



# NEAOBA News

A Newsletter for New England Alpaca Owners and Breeders

**Fall/Winter Edition**

**Published for NAOBA by NAOBA**

**December 2002**

## Welcome to Fall!

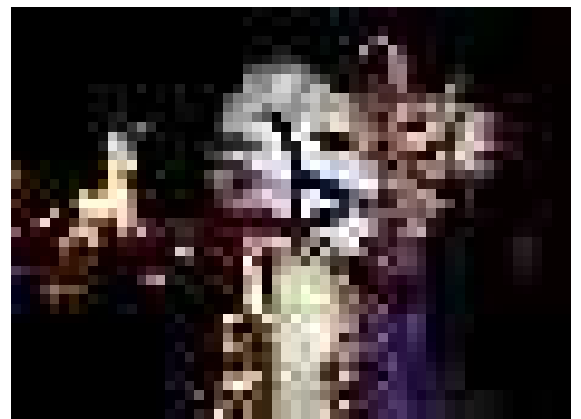
As we quickly get ourselves and our alpacas hunkered down into "winter mode" here in new England it's nice to look back on the recent show season. We NAOBA members have a huge amount to be proud of this year as our first-ever sponsored alpaca show was a resounding success! The New England Coastal Classic was a two-day program held in Portland, Maine and was well attended by breeders, prospective alpaca owners, and the public. Approximately 160 animals from all over New England and as far away as Ohio and Maryland took part in the AOA sanctioned Show. The 17 vendors included weavers as well as a complete operating spinning mill. All this, along with the wide range of educational lectures on offer, attracted over 1,000 non-breeders, of which many were interested in purchasing alpacas. We would all like to thank show organizers Doris & Walter VanBuskirk of Lightfoot Farms, Cindy & Tim Lavan of Chase Tavern Farm, Wendy Turner of Sea Hill Farm Alpacas, Al Maloney of NEWAIM Farm Alpacas, Laura Busky of North Brook Farm, plus the many other volunteers, for all their hard work!

The Big "E" in Springfield, MA, organized by two NAOBA members (Kevin O'Leary of Riverview Alpacas and Mike Tierney of Maple Brook), was also a big hit. The Big E is a well-established show and is a wonderful low cost entry into the show circuit for new alpaca owners and breeders, with the lowest cost for pens and even a chance to win premium money. This was the first time the Big E has been AOA-certified and a total of 259 alpacas from 65 farms hit the show ring, even though pen space was limited. Thanks to all who good-humoredly shared what little tack space was available!

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**Jed and Capilini dressed the part to accompany Three Kings on the Portsmouth Christmas Parade  
(photo Portsmouth Herald)**

This is a quarterly newsletter intended to educate and proliferate the alpaca industry in the Northeast region of the U. S.

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Views, advertisements and article submissions are the opinions of the writers and providers and do not necessarily reflect NAOBA's opinion as a whole nor members opinions individually

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

## New farm Members

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Deanna & Daniel Britton  
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5676 Stage Road  
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ph: 802.537.2971  
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Brae Lea Alpaca Farm  
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Nancy & Michael Roy  
Little's Lane Alpacas  
2 Little's Lane  
Newbury, MA 01951  
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Dave & Marcie Sanders  
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## New Associate Members

Debra Johnson  
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413.498.2160  
fax 413.498.2160  
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Bruce Elliott  
PO Box 498  
Henniker, NH 03242  
603.428.7050  
[belliott@conknet.com](mailto:belliott@conknet.com)

## Changes for Current Members:

Rob & Kate Cardinale, Birds I View  
Ranch  
New email: [cardinale@earthlink.net](mailto:cardinale@earthlink.net)

Bob and Donna Ferrera, Oakhill  
Alpaca Ranch  
1385 Shapleigh Corner Road  
Shapleigh, ME 04076  
Phone: 207-793-3414  
[donna@oakhill-alpaca.com](mailto:donna@oakhill-alpaca.com)  
[www.oakhill-ranch.com](http://www.oakhill-ranch.com)

Angela and Kurt Bertram (old farm  
name: Merryway Farm)  
New farm name - Tamarack Meadow  
Farm  
New e-mail - [chessie@metrocast.net](mailto:chessie@metrocast.net)  
New website - [www.tmalpacas.com](http://www.tmalpacas.com)

Renee and Alec Adams, Crossett Hill  
Alpaca Company  
New Website:  
[www.crossetthillalpacas.com](http://www.crossetthillalpacas.com).  
New Email addresses:  
[rossetthill@adelphia.net](mailto:rossetthill@adelphia.net)  
and [info@crossetthillalpacas.com](mailto:info@crossetthillalpacas.com)

Marcia MacDonald, Long Plains,  
Buxton, ME  
listed as Long Plains Farm, but are  
now Long Plains Alpacas  
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new website:  
[www.longplainsalpacas.com](http://www.longplainsalpacas.com)

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Marlborough, NH  
new website:  
[www.alpacanation.com/whisperingwinds  
.asp](http://www.alpacanation.com/whisperingwinds.asp)  
Add Rick Patnode as name 2

Ernie Kellogg, Double "O" Good  
Alpacas, Gainesville, MD  
Misspelled city on current listing--  
should be Gainesville  
add 2nd phone 888-257-7792.

...Continued from Page 1

Special thanks to Kevin and Mike and to Judge Mike Safley for stepping in at the last minute. Thanks also to Judge Ruth Inglefield, Show Superintendent Peg Stephens, also to all the volunteers that made this event work!.... Next year the alpacas will be back on a weekend slot, with room for approx. 300-350 alpacas.

One important aspect of the Big E that is often overlooked by many of us alpaca owners is the chance to show off our wonderful home-produced alpaca products to the public. The fact that Erica Dwyer, of Hampden Hills Alpacas, who only relatively recently learned to spin was awarded a blue ribbon in her hand spun yarn category, and better yet Reserve Grand Champion out of all the camelid fiber arts, is especially inspiring to beginning spinners like me! Erica is wonderfully enthusiastic about her spinning and is now available to give lessons (see Classifieds on page 14). Liz MacEachran of Kilblaan Farm, another wonderful alpaca fiber artist won Grand Champion. Congratulations!

At the NEAOBA meeting at the Big "E", the members present voted that NEAOBA hire the marketing consultant Tholen Associates to promote NEAOBA (see "Minutes" on Page 25). The idea behind hiring such a consultant is that they would assist us in gaining free editorial media exposure instead of paying for expensive ad space, thus a more cost effective use of NEAOBA's funds and the best publicity for member farms.

Tholen Associates' first task will be the promotion of the **New England Alpaca Breeders Holiday Farm Tour**. Open Farm Days will be held at more than 40 farms across New England during the weekends of Nov 30-Dec 1 and Dec 7-8. Each farm has been given the opportunity to submit a Press Release including a Farm Bio, and Tholen Associates will package these together with other relevant materials into Press Kits that they will distribute to the various local Newspapers around the New England Region.

Last, but by no means least, the NEAOBA BOD and I encourage you to read the new bylaws included in this Newsletter mailing. You will be receiving a ballot in the mail sometime before the end of this year so please be prepared to **VOTE** on the proposed changes!

All my very best to you all for the holidays and for a wonderfully happy and prosperous New Year!

*Nicola Blake*  
NEAOBA news Editor

## NEAOBA INFO

NEAOBA was founded in February 1995 by New England members of the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA).  
NEAOBA is an official AOBA affiliate.

[www.neoba.org](http://www.neoba.org)

Current membership #s: **162** Farms

Officers:

President: **Jim Mullen** ([pmm@southwindfarms.com](mailto:pmm@southwindfarms.com))

Vice President: **Joan McCurry**, Phone: (203) 266-9002

Treasurer: **Laura Busky** ([laura@northbrookalpacas.com](mailto:laura@northbrookalpacas.com))

Secretary: **Stephanie Pfeiffer** ([info@hawkehillfarm.com](mailto:info@hawkehillfarm.com))

Webmaster: **Al Maloney** ([newaim@midcoast.com](mailto:newaim@midcoast.com))

Advertising: **Dave Sanderson** ([Sandersons@PRAIpacas.com](mailto:Sandersons@PRAIpacas.com))

Newsletter: **Nicola Blake** ([nicola@sfallpacas.com](mailto:nicola@sfallpacas.com))

To request an extra copy of the Newsletter, contact Laura Busky

## Contribute to the NEAOBA Newsletter!

*This newsletter is what WE the members make of it!*

If you are interesting in contributing ideas, articles, news, tid-bits, funny stories and/or photos, etc to this newsletter please submit them to the editor Nicola Blake ([nicola@sfallpacas.com](mailto:nicola@sfallpacas.com)).

**NEAOBA NEWS AD RATES** (*Send all payments directly to Laura Busky*)

Classifieds (45 words or less): \$15.

