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NOVEMBER 2008

Interview with
Chris and
Venesa Carter

Let Me Count
The Ways

One Small
Llama,
One Big
Friendship

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Wild Oak Llamas

Grass Valley, CA

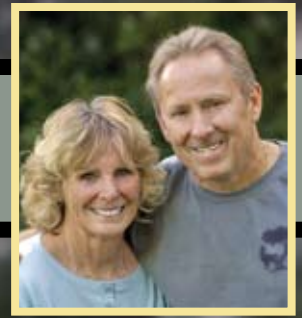


“Heylee”

2008 LFA World Futurity Champion

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Wild Oak Llamas



Mary & Rick Adams

Grass Valley, CA



Heylee

2008 LFA

World Futurity Champion

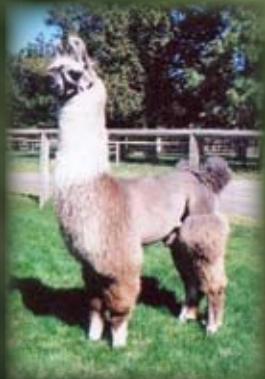


Tapa The Summit

FFF Tapa De Seda X

Chilean Ellie Mae

Suri Herdsire



The Heat is On

Kastizo X Titikaka

Yearling and Future Herdsire

Rick spent 15 years in electronics in Silicon Valley. In 1985 we moved out of Silicon Valley into the small town of Benicia and started our own business in the swimming pool service industry. Rick worked the business full time and Mary helped while working full time for Pacific Telephone. After about five years and after 23 years with Pac Bell she quit and went to work full time with Rick in running the family business. The business grew from a small family affair to 18 employees and having trained people running the show so we have more freedom to enjoy life outside of work.

We have three grown sons. Our youngest is married and gave us our first grandson in January of 2005, and a second one in February of 2008. What a wonderful time of life!

In the winter of 1999 we found an awesome 5-acre property in the beautiful rolling foothills of Northern California in an area just out of the town of Vacaville. We had always wished that we had had parents with property and animals so our boys could visit their grandparents on the "ranch or farm". Since that was not the case, we are making it happen for our grandkids. But what kind of animals? Then while visiting family in Oregon we were introduced to the most magical creatures. Llamas. They had sheep and had gotten a couple of llamas to use as guards. Later during that same visit, we were sitting in the old Hotel in downtown Jacksonville, Oregon and what to our surprise we saw a man walking a llama right down the main street with a large red white and blue top hat and a stars and strips blanket across its back. Kids were running up to see the llama and he just stood like a rock and let them touch him. He was magnificent! Right then and there we knew we wanted LLAMAS!!

When we returned home after that visit, we looked in the papers, no llamas for sale. Then we went into the yellow pages and found one listing for llamas and guess what, they

were right here in Vacaville! We called and made an appointment with Margaret Ricci of Stonehenge llamas and ended up purchasing our first two girls, Heartburn of Stonehenge a beautiful multi colored medium wool and Tsunamii, an awesome traditional short wool in solid black. That was the beginning of our obsession! Four months later Rick got us two more medium wools for Valentines Day. Margaret Ricci then introduced us to the world of Llama Shows by literally signing Mary up for six events showing the last two girls we had just gotten from her. We hadn't even seen a llama show let alone participate in one, but Mary had a blast and off we went.

We have been so fortunate to have people like Margaret Ricci. Margaret has been so instrumental in opening up this magical world to us. She introduced us to Cal-Ila, LANA & ALSA. In fact, from March 2005 to March 2008, Mary was on the Board of Directors for Cal-Ila. Everyone we have met in the llama industry has been wonderful. We have made such great new friends who are also obsessed with these magical creatures.

Between September 2004 and May of 2005, our herd grew from four girls to thirteen girls, three geldings and three males. We even had five girls pregnant. Our first babies were due in the summer of 2005. It was amazing how after attending different shows and seeing so many different types of llamas your "taste" was influenced. Rick and I both feel in love with the large bone heavy wool Argentine Llama. Therefore it was no surprise that our first male purchased to become our herdsire turned out to be $\frac{3}{4}$ Argentine. Kobra's Lucky Lucianni is his name and he has given us some incredible cria and has earned his ALSA Get of Sire Championship. What a magical time in our lives!

