

MAPACA

December 2003

Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 12



Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

MaPaca

Officers:

President:

Paul

Connor,

Vice

President:

Jovi Larson,

Treasurer:

A n d y

Schneider,

Secretary:

B r a n d o n

Boyd,

Members at

Large:

Kim

D e V o s ,

Nancy

Johanson,

Nick Melfi.

Newsletter

Editor:

Alice

Brown.

President's Message:

Happy Holidays!

On behalf of your entire Board of Directors we wish you, your families and your alpacas a pleasant and joyful Holiday Season.

Sincerely,
Paul, Nick, Brandon, Kim,
Andy, Jovi and Nancy

PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW

Last call for Farm Show participants and volunteers. Brandon is heading up the organization for the manning of the MaPaca display at the Pennsylvania Farm Show that will take place January 10th to 17th, next month. Due to numerous pressing issues that Brandon has had to attend to he is just now finalizing the organization of who is bringing alpacas on what days, etc. The farms that manned the event last year were often overwhelmed by the numbers of people coming to the booth wanting to talk and ask questions. If any of you would like to attend the Farm Show anyway, it would be great if you could email Brandon and volun-

teer to also man the MaPaca booth for a 3 or 4-hour stint. Please email Brandon at Dealpaca@aol.com as soon as possible.

JUBILEE AUCTION DONATIONS

In conjunction with our "1st Annual MaPaca Auction" I would like you to consider high-end donations that can be used to raise money for worthwhile alpaca related causes that you will have input on. We can accept 2 alpaca donations that will be offered "commission free" for fund raising purposes, as well as "objects d'art", vacation home stays, trips, tractors, gators, Rolls Royces (I believe I got carried away) – you get the point. If a donation is not selected for the auction I may suggest you consider the donation for the "silent auction". Please send what you are considering to: paul@bigskyalpacas.com along with a picture attachment where appropriate. We will be soliciting donations for the next 30 days or so and will then make a decision on selections. If you are offering to donate an alpaca please include any available information including fiber stats, show record, pictures, etc. Thank you in advance for your generosity and consideration.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please keep in mind; to maintain your Jubilee discount for being a MaPaca member, dues must be paid up to date by the beginning of 2004.

Once again, have a Healthy, Happy Holiday Season and your best New Year ever!

Paul Connor

President's Message: pg. 1
From the Jubilee Coordinator: pg. 2
So, You Wanna Hold an Alpaca Show: pg. 2

Alpaca Roots Trip Revisited: pg. 3-5
Editor's Ramblings: pg. 6
Calendar of Events & Classified: pg. 7
Veterinary News for the East Coast: pg. 8

From the Desk of the Jubilee Coordinator:

Hello MaPaca,

We are still digging out of the last snowstorm. What was I thinking when designing such a long driveway? Thank goodness it's at least paved. As we near the Holiday Season, I would like to wish each and every one of you "Happy Holidays!" In the last newsletter I said that we would do our best to keep you abreast of what's going on for Jubilee 2004. With the help of Kit Hower, Jovi Larson and Phyllis@Metaphorical Inc., we are on our way to being able to register online. The packages will hopefully be in the mail by the beginning of February 2004 as well. We also will have a color catalog this year (a first for MaPaca). Many thanks to Freida Goodrich for all the groundwork to get this going. Wednesday, December 10th, Paul Connor, Alan Anderson, and myself met with Tom Simmons and Tim Vincent of Celebrity Sales in Harrisburg, PA to formulate a plan for just how, when and where the auction will take place at the Jubilee. There is no need to go into detail here, other than to let you know it will take place on Saturday night.

We have quite an impressive array of Judges lined up for Jubilee 2004. I would like to take this opportunity to mention sponsorships. Believe it or not, we have already received a check for sponsorship from Ben Fisco. Many thanks to him for his support. This year we will also be accepting donations for the auction. Paul said he would elaborate on this. The excitement is building. Please be a part of it! If you have not taken part in showing at past Jubilees, I highly recommend you be there this year and keep an eye out for information on the registration packets and register immediately. One final word, consider signing up to Volunteer at this year's Jubilee. It's the MaPaca thing to do!

My regards to all,

Nick Melfi

So You Wanna Hold an Alpaca Show?

