



Brett Snead with his Llama Bolivian Serena participating in the 2015 Missouri State Fair Llama show. Brett was the winner of the Premier Exhibitor.

# *The Missouri Llama Association Newsletter*

## *September 2015*

# Meet the New Board Members

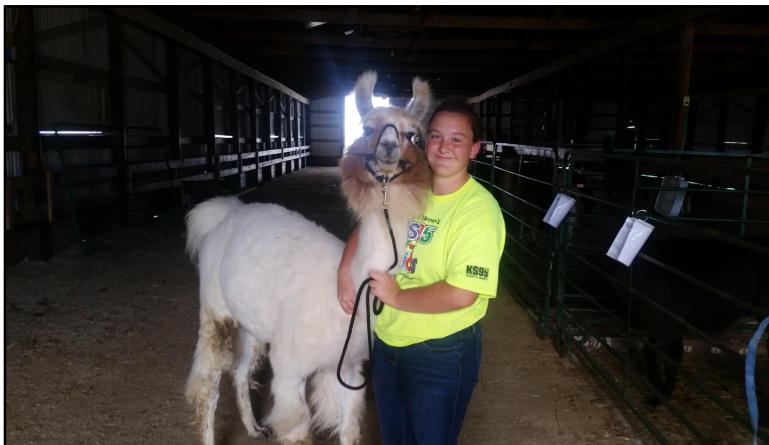
On August 19th., the day of the Missouri State Fair Llama Show, the Missouri Llama Association held a meeting for its members, information about the meeting was put out several times via Facebook, email and verbally about the meeting. Since our members are spread out across two states we thought this was the only logical place and time to have a meeting, especially since no one could come up with a better place and time. Nobody responded to any of the messages put out so the only attendees to the meeting were those who were there to show their Llamas at the state fair show or assist in the show in some way.

It was decided that the **temporary board members** would hold offices until the rest of the members could vote on the temporary members.

## The Temporary Board Members Are:

Debra Kohloff	- acting president
Denise Hollingshed	- acting vice president
Liz Harrison	- still treasurer
Liz Harrison	- acting secretary
Venesa Carter	- acting board member

**Mady Paquet, of Ellsworth Wisconsin with her new Llama that she won at the battle of the border 4H show at the Camelid Community Jamboree in Ellsworth Wisconsin. Mady and her whole family do a lot of showing in 4H. Madys' father Dan & mother Lisa were in charge of the 4H concession stand. Mady's new Llama was donated to the 4H show by Jim & Jan McArdle of Wisconsin and Marion Bragg of Virginia, they purchased the Llama from Larry Kisner who is from Pacific Missouri. More photos of the Jamboree on pages 22 - 24.**



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# 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.

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Phone: (with area code) \_\_\_\_\_

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Make check payable to Missouri Llama Association.

Mail to:

Liz Harrison  
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Newsletter advertisement Mail ad information to:

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



# Fiber Article

By Zelma Cleveland  
Member of the Missouri Llama Association

## Wooly Ponderings

Wow! The fiber events popping up all over Missouri and other places should give everyone a clear picture of the possibilities with fiber. Whether you want to create a small business with fiber to pay a few bills or go into a major marketing endeavor, the opportunities are there.

A few years ago Camelid Community met in Kansas City to develop a program (brochure) all about fiber: shearing, sorting, processing, yarns, finished goods, etc. You can find this

information at [icinfo.org](http://icinfo.org) and download it for your reading pleasure. You may not want to process your own fiber, but you need to have an idea of what it involves so you know what to expect and to save yourself some \$\$\$\$\$. The general rule is ð trash in, trash outð . This means that if you send your fleece to a mill filled with cockleburs, grass, poop, etc, it won't come back pristine. It just takes a little effort to skirt the fiber to get the worst out and to shake out the second cuts. Also think economy: The fiber processing charges are based on the weight it has when they receive it.

My fiber year sort of starts in March with the Fiber Retreat in Jefferson City. This is a chance to see what other people produce and learn about new fiber arts. You make some great connections and learn about more places to go to vend your fibers.