Business Card \$15.

1/2 Page \$30.

Full Page \$45.

Double Full Pg \$80.

Farm Flyers \$65.

A **farm flyer** is a full-page advertisement *completely* prepared by the member. The flyers can be double sided and in color if you choose. These will simply be added to the newsletter during assembly.

# Kids Corner

## Winter Holiday Project - Alpaca Ornaments

Use the cut-outs below to color in. Or you could use them as templates for tracing one onto cardboard, or for making two fabric alpacas, sewing them together and stuffing (just before closing the last part of the seam).

They could then be decorated with real alpaca fuzz (we know your parents have lots around!) and with other craft supplies like beads for eyes - you could even dress them up in colorful scarves as alpaca "snowmen"!

Hangers can be attached through holes made as shown

Email [nicola@sfalpacas.com](mailto:nicola@sfalpacas.com) and I will send you larger (or smaller) versions of these templates.

If you email (or mail) photos to me I will put some of my favorites in the next newsletter.

# New England Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association

31-Oct-02

## Summary of All Financial Activities

Balance Sheet	5/31/02	10/31/02
<b>Assets:</b>		
General Cash Fund	15,733	17,335
NEAF Cash Fund (starts w/1997)	2,142	2,142
NECC Cash Fund	5,000	15,868
Total Checking Account	22,875	35,345
NEAF Prepaid Expenses	500	500
NECC Prepaid Expenses	689	0
Certificate of Deposit	11,090	11,090
Total Assets	35,154	46,935
<b>Liabilities and Equity:</b>		
Accrued NEAF Expenses	1,072	0
Accrued NECC Expenses	1,000	0
Equity	33,083	46,935
Total Liabilities and Equity	35,154	46,935

	(A) Actual 6/1/02 thru 10/31/02	(B) Budget 6/1/02 thru 5/31/03	(B less A) Actual to Budget Variance
<b>Statement of Profit and Loss</b>			
General Activities Income	1,816	13,450	11,635
General Activities Expense	3,831	6,261	2,430
Net Profit/(Loss) from Gen Activ	(2,016)	7,189	9,205
NEAF Income	0	21,000	21,000
NEAF Expense	0	22,450	22,450
Net Profit/(Loss) from NEAF	0	(1,450)	(1,450)
NECC Income	75,894	36,500	(39,394)
NECC Expense	60,026	41,760	(18,266)
Net Profit/(Loss) from NECC	15,868	(5,260)	(21,128)
<b>Net Profit/(Loss) from all Activities</b>	<b>13,853</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>(13,374)</b>

Please Note: NECC numbers are preliminary. Not all expenses have been paid.

**NEAOBA currently has 162 members.**

**New England Coastal Classic 2002**  
**Preliminary Results**

10/31/02

	(A) Actual 6/1/02 thru 10/31/02	(B) Budget 6/1/02 thru 5/31/03	(B less A) Actual to Budget Variance	(C) Revised Forecast 8/22/02	(C less A) Actual to Forecast
<b>Statement of Profit and Loss</b>					
<b>NECC Income:</b>					
Farm Displays	0	5,250	5,250	5,250	5,250
Stall Fees	20,045	13,500	(6,545)	14,000	(6,045)
Vendor Fees	375	3,500	3,125	0	(375)
Sponsorships	16,450	2,000	(14,450)	13,750	(2,700)
Program Ads	21,651	0	(21,651)	18,500	(3,151)
From NEAOBA	630	0	(630)	0	(630)
Program Sales	635	0	(635)	2,000	1,365
Admission Fees	3,122	4,000	878	4,000	878
Fleece Classes	2,036	1,500	(536)	2,800	764
Halter/Performance Classes	7,400	6,000	(1,400)	8,000	600
Educational Seminar Fees	0	750	750	100	100
Dinner Ticket Sales	2,550	0	(2,550)	2,500	(50)
Grants	1,000	0	(1,000)	1,000	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	75,894	36,500	(39,394)	71,900	(3,994)
<b>NECC Expense:</b>					
Facility	15,303	3,960	(11,343)	3,960	(11,343)
Facility Setup	0	7,900	7,900	11,150	11,150
AOBA Fees	1,213	2,050	837	1,300	87
Show Superintendant, Staff, Labor, Exp	3,685	2,000	(1,685)	6,000	2,315
Judges	0	3,500	3,500	2,200	2,200
Marketing (AOBA Mag, direct mail)	29,573	15,750	(13,823)	36,894	7,321
To NEAOBA	195	0	(195)	0	(195)
Banquet, Entertainment, & Social	8,527	1,000	(7,527)	4,000	(4,527)
Educational speakers	537	1,850	1,313	1,850	1,313
Phone	0	500	500	500	500
Vet On Call Services	0	250	250	250	250
EMT	0	500	500	500	500
Misc	992	2,500	1,508	2,500	1,508
Total	60,026	41,760	(18,266)	71,104	11,078
<b>Net Profit/(Loss) from NECC</b>	15,868	(5,260)	(21,128)	796	(15,072)

**Please Note: We have not paid all expenses for this show yet. This report is subject to change.**

# *What do you do on your Farm?*

## **Questions for this issue:**

1. At what age do you consider breeding your maiden females? Which criteria do you use in your decision?
2. How long after they give birth do you wait to breed back your females?
3. After breeding, how often do you test your females? If they are receptive how often will you let them breed?

## **Answers:**

### **Lyn and John Callen, Mettowee Valley Farm, Pawlet, VT**

1. We do not breed our maidens until they are 2yrs. old.
2. We breed back between two and three weeks.
3. We test weekly. If they keep spitting off we assume they are pregnant and then ultrasound at 30 days. If receptive no more than three tries and then have female checked by the vet.

### **Alpacas of Kilblaan Farm**

1. We start to consider breeding a girl when she passes about 14 months. Then we check to see if she's close to 100 pounds and notice whether she's hanging out around the fence when other girls are breeding. Yes to all of those and she gets a tryout. If she says no, we wait another month.
2. We were breeding back at 2 weeks with excellent results. Then we went to 3 weeks to allow the girls longer to recover and we weren't doing as well. We went back to 2 weeks and the females are nearly always receptive and breed quickly.
3. After breeding we spit-test girls once a week. After 21 or so days, we do a progesterone. With our old reliables we sometimes skip the blood test, but with all of the girls, we continue to spit-test at least twice a month until winter. We don't breed during the winter, so we don't spit then either. However, we've never had a girl go into the winter pregnant and come open again.

### **Patricia Houde, Alpaca Fields, Inc. York, ME**

1. We breed our females between 18 and 22 months depending on their size and maturity.
2. After birthing, we breed back our females between three and four weeks.
3. Once a breeding takes place, we spit test at week two. If unreceptive, we check again one week later. If still unreceptive we have an ultra-sound confirm pregnancy at day 45. If she is receptive, we will allow her to breed two to three times before putting in a call to the vet (haven't had to do this yet).

### **Dawn & John Brooker, Fiber Fields Alpaca Farm, Palermo, ME**

1. We wait till they are 18-24 months. We base this decision on: Age, Size/weight of over 110lbs. Males' reaction to that particular female along the fenceline (not formal testing). We have found the maiden female will flirt (visit the boys at the fence, flip her tail, etc) prior to her being mature enough to breed however rarely will our males be interested in a particular female until she is mature. Interested male behavior will consist of chasing the female along the fenceline, standing up on his hind legs, orgling etc.
2. We wait 2-4 weeks
3. After breeding, we test our females weekly for 2-3 wks following a good breeding session. If the session was questionable for one reason or another we may test every 3 days for the first week. Our males and females share a fenceline so the males will tell us if a female becomes open. The mannerisms of the female when she is close to the male although not formally testing is often enough to give us the information we are looking for....especially when we are breeding females we have owned for several

years. If they are receptive we prefer a weekly breeding schedule and try to avoid breeding twice in the same week. If the female does not become bred with 2-3 breedings we give her a break and start again. We REALLY try to avoid over-breeding by watching the males' and females' mannerisms. When females come in for breeding we will watch them for a few days to observe them and the males in the neighboring pasture.

#### **Jim & Sue King, Skyview Alpacas, Elkins, NH**

1. We consider breeding a maiden female at 16 to 18 months, but often wait until she is about 2 years of age. We take into account her size and condition. It also depends on the time of year, since we prefer not to have crias born between Nov. 1 and March 31.
2. We try to breed back 2 to 3 weeks after giving birth, unless there were complications in the birth that the mom needs to recover from.
3. We behavior test the girls about two weeks after breeding and periodically thereafter. If nothing is happening after a month or so, we start discussing the situation with the vet.

