



The NAPgA Bleat!

The Official Newsletter of the North American Packgoat Association

September 2005

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New NAPgA Newsletter

Since 99% of the NAPgA members have e-mail, the board decided to try a new newsletter approach in order to disseminate information on a more timely basis. That approach will be the use of an e-mailed PDF version. This will allow us to do a more or less monthly issuance of NAPgA news and keep our members better informed. It will probably not keep exactly to a monthly delivery in the beginning as everyone struggles to get up to speed with the requirement to do a monthly submission to the editor. Also, it will be a little large, so some folks with an analog modem will find that it takes a while to download. That is why in the beginning I will be sending out a warning that the newsletter is coming. I hope you will let us know what you think about this change. My e-mail is: larryr@hisurfer.net.

from the President!

Hello fellow NAPgA members, and welcome to the first e-mail edition of our newsletter! Instead of sending out large newsletters a few times a year, we are going to try sending out monthly newsletters via e-mail. If we don't have your e-mail address, we'll send it snail mail, but e-mail saves us money in postage and supplies. If your e-mail has changed, please let Larry Robinson know at larryr@highsurfer.net.

This month's newsletter features a report on the rendezvous held last month, and a copy of the introductory letter which various NAPgA members will be sending soon to land management agencies in their home states. We need a lot of member involvement in this project; please contact Tony Nastansky at tonynastansky@earthlink.net. We have a lot of states to cover, and Tony can let you know if your area needs a NAPgA representative.

I believe Tony still has T-shirts and patches for sale from the rendezvous; I got mine, so I can pretend I was there! Both the shirts and patches are beautiful and reasonably priced. All proceeds go to NAPgA, so please contact Tony and help him get rid of the remaining shirts and patches. Also, Larry has caps and the regular NAPgA patches for sale. They make great gifts and conversation starters for any goat type friend. I sewed the patches on my panniers.

Soon we will be holding elections for next year's officers, including a new sixth position of board member. Please look for information on candidates in the next newsletter. If you are interested in running for office, please contact

See 2005 Rendy Report-Page 2

board member Jo Christensen as soon as possible, at timpanoga@hotmail.com.

Thanks for listening, and please let us know what you think of this newsletter format.

Jan Huffaker President

Carpe Diem!

Jan Huffaker jhuffaker@rmi.net www.huffakerfarms.com

The Land Use Committee

by Tony Nastansky

With the recent experience I faced with trying to locate the rendezvous site, I realized the different agencies like the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and some US Forest Service offices did not know about Packgoats.

I knew the NAPgA had a brochure and thought we needed to introduce our packgoats to the agencies where we hike with our packgoats.

I introduced the idea of an introductory letter to the board members and explained we should send this introductory letter and brochures out to the Land Management Agencies.

The board agreed and the goatpacking introductory letter was created with input from members of the board and other committee's.

If you open the attached letter you will see at the bottom the letter is to be signed by a NAPgA member that is in the area of the Land Management Agency (i.e. Forest area)

I will be developing keeping a spreadsheet to show which land management Agencies have been contacted and by whom. This will be posted on the NAPgA web site.

We are looking for two to three representatives per state, so NAPgA members close to their forest area would be the local contact. We would also like these area representatives to be willing to have their name on a contact list on the NAPgA web site. As when people go to the web site they can look up a state and area and have a link to contact the local NAPgA representative.

The idea is to provide the letter to the Land manage-

ment Agency with several of the NAPgA brochures as handouts (i.e. a hiker that wants to know about packgoats).

Please read the letter and brochure, and if you want to be a NAPgA representative for your area, please contact me. I will want to know your state and area's of coverage. If the area you are choosing is already represented, we can put you down as a backup. Be advised some forests are pretty big and have many district offices. One forest could be split up among a couple or more people.

To contact Tony: tonynastansky@earthlink.net
(See Land Use Handout on the Page 4.)

2005 NAPgA Rendezvous Report

by Tony Nastansky, Rendezvous Chairman

The 2005 NAPgA Rendezvous was held at the Chinook Pass Work Center in Naches WA, July 7 to 10th.

