



MAPACA
Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

Newsletter

April, 2005

Volume 5, issue 4

President's Message:

Welcome to the Jubilee!

Your Board of Directors, Andy Schneider – the Jubilee Coordinator, Kit Hower, Jovi Larson, Frieda Goodrich, and all of the many volunteers who have helped put this event together once again, welcome you to the 9th Annual MAPACA Jubilee!

We hope many of you will also volunteer during the Jubilee if you hear announcements from time to time requesting volunteers. It's never too late to start and you'll be making life a little easier for the other volunteers. The more help we receive – the less time each has to contribute. Too often the volunteers don't get a chance to enjoy much of the Jubilee. Please lend a hand if you can – it also makes you feel good.

We truly hope you are able to enjoy

yourself, meet old friends, make new ones and above all have a great time. We all have so much to be thankful for, yet the trials and tribulations of our daily lives, too often, take the focus off the many things we have to be grateful for – not the least of which is the privilege of having these magnificent creatures in our daily lives.

On behalf of the MAPACA membership the Board has voted to contribute the entire proceeds from the silent auction and raffle to the Educational Memorial Fund in Stacy, Taylor and Dakota Wilkins names, in memory of Craig and Chase who lost their lives in a tragic accident. Please give even more generously than usual to support this very worthy cause. Some of our sponsors and donors have also assigned a portion of auction proceeds to the fund. Anything you do will be appreciated by this wonderful family.

In closing, Jubilee is another word for "Celebration". Enjoy yourselves and celebrate these wonderful alpacas that have so enriched our lives!

Paul Connor

Table of Contents

President's Message:	pg. 1
Jubilee Coordinator Message:	pg. 2-3
Jubilee Auction Liaison's Message:	pg. 3
How Alpacas Have Changed My Life:	pg. 4
The Warrior Princess:	pg. 4-5
Classified:	pg. 6
Calendar of Events:	pg. 7
Editor's Ramblings:	pg. 7
In Affectionate Retrospect:	pg. 8

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Jubilee Coordinator's Message:

Hello, MAPACA Members and Guests,

By the time you read this, you will either be at the show or packing up to go to the show. The 9th Annual MAPACA Eastern Alpaca Jubilee culminates almost a full year of hard work and planning on the part of many people in order to bring you this show.

I am happy to announce the MAPACA Board of Directors has unanimously approved donating **ALL** proceeds from this year's silent auction to the Wilkins Trust Fund. It was set up by Brad and Jandy Sprouse, with the help of Tim Vincent and some others, to help Stacy, Taylor, and Dakota after the horrible tragedy they suffered earlier this month. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mike, Janet, Stacy, Taylor, Dakota, all their families, friends and coworkers. Be sure to drop by the auction table and make some bids on the items that interest you, and since it's going for such a good cause, please bid a little higher, if you can. The entire alpaca community thanks you.

I'd like to thank everyone; volunteers, sponsors, vendors, speakers, and participants, for making this show what it is today, one of the largest and best shows in the industry. Space doesn't allow listing the dozens of volunteers who help in so many ways but I would like to recognize some who have performed major roles during the last several years. Nick and Cristy Melfi, Kit Hower, Frieda Goodrich, Jovi Larson, Alan Anderson, Gwen Smith, Ann Lemon, David Reder, Jess and Chris Armstrong, John (Sean) Sweeney, Arlene Gruter, Deb Hoff, George and Marian Sykes, and many others. Scott Gove, Nancy Johanson, and Rick Stumpf have been our volunteer announcers for as long as I can remember. They do an outstanding job. The Jubilee just wouldn't be the same with other voices coming through the PA system. Please give all of the volunteers a heart felt thanks for their hard work and dedication.

I'd also like to thank all of our sponsors. Many of are top level sponsors every year. Their support helps to make the show successful. I'd hate to think what pen prices would be without our sponsors. Please look at the sponsor lists posted around the complex and take time to

say thanks to them, too.

