



Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.

www.falainc.com

LATE FALL 2021

Letter from the President

Welcome to Spring, FALA Folks,

When the prep for Summer begins, shearing scheduled or has begun, cooling devices readied for usage, caterpillars are crawling everywhere.

It has been a very busy Winter and I appreciate all of you that have made all our event successful. All the volunteers, planners and participants that helped to make the Florida State Fair Llama Show and the SSLA Conference a success. You do not know how nice it was to be surrounded by friendly faces of our FALA Llama and Alpaca family at these events.

Now onto the upcoming, we hope to be doing a July Seminar and would love your input into what you would to be presented so we can start working on things. I believe we are also looking at a Fiber Event during the Summer. So let us know what you want to know.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Summer

Mary Rose Collins
FALA President

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2022 Florida State Fair Fiber Show Entries

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2022 Florida State Fair Llama Show



Florida State Fair Llama/Alpaca Champion Youth 2022

From left to right:

Maya Miller, Alicia Jenkins, Maddison Young, Jayden Benson,
(kneeling) Raina Ishak, Leonard Greeley



Shearing Services

- ◆ Spit Happens Chad Bryan (386) 506-9446 <https://www.facebook.com/Spit-Happens-Alpaca-Services-314334591998274>
- ◆ Elmer Miler 641-344-0168
- ◆ Sam Graham 352-364-2799 Citrus Co. and surrounding areas.
- ◆ Riversong Shearing 952-999-2222 <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077385837300>
- ◆ Don Holliston 386-330-0345
- ◆ Schroeder Shearing Anne Schroeder (301) 755-8400 <https://www.facebook.com/shroedershearing>



Camelid Dynamics is offering a virtual conference on May 7-8. Many good topics and speakers! Follow the link for more information.

[A CAMELIDynamics Virtual Conference](#)

Click, Treat & Train and Enjoy the Results!

By De Ila Meyer

The more I work with my llamas, the more I thank for something every trainer I ever met.

I thank Marty McGee for catch-rope haltering and the no-pressure handling techniques, especially for legs. I thank John Mallon for the idea of rewarding llamas by my absence. But most of all, I thank Jim and Amy Logan for the Click & Reward™ technique that makes my llamas eager to be trained.

Click & Reward™ is the Logans' term for an operant training technique that uses only positive reinforcement. This technique was first conceived in the 1940's by behaviorist B.F. Skinner and has been used since that time by many types of animal trainers, including those training dolphins and other marine mammals. We think training a llama can be challenging, but how do you train an animal that can just swim away from you? Believe me, this technique works with dolphins, and it works equally well with not only llamas, but all of the animals that are trained to "act" in movies and on television. This is a powerful technique, but basically very simple.

Click, Treat & Train uses a clicker as a signal to the animal that he has done something right. It is an exact time marker, so that the animal has no doubt regarding what is being rewarded. The click is always followed by a reward. A bit of the llama's regular ration is a good treat. The challenge from the trainer's perspective is to become accurate enough with the clicker so that he is rewarding the behavior that he wants, and not the behavior that precedes or follows the correct behavior. A split second can make the difference. Practice is essential for good results.

I first used clicker training with a llama that wanted to jump the fence and run away anytime his owner entered any size enclosure with him. Within a few sessions over the course of two or three weeks, he was standing in the stall for haltering. The results were most astounding to me.

The 4-H'ers in the Carolina Cria Club sponsored by Saluda Farms have been using clicker training to train their llamas. We have seen impressive results with haltering by young 9 and 10 year old 4-H'ers. One of our older members was given the challenge of working with a llama notorious for kicking. Over the course of now too very long, the llama was tolerating touching and grooming of back legs.

I like to work with some of our more difficult llamas in order to eliminate undesirable behaviors, such as spitting or kicking. With Click, Treat & Train, the best way to eliminate undesirable behaviors is to teach an incompatible behavior, so they can't do both the desired behavior and spit or kick at the same time. It is really wonderful to see this kind of progress.

It is amazing how the sound of the clicker becomes a positive communication to the llamas. Recently two of our llamas who had been away from "home" for about six months returned for breeding. The new owner obviously had a fine relationship with the llamas and frequently hand-fed them, but he did not consistently clicker train. Although he would feed when he was getting behavior he wanted, he didn't include the clicker. Observing some difficulty in haltering, I used the clicker to halter the younger one, and it was as if a light switch had been turned on. It was obvious that this was a sound that she remembered and enjoyed. I am, using the brief opportunity of having her back "home" to work on her training. It is far from an instant solution, but it is certainly a positive way to improve the haltering scenario.

This is the fun part of the interaction with the llamas. They enjoy the training, and that makes it fun and rewarding for all of us.



2022 Calendar of Events

April 8-10 — DuPont Pack Trial, DuPont State Forest, NC

April 29-May 1 — Mellow Yellow Show, Gainesville, GA Halter & Performance

May 14 — Beach Rendezvous, NC

May 22 — **FALA** Meeting Location TBD

May 28 — NETN Llama Show, Gainesville, GA Full show

★ Need to re-home a llama or alpaca? Contact Claudia Hammack, llamachick@yahoo.com

★ Youth interested in showing a llama or alpaca for FFA, 4-H, or for fun? Contact Tracy Weaver, lotsallamas@earthlink.net

Member Terry Thorspecken with one of her first llamas at the GA Hillbilly show. Off to a good start!

