

# **The NMAB Quarterly**

The Official Newsletter of the  
New Mexico Alpaca Breeder

Spring Edition April 2007

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## **NMAB News and Reminders**

### *Newsletter Announcements*

Thanks to all who sent in your regular submissions and herdsire information. Due to such a lengthy document, I decided to create two separate ones – the regular newsletter and the Herdsire Listings. So enjoy reading about all of the NMAB “goings on,” and then peruse at your leisure all of those wonderful males!

The next NMAB Quarterly will be published on July 11<sup>th</sup>, with our final issue for the year on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Cynthia Daly, Editor, Milagro Moon Ranch

### *Next NMAB Meetings*

There will be a brief meeting Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Fiber Sorting seminar in Albuquerque (contact Lynne Fatkin for more information). The July meeting will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> at Mickey Wright and Evelyn Simons’ Aspen Ridge Alpacas, near Jemez Springs. Stay tuned to the website for more information and directions.

### *FIBER SEMINAR*

**Fiber Sorting for Maximum Profit,  
Fiber Herds: Raising Alpacas for their fleece, & Mirror, mirror on the  
wall, who’s the fairest alpaca of all: Alpaca Evaluation for Sale,  
Purchase, & Breeding**

**Robyn Kuhl & Carrie Hull, Presenters**

**April 28 & 29, 2007 Saturday & Sunday**

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Albuquerque Hilton

Sponsored by NMAB

**Saturday, April 28, 2007**

**Fiber Sorting for maximum profit:**

Learn how to sort your fiber during shearing and for maximum profit! This is a must for all alpaca breeders! Uniform fiber creates product consistency and is key to developing a

North American Fiber Industry. Think beyond yarn, think beyond 1st, 2nds, and 3rds. Think beyond histograms and micron counts. What are your options for your annual harvest. Explore that there are many grades of fiber, that all grades have value and are income opportunities, that just because a histogram says 17 microns it doesn't necessarily mean that the whole alpaca is 17 microns. That a uniform alpaca is vital to ease of processing, keeping costs down, and higher profit margin.

**Fiber Herds - Raising Alpacas for their fleece:** It's happening in the US! Have you been thinking of raising alpacas for their fiber? Explore the possibilities. What constitutes a good, fair or a poor fiber alpaca? How can you promote your fiber animals? How to determine what to do with all that fiber.

**Sunday, April 29, 2007**

**Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who's the fairest alpaca of all? Alpaca Evaluation for Sale Purchase & Breeding:**

True beauty is more than skin deep, especially in alpacas! Learn the tools and points you need to know when you look at an alpaca to purchase or sell and how to use the information you gather for future breeding decisions and herd management. Throw away those magic mirrors and learn how to evaluate alpacas with objective measures in the areas of physical, fleece, and reproductive evaluations. Avoid those "poison apples" before you purchase, help prospective buyers see the "sleeping beauty" in your alpaca for sale, and unlock the "magical spell" of breeding decision and herd management for the princess or prince you already own!

**NMAB Meeting** - mid-afternoon, we will have a brief meeting.

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## Alpaca Industry News, Opinion and Comment

### *To Cover or Not to Cover...That is the question*

The verdict is still out on the use of alpaca fleece covers on show animals. There are no written rules regarding this practice. Judges seem to have mixed opinions about their use. I have interviewed many established breeders on this topic; some use them, some don't. Breeders in locations that have more precipitation complain about felting. Some put them on right after the State Fair and take them off before the show. We live in a very dry and dusty climate making it hard to compete with breeders from other geographical locations that don't struggle with these environmental issues. I have no empirical data to support my observations, but the fleece under these coats seems to have a creamier consistency and increased growth. I have made the decision to cover this season and will keep you posted on the results.

Leslie Stoddard, Albuquerque Alpacas

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*Ian Watt's article begun in the January issue will be completed in the July issue.*

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## Farm News and Events

### *CATHY RETURNS TO ASPEN RIDGE.*

September 8 & 9, 2007 - In the Jemez Mountains of Northern New Mexico

We are proud to host again Cathy Spalding, a truly gifted teacher who works with alpacas (from cria to behaviorally challenged alpacas) and their people. Her hands-on clinic includes behavior cues, catching, haltering, toes, entering a trailer, obstacles, and much more. Participants gain confidence from Cathy's coaching as they work with the alpacas.

Saturday: "Basics"

Sunday: "Refining your Techniques and Advancing Your Skills."

