



The above picture was taken by Teri Conroy the owner of Wunsapana Farms - Llamas in Altamont New York. Teri began her Llama farm in 1998, she is the “president and everything else”. She and her Llamas offer private Llama walks, work with adults and children with special needs and when time allows they accommodate educational field trips. When Teri is not working with the Llamas she is spinning their fiber and sells lockspun yarn.

Table of Contents

3. *Missouri Llama Association Membership Application*
4. *Meet the Missouri Llama Association Board Members*
5. *Our Advertisers*
6. *George & Janice Alden - by Zelma Cleaveland*
7. *Ozark Llama Classic Show & Sale 2016*
8. *Market Place & Disclaimer*
9. *Some General Information if You are New to Llamas by Linda Hayes*
10. *From the Eyes of a Beginner by John Fant*
12. *Missouri Llama Association Membership List*
14. *Hunting Season by Loretta Radeschi*
16. *Southeast Llama Rescue in Missouri*
17. *A Few Interesting Pictures of Llamas*
18. *Southeast Llama Rescue in Missouri continued from pg. 16*
19. *Wooly Thoughts by Zelma Cleaveland*
20. *Sometimes Talking Helps by Tim Kohloff*
21. *Trail Certifier by John Fant*
23. *Note from the Editor*
24. *When a Llama is Smarter than Its Handler by Tim Kohloff*
26. *MLA Lending Library*



Memoriam

Quincy & Sonia Sittingdown were longtime members of the Missouri Llama Association and often showed Llamas at the American Royal in Kansas City. Quincy had been fighting cancer for several years.



Dallas County Christmas Parade Buffalo Missouri

Tim Kohloff along with wife Debra enjoy a beautiful 68 degree day in Buffalo Missouri at the Dallas County Christmas Parade. The Llama pulling the cart is Milkyway with future carting Llama Rascal tagging along.

2015 Membership Form

For Renewals and or New Memberships

Thank you for your support of the Missouri Llama Association.

Your dues support:

The Missouri State Fair Premier Exhibitor -Additional Judges Fees (Mo State Fair) -The Morris Animal Foundation - Information Booths at various events - The Quarterly Newsletter, National FFA meeting & Youth Day - I.C.I.
Only \$25.00 per calendar year (per household)

Each member receives: the quarterly newsletter, a free marketplace ad in each newsletter and On the web, use of the MLA Lending Library and access to loads of information about llamas.

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (with area code) _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Make check payable to Missouri Llama Association.

Mail to:
Liz Harrison
Busy Bee Acres
13046 Hwy U
Odessa, MO 64076

Newsletter advertisement Mail ad information to:

Tim Kohloff
196 Wedgewood
Buffalo, Mo. 65622 or
tkllamas@gmail.com

Meet the New Board Members

The Temporary Board Members Are



Debra Kohloff acting president,
Buffalo Mo.

dkohloff62@gmail.com



Denise Hollingshed acting vice president,
St. Louis Missouri

dhollinshed@att.net



Liz Harrison still treasurer & acting secretary,

Odessa Missouri

llamamama42@hotmail.com



Venesa Carter acting board member,

Rogersville Missouri

Crivenllamas@aol.com



Zelma Cleaveland committee member,

Chillicothe Missouri

zkllamas@aol.com



Tim Kohloff, editor of the newsletter, Facebook
Page Manager, Webmaster.

Coordinator for Southeast Llama Rescue (SELR),
Buffalo, Missouri

tkllamas@gmail.com

Thank You to our Advertisers

Advertising Rates Per Year

Business cards: \$20.00

1/4 Page Ads: \$20.00 includes
business card in 1 issue

1/2 Page Ads: \$40.00 includes
business card in 2 issues

Full Page Ads: \$80.00 includes
business card in 4 issues

*As always our advertising rates
are based on a one year subscrip-
tion and are good for both mem-
bers of the Missouri Llama Asso-
ciation and non members.*



*J and P
Howling Moon
Farm
Booneville, Ark.
479-597-0173
Reg. Llamas and
Hair Sheep*



Zellama Farm
Zelma Cleaveland, Owner

P.O. Box 846
Chillicothe, MO 64601

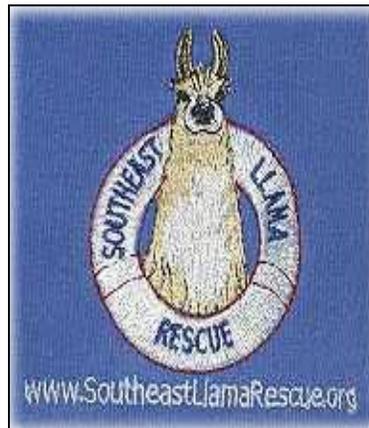
Spinning Fiber * Handspun yarns * Hats * Scarves * Purses * Shawls * Mittens

Phone: 660-646-5233 E-Mail: zkllamas@aol.com

Llama Hardware
Gear for the Working Llama
Richard W Galloway
1385 Tutuilla Rd
Pendleton, OR 97801
Richard@llamahardware.com
406-890-0109

llamahardware.com





Southeast Llama Rescue

Missouri
www.southeastllamarescue.org
Tim Kohloff
Coordinator for Missouri
196 Wedgewood
Buffalo, Mo 65622
417-839-3974
tkllamas@gmail.com



George and Janice Alden had already had llamas several years when they realized the growing need for a state association to provide information and support. In May of 1990 they called several llama raisers from across the state to meet in Jefferson City to organize and then start the wheels rolling for a show at the Missouri State Fair, a show at the American Royal, a newsletter and more. The organization grew by leaps and bounds in those early years with enthusiasm from llama owners and a thirst for information that was very sketchy at the time.



