

The SSLA



LLAMA JOURNAL

The Official Journal of the Southern States Llama Association

October 2019



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*Cover: Vicki Sundberg at the
Mashburn family’s Willow Tree
Farms, Ringgold, GA*

Deadline for the next issue is January 15, 2020

Send articles, photos (digital format) to:

Charlene Braun, Online Journal Editor, turtlrn@earthlink.net



SSLA BOARD MEMBERS AND INFORMATION

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Committee Chairs & Contacts

(If the committee chair is a board member, that person is also the Board Liaison)

Committees

Annual Meeting Conference—

By-law Amendment—Tom Wilson
Board Liaison: Kim Kyst

Carting—Greg Hall

Election—Kim Kyst

Fiber—Tracy Weaver
Board Liaison: Lauri Jones

Online Journal—Charlene Braun
turtlrn@earthlink.net
Board Liaison: Andie Frederick

Library—Lauren Wright

Llama Trekking & Packing—
 Tom Rothering

Membership—Lauri Jones

Show—Kathy Devaul

Website—Vicki Sundberg

Youth & Youth Ambassador Awards—
 Cathie Kindler
Board Liaison: Kim Kyst

Youth Scholarship— Tom Rothering

Ambassador Awards—Greg Hall

Trekking Awards —Vicki Sundberg

Sweepstakes Awards—Lynn/Lauren
 Wright

Rescue—Deborah Logan
logan99.mail@gmail.com

Sweepstakes Program/Points — Vicki
 Sundberg

Journal Mission Statement

THE LLAMA JOURNAL, published by the Southern States Llama Association (SSLA) is distributed quarterly to the members of SSLA. The purpose of the Journal is to provide:

- Information and articles of interest
- A forum for members to express their opinions on llamas and related matters
- Board of Directors meeting minutes, Treasurer's report and other information pertinent to the function of SSLA.

Notice: The information contained in this Journal is not intended to be a substitute for qualified professional advice. Our readers are encouraged to consult with their own vets, accountants or attorneys for questions concerning their animals or business operations. SSLA or the editor is not responsible for any losses resulting from a reader's failure to heed this caution. Opinions expressed or implied are hereby the editor's choice and are not the opinions of the SSLA Board of Directors or SSLA as a group.

SSLA Mission Statement

OUR MISSION as members of the Southern States Llama Association is to be a strong organization of llama and alpaca owners who have joined together for the purpose of education, fun, and fellowship while promoting the health and welfare of llamas and the llama industry.

SSLA Online—keep in touch with your llama organization

Website: www.ssla.org

Facebook page: Listed as "SSLA-Southern States Llama Association"

SSLA-Members Yahoo Group:
 Request membership from ssla-members-owner@yahoogroups.com

Group members can post messages to SSLA-Members@yahoogroups.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Good day SSLA Members,

I hope this Journal finds each of you well and in good condition, personally and within your herds after the brutal heat, humidity and storms of summer. I am excited to awake these last few mornings with a cool, crisp relief to the summer. I am glad fall finally arrived and hopefully has settled in before the abrupt entrance to winter. Here at my farm in Georgia there is a lot that needs tended and prepared before the extreme potential conditions that could arrive with winter.

This year's SSLA BOD, Committees and Members have organized an abundant selection of activities that were extremely successful! Thank you to those involved in organizing, sponsoring and supporting the efforts of those committed to the lama industry and the future success of our lama world. Remember, good events and activities are only successful with involvement. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit and be involved in activities, I challenge you to pull the critters off your pasture, dust them off and come out to explore new ways to shine! It's an amazing world where llamas and alpacas are showing up outside the show ring in community parades, festivals and pack trials. These days you turn on the TV or social media; they are promoting multiple products and services, photo bombing wedding photos, educational programs, day hikes, glamping, campgrounds, vineyards, museums, birthday parties, pub crawls, paint classes, yoga and so much more. It's time to turn a non-profit into a profitable program or farm! Take the time to figure out where you fit. Today's the day where a breeding farm should now be prospering and growing, but those who love to entertain and train animals should find an inventory of surplus stock available with multiple levels of training and skills to meet almost any and every need.

I am excited to be an active part of a forward planning organization, along with enthusiastic 4-H parents and youth supporters cheering me on! Unfortunately for me, I have had to adapt overnight and grow in ways I hadn't seen coming! So far I have survived! It's been an amazing journey over the last few months and years, but I haven't been as challenged as I am today! I look forward to tomorrow and no longer living in the past and within the down times! It's exciting to see new faces and new ideas. I will now enjoy watching to see where they grow our industry in the days, years and generations ahead. I hope in my role as President of SSLA, I have the opportunity to support you and your efforts and support the ideas and new innovative programs you have to present to SSLA to grow a strong industry!

