



President's Message:

MAPACA Members:

Its election time again. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making the last 2 years so memorable for me on the Board. I have decided not to rerun for the board at this time for family reasons. Please check your mail in the near future for ballots for the eight candidates. We have a good slate of candidates that deserve your attention, Please read over their biographies and vote.

I want to thank those of you that sent us your signed forms for the By-Laws; we will now proceed with filing for permanent non-profit status.

Dennis Tomsy has been hired as bookkeeper and will assist the Treasurer in managing the financial records of MAPACA.

Please be advised that since our October meeting fell on the same weekend as the Empire Show this year, we are changing the date to November 4, 2007. We will advise you where the meeting will be shortly. Check the website and Newsletter for updates.

Carol Pfister
President, MAPACA

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From the Membership Committee:

Due to several other events occurring on July 15th, our July meeting was cancelled in Coopers-town, NY. We are finding July to be a very busy month for our members and not the best month to hold a membership meeting. In light of that, we will focus on a Fall, Winter and Jubilee membership meeting in the future.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the MAPACA Annual Membership Meeting on November 4th. The new Board of Directors will be announced and seated at the meeting. Support your regional alpaca association by getting involved and attending the meetings! Location will be posted in our September newsletter.



MaPaca Board of Directors

- President:** Carol Pfister
Whirlybird Alpacas, NJ
(908) 303-3670
carol@whirlybirdalpacas.com
- Vice-President:** Bob Ciszewski
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- Secretary:** Wayne Robinson
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(908) 537-7935
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- Monica Kline
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- David Moran
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- Newsletter Editor:** Alice Brown
Forever Precious Alpacas, NJ
(856) 697-8127
fpalpacas@aol.com

Editor's Ramblings:

Hope you are all in a voting mood, as your MAPACA election ballot will be coming in the mail in a few days. (MAPACA has been keeping me very busy lately, thank goodness!) Please don't put your ballots in a pile on your counter top. Open them up, read the biographies of all the fine candidates, then select the candidates of your choice. Note that this year each farm has two votes. This is something that is reflected in the new MAPACA By-Laws.

Not only has MAPACA been keeping me busy, but my family has been doing the same. My daughter Breanne is getting married on September 1st. She's our family alpaca whisperer and I hope that once the dust settles, she will remember that and come back often to spend some time with our herd of alpacas.

Summer has been challenging dealing with the heat. Some of us, like myself, have had to deal with too little rain. Others, both north and south of me have been dealing with too much rain. I asked a local person why the rain showers very frequently look like they are coming in our direction and then suddenly they either dissipate or split and go north and south of us. I was told it is the "Malaga Triangle." Sounds spooky to me! All I know is that I've lost virtually all the grass in my four pastures and my hay bill has skyrocketed. Hope fall comes quickly bringing with it plenty of rain so we can plant the 200 pounds of pasture seed that I ordered and put down the bags of organic fertilizer that I bought.

Speaking of fall, remember to set November 4th aside to come to the MAPACA Annual Meeting. I'll look forward to seeing you all there.

In the mean time, if you are so inclined, send me an article that you've written for the Newsletter. Or send a letter to the editor. I'm always looking for more material for the Newsletter.

Stay cool!

Best, Alice

Letter to the Editor:

July 18, 2007

I wanted to thank you for publishing the article "Get a Load of This!" in your last publication. I think the author had some good comments about breeder's boasting about their black alpaca being "loaded with black genetics". I wanted to add some thoughts to that article about light alpacas being "loaded with black genetics".

Alpaca breeding for color is part science and part luck. My dad always told me "you have to make your own luck in life". A little research and a bit of science can help you make your own luck. At Double 8 Alpaca Ranch we strive for black alpacas with fleeces that match the quality of white fleeces. In order to do that, we must breed light alpacas with dark. Knowing which light alpaca might be "loaded" with black genetics is very important to us in order to increase our chances of reaching our goals. We are attempting to bring those recessive black genes to the surface.

An alpaca is made of DNA that contains genes from each of its parents. Each egg and sperm cell contains a random mix of those genes, some dominant and some recessive. The recessive traits are only expressed when both parents contribute the recessive gene. In most cases, phenotypically speaking, light colors are dominant over dark colors. When breeding two blacks, you typically get a black since in order for the parents to express their black color; no light color genes are present to dominate the black. But, what happens when we mix different colors. Breed a white with a white genetic background to a black and you will likely get a light colored alpaca since the light color dominates the dark. Of course this doesn't happen every time. So you ask, how come my white Mr. Studly produced a brown when bred to my light fawn girl? Now it's time for science.

