March came in like a lamb but went out like a lion in Colorado this year. I hope everyone has made it through kidding season okay, and if your wethers are like mine, they are chomping at the bit to get out and start eating those spring grasses.

Mark you calendar for Goatstock 2007, to be held in the high country of SW Colorado July 19-21. The location is a large meadow located near the Colorado Trail, between Rico and Dolores, Colorado, in the San Juan National Forest. Details are posted on the website at www.napga.org. This is a high elevation meadow (10,600') which is used heavily in the fall for hunting, but little used during the summer. There is no running water, so be prepared to bring your own, and we'll have a couple of 55 gallon drums available as well. The Colorado goatpackers are really looking forward to getting together and meeting others from all over the country. I've had lots of positive responses and am expecting a good turnout. Tom Kelly from the Forest Service is working on our permit, and we will be doing some sort of volunteer project on Thursday, July 19th. This is our chance to show off our people and packgoats to the Forest Service, and make a good impression!

Our permit allows vendors, so bring your checkbook and things to sell. This is a great chance to socialize, get new ideas, and look over various kinds of gear.

Carolyn Eddy will be teaching a Leave No Trace workshop, and we will have our traditional Friday evening potluck. I'd like to hold a NAPgA meeting sometime during the weekend as well. If you have other ideas for workshops or activities, please let me know. There's lots of hiking and fishing in the area, and I highly recommend a side trip to Mesa Verde National Park. There are some amazing Anasazi ruins there.

NAPgA is putting together the first ever packgoat calendar (for 2008) which will be available for sale at the rendy. Sabine over in Germany is spearheading this project, so dig through your photo albums and find those really great pictures of your packgoats! Sabine has set up a photo section in the All Things Packgoat Yahoo! list, called “Calendar 2008”. You can post your photos there. She'll sift through the pictures and make a preliminary cut, then post the most promising ones for members to vote on. Time is of the essence, so photos must be submitted by April 15th. So get yours in today!

NAPgA: A Demographic Look
By Larry Robinson
A recent chance comment led me to believe that it is an appropriate time for a discussion of NAPgA demographics. Especially for those that are recent arrivals in the goatpacking arena. Like myself, for instance.

NAPgA as an entity began in the west. The brainchild of George Bogdan and Carolyn Eddy, it essentially began at Carson, Washington in 1998. Goatpacking itself, appears to have begun as a result of John Mionczynski's efforts to develop a previously untried concept, and that was using goats as beasts of burden. The rest is pretty much history. Goatpacking is growing in popularity especially in the west where it started, but it is also spreading slowly across the US, with some members in the Midwest and a couple in the far eastern part of the US.

As of this point:
89% of NAPgA's members live in the western half of the United States.
11% live in the eastern half of the US.
Of those 11% that live in the eastern half of the US, all but 2 live in the Midwest.

As far as the NAPgA board, the governing body of NAPgA is concerned, one board member is from Colorado, one from Nevada, one from Idaho, one from California, one from Oregon and one from Washington. All are largely from the west because, at least at this point, that is where the lion's share of NAPgA members live. However, any NAPgA member is eligible to run for office, and then it is solely up to the members-at-large to decide.

As regards the dearth of members in the Midwest and Eastern areas, what NAPgA needs most is for those folks to get the word out and to sign up members to support the goatpacking “cause” in the East.

Larry Robinson
NAPgA NL Editor/Treasurer
Larry is frequently adding things to the website (www.napga.org), so check it out. There is a new section called “Packer Tales” where you can post your stories or packgoat tips. There is also a photo gallery for your pictures, and new information on issues, goat health, etc. is being added as needed. This has evolved into a very useful tool, which will help us in our mission to promote packgoats and educate both goatpackers and the general public. Kudos to Larry Robinson for building and maintaining this website. And thanks to all of you who have sent in your ideas and who have provided information to be posted. This is a website we can all be proud of. *(I have to add some names to the website thing. I started with an outline that was put together by Meggen Ryan, I believe, added some ideas of my own, and used much of the information that was available on the website originally put together and maintained by Steve Semasko. The actually programming of the site basics was done by an engaging English gentleman named Gavin Redshaw, who is currently residing in Portland, OR. How’s that for multi-cultural. ;-) NAPgA Ed.)*

