



MAPACA

Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

Newsletter

February 2007

Volume 7, issue 2

President's Message:

There's so much happening inside MAPACA these days it's hard to focus on just one project to tell you about. As we look forward to the spring show season, the Jubilee is on everyone's minds. Monica Kline and Anne Hallinan are hard at work redesigning and enlarging our area at the Show Complex to give us even more stall space! And yes there will be SOD! Registration will again be by snail mail this year, but be prepared... next year we're looking to online registration. Don't forget to get your show string tested for BVDV NOW! A negative PCR or VI is the only method of testing that will get your animals into the Jubilee. **BRING AN EXTRA COPY OF YOUR HEALTH PAPERS TO TURN INTO THE SHOW.** AOBA requires a copy of all paperwork be retained by the Show Superintendent.

At the January 27th meeting in Baltimore we announced the formation of committees. These small groups will help facilitate the goals of MAPACA and insure that the needs of our membership are met. A partial list of committees includes: newsletter, website, education, membership, fiber, fundraising for charity and research, and more. Our goal is to have a representative from each state on as many committees as possible. If you have any interest in any committee please volunteer. Expertise is not required; we look forward to seeing new faces and meeting new people. Bring your smile, your energy and ideas. Get involved! You want to know more about fiber? Volunteer to be on the

committee. You want a clinic on handling? Get on the education committee.

There are a few issues the Board has been dealing with since its inception in October that you may not be aware of. MAPACA is currently undergoing an IRS audit for the year 2003. We have secured a firm to assist us with the audit and will keep you informed as we go along. MAPACA has retained the services of an accountant since 2004 to guide us with our finances and prepare our tax returns annually. As MAPACA enters its second decade, it has become apparent that some of the original paperwork may have become lost through the years. The previous Board took the initial steps to correct this situation and update our corporation papers. We are following through on their work and will see to it that this project is completed.

Remember to support your state organization, if you are not a member become one, if your state doesn't have an organization consider starting one. MAPACA wants to work with the state groups co-sponsoring events at the state level to insure the health and future of our industry.

Hang in there, Spring is right around the corner!

Carol Pfister
President

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The MAPACA Board of Directors would like to keep members abreast of current educational opportunities. There are two national educational events coming up this year that deserve our attention, advocacy and promotion: The Oregon State University Camelid Health Conference; and, the University of Massachusetts (Amherst, Steve Purdy) Camelid Health Conference. The vet portion of the Purdy seminar is FREE to vets and vet students on Friday at the Turning Stone Resort Casino in NY. Please everyone, tell your vets and other farms about these opportunities. For further information on these events:

<http://www.oregonvma.org/services/ovc.asp#camelid>

<http://www.umass.edu/vasci/faculty/purdy/purdy>

MaPaca Board of Directors

- President:** Carol Pfister
Whirlybird Alpacas, NJ
(908) 303-3670
carol@whirlybirdalpacas.com
- Vice-President:** Bob Ciszewski
Almost Heaven Alpacas, WV
(304) 496-1073
almsthvn@frontiernet.net
- Secretary:** Wayne Robinson
Emelise Alpacas, NJ
(908) 537-7935
info@emelisealpacas.com
- Members at Large:** Chuck Gulotta
Arcadia Hollow Alpaca Farm,
MD
(410) 374-6649
gulotta@kennedykrieger.org
- Monica Kline
a Suri Farm, Ltd., PA
(717) 933-9922
info@asurifarm.com
- David Moran
Crimson Shamrock Alpacas,
WV
(304) 735-6128
dddmoran@aol.com
- Kathy Schwartz
Blue Earth River Farm Alpacas,
VA
(540) 234-0306
simplyalpaca@aol.com
- Newsletter Editor:** Alice Brown
Forever Precious Alpacas, NJ
(856) 697-8127
fpalpacas@aol.com



Due to AOBA Show Committee rule changes and other circumstances, we do not have a firm registration start up date as of the printing time of this Newsletter. However, Please check the MAPACA website at www.mapaca.org/jubilee/ regularly for registration information.

New this year!

As an added service to you, we have set up a special hotel reservation number. One toll free phone call to make your Jubilee hotel reservation at any hotel on the list!