On a special recognition to the past and present SSLA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs and members; I would like to take the opportunity to say, **Thank you for all you**

have done over the years, for leading and guiding us to where we are today! And for the years ahead, I see great adventures, opportunities and accomplishments coming! I would like to start a program of mentoring within our organization, one which instructs and directs those interested in becoming more active, not only today but in our future. If you have ideas and suggestions, please feel free to take the time to contact me about them. I will gladly direct your passion to fulfill spots within this successful organization or create the new program needed to keep SSLA out in front. SSLA has a history of being the innovators and leaders of our industry, those always thinking ahead and developing new programs and activities that promote our industry let's keep that momentum going! Contact me and get involved! Kim Kyst kim@kyst.org

Upcoming events and activities can always be found on the SSLA website at www.ssla.org . If you have events or activities you would like to promote, please feel free to pass them along to Vicki, our SSLA Webmaster at homesweethome_3@yahoo.com or to me personally to promote via an email to the SSLA membership at kim@kyst.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Upcoming activities for the remainder of 2019 and for 2020 with contact emails are also listed on page 13 of this Journal:

SSLA Hillbilly Hoedown
February 28-March 1, 2020, Perry, GA

SSLA Educational Conference
March 13-15, 2019, UGA Livestock Instructional Arena, Athens, GA
Please feel free to contact me kim@kyst.org to provide program and activity suggestions.

Mellow Yellow Llama Show
April 18, 2020, Dixie Doodle Llama Farm, Cumming, GA

Northeast Tennessee Llama Show
May 23-24, 2020, White Pine, TN

SSLA Election Chairman, Tom Wilson along with the SSLA Election Committee, will be reaching out to the membership to fill upcoming vacancies on the 2020 SSLA Board of Directors. Please step up and do your part. It's an exciting time to be involved!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Kim Kyst
SSLA President
kim@kyst.org
678-481-3759



HEART OF DIXIE LLAMA SHOW



The Jackson County 4H program, Love of Llamas, attended the Heart of Dixie Llama Show held at the beautiful Willow Tree Farms located in Ringgold, Georgia. The Heart of Dixie is a Double ALSA (Alpaca Llama Show Association) point, and Double ILR-SD (International Llama Show Association) point show. In a Double/Double show, the youth are competing simultaneously in two shows and are learning double points toward show placings.

The show superintendents were Kathy Devaul of Leesburg, Georgia and Cheryl Lambert of Florida. The judges for the Heart of Dixie Llama Show were Mark Smith (Red) of Indiana and Harvey Pool (Blue) of Georgia.

The youth work very hard to gain the trust of their llama by bonding, through regular one-on-one time. The process takes a little while, but the result proves to be very rewarding. Once the llama trusts the handler, the handler can test the llama's skills in various classes which include Pack, Obstacle, Public Relations, Showmanship, and Halter.

Lexi Bragg showed Ollendick Farms Zaccheo in her very first llama show. Competing in the Intermediate Youth Division, Lexi and Zaccheo did very well together.

Gabby Ascenzo and alpaca Rafael enjoyed their very first show. Gabby is 7 years old and worked very well with Rafael in the Sub-Junior Public Relations Class. Gabby said, "I was nervous going into the show ring for the first time with Rafael but had a lot of fun with him!" Olivia Ascenzo has shown alpaca Senor Fuzz Butt in several shows. The pair placed first in the Junior Youth Pack class. Olivia said, "I love to go to the shows to see all the beautiful llamas and gets to spend a lot of time with Fuzz Butt."

Racheal Gilley said that the "The Heart of Dixie was one of my favorite shows, and I can't wait to do it again next year!" Racheal said, "I am really proud of Shemar; he did very good!" Megan Gilley showed GVL Silver Salute in the Senior Youth Division. Megan explained, "I loved the farm, it was absolutely beautiful, and that Salute did a great job."