#### **Ron and Terry Miller, Snowshoe Farm, LLC, Peacham, VT**

1. We use 18 months as a target date for breeding our maidens. We may breed earlier or later depending on the size and maturity of the female and the time of year.
2. If the delivery was normal, we breed back at 21 days. If there is any question about the condition of the dam, we will have our vet examine her before breeding.
3. We do not have a herdsire on our farm yet, so we are not doing in-house breedings. Our females are brought back to the farm after pregnancy is confirmed by ultrasound. So far, we seem to have females that are fairly easy to read; let's just say they are a bit on the "cranky" side when pregnant. We have not tested anyone after the first ultrasound and have not lost any pregnancies through reabsorption or abortion.

#### **Laura and Michael Busky, North Brook Farm, Berlin, MA**

1. We watch their growth and behavior starting around their first birthday. If they have good size and seem interested, we start breeding around 14 or 16 months. If they don't seem ready, we continue to watch and wait up to age 2 before trying them. We also take weather and season into account. If they seem ready at 14 months, but it's already November, we would wait until spring.
2. Ideally about 3-4 weeks, but sometimes we wait out the hot or cold season.
3. We behavior test once a week for the first 3-4 weeks. If the female is receptive during this time we let her breed again. After 3-4 weeks of non-receptive behavior we test progesterone levels. Once confirmed pregnant, we like to continue behavior testing once in a while to make sure she retains the pregnancy.

#### **Renee & Alec Adams, Crossett Hill Alpaca Company, Duxbury, VT**

1. We consider breeding females at 14-16 months. We take into account both her size and interest level. We prefer her to be about 100 lbs. If she's not flirting at the fence line or shows no interest at the initial introduction, we don't push it.
2. We wait 3-4 weeks.
3. We'll wait 4 days from initial breeding and reintroduce. If she's receptive, we let them breed again, and within the week we'll do a behavior check once more.

#### **Dave Sanderson, Parker River Alpaca Farm, Byfield, MA**

1. We consider breeding our females between 14 to 18 months of age. If a female has matured rapidly and is approx. 3/4 of her adult size then she would be a candidate for breeding on the younger range. Otherwise we'll wait longer as we'll want her to be full grown well before delivery of her first cria.

2. We typically breed back our females on day 21 or 22 after giving birth. We believe this is the optimum timing likely to achieve pregnancy on the first breeding.
3. After breeding, we will behavior test them every 7 days and breed them if they are open. We'll continue behavior testing them for at least 4 consecutive weeks from the point they continue to spit off and then continue to test them more intermittently.

**Melissa and Lou Ferrara, New England Alpacas, Killingworth, CT**

1. We consider breeding maiden females around 18 months depending upon weight and maturity. We observe the female around our males to determine receptivity.
2. If the birth was not complicated, we generally breed back in 14-21 days.
3. After the initial breeding, we wait 2 days and repeat. We then retest in one week from the second breeding. If the female is receptive, we breed them again and wait one week. Have never had to go further than this!!!

# STUD DE MONTH

*Each Month we randomly choose a NEAOBA farm member to provide info on their favorite Herdsire*

## MA Kencoya

Acorn Alpaca Ranch

DOB: 4/25/97

Sire: PPPERUVIAN KENAMORI GOLD

Dam: PPPERUVIAN MISS MISTY

Micron: MC 21.9, SD 4.9, CV 22.4,

Color: White

Kencoya is our Full Peruvian, Half-Accoyo, white stud male. In our multi-colored herd with our variety of colored Stud Males, Kencoya still remains a cornerstone of our successful breeding program. He has excellent conformation and presence, with an extremely attractive head. His total coverage dense crimp fiber reminds you of a plush carpet. Most important, he has now proven to repeatedly pass those characteristics to his offspring.

Never having Kencoya in the Show Ring, we were anxious to show his first offspring. Both his 2000 offspring are shown here ---AAR Jacqueline with a Grand Championship at the 2001 Big E and AAR Orion with the Yearling White Male Blue Ribbon at the prestigious 2002 MAPACA Jubilee. For Kencoya, equally impressive was the Third Place finish in "Get of Sire" class at the 2002 North American Show. In a class traditionally dominated by all white animals, Kencoya's winning characteristics stood out in an entry of white, fawn, & brown offspring.

Producing Quality in all colors, limited breedings are available.

Stud Fee: \$2,500

Owners: Bob and Louise Hebler

Acorn Alpaca Ranch,  
99 Acorn Street  
Millis, MA 02054  
(508) 533-4493

email: [AcornPaca@aol.com](mailto:AcornPaca@aol.com)  
[www.AcornAlpacaRanch.com](http://www.AcornAlpacaRanch.com)

**AAR Jacqueline**

LLC.

# ***NEAOBA Featured Farm:***

## **New Millennium Alpaca Farm**

The New Millennium Alpaca Farm is located in the heart of the White Mountains in northern New Hampshire in the town of Lancaster. This was an idea that was conceived in the last millennium, and became an actual farm in this millennium (January of 2001). We're doing a lot of learning and it sometimes seems that we're doing things the hard way! We've taken an old house in town on four and a half acres of woods and tried to turn it into a farm with pasture, we now know why this is the granite state! We're breeding our girls to the finest genetic lines available to us, everyone tells us to breed up and that's just what we're doing to help ensure the best for future generations.

Right now we have five beautiful girls, of which all are pregnant. We also have three males, one gelded male and two new borns that came just this summer. Both of the new crias have excellent fiber and confirmation.

Black Mariah - A full Chilean daughter of The Silversmith, Mariah is a jet-black 5 year old with 2 beautiful daughters and a son to her credit. At 5 years old her micron count is 25 with an SD of 4.7. Her second daughter, Nevada, took first place in the bay black class at the Big E 2001 and then went on to become Champion in her class. She was bred to Maori Magic again for a 2002 cria, which came June. We named the cria the New Millennium Falcon. All of Mariah's crias have been champions so far and we don't plan to change her mate, so she's been breed again to Maori Magic.

Paloma Blanco - Daughter of Accoyo Amadeus and Peruvian Chilam, Paloma. Her fleece is of a superb silkiness with tight crimp throughout. She has great conformation and good size, she placed 3rd in white yearling class at MAPACA 2001. Her fleece took Third Place at The Big E in 2001. She was bred to Accoyo Grand Triumph and her first cria, the New Millennium Jedi Knight, is 3/4 Accoyo with the crimpiest fleece ever! He really is spectacular for a three month old cria!

Nevada is Mariah's baby from last year and has been breed to another champion. Morning Star wasn't shown last year, but is an exceptional white girl and she's been breed to Seagram for another summer cria. Olympia is a beautiful light brown girl that has been breed to another champion, so this summer will be especially exciting for us.

We haven't been active in the show circuit this year as our boys were too young to show and all of our girls are pregnant, but we'll see you all there next spring!

If you would like to contact us, you can e-mail us at [darronspalty@juno.com](mailto:darronspalty@juno.com) or call at (603) 788-5117. We also have a web site at [nmalpacafarm.com](http://nmalpacafarm.com).

# ComputerDynamics!

*Tips on management, handling and training your farm's computer!*

## Simple Tips for Better Web Searches

*compiled by Nicola Blake, Sallie's Fen Alpacas*

Google—the technology behind my favorite Search tool (<http://www.google.com/>) is so powerful that people now use "Google" as a verb. "I'm trying to find out information about the Origins of Alpacas." "Well, have you Googled it?" Doing a plain Google search can yield surprisingly good results, but sometimes it just gives you too much information.

That's why the simple search technique of entering a few keywords and clicking the Search button isn't always the best way to find what you're looking for. When you really want to zero in, knowing a few advanced Google search tips can help you get much more accurate and relevant results.

Try the following easy techniques. You'll quickly find yourself spending more time benefiting from the Web and less time searching it.

### Use OR

By default, Google returns pages containing all the words in your search query. If you don't want that, you can insert the word OR (all uppercase) between any two keywords, and Google will return pages containing either of those words. One good use for the OR option is to find something that goes by more than one name or spelling. For example, typing *Australian Alpaca wethers OR geldings* will return pages containing references to either geldings or wethers (the Aussie term for neutered males) in Australia, while *alpaca color OR colour* will return pages containing both spellings of the word "color" to include Canadian, UK, as well as Austrailin/NZ sites.

### Phrase Searches

If you're searching for an exact phrase, enclose it in quotation marks. For example, typing "*alpaca health*" is more likely to return pages specifically about alpaca health than the quote-free query *alpaca health*, which

returns pages containing both words, whether or not they appear together. This technique is especially useful when you're trying to find longer, exact quotes.

### Including Important Terms

Google usually excludes common English words (like "where," "how," and "to") and single letters (like "I" and "a"). But if a word or letter is essential to your search, you can precede it with a plus sign (+) to force Google to look for it. So, to find Web pages about how to give shots, you might type *alpacas+how+to give shots* to ensure that your search returns "how to" pages about giving shots.