The next thing on my agenda was to finish the homework for the Master Spinning Program. Got all my samples and writing done and mailed it by May 1 so I could get it marked to be able to attend Level 6 in Canada in June. Elaine Duncan from Purdin has been in the program, too and we have turned the class into a travel opportunity. We flew to Spokane, Washington (Southwest allows two large bags ð free!) and rented a car to drive to Olds, AB, Canada (just north of Calgary). The Olds Campus is beautiful and we have made a lot of friends from the class and enjoy the social activities they offer. Level 6 was seven days of testing on our spinning wheels. As intense as it may sound it was a very fun experience and we learned a lot in the process. The next thing is to complete our in depth studies; mine is on llama fiber and Elaine is doing silk. Following classes, we drove back to Banff for a couple of days to continue exploring the Canadian Rockies around this picturesque town. On our way back to Spokane, near Radium Hot Springs, we finally realized our quest of spotting a black bear!

Another note on the Master Spinner Program: A group from the Springfield area got enough students together that Olds sent a teacher to Springfield in July to start Level 1. Let me know if you are interested in this and maybe I can help you get organized..

*Continued from page 5*

And more learning! July was the Fiber U session in Lebanon sponsored by MOPACA. They have more classes, vendors, and activities. I taught a class on mathematical applications we use with our spinning wheels and fiber.

I took several classes and tried the fly-tying with llama fiber. Thought it would use us a lot more fiber than it did! Darn!

The northern Missouri group Fiber Gals continue to meet and more area people are contacting us for spinning information. Start a group with a couple of people and pretty soon you have a large group with lots of ideas and enthusiasm! Several of the group entered items in the Missouri State Fair Natural Fiber Competitions in the Home Ec Dept. The MLA sponsors a class in llama yarn to show people what the fiber can be like. Isn't it time you tried this? I'll write an article in the spring to make the process go a little easier. The fair's website is a little confusing if you haven't done this before.

The llama show at the fair was small, but the llamas had some beautiful fiber just begging to be made into some beautiful garments. Tim and Deb set up a nice display promoting the fiber so people could have another reason to add a llama or two to their farms!

August 1, the Grand River Historical Society in Chillicothe invited the fiber group for a fiber day at the museum. We had 73 guests sign the book to see weaving, spinning and fiber tools. The weekend of September 12 & 13 was the annual Chautauqua in the Park in Chillicothe celebrating 31 years. I coordinate the Traditional Arts area and you can be sure we had plenty of fiber-related things for people to see. About 8000 people attend this festival.

Coming up this week, I am giving a Fiber Program to a senior home in Chillicothe. No, these people don't want to raise llamas or spin, but they will tell others what they have seen.

You have to be creative and take the opportunities that are out there to get people wanting to know more and wanting to experience what we all have enjoyed for years - the love of llamas! Next April 30 is the All Missouri Spin In in Chillicothe. We will have classes, vendors, lots of spinning and a private treaty sale that brings in a variety of fiber equipment looking for new homes. Contact me for information. We have about 20 vendor booths filled already!

This writing is not intended to be my diary but to give you ideas to inspire you to use that gorgeous fiber!

Until next time, happy fiberizing,

Zelma

# **Thank You to our Advertisers**

## **New Advertising Rates**

Business cards: \$20.00

1/4 Page Ads: \$40.00 includes business card in 1 issue

1/2 Page Ads: \$60.00 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 subscription and are good for both members of the Missouri Llama Association and non members.

### Southeast Llama Rescue

Missouri  
[www.southeastllamarescue.org](http://www.southeastllamarescue.org)  
Tim Kohloff  
Coordinator for Missouri  
196 Wedgewood  
Buffalo, Mo 65622  
417-839-3974  
[tkllamas@gmail.com](mailto:tkllamas@gmail.com)



### Llama Hardware *Gear for the Working Llama*

Richard W Galloway  
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Pendleton, OR 97801  
[Richard@llamahardware.com](mailto:Richard@llamahardware.com)  
406-890-0109

**llamahardware.com**



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### Zellama Farm

*Zelma Cleveland, 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](mailto:zkllamas@aol.com)

# **Missouri Llama Association Members For 2015**

George & Janice Alden - Show Me Llamas  
Keith & Bonnie Anderson - Wahoo Farms  
Sharon Buchko  
Earl & Judy Burton - Leeside 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  
Charles & Gloria Geyser - Little Acre Farm  
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  
John & Janis Murphy - J Murphy Llamas  
Jack & Gail O'Bryan - Country Home Llamas  
Gary & Susan Seago -  
Steve Smith - Pacific Llamas  
Brett Snead - Bushwacker Llamas  
Linda Stone - Bar Elle  
Cairin Vandenbosch - Shalom Valley Ranch  
Jack & Julie Wier - Wier World Llamas & Alpacas  
John & Phyllis Fant

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

**Thank you for being members of the Missouri Llama Association.**

## Llamas keep Livestock Safe from Coyotes.

Llamas in Colorado are fast becoming a part of every sheep ranch. Their natural instincts make them the perfect guard for sheep, goats and other small livestock. Some are even used to protect colts and calves.