We had an awesome turnout, with representation from six states. We met our expectation of 80 goat packers with approximately 65 packgoats in attendance.



We started out with a few people arriving on Wednesday night and around Thursday noon it was a convoy of goatpacking people with their vehicles and trailers packed with goats.

Some hiking started on Thursday afternoon.

Thursday evening we called the group together and met with John McGowan and William Moore from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). We



discussed the issues of packgoats and the concern of disease that could be transmitted to Big Horn Sheep. Mr. Moore discussed certain diseases such as Pasterella and allowed the group to comment. It was

pretty much in agreement by all parties, that any of the diseases mentioned would start with your goat being sick and we all agreed that we would not be taking sick goats onto the trail. It was also understood we need to keep our goats away from the wildlife, especially Big Horn's. We packed up a goat to demonstrate for our guest speakers. It was my feeling that these gentleman left with a favorable impression of pack goats.

After the meeting with the WDFW, we mentioned group-hiking sign up for different trails. Tony reviewed the various

trails in the area, and people had the opportunity to go out on their own or sign up with trail leaders Jim Bennett, Sandy Roberts or Tony Nastansky. The rains moved in about mid-morning and hikers realized even more why Washington is the Evergreen State. Tony's group saw elk, deer and nine mountain goats.

Friday started off with groups heading for the hills with their goats, while some visited in camp and more goatpackers arrived.



Friday evening we held a potluck that went over well with all the good food. Carolyn Eddy lead two group discussions. The first, prior to our potluck was on Leave No Trace. After the potluck, the group broke into smaller groups and Carolyn gave the groups two problems each to work out relating to a sick goat. Then the group reported the discoveries to everyone.

Donna and Steve Semasko handed out some door prizes.

Joe Goatpacker (I am not sure who he really is, but my goats like him) arrived to provide the group with a story. Everyone was kind and listened and there were even a few chuckles.

We then scheduled hikes for Saturday. The day turned out nice, a little cloudy, but no rain.

Jim Bennett and his group left with the goal of reaching Norse Peak. They made it and saw about 100 elk, some deer and a bear on the trail.

Saturday evening we held another potluck, again with great food: Donna and Steve handed out more door prizes. With the group held captive, Tony Nastansky introduced Larry Robinson and himself as NAPgA Board Members. Tony gave a briefing on the permitting process for the rendezvous, introduction to the monthly NAPgA newsletter that Larry Robinson will spearhead, with support from the other board and committee members and the new Land Management Agency cover letter that will be used to accompany the NAPgA brochure to various forest agencies.

Jim Bennett then introduced Todd Niess our guest speaker on Big Foot. Todd shared his personal experience while on duty in the Army National Guard of seeing three Big Foot, and then shared his experiences on other Big Foot searches and stories from other Big Foot researchers.



I want to say some special thanks to Jim Bennett for co-chairing the rendezvous with me, and Steve and Donna Semasko for all their help. Carolyn Eddy thanks for leading the Leave



No Trace and Goat First Aid discussions. Thanks to the Naches US Forest Service District for allowing us to use the site, to John McGowan and William Moore from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for meeting with us, and to Todd Niess

for the informative discussion on Big Foot. Sandy Roberts and Dan Casad for your assistance. To all the contributors for the raffle and auction, Carolyn Eddy, NW Packgoats, Owyhee Packgoat Supply, Huffaker Farms and so many others. The top thank you award goes to Beck Riebesehl who donated a young wether, which brought in \$150.00 for the NAPgA. Below is Becky with her new trail buddy, Clayton.

HAPPY GOATPACKING !
from JOE GOATPACKER

What Can You Do to Help

by Carolyn Eddy

Someone just asked me what they could do to participate in the bighorn -- packgoat -- NAPgA program.

Here is how I see it working.

Every National Forest or BLM or other land manager has either a written or email newsletter or a list of civilian people on their forest that have an interest in and are likely to want to be involved in decision making about their pet interest.

If every forest had one person reading or being available to hear about the issues they are interested in we would have a huge base of people who could pass stuff on to NAPgA when our issues come up.