### Excluding Terms

To exclude pages that contain a certain word, type that word preceded by a minus sign (-). For example, if you wanted to find pages that discussed hay, but not mulch hay, you could type *alpaca hay -mulch* to exclude the term "mulch." Keep in mind that you can use the minus sign in conjunction with the plus sign: A search for *alpaca hay +orchard grass -mulch* tells Google that the pages returned must contain the words "orchard grass" and must not contain the word "mulch"

# CLASSIFIEDS

## WANTED!!! NEAOBA Directors

Our current Treasurer will be stepping down after 3 consecutive terms. Our Board of Directors may also be expanding to 6 members if the proposed by-laws pass. What does this mean? *WE NEED YOU!* Anyone interested in running for office, please contact one of your current BOD members. We'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**YOU'VE GOT THE WHEEL - NOW WHAT?!** -- Have you always wanted to learn to spin, but can't find an instructor? Erica Dwyer of Hampden Hills Alpacas, Hampden, MA is now giving one-on-one spinning lessons from their **NEW** farm store "CRIATIONS". \$25/hr lesson. Bring your wheel, wool (if you've never spun) or alpaca fiber (if you need tips on graduating to alpaca). We supply fiber for an additional fee. Call 413-566-2407, email [thedwyers@hampdenhillsalpacas.com](mailto:thedwyers@hampdenhillsalpacas.com) or stop by the store for details. CRIATIONS open Sundays 10 - 4 or by appt. *Gift certificates available.*

**THANK YOU!** - Earlah Swift of Mariah Alpacas, South Ryegate, Vermont would like to say a big

**Thank You!** to everyone who sent cards and flowers, or called and emailed to offer their support during her recent illness. Happily, Earlah is now well on her way to recovery!

# Man's Best Friend...???

*Jeff Koehl, Southwood Alpacas, South Woodstock, CT*

Last night, I was rustled from a sound sleep at 1:30 AM by a howling pack of coyotes that were fiendishly disemboweling their prey. My mind instantly focused on SWD Paloma, our 3-week old cria, and other young herd members as the howling and heckling rose to a ferocious pace. The level of loudness indicated that the scuffle was in the field adjacent to the barn. The noise, an un-nerving sound that brings discord to the deepest part of my being, caused a chill to run up my spine. My response???... I rolled over, waited a few minutes for the feast to end, and then I was back to sleep. Tonight, about 15 minutes after I returned to the house from my nightly barn chores, the coyote were nearby and at it again. I stayed in the house and did not investigate further.

How can I be so calm and secure, you ask? Some may even ask; how can I be so uncaring to not run out to ensure the safety of the cria and the rest of the herd. The answer to this is quite simple. During the events of the past two nights and within seconds of the first screech of the wild dogs, I heard the deep and resonant sound of Maximus (a.k.a. Max) our Livestock Guard Dog. Without question, he was once again, informing the intruders that they were to come no closer. Even if they should penetrate the electric fence and other defense structures, I am confident that they could not withstand a round with Max. I am also confident that I would know that intruders had entered the paddock before events escalated.

One night last spring at about 2:45 AM, a lone coyote ventured to within about six feet of the perimeter fence. During that event, Max instantly told me, with the tone and frequency of his bark, that I should come out to investigate and assist. For those of you who have a livestock guard dog, you know that they communicate in subtle ways. Do I sleep soundly knowing that Max is on duty? Absolutely. Did I know what I was getting myself into when I adopted Max and brought him into the family? Absolutely not! Recently, at the New England Coastal Classic in Portland, Maine, I had the opportunity to discuss livestock guard dogs with two other breeders. That discussion confirmed that I was not alone in my misconception about what I was getting myself into when I brought this unique and fascinating animal onto the farm.

Max is an Akbash Dog. I believe that my comments regarding the Akbash Dog are applicable to most Livestock Guard Dog (LGD) breeds. He is unlike any other dog that I have come across. While most prospective owners understand this uniqueness on an academic level when considering the addition of a LGD to the herd, reality strikes when one experiences these animals first hand, their differences take on a life of their own.

The LGD is an ancient breed. By ancient, I mean that the breed is over 2,000 years old. During the breeding history, predatory behaviors were eliminated from the line while protective characteristics were fostered. **I can tell you first**

**hand, at first it is difficult for an untrained eye to distinguish the difference between behaviors when a 130 pound animal is growling and barking at you (sometimes more aggressive behaviors than this).** Owning a livestock guard dog is an enormous responsibility. Training them takes years. They do not mature and engrain their long-term behaviors until 3 years of age. One false step before the age of one can have a huge negative impact when the dog reaches maturity.

For example, LGDs are as cute as any other puppy at the age of three or four months, but training at this stage must be firm and decisive. The messages being sent to the dog must be consistent, lest he become confused. At this stage, the puppy is testing boundaries. A small push against your leg at six months may seem innocent to the owner, but the dog is testing to see if the owner is going to obey the command. If the owner gives in and moves his or her leg, the dog has just established that he is dominant in the relationship. This small interaction repeated and ingrained into behavior can have detrimental long-term consequences. When the dog reaches maturity, he can become uncontrollable and attack any intruder on the property who is not part of the dog's herd (the owner and the owners family and the alpaca on the farm are all part of the dog's herd at this point). The dog can become aggressive to any person entering the property and not respond to the owner's commands to accept the visitor. Obviously, this is not good for alpaca breeders who have potential customers visiting the farm. On one farm I know, the LGD must be locked up each time a visitor comes to the farm. On another farm, the LGD attacked the mailman. In this case, the livestock guard dog had been allowed to roam the entire owner's property and had therefore come to believe that the entire property should be protected to the death. Livestock guard dogs have had refined breeding over the years to be extremely protective, and without proper training, this protective instinct can evidence itself as uncontrollable aggressive behavior.

Would I reconsider my decision to add Max to my family? Absolutely not! Has the training and commitment been larger and longer than expected. Absolutely! Did I know what kind of time investment I would have to make to create a valuable animal and herd protector? No. I sleep more comfortably at night, I feel more comfortable being away from home, and I know that my herd has two vigilant eyes watching it at all times. Owning and raising a LGD is a huge responsibility. For those considering it, I recommend that you speak with many alpaca farms that have a LGD to get a thorough understanding of the awesome responsibility you will undertake prior to embarking on the adventure.

Man's best friend...??? It all depends on you, the owner and trainer.

# Herding Tips

*Les Foshay, Champlain Valley Alpacas, Bridport, VT*

The opportunity to herd your animals will eventually present itself to most Alpaca owners. It may be to round them up for shots or to drive them to a catch pen for breeding or otherwise.

If terrain, topography and finances all cooperated with your fence building you might have a wonderful "manifold system" that feeds out of your pens and gathering herding will be easier for you, but you will still have to get them into the manifold.

If you push too quickly they will get running and run around you. (I think sometimes they love to be chased - especially by each other, just for the sake of a good run). I try not to ever "run" my alpacas, especially the pregnant females. I want them to stroll at a leisurely pace toward MY destination. If you hang back too far, they will stop, graze, turn around and pretty soon the whole group is headed for Timbuktu grazing right past you the other way!

I like to think that they and we have a 15 foot "bubble of comfort". If you keep your bubble bumping theirs, they will herd away from you. If you push too tight, the bubble pops and they squirt through or run off. Extending your arms will give them the appearance that you are pushing them and they seem to perceive that it would be harder to push past you.

We have found that once we have the animal(s) cornered that two lead ropes snapped together make a handy catch rope in a corner of a fence. Sometimes we use another animal as a buffer as we surround them with the leads.

Another useful item we use is 1" pvc pipe. It is portable and light and the children can carry them and use them. You can cap the ends if you feel uncomfortable with the open ends being a little sharp. To make an even longer herding device, join two lengths together and hold in the middle by the coupling.

Fred Swift showed me his favorite one day- an old mooring rope. Two people can suspend it like the lead ropes or one person can tie one end to a stationary object and perform a sweep with the other end, pushing the animals in the desired direction. One can even corner the animal(s) and shorten up on the rope, eventually close enough to hold the animal.

I'd love to hear your favorite herding tip. E mail Les at [Alpaca@wcvr.com](mailto:Alpaca@wcvr.com) to help you herd your animals.

## *The New England Alpaca Fiber Pool Speaks*

(NEAFP NOTES  
11-1-02)

The year 2002-2003 collection of North American Alpaca Fiber was the best ever. We collected more fiber this year than any other year and it was the cleanest, over all, and best quality that we have seen. The order blanks were, for the most part, filled out properly and everyone, well, almost everyone, got their fiber to us by the deadline.