Using this number will:

- Ensure you receive the special Jubilee room rate
- Guarantee MAPACA gets credit for your reservation
- Inform you of alternate available choices if your first choice is already full

By staying at a hotel with special MAPACA Jubilee rates, you help the association track the value of our show to the community which helps us secure lower room rates for you in the future.

Please call **1-877-PA-PULSE (877-727-8573)** to make your reservation now!

A complete list of participating hotels is on the Jubilee website.

Anne Hallinan

The following article was submitted by a MAPACA member. It is being printed in its entirety at the request of the author. It is not to be construed as the opinion of the MAPACA Board of Directors nor that of all MAPACA Members. Those wishing to express an alternative or a supportive viewpoint are welcome to submit their article for inclusion in a future issue of the MAPACA Newsletter.

United We Stand!

By *Ingrid Wood, Stormwind Alpacas, Columbus, NJ*
November 2006

Most fledgling livestock breeders recognize very quickly that breed organizations serve as a tremendous business resource. Educational opportunities and advice with marketing are often available merely for the asking or modest fees. Registries facilitate a systematic approach to breeding decisions and are the guardians of a breed's history. Additionally, the social fabric of such organizations is often of equal importance. Within their framework, formed friendships and business connections can help to spell success for new as well as established livestock operations.

Alpaca breeders recognize and enjoy the benefits of their memberships in the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA) and the Alpaca Registry Incorporated (ARI). Voluntary compliance with the relatively costly DNA verification of breeding stock is high. Such a level of participation is not always the case in other livestock industries, and it may be wise for alpaca breeders to examine the reasons for this.

Sheep and goat breeds, for example, are usually divided into registered and non-registered stock. Aside from financial considerations, breeders sometimes make a conscious decision to choose less expensive, non-registered stock based on perceived or real superior health and vigor. Several years ago, an issue of *Lancaster Farming* featured a Pennsylvania couple starting out as sheep breeders. After considerable research and discussion, husband and wife agreed that non-registered stock fit their management and marketing objectives. As I recall, they ran a flock of several hundred sheep on their farm, a serious breeding operation by East Coast standards. Their decision to manage their sheep in a rotational grazing system without supplemental grain played a large part in their selection of non-registered stock. The sheep show ring, with its well defined breed standards, often rewards a lean body with a small stomach, not a trait conducive to grass based rearing.

North America currently has only a miniscule number of non-registered alpaca herds. What will happen once a breed standard establishes a rather narrow definition of the "perfect" alpaca? Nobody has a crystal ball, but common sense tells me that alpaca breeders will follow the example set by many other livestock industries. The breeders whose alpacas don't fit the description of the standard will feel disenfranchised. They will immediately recognize the absurdity of paying membership and/or registration fees to organizations whose definition

of "quality" devalues their own animals. While some will undoubtedly move on to breed non-registered alpacas, others will form and/or join a new registry which will serve their needs. Eventually, we will have multiple registries, each based on a specific phenotype such as color, patterns, fleece type, behavioral traits, and many other variables. From the animals' standpoint, this is not necessarily bad. Multiple registries with differentiated breeding objectives ensure genetic diversity, not always within each registry group but for the population as a whole. Members of various registries may choose to cross breed their animals. This may result in yet another new phenotype and an additional registry.

On the minus side, multiple registries are financially wasteful and inefficient. I pointed out in a previous article that alpaca breeders currently enjoy the best of both worlds. We can select from and market a variety of phenotypes but have the benefit of one cohesive registry and marketing association.

Don't be so sure that those who own "high-end" alpacas will profit financially from a breed standard. Success of a business is measured by its profits rather than its income. Mull that little economic truism over in your head and think of the expenses involved in entering and then *staying* in the high-end market, especially once you're competing with large numbers of breeders offering non-registered animals for sale. I predict that breeders with ARI registered alpacas will lose many potential buyers to farms with non-registered animals or those recognized by alternative registries. The "alpaca lifestyle" need not include ARI certificates. Spinners and other fiber artists recognize real fiber value – they don't give a hoot whether the alpaca they purchase a fleece from is registered or not. They also don't care about the phenotype of the alpaca that produced the fiber. The successful cashmere fiber industry serves as an excellent example in support of that statement.

