The NAPgA Bleat!

The Official Newsletter of the North American Packgoat Association

December 2010

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NAPgA Christmas Newsletter!

Mike Lopez & the Goats of Christmas!
(Also, 'December' in the 2011 NAPgA Calendar)

TWTNYTW or more clearly

That Was the NAPgA Year that Was!

An interesting year it was. NAPgA continued working on a number of fronts to expand goatpacking opportunities, but progress was limited due to the intractability of some land managers.

Case in Point: the juxtaposition of the Warner Wilderness Rendezvous, vs. the Wind Rivers event.

In 2009, the CA Warner Wilderness land managers welcomed us with open arms, and we performed a killer project for them in cleaning up an old pot-growing site and returning a wilderness area to what it should have been all along. They were thrilled! And we received a potload (to coin a phrase) of good PR from this event.

Come 2010? We attempted to engage the Wind Rivers land managers in our yearly rendezvous and were resoundingly rebuffed. At one point, an individual said, regarding a project, well you can police up litter if you want to. Talk about enthusiasm. At least, due to the perseverance of the folks doing the groundwork, we ended up near a small lake, and not in the middle of a remote piece of dry ground were they tried to place us. Go figure.

Next year's event is projected to be in Weippe, Idaho, but is still dependent on the BOD official approval in January 2011. Stay tuned!

Enjoy your 'Goat Christmas' with this charming production from the Biology of the Goat folks...

The popular holiday production of the Carol of the Goat Bells by the Cast of the Biology of the Goat
http://www.goatbiology.com/animations/carol.htm

And another neat 'goat christmas card'.

Jingle Bells with kid goats doing what they do best!
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4_EdJ-XkUA

A PDF Newsletter.

With the proliferation of home computers, and the ubiquity of Adobe Reader for all operating systems, the mailing of our newsletters electronically becomes a better way to 'get the word out'. However, not a great number of our folks have chosen this method.

The advantages to NAPgA are obvious. Mailing of newsletters is a spendy business, and a poor use of the resources you give us.

The advantages to the individual are obvious as well. The NL is delivered as soon as it is done. And the color pictures are color throughout the NL. Pls go to our website, log in and change your option to PDF delivery. OR,
eMail me at napga@napga.org, and I will change it for you. Thanks for the help with this!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!
From all of us here in the very Northern part of California!

Our little club is coming up on our 3rd year of being a club. One of our favorite activities is participating in Redding’s Christmas Light Parade. In the last 2 years it has been very cold but no rain, this year we lucked out and had rain off and on while getting ready and then when it was our turn to line up, the rain stopped and didn’t start again till we were back at the trailers. Thank you!

We are getting quite a few followers at the parades. Everyone loves the goats! They are getting better and better at being in the parades and even the loud bands and blaring musical floats don’t bother them anymore.

This year we had at least 7 large goats with packs, one all purpose Nubian (packs, carts and harness), Frodo, he pulled our wagon that was all decked out and he was the hit of the parade like always. He is 39 inches tall at the withers and probably around 250 lbs. Everyone loves the giant goat!

I had my famous Logan the butt there and he loved the parade and attention! He was like a bird dog on point, he had to check everything out constantly and then when it was his turn to line up, he would not budge. Once we got our walking order down, everything went smoothly. I am not sure how many goats were with us, we had invited the 4-H dairy kids and some of the dairy kids who were also in market goats showed up with a couple of young boers.

All I know for sure is that there were lots of goats this year and we looked awesome! We didn’t place this year as some how we got judged with floats, and there is no way that we can compete with the lighted floats, LOL! But we all had fun and that is what is important.

Our next club hike? Well, we get together every New Years Day! So if you happen to be in our neck of the woods and it is not pouring down rain, we are planning on hiking the Chamise Peak Trail in Shasta Lake City. Come join us!

Debbie Luzier
President of the Shasta Pack Goat Club
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Cascade Packgoat Club “Happenings”

Our Campout
The annual campout for the Cascade Packgoat Club was held the weekend of September 17th, 2010. This is our 8th year of holding the campout at the Howe Horse camp near Carson, WA, and only the second time we have had such EXTREMELY bad weather! The campout was well attended with folks coming from Idaho, Washington and Oregon, with a total of 21 people and 16 goats. It rained pretty much non-stop all 3 days except for a nice clearing on Saturday afternoon when everyone geared up and hurried off on their favorite hike.

The Howe Horse Camp is run by the Skamania Saddle Club and they rent it to us for the weekend. It is a beautiful setting with Trapper Creek as one of its borders and several hiking trails located right near camp. It is rustic with no water and only pit toilets. It has a big central fire pit and also a shelter with an old woodstove. During most of our campouts the shelter is totally ignored in favor of the big fire pit, but during a weekend like this the shelter was really appreciated. With the addition of several fold up canopies and lots of firewood we still managed to have a good time. Here’s hoping for better weather next year! Put it on your calendar, September 9th, 10th, and 11th, 2011.

Fall SOLV Beach Clean-up
The following weekend the Cascade Packgoat Club volunteered during the SOLV fall beach clean-up. The weather was not the greatest but we still had 13 people with 9 goats and 1
sheep attend. As usual we found lots of interesting discards and did our part to make the Oregon coast a better place. The Spring clean-up is scheduled for March 19th, 2011.

**Annual Meeting and hike**

The annual meeting and hike was held on November 13th and was also well attended with 12 people and 11 goats. The hike was held in the Molalla River Corridor and was very beautiful with part of the trail running along the Molalla River. There was also a waterfall and some very interesting rock formations. Unfortunately the weather didn’t cooperate and it was quite dreary and really poured at the end so we all got pretty soaked. The meeting was held at a restaurant in Molalla and it is always great to “talk goat” with people who understand our addiction.