In September of this year, Lorrie and Jan dissolved their LLC partnership. So now Jan Hensle is the only one left of the three women who started NEAFP, and she is returning the pool to its original form: a fiber collective, supported by its members. While we were sorry to have Lorrie O'Connor leave NEAFP and wish her the best, her place on the computer is being aptly filled by Ben Gifford. Ben has been collating the orders with new programs, and sending out the invoices to participating members.

Our goals remain the same and our products are improving and expanding with every year of experience. We welcome all constructive criticism and ideas for expanding the line of products.

This year we are attempting to make all products out of 100 % Alpaca. We are also able to make some items in as many as 4 natural colors, white, beige, brown and charcoal. We never know the colors until the sorting is completed so can't reflect this on the order form. Additional pattern colors of gloves, yarns, socks, hats, etc. will only continue to be possible while contributions stay at high levels. Of course, the mills that we are using have to stay competitive with foreign goods flooding the USA. We saw three of our mills go out of business last year, contributing to the continuing delay of our knit sweaters and fine worsted yarn. The wait has been very hard for all of us.

We will really be working hard to have your goods from this pool back to you by late winter/early spring. Some early shipments have already been sent out from existing inventory. We are going to try and expand this program next year so we can get product back before the fall and holiday selling season in 2003.

We are only as good as our members make us. Thanks for continuing support.

Jan Hensle and Ben Gifford

# Calendar of Events 2002-2003

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Nov 30 & Dec 1	NEAOBA Holiday Open Farm Tour. For a list of New England Alpaca Breeders participating in the Holiday Tour, visit the NEAOBA website at <a href="http://www.neaoba.org">www.neaoba.org</a>
December 6-7	<b>Annual Camelid Owners &amp; Breeders Conference</b> , Ohio State University, Columbus OH. Neonatal clinics; health seminars; grass, grazing, and pastures seminars; nutrition seminars; and much, much more. Contact: Rita Remy, Director, Veterinary Continuing Education,(614) 292-8727, <a href="http://www.internationalcamelidinstitute.org">http://www.internationalcamelidinstitute.org</a> , or <a href="mailto:remy.1@osu.edu">remy.1@osu.edu</a>
Dec 7 & 8	NEAOBA Holiday Open Farm Tour. For a list of New England Alpaca Breeders participating in the Holiday Tour, visit the NEAOBA website at <a href="http://www.neaoba.org">www.neaoba.org</a>
Jan 12, 2003	The next NEAOBA meeting is targeted for. 11:00am at Tufts. Please check your email before you leave as we often have weather cancellations this time of year!
January 29 - February 1	<b>"FIBER TO FASHION" WINTER NATIONALS &amp; AOBA CERTIFIED FLEECE SHOW</b> , Las Vegas, Nevada at Sam's Town. Judges Susan Tellez & Mary Reed. This conference is dedicated exclusively to alpaca fiber and the many facets of fiber, textiles, design, handcrafts and fashion. Pre-Conference Hands On Fiber Workshops on January 29th: To receive a conference registration packet, call (970) 586-5357 or email <a href="mailto:alpacaowners@aol.com">alpacaowners@aol.com</a> .
March 8-9	<b>The Virginia Classic</b> , Lexington, VA. AOBA CERTIFIED ALPACA SHOW. Information: Paige McGrath; e-mail: <a href="mailto:paigeink@aol.com">paigeink@aol.com</a> .
April 3-6	<b>North American Alpaca Show</b> Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, MA. Judges for 2003: Maggie Krieger (British Columbia, Canada), Nard Mullen (Yelm, WA), Third judge to be determined. <a href="http://www.alpacatours.com/">http://www.alpacatours.com/</a>
April 24-27	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Annual MAPACA Jubilee</b> , Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, PA. The biggest alpaca show in the world in 2002! Contact: <a href="http://www.mapaca.org/">www.mapaca.org/</a>
April 26-27	<b>Alpaca Ontario Show 2003</b> , Carp Fairgrounds, Carp (Ottawa), Ontario. Hands-on workshops: shearing, grading, and sorting fibre for processing and competition. Contact Nancy Carr, (613) 376-3389 or <a href="mailto:carralpacas@sympatico.ca">carralpacas@sympatico.ca</a> ; or Caecilia Goetze, (613) 832-4718 or <a href="mailto:scorrybreckalpaca@sympatico.ca">scorrybreckalpaca@sympatico.ca</a>
3rd and 4th May, 2003	The 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual New England Alpaca Fest (NEAF). NEAF is always the big chance for us New England alpaca breeders to get together in a friendly relaxed non-show environment with many education-oriented activities, including seminars from some of the best speakers in the alpaca business. The event is designed specifically to help new smaller breeders and to get new people into the business successfully. Contact <i>Erica Dwyer</i> , NEAF 2003 chairperson, <a href="mailto:thedwyers@hampdenhillsalpacas.com">thedwyers@hampdenhillsalpacas.com</a> .
May 28 - June 1, 2003	<b>12th Annual AOBA National Conference</b> , Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, Louisville KY. AOBA's premier exhibition - you won't want to miss it! AOBA-certified showing and fleece competitions. Specialized training seminars, guest speakers, committee discussion groups and updates, Board of Directors presentations, vendors, silent and live auctions, fiber arts, fashion show, annual Gala Banquet, and hundreds of alpacas! All this and much, much more! Contact for conference registration and administration only AOBA Office at (970) 586-5357 or <a href="mailto:alpacaowners@aol.com">alpacaowners@aol.com</a> . All other matters, contact Conference Manager Anne Hallinan at <a href="mailto:anne_hallinan@hotmail.com">anne_hallinan@hotmail.com</a> .

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# Criations!!! Criations!!! Criations!!! Criations!!! Criations!!! Criations!!!

## **Angie & Kurt Bertram, Tamarak Alpacas, Barrington, NH**

*Guinness* (M, H) Bay Black with white, DOB 9/02/02, 13 lbs., Dam: Prima Vera (Maroon), Sire: Señor Paprika (Maroon).

*Anchor Steam* (M, H) DOB 9/07/02, 12 lbs., Medium Brown with white, Dam: CIA Haley (dark fawn and white), Sire: Señor Paprika (Maroon).

## **Nicola Blake & Jack Dibb, Sallie's Fen Alpacas, Barrington, NH**

*Sallie's Fen Amélie*, (F, H) True Black, DOB 10/5/02, 13 lbs, Dam: Kilblaan Farm Melissa Pena (True Black), Sire: Nat King Cole (aka Natanis) (True Black)

*Sallie's Fen Isinglass* (M, H) Med. Fawn/white, DOB 10/13/02, 20 lbs, Dam: MVF Oreo (Bay Black/white), Sire: Fosters Cerveza (Beige).

## **Lyn and John Callen, Mettowee Valley Farm, Pawlet, VT**

*MVF Autumn Gold* (F, H), Fawn, DOB: 10/2/02, Dam: Dona Dalva (Fawn), Sire: Babamal (Fawn).

*MVF Cary* (F, H) Black, DOB: 9/8/02, Dam: MVF Misty Moon (White), Sire: Granite (Gray).

## **Patricia Houde, Alpaca Fields, Inc. York, ME**

*A.FLD. Othello* (M, H), dark brown and black, DOB 10/18/02, 13.2 lbs. Dam: SA Kortina, Sire: El Cuba.

## **Alisa & Mark Mierzejewski, Burgis Brook Alpacas, Guilford, CT**

*BBA Bonita* (F) Dark Silver Grey, 14.5 lbs, 7/13/02, Sire: Peruvian Silverado (Medium Silver Grey), Dam: 5Peruvian Forty Carats (Dark Fawn)

*BBA D'Artagnan* (M) White/Brown, 13 lbs, 9/23/02, Sire: Starbuck (Medium Fawn), Dam: AC Serephim (White/Brown)

*BBA Daisy* (F) Beige, 11.5 lbs, 10/5/02, Sire: Royal Peruvian Apollo (Medium Fawn), Dam: CPeruvian Lilly (White)

## **Pat Delaney, Whispering Winds Alpaca Farm, Marlborough, NH**

*Whispering Winds Faith* (F, H) Beige, DOB: 10/02/2002, 18.5 lb, Dam: REF Sunday (brown), Sire: Peruvian Kaballero (white)

*Orlando Roy* (M, H) white, DOB: 9/6/2002, Dam: Arellia tag no 102 importv98 (white) Sire: Peruvian Kaballero (white)

## **Cindy Mingle, Mountain Brook Farm, South Paris, Maine**

*MB Cookie Dough* (M, H) White, 5/26/02, Dam: MB Guinivere (white), Sire: NEA Bueno's Legacy (white)

*MB Pistachio* (M, H) White, 6/26/02, Dam: MB Princess Lily (white), Sire: NEA Bueno's Legacy (white)

