



## WESTERN SHOW ALLIANCE

It wasn't so many years ago that the members of CAL-ILA were lamenting the lack of ALSA shows here in the West. We envied the folks in Ohio who were attending shows every weekend!

In response, CAL-ILA started sanctioning more shows throughout the year. It allowed us to respond to a need of the members while gaining more opportunities to show the public what llamas were all about. Llamas of the Wine Country, LANA, Llama Association of Southern California and Llamas and More Association all joined in and sponsored one or more shows throughout the year. Show superintendents had to coordinate judges so exhibitors would be able to earn points under different judges enabling them to qualify for ALSA awards. We now have at least 12 shows throughout the year (I may have missed a show or two on my list.)

Month	Event	City	ST
Feb	LANA Hobo	Turlock	CA
Feb	LASC Riverside County Fair	Indio	CA
Mar	LASC March Magic	Lancaster	CA
May	Llamas & More Show	Fallon	NV
May	CAL-ILA Grass Valley	Grass Valley	CA
Jun	LASC San Diego County Fair	Del Mar	CA
Jun	LANA Round-Up	Turlock	CA
Jul	CAL-ILA California State Fair	Sacramento	CA
Aug	CAL-ILA Solano County Fair	Vallejo	CA
Aug	CAL-ILA Hot August Nights Performance Show	Turlock	CA
Aug/Sep	LASC Antelope Valley Fair Llama Show	Lancaster	CA
Oct	Llamas of the Wine Country Harvest Fair	Santa Rosa	CA

Continued on page 3 >>>

## AWARDS

As members of the camelid community we are fortunate to have some really special folks dedicated to us and our animals. CAL-ILA has instituted a number of awards over the years to express our appreciation of these efforts.

### Murray Fowler

The Dr. Murray Fowler award is arguably the most prestigious award the association can present. This award recognizes the contributions of an individual, couple or group that are vital to CAL-ILA and/or the camelid community. **Dr. Murray Fowler** was the first honoree in 1995. This year the award committee, comprised of previous recipients, recognized **Dr Julie Dechant** of the **UC Davis Veterinary Teaching Hospital**. Dr Dechant has been extremely supportive of camelid medicine and the llama and alpaca communities.

Continued on page 2 >>>

### Special points of interest:

- **SHOW ALLIANCE**  
FINALLY COMING TOGETHER?
- **AWARDS**  
RECOGNITION OF  
OUTSTANDING WORKS
- **DARDANELLES LAKE**  
SEPTEMBER 10 & 11 LAKE  
TAHOE HIGH SIERRA HIKE

### MURRAY FOWLER AWARD



## AWARDS

*Continued from page 1*

### Life Time Achievement

In 2003 the first Life Time Achievement award was presented to **Ray and Beverly Williams** for years of service to CAL-ILA. Nominees are selected from submissions for the Murray Fowler Award and the Murray Fowler Award Committee makes the final selection. This year **EstherSue Sykes** was recognized for her contributions to CAL-ILA and the camelid community. EstherSue has been involved in every aspect of the community providing leadership and support to everyone. We acknowledge and appreciate her efforts and sense of dedication.



### EDUCATION



### State Fair Premier Exhibitor

Since 1988 CAL-ILA has recognized the member and exhibitor who contributed the most to making the California State Fair a positive experience for other exhibitors and the public alike. Our Premier Exhibitor for 2011 is **Steven Katzakian**. Steve's positive attitude, helpful demeanor, and willingness to interact with the visiting public for hours on end is greatly appreciated by all!



### Susan Rootness

Susan was a 4H leader who developed one of the pioneer 4H youth programs for llamas in California. Susan's dedication to the youth and llamas was an inspiration for all that followed her. Susan lost her battle with cancer, but continued to support the 4H youth up until her death. CAL-ILA recognizes a youth exhibitor at the California State Fair who exhibits many of the qualities Susan demonstrated during her short life. This year we recognized Elise Seeds for her mature attitude, positive outlook and helpfulness during the show.

### HIKING



### Hums & Hugs

In the early days of the ILA members who were especially helpful at ILA events were recognized with the coveted "Push Me - Pull You" award. This whimsical award recognized the significant efforts of a member towards the successfulness of the event. CAL-ILA instituted the "Hums & Hugs" Award as our answer to the ILA. We recognize someone who contributes the most to the success of the State Fair show. The first record we have of the award being presented was in 1997 to **Greg and EstherSue Sykes** and **Robin Houts**, but I suspect there were previous awards that no one has kept track of. This year we recognized **Margaret Drew** for her contribution as obstacle course designer, builder, and course changer all while competing in the event with her llamas (and no, she did not fare better than most of the other exhibitors.)