While llamas can't protect against such large predators as cougars, bears or packs of dogs, they are successful keeping coyotes at bay. Llamas are naturally curious. When an unfamiliar animal comes into their pen, they instinctively run towards it. To most wild animals this is such an anomaly that they turn tail and run.

As llamas bond with their livestock charges they get very protective and will try and stomp any invader they perceive as a threat. Being highly intelligent, they can easily be introduced to the ranch pets so that they do not perceive of them as predators.

Iowa State University did a study of 145 sheep ranches in 1990. Sheep producers had been losing an average of 26 head (11% of their herds) per year before getting a guard llama. After obtaining their llama, losses dropped significantly to an average of 8 dead per year. Half of the ranches had their losses reduced to zero. Eighty percent of the producers rated their guard llamas as effective to very effective.

While the tradition guard has been a gelded male, some have tried to breed their charges and would sometimes smother them. The preferred gender now is the adult female who will consider the sheep her own babies and protect them to the death.

Many stories have been told of guard llamas rounding up their herd to take them to safety or setting in front of a doorway to keep them away from a threat outside. They have an instinctive alarm call which they use to alert the rancher to prowlers on the property. Thus they become sentinel animals as well.

Llamas eat the same food as sheep, get the same inoculations and are shorn at the same time so they easily fit into any herd. Their upkeep is very low and they seldom need the care of a veterinarian. To top it off, their fiber can be woven, used to make felt or sold to spinners.

Llamas were one of the first animals in the world to be domesticated. They were used by the Indians of South America as much as 6,000 years ago.

Because of their long association with man, they are one of the most docile creatures on earth. They are easy to train and safe to be around. Do they spit? Yes, but only the maladjusted ones spit at people. It is a means of protection and is often used in food fights between herd mates. They are cousins to the alpaca and camel as well as the wild vicuñas and guanacos of the Andes Mountains.

For more information on llamas or to get a ranch tour, contact the author at Llama Linda Ranch near Glenwood Springs. 970 379-4576 [hayestees@sopris.net](mailto:hayestees@sopris.net)

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](http://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 ó 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](mailto:gailobryan1@gmail.com)

**Llamas For Sale:** Chris, Venesa & Emily Carter. CriVen Llamas, Rogersville Missouri. Pets, guardians, Breeding stock & Show Animals available. Phone: 417-425ó 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](mailto:zkllamas@aol.com)

**Farm for Sale:** 160 acre farm, Llama/horse/cattle ranch in the Ozarks. Custom crafted 4000 sq. ft. log home with 3 barns & out buildings. 80 acres open & 80 acres with timber. Also Pack saddle with panniers complete. Will fit Llamas or horses. \$75. Call: 417-469-0145



## Note from the Editor

This year is coming to an end very quickly, fall is closing in on us. It doesn't seem like it but the Missouri State Fair Llama Show was just a month ago. I want to apologize to everyone for the mistakes that were made at the show. I was the superintendent of the show and it was easy to tell it was my first time. My wife Debra was a HUGE help and I could not have done it without her. Also, since I was supposed to be organizing the show I did not get as many pictures as I would have liked to have gotten. My wife was helping with the record keeping and only got a couple of pictures herself. I was able to put a few pictures of the show in the newsletter but I did not have any pictures of Tor Sorenson, Venesa Carter and Denise Hollinshed, I am sorry for not being able to put your pictures in the newsletter.

The show was very small compared to other Llama shows around the country, we only had 34 Llamas but the show had a lot of enthusiasm. Our two newest members of the Missouri Llama Association John & Phyllis Fant traveled all of the way from Hackett Arkansas to participate in the show, Pierre Guren & his wife Denise Hollinshed also new members traveled from St. Louis. We thank everyone who came from near and far to participate. We hope all of you will come again next year and bring some friends with you who can participate.

