The NAPgA Bleat!

December 2006

The Official Newsletter of the North American Packgoat Association

2007 Dues are Due!
Please help us get a jump start on next year’s business and mail your dues today. Paypal (napga@hisurfer.net) is a good way to get it to us, or there is an appl form at www.napga.org

Notes from the President

Late Breaker Concerning Our President
Jan Huffaker has some pretty serious medical stuff going on right now and will be in the hospital from the 13th for a week, with 3-4 weeks recuperation time after that. Those of you who are praying folks, I would encourage you to lift her up to our creator for a quick & sure recovery.

Storms in the Pacific Northwest, snow in the Midwest and it’s been VERY cold in NE Colorado! I hope everyone has their goat friends tucked in for the winter, munching their hay...

Election Results -- Congratulations to Jan Privratsky and Charlie Goggin for being elected to the NAPgA board. I know they will do a good job, and I look forward to working with them in 2007. Voter turnout was good with over 2/3 of the ballots coming back. My thanks to Charlie Jennings of Utah and Sabine of Germany for stepping up and running for office. I hope they will stay actively involved and consider running next year. I am trying to plan one more board meeting at the end of December to finish out the year. All meetings are open to the public; the agenda and meeting information is posted on the packgoat and NAPgA e-lists. Meetings are held in the Microsoft Messenger chat room, and anyone can attend and offer input.

NAIS -- included in this newsletter is an article from Carolyn Eddy concerning NAIS. Apparently the federal government is backpedaling and making this a strictly voluntary program. This is good news for small-time livestock owners who don’t want to hassle with mandatory ID and reporting requirements. To see the newest version of the federal guidelines, go to the official website at [http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml](http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml) and click on NAIS User Guide. However this only pertains to federal requirements; individual states may have requirements more stringent than the feds. So please, everyone needs to contact their local state vet office and see what your state requirements are, and put pressure on your state to follow the feds lead and make this a strictly voluntary program. Our thanks to Carolyn for serving as a packgoat representative, and

New NAPgA Website
Please see complete instructions for the using the website later in this newsletter.

Goatstock 2007!

Goatstock 2007 -- Colorado Trail
Mark your calendar for the 2007 NAPgA rendezvous, to be held in SW Colorado July 17-21, 2007.
This year’s rendy site is a beautiful high altitude meadow in an old logging area, between Ridgway and Dolores, Colorado, in the San Juan National Forest. This is a park-like meadow along about a half-mile of logging road, very level with three or four large group campsites and lots of smaller campsites. It sits at around 10,600’ in elevation, has both open and treed areas, and there are a couple of old logging roads (closed to vehicles, hiking only) that take off from here. It’s also close to the Colorado Trail, which runs from the Durango area to Denver.

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

2007 Dues are Due! (Cont Pg 2, Col 1)

Goatstock 2007! (Cont Pg 2, Col 2)
thanks to everyone who contacted their state representatives and influenced them! Your efforts paid off.

**Website** -- Larry Robinson of Idaho has been spending many long and sometimes frustrating hours remodeling the NAPgA website [http://www.napga.org](http://www.napga.org). The effort is paying off, and it's looking good! Check it out and browse through the information and new features. It's still a work in progress, let us know if there are things you would like to see added. We have had several conflicts with our current ISP which Khaimera hasn't been able to help with, so we are looking at changing to a more compatible provider. Larry will fill in on the details of using the site in this newsletter as well as how to become a member and get a user name and password for full access.

**Membership Renewals** -- Now is the time to renew your membership for 2007, and invite your friends to join as well. NAPgA is the only national organization that promotes goatpacking, and the more members we have the more influence we can gain with public land managers and others. This year through the efforts of Jim Bennett and others we have gained a toehold in accessing National Parks, and we are continually working to provide information to the public and promote packgoats. Our new website will help us in this effort. We are also working on providing accurate data in regards to disease risks with bighorn sheep, so that land managers can make informed decisions about packgoat access, instead of decisions based on bad information. Plans are being made for our annual rendezvous in Colorado, so there's lots of things going on! We need your membership and input, to please join today. Membership information is available on the website at [http://www.napga.org](http://www.napga.org), and you can pay either by check or by PayPal.