By G. Robin Gilmore of Illusion Ranch Alpacas, Exton, PA

Well, my friend - I've got some news for you! This year marked the inaugural Southeastern Pennsylvania Alpaca Show and Sale. Was it a good show? Was it a good venue to sell alpacas? Yes, to both questions...in fact, as of this writing, there were twelve known alpaca sales! That's not the best part, though...read on.

What's it take to hold a successful alpaca show and sale? Lots of work, lots of real friends, and lots of help.

When I first got the idea to hold an alpaca show and sale, I had no idea how much work was involved: there was a facility to rent...after an exhaustive search for something big enough, affordable and acceptable; a Show Superintendent to hire, judges to select, and lots of sod, corral panels, ribbons and sponsor gifts to acquire.

The help I received was invaluable - for instance, Peg Stephens, the Show Superintendent, was instrumental in putting the show together. She explained the ring layout and size required, the types of halter, fleece and performance entries to be included, the staff needed and so much more.

My wife Lorrie, my Ranch Manager Ann Mitchell, and so many others - breeders, sponsors and attendees helped with everything they possibly could. Ben Fisco worked as ring steward, gate keeper, and general "man doing stuff". Conrad and JoAnn Lehr performed gate keeping duties and ran the raffle tables. Dennis Balbac helped install over 8,000 square feet of sod - by hand. Parker Roth drove six hours to bring me PAOBA's obstacle course - and lobbied for a PAOBA sponsorship with Fay Steving, and then did anything that came her way...without first being asked. Ernie Kellogg and Barbara Bramlette helped with corral panels - and Kim DeVos was the greatest help in the world - she called favors from everywhere just to help me make this show great for the people who came and supported it.

There are so many more people who helped...folks that did anything and everything. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you. Thank you very, very much. I could not have done it without you.

And it seems as if everyone's hard, diligent work really did pay off...here's how I know...the show ran so smoothly that I've heard from virtually every attendee: "what a great show: first-class judges, smooth flow, and no one missed a single class - plus, beautiful ribbons" - "it's the most fun I've ever had at an alpaca show" - "this was the best show we've ever gone to - awesome sponsor gifts" - and the best: "we'll tell everyone who didn't come, just how much fun they missed!"

Wow - you guys are terrific!

You know what? We're gonna do it again!

Make plans to be here next year - it'll be even better!

Better because all of you will be there...

Better because I've made a ton of new friends...

It's truly an honor to know all of you.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Robin

Feature Article:**Alpaca Roots Trip Revisited**

By Barb Nuessle of Bay Springs Alpacas, Cape May, New Jersey

This past month I had the pleasure of spending 10 fantastic days in Peru with a small group of alpaca owners and breeders to explore the land where our wonderful animals were created. Organized by Dudley Parkinson, who lives in Wisconsin and runs a travel agency called Dream Weaver Travel, our group was very small, just six of us. In addition to Dudley, our tour leader, the group consisted of Donna and Robert Long (Wisconsin), Christa Cushman (Colorado) and her friend Gerda from Germany, Cathy Dolan from Utah and me. For me the trip started on November 11th when I left from Philadelphia until I returned on November 22nd. For others who opted for the Bolivian portion, the trip was four days longer.

The focus of the trip was the Alpaca Fiesta, a three-day event held every three years in Arequipa. That is where our Peruvian journey began. Getting to our destination proved to be a bit of a challenge for all of us, as the flights are long with tedious stopovers of 3-4 hours. I knew there would be a lot of downtime, so had decided to spend the hours in Miami and Lima studying Spanish (reviewing phrases and doing some written exercises) which I had been putting off for weeks. It had only been a mere forty years since I had lived in Spain and my Spanish was pretty rusty, but amazingly enough, I felt a lot more comfortable with the language after this intense bit of cramming.