**Event A Breet Treat**

By Sean Longoria, Posted November 1, 2010 at 9:16 p.m.

Goat Education Day is coming to the Tehama District Fairgrounds Saturday.

The event is sponsored by the North Valley Dairy Goat Association and features classes including goat farming, health, care, cooking with goat meat and making dairy products and soap using goat milk.

Goat Education Day is an opportunity to teach the public about goats, said Beth Nicholson, fundraising chairwoman for the group.

“We’re just promoting the goat,” she said.

Goat presence on small ranches and hobby farms is increasing in the north state, said Mary Pryde, Goat Education Day 2010 chairwoman.

“While goats used to be a stepchild of the livestock industries, their popularity has grown,” Pryde said in an e-mail. “With that comes the need for appropriate education in health and husbandry.

Goat Education Day will appeal to both small farmers and larger dairy and meat producers, she said.

There are also some little-known facts about goats, including that they’re smart and can figure out to get out of their pens, the event will help bring to light, Nicholson said.

“They don’t eat tin cans,” she said. “Maybe the label, but not the can.”

Nicholson’s fascination with goats began when her daughters joined the 4-H Club, she said. Since that time, she has acquired more than 50 goats, many of which are show goats.

This is the second year the group has put on Goat Education Day, Nicholson said. Last year’s event was held at Shasta College, but because of increased attendance demand the venue has moved to the fair grounds.

About 150 people showed up last year and about 100 have already preregistered for this year’s event, she said.

“We’re so excited and scared at the same time,” Nicholson said.

A raffle will also be held with prizes including feeders, a medical kit, goat equipment and a ton of hay. There is also a silent auction planned with donated goats from several north state ranches.

Admission is $15 for adults, $5 for kids or $3 per class hour for drop-ins. There is also a $5 fee for the raw milk class and a lunch of either goat meat or pork is also $5.
In April, 2006, along with one of my business partners, Dr. Ron Fox, I visited Nepal. In many, many ways it was a very memorable trip. We experienced a culture very different from our own. We saw spectacular mountain vistas on our journey to Mt. Everest Base Camp. We tasted new foods and learned new words. However, as often is the case, in my experience, meeting new people and making new friends is often the best part of travel.

Our visit to Nepal has also resulted in continuing efforts to assist some of our new friends, as well as other people and animals in that country. After our trek in the Himalayas, we travelled south from Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, to visit the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science in Rampur. It was there that we visited the veterinary school associated with Tribhuvan University. We spoke to the students about the veterinary profession in Canada. We met the faculty, learned about their training, saw their dedication to teaching veterinary medicine and came to understand some of the challenges of training future veterinarians in one of the poorest countries in the world.

We also realized that every year veterinarians in Canada were throwing away textbooks that were twenty years newer, with more up to date knowledge, than veterinary students in Nepal had access to in their library. As a result, beginning in 2007 and each year since, we have collected used, donated, veterinary textbooks at the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association Conference and shipped them to Nepal.

In 2008, my wife Donna and I visited Nepal. Of course, as part of our visit, I wanted to return to the veterinary school. I was very happy to see a cabinet filled with books from Ontario and to learn they were being used and much appreciated.

We have no plans to discontinue the book collection that has been so successful. However, there are a few difficulties with the effort. Books are very heavy items. It costs about $175.00 Cdn. to ship 20 kg. of books, surface route to Nepal. It does not take many books to reach that weight. Also libraries at universities in Canada and book shelves in animal hospitals in Canada are relying less and less on books and more on electronic and internet sources of information and learning. CD’s and DVD’s are used in teaching modules for veterinary students and continuing education for graduate veterinarians. The veterinary school in Nepal needed help to realize the benefits of this kind of learning. The people there are computer literate, they just lack the finances to get the computer hardware. Also, now the decade long revolution, in Nepal, has ended and a more stable, democratically elected government is in place. Communication towers should be safe. We felt the school should enter the electronic education era. If successful, it would also reduce the need to ship books half way around the world.

Therefore a year ago, in April 2009, we began a campaign to raise funds to allow the purchase of some computers to assist in the training of veterinarians at the school in Rampur. We called it the Nepal Veterinary School Project (NVSP). Our plan was endorsed by Veterinarians Without Borders/Veterinaires Sans Frontiers (www.vwb/vsf.ca) who agreed to assist us in the effort. Lifelearn, is an educational publisher and interactive digital media developer with products and services for veterinary continuing education, located in Guelph. They promised to donate educational modules and also made a monetary contribution to the effort. I have spoken to veterinary associations across the province asking for support. At present, thanks to these associations, individual veterinarians and other interested persons, we have almost reached our goal of raising ten thousand dollars.

As a result, Dr. Fox and myself, with our wives, are scheduled to return to Nepal in October. We plan to complete the project by gifting the school with the funds to purchase computers. I truly believe it is a project that has the potential to positively impact the lives of many people and animals in Nepal. They are both very deserving of that benefit. We are directing our appeal to those interested in small ruminants, in particular, because goats are a very common species raised in Nepal. Any CD’s or DVD’s pertaining to goat health or husbandry would be appreciated. We would also be most grateful to interested readers for a donation, of any amount, to help us with this project. To make a donation and receive a charitable donation receipt or learn more about the NVSP, please contact me at burtis@sympatico.ca or visit our website at www.baycitiesanimalhospital.ca

A Propaganda Goat