We have now gone through 25 years and I received a letter from Janice Alden about their lives in retirement as they recently had their 60th wedding anniversary. Janice sent a check for their dues for the association to express their continuing support. They no longer have llamas and miss them a lot. I hope some of those people who remember the Aldens and their tireless work in the association will take the time to jot a note of appreciation.

We need to revive the enthusiasm and spark that motivated us in those days. Llamas continue to be wonderful animals to raise and train. We don't need promises of great riches; responsible breeders, training, marketing and scruples may still provide a good living, enjoyable experiences, a circle of great friends and comfortable lifestyle.

At the end of this 2015 year, let's toast the Aldens and all the people who have introduced us to llamas, nudged us into showing, fiber, etc, and memories we are not going to forget!

Zelma Cleaveland

Missouri Llama Association

George and Janice Alden

33196 230th. Street

Hamilton, Mo. 64644

OZARK LLAMA CLASSIC

SALE AND SHOW

SEDALIA, MO

April 29, 30 & May 1

4 BEST OF SHOW WINNERS

One of the best paying premium shows

Contacts:

Larry Kisner LKllamas@aol.com 314-580-5315

Steve Smith LLamatail@aol.com 314-954-3738

For consignor information or to receive a Sale Catalog please call or email

www.OzarkLlamaClassic.com

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Missouri Llama Association, the editor or the board of directors. The information contained in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional advice. We advise that you always consult your veterinarian in medical matters and behavioral issues as they pertain to your animal. The Missouri Llama Association belongs to a network of approximately thirty camelid associations. Therefore, articles published in the MLA newsletter maybe reprinted in those association newsletters and we may reprint articles from their newsletters. If you write an article that you do NOT wish to have reprinted in those publications, please indicate that when you submit the article and it will be identified as non-reproducible. If you prefer to grant individual permissions for reprint, please indicate that when you submit your article.

Market Place

LLAMAS FOR SALE: Show, Pet, Companion Also, stud services available; 6 proven males to choose from: 3 full Argentine. Visitors welcome. Dark Hollow Llamas, Fulton, MO. 573-642-6382. E-mail: defin@socket.net Web: www.DARKHOLLOWLLAMAS.com

FIBER PROCESSING ACCESSORIES: Hardwood, lathe turned one-of-a kind Spinning Wheel Orifice Hooks and Bottle Stoppers, Hardwood Looms for Sale: small to large table style, Frame Looms of various sizes (squares, rectangles and triangles). Endless possibilities of fiber designs: hot pads, scarves, shawls, vests, ponchos, wraps, blankets, etc.
Country Home Llamas, Gail O'Bryan 660-646-2230. gailobryan1@gmail.com

Llamas For Sale: Chris, Venesa & Emily Carter. CriVen Llamas, Rogersville Missouri. Pets, guardians, Breeding stock & Show Animals available. Phone: 417-4256 3159

Spinning Fiber & and Yarn! Llama, silk, mohair, and other natural fibers! Variety of colors and styles. Llama yarns, cleaned rovings, finished items. Consider a fiber gift for friends who crochet/knit/weave Contact: Zellama Farm, 660-646-5233
Zelma Cleaveland, zkllamas@aol.com

For Sale: A reserve Grand Champion (Tulsa Show) 1 1/2 year old male. Black with a little white on lip, medium wool. Grandson to Western LFA Champion Lookout & Homerun. Asking \$800. Contact John or Phyllis Fant at Howling Moon Farms. 479-597-0173

Blade Sharpening Service: fast turn around. Call for pricing. Contact John or Phyllis Fant at Howling Moon Farms. 479-597-0173

Some general information if you are new to llamas.

Llamas are quite cheap now and you could get a really nice one for \$400 or \$500. You may hear of free ones but be careful that they are not old and broke down. If they have fallen pasterns, they won't want to hike with you and will sit around more than a good llama should. It is called being "down in the pasterns". It is where the ankle part of the legs are weak and the back part touches the ground. They should stand up on the pads of their feet just like goats or horses do.

Normal llamas are aloof and have their own personal space. You don't want one that is real friendly. The only negative thing I have ever heard about llamas is that if they are bottle fed or cuddled when babies, they go berserk when an adult and are dangerous. This is very rare but you need to know about it. Don't ever get a bottle fed llama as he will break your heart. He will be so sweet as a young one but when he reaches adulthood he will think you are another llama to be attacked and chased out of his herd or he will think he should knock you down and breed you. Not what you want!