Before the show the members of the Missouri Llama Association that were there held a meeting and elected a temporary board. If anyone would like to consider for any position on the board please contact us.

Please help us to get the Missouri Llama Association back on its feet by participating in our annual show and by forming a committee in your area to promote Llamas. Carting, packing and fiber are just a few things you can do with Llamas, most people not familiar with Llamas do not know this, ALL of us need to help educate the public whenever possible.



## **This Newsletter Needs Your Help**

Ladies and gentlemen, I am the first to admit that I know nothing about putting out a newsletter, I agreed to take the position of editor because Zelma Cleaveland who was our first and only editor was tired and worn out from putting together a quarterly newsletter for so many years.

I get very little input from the members of the Missouri Llama Association in putting out this newsletter. I am asking all of you to PLEASE send me anything that can be used in the newsletter. This includes but is not limited to pictures of your Llamas, crias born or purchased, shows you attend, fiber you process anything Llama and/or fiber related, articles you may have read that you think our members will enjoy, health tips etc., etc.

**Thank you.**

## ***A Couple of Pictures from the Missouri State Fair Llama Show 2015***



**Left: John Fant & wife Phyllis traveled all of the way from Hackett Arkansas to participate in the Missouri State Fair Llama Show. John and his Llama are finishing the obstacle course with the teeter totter.**

**Right: Brett Snead and his Llama do very good crossing the steps and Platform.**

# **Missouri State Fair Llama Show**

## **ILR Sanctioned**

**Nick Hauptly, Cedar Falls, Iowa – Judge**

( Contestants listed in Order of placing)

### **Novice Obstacle:**

Bolivian Serena – Brett Snead  
HSF A Pain in Uranus – Phyllis Fant  
Ollendick Farms Crossfire – Brett Snead  
SMS Rosebud HA 817 – Phyllis Fant  
Bushwhacker's Kiara – Brett Snead  
Rhi Renegade's Strata – G – Eagle Eye Alpaca & Llama Haven  
Snowqualmie CTW – Eagle Eye Alpaca & Llama Haven  
CVL Nicki – Brett Snead

### **Open Class Obstacle**

Ph Lady Antebellus – Brett Snead  
Cabernet's Roero Arneis – Brett Snead  
Milestone's Lluminous Ursa Minor – Brett Snead

### **Costume Class**

PH Lady Antebellus – Brett Snead ( military camouflage)  
Milestone's Lluminous Ursa Minor – Brett Snead ( Patriotic theme)

### **Adult Showmanship ( age 19 and older)**

PH Lady Antebellum – Brett Snead

### **Intermediate wool Females:**

### **Juvenile Female ( 5-12 months)**

CVL Persian Dymond – Venesa Carter  
SWLC – Tor Sorensen

### **Yearling Female ( 13-24 months)**

MSF Royal Princess – Venesa Carter & Reserve Intermediate Wool Female  
Stage Stop's Shakira – Tor Sorensen  
Milestone's Lluminous Ursa Minor – Brett Snead  
Santeria - Phyllis Fant

**2 Year Old Female 9 25-36 months:**

SWLC Carlene – Tor Sorensen & **Champion Intermediate Wool Female**  
Ollendick Farma Chellina – Venesa Carter  
Bushwhacker's Kiara – Brett Snead  
CVL Nicki – Brett Snead

**Adult Female ( 37 monts & older)**

Sijama Eliza – Larry Kisner  
SWLC Epic – Mindy Reid  
Bolivian Serena – Brett Snead  
Chee Chee Wong Ah – Phyllis Fant

**Heavy Wool Females**

**Juvenile Female ( 5-12 months)**

CTW White Dyamond – Larry Kisner & **Champion Heavy Wool Female**

**Yearling Female ( 13-24 months)**

Wyn Aloha's Ice – Mindy Reid  
HOLR Love Bug – Venesa Carter  
All Taed Up in Bo's – Venesa Carter

**Adult Female ( 37 Months & over)**

Itsanaya – Venesa Carter & **Reserve Heavy Wool Female**  
Ph Lady Antebellum - Bret Snead

**Intermediate Wool Males**

**Juvenile Male ( 5-12 months)**

HSF Sir Bratticus – Phyllis Fant - & **Reserve Intermediate Wool Male**  
**Platinum Marquia – Larry Kisner**