*MB Pumpkin* (F, H) Fawn, 7/30/02, Dam: 4Peruvian Sollocota (fawn) Sire: MB Wings (white)

*MB Ginger* (F, H) Beige, 7/21/02, Dam: MA Queen Isabell (brown), Sire: NEA Bueno's Legacy (white)

*MB Blueberry* (F, H) gray, 10/28/02, Dam: 4Peruvian Santa Rosa (gray), Sire: MB Lewis (gray)

## **Geri & Frank Gabriel Lakeside Alpaca Farm**

*Giuliani* (M, H) Medium Fawn, DOB: 09-11-02, Sire: Snowmass Andean Gem, Dark Fawn, Dam: Dynasty Royal Fawn, Light

Fawn. *(Because of his DOB, we named our first cria after Mayor Giuliani. The Mayor mailed us a letter (after receiving a letter & picture from our farm) saying he was flattered to have our firstborn alpaca @ Lakeside Alpaca Farm named after him.)*

*Jessie* (F, H) Light Brown with White Stockings & Topknot, DOB: 10-04-02, Sire: FFAF Katahdin Gold (Beige), Dam: FFAF Salsa (Medium Brown with White Stockings & Bay Black Face). *(Because she was the first female born on the farm, she was named for Frank's grandmother. She was the matriarch of our family, strong, respected, intelligent and much loved.)*

## **Laura and Michael Busky, North Brook Farm, Berlin, MA**

*North Brook's Cayamarca* (M, H), Medium Brown, DOB: 9/8/02, birth weight 14.5 lbs, Dam: Skyview's Sumatra (Dark Brown), Sire: Juan Carlos (Light Fawn).

## **Melissa and Lou Ferrara, New England Alpacas, Killingworth, CT**

*NEA Delilah* (F, H) beige 10-12-02, 18 lbs Dam: NEA Mirabella, Sire: MB Merlin

## **Renee & Alec Adams, Crossett Hill Alpaca Company, Duxbury, VT**

*CHAC Lucido* (M, H), white, September 4th, 2002, Dam: CHAC Luna (White); Sire: Peruvian El Stash (White)

*CHAC Cervato* (M, H) light fawn, September 26, 2002, Dam: CHAC Tawana (light fawn), Sire: Peruvian El Stash (White)

# Criations!!! Criations!!! Criations!!! Criations!!! (continued..)

## **Eric, Mindy, and Kyle Rosseland, Harmony Grove Alpacas, Jefferson, NH**

*Casseopia* (F, H), rose gray, DOB 9-1-02, Sire: The Rootbeer Float (MRG fancy), Dam: Nina (MB)

*Aurora* (F, H) Medium fawn and gray, DOB 9-1-02, Sire The Rootbeer Float (MRG fancy), Dam: Little Nell's Little Dollie (MB).

## **Jim & Sue King, Skyeview Alpacas, Elkins, NH: 14 Criations since July 13, 2002!**

*Skyeview Phineas* (M, H) Dk. Fwn, 7/26/02, 15.2#, d:Layla (Dk. Fwn), s:El Dorado (Lt Fwn)

*Skyeview Gillian* (F, H) Black, 8/8/02, 15.8#, d:Ezabelle (Brn), s:Neptune (Lt. Fwn)

*Skyeview Carolyn* (F, S) White, 8/8/02, 14.6#, d:Ariel (W) s:Golden Dandy (Lt. Fwn)

*Michelangelo* (M, H) W, 8/24/02, 16.4#, d:Chablis (W), s:Snowmass Millenium (W)

*Skyeview Alexandra* (F, S) Md. Fwn, 9/3/02, 15.8#, d:Moza (Md. Fwn), s:Golden Dandy (Lt. Fwn)

*Skyeview Molly* (F, H) Black, 9/5/02, 11.2#, d:Daphne (Blk), s:Samson (RsGr)

*Skyeview Picasso* (M, H) RsGr, 9/14/02, 16#, d:Emily (RsGr), s:Samson (RsGr)

*Skyeview Sabra* (F, H) Blk, 9/16/02, 15#, d:Alexis (Lt. Fwn), s:Samson (RsGr)

*Skyeview Hercules* (M, H) Md. Fwn, 9/18/02, 20.2#, d:Nokia (Md. Fwn), s:Neptune (Lt. Fwn)

*Skyeview Ajax* (M, H) Lt. Fwn, 9/21/02, 16#, d:Q.Anne's Lace (W), s:Neptune (Lt. Fwn)

*Skyeview Posieden* (M, H) W, 10/2/02, 14.2#, d:Sicily (W), s:Neptune (Lt. Fwn)

*Skyeview Cleopatra* (F, H) Lt. Fwn, 10/9/02, 16.8#, d:Bloomers (Md. Fwn), s:El Dorado (Lt. Fwn)

(name pending) (M, H) W, 10/24/02, 16.2#, Rimini (Md. Fwn), s:El Dorado (Lt. Fwn)

(name pending) (M, H) Lt. Fwn, 10/29/02, 20.2#, d:Fredricka (Lt. Fwn), s:El Dorado (Lt. Fwn)

## **Dave Sanderson, Parker River Alpaca Farm, Byfield, MA**

*PRAF Cimarron* (F, H) Dark Brown, DOB July 12, '02, Dam: MVF Miss Liberty (Medium Brown), Sire: MVF Gandalf The Wizard (Dark Fawn).

*PRAF El Zorro* (M, H) Fancy, DOB August 8, '02, Dam: Evening Stars (True Black & White), Sire: MVF Gandalf the Wizard (Dark Fawn).

*PRAF Paladin* (M, H) Beige, DOB August 8, '02, Dam: Chilali (White), Sire: NWA El Cuba (Medium Fawn).

*PRAF Little Sadie* (F, H) Black, DOB Sept.17 '02, Dam: MVF Molly Stark, Dark Brown, Sire: NWA El Cuba (Medium Fawn).

*PRAF Black Granite* (aka Rocky), (M, H), Black, DOB Sept 29, '02, Dam: Chiloe8986 IMPZ98 (Medium Silver Grey),

Sire: 5Peruvian Granite (Grey)

*PRAF Penebagos* (aka Penny) (F, H), Medium Brown, DOB Oct. 7, '02, Dam: Codi's Oriana#1292 (Beige), Sire: Chiloe's Black Thunder (True Black).

## **Les and Jenny Foshay, Champlain Valley Alpacas, Bridport, VT**

*CVA's Shadrack* (M, H) Mushroom/Fawn, 9/11 out of Shasta by PPP Kenamori Gold.

*CVA's Meschak* (M, H) Pinto/Fawn, 10/24 out of Mandi by CVA's Guy Lombardo

*CVA's Abednego (Shem)* (M, H) Black, 9/7 out of CVA's Sheba by PPP Kenamori Gold

*CVA's Vixen* (M, H) out of Victoria by PPP Silverado

*CVA's Eve* (F, H) Fawn, 9/28 out of CVA's Emma Lisa by CVA's Daniel

*CVA's Vanessa (Emmy)* (F, H) fawn, 8/7 out of CVA's Vicky by CVA's Daniel

*CVA's Sawyer* (M, H) Bay-Black, 8/10 out of CVA's Sarah by CVA's Daniel

*CVA's Amaris* (F, H) Beige, 9/17 out of PC Angela by PPP White Wizzard

*CVA's Electra* (F, H) Fawn, 8/22 out of WLA Elisabeth by PPP Kenamori Gold

*CVA's Bentley* (M, H) white, 8/2 out of Enchantment's Nancy by CVA's Guy Lombardo

*CVA's Harmony* (F, H) Fawn/Gray, 10/23 out of CVA's Hanna by CVA's Guy Lombardo

*CVA's Bethany Grace* (F, H) 10/11 out of CVA's Mellis Grace by CVA's Daniel

*CVA's Anya* (F, H) fawn, 10/17 our of CVA's Annabel by CVA's Guy Lombardo

*CVA's Electra* (F, H) Fawn, 8/22 out of WLA Elisabeth by PPP Kenamori Gold

*CVA's Bentley* (M, H) white, 8/2 out of Enchantment's Nancy by CVA's Guy Lombardo

## **Paula Ickeringill, Sea Hill Farm, Kittery Point, ME**

*Shadow Dancer* (F, H) dk. fawn, Bolivian, DOB: 10/6/02, 18.5#, Sire: Shadow de la Bolivia (true black), Dam: Helena (med. fawn Bolivian)

*Lady Pepperrell* (F, H) dk. brown, DOB: 10/19/02, 19#, Sire: Captain Nemo, (med. fawn son of Caligula), Dam: Sea Hill Farm's Seguin (bay black daughter of Altiplano Gold).