Heart of Dixie Llama show results are as follows:

Olivia Ascenzo and Senor Fuzz Butt - Junior Youth pack: 1st place, Junior Youth Obstacle: 3rd place, Junior Youth Public Relations: 3rd place, Junior Youth Showmanship: 3rd place, Alpaca Non-breeder: 2nd, Reserve Champion and voted People's Choice

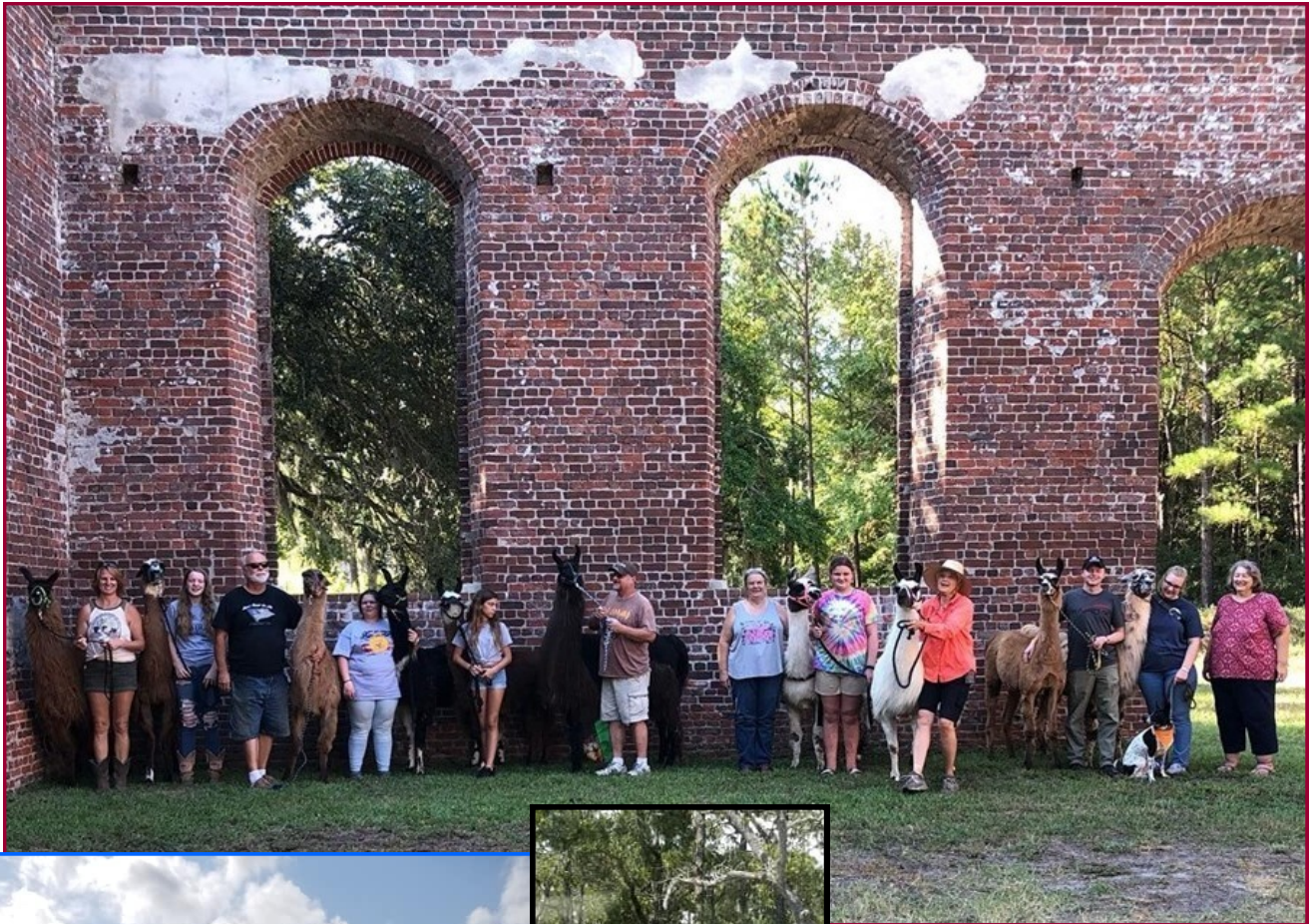
Racheal Gilley and Moose Hill's Shemar - Junior Youth Pack: 3rd place, Junior Youth Obstacle: 1st place, Junior Youth Public Relations: 2nd place, Junior Youth Showmanship: 1st place, Yearling Suri Male: 2nd and 3rd, Grand and Reserve Champion

Lexi Bragg and Ollendick Farms Zaccheo - Intermediate Youth Pack: 4th place, Intermediate Youth Obstacle: 4th place, Intermediate Youth Public Relations: 3rd place, Intermediate Youth Showmanship: 4th place

