



# SURI

## Network News

a publication of The Suri Network

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been busy for the Suri Network. Our membership continues to grow and we have exciting times ahead for our association. Thank you to all who renewed their dues and to everyone who voted.

Please remember to SAVE THE DATES of August 16-19, for the next Suri Network Symposium and All Suri Fleece Show in Estes Park. To view the schedule, please visit our web site at [www.SuriNetwork.org](http://www.SuriNetwork.org)

Speaking of web sites, take a look at the new Suri Network's web site put together and designed by Marsha Hobert. If you have any changes to your listing, please contact Marsha at [office@surinetwork.org](mailto:office@surinetwork.org).

I look forward to seeing many of you this summer!



### MARKETING COMMITTEE

by *Mike Murphy, Board Liaison*

The Suri Network has made 2007 the year to concentrate on marketing, and we're off to a good start! We had a beautiful planner/calendar we released at the end of '06. Very positive comments are still being made as to its design, appearance and content; we hope you all are enjoying it! Ads are coming in for the next Herdsire Edition of Purely Suri and we are finalizing the editorial for that publication. Look for a survey soon regarding our publication schedule. We want to make all our efforts work for each of you to the greatest extent possible. We intend to solicit your input as to just what you want to see in our publications and their frequency of issue.

The marketing video is currently being put together along with two short ads. These will be unveiled at this summer's symposium; you won't want to miss that! They will highlight the Suri Network, Suri alpacas and will be designed to bring in more leads. Our new web site is up and running and is getting great comments! The video, ads and web site are all a part of our marketing plan to gather leads and promote the Suri alpaca!

Work is also ongoing for a folder which will be available to members as an aid to promote our industry and our affiliate. Included will be information on our Breed Standard (pending its passage), financial incentives of ownership, general information for new breeders, etc. If any of you are interested in being a part of the marketing committee and these or other projects that come up, please let me know. Mike Murphy, [mike@flyingmranchnet](mailto:mike@flyingmranchnet)

*Debi Donaldson*

### THE SURI NETWORK NOMINATING COMMITTEE

by *Miriam Donaldson, Board Liaison*

Yes, it's that time again – elections for the Suri Network Board of Trustees. As SN Board Liaison to the Nominating Committee, I am pleased to inform you that Suzanne Backer, Deb Powers, Susan Tellez, and Gary Truitt have agreed to serve on the SN Nominating Committee.

The Committee shall actively recruit and nominate at least two (2) candidates for each vacancy of the Board. This year we have two vacancies: Mike Murphy and Jim Barker.

All nominees must be members in good standing of the Corporation. Nominations shall be closed not later than forty-five (45) days before the Annual Meeting. The Suri Network Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Suri Network Summer Symposium, August 17, 2007, in beautiful Estes Park, CO.

Also, three (3) or more Members in good standing of the Network may nominate one (1) or more candidates for Trustee by a petition delivered to the Nominating Committee not less than eighty (80) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

At least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting, a ballot containing the names of the nominees shall be mailed by the Trustees to each member of the Corporation entitled to vote. When the ballots are mailed to the membership, they will contain a nominee statement of introduction and their answers to specific questions.

A big thanks to those serving on The Suri Network Nominating Committee.

## UPDATE FROM THE SURI NETWORK

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

by Toni Cotton DVM, Board Liaison

The Suri Network Fiber Research Project is well underway. There have been many new exciting additions to the project that we would like to share. The many samples that were collected in the spring of 2006 are in the process of being analyzed and recorded into the database for evaluation and comparison. The skin biopsy analyses are all in, the lab work has been entered, and we are now working on the luster measurements.

In addition to having the fleeces tested with a new technology to objectively measure luster at Bossa Nova in California, we have also had the fleece samples from every animal in the research project examined by two AOBA certified judges. The following characteristics were evaluated and scored by the judges: lock type, consistency of lock expression, and luster. Each of the samples was then washed and the luster was re-evaluated by the judges on the clean samples. Care was taken to wash and prepare the samples the

same way and to use a clarifying shampoo that contains no silicone or conditioning products as these products can artificially enhance luster. The objective luster measurements that we receive from the lab will be compared to the "luster scores" that the judges gave the clean samples as well as the other data that is being collected. The lab at Bossa Nova will also be objectively measuring the true color of each fleece samples in the study.