A big thank you goes out to our vendors, too. Many are here every year, offering their products and services for our convenience. Drop by their booths to shop and say "Hi."

Thanks goes to our guest speakers, also. They help us learn how to care for, market, show, and train our alpacas to greatest advantage. There's always a need for knowledge and our speakers address that need.

Last, but not least, thanks to our exhibitors. You're the reason we do all of this. Some of you have been on board since the very first show, even before it was called the Jubilee. Many participate every year and have never missed a show since they joined the industry. For some, it's the only show they go to all year.

Without all of the above mentioned groups, there just wouldn't be a show, period. Thanks to **EVERY-ONE** for making this one of the biggest and best shows in the alpaca industry. Finally, thanks for allowing me to serve you. Have a great show.

Andy Schneider

Ninth Annual MaPaca Jubilee 2005

Often referred to as one of the "largest alpaca shows in the world," the ninth annual MaPaca Jubilee is no exception.

Here are some of the statistics for Jubilee 2005:

Participating Farms: 410

Pen spaces sold: 836

Pizza Social: 727

Friday Night Dinner: 351 adults and 18 children

Auction Food: 845

3 Alpaca Donors

1 Breeding Donor

32 Diamond Sponsors

22 Platinum Sponsors

9 Gold Sponsors

13 Silver Sponsors

20 Bronze Sponsors

12 Show Sponsors

5 Championship Sponsors

148 Seminar Attendees

214 Fleece Entries

1595 Halter Entries.

MaPaca Auction Liaison Message:

If you're reading this, you finally found a moment to take a break, good for you. There's so much work to be done prior to going to a show. It looks as if we are headed for another great show and auction. After a brief review of the auction catalog, you can see what a great bunch of alpacas that will be available to you. All you have to do is bid. That's right, raise your hand, thumb your nose, wink or whatever it is that gives auction savvy, do it and have fun with it.

You may have heard me mention on many occasions why MaPaca has an auction, however, in case you haven't, I'll say it again. We are trying to create a level playing field for all breeders, large and small to sell their alpacas. If you want us to continue to bring you the annual MaPaca auction, it must be successful, so bid, bid, and bid some more.

I would like to mention that generosity of a few breeders who were willing to donate an animal to be sold with the proceeds to go to research which in turn will benefit us all, Alpacas de la Patagonia, Virginia Alpaca Breeding Company. And Smith Haven Farm. Our alpacas cost a bit of money and if we want our industry to continue to grow and remain strong, we must feed it. To all the donors, I say "Thank You." Thank you for helping to create funding for research that will someday help our alpacas. When you see these breeders, make sure that you thank them.

In closing, I wish you all the best of luck in the show and in the auction ring. See you at the show!

Nick Melfi

Thank You To Our Auction Animal Donors!

Sharon Brown & James Webb—Virginia

Alpaca Farm & Breeding Company

Tim & Gwen Smith—

Smith Haven Farms

Karen Byram & Hugo Ulloa—

Alpacas de la Patagonia

Breeding donated by:

Jack and Jill Reinhart:

How Alpacas Have Changed My Life

By Sharon Roberts of Camillo Valley Alpacas,
King George, VA

Yuk! Sounds like the title of a really bad essay one of my long-ago seventh graders might have written. That title, however, has some validity – some aspects of my life have changed since living with these incredible animals. For instance...

My diet... Chocolate covered peanuts and raisins will *never* appeal to me again. As a matter of fact, chocolate, chunky ANYTHING is pretty much off my food list!

My personality... I love to smile. Those first few weeks after trading 138 high school students for a handful of alpacas, I smiled a lot, especially in the mornings while I scooped poop. It was hard not to. But...I don't smile or laugh aloud while scooping poop anymore, and for pretty much the same reason chocolate is off my diet.