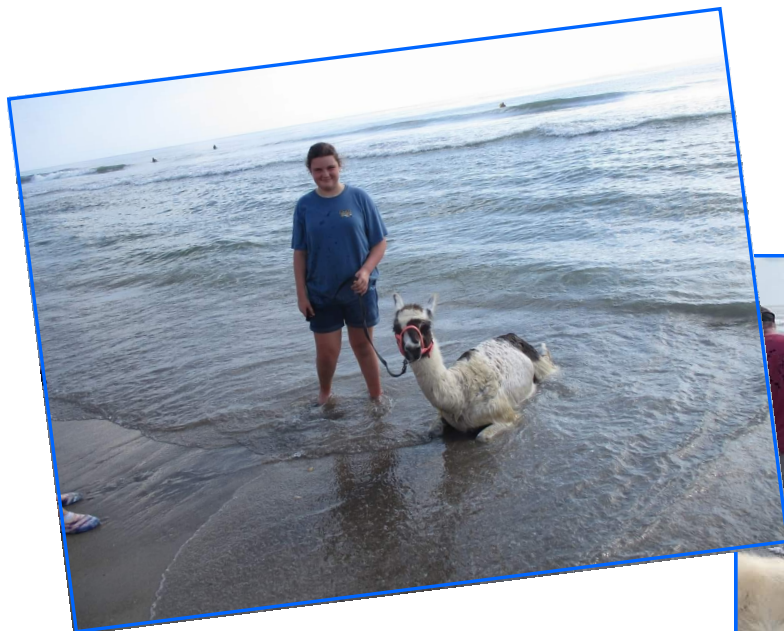
Megan Gilley and GVL Silver Salute - Senior Youth Pack: 2nd place, Senior Youth Obstacle: 2nd place, Senior Youth Public Relations: 3rd place, Senior Youth Showmanship: 2nd and 3rd Adult Nonbreeder: 3rd place, Grand and Reserve Champion

~Heather Ascenzo

LLAMA RENDEZVOUS AT THE BEACH



LLAMA RENDEZVOUS AT THE BEACH



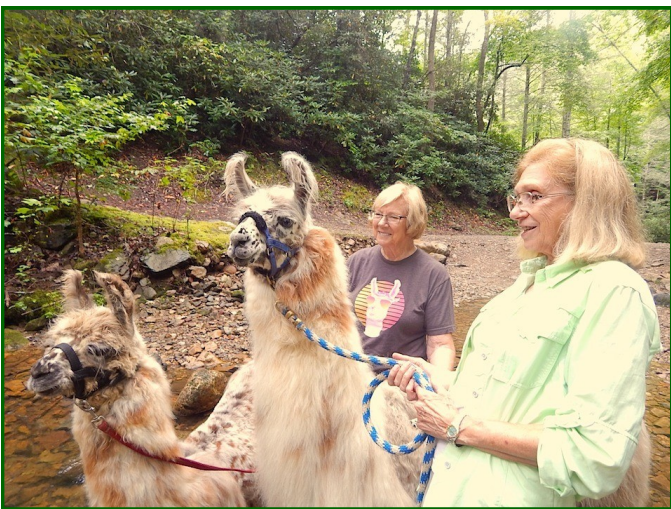
GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR LLAMA SHOW



GLAMPING WITH LLAMAS

At this year's SSLA Conference, I donated a Llama Hike and 1-Night stay in "The LlamaLodge" Glamping tent in the auction. The lucky winner was Nancy Miller-Borg. She and her friend, Helen Powell, came out and had a WONDERFUL time!! And they picked up so many cute llama items from the gift shop, too!

~Sandy Sgrillo



The Wartime Spies Who Used Knitting as an Espionage Tool

GRANDMA WAS JUST MAKING A SWEATER. OR WAS SHE?

BY [NATALIE ZARRELLI](#) JUNE 1, 2017

DURING WORLD WAR I, A grandmother in Belgium knitted at her window, watching the passing trains. As one train chugged by, she made a bumpy stitch in the fabric with her two needles. Another passed, and she dropped a stitch from the fabric, making an intentional hole. Later, she would risk her life by handing the fabric to a soldier—a fellow spy in the Belgian resistance, working to defeat the occupying German force.

Whether women knitted codes into fabric or used stereotypes of knitting women as a cover, there’s a history between knitting and espionage. “Spies have been known to work code messages into knitting, embroidery, hooked rugs, etc,” according to the 1942 book [A Guide to Codes and Signals](#). During wartime, where there were knitters, there were often spies; a pair of eyes, watching between the click of two needles.