The American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) has initiated a new program to register wethers. Any wether can be registered, regardless of breed, and this includes crossbreds and meat breeds. Cost to register an animal is $10, and you must be a member of ADGA ($25). The advantage of registering your wether is that you get a registration certificate and number which can be used instead of a scrapie ID. This means your goat won’t need a scrapie ear tag. This should also help 4-H’ers who are sometimes required to show registered animals at the fair. Currently ADGA allows tattoos for permanent ID, but I’d like to see them include microchips as well. The contact for this program is Lelia Berry, e-mail leliaberry@aol.com. My thanks to Carolyn Eddy for telling us about this program.

Carpe Diem!
Jan Huffaker

www.huffakerfarms.com

Land Use Committee

Greetings and salutations everyone, here we are already in to the month of April! I have had a hectic last 5 months, and I unfortunately have not had my boys out hiking much since hunting camp. Have not heard much going on around the country amongst goatpackers, I am thinking with the weather improving many of us will be getting out and hitting the trails.

It’s been kind of quiet thus far in regards to land use issues, there have been some rumors here and there about closures to packgoats in certain areas around the country, but after checking into several of those, I have found them to be purely rumors.

As goat packers we need to be stewards of the land we use. By following the principles of LNT (Leave No Trace) we are not only guaranteeing our spot as a viable end user of the forest trail system and National Parks, but we will make it easier for future generations of goatpacking enthusiasts to enjoy the beautiful backcountry and high country of our scenic forestlands.

We here in Washington State (Evergreen Packgoat Club) are currently working on meeting with local National park staff within two of the Local National Parks, with the possibility of a few more, in regards to gaining access to the parks trail system with packgoats. I am confident we will make progress in this area and hopefully set precedence, and thus by doing so make it easier for goatpackers around the country to gain access to their local national park trail system. We have been invited to attend an employee training seminar and workshop weekend in June and give a presentation on packgoats. No guarantees of getting in

(Cont Pg 5, Col 1)
The New NAPgA Website Debacle

Or how NAPgA almost went into the poorhouse to have a new site.

As most of you know, NAPgA has a new and much improved website. Sadly we did not get it “on the cheap.” The following will outline the process and why it ended up costing much more than we were originally quoted.

When I took Greg Locati’s place as NAPgA treasurer, and started attending the board meetings, I began to pitch for a new website. We talked about it over a couple of board meetings, and I was tasked to come up with costs and options. Which I did. I came up with 3 completely different options. #1) Steve Semasko and I would work over time (after I was retired in October of last year) and create a more attractive site. For obvious reasons, this was the cheapest alternative. #2) Meggan Ryan and Jo Christensen would work with the Homestead web design site to create a new site and have it hosted by the Homestead folks. I was leery of this option as it could cost $10 to $50 a month, depending on size and complexity to maintain the site on Homestead, and I was uneasy about where the expense would go long-term. #3) was to have it designed professionally. I had a $1200 estimate from an acquaintance of mine to design a site similar to the one I designed professionally. This option is the one I favored as it seemed to be $1200 quote in the first place.

I obtained estimates of $1500-1900 from other individuals for the same basic site. This option is the one I favored as I was familiar with the gentleman, I knew he did great and functional websites, and I knew that if he said $1200 that’s what it would be, which is more than reasonable for a functional website. One thing that I was apparently not clear on, is that I told our webmaster that we had to stay with Khimaira. I was under the impression that that issue was not optional. That, in essence, as you will see, is the real core of why the site ended up costing almost double of what we were quoted in the first place.

Rob Duncan, our webmaster, began work on the website using what he refers to as Active Server Packets. This is the way he programmed the aviation website that ours is patterned after, and why it was quoted as $1200 in the first place, as he would not have to reinvent the wheel to do ours, only modify the basic palette. Rob ran into trouble right away with Khimaira. For some reason, Active Server Packets are not supported by Khimaira, and repeated attempts to contact them to work out the difficulties went unanswered. Since I had told him in the beginning that we had to stick with Khimaira come hell or high water, he made the decision to switch to Joomla, An open-source web site programming language. This at least basically worked with Khimaira’s servers, but involved a very sharp learning curve for me in order to learn how to manipulate Joomla to get what we wanted on our site. Learning curve=money.