**Yearling Male 9 13-24 months)**

Silver Crown CTW – Larry Kisner  
SWLC Shout – Tor Sorensen  
Lookout's Wiley – Phyllis Fant

**Adult Male ( 37 months & older)**

Ollendick Farms Crossfire – Brett Snead & **Champion Intermediate Wool Male**  
GC's All the Marbles – Phyllis Fant

## **Heavy Wool Males**

### **Yearling male ( 13-24 months)**

Matterhorn CTW – Larry Kisner & **Reserve Heavy Wool Male**  
Snowqualmie CTW –Eagle Eye Alpaca & Llama Haven

### **Adult male ( 37 months & over)**

MGF Whers the Crown – Venesa Carter - & **Champion Heavy Wool Male**

### **Non- Breeder ( 37 months & over)**

RHL Renegade's Strata – G – Eagle Eye Alpaca & Llama Haven & **Champion Non-Breeder**  
Cabernet's Roero Arneis – Brett Snead - & **Reserve Non- Breeder**

## **Best of Show – Judge's Choice – Carlene – Tor Sorensen**

**Premier Exhibitor: Brett Snead - \$100 from MLA & State Fair Trophy**

**Congratulations to all of the winners!!!!**

**Thank you to all who participated in the show we hope to see you all again next year.**

**A very special thank you to Nick Hauptly who drove 5 1/2 hours each way to judge our show.**



**Mindy Reed and her Llama  
Participating in the  
Halter Class**

## *Words From the West*

By  
Richard W. Galloway

**Please note, this article was first written in the mid '90s, but is still relevant in today's market. While Richard no longer owns Llamas he is still involved in the Llama world and helps to rehome Llamas whenever possible.**

We have recently been involved in the rescue of six llamas. Five of them intact males, between four and five years old and one two year old female that had been in with the boys for at least a few weeks. I guess I should call her a bred female. Why these llamas were in need of rescue is not the subject of this column, lets just say that it was a legitimate reason, not just that the person wanted to get rid of the animals.

What this little trip brought to mind is the ever-increasing number of llamas out there that are for sale, either very cheap or like this time, free. Does this spell disaster for the breeding llama ranches? Well it could if we as a group of similar minded people do not keep working on preventing the rescues rather then continuing to give the breeders an easy out.

With the influx of these animals we also see an ever increasing cycle of more and more people getting llamas who have no idea what is required to care for or train them. If they happened to end up with both a male and female they don't know that they should not just breed them for the sake of having a cute little cira running around. They don't know where to get the needed supplies, what shots or treatments to give. Even the most basic of care can not be given if they don't know it's needed.

The question then that comes up is what we are to do about it. Do we continue to complain about the indiscriminate breeder who, under whatever circumstances are forced to get rid of their animals cheaply and quickly or do we take the ball into our court and educate the new owners in what they need to do along the lines of care and training.

### **Continued from page 17**

We have to be open to the questions of newbies even if we view the person with some disdain because they did not buy an animal from us. Perhaps if we work with them and help them to learn the next, animal they purchase will be from us. If we can teach them and they in turn can teach one other person then that will make our job of education that much easier.

The time of high dollar llamas may not be completely gone, but it is on the way out and the only way I personally can see to keep from compounding the problem is to educate the public about what llamas are really like. We have to get around the stereo typical view the public has of llamas being either spitting, vile creatures to be avoided or cute no care ones that can be put in a back yard and forgotten about like they are a stray dog or cat.

If we can not stop the trend then we need to jump on the wagon and teach as many people as possible all the uses for llamas. The dollars can still be there, even if we have to go for the quantity instead of trying to show them only the high-end animals.

Look at it in the terms of the dog or horse people. There are known differences in the show animals and the average animal in those two categories. Does one mean that the other cannot exist? If it does then someone forgot to inform those groups. While there are those who will only own an animal if it has a pedigree the opposing person wants one like the show animal based simply on the look of the animal. The show animals help get the public educated in what is out there and what can be done with them. Then the average animal they purchase becomes a part of the family where others of like mind get to see them and decide if they want one.

## Continued from page 18

This is where I see our sales of llamas are headed and it is not a bad direction. Watching the other animals out there and you will see two separate division with show and average animals. Is one better then the other, only for their respective uses. Do you have to raise only one or the other? NO, you should view this as doubling your sales potential.