Mr. Studly may look white, but the pair of color genes he inherited from his sire and dam may not both be white. He may have inherited a white gene from his sire, but a black gene from his dam. The dominant white is covering up that recessive black, but its still there. And if continually bred to white, that black recessive gene may be passing down gen-

eration-to-generation and never show it's self until that one fateful day when your black Studly Junior is born. How did that happen? It is likely that the dam too has a recessive dark gene and by luck of the draw, her dark recessive and his dark recessive meet and produce that dark alpaca out of two light alpacas. To improve you odds of color, breed Mr. Studly to a dark female who can only contribute dark genes to the mix, which should double your chances for dark color.

Spending time scrutinizing ARI certificates may reveal those hidden color genes in the background. Possibly that color is many generations back, perhaps even prior to import of the oldest alpaca listed on the certificate. Examining Mr. Studly's other offspring or siblings might also produce a clue. If they show or produce color, a color gene may be lurking just below the surface waiting to be pulled out.

So while a black out of a white may be the same genetically as a black that is "loaded with black genetics", it can be very beneficial to know if your light alpaca is "loaded with black genetics". Doug Kittrell and Bonnie Belfiore of Double 8 Alpaca Ranch in Jobstown, NJ can be reached at 609-758-7560. To see the results of mixing light alpacas loaded with black genetics with dark alpacas, call to make an appointment to visit the farm in person or visit www.double8alpacas.com.

Doug Kittrel
Double 8 Alpaca Ranch
49 Folwell Station Rd
Jobstown, NJ 08041

MaPaca Meeting Schedule—2007

**Annual Meeting,
November 4, 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 location.

Camelid Neonatology— La Rue Johnson Style

By Rachel L. Shearer,

Chocolate Hollow Alpaca Farm, Hershey, PA

Whew, another spring birthing season has come and gone and we made it through at our farm without any serious problems. I know, that sounds a bit silly. But I have to let you in on a little secret; I get stressed. Ok, I get really, really stressed when my girls are due to give birth. Why, you ask? I'll tell you why... my first cria delivery experience was an abnormal delivery, or dystocia. That was it. That one time was all it took to raise my blood pressure during every consecutive birth since. I'm new at this birthing thing. Six births on our farm over the past 3 years - I know I've got a long way to go and a lot to learn before I will feel confident.

It's no wonder that when the Alpaca Breeder Fiber School offered a class on Camelid Neonatology last month I thought it would be a good idea to attend and bring my husband along. Boy was I right. The class was held at *a Suri Farm*, in Myerstown, PA and instructed by Dr. LaRue Johnson, D.V.M., Ph.D.

I must say that Dr. Johnson is pretty knowledgeable about Camelids. He has been around alpacas and llamas for a few years now teaching humans and treating animals. In his more than 40 years as a veterinarian he has developed a wealth of experience. And, in that time he has also developed a few of opinions. Lucky for us he is willing to share both his experience and opinions. I am grateful for his knowledge and spent two days soaking up all he had to say.

As most of us know, there is more to breeding an alpaca than meets the eye. We humans can't just throw two alpacas in a pen and let them do their thing. We must be sure to be intimately involved in every part of their sex life and all that goes into the process before and after the cria arrives. Well, Dr. Johnson covered it all and more including: ovulation; anatomy; breeding; pregnancy diagnosis; nutrition; labor and delivery. While I would love to share all the information I had to narrow it down to a couple of pages. Here are a few brief observations



Hand Breeding

Photo by Alice Brown, *Forever Precious Alpacas, Vine-land, NJ*

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from the course.

We first took a close look at what factors are involved in causing camelid ovulation and also the female and male anatomy. Alpacas are induced ovulators. First we observe the orgling and then the stroking followed by the cervical stimulation. Breeding must take place at the correct time i.e. the follicle in the female must be >7 mm and growing. Also the semen must include OIF or Ovulation Inducing Factor. Why OIF? Well, it causes the release of the Luteinizing Hormone (LH) from the female pituitary gland.

There are different methods of breeding including hand, stud pen and stud pasture. And, as Dr. Johnson points out, there are advantages and disadvantages to each. While stud pen and pasture breeding are more natural and less forced, management is more demanding and "in the dark". Most breeders support hand breeding. The benefits are that the herd is more managed. When hand breeding Dr. Johnson states that we should not be breeding more often than every 7 days. More frequent breedings can possibly damage the uterus due to the fact that every mating causes microbial contamination and trauma.

(Continued on page 5.)

(Continued from page 4.)

When it comes to confirming pregnancy I sometimes wish that my girls could just pee in a cup and then in one step I would know + she's pregnant or – she's not. However it doesn't work that way. For Camelids we have a few different ways to a diagnosis. Dr. Johnson covered behavioral diagnosis, hormone analysis, rectal palpation and trans-rectal or trans-abdominal ultrasound pregnancy diagnosis. With the trans-rectal ultrasound it would be prudent to wait until 21 and 28 days to detect an embryo and heart beat. With a hormone analysis he recommends waiting until at least 21 days of pregnancy to run the test.