During a period of over a month, we went back and forth with Rob’s contract programmer as parts of the site were working, and parts simply refused to function. I became more and more frustrated and finally told the board that we had to stop throwing more good money after bad. We needed to switch providers, and go back to Rob’s original plan. Rob gave me a price, I passed it by the board, and we had a working site in days.

This is one of those things that are usually referred to as a learning experience. Once again, learning=money. If we had bailed Khimaira in the beginning, it would have not cost much past the originally quoted $1200. As it was, we never got a substantive response from Khimaira until the very last, and by that time I was completely out of patience. I just wanted a functional web site, one that worked, and no more throwing good money after bad.

As it is, we have a really neat website, it has been fleshed out with a lot of good information, members can change their own information, and a nice-looking photo gallery. It is unfortunate that it ended up costing nearly $2400, but the end product is a site that will function well into the foreseeable future.

Larry Robinson  
NAPgA

Directions-- Take Highway 145 north from Dolores, or south from Ridgway, Colorado. The turnoff to Roaring Fork Road is between mile markers 38 and 39, about 29 miles north of Dolores and 11 miles south of the town of Rico. Turn onto the Roaring Fork Road, which is Forest Road 435. It’s 6.7 miles from the highway to the junction of FR 435 and FR 564. You want to bear left and continue on FR 564 (Hermosa Creek). Go another 5.3 miles to FR 564-A, which is labeled as FR A on the National Forest and Gazetteer maps. Turn left onto FR 564-A and proceed to the rendy site.
The Roaring Fork road is maintained and is suitable for a car, pickup, and small trailer. However, it is very narrow, and may be difficult for a large fifth wheel trailer. The difficulty arises when passing an oncoming vehicle, because on some stretches there are few places for two large vehicles to pass one another. So be cognizant of this if you must bring a large trailer; you may want someone to drive ahead and flag for you. It's a good road, but basically a one-lane road with lots of turnouts.

Positives-- it’s a lovely meadow in a remote area, so we should have plenty of privacy. Easy access to the Colorado Trail, lots of room to camp, beautiful views. The drive in, especially from Montrose and Ridgway, is drop-dead gorgeous.

Negatives-- there is no water at the site, so we will either have to truck some in or ask everyone to bring plenty of their own. The high altitude may bother some people, and the road is narrow, but well maintained.

The Forest Service is happy to have us there, and our Special Use permit is in the process. With this permit we will be allowed to have vendors on site, so bring your packgoat wares! We will have porta-potties on site, to help us practice our Leave No Trace ethics. I will bring my 10’ x 10’ enclosed canopy and some tables, so we can display maps, goodies, etc. We will be planning some sort of work project on Thursday, July 17, either helping out with Colorado Trail maintenance or doing something for the Forest Service. This allows us to show off our packgoats to others and give back to the agencies that provide the trails we love to hike on. Details on other possible activities will be publicized as we get further along in our planning. I will check on requirements for bringing packgoats into Colorado, and see what’s available regarding weed-free hay.

Cost-- we will charge a fee to cover the costs of the permit and porta-potties. I’ll let people know ahead of time, we’ll keep it reasonable.

Towns-- Rico is the closest town, it’s very small but has a gas station and convenience store. Dolores and Ridgway are larger small towns, with full services. The local Forest Service office is in Dolores, and I also stopped in at the town’s visitor center, where they are welcoming us with open arms. Larger cities with lots of stores include Cortez and Montrose. There is a dude ranch near the Roaring Fork turnoff, the Circle K Dude Ranch, contact me or the Dolores Chamber of Commerce if you would be interested in staying there. The river runs along Highway 145, and there is a reservoir outside Dolores, so plenty of fishing if you so desire.

I have a crew of Colorado volunteers who are anxious to get together with other goatpackers, and we look forward to seeing you all in July! Bring your goats and come join us for an informative and fun-filled weekend. My crew and I will do everything we can to make this a good rendezvous.