Do what ever it takes to show the public what llamas can do, either by inviting them to a show or event or by going out in the public with your animals. It's always amazing how people will come out to talk if you walk a llama with or with out packs down a city sidewalk or through a local park.

Just be prepared to answer the questions repeatedly. Always have plenty of business cards easily accessible to hand out. Perhaps your local group also has brochures available that cover the basics you can hand out as well while you are talking to people. Most of all, if people see you enjoying your animals they will want to do the same and that is how sales are made.

Richard



**Left:** Pierre Gurin coaxes his Llama up the steps and across the platform, they were both new to showing and both did GREAT. **Right:** Larry Kisner one of the original Missouri Llama Association members participates in the halter classes.

# Showing in a Halter or Performance Class - - Your Llama Needs to Know How to Back.

By Linda Hayes ALSA & ILR-SD Judge

This article was also printed in the RMLA Journal

Teaching your llama to back is a must if you expect to do your best in the show ring. Performance classes require extensive backing but even in a halter class, knowing how to back can help you win.

Performance exhibitors are always asked to back and often the backing obstacle is complicated and challenging. By following the techniques shown below, performance llamas will be able to earn all the ten points given for each backing obstacles.

In the halter class, knowing to back just a few steps allows the exhibitor to properly "square up" the llama to show off their best conformation. "Squaring up" your animal means that his weight is equally distributed on all four legs. A relaxed llama will stand this way naturally if his legs are correctly proportioned and angled.

It is important to have your llama trust you and be relaxed in the ring. If he is pulling away from you he will not show off his correct structure. If he does stand relaxed and balanced, leg deviations will not be as obvious.

That being said, how do you get them to stand square? It all starts with training at home. There are four steps to training. As the llama learns your commands you will not need to use them all.

1. Say the command. In this case "back" Always use the same word and the same tone of voice.
2. Move into the llama's personal space. The end goal is to have your animal respond to your body movements or at least the movement coupled with a quiet voice command.
3. Use the lead to pull back on the halter. Do this gently. No jerking allowed. One of the main ways to punish a llama is to jerk on their heads. So use a soft hand.
4. Physically make the llama go where you want. In this case your first goal is just one step back. You won't have to be physical often as they will quickly learn to avoid such contact with you.

I have seen people try and force the llama to back by stretching the lead rope across the llama's neck and pushing on them. This is awkward and not very subtle. If you must put hands on, tickle them on the chest. When the chest moves back, the neck and head are sure to follow.

Your first goal is to get just one step taken backward. Once this is accomplished give them a reward. Usually just a loose lead will do but a bit of grain can also work. Sometimes they need to be rewarded just for switching their weight back without any foot movement at all. Training is a matter of taking small steps to accomplish your end goal.

### **Continued from page 20**

If you give a verbal reward like "good boy" use the same tone of voice and same words each time. Follow it with a physical reward such as the loose lead. In time, just the words will be all you need to use.

Now here is something that is very important. **Don't do all four things at once.** Start by standing in front of the llama and saying "back". Then pause for a moment. Follow that by moving into their space and again pause. Next, put pressure on the lead and give the llama time to respond. When that doesn't get a response, use the tickle or push to the chest. Repeat this over and over, always including the pause between commands.

I'm sure the first time you do this the llama is thinking "This guy is nuts!" That's why you pause after each command. You want the llama to have time to digest what is happening.

Once he has taken a step back give a reward. You are also teaching him that if he obeys your first command (voice) you won't touch him, get in his space or pull on his face (halter). It won't be long before this soaks in. You can do a lot of damage to the training process if you forget and do them all at once or in the wrong order. Remember: voice, move, lead, and then touch.

After a while, you will find that the llama no longer needs to be touched and will back with just pressure on the lead. Once you get this far, work on increasing the number of steps taken.

You want him to respond to slight movements of your body or quiet voice commands. In the performance classes, a llama that backs without pressure on the lead is sure to be a winner. In the halter class it makes life a lot easier.

It's important to keep your training sessions short. Ten minutes twice a day is better than twenty all at once. It gives the llama time to think about what has happened. You have heard the term "Let's sleep on it." I think llamas invented it because it seems to work well for them. You can spend all day trying to teach something that they simply refuse to do and then come back the next day and they do it like they knew how all their lives.