Jan Huffaker
Appraiser
Washington County Assessor's office
[appraiser@wcgov.com](mailto:appraiser@wcgov.com)

"You Know You're A Goat Packer When:"
* Taken from Packgoat Yahoo! Group

...Panniers are listed as the top gift you desire on your Holiday wish list...but everyone else thinks it's some kind of lingerie from Victoria's Secret.

...When you mention a hocky wether and everyone else thinks you mean something relating to ice, snow, high sticking and penalty boxes

...We mention goat coats and people wrongly assume we ignorantly mean pricey cashmere.

...Your goat who jumps fences makes you happy because you know he will be good on the trail.

...Your doe has triplet bucks and you call all of your friends to brag

...You think “fine weather” means a good goat.

...Someone says your doe is too “masculine and coarse” at a dairy show and you think it is a compliment.

...You start thinking about folding chairs and pillows as part of your normal hiking/packing/camp gear!!

...You take a walk, and you think you’ve forgotten something when there is no goat walking behind you
The NAPgA website was designed with a few definite features, such as the Photo Gallery and Calendar, but much of the site was done with the philosophy that the webmaster would give us the basic framework and we would fill in the blanks.

Accordingly I have filled in a lot of the site – basically. However I look on this is just a start. In several sections, specifically, Packgoat Destinations, General Information and Goat Health Issues, we now need the membership to flesh out what I have started.

Packgoat Destinations especially, is an area that will not have much other than the few places I have included for Idaho, if folks don’t send me input for their area. I need write-ups and pictures similar to what I have already included for Idaho. If you look at what I have done you can get an idea of what is needed for your state. Please help with this project and lets get a lot of destinations listed where folks that are not-so-familiar with packgoating can get ideas of where to take their new animals.

About the website -- And Instructions

About the NAPgA Website

The new NAPgA website has been up for some time now, but it has taken quite a time to get it fully "socialized." I think we have that pretty much accomplished now so much of this newsletter will be devoted to at least some of the "ins" and "outs" of the new website. There are a few areas that will continue to be a "work in progress" so will continue to improve with time.

Home Page:
The first thing that comes up at naturally is the Home page. It is fairly straightforward, with the main menu on the left and the logo in the center. Special notices will be on top of the logo and in red color, such as the Dues notice that is coming up on the website right now. Also, there is a small tab menu on the top right of the page with News, Contact Us, Home, and Search selections. The Log-In windows are at the bottom left-hand corner of the Home page.

Logging-In the First Time: If you have never logged into the web site, you will need to obtain a password. At this point obtaining your password is done this way:

1) Type your last name in the Username block with the first letter of your last name capitalized. It needs to be this way so it agrees with the member list.

2) Leave the Password block blank and click on “Lost Password” link which is just under the Login button. Your password will be mailed to the e-mail address that NAPgA has on record for you.

Subsequent Log-Ins: After you obtain your password your Username will be the same, the last name entered with the first letter capitalized and the password you were given in the Password block. This should give you access to the “Members Only” section of the website as well as those sections that are reserved for only members such as the By-Laws and Packgoat Destinations.

Main Menu: This will be on the left and will have all the normal website selections except those that are reserved for Members Only.

Home: Is, well..., the home page!

About NAPgA:

Membership Application: A downloadable PDF application, as well as information on how to join or renew with PayPal.

By-Laws: Only available if you are a "logged-In NAPgA Member

Officers & Directors: Names, E-Mails and phones for the NAPgA Board of Directors.

Board Meetings: Will not display unless you are a logged-In NAPgA Member

National Brochure: A picture of, and link for, a downloadable PDF for each side of the National Brochure.

Calendar: Anyone can look at the posted events, but only NAPgA members can post a new event.

Photo Gallery: Anyone can look at the pictures posted here, but you can only generate an album and post pictures if you are a logged-in NAPgA member.

Classified Ads: Ads can be posted in “For Sale” or “Wanted” Categories. You must forward copy to napga@hisurfer.net and I will post them to the site.

Issues: This section will include items of a current nature that are a concern to Packgoaters.

Links & Special Stuff: If you are a logged-in NAPgA member, you can post links here in three cat-
when I could see them. The clouds covered them most of the season, and great views of several fourteeners, and two lakes to myself, all the other facilities were closed and out of the wind. We had a great time. I had the cabin and goats along the lee side of the building, where it was dry and an assortment of beds to choose from. I highlined the goats and the idea of being able to hike with two young girls, ages 6 and 3.