And, would take very little time and energy on an individual level. Also, collecting the contact info of the appropriate person to take our issues to, in order to pass them along to NAPgA. Just apply for the newsletter, read and pass on to NAPgA. That would be the basic intro level involvement that would make a huge difference in our ability to respond to these issues.

Beyond that, offering to give a short talk to the land manager in charge of wildlife and just introducing yourself and the concept of packgoats, and giving and collecting the contact info from NAPgA and to the land manager.

You get his name, you tell him about research and give him Dr Ward's info, pass out the brochure and research info that Tony is in the process of compiling.

Beyond that, offer to take a land manager for a hike to

demonstrate good packgoat behavior. Or, have a booth at a show or other event and pass out stuff. Or, get involved with volunteer work with your local forest or BLM.

The sky is the limit.

One of our best contacts here around Mt. Hood has been the wilderness steward volunteer program that Alice and I do. We are privy to all kinds of info of interest to goat-packers, much of which would never see the light of the public eye otherwise. But, it's passed on because they know we're interested.

Very early on, Steve Semasko and I went to the Gifford Pinchot NF and did a presentation on packgoats. We followed that up with a trip around TrailsFest handing out packgoat brochures and info. That and the fact that Tim and Deanne Converse are friends with the recreation tech on the south end of the GPNF and he had seen packgoat in person smoothed the way for packgoat use in many places in the whole forest. My contacts in horse groups have gotten us into many doors that otherwise wouldn't have been open or maybe not occurred to us. Our best offense is to make packgoats a common sight. There are now very few thru-hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail that don't know about packgoats because I spoke at the national annual meeting this year because they got curious enough to invite me to speak after I hung around the PCT list for awhile.

Network your brains out. You'll never know where it might lead. Carry brochures and pass them out freely. Yes, it's a hassle and it slows you down, but it gives us a foot in the door at the same time.

If each of us put the word packgoat in one sentence per day, a lot of people would know about packgoats by the end of the day. OK, now you have gotten my point. Make us a household word, not an anomaly.

But you can start small and create big things.

Carolyn Eddy

"Sweet Goat Mama"

www.goattracksmagazine.com

This is such good stuff. It is academic that in any organization 10% of the folks do 90% of the work. But we NEED those folks that are willing to help to step forward and volunteer their time. We cannot make a difference without the dedicated service of many people and when it is always the same folks, eventually they get burned out and the momentum dies. You can help... please do. Ed.

See Page 5 for some recent dialogue on the Big Horn Sheep issue and a great letter to an Alaska Newspaper regarding an inflammatory story they had run previously. Ed.



GOATPACKING



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COMING SOON TO A TRAIL NEAR YOU !



www.napga.org

Dear Land Management Agency Representatives,

The North American Packgoat Association (NAPgA) desires to introduce your land Management Agency office to goat packing. People have been packing with goats for 30 plus years in the United States, but it was about 15 years ago that goat packing gained widespread popularity. In the late 1990's an avid group of goat packers from various states decided that it was time to form an organization and in 2001 the NAPgA was incorporated as a non-profit association.

The NAPgA seeks to further the pursuit of goat packing by sharing the knowledge, ideas, and experiences of its members, by promoting the use of packgoats to the public as a means of low impact wilderness transportation and recreation, by serving as an advisory group on local and national land use issues, and to engage in other activities related to educating the public about goat packing.

Our organization includes people who have used horses and/or llamas for pack stock. What people find with goats is they are friendlier; they can carry up to 30 percent of their body weight, are low impact on trails and will go anywhere you want to go. The NAPgA finds that packgoats are the packstock of choice for older and handicapped hikers. In addition to recreational packing, goats have been used by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and state wildlife and fish agencies where access is very difficult or where resource damage by traditional packstock is a concern. Packgoats are also used for search and rescue and research in rough terrain. We have members from across the United States, representing both recreational packers and outfitters.