Okay, your llama now knows how to back. It's time to use your training in the halter ring. With a relaxed responsive animal at the end of the lead you would go through the following steps to make sure he is standing correctly.

1. Be in a position where you can ask the llama to take a step straight forward. Sometimes you have to get out of line and move up into position again to make this possible. It's allowed, just don't do it over and over.

2. Ask them to stop. A structurally correct llama usually stops with the hind feet where you want them.

3. If his back feet are not positioned correctly, move him forward or backward until the rear feet are side by side with weight equally balanced. Remember; always get the hind feet placed before moving the front.

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4. If the front feet are not in place, use your back up training to get the llama to move each front foot ever so slightly until it is where you want it.

They are starting the backup movement only they don't finish it. With practice you will see the llama actually hold the foot in the air until your body language tells him to put it down.

I know this sounds nearly impossible to those of you who never show in obstacle classes. But as a performance judge, I can tell you; these animals are amazing & with trust & training you can get them to do almost anything.

Once all four feet are correctly placed the llama will be balanced for visual and hands on inspection. Your time and effort will have paid off. Even if you don't win the blue ribbon, you can bet that your peers and the judge will have noticed what a great showman you are and how well trained your animal is. That's not a bad feather to put in your cap.

End



**Top Left: John Fant takes his Llama through the inner tube in the Novice Obstacle class.**

**Top Right: Brett Snead and his Llama Lady Antebellum participate in the Halter class.**



The Camelid Community Jamboree in Ellsworth Wisconsin was on the 19th & 20th of September, speakers came from as far away as Mass., Pa., Tn., Mn., & Oh. Also in attendance were several members of the Missouri Llama Association, Laura Harrawood and her two sisters, Larry Kisner and Tim & Debra Kohloff. There was also an alpaca farmer/vendor from Marshfield Missouri there.

In my opinion the main event for the Jamboree was the "Battle of the Border" 4H Show that took place on Saturday afternoon, 4H groups from both Wisconsin and Minnesota had a friendly but very competitive battle in performance and halter classes.

The collage includes:

- A sign on a fence reading "The Camelid Community presents..... BATTLE OF THE BORDERS WI MN BORDERS Starts at 11:00 Saturday".
- A person leading a llama through an obstacle course involving a large black tire.
- A person leading a llama in a fenced arena.
- A llama standing behind a wooden railing.
- A sign on the ground that says "Do Not Spit On The Llamas".

**Unfortunately I did not get the names of these young ladies and gentleman, they all did an excellent job and there was a lot of enthusiasm from both sides of the border.**

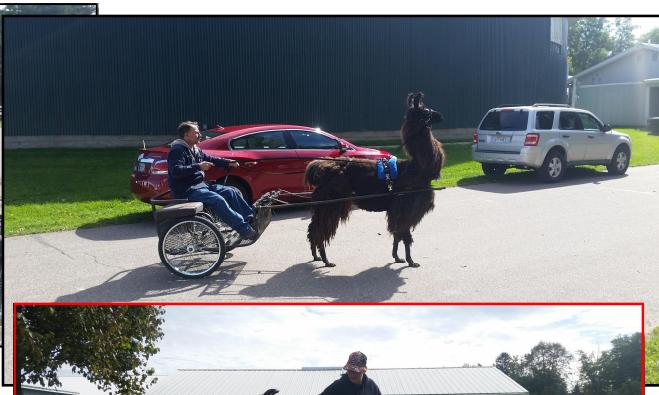


Left: Marc Page of Sputter Mill Ranch from Perersham Mass., gives a demonstration on how to approach and halter a Llama.



Top Right: Dr. Kristy Brown, DVM, Leon Valley Veterinary Service and owner of The Brownderosa Llamas in Sparta, Wisconsin gives a demonstration of mountain packing.

Bottom: Dan Whittaker from Stillwater Minnesota demonstrates harnessing and driving (carting) with his Llama. His Llama shown here is about 16 years old. Dan also judged the 4H show on Saturday.