In 25 plus years of owning llamas I have only seen this once and it was at a farm in New Zealand so don't think all llamas are dangerous. It is rare but you do need to be aware so you don't get one that is too friendly. Even friendly females can be trouble. A warning sign is one that wants to get in your space or put it's head under your arm. Normal llamas will want to stay a few feet away from you and must be taught to let you pet them.

You want a llama that can be caught in a small space like a stall or small pen. You should be able to halter them and pick up their feet. They don't like their feet and legs touched so it won't be a piece of cake but it should be possible.

Please don't let these negative things discourage you. I have never yet had one person tell me they were sorry they got llamas. I've sold close to a hundred over the years and everyone has loved them. They are very serene and make you feel good inside just being around them.

I do guarantee my llamas and if you are not happy with the ones you get, I will let you replace them. I also have some rescue llamas that need new homes. Some of these have problems but every once in a while I get a really gentle one with good conformation. Give me a call if you can give a home to a rescue. Adoption fees are \$150 each but if you can't come up with the money, you may be able to foster them until you can.

Go to <http://southwestllamarescue.org/> for more information and to see rescues that are available for adoption. Another place for articles is <https://secure.lamaregistry.com/>. Llamas are fun to own. You will be glad you brought them into your life.

Linda Hayes
Llama Linda Ranch
970 379 4576
www.LlamaLindaRanch.com
llamas@skybeam.com



From the eyes of a beginner

I am not a professional writer by any means, but I like to write. I am going to start a line of articles about what I have seen and learned in the up coming issues about llamas. For many you it has been year's scene, you have been in my shoes. I am gong to tell the good and bad, the victories and failures. So please just stay with our journey. Here is my intro article, so enjoy!

The Importants of Mentors!

You may not think this is important, but to a new comer into the llama industry, it is!

My wife and I started a few years back talking about buying a llama to guard our hair sheep. We watch them go through the stockyard off and on. We never really were trying to learn anything about them. We just listened to what the owners, that where selling the llamas would say. (We all know this- the quick sale pitch!) At that time, that is all we knew about llamas. Oh yea, that they spit! We actually watched the livestock handlers at a local auction get spit on!

Then last June (2014), I found out about a wonderful couple that where needing to get out of the llama industry or llama love (there is a difference) due to health reasons. I was shocked that they interviewed me and asked a lot of serious questions of me. I remembered doing the same thing when we were selling our wolf pups. Then I was asked the famous fifty cent question "What where we going to do with them?" Originally, we where just going to use them as pets and guards. So, then Katy asked me which llama was I wanting to have. Being I just met the couple and had no clue of what the llamas' personalities where, I made the decision to let her tell me which ones would work well for us.

I did not know at the time I was starting down a long road with all of this. I made the arrangements that night for the following Saturday to pick them up. I called my wife on the way home to let her know what I did. Shocked and happy at the same time, she forgave me for doing this without her permission first! That night, after I got home, I started reading on line about llamas. I wrote down my questions to ask the Murphy's (Inca Llama ó Booneville, AR). Two days later, I came across an article that talked a little about mentors.

So, being new I called the Murphyø about this and asked what it meant to be a mentor in the llama world. They told me a short answer, but would explain more when my wife and I picked up the llamas. The Murphyø are a great help to us, and we still call for advice.

To shorten this article about all the knowledge that they had passed onto us, I would write questions down in my notebook to ask and then write the answers beside the questions. This was the best way for me to keep the questions fresh in my mind. I am up to four notebooks at this time.

The next one was a real surprise to me. I was at the Tulsa llama show, trying to learn some more about halter shows. There was a young lady leaning on the ring fence with a llama on a lead watching the show. I asked if she had a few minutes to explain some of the things the judges were looking for and etc. This young woman; who is also a published author of her own book (Inti, the Very Helpful Llama), answered my questions with a big smile. Honey Reese (now Fenn), has an astonishing amount of knowledge in current trends in llama show world for such a young age. Also she has a very good breeding program; as well, that she has great pride in and should be. We have spent many of hourø texting and etc. about llamas. So, we have a separate notebook with her name on it of very thing she has taught us.

The last but not least; are the ones I am personally trying to be like, they opened our eyes to the performance and PR llama world. The family is the Hallø of Simplicity Llamas, I realize it comes natural to them, but they are the best ambassadors for llamas we have met. It was by accident we met, Phyllis and I was sitting and watching an obstacle course performance at NAILS (2014). Greg over heard us trying to figure it out. He gave us a crash course about performance classes and all that goes into it. That was worth the trip alone to us, to have someone explain and give us that knowledge and understanding for that type of show. We spent the rest of the day, learning and watching Greg and Jessica (his daughter). Greg even gave us the opportunity to harness his llama onto the cart. Plus, let Phyllis drive him around to get the experience of driving. The most important lesson Greg made sure that we understand is about the PR end of the llama world. That lesson we have retained and practice often.

There have been several others that given us advice over the last year and we are thankful. The main idea of this article is just to remind us there are a lot of new possible owners that really need the help and knowledge that we have so donø be shy about being a mentor .

So next time someone asks if "does the llama really spits?" just look at it as an opportunity to educated that person to the world of the Wonderful Llama.