Our next step is to have ESEM (Environmental Scanning Electron Microscopy) done on all of the samples to determine the scale height and frequency. These measurements will be very important to coordinate with our luster data collected. We are also submitting samples for tensile strength which is a characteristic of Suri fleece that has not been documented in the literature.

This research project is the first step to document the characteristics of Suri fleece and to provide scientific methods to measure these characteristics. More exciting updates to come. . . .

The Suri Network would like to thank Mary Lou Clingan, Bill Vonderhaar, Bruce Van Natta and Claudia Raessler for all of their hard work and efforts in making this Suri Fiber Research Project a reality.

## SOCK BRIGADE

by Randy & Barbara Coleman

We wanted to give all of you an update on what is happening with our "Sock Brigade" project. We have found the alpaca community (YOU!) to be very generous and very supportive of our efforts and our troops. Between the money pledged and the socks on their way to either us or directly to our son, Mike, in Baghdad, we would not be surprised if thousands of pairs of alpaca socks already made their way to Baghdad, Iraq!! The best part is we are helping our troops with something so simple as a pair of socks when they are laying their lives on the line for all of us.

Brian Schieber at PurelyAlpaca (Red Maple and AFCNA socks) worked with us to help get the socks to our troops by offering a 2 for 1 on all socks through the end of February. For more information on this project, visit their web site at: <http://purelyalpaca.com/SocksBrigade.html>

Thanks to all of you for supporting our efforts - it's amazing what our alpaca community has accomplished so far, in a short time.



## 2007 DAY PLANNER

Our apologies to Leanne Nakashima of Eldora Mountain Suris for the error in her phone number in the index. Her correct phone number should be: 303-828-4923. Please make this correction in your planners.



Suri Network Board of Trustees:

Dick Walker, *President* (alpacas@supersuris.com)

Miriam Donaldson, *Vice President* (alpacajack@aol.com)

Toni Cotton, *Treasurer* (bestbrd@bright.net)

Jim Barker, *Secretary* (jim@sweetsuri.com)

Mike Murphy, *Member at Large* (suris@helloearth.us)

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## SHOW RULES UPDATES 2007

With the 2007 show season starting soon, it would be a great idea for all of you who show to check out the rules changes for 2007. They are summarized on the AOBA website, [www.alpacashows.com](http://www.alpacashows.com) just click on 'Show Rules' and take a look. The updates are the first item on the menu.

### Regarding Suris the most important changes are as follows:

In the yearling age division there are now two classes divided by fleece length. Section A.2.b. is a class for Suris whose fleece length is 3 inches – 8 inches on neck, blanket and legs. This class is for yearlings that were shorn in 2006 and now have 3-8 inches of new growth. Section A.2.c. is a class for yearlings with fleece measuring 8 inch – no maximum. This class is for those yearlings that have never been shorn. This change was made in response to a request from Suri breeders and based on the results of a survey that indicated strong support for this change. It creates a more fair comparison in the show ring because previously shorn animals will not have to compete against those who were never shorn. This should encourage those of us who shear every year an opportunity to take those yearlings to the show and be confident they will show to their best advantage. Take note that for championship classes the two divisions will compete against one another. Although this is not an ideal situation, it is necessary this year to be certain that the numbers will be sufficient to hold championships. Utilizing projected numbers based on last year's show statistics it appeared very likely that many championship classes would have been eliminated based on too few entries if two separate championships were offered. If the number of entries in the yearling classes increase sufficiently during the current show season this arrangement can be reconsidered for the 2008 show season.

Another change involves the 2 year old and mature Suris. This change is under Section A.2.d. and please take note that the fleece length requirements for these classes change depending on the date of the show. In classes held from Jan. 1, 2007 thru June 30, 2007 fleece length will be 3 inch minimum up to 14 inch maximum.