As alpaca breeders, we stand at a crossroads. The debates over a standard, despite some rancor and hurt feelings, have been healthy for our personal and collective intellectual growth. They force us to learn and think. Now is the time to act. If you feel, as I do, that an alpaca breed standard carries more negatives than positives, then speak up! Say a firm *no* to reduced genetic diversity, *no* to undervalued stock, *no* to multiple registries, *no* to lack of unity and cohesion, *no* to the few imposing their will on many, *no* to repeating the follies of other livestock groups, *no* to the arrogance of those who believe that the only "good" alpaca is the one they put their own stamp of approval on, *no* to an alpaca standard now and in the future! Say *yes* to keeping our genetic and business options open. Say *yes* to respecting the wishes of the majority! A breed standard is *not* "inevitable". Demand to be heard. United we stand!

This article may be distributed only in its entirety. If you are interested in a PowerPoint presentation regarding a proposed alpaca breed standard, contact Ingrid Wood at 609-261-0696 or email: stormwindalpacas@comcast.net

Predators! (Part III)

By Tamara Taylor

HEALTH

Nowadays health care for dogs is more convenient than it used to be, and health care for livestock guardians may be even more important than for family pets. These dogs are more likely to be exposed to diseases carried by wild animals. Rabies is certainly a serious concern throughout the U.S. today. Likewise, canine parvo virus is often carried by coyotes and can be devastating. Annual vaccinations are a must. Heartworm is another genuine health threat, which can easily be avoided with a preventive once-a-month treatment.

Because all of the livestock guarding breeds are large, hip dysplasia is always a concern. Most livestock guard dog breeders have their breeding dogs tested for hip abnormalities with OFA (the Orthopedic Foundation of America) or the Genetic Disease Control Center in Davis, California. However, all too often people who simply decide to raise a litter or two do not. Canine hip dysplasia can be a completely disabling condition and is certainly one that every livestock guard dog owner should be aware of.

The best recommendation is to research the breed you are interested in. Write to the registering association (many of these breeds are not registered with AKC). Talk to your veterinarian, breeders, and owners. Then pick a breeder that inspires confidence. Talk to them about specific health concerns or genetic problems with hips, shoulders, or eyes. In general, however, the livestock guardians are relatively free of genetic problems. That is due to the fact that any condition which hampered a dog in its guarding quickly lead to the elimination of the dog. This was certainly true in their own countries and is still true of dogs on range today in this country.

AGGRESSION

While livestock guardians are "guard dogs" in a sense, most of them regard their role as a preventive, defensive one rather than an aggressive, offensive one. Just the presence of a large, less than friendly canine will deter most intruders — human or animal. These breeds tend to be slow to mature; thus, a young dog that is very aggressive towards people or other dogs is not desirable. Imagine what he (or she) will be like at the age of maturity when a real sense of protection and territory has developed. However, even pups as young as three months will bark at changes in

their environment or intruders in their territory.

SUCCESS

Just as with livestock, management goes far toward determining the success of the livestock guardian, and the herdowner is a great determiner in that equation. Just as a sheep or goat producer must understand certain basics about the needs and behavior of his stock, the owner of a livestock guarding dog must understand his dogs. It is important to remember that many of these breeds are long-lived, some reaching the age of thirteen or fourteen years. Thus, an investment in a livestock guardian is a long term investment and commitment, one that should profit the herdowner and the livestock guardian, as well as the livestock.

A NEW DIMENSION

Today the reintroduction of native predators into many areas where they have long been absent has added a new dimension to stock keeping. Residents in many areas are having to re-evaluate how they do things on a daily basis. Carol Wood, a Tatra breeder, recently received a call from a fellow Washington resident who runs a Tatra with his cashmere goats. He reported wolves were making their presence known in his area, in an area where they had not existed for decades. "I know they are wolves; they don't hunt like coyotes, and they don't sound like coyotes. I have seen them. They are wolves, and I need at least one more livestock guard dog."