John and Phyllis Fant

John and Phyllis Fant are members of the Missouri Llama Association and are also members of PTLA (Pack Trail Llama Association). John has recently become certified to run pack trials and teach packing. He is also the owner of Howling Farm.

Missouri Llama Association Members For Fall 2015

Lester Robinson III - Blue Springs Missouri, [New Member as of November 2015](#)
Florence B. Taggart - St. Louis Missouri, [New Member as of November 2015](#)
Maria Hayes - St. Louis Missouri [New Member as of November 2015](#)
Larry Austell - East St. Louis Missouri [New Member as of November 2015](#)
Bill & Lisa Paquet - Lazy P Ranch Llamas of Ellsworth Wisconsin. [New Members as of Oct 15](#)
John & Phyllis Fant - Of [Hackett Arkansas](#). [New Members as of August 2015](#)
George & Janice Alden - Show Me Llamas
Keith & Bonnie Anderson - Wahoo Farms
Sharon Buchko
Earl & Judy Burton - Leaside Farm
Chris & Venesa Carter - Criven Llamas
Zelma Cleaveland - Zellma Farm
Larry & Kathleen Collins -
Bruce & Linda Demurio - Dark Hollow Llamas
Russell & Barb Fish - B & R Llama Ranch
Brenda Foulks - Rosewood Farm
Gloria Geysler - Little Acre Farm, Knob Noster Missouri
Laura Harrawood - Chigger Ridge Farm
Bob & Liz Harrison - Busy Bee Acres
John & Barb Hedrick - J Bar Llamas
Denise Hollinshed - Eagle Eye Alpaca & Llama Haven
Timothy & Debra Kohloff - Sunset Llama Farm
Richard & Jane Livingston - Renaissance Farms Llamas
Donna L. Marietta
Mindy Reid - Wyncrest, Houstonia Missouri
Tor Sorenson - Southwest Llama Co.
John & Janis Murphy - J Murphy Llamas
Jack & Gail O'Bryan - Country Home Llamas
Gary & Susan Seago -
Steve Smith - Pacific Llamas

Continued on Next Page

Brett Snead - Bushwacker Llamas
Linda Stone - Bar Elle
Cairin Vandenbosch - Shalom Valley Ranch
Jack & Julie Wier - Wier World Llamas & Alpacas

We now have members from four states including Missouri.

If you are a member in good standing and your name does not appear here please contact me at tkllamas@gmail.com so I can correct the oversight in our next newsletter.



Left: Brenda Wood and son Eric “test drive” Milkyway and Ferdinand at the Dallas County Fairgrounds just B 4 the Veterans Day Parade Nov. 2015.

Below Triple C Farms of Sebring Florida. The Llamas are Dusti and Sage, they are both part of their TLC Therapy Hooves team in Sebring Florida.





HUNTING SEASON

A SCARY TIME FOR LAMA OWNERS KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TO PROTECT YOUR ANIMALS

by Loretta Radeschi

On Dec. 1, 2014 one of our horses was shot by a hunter. It could just as easily have been one of our llamas. Because she was shot in the knee and at an angle, standing between the llama shed and a tree, a distance of about 30 feet, and in front of a wire fence, we determined the hunter was in a tree stand on a neighbor's property about 800 feet away from the animals. We believe the hunter aimed at a deer towards our outbuildings, but the bullet missed and hit our horse. Because she remained standing, perhaps the hunter did not realize he had hit her. Friends were kind enough to put her down and bury her. Despite news reports of the incident on radio and in the newspaper, the guilty party was never identified.

After the incident, we spoke with a PA State Trooper and PA Game Commission official, and learned what steps could be taken to protect livestock and property from an incident like we experienced. The safest thing to do is to keep livestock indoors during hunting season, but that's not always possible. Tying orange ribbons on them can help hunters identify that they're not deer, but that's not always enough. Here is what I was told after our horse was killed.

- Know your state hunting laws and your rights. Every state wildlife agency lists the state laws and the agency's regulations on their website.
- Check with your state wildlife agency to learn the dates of hunting season. In Pennsylvania, the greatest danger is between October and December when high powered rifles can be used to shoot turkey, bear and deer. Most damages occur in rifle deer season. More hunters are out the first day of deer season than any other day, and not all of them are responsible, according to Jon Zuck, PA Game Commission Land Management Officer, Bedford and Fulton counties.
- If your animal is shot, call your state wildlife agency. They can gather forensic evidence and determine the direction and distance of the bullet. They can ask neighboring land owners for the names of those who had permission to hunt their property. If they find the casing, and can identify who was shooting that day, they can get a warrant to check the casing with the gun.

- We called the PA Game Commission and were told, incorrectly, that since the State Police were investigating, they didn't have to. The dispatcher should have radioed a Game Commission officer who would have come and investigated, Zuck told us.
- Delay burying the animal until the wildlife agency and/or state police arrive. When we called the police, they couldn't tell us when a trooper would arrive. By the time he did, our horse had been buried, which hampered his investigation.
- Post your property.
- If unauthorized tree stands are on your property, remove them.
- Look for signs of four wheelers on your property.
- Have friends and family hunt your property.
- Hunters are required to carry a hunting license.
- Some states require each hunter carry a letter from the landowner giving permission to hunt.
- If you see someone unfamiliar carrying a gun on your property, get a description of the person and his vehicle plate number, and call the wildlife agency, recommends Zuck. "If a person is trespassing, call the State Police. If he's hunting and trespassing, call the Game Commission." Zuck advises against approaching a stranger if he has a gun.