## **Kristi Drake of Enchanted Hill Alpacas, Bedford, NH.**

*Enchanted Hill's Twyla* (F, H), Blue Black. DOB: 9/7/02, 9lbs 2oz, Dam: Southwick's Sophia, (Blue Black), Sire: Maple Brook's Darth Vadar (True Black).

*Enchanted Hill's Josephine* (F, H) Deep rust w/white nose, DOB: 11/8/02, 16.5 lbs., Dam: Southwick's Delila (Mahogany), Sire: Maple Brook's Bolivar (White).

# Oh My GOD What IS it!? (Our First Cria...)

*An update from new breeder Kristi Drake of Enchanted Hill Alpacas, Bedford, NH.*

Two years ago, we purchased our first two alpacas, Jasmen (mahogany) and Sophia (blueblack), sisters by herd sire. Our girls arrived "field bred" by sellers stud as part of our purchase price. A veterinarian confirmed pregnancies on both girls, but (as you may have read in my earlier article) after 13 months. It was obvious that he was mistaken - costing us a full breeding year, not to mention the emotional toll. An extremely disappointing time as I was so excited to see a cria of our own.

Because this was late Fall, quick action was needed if we wanted offspring in 2002. We transported the girls to Mike Tierney's Maple Brook Farm for breeding with Darth Vader, and within a few weeks both girls were "spitting off".

Winter turned to Spring, and Spring to Summer. An ultrasound was performed in July verifying pregnancies in both girls (we weren't about to make THAT mistake twice!). Both girls are confirmed for delivery in mid-November. Ahhhh, things are finally going in the right direction for our little farm... or are they...

On Saturday, Sep 7 I strolled into the barn to grab a couple bales of hay to decorate for Fall. Jasmen and Sophia exited the barn as I entered. Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed Sophia was limping and detected blood on the back of her leg. My first thought - a predator! I turned back to the barn and saw a moving mound of "white" with huge black eyes. What the hell is it?! A Raccoon? A Fischer?? Then I saw the placenta and it his me...Oh my God, it's a baby!!! P-A-N-I-C!! I made about 4 calls in 5 minutes, the first to my girlfriend across the street, who came running over. The next few calls were to Maple Brook and Folsom farm. I had no idea what to do. Mt girlfriend and I peeled off the membrane, which had dried onto the baby and wrapped her up in a blanket. At this point, Charlie arrived home. We loaded up Sophia and "baby", and away to Dr. Fallon's Vet Clinic we went, all the while thinking, "this delivery is way too early"..."

I could tell from everyone's voice, and Dr. Fallon's explanation, that this was indeed a grim situation. Our new little girl weighed 9 lbs and was too weak to even hold up her head, 7-8 weeks premature. We left Mom and baby at Cornerstone Clinic and drove home in silence, both in our own thoughts. Our first little cria, and she wasn't going to make it. I considered changing the farm's name from "Enchanted Hill" to "Cursed Hill".

It's now October 31, and our little Twyla is now over 7 weeks old, weighing in at 40 or so pounds. How did we do it?! Well, let me tell you it wasn't easy! Milking Mom (which was an education in itself) and tube-feeding Twyla every 2 hours was a test of Charlie and I's marriage! Our only setback was finding out her IGG level was too low which required plasma transfusion. But as the days progressed, everything became easier and Twyla became stronger. Before we knew it, she was standing on her own, then walking, then nursing, then running!! Within 3 weeks she was a normal, happy, high-energy cria who just adores people!

So here we are, finally with an off-spring. Enchanted Hill actually has a cria to sell in order to cover all the expenses that have been accumulating the last 3 years, right? Yeah...Not a chance of selling little Twyla. Instead, we're spending more money to expand the barn! So when are you supposed to start making money on this?!

***Editor's Note: Kristi just emailed to say that Jasmen had a healthy 16 lb girl  
November 11 - Congratulations!!!***

# DEER HUNTER PROTECTION

By Dave Sanderson  
www.pralpacas.com

Parker River Alpaca Farm is nestled into a large State Forest and Wildlife Management Area. This area is open to hunting and some areas, which are distant from our farm, are even stocked daily with pheasant during the small game season. In the months of October through December there is a steady stream of orange hats driving past the farm on their way to the Wildlife Management entrance one half mile down the road.

This is all just part of the rhythm of Fall in New England and of little concern until the gun season for deer opens here in December. We take the usual precautions to protect our alpacas. We ring the farm with Safety Zone signs provided free by state so that no one could possibly get close to the farm without knowingly violating the safety zone. I know this will keep out most of the sportsmen but is also likely to draw in some of the once-a-year "get out of the city" amateur shooters. We also put hunter orange neckbands on most of the alpacas, especially all the brown and fawn colored ones.

A couple years ago, as I approached our farm through the woods from my annual Safety Zone sign posting, I peered through the trees to see large doe with its head down, grazing in one of our pastures! Had I been a hunter, I could have taken a clear shot through the trees. As I got closer and it raised its head I only then recognized a lone grazing alpaca with a hunter orange neckband! I thought there must be something else I could do besides stand armed guard for the duration of the deer shotgun season. What would have stopped a real hunter from getting to that point?

I know from experience that a deer hunter in the woods is intently looking for two things: deer and other hunters. They do want to find deer and do not want to stumble onto another hunter or, worse yet, a game warden or landowner inside a safety zone. Most hunters by law or by common sense wear hunter orange vests and hats. In the forest, hunter orange so intensely contrasts with natural colors that it broadcasts its presence for amazing distances.

So I set out to create "human decoys" to represent another hunter, game warden or land owner. I found a very simple, easy and inexpensive way to do just that. I purchased sheets of hunter orange posterboard (from just about any store that has an office or school supply section). The posterboard is just about the width of a human torso. Cut off the excess length and then cut the small piece in half to make one hunter orange vest and two hat decoys. Simply nail them to a tree and you have yourself a Deer Hunter Decoy.

# ALPACA BREEDERS OF VERMONT

*For a list of Vermont Alpaca Breeders participating in the Holiday Tour, visit the NEAOBA website at [www.neoba.org](http://www.neoba.org)*

*The finest alpacas...  
far ABOVE the rest!*

Visit our website at  
[www.AlpacaBreedersOfVermont.com](http://www.AlpacaBreedersOfVermont.com)

Or call 802-592-3153 for more  
information

**Artemis' Bow Alpacas**  
Windsor, VT

**Cas-Cad-Nac Farm, LLC**  
Perkinsville, VT

**Camel's Hump Alpaca Farm**  
Huntington, VT

**Cedar Brook Alpacas**  
Irasburg, VT

**Champlain Valley Alpacas and  
Farmstay**  
Bridport, VT

**Crossett Hill Alpaca Co**  
Duxbury, VT

**French Hollow Alpacas**  
Bondville, VT

**Ibiwisi Alpacas**  
Putney, VT

**Long View Alpacas**  
Marlboro, VT

**Mariah Alpacas**  
South Ryegate, VT

**Mettowee Valley Farm**  
Pawlet, VT

**Walden Mountain Farm Alpacas**  
East Hardwick, VT

**Mountain Pond Farm**  
Weston, VT

**Parris Hill Farm Alpacas**  
Pawlet, VT

**Snowshoe Farm, LLC**  
Peacham, VT

**Summerhill Alpacas, Ltd**  
Jacksonville, VT

**Vermont Alpaca Company**  
South Strafford, VT

## ***Tips for new breeders:*** **Notes on Choke**

Liz MacEachran, Alpacas of Kilblaán Farm,  
Sharon, NH

Your herd is quietly eating dinner in your cozy barn when your eye is drawn to one animal who has begun to cough, maybe drool a little, dangling her head down near the floor. “Damn it, choke,” thinks the experienced breeder. “Yipes, she’s dying,” thinks the inexperienced breeder, running to call the vet. No one warns the newbie!

The following are a few words about choke, compiled from notes sent to me by a variety of NEAOBA members along with our own experiences. It is not medical advice, just practical observations. When you talk to your vet in a non-emergency setting, get his input on the subject, since if you ever have a real problem, he’ll be the one handling it with you.

Choke is pretty easy to recognize. The animal has a plug of food stuck somewhere in her esophagus. It’s uncomfortable, but not life-threatening. Saliva starts to collect on top of the plug and when the level nears her trachea, she has to clear it by coughing and head-shaking. Saliva, sometimes mixed with food, is coughed up. Her mouth hangs open as if she has “spit-lip.” Usually it clears up by itself with vigorous coughing. We’ve found if we massage the area of the esophagus, that sometimes helps. We had a young cria who cured himself with a good roll on the ground. In extreme cases, tubing can clear things up. You really should get your vet’s advice on that.