My exercise regimen... there is no longer any need for expensive gym memberships or exercise machines. The BSSD (bend-scoop-spin-dump) daily cardio workout is doing just fine. Throw in the occasional *CDR (climb-drop-run) aerobic exercise and you have the perfect regimen. **The CDR is only used when 2 or more hormonal males challenge one another; the bugling, ear-piercing screams instantly alarm me, my husband, and the neighbors. Remember, we're all still new at this!*

My wardrobe... I get to wear the same outfit three days or more in a row. (I just store it in a hamper for farm clothes only). I traded dresses, dress shoes, stockings, slippers, and suits for faded, tattered, stained jeans that got that way naturally at no extra charge, and a pair of ugly but comfortable rubber work boots. And I save a bunch of money on dry cleaning too!

So, let's add it all up.

- o Cost of chocolate
- o Cost of diet pills to counteract chocolate in diet
- o Cost of gym membership
- o Cost of going to gym
- o Cost of exercise equipment cause I got tired of going to the gym
- o Dry cleaning bill
- o Cost of no-name jeans and rubber boots versus dresses, stockings, suits, dress shoes

Look at that. I 'm already making money and don't have an alpaca to sell yet! What a life!

"The Warrior Princess"

By Jane-Alexandra Krehbiel
Crow Hill Farm, Hadensville, VA

We had high hopes for our alpacas in 1999 when we bought the first five alpacas from two different breeders. Our farm was ninety acres and it seemed that the sky was the limit. Sadly, one of our four children developed ulcerative colitis in 2001 and became very ill and was disabled. Taking our son to a variety of major medical centers in the US and paying for numerous hospitalizations left us financially challenged as well as demoralized. The alpaca operation therefore took a back seat, despite the fact that the ones we have are cherished family members. As a result, only three alpacas have been born here since that time. One male has grown to maturity, one was a beautiful premature chocolate female who died after a few days, and the last one is Camellia who was born the last day of September in 2004. We therefore lack experience, but not commitment and respect for these remarkable creatures who double also as our exercise program and sanity plan.

Camellia was 17 pounds and full black, born to Mr. Ditto II and Queen Isabelle II, an absolute gorgeous girl with the attitude to boot. Her dam's milk was slow, I think due to the pine needles Mom ate which unfortunately fell the week this cria was born. (Live and learn)

Cammie did not nurse well, and didn't defecate or urinate as much as we understand is normal. She was therefore given goat colostrum and watched carefully. Our farm vet decided that Cammie should receive a transfusion in order to ensure a competent immune system, and that she should be supplemented. She received a CDT shot and I think a BoSe. Our farm vet wondered if this cria had also been a little early. Cammie also liked to chew on hay right from the day she was born.

We quickly fell into a pattern of constipation about every three days with distention. We would give half a fleets enema, she would go, and then fill up again. We were concerned and our farm vet worried that there was something fundamentally wrong with her. She also wouldn't nurse or drink from a bottle easily, spending whatever energy she had avoiding us. Sometimes, Mom would ignore her.

(Continued on page 5.)

(Continued from page 4.)

We were not prepared to let nature take its course simply because we had lost a cria last year and regretted not running the mile at that time. We of course, tried everything the farm vet thought might help.....changing formula, using goats milk, adding sugar syrup, increasing water in formula, feeding electrolyte solution alternating with formula. We even added mineral oil to each bottle, and then tried olive oil. We even added magnesium to each bottle. The constipation persisted and ultimately resulted in intermittent colic. We offered high fiber grain. She would shift from side to side, moaning, and rest with her head stretched completely out. Once we found her with foam exiting her nose and mouth, and once we found her in the same position we found her dead sister, the year before. Our vet left injections of flunixin for the pain for her, and we would give electrolyte solution via bottle when we could. We eventually brought her in the house and let her sleep on a towel at the foot of the bed. She was so ill, she didn't care. We cried a great deal. This cria seemed to symbolize all the bad luck we have had since 1999. We are very fortunate in many ways, but it seems we also have very bad luck sometimes. We considered euthanizing her and our vet discussed it with us and let us select when this would be done.