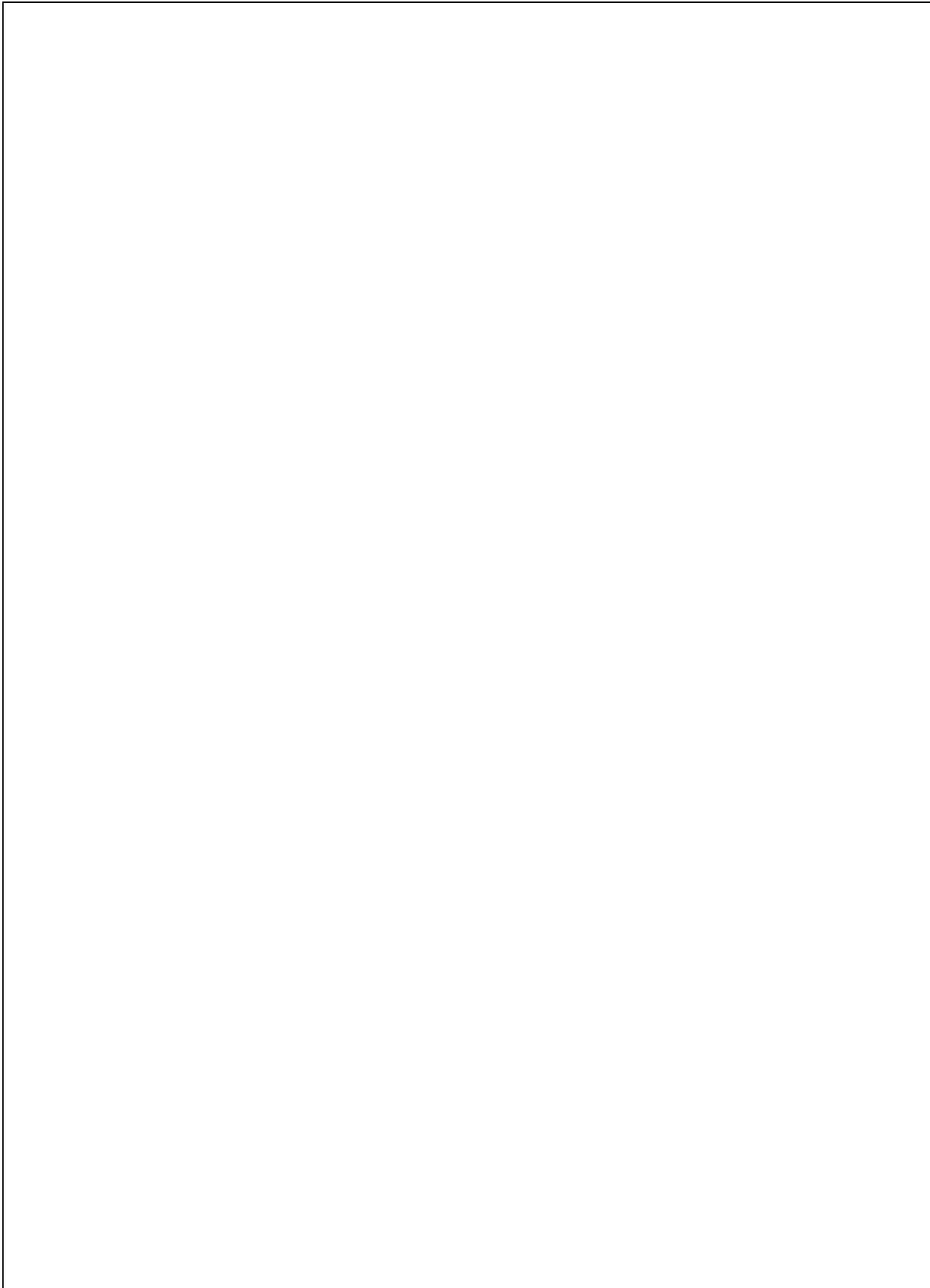


Right: Vince Deschene takes "Spotty" the Llama for a "test drive". Vince gave presentations on Llama therapy and day packing.



Below: A local lady takes advantage of "test drive a Llama". She did very well. She later returned with some friends and grandchildren to visit the Llamas. Scott Dobbert, owner of "Spotty" the Llama Walks along side.





# **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](http://www.missouriLlamaassociation.org)

If you have books, tapes, CDøs 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 MLAøs Spring Seminar  
Llama Biosensor (2) CDøs  
Alpaca Field Vet Manual C. Norm Evans DVM  
2000 MLAøs Spring Seminar  
Llama Biosensor (2) CDøs