



Pack Llama Trail Association, Inc.

Dedicated to Preserving and Promoting the Working Llama

packllama.org

January 16, 2019

PLTA Meeting Notes for January 15, 2019 conference call.

In attendance: Susan Gawarecki, John Fant, Tom Seifert, Niki Kuklenski, Roy Williams

Meeting called to order: 7:01 mst

1. Membership List and calling members for renewal.

- a. Introduce yourself as from the PLTA.
- b. The PLTA is updating all records and want to know if they would like to renew their membership.
- c. If they say, "NO." Ask them if there is a specific reason for not joining.
- d. If they say, "YES." Thank them for their renewal and tell them to send their renewal form, to be found on the packllama.org site to Regina O'Brien - 513 N.W. A street - Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Niki: No problem

John: It's a go.

Susan: No questions, looks straight forward.

Tom: No problem. But let me bring up something Sue and I have talked about. What about people who have not paid for the last several years. Do we still call them?

Niki: I don't think it hurts, let's call them.

Tom: There are several names who are on the list, I have highlighted them in red – not necessary to call them if they are under your name. Hank Balch has passed and Mark Brindley is in Australia. Let's have this done by the end of January. Also, if someone has 2019 under date column, they have already paid.

2. The Treasurer's Position and attempting to fill it, quickly.

Tom: I have talked to Gina and she is in the process of putting all of the tax information together and once that is completed, she will be done. She doesn't have to have that completed until May, but she would like to have it off her plate by March. When we make phone calls, let's have the people do it as quickly as possible so Gina can take care of it and whomever comes on as new treasurer will not have to attempt to catch up with month old paperwork. Is this alright with everyone?

Niki: Here's the deal. We want to join, but what will they get from their dues. I am waiting to pay to see where the PLTA is headed. Before we ask for money, we need to have a direction of what the members will get.

Susan: We have the Mileage Club that people can get recognition for. Right now, we have the Pack Trials, but we just can't magically have multiple Pack Trials all over the country. As individuals, sometimes it is difficult to organize and we need more people to spread the work around and do it. We have Handbooks and Instructions on how to do everything, we just need to incentivize people to hold them.

John: In Arkansas, we have Llama Play Day, and if I am unable to take my llamas, I still go and try to spread the word. Word of Mouth, but that doesn't always pay off. I hope to hold 2, maybe 3 Pack Trials in Arkansas this year.

Tom: Niki, what specific things are you looking for?

Niki: Right now, pack llamas are the hottest commodity. We have the opportunity to be the leaders in that area. WE need to be able to help people, guide people in buying the best llamas. When I go to a Pack Trial, I



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am looking to increase the sale-ability of my males by having them gain their certifications. If someone wants to buy llamas, they need to be enticed to come to the PLTA, the website and see what people are offering and what that llama has succeeded in doing. We need to infuse our association with new blood, new ideas. Scott Noga could be a good choice for the Board.

Tom: Just to be clear, our emphasis should be more on Pack Trials?

Niki: Yes. Right now, I am getting 6-10 phone calls per week for good packers. Ow do I get on your waiting list? And I will not sell babies. We could be the Nordstrom's of pack llamas and I don't have a problem selling packers/llamas. Tom, you are not in the business of breeding. What about you, John? We could use commercial packers to both advertise on our website, but also purchase from us if they know they will be buying a proven packer. We don't want to just say Ccara is the only way to go, we want to be showing good pack llamas, no matter what.

Susan: We don't want to discriminate by wool, or size. What we want to do, foremost, is promote packing. Especially in areas where packing is big.

John: I have sold off a few and am done to a smaller herd.

Niki: None of us has an agenda, we just want to promote the PLTA and put out good packers. The early PLTA was designed to show an animal's true capabilities. That gets us back to the website, and what we could to enhance our website.

Tom: The first thing we need to do is find a Treasurer. We also need to be publicity oriented, name recognition, get the PLTA name out there. Somehow, we need to find that pre-llama owner and get this info to them. I have five very good boys, all would be good breeders. My issue is, I have to take them to someone who has females and we need to be able to spread out more than that.

Niki: Not everything that people have is great. That will all get sussed out when you're packing. That's for a different time. We need to find a Treasurer. How about each of us comes up with two names of people who would be eager to be on the board.

Tom: Laura Steere, from Infinity Acres has shown an interest. Susan, are you familiar with her and would she be a good candidate for the Board?

Susan: Yes, I do know her. She is definitely a go-getter. She runs a non-profit and she certainly gets things done. I haven't talked to Mary Rose Collins, lately, but she is interested in coming onto our Board. She is preparing for the SSLA Spring Pack Trial in April. She is one you could count on.

Niki: Scott Noga is also willing to join the Board, possibly as Treasurer.

Tom: Yes, I know Scott. John, have you ever met Scott.

John: No

Tom: Would you reach out to Scott to see if he wants to join the Board? If that doesn't work, I will talk to Laura Steere, but I will wait to hear from you. Gina has said she will work with the new person to transition them to the Treasurer position and wouldn't just dump stuff on them. I think new board members provide us with a bit of a background and their work with llamas. Does everyone agree to how we will approach this opening?

Susan: Yes

John: Yes

Roy: Yes

Niki: Yes

Tom: Yes



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Tom: From what I understand from Gina, the bookkeeping is not that difficult, it is primary data entry and keeping things balanced.

Susan: We have a new person moving into our area from out west. He is Dan Miller, and he will be the llama wrangler for the Smokies. He calls himself, Dan “The Llama Man” Miller.