On the day after Thanksgiving, we called a camelid vet in our state in the hopes that we had missed something. He asked how much mineral oil we had given her, and we told him that we added 5cc to each bottle. He told us that although he agreed that something complex may be fundamentally wrong with the digestive system of this cria, that we should administer 3 FULL OUNCES of mineral oil to her (for a 25 pound cria). I asked how do you do that ? I would never have considered this. (As an RN, I would never have given such a dose for a full grown human!) The vet said that we should add Karo syrup. It took my husband an hour to administer it. She was in considerable discomfort and we followed it with a flunixin injection.

The following day she not only defecated, but a large plug of undigested fibrous hay was expelled. Even in such a weakened condition, she got up and frolicked! She has continued to improve and grow ever since. Two weeks later, she remains a picky eater preferring to nurse from Mom when possible,

despite the fact that Mom probably doesn't have adequate milk as a result of eight weeks of intermittent teat use. She LOVES high fiber grain. She is energetic, bright, and happy and has been embraced by the herd. At two months, she is just a shade over 30 pounds, but is gaining fast. She defecates frequently and normally, although we rarely see her drink water.

I think that we have learned that it is important to try all we can when faced with such a situation. Certainly, often we will lose, but sometimes we win. It's also important to realize that although some things applicable to other mammals apply, that some things certainly do not! Cammie joins a herd which totals eight and they are all thrilled to have her. When she was so ill, the entire herd was palpably depressed. When she is big enough, we will register this girl as " CHF Warrior Princess Camellia". Thus far she has certainly lived up to her name.

Editor's Note:

My thanks to Jane-Alexandra for sharing her touching story of the Warrior Princess Camellia. I would just like to mention that what worked for this breeder should not be taken as medical advice for any other cria. If you have a cria exhibiting signs similar to what happened with little Camellia, please contact your veterinarian. What works in one case, may not work in another as all circumstances are unique. However, this story can be shared with your veterinarian as it is always good to be made aware of success stories.

Don't Forget!

MaPaca General Membership Meeting

**April 21, 2005
at the Jubilee**

**TIME: 6:30 PM right after the
pizza social**

MaPaca Meeting Schedule for 2005

**April 21, 2005 (At the Jubilee,
6:30PM after the pizza social.)**

July 17, 2005

October 16, 2005*

***Please mark your calendars for these dates and plan to attend. Watch the Newsletter and the web site for announcement of the meeting locations, as the locations will vary.**

Do You Want to Advertise in the MaPaca Newsletter?

No ads will be accepted that include the PRICE of animals for sale. Stud Service prices are acceptable.

We will insert one-page ads for members in MaPaca Newsletters. Ads cost **\$40.00** for one 8 1/2" 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 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.

If you know any business that sells products or services relating to alpacas or farming in general that would benefit alpaca farmers, that would like to place an insert AD in the MaPaca Newsletter, you can recommend them if you are an existing Lifetime MaPaca Member. The costs for businesses would be an additional **\$100.00** added on to the regular member fee for an insert AD. Thus it would be either **\$140.00, \$160.00, or \$170.00**. 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.

If you have any questions, email Alice Brown at fpalpacas@aol.com or give me a call at—**856-697-8127**.

Classified Ads:

Any member may post an ad for alpaca and/or alpaca farm related equipment and items. The ad may include a one sentence description and contact information.. We will run your ad for one month, if you do not sell the item and wish to run it again, let me know. This will be a free service to current MaPaca members ONLY. Please send your ads to Alice Brown, 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ, 08360 or fpalpacas@aol.com or call 856-697-8127.

