## S Llama Ranch

By Sherri Tallmon

The first time I saw a llama was when our family visited the Patterson Ranch in Sisters, Oregon. I was around 15 years old and at the time we were raising Arabian horses. I didn't get the chance to get up close to the llamas, as we were looking at the horses.

Then one evening, while attending a meeting with our Arabian horse breeders club at a local hotel, I was shocked to see several llamas inside the hotel! By asking around, I learned it was an annual event (my favorite to date!) to raise money for llama research. The llamas were all studs and their services were being auctioned off. I was not only amazed at how gorgeous they were, but how incredibly well-behaved they were around all those people, as well as each other.

From that point on, I just knew I had to find out more about them! I purchased my first two llamas in 1995, a female and a male, who we later gelded. It wasn't too long after that I knew I had to get more ... I was HOOKED! I later visited a well-known farm out in Newberg, and met Ken and Celia Austin of Rain Dance Ranch. I had no intention of starting my own farm, but when their male, RDRL HONDO, walked up to me, looked me in the face and I felt his incredible silky fiber ... I had to have him! I guess you can say, it was HONDO that started it all. And in 1996, we became Hidden Oaks Llama Ranch.

From that point on, I was truly obsessed with llamas. I collected anything and everything related to them and still do! I also became fascinated with bloodlines (a result of my Arabian horse background). We later purchased a 50-acre farm, located in Estacada, which is about 35 miles southeast of Portland, Oregon.

We currently we have about 75 llamas, which include approximately 30 breeding females, and 8 herd sires: PERUVIAN PRECEDENT, SIIAMA IAHAREE, HOLR LEGACY OF LONDON, FPL GOOD GUY, OLLENDICK FARMS CAPTAIN MORGAN, GC'S INCA LEGEND (co-owned with Justin Timm), TAPA GUN (co-owned with Larry & Sandy Raley) and NO COMPROMISE (co-owned with Wavne Rankin). MCF ETOL (co-owned with Justin Timm), RDRL HONDO and BAURNHEIM'S FIREDANCER are pretty much retired now.

Several years ago we lost a number of llamas to parasites. The experience was one of the most painful things we have ever been through, but from it I feel we have gained a lot of knowledge -- from fecal testing to pasture rotation, as well as being aware of how stress can be a factor -- and we have tried to pass that knowledge on to other llama owners.

I am very thankful to have such a wonderful husband, Wil, who is willing to put up with my obsession with llamas. He does the feeding, basically every part of maintaining the farm, and he is also very good when we have to assist on birthing. Wil enjoys going to the bigger shows --Celebration, LFA and Nationals, but our 10-year-old son, Logan, and I go to the local shows. Logan shows in the Junior Youth classes and is very determined!

Our 19-year-old daughter, Kayla, used to be very involved in showing the llamas, but recently got married to a wonderful guy, Nick Holla, and they have been busy working. Kayla chose to go into veterinary assisting/dog grooming and Nick is currently a dental assistant.

I love the athletic ability a llama has and the fact there is so much you can do with them.

We try to have a wide variety to offer buyers, whether they just want a pet, a guard llama, quality breeding/show stock or llamas started in packing. I try very hard to create a "good fit" for both the llama and new owner, and always offer a lot of after-care support. We feel word of mouth has been our best advertising.

Llamas are so smart and I love the challenges that come along with training them, but something I try to pass on to new owners is that not all llamas are good at all things. If you want to learn more about llamas, I encourage you to visit our website (which I am constantly updating), email us at hiddenoaksllamaranch@msn.com or stop by. You will be glad you did!

Logan Tallmon with Midnight Illusion.

2010 ALSA Grand Nationals top 10 (3<sup>rd</sup>) Junior Youth Pack

## .loriio:

Co-owned with Holly Russell of Happy Hiker Llamas and Lisa Labendeira of Four R Llama Ranch

Visit his website at www.TeamJorjio.com.

A huge THANK YOU to Tracy Ames for allowing us to purchase such a special quy!



**Joriio:** ALSA Non-Breeder Elite Champion • 2010 ALSA Grand National Driving and Non-Breeder Champion 2010 ALSA Grand National Versatility Non-Breeder Reserve Champion



HOLR Antonio: 2010 ALSA Grand Nationals • Top 10 (4th) Medium Wool Yearling Males

HOLR Fire Alert (Bauernheim's Firedancer x Londra)

HOLR

Londralita

iredancer x Londra)

(Bauernheim'





HOLR Apollo: 2010 ALSA Grand Nationals • Reserve Champion of his class of Medium Wool Juvenile Males – his first time shown!



Silver Light: 2010 ALSA Grand Nationals Champion of her class of Heavy Wool 2-Year-Old Females