For questions or to RSVP, please contact me at jhuffaker@rmi.net, or call me at 970-345-2513, or for you cave dwellers who still like to put pen to paper (Tei, this is you!) my address is: Jan Huffaker, PO Box 532, Akron, CO 80720.

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appraiser@wcgov.com
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NAPgA 2007 Ohio Region Rendezvous
It's time for the second annual Ohio region Rendy! If you live in the Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky area you are close enough to enjoy a group campout with people who enjoy their packgoats and want to learn more, go on day hikes, talk goats with other interested goat folk... (no goat? No problem!). New to packgoats? Great, come and learn!

The 2007 Ohio Regional Packgoat Rendezvous will be held the weekend of June 8, 9, 10, & 11 at Burr Oak State Park,located in Southeast Ohio. This weekend campout will be filled with daily hikes of the camp’s trails, demonstrations concerning packgoating and general goat care, potlucks, bonfires, music, and lots of fun with other goat folks etc. Cartgoats, and folks who train goats to pull, and create harness will be attending also.

We will be camping at the Horseman’s Area which is located next to two trailheads. There are highlines already in place. There is water and toilet facilities located onsite, no electric available, but a campstore is just a short (few hundred feet) away. This is an easy drive in and out campsite which will accommodate trucks/ trailers/ campers.

Costs are $15.00 per person, or $30.00 per family for the entire weekend. Last year about 30 people and twenty goats from different states attended the innagural event. It was a great time, and we expect a bit bigger group this year!

Here is a slideshow of last year’s event -- http://www.picasaweb.google.com/secretcreek/PackGoatRendy2006

Contact Wendy Hannum
wendy@secretcreekfarm.com
or 1-740-985-3751 for more information.
but at least they are going to listen.
If you have any trail/land use issues in your area or have any questions regarding land use issues in your area, please feel free to give me a shout any time, and I will try to answer any questions you may have. Also if you would like to volunteer and be part of the land use committee you may contact me at goatpower@centurytel.net. Good luck, God speed, & happy trails!!
Jim Bennett
VP-Land Use Chairman
NAPgA

Jim's Comments on Land Use for the January 2007
Board Meeting
Not much at this time to report. Sent off an email to Dr. Ward again this week in regards to the Alaska and the Canadian Studies, if I don't hear from him by the beginning of the week I will give him another call.

Here in Washington this weekend we have the Western Washington sportsman show, in which the Evergreen Club will be participating, we always get a lot of interest in packgoats from this show. We also have various seminars coming up, and with the beginning of the New year we will be contacting various National parks within the State to make contact and set up a time when we can talk "packgoat" with these folks and do some demonstrations and start working our way into the national parks. I will also begin to put notices on the various lists to start getting folks and packgoat clubs in other states to get motivated in beginning the process of getting goats into their local National Parks stock trails.

Jim Bennett
Wethers' Field Packgoats
Longbranch, WA

And here's how it happens...
On Tuesday, March 5, 2007, I was returning to my home in Arizona from an event in Laughlin, Nevada...
On the way home I saw a livestock auction sign... the car turned by itself I swear. One thing led to another and the next thing I knew I was looking at sheep.
I couldn't really get a good look comfortably so I opened the nice isle that ran in between all the paddocks, which I chained shut again. (The auction was going on so no one was around.)
After a while I looked up to see a cowboy on a horse open a gate and then he went inside another paddock area. All I could see then was his rope flying through the air... the sound of hooves... and a freeking bull running out in the isle and coming my way. Yes -- I was in the "chute". I thought I was hamburger for sure.
But, the cowboy turned him around to take him to the auction block -- however not before I, with amazing speed and accuracy, hauled my ever-growing 200 lb. body over the center fence in less than a second -- hurtling with grace to fall flat on my face into another area with like 200 goats in it. All I could think of was "I hope there isn't a mature billy with horns in here!" It would have been awful for him to see me before I got myself up off the dirt.