1. Announcing **The Blue Ribbon Alpaca** by Susan Rosche (Pax River Alpacas). A delightful, beautifully illustrated, hard-cover children's book that promotes the alpaca. The story of an alpaca, her jealous companions, her awesome fleece and the children who love her. \$18.,95. Bulk discounts available. **Information at <http://www.paxriveralpacas.com/> .**
2. Alpaca Art on Egyptian Papyrus. Unique. Original or custom designs. Reasonable prices. Additional information and samples at **<http://www.paxriveralpacas.com/> .**
3. **Going My Way? - A Suri Farm, Ltd.** Has trailer space available for anyone needing transport to the following shows: North American Alpaca Show, Springfield, MA March 31-April 3, 2005 and The Futurity Show and Sale, Indianapolis, In., April 15-18, 2005. **For details contact A Suri Farm - Dogandcatnuts@aol.com or 717-514-0022.**
4. **Get 2004 prices on alpaca chutes, scales, panels, gates, shearing tables, shirting trays, and "hay saver" feeders** for pick-up at the 2005 MaPaca Jubilee when ordered by March 31 at Allegheny Alpacas. Visit www.AllAlpacas.com or call 724-940-4045.



Calendar of Events

May 7-8, 2005: Fifth Annual

"Everything's Coming Up Alpacas," Ballston Spa, NY (30 minutes North of Albany) Join Kelly and Paul Zanella of Spa Alpacas and guest speakers as they share their alpaca knowledge and experience. Seminar on Saturday, May 7th from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Reservations required. \$90 per person or \$160 per couple (includes continental breakfast, lunch and presentation booklet). Open House on Sunday, May 8th 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (rain or shine). Contact: Kelly & Paul Zanella

(518) 885-0585, pjzanella@aol.com
or www.spaalpacas.com.

May 13-15, 2005—Star Events' 2005

Spring Fling Alpaca & Llama Auction, WoodsEdge Wools Farm, Stockton, NJ. The Spring Fling will feature the Suri Symposium II on May 13. The Spring Fling Auction on May 14 will have a group of spectacular animals from across North America. Take part in the Shearing Festival to be held on May 15. Free educational seminars by industry professionals and world class entertainment. For more information contact Star Events at (609) 397-2212 or www.stareventsllc.com.

June 5, 2005—Alpaca Heritage Bare Naked Halter Show and Sale—For Shorn Alpacas Only! Springfield Veterans Memorial Park, Springfield, NJ. Entries limited to 60 alpacas. Judge: Judith Korff. Only \$50/alpaca. Limit 4 entries per farm. **Entries close April 15, 2005.** A Hot Show for Cool Alpacas!! Go to: www.AlpacaHeritage.com for more information or contact Ingrid Wood, Show Superintendent at 609-261-0696 or alpacas@uscom.com. *

***Please note:** Notice of change for the Alpaca Heritage Bare Naked Show—Scott McKelvie will be in charge of the catalog. Please contact Scott if you wish to advertise.

Editor's Ramblings:

The March winds have about blown themselves out as the sun's warmth and April's rains are making the grass sprout green and lush. The alpacas are happy to venture out into the open pastures and I often find myself joining them, despite the many other things that must be done. Stretching out on the warm grass in the sunlight is a very attractive occupation. It gives me some time to observe the crias kicking, turning, shifting within their mother's wombs. What hidden surprise is in store, I wonder as I watch in awe.

In this time of new life emergence, we find ourselves struck with the beauty of why we chose to bring alpacas into our lives in the first place. No matter how busy we may be in preparation for, traveling to, or being at shows, the most poignant moments of spring come when see a little nose first emerging from its safe warm residence of the last eleven and a half months. As the little one makes its entrance into the world, we marvel yet again at the wonder of creation and how it never ceases to touch our innermost selves. I for one vote for taking the time to enjoy these moments and allow the new little life to work its magic on us and bring us that special spark that envelopes us once again, as we experience the miracles of birth on our farms.