The mountain lion or cougar is increasing in numbers in various parts of the country thanks to the often controversial efforts of conservationists. Livestock guardians have long been used to protect sheep and goats. Larry Alien, a Colorado sheep man, says that one year he lost over ten thousand dollars of lambs to mountain lion on his winter range in Utah, but putting Akbash Dog guardians with the herd reduced losses dramatically. It is now unusual for him to have a lion kill. Another threat to stock is certain birds of prey. Livestock guardians have proved to be affective against Eagle attacks in Texas and Montana, when the sheep and goats are confined to a pasture rather than running on range.

No one can predict what the future of the livestock guardians will be. At a time when many sheep producers are cutting back operations, alternative livestock producers are discovering these incredible dogs. Today there are more livestock guard dogs working than ever before. The demand for guardians has increased and the level of public awareness has benefited the dogs, their charges, the livestock owners, and even the Ani-

(Continued on page 5.)

(Continued from page 4.)

mal Damage Control, whose livestock guarding dog program has often faced opposition from advocates of the old-time "poison 'em and trap 'em" school of predator control. Livestock owners, however, are not the only people with a growing interest in livestock guardians. With mountain lion attacks on local residents and campers being reported in states as widespread as Montana, California, Texas, and Washington, guard dog breeders are reporting more inquiries coming from people who live in rural areas or who spend a great deal of time out of doors in those areas.

Many people have discovered that livestock guardians are for flock, farm, and family. As one experienced livestock guard dog owner commented, "Livestock guard dogs are not for everybody. I am one of the lucky ones. They are for me."

Sources and further reading:

1. The Monks of New Skete. *How to Be Your Dog's Best Friend: a Training Manual for Dog Owners.* Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1978.
2. Nelson, D. and J. Akbash *Dog: a Turkish Breed for Home and Agriculture.* Wilmington, Delaware: Akbash Dog Association International, Inc., 1983.
3. Wilcox, Bonnie, DVM and Chris Walkowicz. *The Atlas of Dog Breeds of the World.* Neptune City, NJ: T.F.H. Publications, Inc., 1989.
4. USDA APHIS, ADC Agricultural Bulletin No. 588 *Livestock Guarding Dogs: Protecting Sheep from Predators.* (Also video).

Tamara Taylor
Patteran Akbash Dogs since 1985
a foundation kennel
2355 County Road 332
Era TX 76238
940-726-3555

BREEDS	ORIGIN
AKBASH DOG	Turkey
MAREMMA	Italy
KOMONDOR**	Hungary
KUVASZ	Hungary
GREAT PYRENEES	France
TATRA	Poland
TCHOUVATCH	Poland

**Probably not related to the other white breeds listed here; its related breeds seem to be the Old English

Editor's Ramblings:

As a child I learned a philosophy that has served me well in adulthood. I learned that as the Declaration of Independence states, "All men are created equal." Yup, I really think that each and every person is unique but equal, each with their own set of talents and yes, short comings. We are all in the same boat. You might wonder what that has to do with alpacas.

Recently our two geldings went off their feed. This called for major detective work on my part to figure out what was going on. Should I spend less time with them because they are only "geldings." Not in my opinion. In a few days we had the one problem figured out and cleared up. The other fellow is taking more time. We finally decided he was impacted and we treated him accordingly. The vet came out to draw blood to make sure there was no enteritis. He is much better now, and he seems very grateful to not be in pain anymore.

I'm sure if it had been one of my girls having these problems it would have been much more stressful, but I'm happy that I have the philosophy that I developed as a child and gave my little old geldings the time and veterinary attention that they needed.

Another issue that I have been dealing with is that of the AOBA proposed Breed Standard. I hope all of you have taken the time to read through the material that the Ad Hoc Peer Review Committee for Proposed Breed Standards sent out. Apparently a second mailing will follow after they have compiled the information that was sent to them in response to the first mailing. When you receive your second mailing, make sure that you again take the time to read it carefully. If you have any comments, let the Ad Hoc Committee know, or let the AOBA Board know what your thoughts are. Even if you feel that you don't know enough to make an informed decision, let them know. If you are for or against Breed Standards in general, let them know. If you have comments to make about the Proposed Breed Standard, let them know. I encourage all to not be complacent, thinking, "they are going to do whatever they are going to do and my opinion or thoughts do not matter." That is not true. The thoughts of each one of us do matter, and each of us can make a difference.