Please put your local NAPgA representative on your mailing lists for newsletters and to advise of proposed projects that could directly or indirectly affect pack stock or packgoats. Many of our members enjoy volunteering for their local land use agencies by packing equipment into remote areas or providing a packgoat demonstration.

Enclosed are brochures for your office to review, and to use as hand-out's for the general public that may want to know more about goat packing. Please contact your NAPgA representative if you have any questions.

Regards, _____ Your local North American Packgoat Association representative.
Address _____ City _____ State _____
Email _____ Phone _____

For other NAPgA contacts go to www.napga.org

the President sums up

I just got back from an extended packgoat trip, so I'm just getting up to speed on the recent discussion on packgoats vs. Dall sheep etc. I haven't had time yet to read the articles that Josh posted, but I'll print them and read them soon.

What little science we have regarding pasteurilla, shows that transmission didn't occur on the one study where the contaminated goat was penned with the bighorn, but the bighorn (BHS) died when penned with the sheep and the llama. Dr. Drew is doing more research and tested both herd goats and packgoats for different parasites and diseases, just to see what kind of bugs the various kinds of goats were carrying, and if they did or did not present a risk to bhs. He is separating herd goats from packgoats to see if there is a difference in what bugs the two groups carry. As to the Idaho die-off, we don't know what the direction of transmission was-- did the goat give the disease to the sheep, or did the sheep give the disease to the goat? It is easy to jump to conclusions.

NAPgA members have gotten information on Dr. Drew's projects in their newsletters in previous years. I hope you all have kept that information on hand so you can show what facts are available when confronted by land managers or ignorant newspaper reporters. If anyone else wants it, let me know and I'll mail hard copies of the first research (where they penned the goat with the bhs) and the second project, which is still ongoing. Dr. Drew has been kind enough to give presentations on his study to goatpackers. Somehow we need to get him to talk to land managers; maybe he is doing this already.

Lots of Colorado is bighorn habitat, either the high country for Rocky Mtn bighorn, or the desert areas for desert bighorn (I don't know the numbers in the state). I don't want any blanket prohibitions, because that would put most of the hiking areas in the state out of commission for packgoats. Curiously enough, although I've hiked a lot in bighorn areas, I've never seen them when I had my goats with me. However I have seen bhs while driving on I-70 near the Eisenhower Tunnel (they lick the salt off the edges of the highway) and I've seen them while backpacking in my pre-goat years.

As I recall, the Arizona problem was a land developer who turned out a large herd of goats to clear brush and left them unattended. He just turned them loose and walked away, no fences or care or anything. They got or maybe already had pinkeye, which is always worse in dry conditions, and apparently spread it to the sheep. Pinkeye is an infection which is spread by flies, but it occurs in cattle, horses, people, and just about anything so I think if you're going to prevent pinkeye in bhs you'd better also eliminate cattle, horses, and people, as well as goats. I've gotten pinkeye from dairy cattle, so I know it transcends species barriers.

Most people have the sheep-and-goats mindset, meaning that they are the same species and transmit things readily back and forth. This just isn't true; although they are related species, goats are different from sheep. However goats are still considered a minor species, thus little research is done on goats specifically, most drugs aren't even labeled for goats, and it's easy to restrict goats because we are such a small group. With the increase in meat goats and the use of goats for weed control, this is starting to change. More people are becoming aware of goats as a separate species, and not just lumped with sheep.

One thing we can control ourselves is feral goats. I have heard of two instances where packgoats were deliberately abandoned in the wilderness, because they laid down and refused to work. This kind of behavior will get goatpacking prohibited quicker than anything else. As will packgoats wandering away from camp and not being recovered. It is our job to take only healthy goats into the wilderness, avoid bhs if we come across them, and not leave any goats behind to cause problems. Personally if I ever see anyone deliberately abandon a goat in Colorado, I will have a desperate desire to throttle them, then fly them to Antarctica or some other inhospitable place and dump them off so they can experience what it's like. If a goat lays down on you and won't move, he is obviously not suited to packing. It is your job to push, pull, drag, or do something to get that goat out of the wilderness and home.

