



**Bitter Creek's
Spice Kurl**

Artisan X Suzy Kurl
Bitter Creek Llama Ranch, Corvallis, MT



GVL Ghost Rider

Chileno Machu Pichu #131 X Chilena Chirimoya #70
Goose Valley Llamas, Payson, AZ



Tillman's Choco Tini

Tillman's Grease Ball X Aviance
Tillman Ranch, Bend, OR

Cascade Llama Sale III

April 24th and 25th 2009

Please join us for the 3rd Cascade Llama Sale in beautiful Stevenson, Washington!

This year's Auction will be on Saturday at 1:00 and will be comprised of approximately 90 of the finest llamas from across the USA and Canada! The Auction's Selection committee always strives to offer the finest animals, along with a good selection of diverse types of llamas, this year's auction is no exception as you can find everything from Suris to Silkys to Argentines to Stretchy Show Winners! The Cascade Llama Sale will be one of the largest offerings of young show-ready females and young bred females in 2009. Also entered into this year's sale are some fantastic 3-in-1 packages with show quality male and female cria at side, as well as 10 elite quality males!

The theme for the weekend is FUN, friends, and quality llamas! Friday night we are bringing back the popular on-stage preview as well as the pizza and beer icebreaker dinner! Join us for some music, fun, and complimentary food and drink! Use this opportunity to catch up with some of your old llama friends, as well as make new friends from all over the USA and Canada! Cascade always has a good handful of new and/or prospective llama owners in attendance so bring lots of business cards and make some good contacts!

New this year will be a Llama Scavenger Hunt which will be introduced on Friday. Folks will

have until 1:00, Saturday to gather the answers from about 15 clues that we will provide on a scavenger key. All of the answers can be found in the sale barn: on stall cards, tack boxes, hay bags, etc. The 1st Place winner will receive a Free Full Page Full Color Ad in next year's Full Color Auction Catalog (A \$400 Value!), 20 runners up will receive halters, lead ropes, t-shirts, Starbucks cards, and other fun stuff! A good time is guaranteed!

The sale's site is the Skamania County Fairgrounds, located an easy 40 mile drive from the Portland International Airport. The fairgrounds is situated about a mile down the road from the renowned Skamania Lodge, a 175 acre Mountain Resort, complete with fine dining, a 18-hole 70 par golf course, spa, and fitness center! The Pacific Crest Trail, The Bridge of the Gods, The Columbia river and the Rock Creek Cove are all within site of the fairgrounds. Directly across the awesome "Bridge of the Gods" is the community of Cascade Locks, Oregon which offers several other lodging and recreation opportunities. There is much to do and see in Stevenson and surrounding communities including everything from antique stores and art galleries, to hiking trails, white water rafting, and world acclaimed windsurfing! If you are looking for the cure for the Wintertime blues, Springtime on the Columbia is the Cure!

www.llamaalpacauction.com



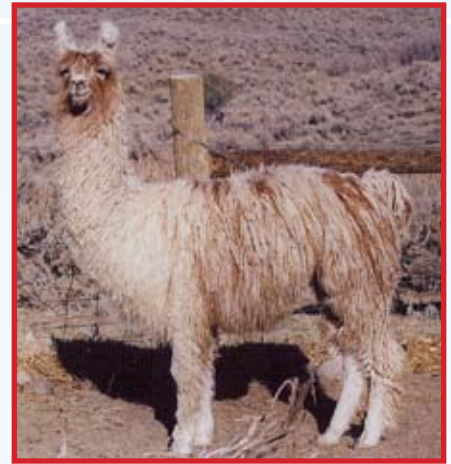
**Desert Hearts'
Holiday Hollie**

JLL M' Halo X Ms. Fancy Pants
Southwest Llama Company, Tuscon, AZ



**Bitter Creek's
Chilean Silhouette**

Chilean Don Juan X
Chilean Steel Magnolia SSRMT
Redwoods in the Meadow Farm, Albion, CA