You may attend both days or one. Check out Cathy's website for an in-depth look at the Gentle Spirit Way. There's a wealth of practical information on her website.

<http://www.gentlespiritllamas.com/>

Check-in will start on Saturday and Sunday mornings at 9:00. Enjoy breakfast and get to know the other participants. The clinic will start at 9:30. At noon, we will break for a delicious lunch with time to talk with Cathy and others. The clinic continues until 4:00.

If you are coming from some distance, you will want to arrive Friday night. Check out this website (<http://www.jemezsprings.org/>) for accommodations in Jemez Springs (about 25 minutes from Thompson Ridge where Aspen Ridge Alpacas is located) or La Cueva (about 15 minutes). In addition, there are many camping spots in the area. We are surrounded by a national forest.

We have received a number of inquiries and requests for this clinic. Unfortunately, space is limited. All registrations must be based on a first-received basis. Please register by August 24.

Call or email for more information. The registration form is on our website at <http://www.aspenridgealpacas.com/>.

Aspen Ridge Alpacas of Northern New Mexico  
Mickey Wright & Evelyn Simons  
790 Aspen Dr.  
Jemez Springs, NM 87025  
(505) 829-3312

### *Herd Dispersal*

Morning Star Alpacas is dispersing its herd of six breeding females, up to nine males (buyer's choice) and equipment that will sell as a package for \$56,000 with terms available to a qualified buyer. Call Karen at 505/776-8430; please leave a message for an evening call back.

## *Farm News from Windrush Alpacas*

Life at Windrush Alpacas has been a whirlwind of activity as usual. With crias being born, dams arriving for breeding and shows to go to it seems as if our feet hardly touch the ground. Ric is in his final semester for his Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education and has been student teaching the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Sandia Elementary in Clovis. He will graduate on May 12 and then breathe a sigh of relief that he has completed his degree!

Our herdsires have all had busy date books. The offspring of Enchantment's Prince Regent are taking the show circuit by storm winning ribbons and color champions. The first cria from Windrush Jennifer's Zindel is due April 15 and we are excited to see what Zin produces. Tobiano's first crias have been born and boy are they beautiful; we are sure he will be seeing more "dates" this spring and fall. Windrush Moonlight Surprise has settled his first female and is looking forward to settling more.

We are in the process of changing the software used for our website; the new look site will be up and running soon at [www.windrushalpacas.com](http://www.windrushalpacas.com). We have also finally launched our blog "A Taste of Life at Windrush Alpacas." Once the new web site is up and running you will be able to access it there, or you can click through the link on our current website. Check out the blog and let us know what you think!

Rosemary and Ric Metcalf

## *Here is the latest news from Llano Soleado Alpacas*

*(See TXOLAN show results in the Show Corner)*

....We have also started to manufacture the shredded cardboard bedding that we all enjoy using at shows. We have purchased the AirLite AZ manufacturing process, and moved it from the Phoenix area to Clovis, NM. Our product is now called Southwest Select Stall Chips, and provides significant health benefits over traditional animal bedding. We invite you to visit our new web site: [www.stallchips.com](http://www.stallchips.com) to learn more about our new venture! If you didn't get our email blast, we will be taking orders for 40lb. bales of bedding (cost \$6.75/bale) to be delivered to the NMAB meeting on April 29 in Albuquerque. Call or write to us for more info: [SouthWestSelect@llanocorp.com](mailto:SouthWestSelect@llanocorp.com) or call (505) 715-4465.

And finally, we'd like to thank all the folks who checked on us after the tornado hit Clovis on March 23. Amazingly, we made it through with no damage to people, pacas, or property! The kind thoughts from our friends and fellow NMAB members were greatly appreciated!

Thanks! Regina Dart

## *East Mt. Fiber Farm and Studio Tour*

Don't miss this 4<sup>th</sup> Annual East Mountain event! Eleven farms and artist studios will participate this June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 10-5. Each year farms and studios open their gates and doors to the public for this two day fiber event. This year we have everything from alpacas to feathers to buttons, mohair to dye plants to dryer lint! NMAB members Milagro Moon Ranch (Jim and Cynthia Daly), Enchanted Sky Alpacas (Al and Lynne Fatkin), Four Pines Alpacas (Craig and Mary Curik) and Stable Investments Alpacas (Mary and Fred Black) will be participating. Contact Lynne or Cynthia if you are interested in a brochure/map. FREE and open to the public!