Wednesday, November 12th

Arequipa is known as the white city. The walls of this attractive town are constructed largely from white sillar stone, similar to limestone. Our hotel, the Sonesta Posada del Inca was strategically located right on the central square, the Plaza de Armas. Rooms were large and comfortable, equipped with cable TV so that we could get our CNN fix (with English subtitles) and not miss out on what was happening at home and abroad. After arriving in the early afternoon, I spent a few hours roaming around the streets near the hotel, studying maps of the area to get my bearings and of course, checking out the shops. Our group convened for dinner at the hotel, Cathy, Bob and Donna sharing their impressions of the Bolivian portion of the trip with those of us who had just opted for the Peruvian portion. We all were exhausted from travel and retired early except for Dudley, our hippie tour leader, who apparently doesn't require sleep. He went out dancing until the wee small hours. Dudley served in the Peace Corps in West Africa in the 60s and revels in third world travel. Unlike most of us, he is comfortable in the most primitive of conditions and keeps in shape climbing mountains and running. We all decided early on that we would not try to keep up with him.

Thursday, November 13th

In order to for us to get to the vicuña round up in Pampas Valeras, which is about 2 hours drive up in the mountains, the hotel prepared us a special breakfast at 5:30AM and by 6:30 we were on our way. The bus took us past Mt. Misti up to an

elevation of about 13,000 feet. We spent the entire Peruvian trip at altitudes ranging from 10,000 and 14,000 feet. I really didn't experience any problems, but I was glad that I had taken Diamox tablets beforehand to help me adjust to the sudden change from sea level. Coca tea, which is offered at breakfast and lunch everywhere, also seems to help. (The label on the package claims that coca tea also alleviates cold symptoms, relieves stomach distress, and gives you energy, a sort of wonder drug.)

On the trip we noticed that many houses seemed to be either under construction or in the process of demolition; it was hard to tell which. I learned later from talking to a friend who lives in Arequipa that Peruvians dislike apartment living, preferring to purchase a small piece of land on which to build their own home. Since land and materials are expensive, the process sometimes takes decades. If materials were left on a building site, they would be stolen, so people buy a few bricks, some concrete and some steel rods and build a little portion of their house at a time. The result is thousands of homes that are half-finished with rebar sticking out of them, waiting for a roof or a second story. No one builds tall buildings as earthquakes are common.

The other thing that we noticed were "roof dogs." Most pet dogs are kept on rooftops of houses where they can be seen lounging with forepaws hanging off the roof. Very scary! My friend Pat, a long-time resident of Arequipa, assured me that the dogs seldom fall off the roofs and that they are stationed up there as guard dogs where they can see everything that is going on, but can't run away. There are many stray dogs, some very street savvy. Once a year, the dog catcher rounds them all up and shoots them to control the population. There aren't any no-kill shelters in Peru.

Chaccu!

The Vicuña Roundup was an amazing experience. There were about 200 people from the Alpaca Fiesta that took part. Prior to the roundup, we were treated to some traditional Indian dances and music, which included a few llamas, decked out in colorful tassels and woven strips of cloth, moving in step to the tunes.

Following the initial ceremony, we formed an enormous human chain and after letting the vicuñas wear themselves out running back and forth, managed to corral about 75 of them in a pen where they were restrained until they could be sheared. Shearing was preceded by a special ceremony with sacrifices and burnt offerings to the mountain gods to bless the vicuñas and give thanks for the successful roundup. Then one of the officials pricked the ear of a male and a female vicuña, mingled the blood, and painted it on the cheeks of women and men seeking to have children in the coming year.

Vicuñas have very fine fiber (13-19 microns), but very little fleece. It takes 3-4 vicuñas to yield about a kilo (2.2 pounds) of fleece. The fiber grows so slowly that they are sheared only every 2-3 years. Tags are placed in their ears to indicate their approximate age and when they were last sheared. Vicuña fleece sells for an astonishing \$500 a kilo (or about \$250 a pound) which helps to support the little country villages and towns. The Biological Reserve, which protects

(Continued on page 4.)

(Continued from page 3.)

the vicuña has been very successful in helping the once-endangered population to recover. Jane Wheeler, who lives in Lima and does genetic research on the vicuña populations, estimates that the total population worldwide is now about 180,000, up from only about 5,000 in the 1960s. She told us that there are four distinct sub-populations of vicunas and that they have their best chance for survival if they can retain their distinct characteristics. Guanacos are still in grave peril. Our group had hopes of seeing one, but did not. Nor did we see the famous Andean Condor.