Each state has a safety zone in which hunters are prohibited from shooting. Also, they are not allowed to shoot toward that safety zone, nor walk through a safety zone carrying a loaded gun. Residences and outbuildings are in the safety zone. If there is damage to property including livestock, the hunter could be fined and restitution made to the landowner.

Unfortunately, in Pennsylvania, a violation of the safety zone regulations is a summary offense, and does not go on a person's record. "It's like a traffic ticket," Zuck told me.

I hope this information will help you. We learned too late to help our horse, but this year we're better prepared for the hunting season.

Reprinted from GALA Newsletter November 2015

Southeast Llama Rescue In Missouri

Southeast Llama Rescue in Missouri had a couple of rescues since September. On September 21st on our way back from the Camelid Community Jamboree in Ellsworth Wisconsin I received a phone call from a lady in east central Oklahoma. She was very upset, her mother had had passed away two weeks before and her father had just had a bad stroke two days before she called me. He father was in the hospital and bed ridden, he had several dogs, (both inside and outside dogs), ten donkeys in other than good health, AND four Llamas. The Llamas were all older, there was a father, mother, brother and a sister. Both males were intact. I agreed to help her, it is 240 from where I



Two Llamas rescued by and adopted by John & Phyllis

live in Buffalo Missouri to where the Llamas were

located. I called Honey Fenn who owns Llamas and lives close to where the Llamas were. I then called John Fant who lives about 40 miles from the location of the Llamas. John, as always was ready to help. As it turned out he knew the lady who was trying to rehome the Llamas, he contacted her and made arrangements to go get them. It was supposed to be an easy rescue, there was a barn there that the Llamas liked to go into and stalls to lock them into. As usual it didn't turn out that way. Johns wife Phyllis was slightly injured while attempting the rescue, however she wasn't badly hurt.



Above: Two female Llamas that Honey adopted, they had not been sheared in a long time. Their approximate age is somewhere in their teens and are mother & daughter.

After the Llamas were safely in the trailer John & Phyllis made a stop on the way home, they stopped at Honey Fennsøhouse where they left the two female Llamas (mother & daughter). Honey had agreed to keep the Llamas temporarily to evaluate them and possibly decide to adopt them. After a couple of weeks Honey did decide to keep the two females.

John & Phyllis and decided to keep the two males who were father & son.

I thank both John & Phyllis and Honey for their participation in this rescue and for adopting the Llamas.

Continued on Page 18



Left: Dawn Moore (Left) at the Western Montana Fair Llama Show. The Llama's name is Mira and the lady to the right is a volunteer from the audience. One of the obstacles at the show is a PR Course, the Llama must stand quietly and be touched by a stranger in some manner. All of the Llamas that are in that class are touched in the exact same way and the judge evaluates the Llama's response, this young lady was a volunteer that took part.

Right: Roman soldier at the Bethlehem Village set up in a gym in a town in Wisconsin, it is put on by a local church. The gym is set up like in the bible days with various kinds of crafts, dancers and this roman soldier who goes around collecting taxes which are little fake gold coins given to the people when they come in. The Llamas were used for the Mary & Joseph procession. They were very well behaved and the people loved it. The Llamas names are Pedro & Pablo.



Picture by Vince Deschene



Top: Bob Harrison of Busy Bee Acres in Odessa, Mo., along with grandson Dylan Walker, the picture was taken at the Chillicothe Christmas Parade. The Llama is Brownie.

Right: Debra Kohloff walks her Llama Tuffyö in the Veterans Day Parade in Buffalo Missouri November 2015. Tuffyö is wearing a day pack loaded with candy that Debra is passing out.





In November we transported two Llamas from the residence of Bob & Liz Harrison who are longtime members of the Missouri Llama Association. Bob & Liz felt they wouldn't be able to handle all of the Llamas they had in the winter months coming up so they asked if my wife and I would give them a home. We decided we had too many Llamas but we did find the two Llamas a good home in north west Missouri.

Top Left: Snow White & Casper, 11 and 12 years old, came from Bob & Liz Harrison and went to live in Cameron Missouri, the horse on the left is 40 years old and still going strong.

Right: Sally, adopted Snow White & Casper, she has experience in training horses and now plans to try Llamas.



On the way back from delivering the two Llamas to their new home in northwest Missouri we stopped at the home of Gloria Geysler who is also a member of the Missouri Llama Association, her husband had passed away earlier in the year and she decided to re-home her younger Llamas and we had agreed in May of this year to personally re-home them at our little farm in Buffalo Missouri. So we picked these Llamas up and transported them to their new home in Buffalo Missouri, hopefully we will be able to give them some further training in either carting and/or packing.



Left: Three Llamas at their new home in Buffalo Missouri. Their names are from the Left: Pacific Shimmer, Westerham's Mahalia and Sir Silver Streak is on the right. The white Llama on the far Left in the background is Tuffy he has been at Sunset Llama Farm for over two years now, he was in a separate pen at the time.