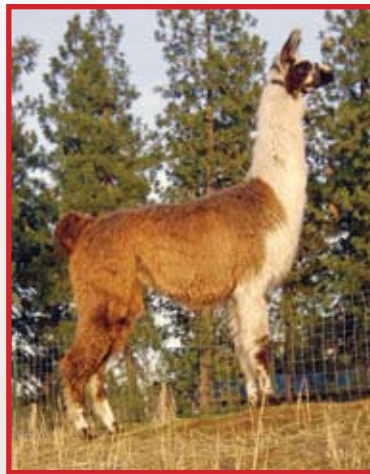
Andean Omar Shuri

Bardo's Omar Khayyam X *Chilean Aqua
Cloud Peaks Llamas, Kamas, UT



DBLJJ Quinn

Vaquerro X Conchata
McKenzie Lake Ranch, Sisters, OR



Dutch Flats Prada

Chilean Achilles X Dutch Flats Godiva
Dutch Flats Llama Co. Cheney, WA



Perry's Snowdancer

Peruvian Silverado Sir X Chrisda's Mirage (CAN)
Great Northern Llama Company, Columbia Falls, MT



Hanna Montana

The Slickmeister X Autumn Storm of Glenmor
Evergreen Llamas, Ridgefield, WA



CDL Curious Georgia

Captivate X M&W Rebecca
Carpe Diem Llamas, Maple Ridge, B.C.

For more information
or to request a sale catalog
please call or e-mail

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Hi Marian, thanks for “Linking Up” with us. Where is your llama farm located? Describe for us the community that you are in.

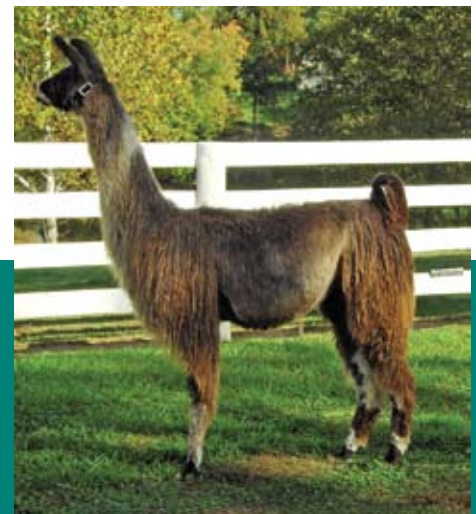
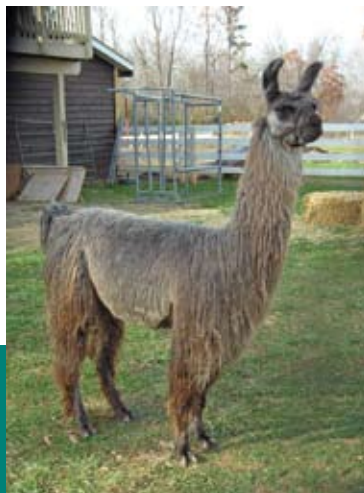
My husband and I live in Virginia’s piedmont, where Rappahannock, Fauquier, and Culpeper counties meet. This is horse and wine country. The area is rich in Revolutionary and Civil War history. We still have active fox hunting clubs and the steeplechase races are a big thing in the spring. Rappahannock County is one of only two counties left in Virginia that doesn’t have a stoplight, so it’s still fairly rural out here, even though we’re only two hours from DC. Our fall seasons rival those in Vermont in terms of beautiful color.

How did you get started in llamas? Where did the name Freestate Llamas originate? What made you decide to evolve your first purchases into a business?

I saw a picture of an alpaca in a magazine and fell head over heels in love. I spent a year researching the industry to figure out how I could justify the purchase of an animal costing at least \$20,000. I studied the herd size in the US and then reviewed the llama industry to see what comparisons I could draw. I immersed myself in conferences, conventions, and alpaca farm visits. I realized that the market

for new alpaca owners was saturated and that I’d likely be throwing money away. While all of this was sinking in, I enrolled in a Marty McGee clinic at Jo Overbey’s alpaca farm in Lynchburg, VA. I’d never handled anything beyond a dog and Jo insisted I needed to take this class. I had no idea what I’d signed up for and didn’t know any of the class enrollees, except Jo. When I arrived, Karen Baum, one of the class enrollees, and Marty relayed the excitement of the evening before when Karen’s stud bolted and jumped a fence! YIKES! Karen had brought the male to the clinic to work with Marty’s techniques on getting this guy to more easily load into a trailer. After a lot of instruction from Marty, we headed for the boys’ barn and I was assigned to halter Karen’s male. Terrified, I applied the techniques and lo and behold, they worked! I was so thrilled with myself. The male was docile and I gained so much confidence, you just can’t imagine. When we progressed to the females’ barn, Jo had a guard llama in with her alpaca girls.

