Notes from the President:
Jan Huffaker, huffaker@rmi.net, www.huffakerfarms.com
We decided to send this latest newsletter via snail mail... our website is in the middle of a big changeover, and isn’t fully up to speed yet. You can get a look at it at www.napga.org. Larry Robinson is working on getting all the new stuff up and running. Please be patient with us in the interim, and you can always e-mail me at huffaker@rmi.net with your questions and concerns.

Included in this packet is information regarding NAIS (National Animal Identification System). Included is the Goat Working Group report. As outlined in their opening paragraph, this group was given the task of developing a plan to implement NAIS for goats. This report outlines their recommendations. Carolyn Eddy is serving on the working group, so packgoats are well represented. Also included is the NAIS guide for small scale or non-commercial producers. These reports are sent to you for your information, neither report is endorsed by NAPgA. We are just trying to send out the most information possible so that our members can be informed. For more information, check out the official website at http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtm.

Goatstock 2006, held at Mt. Hood, Oregon, was again a success! My sincere thanks to Carolyn Eddy, Jim Bennett, the Cascade Packgoat Club, and the numerous others who helped out and attended. Carolyn said the goatpackers left their camp area so clean that the clean-up crew went next door to clean up after the party group. We are working on holding the 2007 rendezvous in SW Colorado. The site we have selected is a logged over meadow between Dolores and Rico, near the Colorado Trail, in the San Juan National Forest. We haven’t finalized a date yet, but it’ll probably be in July, so mark your calendars and plan to attend! Zea Beaver of Dolores has been a big help already in selecting the site, and the local goatpackers are getting excited.

A Note To Let People Know What Napga Is Working On....
First of all, I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and has done lots of hiking with their goats! I’ve had a great summer so far. It sounds like the rendezvous was a good one, my thanks to Carolyn Eddy, Jim Bennett, and all the numerous other who helped out and attended.

We will schedule a NAPgA board meeting for September, don’t have a date or time yet. I’ll let you know.

The new website has been posted at www.napga.org. It needs a lot of work yet and due to conflicts with Khimaira, many things don’t work. It’s going to be a good website, but we ask for your patience until we work things out and Larry gets to enjoy his ‘retirement’ by getting this project running smoothly. Much of the delay wasn’t on our end, but was on Khimaira’s end, and we are progressing as fast as we can, trying to work around them.

Jim Bennett has been in contact with Dr. Ward on the disease issue, and has sent him a copy of the Canadian risk assessment. Although Dr. Ward’s work is cited in the assessment, apparently he hadn’t seen it. Last I heard Jim was waiting for Dr. Ward’s comments. Jim has also been keeping us informed on the new National Parks management guidelines, has sent in comments regarding packgoats, and has been notifying everyone of meetings concerning Olympic National Park. So he has been busy representing NAPgA to the National Parks, and hopefully we’ll be able to get a foot in the door and gain some access there. My thanks to Jim for his time and effort in this area.

In addition to hosting the rendezvous, Carolyn Eddy has been representing packgoats on the NAIS Goat Working Group. She has been diligent in sending us updates on this important issue and serving as a valuable voice for our interests. She has posted the latest version of the working group’s suggestions to the internet for everyone to comment on.

I still need nominations for the two positions open for election this fall. Please consider running for office, and please send me your nominations as soon as possible.

I will be putting together a newsletter and sending it via snail mail to all current NAPgA members. I’ll be including reports in the rendezvous, updates on our various projects, and the NAIS working group report. Let me know if there’s anything else you’d like to see reported in the newsletter.

Carpe Diem!
Jan Huffaker
huffaker@rmi.net
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be getting ballots in the mail either the end of September or early October. I heartily encourage everyone to make their voice heard by voting! We will also be sending out membership renewals; please renew your membership, and get a couple of friends to join as well. The more members we have, the better.

Jim Bennett is serving as Land Use chair, and he has been working hard on the issue of packgoats in National Parks. In the past, packgoats have been categorically excluded from National Parks. The Park Service rewrote their guidelines, and you’ll see in Jim’s article that he is very pleased to see that packgoats are on the list as acceptable packstock. This is a big step forward, the first step to getting packgoats allowed in certain areas of some national parks. My thanks to Jim for all his hard work, for keeping us informed of the progress, and my thanks to all of you who wrote letters and sent in comments. All the letter writing had positive results!

Jim has also been in contact with Dr. Ward concerning the Canadian Risk Assessment. This risk assessment (concerning Dall sheep and bighorn coming into contact with various domestic animals, including packgoats) was very negative towards packgoats. Dr. Ward’s research is quoted in the study, and we feel his work is mis-represented and some of his findings are taken out of context. His recommendations as to how to safely pack with goats in bighorn areas are totally ignored. Dr. Ward was unaware of the Canadian study, so Jim sent him a copy and asked for his comments. We are awaiting his reply. Dr. Ward is very knowledgeable about both bighorn and packgoats, and has done research on possible disease transmission. His results have always been favorable for packgoats, although he recommends avoiding direct contact with bighorn sheep. Contact me if you would like a copy of the Canadian study or Dr. Ward’s and Dr. Foreyt’s research.