Hello Missouri Llama Association Members, it's December which means it's the end of the year, I know you have other things on your mind right now but membership dues for the Missouri Llama Association are due next month, so while you're thinking about it please send a check to Liz Harrison and get your dues paid up for 2016. Thank u in advance.



Wooly thoughts

By Zelma Cleaveland Member of the Missouri Llama Association

Don't ever say never! .. I have so many friends who have llamas who have said they will never spin!

Hmmmm (as a wise llama once said)! .. suddenly they are spinning and knitting, and weaving and doing all the other fun stuff that grows from having a continuing supply of llama fiber.

I had envisioned a lot of the guard hair being used in the making of fishing flies! I took a class and realized that a handful of fiber could supply Bass Pro Shops for a season! Nevertheless, we keep creating ways to use the fiber in ways to create a cottage industry and keep it from burying us.

As I said, you never want to say you will never do anything! I did that once concerning weaving and those who know me will affirm that I made the statement rather strongly. Lo, and behold, I now have taken a few weaving classes and really enjoy it. Spinning is my first love; I struggle with knitting; weaving is enjoyable and fast!!

Get your llamas ready for winter; give them a brush once in a while to keep a lot of debris from being buried deep in the fiber. By spring and shearing time, you will be ready and the shearing will go much better with fiber that is higher quality. It is so much easier to take burrs and trash out while still on the llama than after shearing.

Your llama fiber adventure is only limited by your enthusiasm and willingness to learn. [First fiber classes of the year will be offered at Fiber Retreat in Jefferson City in March. The class list is currently on the website and classes are filling fast.](#)

Happy fibering to you in 2016!

Don't forget the All Missouri Spin In on April 30 in Chillicothe! "Let's Spin Again"!

Zelma Cleaveland



Sometimes Talking Helps

*Tim Kohloff
Member of the Missouri Llama Association
Missouri Coordinator for
Southeast Llama Rescue (SELR)*

Recently we brought home three Llamas given to us by a friend, the Llamas are all of good quality and registered. When we first brought them home I left their halters on for a couple of days. On the third day I decided everyone was getting along and I could take their halters off. One of the Llamas is a female and is not afraid of people and I was able to walk right up to her and take her halter off. The next one I had to get in the catch pen and then was able to easily take his halter off.

By the time I got to the third (and last) Llama she was a little anxious, she decided she didn't want to be in that small area with me. So I got her in a corner and put my hand on her hip, she kicked so fast and hard that it sounded like a bb gun going off. Needless to say I wasn't eager to be kicked so I immediately backed off. Then she decided she was going to spit at me. So much for these Llamas don't kick or spit. I knew she probably was not normally a kicker or one to spit but she was in a new surrounding, was scared and at this instant separated from her friends. So, before she got to actually spit I politely asked her not to. She of course still gave all of the signs that spitting was imminent. I don't mind being spit on so much but in this case I thought there was no need for it. I again asked her not to spit and began telling her that I just wanted to take her halter off so she would be more comfortable. She was not impressed. I then began telling her that I was sorry that she had been taken away from her home of many years and her Llama friends. I must have rattled on for a couple of minutes talking to her as if she were a human, not in a baby voice but a pleasant voice that I hoped would soothe her.

After a couple of minutes of this she stopped gurgling and smacking her lips, I knew I was making progress. I gave it a little more time then put my hand on her back, she stood still and didn't seem nervous, I then reached up to her head and she held still while I took her halter off. Surprisingly it was not a scared stiff stillness like some new Llamas get when being worked with but a calm stillness. What was even more surprising was that she didn't bolt or try to get away after the halter was free from her face.

Some people think that I'm a little silly or crazy for talking to my animals but I've learned not to care what people think, it seems to work most of the time, going into a catch pen and locking horns with a 350 to 400 pound Llama is not good for the Llama and can be very dangerous.

So far they have blended in nicely with the Llamas that were already here, even at feeding time everyone goes to their own bucket and eats their own. I wonder how long that will last?



Trail Certifier

I will be the first to admit; what in the heck is a newbie doing getting a trial certifier certification for PLTA. Let me give you a little history about myself and my pack string. We have not been in the llama game that long. But when we did get in, it was total love of the llama. We have a current herd of 37 llamas. The majority is my wife's breeding and show herd. I have 8 female and 2 male classic llamas, which three girls are packers and the others are too young to carry a pack at this time but are in training.

After seeing a performance pack show at NAILE. I wanted to try packing so bad. I read or watched everything I could get my hands on videos, books, and internet. I am the type of person that needs hands on to put it all together. I started contacting different outfits for training and this summer was able to get the training. With this training I was able to finally put it all together. My progression was to start training my llamas to pack single and then in a string. With confidence, I took the giant leap of over night them as well. There is more to tell, but I will not bore you. So I am giving you a short version, but now you know a little about my background.