It was clear to us that alpacas and llamas are not animals of high status in Peru. Because alpacas are associated with the poorest Quechan-speaking Indians from the high country, people of Spanish descent shun them in favor of cattle, sheep, and pigs.

There are few fences seen anywhere in Peru, undoubtedly because of the scarcity of lumber. Cattle, goats and llamas are often hobbled or tied. Sheep and alpacas are herded by shepherds who move them about from pasture to pasture during the day. The high country grasslands are severely overgrazed by sheep and cattle. The mystery is why alpacas and llamas, who are remarkably adept at surviving on poor pastures and who yield fiber that is three times more valuable than that of sheep, continue to be undervalued by the people of Peru.

Alpaca is found on the menus of most restaurants that cater to tourists, as are ostrich and guinea pig. I personally have a problem consuming alpaca meat, but the ostrich was tasty, as was the trout and kingfish from Lake Titicaca. Guinea pigs are a staple for many Peruvian families. Although from all reports, alpaca is very tasty, the "white" city folk in Arequipa generally abstain from eating alpaca. Many believe that they can contract syphilis from eating alpaca, a myth probably arising from their close association with the Indian population who were almost extirpated by syphilis and other "white men's" diseases after the Spanish conquest. Such myths apparently die hard.

Friday, November 14th

We spent the morning at the Alpaca Fiesta fairgrounds in Arequipa. The vast majority of huacaya and suri alpacas being shown were white and fawn. Since they are only sheared every 18 months to two years, many of them had fleece that was matted and filled with debris. Here it seems that quantity and density of the fleece are most important: conformation less so. Many of the alpacas shown appeared to be stressed out and not used to being handled. They exhibited poor manners in the ring, jumping about and wrestling with their handlers.

Later that morning, we were part of a large Alpaca Fiesta group that toured the Michell factories where we saw the fleece being sorted and graded, scoured, and processed into yarn. The fleece was in appalling condition, very dirty and full of debris. My Arequipan friend later told me that the alpaca farmers are paid for their fleece strictly by weight so they deliberately mix in all kinds of dung, dirt, stones and other debris into the fleece to increase the weight. Fleece in this condition would never get through the AFCNA sorters in Sonora! The Michell facilities are impressive, very clean, with sophisticated equipment used for drawing out the yarn and putting it onto cones. Following the tour, Michell provided a very lavish

reception for the entire tour group.

We spent the afternoon shopping for alpaca apparel. Arequipa has wonderful shops clustered behind the main Cathedral and around the central plaza that carry all types of baby alpaca garments. We bought many gorgeous sweaters, scarves and blankets, necessitating the purchase of extra luggage to get it all home.

I had dinner with Pat Gootee, a woman who has worked in Arequipa for the past thirty years as a nun. She spent her first 8 years as a midwife in the countryside and now works in a clinic where she has started a special project to help children with cerebral palsy. She provided me with insight into the political and economic climate of Peru, gave me a sense of the warmth and magnetism of the people, and explained their inherently suspicious nature and mistrust of government. It is truly a third world country without much of a true middle class, rich in resources but without the capital investment and stability of government to exploit them.

The evening featured a tour of the Cathedral and Convent of St. Catherine's built in the 16th century and inhabited by cloistered nuns from elite Spanish families who brought their servants to the convent with them. It was customary in those days for wealthy families to send their daughters to the convent to assure themselves of a place in Heaven.

Saturday, November 15th

After a bit of final shopping and sight-seeing, we flew from Arequipa to Juliaca and then took a bus to Puno. Here we took a boat trip on Lake Titicaca to visit one of the many floating islands that abound on the lake. These islands are constructed by piling up layers of reeds harvested from the lake. The people live in huts constructed from the same reeds and fish from reed boats. They survive by fishing and by capturing and eating birds, such as heron, ibis and duck. They also sell hand made textiles to tourists. All the inhabitants of a given island are related. Older children are sent off to the mainland for school.

After the boat trip, we had dinner at a local restaurant and sampled the typical Puno fare: popcorn, salad, potatoes, avocados, and white kingfish. The wine is Chilean and expensive so most of the time we drank the local beer. Our hotel in Puno—the Qelqetani—was small but well-appointed and comfortable.