Heather Marie (pronounced, “Heatha” in the proper southern drawl) always kept at arm’s length, and would stick her nose in the air and turn her back with every attempt to engage her. I just loved her. She towered over the alpacas and seemed so regal and haughty. Well, that did it. The following week I went shopping for a guard llama for the alpaca herd I didn’t own and found ESF Grace Full Too, a tall, silky, black llama that I couldn’t live without, along with a few others to keep her company. The owner encouraged me to show Gracie and that’s how I got into showing llamas. It only took one show and I was hooked. That was 10 years ago. I never gave owning an alpaca another thought. A few years later, Jo called me and said that her 420 pound guardian was focusing too much on grain and not enough on guarding. She needed to find her a new home and asked if I would like Heather Marie. I jumped at the opportunity! She still lives on my farm; we’re old friends now and I couldn’t bear to part with her. Ask Heatha Marie politely if you may pat her, and she will lean into you for some good southern lovin’!



Interview with **Marian Bragg** of Freestate Llamas

by Sue Wilde

I think I may have subconsciously decided to start breeding with my first show ribbon. Granted, it was 7th place, but it was a large class and I was clueless, so I felt I had accomplished something, and I had. But it wasn't until I moved to my current farm and built my big barn, culled from breeding my girls that couldn't produce show animals at all, and bought my fancy stud that my business began to seriously take shape.

The "Freestate" of northern Fauquier County is a small area between Marshall and Orlean, VA that was home to a band of lawless hooligans known as "mountain tenants" in the 1700's. They were uneducated and without religion, living on land owned by Chief Justice John Marshall and following leaders who encouraged them to resist all authority and to live as outcasts of society governed only by their own rude customs. My husband's family is from this area and it was he who came up with the name. The Freestate disbanded when Chief Justice Marshall eventually succeeded in ejecting the community off his land in the 1830's, but the culture of defiance survives today in the decedents, now known colloquially as "Freestaters".

How many llamas are currently in your herd? What is focus of your breeding program?

I've got 45 llamas (please don't tell my husband!). I like BIG llamas and I like to show, and I especially like to get the opportunity to wear my new custom-made cowboy boots...but I digress. I just love the grey colors. About 4 years ago, I decided to concentrate on producing suri llamas and went shopping for a top of the line suri stud. I bought Peruvian Kryptonite L214 and never regretted the investment. I've been very pleased with the progeny

from this stud; his Get-of-Sire placed in the top 6 at Celebrity last year! His most positive traits (size, fiber, disposition, conformation) are dominant in his offspring and I've gotten pretty accurate in determining which of my girls will throw a suri. I have about 15 babies due from him this spring.

In your starting years what seminars did you attend? What are some tips you learned that helped you be more successful with you llamas? What seminars are you attending presently that keep you current in the industry?

I just couldn't get enough instruction in the early years. I attended every talk of Dr. Anderson that I could get to. I drove out to the last OSU breeder's conference years ago and enrolled in their neo natal clinic. I took a Marty McGee clinic and then hosted one at my farm. I discovered color genetics and followed Phil Sonenberg and now Debbie Ullrich, whose book on color genetics I am anxiously awaiting to obtain. I heard Nikki Kuklinski talk about major historical herd sires and the traits they passed on to their progeny and more importantly, her observations on common breeding decisions. Lately, due to all the parasite problems in my area, I've been gobbling up all I can find on parasitology, picking the brain of one of my late father's PhD students, now a biology professor at American University, who has access to an entire organization of parasitologists at his fingertips.