The best thing is to avoid it and that’s where helpful hints from other breeders come in. Everyone agrees that competition for food is a major cause of choke. If you’re seeing it in your barn, ask yourself how you can decrease competition. More space and more dishes are frequently mentioned cures. We

have lots of space and more dishes than alpacas, but they like to roam from dish to dish. That causes competition and makes some animals gobble their food. Breaking the herd into smaller groups to feed can ease competition. We have a gelding who choked over and over even though our males are calm and mannerly feeders. Large rocks in his dish slowed him down and eliminated his problem. One breeder said he solved his problem by making his food less tasty and mixing more grain with the pellets. Pellet size is thought to be a factor. Alpaca pellets are formulated to avoid the problem; other pellets may be more likely to cause it.

Some vets have recommended keeping chokers away from grain or pellets for a couple of days after an episode. If the esophagus is irritated or swollen, choke may recur. Your vet may suggest sedation or antibiotics once an episode has occurred. One breeder wrote in to say that she put her choker’s food ration through the food processor for a few days to prevent a recurrence. During a spell of dry weather, when we saw choke in several animals, our vet recommended putting more water buckets around to make sure every alpaca had easy access.

So, two big tips for new breeders: don’t panic if you see choke. Have a plan worked out with your vet for what, if anything, you will do. Secondly, if choke becomes an issue in your barn, see if any of these suggestions sounds on target for you. If you come up with anything else, let the rest of us know.

# NEAOBA Business Meeting

NEAOBA Minutes of the Meeting  
September 24, 2002  
Malory Building Big-E Fair Grounds  
Springfield MA

Officers Present: Jim Mullen, President  
Joan McCurry, Vice President  
Laura Busky, Treasurer  
Cindy St.George, Secretary

1. Call to order 5:40
2. Secretary's Report/Minutes A MOTION was made to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2002 meeting held at Tufts University in N. Grafton, MA. The motion was seconded and APPROVED.
3. Treasurer's Report: NEAOBA Membership now at 158 members. Summary of financial Activities of NEAOBA was reviewed including the report on NE Coastal Classic. Copies were provided to officers and upon request to members.
4. N.E. Coastal Classic (NECC): Walter Van Buskirk announced the show was SOLD OUT. He reviewed the speaker list and the topics they would discuss. He also reminded members that the Souvenir Book would be available for purchase.
5. Marketing Committee Report: Dave Sanderson made a proposal to membership that we hire a marketing consultant, the same one used for 2 years by Open Farm Days of Maine and also hired by NECC. He had met with Jean Tholen of THOLEN Assoc to review her proposal. Media Kit was presented to us that, if hired, THOLEN would use to promote NEAOBA. They will market to local papers of members and also to Northeast publications. Each farm will complete a Bio with THOLEN'S assistance, if necessary. The idea is to gain free editorial space instead of paying for expensive ad space, thus a more cost effective use of NEAOBA's funds, and the best publicity for member farms. Dave explained cost to advertise NEAF last year approximately \$12,000 in just a few small ads in major regional papers. THOLEN contract for one year would be approximately \$11,000. BOD will meet w/THOLEN at NECC to review and sign 6 month contract. Much discussion with membership ensued and Motion was made to have Marketing Committee to proceed with contract set up and BOD move forward after contract review. Motion was seconded and carried w/no opposition. Dave will need active volunteers to move forward with the Marketing Committee and would like those interested to email him.
6. NEAF 2003 at Three County Fair Grounds May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Chair Erika Dwyer was unable to attend. All members were reminded to start talking now about NEAF to new and prospective clients.
7. Medical Research Report: Morelia Candia, John MacEachran and Ian Lutz on committee. There is \$1,060 in available funds. Proposal was made to donate all to NE Animal Research. Information will be posted on NEOBA website and a vote will be taken at next scheduled meeting of membership.
8. By Law Update: The Current and Proposed By-Laws will be published in upcoming Newsletter. A vote will be taken at the January meeting of the membership. There will also be some form of vote request in the newsletter.
9. Affiliate Report: No one present.
10. Other Business: Decision was made to accept credit card payment for the NE Coastal Classic and discussion to accept for dues payment. General consensus was this is a good idea. BOD will make decision. Have use now until Jan 03.
11. Motion accepted to Adjourn at 6:20

*New Breeder Featured Farm:*

## ***Camel's Hump Alpaca Farm***

***Jim and Donita Brent, Huntington, VT***

*"It's all because of the barn..."*

As I'm sure all alpaca owners can relate, people come up to us all the time and ask us why we raise alpacas. Many people respond they saw an alpaca and fell in love. Some people want something to keep them busy in retirement. Some love the lifestyle. Others like the idea of raising livestock that actually show a return on their investment. Sure, all these things were a major factor when deciding to raise alpacas, but there is always the original reason. For us, it's all because of the barn.

In the early 1960's, my parents, Bob and Karin Hardy bought the Carpenter Farm in rural Huntington, VT. The Carpenters were aging dairy farmers, whose property was starting to show signs of neglect. The Hardys proceeded to spend their weekends commuting from the New York City area to renovate the two houses on the property. When the tax values began to increase, the Hardys decided to sell the houses and conserve the land with what is now the Vermont Land Trust. This left them with lots of hayfields, pastures, and an old dairy barn.

So they leased the farm to local dairy farmers.

It soon became apparent that it was difficult for small dairy farmers to survive in Vermont, especially when they were not living on the farm. After the last dairy farmer retired, the Hardys looked for a new way to keep the barn in use. One day, Bob Hardy discovered an article on alpacas and asked us, since we lived in Huntington, if we would like to raise alpacas. Having just had a baby boy, Alex, and working for a ski area that was going through a change in ownership, we decided to give it a try.

The summer of 1999 was spent scraping old cow manure, ripping out old free stalls, cutting concrete, building doors, digging a trench and installing automatic waterers, erecting fencing, adding rubber mats, and building pens for Kate the Akbash guardian dog and our new alpacas; two pregnant females, a maiden female, a juvenile male and his companion gelding who arrived in September. Our daughter Lydia was born in December.

That was just to get a few alpacas into a new addition of the original barn. We have now renovated the old section of the barn by jacking it up, installing new beams and replacing the floor. A new metal roof has also been installed. We now have plenty of room for all the lovely alpacas that we plan to enjoy watching frolic in the evening, from our new house that, despite the winds, will face north for a view of the alpacas and the barn.....  
.....*It's all because of the barn!*

## ***Alpacas of Fox Haven***

***New Breeder Story by Ralph & Joyce Berger***

One afternoon on our way to an art show we spotted a tremendous tent near the Palm Springs Convention Center. You guessed it...the first International Alpaca Show. After spending three hours talking alpacas, we were hooked. Joyce said, "let's go back to Cape Cod, sell everything and find some property to raise alpacas."

We attended an open house in the New York area during September 2001 and before I could take a breath, my usually cautious wife had her eye on two beautiful girls. Joyce asked "give me five good reasons not to buy them other than not owning property." I couldn't and we purchased Desiree and Sonata from Phyllis & Steve Decker of Alpacas of Maple Lane; our mentors, educators and most importantly, our new friends.

What a wonderful path we're blessed to be on. In April our odyssey lead us to more amazing places. The first stop was in Springfield, MA for the North American show. We stepped right in helping Phyllis set up and pitched in with the never ending, thankless job of scooping those ever present round nuggets...alpaca poop! It wasn't until the last day of the show that our ladies were shown. Well miracle of miracles, Desire won both a blue ribbon and Champion and Sonata took 6<sup>th</sup> place.

We continued to North Carolina and found our dream property in Rutherfordton, just south of Asheville; 10 acres complete with house and 4000 sq. ft. barn in pristine condition. What a find! We feel blessed to move into this perfect property for our new lifestyle – doing artwork and raising alpacas.

On the final leg of our trip, we attended the MAPACA show in Harrisburg. I am pleased to share that Desiree placed third in a class of 17. Beginners luck? I think not. It was due to the efforts of Phyllis and Steve Decker who did the hard work and mental gymnastics to produce such a wonderful creature. It was Joyce's eye to pick such a beauty and it's been my pleasure to be along for this amazing ride.

Our mission is to join all our new and future friends in trying to champion alpacas and further the growth of this industry. Please come and visit us at our dream property in Rutherfordton, NC and let's sit and talk alpacas.

## **About NEAOBA**

Our members include active breeders, owners of pet-quality alpacas, and prospective alpaca owners. We are mostly from the six New England States, but we welcome members from anywhere. Many of our alpacas are U.S.-born animals, and some have been imported from Peru, Chile, Bolivia, and Australia. Our numbers are growing, and we always welcome new members. We enjoy talking to interested individuals about the benefits of alpaca ownership, so we welcome your inquiries.

Contact: Laura Busky, [laura@northbrookalpacas.com](mailto:laura@northbrookalpacas.com) or download application from:

**[www.neaoba.org](http://www.neaoba.org)**