Carpe Diem!
Jan Huffaker

**The Perils of Micro-Trash**

One of the things I meant to talk about at the LNT talk was the concept of micro-trash. Now, this is a very small item but because it is so small it’s easy to eradicate. Micro-trash is the small paper edges that you tear off of a candy bar or other package. Now one or two pieces are innocuous, but when there are several the can become unsightly. Think about putting the small bit of paper in your pocket or garbage baggie just like you would with the rest of the paper.

Carpe Diem!
Jan Huffaker

**National Park Service Finalizes 2006 Management Policies**

One important point I need to make very clear in regards to the new policies, this doesn’t mean that you can just walk up to the park entrance with your goat and go for a hike now. It is still up to the individual parks whether or not to let you in, this is a major step and great leverage, but you will have to now go and “lobby” your local National Park to let you and your goats onto the stock trails, but this may take some time, and if you need some help, and guidance in doing so, I would be more than happy to help you out. So please call and contact, and or write your local national park, but do not show up there with goats, you may be turned away.

Thanks again, Jim Bennett

**NPS new policies**

We are in!!!! GREETINGS AND GOOD MORNING EVERYONE!!!!!!!, it has been a very good morning for me indeed!!!!!!!, I just got confirmation that the new management policies for the national park service were indeed signed by director Fran Mainella yesterday, and YESTHEY DO LIST GOATS AS ACCEPTABLE PACKSTOCK!!!!!! I would like to thank all of you who helped out by writing letters to the National park Service, your congressman, Senators and other Legislators, we could not have done this with out your help, if you would like to read the document in its entirety I have included the link below and it will take you directly to the document, I have also pasted in the news release from the park service for all to read, thanks again for all of your help, and I will be following up soon, with some steps we may need to take to get into our backcountry areas of the National Parks. Again, thanks to all of you who helped out on this project, Although there still remains a lot of work to be done, it is a great step big step forward for our packgoat community!!  


Carpe Diem!
Jan Huffaker

**Conservation and Enjoyment Are Both Important, But When in Conflict, Conservation Remains Predominant**

Washington, D.C. -- National Park Service (NPS) Director Fran Mainella today announced release of the final edition of the agency's 2006 Management Policies, culminating an extensive and intense public and internal review process. The NPS received more than 45,000 comments during the review period.

“The 2006 Management Policies set a positive tone and make clear the National Park Service’s desire for people to visit and enjoy their national parks,” said Mainella. “These policies emphasize the importance of cooperative conservation and civic engagement in our decision making.”

“I want to commend everyone involved -- from National Park Service career employees to constituency groups who took time to provide valuable insights into necessary
revisions -- for the hard work, time and effort that has produced a document I can stand behind and endorse,” Mainella said.

Stephen P. Martin, NPS Deputy Director said, “The final document signed today by the director is essentially the same document that was released to employees for review on June 19. I want to thank career NPS employees for their hard work and dedication and their thoroughness in reviewing these policies.” According to Mainella, “The policies provide guidance for park superintendents and decision makers on a spectrum of issues, including planning, land use, visitor services, personnel recruitment, staff training, facilities operations, fire management, civic engagement, and law enforcement. Through their judicious and consistent application, these policies will set a firm foundation for stewardship that will continue to earn the trust and confidence of the American people.”


Jim Bennett
Wethers’ Field Packgoats
Gig Harbor, WA

Rende Report!

Rende Report
Jim Bennett, Wethers’ Field Packgoats, Gig Harbor, WA

First of all I would like to give a big hats off to the Cascade Packgoat Club for hosting a great Rende at a great location. An airstrip with some large meadows at the end with waist high grass to graze the goats in, they truly loved it in the tall grass. A truly great time was had by all (except when it came time to sleep and our “neighbors” started “winding up”). But thanks to a little help from the Forest service, and, oh yes, some breakfast music (the Phantom of the Opera soundtrack) courtesy of Charlie Goggin, they got the hint and settled down on Saturday night.

I was glad to see so many good friends, and it was also good to meet so many new ones. I would again like to thank everyone who volunteered for the work party on Friday, I was excited to see between 16-22 of us participating in the project on the Barlow road (part of the Oregon Trail).

Not only was I surprised to have so many on the work party, but I believe the forest service was as well. I told them we would probably have about ten, so they probably figured 6-7, as did I. You can’t imagine my elation over the turnout. Because of the number of folks lending a hand, we got a lot of work done in a short period of time. We made a great impression on the forest service personnel, and so did all of our goats!!!