I had been in contact with the PLTA ever sense my training. The more I talked to this organization, the more I wanted to be part of it. The best place I figured to start was to become a certifier. I found the requirements on line and started the process of getting some of the qualifications done by myself. That included taking my string out on four relaxing over nights in the National Forest by our farm. Then studying everything over and over on the PLTA website. Lisa Wolf remembered my request wanting to becoming a certifier and notified me about an upcoming certifiers course. I replied to her that night with yes and within a hour had my airline tickets. I followed the procedures of applying for this training, laid down in the rules of PLTA. It was like a dream come true to me.

The first step was a writing exam that really asked some hard (great) questions. This cover both the challenge and pack trials, which are very similar in some ways. They do have many differences as well: like instead of certifying your animal but bragging rights. There was several questions that made me think real hard about my past experiences (like my packing and pack trial I had attended).

The training required a lot of field work. Three full days of walking, and being made to think as a certifier and the courses. The first day out I was assigned several tasks to actually work on the different levels of pack trials. This was no easy task by any means. Then in the field, I was required to setup up new obstacles and also was quizzed about the old ones, if they where correct for each level and explain they why they were.

The second day, I was ask to do the (steward's) paperwork on several trials. Plus also assigned the task of doing the mandatory skills test for both single and string llamas trials. This type of training really put what I read and the exam into a new light.

The last day, I was given the task of pre-trial briefing before starting the master level trial for that day. Then afterwards was advised how to make my future briefings more fun. Once again I was asked to be the steward for the master level for more experience. This requires a lot more concentration on the llamas and handlers to make sure they do the obstacle correctly and safely. The last thing instructions I received was how to do all the paperwork and what was needed to be submitted to PLTA.



(Two Idaho based llamas on the master trial course that I was stewarding.)

The trial certifier course open my eyes to the world of PLTA even more. Not only did it teach me the rules and regs of PLTA, but also the benefits of having such an organization. This is an organization that not only grants upon completion of requirements for the different levels of single and pack string a certification for that level. But also, trying to show how llamas have value outside a show ring. They offer so many programs that benefit both single farms and commercial pack llama herds as well.

There is one more benefit; that is very close to me, getting both llama and handler into shape so the pair would be able to do these levels. Think about it, even at a basic level, it requires to walk three miles, with mandatory 5 obstacles and 250 to 500 foot elevation gain, this will wear you and your llama out if you were not fit.

I would not change one thing on this path of becoming the best packer that I and my strings can be. The certifier certification taught me even more about packing. I am truly thankful to Lisa, Anne, and Becky for giving me this chance to earn and prove that I could be a certifier. Also at this time, I want to thank a fellow new certifier that I worked with Tom, he gave me some new ideas, more insight to PLTA, and encouragement when I was tried.

Pack Llama Trial Association is a worth wild organization that promotes the packing and working llama. It is currently going through positive changes, that will help out the llama community as a whole. So saying that, my responsibilities to PTLA as a certifier, is to promote the working llama and do the best job to represent the organization.

So, I am encouraging everyone, who even thinking of wanting to try to pack their llamas, at least try a Challenge. This is a for fun program, it does give you a chance to see if you want to continue in packing. Plus, there is a program that PLTA is starting back up, the pack primer. This program is being rewritten up with a curriculum that will give the basics and more about the world of llama packing.

I want to thank all the old packers, new packers, commercial outfits, and llama owners for taking the time to reading this article. I hope to see as many of you as possible in future pack challenges and trials.

John Fant

Howling Moon Farm

John & Phyllis Fant are the owners of Howling Moon Farm and are members of the Missouri Llama Association and also PTLA (Pack Trail Llama Association). John is newly certified through PTLA to run pack trials and teach packing.



Note from the Editor: I know you are all busy with the holiday Season and are probably not thinking about paying your membership dues to the Missouri Llama Association, **BUT** now that you're thinking about it please take a few minutes and send a check to Liz Harrison for your 2016 dues, that way it will be taken care of and you don't have to worry about it. Thank you for being a member.

When a Llama is Smarter than its Handler

By Tim Kohloff

*Editor of the Missouri Llama Association Newsletter
Missouri Coordinator for Southeast Llama Rescue*



About five years or so ago I was asked by the Buffalo Missouri Chamber of Commerce to bring my Llamas to the Celtic Festival held every September. Although Llamas do not quite fit in with the Celtic theme they thought that people would enjoy seeing them pull a cart. Since my main goal was and still is to promote Llama carting I was quick to say yes.

The first few years I took four Llamas, that way when I had one Llama hooked to the cart and one tethered behind that left two at the barn for people to see and ask questions. Anyone who has been in public with Llamas knows that people are usually happy if not surprised to see a Llama (s) at a public event, they are quick to take pictures and ask questions. If you have a Llama pulling a cart that adds to the fun.

This year I decided to take only two Llamas to the Celtic Festival, Milkyway and Rambo. Rambo is my ambassador for rescue, he goes on all rescues where Llamas are running wild and/or can't be caught, he has a 100% success rate, so far. Milkyway goes every year, he is the main carting Llama at Sunset Llama Farm. Rambo is a future carting Llama so he goes everywhere Milkyway pulls a cart. Ferdinand who usually goes along is number two carting (or relief) Llama stayed home for the first time. All three of them have been in numerous parades and other events since coming to us. However this year I decided it was too much for my wife to do spinning demonstrations, take care of the Southeast Llama Rescue & Missouri Llama Association information table, answer questions and also watch the Llamas left behind when I was out with the other two. So I took Milkyway and Rambo, it was old hat to both of them and I expected no trouble but I was smart enough to know that you always have to be on the look out for people who aren't paying attention and walk out in front of you or maybe just do something stupid such as just walk up to the Llama and grab a hold of him, you just never know.