Later that evening Steve brought out his wife and two little girls, and we walked around the lake. His family liked the goats and the idea of being able to hike with two young girls, ages 6 and 3.

Steve definitely wants to get some goats for next year, if he can work it out with his boss and find a place to board them (he lives in town). The Forest Service has a set of unused horse corrals, he’s thinking of keeping his goats there, with some improved fencing.

He would like to correspond with other public land employees who use packgoats in their jobs. If you work for the Forest Service or BLM, please contact me or Steve at ssunday@fs.fed.us He wants to know how you work things out with the job. Also, although he doesn’t have a packed trip that time and they got snow on the high peaks. The rangers even brought over some jerry cans of gas and filled up my pickup! Too bad I had fueled up in Idaho Springs.

On Friday Steve and Tim asked lots of questions, and I gave them some informational packets I had put together. They had worked a bit with llamas but were much more impressed with the goats. I took three of my experienced pack wethers with me.

On Saturday we loaded the goats and drove a couple of miles to the trailhead; we hiked in for two miles or so along the Colorado Trail to a historic resort (Interlaken), which was being restored for summer rental. My cabin was across the lake from this resort; the restoration crew lived there during the summer and boated across to work every day. Steve had brought his backpack with his normal gear for an overnight wilderness patrol; we emptied his backpack so we could load it on my Saanan/Boer cross wether named George. Steve didn’t have enough gear to make a full load -- he’s so used to packing light. So we added some of my gear to make about a 50 lb load for George, complete with chair. George is a large goat, he didn’t even breathe hard with this load. Two other rangers (Tim and Brian) also hiked with us, we loaded some of their stuff on Cosmo, and Cocoa got off easy with no load at all.

The rangers were impressed with how easy the goats loaded into the pickup, how quickly we got saddled up at the trailhead, and how easy they lined out and followed on the trail. It helped that the trail was fairly level and well maintained. They loved hiking with only a light daypack. These guys are young and fit and fast walkers, the goats slowed them down a bit but they didn’t mind that at all. Of course I was the slowest of the bunch. The weather was beautiful on Saturday, we met an assortment of runners, mountain bikers, and hikers and my boys behaved themselves and were a hit with everyone. A couple of local men boated over and we visited for awhile, they have mules and were very interested in the goats.

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He would like to correspond with other public land employees who use packgoats in their jobs. If you work for the Forest Service or BLM, please contact me or Steve at ssunday@fs.fed.us He wants to know how you work things out with the job. Also, although he doesn’t have a
place set up yet, he’s interested in buying some goats and gear.

And I got the best of the deal, a relaxing weekend on a lake in a private cabin with the company of three goats, and some pleasant hiking and visiting with three very nice wilderness rangers.

Carpe Diem!
Jan Huffaker
janhuffaker@rmi.net
www.huffakerfarms.com

USDA Unveils New NAIS Web Site
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has unveiled a re-designed website covering the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). There are several new features including the “NAIS Library,” which contains all the relevant print information USDA has issued on NAIS, and “text that presents the NAIS with greater clarity and brevity.”

The new Web site can be found at http://www.usda.gov/nais

Carolyn Eddy
“Sweet Goat Mama”
www.goattracksmagazine.com

And something to consider...
There may continue to be attempts on the part of states to continue with this, especially I think, Wisconsin that has a mandatory pilot program in place already but I expect that there will be enough complaints that it will all die a natural death.

If you live in a state that is attempting to do what the USDA is no longer doing, you need to continue contacting your legislators and your state vet and pointing this out to them.

Carolyn Eddy
“Sweet Goat Mama”
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And a Rough Ride for Jim Bennett at the Cascade Rende
I just made it home from the Cascade Rende folks, what a trip. First let me thank the Cascade Packgoat Club for putting on a great Rende, with a great hike yesterday up in the Indian Heaven Wilderness, it was a great scenic area with lots of little lakes. But that having been said, the saga continues.

After getting home, in spite of having had a very enjoyable time with good friends and goats at the Rende, it was truly a difficult and stressful weekend for myself. Those who were at the Rende were there when my right side springs on my trailer broke on the way back from the Indian Heaven wilderness hike.