BUT... I was in the goat pen... my favorite space.
Needless to say, it was about 6:00 pm before I knew it and I was driving home in my nice clean Lincoln with an Angora baby in the passenger seat. Ahhhhh -- after we arrived home and we took a vote, we all decided to name her O'Malley. She's about 5 months old, her horns are about 4 inches long and she is a colored Angora (Angora's have always been pure white until recent years when fiber enthusiasts & goat herders wanted to try to breed color into them I'm told.) Now Big Ed (my Angora wether) has a friend.
Brenda Lawyer
Goat Hill Ranch

The “Goat” Addiction (from a recent thread on “Packgoat”)
Hello, my name is Wendy, and I’m a goat-a-holic ---

After doing the 4H dairy thing; starting out with 4 bottle baby kids, the children had does , I had a wether named Dash (Dash Riprock). I lost him to polio (a mild case compared to Nugents and I didn't know enough to care correctly for him then... I just followed the Vet's advice and euth'd him....GGGrrrr).

We all fell totally in love with those kids. They were more like puppies and we played too long-every day with them. Hearing the milk slosh in their full bellies as they frolicked like puppies and we played too long-every day with them. Although I am now allergic to the goats, I will never, EVER be without a companion goat. Maybe when my children are in college I'll go back to keeping a milker, but I think one that doesn't produce a gallon or more a day...and will dry up quicker in the season... maybe a boer doe with a smaller higher udder who can hike too.
Wendy Hannum
Secret Creek Farm
SE Ohio

I am sorry to inform you that there is no known cure for your addiction, but with these tips you can live a healthy, interesting, adventurous, if a bit unconventional, life.

1) Do NOT open every conversation with “Got goat?” This might freak the uninitiated out. Bring up hiking first, and
then goats later on after you know a person is used to the idea of packing a load and walking in the mountains.... If they show no interest in these activities, no reason to bring up goats at all because you won’t talk to them much any more.

2) Hiking with your goats often and for many miles can lead to a longer, more physically fit life, so enjoy! This aspect of your addiction is good for you!!!

3) If you have to choose between another bowl of spaghetti or mac and cheese, or paying your feed bill, you may have too many goats! Lean to shop smarter and bring that stupid grocery bill down! Plant a garden for goodness sakes or get a milking doe. The goats must eat! Try to resist more goats under these harsh conditions, a starving goatsman (or woman) cannot hike far....

4) If you have friends who love goatpacking but have no land nor ability to keep a herd of their own, RESIST the temptation to keep 6 extra goats “just in case”... (See #3 above)

5) PLEASE resist the urge to laugh out loud at backpackers passing on the trail while going uphill. They are where you were BG (Before Goats), have compassion in your hearts for these ignorant souls. Besides, it gives us goatpackers the image of being a bit manic and odd.... We are trying to maintain a good image, though I realize this is a losing battle.

6) Smirking in camp at the end of the day when the people with backpacks drag into camp, are all tired out and have no goatie friend to lean against while watching the campfire dance is considered bad form.

7) Please remember, goats in MODERATION are healthy! They lower blood pressure, increase your sense of joy and serenity, bring laughter and companionship and remove noxious weeds from your pasture! Just try to remember, all things in moderation lead to a balanced life, but if you must splurge, at least make it a really GREAT pack saddle and new goat friend!

Charlie Goggin
Lightfoot Packgoats

Not counting the herd numbers tonight but I did enjoy my bowl of spaghetti with Randy and the girls tonight!

I guess you could say horses started my goat addiction as well. I had wanted a horse for some time, took lessons, showed it, and the whole bit. My riding instructor had two young girls that showed goats. La Manchas, I believe, but I had no interest whatsoever. Until that fateful day that Aladdin the wether died.

Denise brought home a three-month-old alpine doeling as a replacement for Aladdin. Her daughter had no interest in the little doe I called Harmony.

Harmony was my first goat. Dad built me a small pen and I got a La Mancha wether to go with her. I later sold Harmony when I got into showing and such. I still have a couple of daughters from her, but Harmony has got to be hitting about ten this year.

I have had my auction stories. There is Mama, the Oberhasli/Nubian cross that kidded with twin does at the auction. I outbid a man behind me that said thirty bucks for BBQ. I ended up losing both the tiny doe kids. But Mama is still alive with a loving family today. The poor pitiful 60 lb doe now weighs in at a whopping 150lbs.

Beth
Silver0
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