Again a big thank you to all of you who helped out !!!!

The potlucks were great! Everybody brought delicious food, and it was almost impossible to try out everything. The only problem I had was trying to keep Alice away from the turkey while I was carving it, (she kept on sneaking over and trying to steal the skin). Oh wait, there was one more problem, I have to warn everyone if you ever go camping with Carolyn Eddy, make sure you don’t turn your back on your bacon, her dog Bob will wait for the right moment and strike... then, no more bacon!! But I forgive Bob, after all he is a pretty good dog, most of the time!.

Thank you to all the volunteers for your demonstrations on LNT, Hoof trimming, confirmation, and any others I missed, we also had a great NAPgA discussion on Saturday night. We got a great group picture, we will get posted to the website. I would also like to thank Carolyn for taking a group of us down to the white river glacier basin, from there I broke off with Dennis McMillan and we hiked across the river, (a great water crossing opportunity for the goats) and up to the snow line on Mt. hood and got some fantastic pictures. If you have figured it out I had a great time. As a matter of fact a great time was had by all. I am already looking forward to next year’s Rende. Again a big Thank You to Carolyn, Alice, and the rest of the Cascade Packgoat Club for putting on a great event.

Jim Bennett
Letter to the NAPgA Newsletter editor.
Regarding the commentary written in the June 06, NAPgA Newsletter by Dennis McMillin and the Big Horn in the Yakima valley.
The Clemens Mountain location that Dennis mentions is in the area that we intended to have the 2005 NAPgA rende site. I had emailed, spoken with and met with John McGowan (the land manger of the Elk and Big Horn and feeding area known as Oak Creek Feeding station). The concern of the packgoats came above John from the WA state biologists. As this was a wintering and birthing area we here asked to move down the road a ways, about 10 miles on US forest land.
The WA Department of wildlife land manager, John McGowan and a biologist, William Moore then spoke to us at the 2005 Rende regarding the Yakima herd. (See the 2005 Rende report on page 2, in the September 2005 NAPgA News letter). They met the packgoats and had a favorable impression. Their biggest concern was Pasterella, not bringing sick goats to into the Bighorn lands.
I know of Big Horns being up to the elevation of Rimrock Lake. We have been permitted to hike in some Big Horn areas along the Yakima River, but not spend the night. Dennis, I think we may find the Big Horn higher than we thought. But the biggest concerns will be in the wintering areas.
Interesting enough, this area is well used by sheep ranchers, and when Jim Bennett and I were scouting the area for the rende we found domestic sheep in the Big Horn area on Clemens Mountain.
Tony Nastansky
From the Goat Pen
Can YOU Answer These 12 (Pertinent to NAIS) Questions?
No. 1 What is the legal nature of the contract that I enter into when I sign up for a U.S. Premises Identification Number?
No. 2 If I want to, can I rescind that contract at any time?
No. 3 Does the U.S. Premises Identification Number “cloud” the title to my property?
No. 4 When I get a U.S. Premises Identification Number, does my farm become subject to the regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture?
No. 5 What is the legal nature of the contract that I enter into when I buy a tag or RFID-chip with the U.S. Animal Identification Number on it?
No. 6 Does the U.S. Animal Identification Number attached to my animal restrict my ownership of that animal?
No. 7 When I attach a tag or RFID-chip with the U.S. Animal Identification Number to my animal, does my animal become subject to the regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture?
No. 8 Do U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations preempt all State and local laws and regulations that are in conflict with the USDA’s regulation?
No. 9 Who owns the information that I am being asked to give to the National Animal Identification System about my farm and animals?
No. 10 Is the Department of Homeland Security in charge of enforcing the Animal Health Protection Act of 2002?
No. 11 Is the National Animal Identification System authorized for general, public use by the Office of Management & Budget (OMB)?
No. 12 What gives the U.S. Department of Agriculture enforcement authority in My State?

Tri-Tech Bug Repellent
I’ve used Tri Tech 14 for years. It’s the best! One application really does work for up to two weeks depending on how bad the bugs are and it handles even the nasty deer flies and no-seeums. It’s found at farm stores that carry horse fly spray products. Your goat will love you for it, mine stand in line for treatment knowing it will bring relief.
Becki Riebesehl
Estacada, OR

False Hellebore/Corn Lily
Pete Zimowsky, Idaho Statesman, July 2006
Don’t let your goats get crosswise with this one
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. (Yes, you can use a Montana wildflower book to identify Idaho wildflowers. The states have many of the same flowers). “Drinking the water in which the plant is growing can cause stomach cramps,” he writes. Hikers may be concerned about their dog’s 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.
— Zimo
Cornell Listing of Poisonous Plants: [http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/comlist.htm](http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/comlist.htm)