I'd like to remind any that may have forgotten, to please send in your MAPACA Renewal for 2007. Also, we have the special issue of the Newsletter coming up for April and I would love to have an upbeat article discussing the joys of raising alpacas for that issue. Please let me know if you would be interested in writing such an article.

I will be reporting on the January 27, 2007 General Membership Meeting in the next Newsletter.

Best, Alice Brown



Welcome Our New MAPACA Members!

Cindi Hassrick, Aurora, Ivyland, PA

**Kristie & Brion Smoker, Sweet Valley
Suris, Annville, PA**

**Tim & Debbie McCarty, Heather's
Acre Alpaca Farm, Jackson Center,
PA**

**Jackie Mathiason, Alpaca Road,
LLC, Ridgely, MD**

**JoAnn Wood, Fishwood Farm Alpacas,
Concord, VA**

**Lynn & Bob Blake, Mayhem Farm,
Winchester, VA**

**Barb & Tim Hartsough, Hart-So-Big
Alpaca Farm, Wellsville, PA**

**Roy & Patty Gray, Augusta Alpacas,
Mount Solon, VA**

**Judith Simpson, Endless Mountain
Alpacas, New Milford, PA**

**John & Selina Rose, Brass Ring Alpacas,
Newfield, NJ**

**Joan & Phil Bini, Butterfly Hill Alpacas,
Lincoln University, PA**

**Scott & Monique Johnson, Sweet
Home Alpacas, Paeonian Springs, VA**

Jubilee Silent Auction!

Deadline: April 10, 2007

Calling all MAPACA Members! Promote your alpaca farm and support MAPACA by donating to this year's Silent Auction and Raffle fundraisers. Each year, the MAPACA show in April holds these events to raise money. This year, **all proceeds from the silent auction/raffle will be donated to the Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF).** Silent Auction items have a value of over \$200, and can be a breeding to your premier herdsire, fine alpaca clothing, a B & B weekend, or almost anything else you can think of. Raffle items have a value under \$200 and have lots of possibilities, including alpaca items, gift baskets, artwork, etc. The deadline is April 10, 2007 for submissions, so please submit your donation today! This is your chance to support ARF and make your farm stand out! Please contact us as soon as possible with your donation! For Silent Auction items, contact JoAnn Wood (Fishwood Farm Alpacas) at (434) 993-9115 or via email at woodfam1@earthlink.net. For

MaPaca Meeting Schedule—2007

April 27, 2007 (at the Jubilee, on
Friday)

July 15, 2007 (Sunday)

Annual Meeting Oct. 21, 2007
(Sunday)

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

Classified Ads:

Any member may post an ad for alpaca and/or alpaca farm related equipment and items. The ad may include a short description and contact information. This will be a free service to current MAPACA members ONLY. Please send your ads to Alice Brown, fpalpacas@aol.com or call 856-697-8127.

- 1. New Alpaca Photos Website-**
www.alpacaphotosonline.com 100s, soon to be 1000s of photos of alpacas and products. No charge to submit photos. Contact: **Nancy Lake, info@alpacaphotosonline.com or 301-393-5878.**
- 2. Alpaca Equipment:** chutes, scales, hay saver feeders, Tooth-A-Matic, shearing tables, Pro-Tie & mats, panels & gates See our insert in this month's Newsletter or visit us on-line at **www.lightlivestockequipment.com or call Jay Ward of AuSable Valley Alpacas at 518-524-0545.**
- 3. Transportation Services** from Origins Alpaca Ranch: Private Transport, Emergency 24/7 Transport and "The Show String" - Will transport your alpacas to shows and show them on your behalf. **If interested contact Mike Kober at 908-239-8676 or mike@originsalpacaranch.com.**
- 4. Non-Breeder Boarding**—Fenwick Manor Farm is now offering a discounted boarding option for non-breeder alpacas. In our lush 5 acre pasture, alpacas have plenty of grass and room to roam. One nominal fee covers a year of boarding, basic shots and shearing. Save your pasture space for your ladies! Let us care for your fiber Animals. **Contact Katharine Thompson, Fenwick Manor Farm in New Lisbon, NJ—FMFalpacas@Fenwick.net.**
- 5. Custom Fleece Processing**—Rovings (loose or center pull bump), batts, various weights of yarn or felt sheets available. The Fiber Factory, 1086 Industrial Park Road, Hornell, NY 14843. **Call Wendy at 607-382-7811 or contact us at east-valley-alpacas@eznet.net or www.east-valley-alpacas.com.**
- 6. Transportation and Showing Services** provided by Warford Creek Alpacas, LLC. No trailer or time to show your alpacas? Let us Transport and Professionally show your alpaca (s) for you. We will be attending all the Spring and Fall shows for 2007, so book early. **Contact Deborah Hoff at 908-996-2128 or 980-894-8044.**
- 7. Advertise your alpacas for sale, herdsires or alpaca equipment or services on our highly ranked website. Go to www.MountAiryAlpacas.com/ads.html for more information.**