Sunday/Monday - November 16th and 17th

This day was a long travel day going from Puno up to the Mallkini Ranch by bus. Mallkini is Michell's ranch where he keeps a herd of about 2,500 alpacas. He has built a beautiful lodge on top of a hill overlooking several thousand acres of valleys on all sides. On this ranch, Michell is experimenting with cross-breeding alpacas and vicuñas. One little male cria was adorable manifesting the best characteristics of both, the fineness of the vicuña and the density of the alpaca. The evening was chilly but we were comfortable under mountains of alpaca blankets.

The next morning we saw about 100 females of the Mallkini herd who were being sheared. These animals were in much better condition than others we had seen at the Fiesta. All are immunized 3 times a year and nails trimmed at the same time. Their fleeces were clean and free of contaminants.

(Continued on page 5.)

(Continued from page 4.)

The characteristics they select for in their breeding program are density, fleece weight, and uniformity of both color and fineness. Crimp was not important—some animals had a lot, others had none. There were very few black, gray, maroon or dark brown animals, with about 85% of the herd being white or fawn, all solid colors.

After breakfast, we traveled to Cuzco. The country we went through was incredibly poor. The grazing lands are overpopulated with cattle and sheep, leaving the scant vegetation unable to recover. The predominant ground cover is inedible, a prickly, spiny grass (Ichu) that only llamas will eat. We stopped for our boxed lunch at a country church and arrived in Cuzco around 6:00PM. Our Hotel—the San Augustin—was crowded with French and Japanese tourists. The rooms were small but the location was central and the food reasonably good.

Tuesday, November 18th.

This morning we started with a three-hour tour of the city and one of the famous Inca ruins: Sacsayhuaman (pronounced very much like Sexy Woman). In the city, we went through the main cathedral, the Convento de Santo Domingo, built in the 17th century on top of the ancient Incan Temple of the Sun. The architecture of the city of Cuzco reflects the incredible work of the Incas—walls built of huge trapezoidal stones of basalt, beveled and carved to fit together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle and held together without mortar. When the Spaniards invaded Cuzco, they stripped the gold and silver from the walls of the Incan structures and tried to destroy the foundations but could not. The Dominicans started the Inquisition here, setting out to remove all traces of the Incas whom they regarded as pagan savages. Ironically, an earthquake that occurred in 1950 destroyed much of colonial buildings and baroque embellishments of the Spanish, revealing the incredible foundation structures built by the Incas during the 13th and 14th centuries.

Much of the colonial artwork that decorates the walls of the cathedral was actually done by the native Indian artists who incorporated local flora and fauna into their work. One such large canvas depicts the Last Supper, but instead of the usual bread and wine, there is a whole cooked Guinea pig on a large platter in the center of the table.

It is hard to believe that a small group of Spanish soldiers were able to subdue the Incan Empire, which stretched from Ecuador to Bolivia, Peru to Chile. Basically, they took advantage of the conflict between two warring brothers who both wanted to be Emperor. The Spaniards allied with one against the other and then killed them both.

Succinct political comments from Manuel, our irreverent tour guide: “We have all these rich resources, but they are under the control of other countries so we must continue to live as beggars;” and describing the Hall of Justice, “It’s a big building but with small justice.”

After lunch at the South American club, we spent the afternoon exploring the markets and galleries around Cuzco, which supports a thriving community of artists, famous for their unique style of painting and their textiles. We decided to eat dinner at a British pub where we drank Guinness and ate, yes, Philly cheesesteaks! I thought my Spanish was coming along

nicely until I called the hotel desk to ask for some soap but asked for soup (“sopa” in Spanish) instead. When I corrected myself and asked for “jabón” (soap in Spanish), she asked me what I needed it for. “Para lavarme?” What else would I do with soap?

