



Pack Llama Trail Association, Inc.

Dedicated to Preserving and Promoting the Working Llama
packllama.org

November 28, 2018

Hello All of you Llama and Alpaca Enthusiasts,

Hopefully, all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and are looking forward to the Christmas Holiday and the new year of 2019. Just saying that number is kind of scary, knowing that it was just yesterday we were all worrying about what could possibly happen when the new year went from 1999 to 2000.

I want to reach out to all of you and bring you up-to-date on what is taking place with the PLTA. Yes, we have some wonderful, new board members who are doing their best to get acquainted with the other board members, the PLTA program, the website, llama listings, ILR, and the membership. Welcome to Roy Williams and Niki Kuklenski - and our sincere appreciation to the outgoing members Lisa Wolf and Regina O'Brien for their dedication and work ethic. There is a need for more Board members, so if the commitment is there, please join us by contacting me, Tom Seifert, PLTA secretary at tseifert49@gmail.com.

First, a reminder, **January is the time for renewing your PLTA membership.** Please go to packllama.org and you will be able to find all of the forms needed to join. I will not sugar-coat any of this, but it is crucial we grow and expand our membership. If you know of llama owners who are not members, direct them to our site and 'gently' pressure them to join. There are many benefits to our membership and over the next year we hope to motivate many others to join.

I am already receiving sanctioning applications for 2019. If you have an interest in holding a Trial, a Challenge event, please see packllama.org for the appropriate forms, send them to me, and we will get you on the calendar. I am aware of several events in Burns, Oregon next year. We may potentially be holding events in Washington and Missouri. I know the SSLA will come through with several Events in their neck of the woods, so be watching the calendar and I will also be sending out reminders to all of you when I find out the exact dates. Remember, you can hold a Basic Trial without a certifier, so give it a try and we will walk you through any questions you might have on the Trial or set-up.

Questions abound within the packing community on where to find trained and capable pack llamas. We still have too many owners breeding and promising pack llamas that are not trail worthy. Please, do some homework before purchasing stock. One of the roles of the PLTA that I would like to emphasize is that the PLTA's prime objective is to discover and recognize llamas that can fulfill the llama packer's needs on the trail by performing in a manner consistent with the demands of actual packing conditions. PLTA trial events for those who have never attended one, are designed to test the llama in negotiating obstacles found in the back-country. The Trial and Challenge events are meant to build skills, provide education, and build comradery among llama and alpaca owners. Owners and llamas can progress from a Basic Skill set, through Advanced, Master and finally Elite, if they so choose.



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It takes time and training for both handler and llama to develop packing skills, and the PLTA is able to help with that education.

Bottom line, enjoy what you are doing! The feeling of confidence when packing with a trustworthy llama(s) is priceless.

Several very frank questions posed by the Board to the membership. **AND WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**
Send your answers to tseifert49@gmail.com

- 1. How can the Board best serve your needs? When you join an organization, you expect something in return. What do you expect in return?**
- 2. Website. (packllama.org) Are you able to navigate around the site easily? Are you able to find the information you are looking for, in a timely manner?**
- 3. Trials. A great time for information, education, skills training, socializing. What is your #1 reason for not attending a Trial?**
- 4. During my tenure as secretary, I have received minimal feedback from you, the members. Is the PLTA of benefit to you? There has been Board discussion as to our future. Should the PLTA be continued?**

I am looking forward to a great new year with my packing buddies, hope you are too.

Tom Seifert with the Board of the PLTA



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