Tony Nastansky has written a letter of introduction which we are mailing out to land managers. I've got part of my mailing list together for Colorado and will get my letters out soon. This is to set up a contact person and a dialogue with land managers, and get on their mailing list for proposed rule changes and the like. Also, the more personal contact you can do, the better. We need a NAPgA representative for Alaska, Randy, if you or someone else is interested. You need to be a member though. Once we establish some links, we can send them the actual research and the facts, so they can make educated decisions.

I'll have more to say on the issue, but it's getting late and I'm pooped. By the way, I took three younger packgoats and myself, and we had a wonderful trip up above treeline in the Comanche Peaks Wilderness north of Rocky Mtn. National Park. Didn't see a soul all week, and when we got back to the trailhead it was still empty, although a horse packer pulled in just as we were leaving. I don't understand why people don't use that trailhead more, but I'm not complaining. We were up there around the time they were searching for a lost park ranger and saw several search planes and helicopters. Unfortunately he died of head injuries, apparently he fell in a remote area.

Carpe Diem!

Jan Huffaker jhuffaker@rmi.net www.huffakerfarms.com

Tony Nastansky's excellent response to an ill-informed article in the Anchorage Daily News

There have been inquiries as to if the NAPgA responded to the Alaska article regarding Dall Sheep Hunting With pack Goats. With input from Carolyn Eddy, I sent the following response to the Anchorage Daily Newspaper and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

To this date I have received a little more inquiry from the news paper, but had not heard from the state.

To Anchorage Daily News, 8-19-05

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PACKGOAT STORY

The North American Packgoat Association would like to present the other side of the packgoat story. Our organization is devoted to the dissemination of accurate information about packgoats and would like to comment on your recent story.

Before we pack up our packgoats and go home, lets look at a few issues here. Goats that are used for packing are kept like one would keep a sporting dog. The packgoats are raised from a young age and are considered companion animals created to bond with their human owners. They become part of the family. And because goatpacking people want healthy animals they take good care of them. People packing with goats are not taking unhealthy animals packing.

The disease transmission issue stems from the types of management of goats. Dr. Ward of Caine Veterinary Center at the University of Idaho defines one type as the "domestic herd goat", defined as brush or meat goats released into areas where they are not closely managed or observed for disease and much more likely to have direct contact with wild species due to the lack of human intervention. These goats also may not be subject to adequate vaccination programs, veterinary inspection or permit control inspection, making it more likely for disease to be transmitted. Dr. Ward considers the second class as "packgoats" to be defined as goats that are kept under close control, observed daily by their owners for disease symptoms and subject to Health Certificate and, when coming from out of state, are required to provide Import Certificates issued by a veterinarian and reviewed by the state veterinarian in the state of visitation. A companion packgoat would be much less likely to pass disease, as there would be no point in trying to use a sick goat to work. Due to the time and energy spent in training, packgoats are more likely to be on a strict vaccination schedule, good nutrition, and better general care.

In the case of the feral goats and the bighorns in Arizona that is mentioned in the recent Anchorage Daily news

article, these "domestic herd goats" were spooked out of their pasture during a storm. Some of these goats and bighorns had pink eye. We all know what pink eye is. The carrier of the pink eye could have been a goat, but also a dog, a cow, a human, or a fly that transmitted the disease to other goats and bighorn sheep. Many of the diseases mentioned that Llamas and goats carry are also as likely to be carried and/or spread by horses and cattle or even dogs or humans.

In 1994 by Dr. William Foreyt of the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA started the first scientific research on disease transmission between bighorns and domestic goats. He completed several early studies including direct transmission involving culture swabs to carry the pasteurella disease organisms between the throats of sheep and goats. None of the Bighorn sheep developed any disease. When asked his opinion of management options for packgoats in 1994, Dr. Foreyt replied, "Management practices should be left up to the individual land manager, but based on available data, I believe there is a very low probability that domestic goats could transmit pasteurella to bighorn sheep and cause them to die." He also listed a number of precautions. These are quoted below and are exactly the same as quoted this year by the land managers in Washington and Oregon.