Harnessing up Milkyway in the barn at the Celtic Festival in Buffalo Missouri. Difficult to see but Rambo is tethered to the rear of the cart.

So, in the morning we put the pack on Rambo, tethered him to the cart and hitched Mr. Milkyway up and went for a drive around the Dallas County Fairgrounds to show the people a little of what Llamas can do. We always get our share of õoh look at thatö and õI didn't know a Llama could pull a cartö. Anyone who takes Llamas in public is used to that. There's always people who want to take pictures and ask questions, so the trip around usually takes awhile, but we enjoy it.

Mid afternoon I decided we would take one more trip around, but I got a little lazy so I left the pack off of Rambo, he did not seem to be disappointed not to be carrying the pack. As usual I harnessed up in the barn, for one reason it is the only flat area nearby that we are not in the way of the festivities. I know that it could be a little dangerous to harness up and hitch to the cart with people in the barn walking by and standing by our information table, however I know and trust my Llamas and I always keep a sharp eye out for people getting too close or who may spook the Llamas.

This time was no different, I hooked Rambo to the rear of the cart and he stood patiently while I prepared Milkyway for our last trip around the festival. My wife was talking to a lady at our information table and another lady stood against a corral panel in front of Milkyway and a little to the side watching us. She really wasn't in the way. I had thought about asking her to move but for some reason that I still do not understand, I didn't. So, all hooked up, one last check to make sure everything is hooked correctly, make sure Rambo is secured and were ready to go, RIGHT? I thought so.



Milkyway pulling the cart and Rambo, taken at the Celtic Festival in Buffalo Missouri September 2015. Earlier Rambo was carrying a pack. The cart was custom made several years ago.

I got in the cart and told Milkyway õok let's goö and at the sametime I lifted the driving lines a few inches and dropped them on his backside. He didn't move. Usually this is all it takes to get him moving. I did it again, nothing. I did it a little harder, no go. So I slap him pretty good but not too hard and say õforward Milkywayö. NOTHING. Now I'm not happy, this isn't like him. I decided it must be the lady in front of him. So I started getting out of the cart to lead him a few feet and then get back into the cart. As I began exiting the cart the lady to our right moved to our left and had a small child with her. The child had been hidden by the Llamas neck and lower body. I hadn't seen it. As soon as the lady and the child had gotten out of the way Milkyway began moving on his own. I immediately was scared because of what could have happened, I had almost ran over a little child with a Llama. Thinking to myself, I got really mad at the lady for putting us all in that position. After a few minutes I began to thank Milkyway for being smarter than me, I shouldn't have put any of us in that position in the first place, but since I did I should have checked to make sure the path in front of us was 100% clear. I couldn't see anything other than the lady standing to the side, so I thought it was clear. ***Thank goodness the Llama was smarter than me.*** It's not the first time he has avoided an accident/collision with people walking out in front of us, but it is the first time he has performed his duty to this level. Not bad for a \$25 Llama, I guess.

MLA LENDING LIBRARY:

Librarian: Bruce Demurio Dark Hollow Llamas, Fulton, MO.
Phone: 573-642-6382. E-mail: darkhollowllamas@gmail.com

Members pay return postage for items checked out.

We have books and VHS tapes in the library on a variety of subjects ó health, fiber, training, new owners, etc. Complete information on available materials on the Missouri Llama Association Website: www.missouriLlamaassociation.org

If you have books, tapes, CDø etc. pertaining to llamas or fiber that you are no longer using, your Missouri Llama Association library would appreciate your donation to help others learn more about llamas!

BOOKS:

Stop Spitting At Your Brother Diane White Crane
Llamas For Love And Money Rosana Hart
So You Share Your Life With A Llama (2) Susan Peterson
A Guide To Raising Llamas Gail Birutta
Living With Llamas Rosana Hart
Llamas Are The Ultimate Doyle Markham
Medicine And Surgery Of SA Camelids Murray E. Fowler DVM
Llama/A Veterinary Lama Field Manual C. Norm Evans DVM
Spinning Llama And Alpaca Chris Switzer
Caring For Llamas Clare Hoffman DVM

"Spin Off" Magazines (5)

VIDEOS (VHS):

The Mallon Method, The First 24 Hours
The Mallon Method, Halter Training Basics
Llama Reproduction Part I La Rue Johnson DVM
Llama Reproduction Part II "
Getting Started With Team Marty McGee Bennett American Royal Llama Show 1997
Llama Biosensor
Training Llamas to Drive (2) - Bobra Goldsmith
2000 MLAø Spring Seminar
Llama Biosensor (2) CDø
Alpaca Field Vet Manual C. Norm Evans DVM
2000 MLAø Spring Seminar
Llama Biosensor (2) CDø