I was able to “mickey mouse” it back together and get it back to camp, where the men folk helped me mickey mouse it a little better in order to try and get me home. But then, in walks Tim Converse who, being local, offered the assistance of a good friend of his to weld the trailer back together for me. I gladly took him up on his offer and his friend “Oly” welded it back together for me and did not even want anything for the repair. I truly want to give a big Thank You! to Tim and Deanna for offering the helping hand of their friend, as well as a big Thank You! to Oly who welded my trailer back together. I am forever indebted to these people and look forward to the time when I may be able to return the favor.

So back to camp, and on the road with Carole Contreras as my navigator, we head back up to Yelm And Gig Harbor, WA. We were about a quarter of a mile from woodland WA., and I lost the right side tire on the trailer. It blew out and was totally disintegrated. (Fortunately, the weld on the spring held through all of that, kudos again to Oly!) Luckily I saw it happen, and was able to get the trailer off the road in order to put on the spare. No goats injured, luckily, and we got back on the road. I dropped Carole off at her home only to get home to find out one of my neighbors had fed one of the baby goats something they should not have, and my little baby Cody died on me shortly before I got home. We are still trying to find who did what. I just sat down on a bale of hay with him in my arms and wept.

It has been a tough 2-1/2 days. I am glad to have friends such as those who helped me out this weekend, for it is times like this that I know I am truly blessed, and knowing that we have such good friends makes times like these a little easier to bear.

Thanks to all, and good evening
Jim Bennett
Wethers’ Field Packgoats
Gig Harbor, WA

Corn Lily:
I know I’ve published this before, but since my guys almost died from this stuff, and it is very common in damp areas, here it is again!

They are a startling white in the dark shadows of the forest. The corn lily, or California False Hellebore, can be seen blooming in Idaho’s forested mountains during the summer. These plants were seen in the mountains around Council last weekend. It can be found in moist soil in the forest, along streambanks, and in meadows.

“False hellebore contains toxic alkaloids, one of which is called veratrum, that often poison domestic animals feeding on the plants in early spring,” according to Wildflowers of Montana by Donald Anthony Schiemann.

“Drinking the water in which the plant is growing can cause stomach cramps,” he writes. Hikers may be concerned about their dogs drinking water around the plants, but a local veterinarian said he had never heard of a case of a dog being poisoned by the water. Despite the stomach cramps and potential poisons, they are beautiful to look at in the deep woods.
NAPgA Membership Form

NAPgA Membership classes and dues are indicated below. Each membership includes one NAPgA embroidered patch. Additional patches may be purchased for $7.50 each; please send patch orders to NAPgA Treasurer, PO Box 170166, Boise, ID 83717.

If you are interested in joining NAPgA, send your membership form and dues to NAPgA Treasurer, PO Box 170166, Boise, ID 83717. Please include an email address so that we can acknowledge receipt of your dues via email. Please send a check or money order made payable to ‘NAPgA’ (no cash, please). We are not set up for credit cards but dues may be paid through PayPal under North American Packgoat Association (napga@hisurfer.net).

The NAPgA bylaws can be viewed under "About NAPgA" for paid up members.

Membership Classes and Dues:
A. Individual Membership:
   1. Dues shall be $15.00 per year
   2. Member shall be entitled to 1 vote
B. Family or Group Membership:
   1. Dues shall be $20.00 per year
   2. Family or Group shall be entitled to 2 votes
C. Associate Membership:
   1. Dues shall be $10.00 per year
   2. Member shall not be entitled to vote
D. Patron: Cash or equivalent of $500.00 to $1,000.00.
   1. Member entitled to 1 vote.
E. Benefactor: Cash or equivalent of $1,001.00 or more.
   1. Member entitled to 1 vote.
F. Honorary Life Member: The association may elect to Honorary Life Membership persons who have rendered distinguished service directly or indirectly to the Association.
   1. Member shall not be entitled to vote.

*********************************************************************
Application for membership in North American Packgoat Association, Inc. (NAPgA)
Date:_____________ Date Received:_____________
Member Name(s):__________________________________
Address 1:_______________________________
City:________________________State_______ Zip Code________
Phone Number:_________________________  Fax Number:___________________________
Email Address:_________________________   Web Address:__________________________
(Note: Above information may be published in the NAPgA member’s directory. It will not be sold, or published for commercial profit.)
Brief Description of Packgoat Experience and Interest (less than 201 words):
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
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___________________________________________________________________
Membership Class:___________________ Dues:__________