Dr, Johnson has written a number of articles about Camelid nutrition. He suggests keep it simple when it comes to nutrition. Be sure to body score your dams. If needed, gradually increase the nutritional intake. Note that during pregnancy the first 2/3 of gestation is not nutritionally demanding however, during the last trimester fetal growth represents 80% and the dam requires 50% more than maintenance.

Knowing the three stages of labor is important whether you are observing your first cria birth or you are in the been-there-done-that-phase. Things to keep an eye on in the first stage is the dam may make frequent trips to the dung pile; humming; probably won't eat. This stage can last up to 24 hours for a maiden. During the second stage you may see the water break; presentation of limbs or head; normal presentation will usually slow when both head and legs appear. The second stage can take ½ hour to 1 hour or longer with maidens. It is important following the third stage of labor, or placental passage, to check the placenta for normal presentation.

What it all comes down to though is the birth of that adorable cria that we are all looking forward to. Unfortunately, every birth is not picture perfect. Sometimes we face an abnormal presentation or dystocia. Dr. Johnson emphasizes the 7 R's of a Camelid Dystocia: relax (not something that comes easy to me); ring (have your vet on speed dial); recall (what you have learned); relube (gallons); repel (good to practice this in a class); rotate (practice in

a class); rejoice (you now have permission to breathe again or hum if you want to).

This was the exciting part. Where we really got down and dirty. Gowned and gloved Dr. Johnson gave us the opportunity to “deliver” cria from several different presentations. Five cria that expired prematurely were donated and placed in a pseudo dam. We were able to practice repelling and rotating on every presentation from normal to breech.

I can't emphasize enough how helpful this course was and how important it is that all alpaca owners should take the opportunity to take a hands-on neonatal course. I can tell you from experience (limited as that may be) having some knowledge under your belt goes a long way during a stressful situation. Don't forget that MAPACA has established a Camelid Veterinarian Continuing Education Program. Take a class and bring your vet. too!

So my next delivery will be less stressful. I know Relax, Recall.... maybe the alpacas could teach me a thing or two.

Thanks Dr. Johnson!



Welcoming the new arrival !

Photo by Alice Brown, Forever Precious Alpacas, Vineland, NJ

Calendar of Events

August 3 & 4, 2007—National Elite Alpaca Auction—Hosted by Cas-Cad-Nac Farm LLC, Sunset Hills Farm Alpacas, Virginia Alpaca Farm & Breeding Co. The first National Elite Alpaca Auction will be the alpaca enthusiast event of the year! You are invited to come experience an unforgettable weekend at the Virginia Alpaca Farm in Leesburg, VA. The hosts will be joined by 17 other top breeders from across the country in offering some of the very best alpacas their breeding programs have ever produced! **Contact Ian Lutz 802-263-5740 or Laurie Feller 724-586-2412 www.elitealpacauction.com.**

August 4 & 5, 2007 -AFCNA Continental Fleece Show being held in beautiful Niagara Falls, New York. **See page 8 of this Newsletter for details.**

August 15, 2007 is the deadline for submitting entries for the alpaca fleece show at the Great Frederick Fair in Frederick, MD. Both halter show and fleece show are open to alpaca breeders from any state. **Go to www.thegreatfrederickfair.com/2007/Catalog/PDFs/Alpacapdf for entry information or call fleece show superintendent, Kate Perez at 301-607-9129.**

August 25 & 26, 2007—Alpacas—All Things Considered (Day One) and Advanced Alpaca Reproduction (Day Two) - 8 a.m.—5 p.m. Location: Leitersburg Activity Center, Leitersburg, MD. Cost: \$150 for one day, \$250 for 2 days. For more details and/or to register please contact **Tracy Barlup at tbarlup@longmeadowvet.com or 301-797-0450.**

September 1-2, 2007—Herd Reduction Sale & Open House—4 Farms, 2 Days. Location: Warford Creek Alpacas, LLC, 174 Kingwood Station-Barbertown Road, Frenchtown, NJ 08825. **Call us for a copy of our Sales Catalog at 908-996-2128 or 908-894-8044.** Please RSVP if you plan on attending this exciting event! Attend and find out how you can WIN a Free Breeding to our Multi-Reserve Champion & 10 Time Blue Ribbon Winner, Hemingway-Accoyo Nautilus' Nexxus!