Wednesday, November 19th

An early breakfast and we were off to catch the train to Macchu Pichu. The surrounding countryside here is much greener, more humid, and lower than any other site we visited in Peru, at an altitude about 1,000 feet lower than Cuzco. The ruins of Macchu Pichu lay undiscovered until 1911 when Hiram Bingham, a Yale archeologist, glimpsed the stonework protruding from an overgrown tangle of vines and trees. Macchu Pichu is a mystical place which deserves an entire day. We had only a few hours there to take it all in. The great throng of tourists was also distracting. We all agreed that if we went again, we would stay overnight near the site so that we could visit it in the early evening and early morning hours when there are few visitors. Still it was an impressive sight, to think that a whole community lived within the walls and planted crops in the stone-terraced gardens that cover the mountain. This small mountain is centrally located between two loftier mountain peaks. Since the Incas left no written records, most of what we know of their culture is a matter of some speculation. However, from the tapestries and their architecture, we know that they worshipped the mountains and understood the movements of the stars through the seasons. Their engineering ability is seen in the complex system of aqueducts which even today transports water from springs and streams to the site. The train ride, which takes about 3 hours each way, was delightful with large windows offering spectacular views of the mountains.

Thursday, November 20th

This day was a loop trip by bus, taking in the smaller towns that dot the Sacred Valley, from the ruins of Chinchero and Ollantaytambo, to Urubamba, where we had lunch at a lovely hotel surrounded by gardens, and Pisac. The market in Pisac was incredible, offering almost anything you could want in the way of hand woven textiles, ceramics, and handknit alpaca products. Our final stop was just outside of Cuzco, where Michell and three Carparo brothers have opened a new facility (Awana Kancha) designed to allow city people (and tourists) to see vicuñas and alpacas firsthand and to watch women spin with drop spindles and weave tapestries out of alpaca and llama yarn on simple homemade looms. Tapestry wall hangings, hand loomed bags, scarves and shawls were attractively displayed for sale in a shop on the property.

Friday, November 21st.

Our last day was spent taking a final pass through the city of Cuzco, looking for things not yet found—which in my case was yarn. I finally located a yarn shop but was disappointed to find only a small selection of alpaca yarns, classic alpaca from Michell, which was identical to our Coop’s yarn.

Our group had lunch together at the Cuzco airport and departed for Lima without our leader. Dudley was off to Chile to do some scouting for a possible trip next year. Would I go on another Alpaca Roots expedition—to Chile? You bet! And if you haven’t been to Peru yet, I think Dudley is planning to organize another trip to Peru for the 2006 Alpaca Fiesta.

Editor's Ramblings:

Hope this issue finds you all well and avoiding the flu bug. I am recovered from my tangle with said bug, as is my daughter Breanne, and that has made Fred a happy man. He was carrying the load as I spent five days prone on the sofa!

The alpacas are settling in to their cold weather routine, cushioning more in the barn and eating more hay. I keep plenty of straw down to keep them warm. The heated water buckets are plugged in and the fans are safely stored away until next spring.

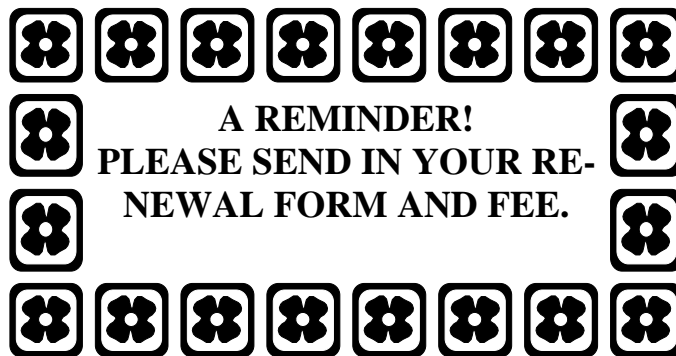
As a matter of fact, those fans came in handy this past week when a valve on our geothermal heating system went and the system started pumping all the water flow into our basement. This caused the old sump pump to give out. Poor old thing couldn't handle the increased work load. It took one day of bailing out the basement all day, another day of drying things out and a third day of going through things and throwing out what was ruined. Those fans ran all three days working to dry things out in the basement, especially the rugs. With help from my children, we managed to get things in order yesterday and the basement is once again restored to a livable condition, although the dehumidifier is down there working double time right now.

I also added a barn kitty named Kylie to our farm family this past week. Kylie is a real sweetie and is chomping at the bit to get going with her important job of ridding the barn of its rodent population. In the mean time, it is fun watching the antics of the alpacas and the kitty as both try to figure out what the other is. Kylie thinks the barn is the greatest gymnasium she has ever come across

Time to turn my attention back to the Newsletter finally. I just want to thank all the members that sent me articles in my time of need. I now actually have a small backlog of articles. If there is anyone out there who still has something they want to contribute, please do so. I hear there are two flu bugs circulating this year!