I hope to see you all at the Jubilee in a few days. Please don't forget to come to the General Membership meeting on Thursday evening directly following the pizza and salad social at 6:30 PM. I look forward to seeing many old friends and making many new friends as well.

If you have an article to share with me for the Newsletter, please do. I am always looking for more interesting things to print. I have a small backlog of articles, but I always appreciate hearing from members who would like to share an article with the membership. So, please don't feel shy.

I am once again the Chairperson of the Nomination committee. I am looking for people who would like to run for the Board of directors. If anyone is interested in running, please let me know at the Jubilee. I will need candidates to run for the election. Nick Melfi is running for reelection. Nancy Johanson has chosen not to run for reelection. Paul Connor and Jovi Larson are undecided as of this writing. Thus I will need at least five candidates to go on the election ballot. If you have a talent that would benefit the BOD, please let me know.

I just heard about the tragic vehicle accident that resulted in the death of Craig and Chase Wilkins. I would personally like to extend my sincere condolences to the family who are left behind to grieve. Such a sad day for all of them and for the alpaca and llama communities. Sincerely, Alice

In Affectionate Retrospect

By Joyce Lundquist of Valley Forge Alpacas,
Radnor, PA

Before we walk into the sunset, Chuck and I want to share some thoughts with all of you about our alpaca experience. As of the end of the year, we will officially be ex-breeders.....not due to loss of interest or even a new found interest.....but due to some physical and family imperatives that make being full time farmers really out of the question for now.

One special aspect of our alpaca enterprise has been the unexpected joy we discovered in learning something totally new together after being married for 45 years. Sure, we had learned "this and that" over time as all of us do just by being alive and raising a family and participating in various organizations and events. But rounding up our original herd members, getting our farm area and equipment ready and then finding so many projects necessary to the animal's well being became such fun! We learned that we could really share both the "brain" and "brawn" power and relished hearing the advise and experiences of others....especially from Gail and Bud Stewart (we can't forget their extraordi-

nary granddaughters) and Ann and Paul Connor, from whom we bought our first animals. They were never too busy to help us. Our daughter and her husband, who graciously donated some of their land to make our dream come true, pitched in, encouraged and came to our aid more times than we can begin to acknowledge.

We went on to host three Alpaca Appreciation Days over our six years in the business. The final one attracted several hundred visitors. After a while, we realized that we had become the ones offering support and advise and felt as though we had graduated to a new level while still depending on the wisdom of others. Our veterinarians, Tom Loreto and Wendy Freeman, showed us how to be calm in a crisis and how to value our own instincts in routine matters.

Above all, we grew to know and love our alpacas. Every time we made a sale, we were able to make sure that the buyers would respect and care for their new animals with the same enthusiasm and interest as we had. We are privileged to have attracted fabulous folks to our farm who made decisions to purchase our stock and it has made each transaction a happy occasion and void of any dreaded separation anxiety.

Nurturing our crias, planning a breeding pro-

gram, sitting on a bench at the end of the day just soaking up the loveliness of the herd in the fields all have brought untold pleasure!

May each one of you find the peace and prosperity that we have gratefully received from being part of the alpaca world. There is nothing quite like it!

Editor's Note:

I just wanted to add that Joyce and Chuck Lundquist are two of the sweetest people that I have come across in the alpaca business. I will miss seeing their smiling faces at the Jubilee this year. However, I know that their decision to move on from the alpaca business was not made lightly. I know many would agree with me that we all are happy that they spent those six years with us, enjoying alpacas together. I'm sure that alpacas will always be in their hearts, no matter what they may be doing in the sunset of their lives. Love you guys! Alice

Comments
about the
Newsletter,
or any
contri-
butions,
send to
Alice
Brown at
fpalpacas
@aol.com.

Animals are reliable, many full of love, true in their affections, predictable in their actions, grateful and loyal. Difficult standards for people to live up to.

--Alfred A. Montapert