Since then and including now up to this year 2005, those recommendations have not changed. But, we do have even more research that backs the original research. Two vets have continued research in goat/bighorn sheep disease transmission. These veterinarians are Dr Alton Ward at Caine Vet Center at University of Idaho and Dr. Mark Drew Idaho Department of Agriculture. These recommendations are the same ones that Dr Foreyt recommended in 1994 and were updated this last year into the form of a sign to post at trailheads.

Based on their recommendations to consider goat populations as either "domestic herd goats" or "packgoats", (defined as a closely human bonded intensively managed group of goats, not likely to have physical contact with wild species) they have made different recommendations for the management of both groups. Also as of this year, 2005, the land managers for the Forest Service in Washington and Oregon have posted the following information at trailheads where seeing bighorn sheep and Mountain Goats are likely.

- Avoid direct contact with wild bighorn sheep. (Direct contact is defined as actual touching between the two animals; it,s not transmissible by touching leftover by-products that are cast off from wild or domestic animals.)
- Use only healthy animals on your trip. (Obvious, since a sick animal can,t work.)
- Follow the state's regulations for your animals. (e.g. maintaining a current Certificate of Veterinary Inspection

(CVI) and/or Import permit for out of state visitors with packgoats. This is required for all livestock, including such animals as horses, dogs, and llamas. All of which have the potential to transmit pinkeye to other stock.) ·Maintain control of your animals on the trail, using leads during the day and hobbles or tethers at night as appropriate. ·Rotate areas of feeding and bedding. (Dry, spread out products decomposes more rapidly.)

The United States Forest Service considers packgoats to be managed the same and subject to the same rules as other pack stock such as horses and llamas. Some National Forests have allowed a distinction between llamas and goats versus horses and mules, as goats are considered to have much less affect on trail bed degradation. (e.g. small hooved versus large hooved animals) The NAPgA finds that packgoats are the packstock of choice for older and handicapped hikers. In addition to recreational packing, goats have been used in a paid or volunteer capacity by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and state wildlife and fish agencies where access is very difficult or where resource damage by traditional packstock is a concern. We have members from across the United States, representing both recreational packers and outfitters.

NAPgA respects the land managers, desire to keep our forests safe for multi-use programs. We want to help get accurate information out to the public to address the real issue of keeping healthy animals in the forests.

We invite you to visit our web site at, www.napga.org
Sincerely,

Tony Nastansky North American Packgoat Association
Board member, Secretary and Land Use Committee
Chairperson tonynastansky@earthlink.net

and Carolyn Eddy adds a measure of balance to the recent, very long discussion

There are a few people on this list who have been involved in this discussion since the beginning.

Although slightly different conclusions may have been reached I think we all agree that education of land managers is a good thing, and that supplying information based on scientific research and not conjecture is a good thing.

NAPgA has taken the view to provide land managers with contact information with scientists who have done actual research. We have also made it clear that there are two types of goats, feral and companion pet animals.

Rather than NAPgA drawing conclusions for the managers, many of the educated land managers have drawn their own conclusions after being supplied correct information. This is a huge step in the right direction.

The real problem is the newspapers and land managers who have no basis to make their own conclusions from

real research.

Carolyn Eddy
"Sweet Goat Mama"
www.goattracksmagazine.com

Here is some reading material on the subject. I think it is pretty clear that Packgoats are not much of an issue when you look at the numbers of goats, proximity to bighorns, and duration spent near bighorns in these stories. Lets not forget that domestic sheep are still the LARGEST issue when it comes to wild sheep.

http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/resources/pubs/wildlife/bighorn_domestic_sheep_final_080601.pdf#search='bighorn%20sheep%20and%20domestic%20goats'

http://www.aasrp.org/hot_topics/2004/April%202004/Domestic%20Goats.htm

<http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/range456/hot-topics/wildlife-livestock.htm>

http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/index.php?page=local&story_id=121303a1_bighorns

<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2003/12/14/build/nation/75-sheepngoats.inc>

http://www.propertyrightsresearch.org/articles6/goats_shot_to_spare_sheep_from_e.htm

[Josh](#) Leavitt

