

# Celebrity Spring Celebration Llama 2006 Show & Sale

By Dale Peterson

The Spring Celebration Sale and Futurity atmosphere were more positive this year. Good animals sold well in the auction. The average selling price of \$6,661 was right on track with 2005. Several lots offered by U. S. breeders sold for impressive amounts, including two offered by Dan and Marilyn Milton, along with one from Jerry McRoberts.

The Canadian constituency sold 33 lots, with many going for prices well below the sale average. Twelve lots consigned by High Country Llamas and Alpacas of Canada averaged less than \$5,200. The overall average for the Canadian lots was near the sale average, thanks to several great lots that brought excellent prices. Go to [CelebritySales.com](http://CelebritySales.com) to see all results.

Tom Simmons did his usual great job of announcing the sale animals. Darrell Anderson did a commendable job as the new auctioneer.

The Grand Slam Quad ALSA Show that ran in conjunction with the Spring Celebration Sale and Futurity event is now in the record books. Shawn Norman, along with her entire team, did an excellent job setting up the event, which ran smoothly. There seemed to be more entries than in 2005 and the overall quality of entries was very good.

Officiating of judging for the ALSA show was as expected. This year it was apparent the four judges were trying to make a stab at some sort consistency. While some improvement was seen this year, much more is still needed.

The Spring Celebration Show went off as expected without a hitch. There were many excellent quality animals for the **all ALSA** judging team to evaluate. Officiating by the three ALSA judges was much the same as in the Grand Slam, with much disparity in placings among the individual judges. Thanks to Tom, Tim, Nancy and Teresa for offering this event for the past eighteen years. There is some word about a twenty year reunion of all of us ole timers that attended the first Celebrity Sale in 1989. I hope that happens. It would be good to see some of these folks again.

## Insider Maneuvering

By Dale Peterson

There is another event on the horizon. The CLI Conroe Classic in Conroe, Texas, on April 23, 2006, that will run in conjunction with an ALSA show - just like the Grand Slam and the Spring Celebration Show.

The CLI Conroe Classic weathered the attempts by Penny Davidson, ALSA President, to derail it. Perhaps she, along with others in the circle, fear the outcome if llama enthusiasts are allowed to view or participate in two different shows with two different sets of judges and two different sets of rules from two different organizations at the same venue. The ALSA office told Brian Bennick, the superintendent of the Texas Classic in Conroe, Texas, that a decision would be made at the next board meeting to determine if ALSA will allow the Texas Classic to remain sanctioned as an ALSA show if it runs in conjunction with the CLI Conroe Classic. Here is a quote from an email from Cheryl Ryberg (ALSA Office Manager) to Brian Bennick:

*"The bottom line did not come from the judge committee, it came from the President of the board. She said that futurity shows are not the same as a show association which CLI is. Our members are very upset that an association that publicly bad mouths the ALSA is permitted to conjoin in a show. I am copying to her what you said and this file. Cheryl"*

Well, I assume the bad mouthing Cheryl mentions refers to the current dissatisfaction among ALSA membership. Many have expressed frustration and discontent with the quality and fairness of ALSA judging. **If ALSA would confront and correct its own problems and spend less time trying to derail CLI, both organizations would be better served.**

The ALSA board did meet and disagreed with Penny's wishes to disallow sanctioning of the Texas Classic if it ran in conjunction with the CLI Conroe Classic.

Having an ALSA show in conjunction with a CLI show will let the llama community see the pros and cons of both organizations. Unlike having an ALSA show that runs annually in conjunction with the Spring Celebration Futurity and Sale or an ALSA show that runs annually in

conjunction with the Llama Futurity Association Futurity, CLI will not use **any** ALSA judges to officiate its shows. That actually seems to be the rub and why members of the circle were hesitant to have the show go forward, which gives credence to what some already suspect. The circle would not be in a position of taking care of their friends and therefore could not determine the show's outcome.

Many do not realize the maneuvering that is going on, so let's do the dot connecting thing again. Phil Feiner is on the board of directors of the LFA, which has an ALSA double show in conjunction with the LFA's annual event. He is (or was) the superintendent of an ALSA show that has an LFA show in conjunction with it. He is a newly appointed, limited experience, level III judge for ALSA and his friend, Terry Duespohl, has appointed him to the ALSA judges' committee.

The judges at this year's LFA annual event are **all** ALSA judges from Ohio, with one being the President of ALSA and another sitting alongside Feiner on the ALSA judges' committee. Two of the four judges at the Grand Slam Quad Show, which was run in conjunction with this year's Spring Celebration Sale and Futurity, sit on the ALSA judges' committee with Feiner. The three judges that officiated the Spring Celebration Futurity Show were **all** ALSA judges and one of them sits on the ALSA board of directors and the other two sit on the ALSA judges' committee and one of them is the Chairman of the judges' committee and the other one, Feiner, also sits on the board of directors of the LFA. In this futurity, Feiner judged John McDougall's (ex-president and current vice-president of the LFA) animals that placed in the top ten. Feiner currently is in a llama partnership with McDougall.

Now the LFA is adding some sort of llama performance/obstacle class to its annual show in Iowa this year. Is there a pattern forming here? For all practical purposes this could be call the LFA / ALSA show association. **The circle**, little by little, with its strategic maneuverings, appears to be taking control of ALSA, or could it be that the ALSA circle is taking control of the LFA? There's so much maneuvering going on it's difficult to know what's happening.

**In any event, it doesn't feel right.**