My Best to You All,

Alice



**A REMINDER!
PLEASE SEND IN YOUR RE-
NEWAL FORM AND FEE.**

Do You Want to Advertise in the MaPaca Newsletter?

NEW! PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

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

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.

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, please email Alice Brown at fpalpacas@aol.com.



Members Events Calendar

January 10, 2004 - 1-4pm.

At Wool & Gray Alpacas.

Alpaca Health 101 Seminar

with Dr. Shari Silverman, VMD.

Cost: \$25 per person. Topics will include: Vaccination Protocols, Parasite prevention/treatments, Biosecurity issues, and more... For information and registration, please call Yvette Kirilenko, Wood & Gray Alpacas 908-996-5248.

April 4, 2004 – Alpaca

Heritage Budget Caper –

Show and Sale Promotion – Woodstown, New Jersey. \$50.00 per alpaca (no stall fees – bring your own panels) – limit of 4 entries per breeder – entries close March 1, 2004 or when the limit of 60 entries is reached. Judge: Suzanne Tuccillo - for more information and entry form: www.AlpacaHeritage.com – Superintendent: Ingrid Wood (609-261-0696 or alpacas@uscom.com), Asst. Superintendent: Kate Perez (301-607-9129 or kperez@erols.com), Sale Promotion Coordinator: Jackie Armiger (609-324-0080 or jkarmiger@aol.com), Vendor Liaison: Alice Brown (856-697-8127 or fpalpacas@aol.com).

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. 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. About 100 locust fence posts, 4x4x8, \$8 each, chemical free, long lasting. Call 609-261-0696. (PLEASE NOTE: This is a corrected number, the old number was a typo).
2. Custom designed, hand woven and knitted fashions from your alpaca's fleece, roving or yarn. Shop online at www.cherryridgealpacas.com.
3. 2 oz. Custom hand-spun sample skeins from YOUR alpaca! \$10 each plus \$2 shipping. scmoore@1st.net or 740-934-9318 for details.

Veterinary News for the East Coast:

Eimeria and Isospora: The Coccidia

By Alice Brown

This time of the year, the change in the seasons, can not only stress us humans, but can stress our alpacas as well. At such times the coccidia can rear their ugly heads. There are two genera of coccidia, *Eimeria* and *Isospora*. These two genera contain a large number of species that infect a variety of animals. Different species vary, but some cause mild symptoms that may go unnoticed and eventually disappear, while others cause severe diarrhea and can be fatal.

As protozoa, the life cycle of the coccidia begins when a host is infected upon ingestion of oocysts that have been passed in the feces of another host. The oocyst, once in the host's small intestine, goes into action and releases the sporozoites. These in turn penetrate the cells of the host's small intestine and reproduce asexually. Each generation of asexual reproduction results in merozoites which are released from the cell and infect new cells. This stage of infection can result in destruction of massive numbers of cells in the host's small intestine and can lead to death. Some of the merozoites transform into gametocytes that transform into gametes and

escape the host's cell as developing oocysts which are passed in the host's feces. After several days or even weeks outside the host's body, the oocyst completes development and sporozoites are found within them. The sporulated oocyst is infective to the next host.

Diagnosis of coccidiosis infection is made by finding oocysts in the host's feces. Morphology of the oocyst allows differentiation of the two genera and the species.

Asexual multiplication of the parasite in the small intestine is self-limiting and after several generations the parasite simply stops dividing, the host stops passing oocysts, and the host is effectively cured of the infection. However, in some species the parasite actually kills the host before asexual reproduction stops.

Please consult your veterinarian if you suspect that any of your alpacas may be infected with coccidia.

Information taken from: <http://www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/~parasite/eimeria.html>

Comments
about the
Newsletter,
any
contribution
s, send to
Alice Brown
at
fpalpacas
@aol.com

*Glad that I live am I;
That the sky is blue;
Glad for the country
lanes,
And the fall of dew.*

—**Lizette W. Reese**
A Little Song of Life



Photo By Barb Nuessle from her trip to Peru.