In May of 2005, we went for a Saturday afternoon drive with friends in the Sierra Foothills and ended up purchasing a 12-

acre "ranch", which was just perfect for our heavy wool llamas. In just three days time, we purchased a place and sold our place in Vacaville, CA. We were extremely fortunate to sell to the first couple that looked and moved within six weeks! Now, we have room to grow our herd and enjoy our wonderful family and friends.

Boy, and grow we have. In just the first three years of living in Grass Valley our herd had grown to 53 llamas. Talk about addictions!! We are truly "llamaholics". It is hard to remember life before llamas. We are so involved with attending shows, breeding, having clinics and doing anything and everything we possibly can to learn more and promote these incredible creatures.

At first we didn't understand the importance of showing and earning points towards ALSA Recognition of Merit and Halter Champion but just had a blast showing in the Novice classes (designed for beginners both of the human type and llama) and winning beautiful ribbons. Then one day the light came on and Mary finally took showing seriously and really began making an attempt to "fine-tune" her showing abilities. Wild Oak Llamas has come a long way in just a few short years. We have even had 9 different llamas place in the Top 10 at the ALSA Grand Nationals in that time frame. Learning about "old bloodlines" and setting goals for that "perfect" llama you want to be known for producing. WOW, what an adventure for us to be making together this time in our lives.

In July of 2008 we attended for the first time, one of Kay Sharpnack's Walk-About Sales. What an experience. Kay and Eric had put their best in the sale and we were able to purchase the high selling female, Heylee. She is an incredible female and as a juvenile was 41 1/4" at her wither and her fiber micron count was 21.0. Her herdsire is Kastizo and her dam Hezanna. She qualified for 2008

Nationals. Her show record was 3 Grands, Celebrity World Futurity 2nd in class 6 Suri females with 31 in the class, and 1st at Western States Futurity. Heylee is SLA Keured and registered. Her full brother, Hidalgo, was the top selling male at the sale and was purchased by Cheryl Russell of Tai Chi Llamas. As this article is being written, Heylee has been to Cedar Rapids, Iowa and competed in the LFA Futurity show. She took first place in a class of 21 suri females between 5 to 15 months of age. What a weekend!!! WOW, it is impossible to describe the excitement and pride we experienced when they announced the placements and our girl was number 1. Keep your eyes on this girl because we have great plans for her in the showring and then into our breeding program. Can it get any better?

We were also able to purchase other remarkable llamas from old bloodlines that will only enhance our breeding program. We have learned to look not only at the wool type and size, but to consider all aspects of pedigree; conformation, disposition, style and presence. We realize that with breeding we are responsible for a living, breathing creature and need to be sure that the cria has the best quality of life we can provide. Thank you Kay and Eric for making available your best!

Life is great! Our only regret is that we didn't discover Llamas earlier in our lives. Hopefully others will learn from this that the animal world, especially the llama, can only improve the quality of life.

As always, visitors are welcome to come and see what life with llamas is like. We always have room for new friends and fellow "llamaholics"!

Please visit us on our website www.wildoakllamas.com

Rick and Mary



Kobra's Lucky Lucianni
Herdsire
ALSA Get of Sire Champion



RDL Prince Nikolai
White Russian X
RDL Amazing Grace
Herdsire

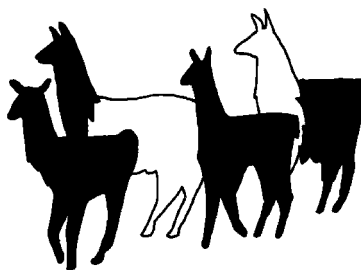
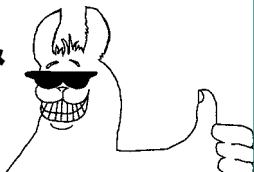


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- 10 In a day and age where gas and groceries, not to mention hay and grain, are high priced, why would anyone want llamas?

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