Calendar of Events

September 7 & 8, 2007—Eastern Extreme Alpaca Auction. Join us for the Premier Alpaca Auction of the FALL! We are proud to offer an ELITE selection of over 60 Huacaya alpacas, including Champions & Blue Ribbon Winners at **MAINTAINEER RACE TRACK & GAMING RESORT!** Join us Friday for a Meet & Greet and alpaca viewing followed by a night out at the Race Track. On Saturday morning our guests will have the opportunity to attend seminars followed by a night out at the Race Track. On Saturday morning our guests will have the opportunity to attend seminars followed by the auction at 3 PM. Please visit us at www.easternextremeauction.com to preview the auction lots, R.S.V.P. and plan to join us for a wonderful weekend at the MOUNTAINEER! **Contact—Helen Humphreys-1-877-MY-ALPACA**

September 22 and 23, 2007—Camelid Dynamics Clinics with Dorothy Hunt (attend one or both days)- Columbus, New Jersey. For details and sign-up form, visit **www.StormwindAlpacas.com or call 609-261-0696.**

October 6, 2007—7th Annual Alpaca Heritage Sale. To be held at Terhune Orchards, Princeton, New Jersey, 08540. A private treaty sale in an idyllic setting, with free seminars sponsored by 20 Mid-Atlantic breeders. For more information visit: **www.AlpacaHeritage.com .**

November 10, 2007—Fiber Seminar with Winnie Labrecque—Fleece Show (certification pending). Bordentown, New Jersey. For registration form and further details visit: **www.AlpacaHeritage.com.**

C lassified 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. **Alpaca Equipment:** Destron microchips, Premier shearing machines, combs & cutters, scales by Salter-Brecknell & Arlyn, chutes, hay saver feeders, bar & mesh panels, gates, travel pens, & shearing tables by MSA; alpaca restraints by Pro-Tie; & tooth trimmers by Tooth-A-Matic. See our insert in this month's Newsletter. **Visit us online at www.lightlivestockequipment.com or call Jay Ward of AuSable Valley Alpacas at 866-999-2821.**
2. **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@originalpacaranch.com .**
3. **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 .**
4. **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 .**
5. **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.**
6. **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.**
7. **Alpaca Care DVD**—shots teeth & toenail trimming, birth, breeding, comprehensive segment on shearing and shearing equipment and more. **Contact Kate Perez 301-607-9129 or www.mountairyalpacas.com/ .**

C lassified Ads:

8. **Still Showing Animals and Haven't Sheared Yet.** If you do your own shearing and would like to save your back and make the job significantly easier, we have a shearing table for you. Our table is the Totara Grove Shearing Table that was developed in New Zealand. We have used this table for 5 seasons and it is in excellent condition. It comes with a shearing guide and a "how to" video. It is a steal at \$995. **Call Bob or Lee of Almost Heaven Alpacas at 304-496-1073.**
9. **Shearing Table**—Excellent condition, used 1 season for 12 animals. Asking \$850.00. **Call 302-381-6062.**
10. **Boarding or Long Term Leasing of Farm Land for Your Alpacas**—The Farm at Rainbow's End, located in Lafayette, New Jersey, in Sussex County offers Boarding or the opportunity of Leasing Land for your Alpaca Farm. With 60 Acres of pasture and Woodlands available, there are unlimited possibilities for structuring your own design or simply to integrate your herd with ours. We also have 75 acres dedicated to growing Premium Orchard Grass Hay. Our Complete Package is Full Care including Veterinary Services on the Farm. Facilities include a Maternity Barn. Dr. Lori Walker DVM co-owns and lives on the farm. Call or visit us and make the Farm at Rainbow's end your alpacas home. **Contact Larry Scheer at 973-903-8624 or email larryscheer@earthlink.net.**
11. **Second Cutting Orchard Grass Hay.** Pre-Buy your orchard grass from The Farm at Rainbow's end. Buy at \$4.00 per bale and we will hold it for you. Never run out. **Contact Larry at 973-903-8624 or email larrysheer@earthlink.net.**
12. **Alice Y. Brown—Freelance Writing Services**—If you need something written and don't have the time to do it, **call Alice at 856-697-8127 or 856-305-7059.** Also, secretarial services available.
13. **Big Sky Alpacas Ranch for Sale**—Downsizing and relocating to PA near grand-children. Magnificent 6 acre "Gentleman's Farm", home, barn and property in Southern New Jersey. MLS listing #4960739. Also available with part of our alpaca herd. Contact Paul at 856-223-0570. Recommendation fee for MAPACA member, commission on any alpaca sales.

Camelid Veterinar- ian Continuing Education Grant Program

PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR VET!

The MAPACA Board of Directors has established a program to support continuing education for camelid veterinarians serving alpaca owners in the MAPACA region. Grants will be available up to **\$1000** 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. Contact Alice Brown, with any questions.

Funds will be available retroactively for programs attended in 2006. The Camelid Veterinarian Continuing Education Grant Application is available at: www.mapaca.org. **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
Vineland, NJ 08360**

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

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 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 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 may advertise their event for \$200. 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.**

Every animal knows
more than you do.—

Native American Proverb