

TAI CHILLAMAS

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Grand Champion Suri Male**



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The one aspect I am obsessive about is storing the fleece once it is sheared, including storing it after a competition. I lay the fleece out on tissue paper, roll it up, and tie it. If the fleece was just shorn, best to wait a couple of days and make sure the fleece is dry before rolling it up. I store the fleece / tissue paper logs in a cardboard box – may need a few moth balls thrown in, too. Since the fleece entry tag information is the same regardless of the show the fleece is entered in, I can have fleece competition tags filled out for each fleece with pictures of the animal, copies of the ILR certificate, etc. and plenty of clean, clear plastic bags. All this goes in the cardboard box with the fleeces. This way, there is no mad scramble to get a fleece ready for any particular competition. I just grab the whole box and off we go.

You offer professional hauling services. You have a very impressive section on your site about what the qualifications of a hauler should be and the expectations people should have for

hauling their llamas. What are the major points we should be aware of for hiring a hauler and transporting our llamas?

Transport — probably one of the most inherently dangerous situations we routinely put our llamas in. But in order to get the llamas from point A to point B, we must do it. Knowing this, we can do it as safely as possible. I consider the single most important factor in hiring a transporter is being truly satisfied that safety is the transporter's absolute number one priority no matter what. A quick question to begin to start making your determination — is the transporter aware of their own rig's trailer axle load limit, empty trailer weight, and towing capacity of the towing vehicle? If they don't know this, how do they know what a safe load is and ensuring they are not exceeding the limits? I'm not sure I'd be convinced that safety was their number one priority.

The Adventures of Cosmos is a unique addition to your site. Your mini llama, Cosmos, is a real cutie. What will

be this feature on your site be about? Following Cosmos adventure will be a great way to get people returning to your site.

The Adventures of Cosmos The Rocketman will be story lines that I make up in reference to various pictures I have (and will get) of Cosmos. He's such a character to begin with and so willing to do and try just about anything. He loves to explore on his own — I often refer to him as "a herd of one." It just seemed logical to me that an explorer must have adventures. Unfortunately, time constraints have caused some delay in editing Cosmos' adventures, but I hope to have some very tall tales published in the very near future.

Thanks so much for linking up with us Holly. You are truly a happy hiker and a whirlwind of llama activity. Hopefully you will inspire us to get out and "hike it up a notch" with our llamas. Check out Holly's site at www.happyhiker.com.

ILR Lamaribbean II 2009

In Continued Celebration of Llamas

Cruise Conference Recap

“A good time was had by all.”

by Dar Wassink, ILR Office Staff
and Kristy Brown, ILR Board Member



BON VOYAGE – Boarding day

Sunshine, warm temperatures and smiles greeted the ILR Lamaribbean II 2009 attendees as we boarded the *Celebrity Century* cruise ship in Miami on February 9. It was a much less hectic boarding compared to 2007 when we boarded late due to a medical emergency on the previous cruise. While a smaller number than originally planned on due to economic cancellations, it was a great group! While waiting for the luggage to arrive at the cabins, food was ready to be consumed so many of us obliged by starting the first of five days of a piranha-style eating frenzy. Yes, we ate too much; yes, the food was good; yes, we enjoyed it; yes, most were ready to get back to eating normally again after five days.

When the ship started moving it was just like a scene in the movies: *there's a blast of the horn (very loud) as the ship leaves port and the cruisers watch and wave as they head out to sea* – the difference being we weren't being paid for the experience! The moving sensation had us wobbling for the first while but the sea legs soon took hold and we were ready for more food and exploring of the *Century*.

Every evening late dinner in the relaxing beautiful dining room found most from our group seated together with six to eight per table as arranged by Diane McGillis, Cruises Inc., our wonderful travel agent who actually traveled with us and took care of many incidental things as they arose. The biggest decision many of us faced each day was which of the scrumptious appetizers, entrees and desserts to order – well, actually which piece to use of the 11 to 14 pieces of

silverware provided with each meal per place setting was probably the biggest decision for some of us.

Showtime before and other times after dinner was an option to fill our time while on board as well as the food, casino, shops, food, pool, playing cards or games, reading, food, strolling the decks, sun bathing, dancing, food, and karaoke to name a few.

PORT DAY 1

Key West found us in port on the first morning where many walked off the ship after their ID card was scanned and set out to explore the quaint scene before them. The question before leaving the ship was, “What are you going to do?” The answers varied from walk around, snorkel, scuba, shop, take the Trolley, visit some sites to laying around doing nothing – on the beautiful beaches!

Mid-afternoon found many heading back to the *Celebrity* to be ‘swiped’ back in after an enjoyable day of beautiful weather and many of us checking out the popular *Sloppy Joes* restaurant / bar which had been a hangout for Earnest Hemingway and / or taking a shot of themselves at the southern most point of the USA buoy. At 5:00 pm sharp we headed out to sea again.

CONFERENCE SESSION DAY 1

Comfy stadium seating greeted us at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room on our first conference day as all looked over the Door Prizes and Silent Auction items. A relaxed atmosphere ensued as we were all welcomed by the board of directors (the 3Ks, Kristy Brown, Kathi McKinney, and



ILR Karen & Kristy Llama Care Talk

Karen Baum) and, since we were a small group, our fearless leaders decided to have each of us share a bit about ourselves and how we got into llamas. We laughed and laughed as we related to each other's stories and got to know each other better. Well, that put us a little behind schedule and we were only an hour in to the conference but flexibility was the mind-set so we adjusted the schedule and moved Registrar Jan's presentation to day two.

Amanda Leake, who has been involved since a youth with livestock on the local, regional, and national levels through showing, educational sessions, judging, and volunteer work was our first speaker. Darrell Anderson, the CEO of the National Swine Registry, which has a very developed youth program, followed. They provided great insights into what they have seen work in other organizations relating to *Youth in our Future*. It was agreed that youth are the future of our industry and that we need to be pro-active in providing activities and places for them to be involved.

After lunch on our own our esteemed board member veterinarians, Kristy and

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From the "The City Above the Clouds"

Spring
Celebration
Llama Sale

LOT #35

Lla-Mirage B'Elena

Bred Female DOB: 4-4-07 ILR#270281

DDL Mr. Sweets x Mariaelena

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A Princess in the Pasture

LOT #111

Lla-Mirage Maggie Lou

Female DOB: 8-9-07 ILR#272439

DDL Mr. Sweets x Donya MW

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LOT #70

Lla-Mirage Slick 50

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FFF Punta Negro x Carrot Tapa

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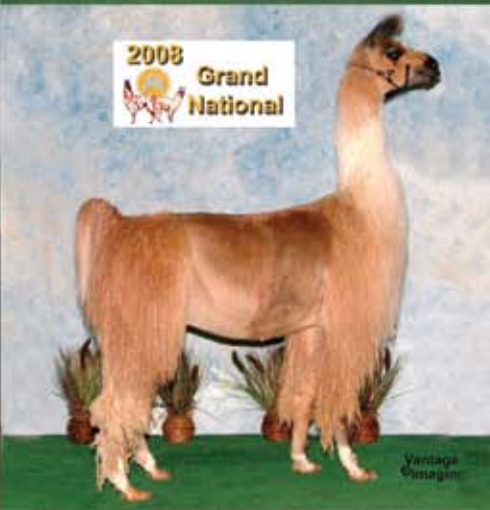
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