However effective July 1st and thereafter fleece length shall be 3 inch minimum up to 8 inches maximum on neck, blanket and legs. This change essentially requires yearly shearing after your Suri is two years old. Allowing them to show in longer fleece up until June 30<sup>th</sup> gives a grace period this year so participants have an extra 6 months to adapt to the new rules. That takes us up through the Nationals and includes many of the largest shows of the season as well as getting us through the shearing season for 2007.

Under Section B.3.a. the following statement has been added: "Lock character or structure exists on a continuum from tightly twisted to straight. All lock styles are equally desirable. Emphasis is placed on the consistency of lock structure throughout the fleece." This is in regards to judging the lock component of fleece in halter classes.

Under Section B.5.a. which refers to a tie breaker in the fleece or composite class, the criteria used to break a tie have been restated to more appropriately reflect desired Suri fiber characteristics.

Although these are the changes that will have the greatest impact for Suri breeders, we would urge you to review all of the changes and also encourage you to read the rules book when you receive your updates by mail. If you have any questions regarding these or other changes, the best resource for you would be Connie Alexander the AOBA Show Division Administrator.

Some of the changes highlighted above came about as a result of recommendations made to the AOBA Show Rules Committee by Suri breeders in response to a proposal circulated by Patti Anderson and Carla Llewellyn. Some, but not all, of the recommendations from that proposal were adopted. Other changes came about from recommendations made by the SN Show Committee. The process for change does work if we as breeders are active in recommending appropriate changes. If you have comments or suggestions for changes to the show rules that you would like the SN to consider recommending to AOBA Show Rules Committee, do not hesitate to contact our office or any SN Board member. Dick Walker, your president, is a member of that committee. Recommendations for changes for 2008 should be made no later than April in order to be considered by the SRC.

## ALL SURI CLINIC - 2007

Once again, the AOBA Judges Training Certification Committee and the Suri Network are joining forces in offering an All Suri Clinic.

This Suri Clinic is being held as a teaching tool for judges and apprentices going through the certification process of the JTCC and will be held at The Hancock County Fairgrounds in Findlay, Ohio.

The reserved dates are Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> for set up; with the two-day clinic running Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup> 2007. Judges/Instructors are Amanda VandenBosch and Kristen Buhrmann.

Suri Owners and Breeders; **Mark your Calendars.** This is a call to be thinking ahead and planning on how you can assist in making this clinic successful. We need your Suris – show quality or not – conformational flaws or not – shorn, with regrowth or full fleeced - All are a vital learning tool for judges and apprentices.

**We are also very happy to announce The Suri Network agreed to financially support this important clinic. Without their financial contribution, the clinic would not be possible this year! Please be sure to send a huge "thank you" to their board members and volunteers!**

Please contact Miriam Donaldson at [alpacajack@aol.com](mailto:alpacajack@aol.com) if you are willing and able to bring your Suris to this teaching clinic.

by *Miriam Donaldson, SN Representative to the Affiliate Congress*

On January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> the Affiliate Congress had their second face to face meeting with the AOBA Board. This meeting took place in Nashville, TN with approximately 25 representatives from AOBA Affiliates and the AOBA Board of Directors.

The purpose of such a significant meeting is to bring member input on current issues that face our alpaca industry with an approach to resolution. Our goal is to improve vertical and horizontal communication; Member to Affiliate; Affiliate to Affiliate; Affiliate to Congress; Congress to the AOBA Board.

In conjunction with the AOBA Board, the Congress worked on many important issues.

These issues vary in substance from updating and keeping current the affiliate page on the AOBA website and offering a new page identifying the Affiliate Congress; its mission and contacts; to having the Affiliate Congress as a consis-

tent standing agenda item on the AOBA Board's monthly meetings. As you know, the Congress has recently completed several surveys to help determine issues considered by the membership to be of greatest interest and concern. Our goal is to define team leaders on a given issue; work through those issues and bring them to the board with a proposed plan of resolution. We are putting together a format for submission of survey result of issues from members to the Congress that will be taken to the Board with suggested positive resolution. The Congress has established a work site where we can openly discuss, prepare and hopefully resolve member concerns for presentation using this format.