## Show Corner

*Que Sera Alpacas' show results from the TxOLAN show - February, Fort Worth*

Halter: Shockwave's Jacqueline Rose - Color Reserve Champion from Second Place (Co-owned by Que Sera Alpacas and AlpacaWorks), Dark Fawn Yearling female; Que Sera L'il Lulu - Second Place, Multi (Appaloosa) Juvenile females

Fleece: Altair's Vito - First Place, Fawn Males - Age Class C  
Que Sera Rubens Barrichello - Sixth Place, White Males - Age Class B

Anne Stallcup, Que Sera Alpacas, Santa Fe, NM

*Llana Soleado Alpacas' show results:*

Our farm had a wonderful TxOLAN show! We had some very exciting results in both halter and fleece classes. We took home 13 ribbons overall. Here are some of the highlights:

Soleado's Esmeralda Olivia took a second place in the very competitive juvi white female division. Travesura's Altiplano Treasure (co-owned with Windrush Alpacas) took a fourth place in the always super-competitive white yearling male class. Abigail's Rose took a second place in her huacaya yearling white fleece class, and was also awarded Best Brightness and Best Hand over all of the other 120 huacaya fleeces in the show! Talleyrand got a first in his fleece class. Nathan and Abby won all of their Performance and PR and showmanship classes in the junior and sub-junior divisions. It was a great show for all of us!

Regina Dart, Llano Soleado Alpacas, Clovis, NM

*Desert Moon Alpacas' show results:*

TXOLAN - February, 2007

GLR Condor's Chaku: 1st Place Halter-1st Place Fleece, MRG

GLR Black Eyed Pea: 1st Place Fleece, DSG

Sagebrush Ziggy Pop: 2nd Place Halter, LF

Sagebrush Ziggy Pop: 1st Place Halter-1st Place Fleece--Mid-American 10/06

MOPACA Fleece.. March 2007  
GLR Condor's Chaku: 1st Place, MRG  
GLR Black Eyed Pea: 2nd PLace, DSG

MOPACA Spin Off  
WLK Inferno: 1st Place,TB  
Annie Bolle: 1st Place, LF/RG  
BlackEyed Pea: 1st Place, DSG

Brenda Mosier, Desert Moon Alpacas, Santa Fe, NM

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## Classifieds

**For Sale:** A TB proven pregnant female (due in August) named Noche who has produced 5 blacks and 1 brown (3 females and 3 males). Her TB female cria Leilani will be one year old on July 23. Noche's TB son Kona Bean (DOB 8/2/05) has received ribbons in every show, including a first at GWAS and a Color Championship at the NM State Fair. The whole package goes for \$28000. In August you will have four alpacas! Contact Mickey and Evelyn at Aspen Ridge Alpacas: [Aspen.Ridge.Alpacas@hughes.net](mailto:Aspen.Ridge.Alpacas@hughes.net) (505) 829-3312

**SERVICES OFFERED:** If you need a place for your alpacas to stay, consider Enchanted Sky's luxury resort and lodging for alpacas. We'll treat your alpacas like our very own. We are conveniently located in the East Mountains. We also offer brokering and consulting services. Contact Lynne at 505-235-0305 or [enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com](mailto:enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com) for more info.

**Wanted: Your fleece multiplying in the closet!** If you don't use your fiber, we are interested in purchasing it! Prices vary depending on quality of the fleece. Contact Lynne at 505-235-0305 or [enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com](mailto:enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com) for details.

**Barns, buildings, and storage sheds:** We have quality Morgan buildings for sale. We offer a variety of choices - from small storage sheds to large barns. We can help you find the right building to fit your needs. Discounts available for NMAB members. Contact Al Fatkin of Enchanted Sky Alpacas at 505-235-8511 or [enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com](mailto:enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com) for more information.

Desert Moon Alpacas would like to announce that SAGEBRUSH ZIGGY POP is for sale. His sire is ZANELLA OF PVA who is owned by Amanda Evans. Go to our website to see more on Ziggy. Call for price.

**For Sale:** LaMancha dairy goats – friendly, bottle fed one year old does for pets or milk (can be bred in the fall). \$100.00/ea. Kids arrive in a few weeks – we should have at least three available for sale. Also, if you know of anyone interested in Nigerian dwarf goats (small milking goats), I know of a small herd (complete with buck) for sale to a good home. Cynthia at 505-286-1335 or 505-514-6981.