Here's the best advice I can offer: buy the best stud you can afford. It's his qualities that will represent your breeding program. Two things I learned the hard way



this spring: (1) run fecals on every animal on your farm multiple times throughout the year, especially if you live on the east coast where it can be very wet in the spring, and (2) don't wean your boys on a man-made deadline, let them, and the herd, tell you when they are ready; it will be far less stressful on them, particularly in a year when the parasites are flourishing. Finally, every genetic problem I've had on my farm came from an otherwise gorgeous animal sold at a livestock auction, all of which I

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have since given away as pets. I'm not talking about the fancy llama auctions at LFA or Celebrity, etc. I'm talking about those held at stockyards. I've come to the conclusion that too many culled llamas are unloaded at these venues to unsuspecting breeders looking for a bargain.

You actively take your llamas out into your community. What are some of the latest events you have participated in? Do you find that this helps out in local marketing?

Yes, my farm has been a host farm on my county's annual farm tour for 4 years now, with over 200 guests a year. I've participated in local small farm festivals, local fiber festivals, been a featured destination in The Washington Post's weekly Road Trip, walked my llamas as pretend camels in a Christmas play with the 3 Wise Men, set up an information booth

for a local Girl Scout event with a South American theme, and I've walked llamas in the annual Christmas Parade in Washington, VA for the past 3 years. Little Washington, as it is known locally, was the original Washington, before Washington, DC. It was surveyed by George Washington in the late 1700's. With the exception of electricity, indoor plumbing, some paved roads, and a 5-star Inn, it remains relatively unchanged today. This year I took 4 of my suri boys: Grey Ghost, Client # 9, Wild Bill Hickok, and Quick Draw, all decked out in silly holiday costumes, along with 5 teenagers who help me on the farm from time to time. Grey Ghost and Client # 9 have a lot of show experience and the taller boys had none. The inexperienced boys were good as gold, while Grey Ghost had to be goosed constantly to complete the 2-block long parade and Client # 9 actually crushed mid-parade. Sigh!

Do I think any of this helps in local marketing? NO!!!!!! But I do think it helps my animals cope with strange situations and I think it helps break down public misconceptions about llamas spitting mercilessly and increases public awareness of what it takes to run a breeding farm. I also use these events to endear myself to my neighbors. A good catered meal with some decent wine and cocktails does wonders after 200 strangers have been crowding the neighborhood roads. Somehow, my neighbors can then forgive my huge "compost" pile, my noisy pet turkey (Tom-Tom), and the ugly run-in shed I have yet to tear down. Besides I use these events to sell my fiber, get much needed exercise, and avoid housework.

What do you think is a possible solution to the ALSA controversy facing the industry? How do you think ALSA would be affected by allowing llamas not registered with the ILR to show?

I don't know that ALSA can survive this controversy and I'm not sure there are enough dedicated people with the time needed to staff multiple show associations. I still belong to ALSA, but I did just recently take a lifetime show membership in the ILR. I voted against allowing CLR- registered animals to show in ALSA shows because I didn't feel ALSA provided full disclosure to its membership about the issues. I also felt

that ALSA minimized the significance of the resignations of the ALSA president and vice president and so I voted conservatively in response. At the time, the CLI website was under construction and I was unable to learn anything of significance from them, namely, how to search their registry. I also felt that the timing by ALSA, so close to a major holiday, was poor, and possibly calculated.

I don't own any animals registered in the CLR and I know nothing about them. Absent any more information than that, I don't believe it prudent to compete animals complying with potentially different standards in the same class. It would be like comparing apples and oranges. How fair is that?

Being in the llama business for over ten year's gives a person the opportunity to interact with a lot of other owners. What would be some advice you might have about the pluses and pitfalls of partnerships?

Partnerships can be very beneficial if the partners are honest with each other and with themselves. My advice to anyone thinking of partnering is to put the entire arrangement in writing, regardless of how close the relationship is with the proposed partners. Consider all partnerships as business relationships. Period. Try not to put more into any partnership than you expect to get back; otherwise you're just setting yourself up for disappointment or to be taken advantage of.

Over time, the value of any partnership will change and you may find you no longer need one, or worse, you may find your partners need you more. All of my partnerships started out great; but not all of them ended well.

As an active member of the ILR, do you think the registry should take a more or less active part in the industry?

The registry has an incredible amount of valuable data. It makes sense that they would take an active part in the industry, taking advantage of that resource. Additionally, the ILR has a wonderful reputation as an honest organization and I think that further enables their ability to be successful in the industry. Obviously they have my full support or I wouldn't have just