Calendar of Events

March 17, 2007 10AM-3PM—Alpaca Heritage Sampler for Success:

"Practical Barn Layout" by Kate McKelvie, "Breeding for Color" by Ingrid Wood, and "Showing Your Alpacas" by Yvette Kirilenko. \$50 per person, includes lunch. Seminars are designed to help you succeed in several important aspects of alpaca husbandry, breeding, and showing. **Visit [www. AlpacaHeritage.com](http://www.AlpacaHeritage.com) for registration form and directions. Contact Ingrid Wood at 609-261-0696 or email Yvette at ysk@att.net if you have questions.**"

March 23-25—MOPACA (Midwest Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association) AOBA Certified Halter & Fleece Show. St. Louis, MO. For information:

<http://www.mopaca.org/show.shtml>

April 15, 2007—ALPACA BUDGET CAPER—ABC SHOW:

Come to the first AOBA Certified level 1 show in New Jersey. To be held in Ringoes, New Jersey. Come and join the fun! Register now!

For information and entry form, go to **www.alpacaheritage.com or call the show superintendent at 609-261-0696.**

April 27-29, 2007—MAPACA JUBILEE, 2007 -Check-in day is Thursday, April 26th.

Come experience one of the largest alpaca shows in the world! Look for registration to open shortly. The MAPACA Jubilee will again be held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA Watch the website and the Newsletter for further details. **For more information go to www.mapaca.org.**

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Renewals - Last Chance!

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If you have not already done so, please send in your MAPACA membership renewal for 2007. Time is running out! Go to www.mapaca.org and print out the membership form and send it to Alice Brown, 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ 08360.

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Camelid Veterinarian Continuing Education Grant Program

PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR VETERINARIAN!

The Board of Directors of MAPACA is delighted to announce the establishment of an annual program to support continuing education for camelid veterinarians serving alpaca owners in the MAPACA region. Grants will be available up to \$1000 per session to attend camelid educational programs. Includes travel expenses, meals, rooming as well as the conference. Grants are limited to one per year for each veterinarian. In the case of veterinary practices, only one grant per practice per program. Feel free to contact Alice Brown, Recording Secretary, with any questions you may have.

Funds will be available retroactively for programs already attended in 2006. The Camelid Veterinarian Continuing Education Grant Application is available on the MAPACA website. Please submit the completed application to Alice Brown. The applications will then be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. MAPACA requests that all recipients prepare a brief summary of the program, within 2 weeks of attending, to be shared with the MAPACA membership on the MAPACA website. These summaries will be archived and kept on the website for future reference as well.

Print out the application on line from the MAPACA website (www.mapaca.org) and give it to your veterinarian to fill out and send to:

**Alice Brown
458 Main Road**

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.

Any AOBA affiliate or any business that sells products or services relating to alpacas or farming in general that would benefit alpaca farmers may place an insert AD in the MAPACA Newsletter at a cost of \$200.00.

Please send copies of your ad, 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. When you send inserts, do not require that I have to sign for them! **Any questions email Alice Brown: fpalpacas@aol.com or call: 856-697-8127.**

Please send your comments, articles, or submissions to
Alice Brown at:
Fpalpacas@aol.com.