an alpaca herd with 140 alpacas that suffered a loss last year from WNV showed that 10% of the alpacas had antibodies to WNV. With only 1 animal showing clinical signs, this indicates that alpacas are relatively resistant to becoming infected and are relatively unlikely to develop clinical signs from the infection. Additional testing is underway to better understand the epidemiology of WNV and Dr. Anderson is testing more camelids. These current numbers are preliminary and more analysis is needed.

Comments
about the
Newsletter,
any
contribution
s, send to
Alice Brown
458 Main
Road,
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New Jersey
08360.

Sometimes you just
have to laugh at
yourself.

After all, we're all
funny at one time or
another! Some of us
more times than
others!

By Alice Brown



“Who’s leading who, anyhow?”

Alice Brown and Forever Precious Joya del Dorado.

Photo by Barbara Lane.