It is the dedication and hard work of these wonderful members of our community that keep us going as an organization. Thank you all for your contributions!



## SHOW ALLIANCE *from page 1*

But a funny thing happened. Only a handful of exhibitors are now participating at the shows and those numbers are dwindling. In many cases ALSA points aren't awarded because there are not enough entries in a class. The economy can probably be blamed for some of the low attendance. The split of exhibitors between ALSA and ILR also cut down on exhibitors, but there may be more at work here than that. In any case, it's obvious that we have over-saturated the market. There are too many shows for those owners actively exhibiting their animals.

Llamas and More Association (LAMA) in Nevada has thrown in the towel. Working with Dan and Marilyn Milton, LAMA is promoting a Western Show Cooperative that will sponsor just a few shows for owners in California, Nevada and Southern Oregon. The goal is to produce shows where exhibitors can earn double or triple points with both ALSA and ILR. The idea is that fewer shows will mean increased attendance, which will mean more points. Having a double or triple point show will mean having the opportunity to earn more points with less travel, expense and preparation time throughout the show season. To keep expenses down, low-cost venues such as Fallon and Turlock would replace the more expensive fairgrounds.

Now come the hard choices; deciding which shows are no longer viable? Is there any need to keep shows like the California State Fair, which has never been about earning ALSA points? How about the Harvest Fair in Santa Rosa? Or the Johnny-come-lately Hot August Nights Performance Show at Lora's ranch in Turlock?

There are too many shows today for the number of active participants. Efforts to advertize the shows, personal emails inviting folks to participate, and getting the word out has done little to increase attendance. The CAL-ILA Board members recognize that something has to be done.

There are many positive aspects to joining with the other western organizations to form a Show Co-op. CAL-ILA will be able to focus our efforts on our chartered mission, educating our members and the general public. The organization can still participate at the shows, but sponsoring an information booth at the show rather than producing the event may be more in line with what the organization should be promoting.

The downside is that we have worked hard to develop and sponsor some unique and fun shows for our members and the camelid community. Giving up a hard-won show can be hard. Working together as a Co-op means compromise, no one is going to get exactly what they want.

But realistically, something has to change. The Board needs to hear your opinion, even if you are not interested in showing. We can't represent you if we don't know what you are thinking.

Go to the CAL-ILA website and click on the News Link. You'll find Dan's and Marilyn's proposal along with some questions and responses. Take a moment to get familiar with the issues and the proposal and then let us know your thoughts. The CAL-ILA Board thinks that we should start working with the other organizations to see if we can work together to make the show experience better for the western llama and alpaca owners.

Let's hear from you!

Contact a Board Member today and let them know your opinion.

Get more information on the CAL-ILA website...[www.cal-ila.org](http://www.cal-ila.org)

## RESOURCES



### Hot August Nights Show





CAL-ILA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) unincorporated association that promotes the education of the Association's members and the public in the caring for, breeding and raising of llamas and other camelids.

CAL-ILA is committed to supporting, promoting and developing Youth related llama activities. CAL-ILA supports and promotes camelid research. CAL-ILA works through cooperative efforts with other associations, organizations and/or groups to meet these objectives.

---

# www.cal-ila.org

---

## DISCLAIMER

This publication is informational only. All articles are the opinion of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of CAL-ILA, its members, Board of Directors or editor. CAL-ILA does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy of any information or opinions provided. CAL-ILA does not assume any liability for typographical errors and/or omissions. Before undertaking any new regime with your llamas, you should always check with your veterinarian. Only your veterinarian can advise as to what is best for your situation.

## REPRINTS

Permission is granted to use information contained in this publication for non-commercial uses with full credit given.

## DARDANELLES LAKE



## High Sierra Hike

**Ellen Goldsmith** has put together a fantastic overnight hike to Dardanelles Lake in the High Sierras. Located at the southern end of the Tahoe Rim trail off Hwy 89, this is a 3.5 mile hike into the beautiful backcountry few ever get to see. This hike has it all. Some short steep climbs to test your conditioning. A walk through a serene green meadow where you and the llamas can recuperate. The ascent of a

ridge where you will enjoy the spectacular vistas only afforded by getting out of your vehicle. And finally, camping on the shores of a pristine alpine lake.

Ellen is an active member of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association and has selected this hike as appropriate for beginner hikers and llamas with it's low to moderate rating.

To see the trail maps, view the hike profile and get more information., visit the CAL-ILA website.

Please contact Ellen if you plan to participate so she can make arrangements for parking, etc.

If you have dreamed of packing your llamas into the Sierras, this is the trip for you! **September 10 & 11th.**