John: Yes, I have talked to him several times over the phone, but have never met him.

Niki: Since he is just starting out, he might have his hands full so let’s wait a year and then hit him up. We can still invite him to join the PLTA, however. We still need to grow our organization, especially in the Colorado area, Midwest. If we have members spread out across the country, they will spread the word about the PLTA.

Tom: John, and I have visited, and crossing our fingers we hope to get to Colorado and boost up the PLTA. Several years ago, I had a conversation with a guy in Colorado who told me the PLTA was big, but just died away. It was about the same time Nancy Hester tried to break the PLTA and didn’t tell anyone of its demise. People wondered what happened, and it was her attempt to shut down the PLTA. John, I guess you and I have a jog this summer – to spread the word.

3. Pack Trials

Tom: Let me bring up a new member and his response to several questions I had for him. His name is Tom Rachiele and he is from Medical Lake and very interested in Pack Trials. Niki, Roy, are you familiar with him?

Niki – Roy: No, we don’t know him. But, we do know that Medicine Lake is over by Spokane.

Tom: This new member was looking to come to Burns for a Trial, and I asked him if he would be willing to come north with you guys to participate in a Trial? He said he would absolutely participate. So, Niki and Roy, you will have his name when you get the membership list and it probably wouldn’t hurt to reach out and bang the gong for him to come to the Trial. You guys start thinking about when you want your Trial – Sue and I will do our best to come north and get you certified so you can continue with Trials.

Niki: Would you spell his name again? Tom: Yes Niki: It looks as if he moved from Pennsylvania and has several pack llamas.

Tom: You let us know when you want the Trial and we’ll get it worked out.

Roy: I will get in touch with you, tomorrow, Niki.

4. Membership List

Tom: Roy, were you on the phone call when I talked about the membership list and giving people a call?

Roy: No, I wasn’t, I had a business call to deal with.

Tom: OK. You will be getting or should have a membership list that I have divided up and I have also sent along several questions to guide us in what we ask so we are all on the same page. I have also included Gina’s name, address etc and if the people choose to use PAYPAL, no problem.

5. Weebly Site

Tom: Niki, is there anything you would like to add about the site. The big thing, get a Treasurer to write checks and pay the Weebly site fees.

Niki: Everyone needs to look at the site, follow the video, and it literally shows you step by step how to set it up.

Tom: Has everyone been able to see this video? If not, let’s get that done in the next two weeks, get our treasurer in, pay the bills and we will be good to go.



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6. MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

Tom: Let's start with Roy, anything you have to say?

Roy: This may have been brought up earlier, but looking at the Yahoo site, Lisa and Gina still have access – and that is somewhat strange.

Susan: I think they need to be on to effectively work our transition with the new Board, if there were questions, but I can visit with them.

Niki: I agree with Roy, this is a new Board. Lisa and Gina have done so much, and if a something is said on the Board, I don't want them to take it wrongly and I certainly don't want them to feel they have been kicked to the curb, because they kept the PLTA alive and did so much. I don't want anyone to feel unrecognized for their work.

Susan: I will talk to them and tell them that our transitioning phase is almost complete and they will be removed from the Yahoo site.

Tom: Gina will be off the Board as soon as a new Treasurer is found. If Scott or someone else takes the position, she will move on with her life and be off the Board. In Lisa's case, she is currently working on a data-base. So we have the Yahoo site, packllama.org site, and the data base which is just on Lisa's computer. It will contain, owner's name, llama names, age, PLYA numbers, level of certification and on and on. I know Lisa wants to be part of the PLTA, a certifier, but she doesn't want to deal with all of the things going on with the Board. Her big thing is to get this data base up and running.

Susan: We have a Board, but this doesn't preclude us from having members who work on certain projects. Lisa has the project of the data base. When I leave, I would love to be involved as a project to keep llamas from being banned from National Forests/ government affairs. We need to be weighing in these issues. These people would could be a real help for the PLTA.

Tom: How does this work with everyone?

Roy: Sounds good.

Niki: Good.

John: Sounds good.

Susan: Good.

Tom: One more time around, anything anyone has to say or topics?

Roy: Nothing else.

Niki: Nope that covers it, thanks Tom. Remember, come up with 2 names for the Board.

John: No, not at this time.

Susan: Let's see. Not at this time. Oh, SSLA Pack Trial in April. Also, mention you're looking forward to her joining the Board.

Niki: Let's look to build the PLTA. Check out the RMLA, they aren't doing so hot and maybe members would join. I am not a member

John: I am a member. They're pretty big, but their last Board is pretty much killing them. Giving the llama industry a black eye.

Niki: I have heard the same thing.

Tom: Do we reach out to them?

Susan: We have reached out to them in the past with articles and stuff.

John: I have written articles for them and let me do some checking.



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Niki: Right now, it looks as if the strongest llama organization is GALA, Greater Appalachian Llama Organization. Many organizations are suffering, right now.

Susan: SSLA is still going pretty strong and will be meeting this Spring at University of Georgia.

Tom: That's where the PLTA can come in with fliers, cards, handouts when you go to an event. Get our name out there.

John: Thank you Niki for all of the things you brought up, tonight.

Susan: Thanks everyone. If we can keep plugging away and bring in new blood, we will be fine. People are getting crazy for llamas and we can make them a more broadly accepted livestock.

Tom: Thanks everyone. Niki, you get ahold of Scott and let me know also let me know about your Trial. Thank you everyone and talk to you in a month.

Conference call ended: 7:56 mst