At this particular meeting; many members had asked their Representatives to the Congress to discuss the topic of a Huacaya Breed Standard and why the AOBA Board hadn't discovered, first of all, if the membership even wanted a breed standard. Their answer: How can you decide if you want one if indeed you don't know what it contains? AOBA has spent much time educating the membership thru type confer-

ences held throughout the country and now feel there is something for the membership to vote on. Yes or No; at least it has been defined; the vote outcome is now up to the AOBA membership.

The Congress is in the process of a mentoring program for new affiliates with a blueprint for success.

The AOBA Board has shared with us and has requested we forward to you - the submission deadline to deliver all feedback and suggested show rules changes is May 21<sup>st</sup> 2007. The SRC will not accept any feedback or changes for the 2008 Show Division Handbook submitted after May 21<sup>st</sup> 2007. The SRC requests the Affiliate Congress submit their feedback and suggested changes as a single document if at all possible.

I hope this brings you up to date with the substance of the Affiliate Congress. It is there for you – as another outlet for valuable communication. Look for the new Affiliate Congress web page on the AOBA website. This site will more clearly define the mission of the Affiliate Congress and the communicating process for your valuable input.

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## ALPACA RESEARCH FOUNDATION SUPER STUD RAFFLE

*Rachelle Black- ARF Development Committee and Super Stud Raffle Chairperson*

It's that most wonderful time of year again – time for pre-conference ticket sales to the best deal of the year! This year The Alpaca Research Foundation has a stunning line-up of for our Super Stud Raffle.

Take a look at our dynamic Suri breeding donation, courtesy of Mark and Lauren Kinnare of Prairie Creek Alpacas, to the one and only, magnificent, Jax Dennis (The Menace)!! Jax Dennis truly has it all! Beginning with his rock solid build, perfect conformation, tightly penciled locks, tremendous luster, vibrant rich color, incredible density and superior genetics. The most accomplished offspring of Sergeant Major Jax, Dennis is the whole package. Every so often an exceptional alpaca stands above the herd – with his regal demeanor, Dennis is one of those special studs. In the show ring, Dennis has proven himself time after time with numerous ribbons, 4 color championships, lavish praise and great admiration from a field of judges, breeders and alpaca enthusiasts alike. The “real” test for a great male is in his ability to produce incredible offspring. Dennis is passing this test every day. He is producing exceptional 100% suri crias. He is passing on his uncompromising characteristics, powerful attitude along with dark bold color to his future prodigies. If you are looking for proven results – Dennis delivers. Each Dennis breeding comes with a Suri cria guarantee! Tickets are sold at \$50 each. That \$50 gets you entered in a drawing for a breeding to the stud of your choice. The drawing will be held at this year's National Conference in Kentucky-right before the AOBA Auction. You may purchase your tickets right now three different ways:

1) Go to <http://www.alpacaresearchfoundation.org> and click on the Super Stud Raffle link. Using your credit card you may purchase tickets directly from the ARF site. Your purchased tickets will be mailed to you in the month of March.

2) You may send me an email at: [wyattblack@earthlink.net](mailto:wyattblack@earthlink.net) and inform me how many tickets you want, then provide your complete mailing address, ranch or farm name and your own name, and a check, and I will mail the tickets to you, beginning in March.

3) You may purchase your tickets directly from me at the ARF booth at Nationals in May in KY! This is our second year offering pre-conference ticket sales, and we expect wondrous results - even better than last year. Remember ticket numbers are very limited, so don't delay!

You do not need to be present at conference to win! Since ticket numbers are limited, the odds of winning your dream breeding are very high, and with so many ways to purchase tickets – what are you waiting for?!

Remember, 100% of monies donated to the Super Stud Raffle go to The Alpaca Research Foundation- serving everyone's alpacas. The ARF Super Stud Raffle, a win-win proposition!