When knitters used knitting to encode messages, the message was a form of steganography, a way to hide a message physically (which includes, for example, hiding morse code somewhere on a postcard, or digitally [disguising](#) one image within another). If the message must be low-tech, knitting is great for this; every knitted garment is made of different combinations of just two stitches: a knit stitch, which is smooth and looks like a “v”, and a purl stitch, which looks like a horizontal line or a little bump. By making a specific combination of knits and purls in a predetermined pattern, spies could pass on a custom piece of fabric and read the secret message, buried in the innocent warmth of a scarf or hat.



Women in Berlin knitting for soldiers, 1914.
[LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/LC-DIG-GGBAIN-18341](#)

Phyllis Latour Doyle, secret agent for Britain during World War II, spent the war years [sneaking information](#) to the British using knitting as a cover. She parachuted into occupied Normandy in 1944 and rode stashed bicycles to troops, chatting with German soldiers under the pretense of being helpful—then, she would return to her knitting kit, in which she hid a silk yarn ready to be filled with secret knotted messages, which she would translate using Morse Code equipment. “I always carried knitting because my codes were on a piece of silk—I had about 2000 I could use. When I used a code I would just pinprick it to indicate it had gone. I wrapped the piece of silk

around a knitting needle and put it in a flat shoe lace which I

used to tie my hair up,” she [told](#) *New Zealand Army News* in 2009.

A knitting pattern, to non-knitters, may look undecipherable, and not unlike a secret code to begin with. This could cause paranoia around what knitting patterns might mean. Lucy Adlington, in her book [Stitches in Time](#), writes about one article that appeared in *UK Pearson’s Magazine* in October 1918, which reported that Germans were knitting whole sweaters to send messages—perhaps an exaggeration.



An American Red Cross knitting class during World War One.
[NATIONAL ARCHIVES/20802186](#)

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The Wartime Spies Who Used Knitting as an Espionage Tool

“When the German authorities carefully unraveled such a sweater, the story went, they found the wool thread dotted with many knots. By marking a vertical door frame with the letters of the alphabet, spaced an inch apart, the knots could be deciphered as words by measuring the yarn along this alphabet and marking which letters the knots touched.” Adlington writes, adding that the magazine described this as “safer, and not apt to be detected.” As with many things spy-related, getting the proof and exact details on code knitting can be tricky; much of the time, knitters used needles and yarn as a cover to spy on their enemies without attracting suspicion. Knitting hidden codes was less common.

The Pearson’s account of code knitting seems a bit convoluted, but the rumors were not pure fantasy. Because women were encouraged to knit socks, hats, and balaclavas for soldiers during many conflicts, including the American Civil War, and the World Wars, knitting and textile work was a common sight—and one that could be easily used to the spy’s advantage. In Writing Secret Codes and Sending Hidden Messages, Gyles Daubeney Brandreth and Peter Stevenson note that after Morse Code was invented, it was soon realized that string or yarn suit it well. And “an ordinary loop knot can make the equivalent of a dot and a knot in the figure-eight manner will give you the equivalent of a dash.”



Bed-ridden soldiers knit during World War One. [NATIONAL ARCHIVES/165-WW-265B\(17\)](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/165-WW-265B(17))

The most famous example of knitting in code comes from fiction; in A Tale of Two Cities, a bloodthirsty French woman named Madame Defarge knits coolly among the audience while the guillotine beheads French nobles, and zealously creates a series of stitches to encode names of nobles that will be executed next. “Despite involvement of Madame Defarge to take up knitting as a source of code, the use of knitting in espionage has nonfictional roots in the United Kingdom during the Great War,” writes Jacqueline Witkowski in the journal InVisible Culture. During the same time that the UK banned knitting patterns for fear of hidden messages, British Secret Intelligence agents hired spies in occupied areas who would pose as ordinary citizens doing ordinary things, which sometimes included knitting.

Madame Leventure was one such woman, who “would sit in front of her window knitting, while tapping signals with her heels to her children in the room below,” writes Kathryn Atwood in Women Heroes of World War I. Her kids, pretending to do schoolwork, wrote down the codes she tapped, all while a German marshal stayed in their home. The Alice Network, a collection of spies and allies in Europe who were experts in chemistry, radio, photography and more, employed “ordinary people who discovered unusual but extremely effective ways to collect information,” Atwood explains.

In many cases, just being a knitter—even if you weren’t making coded fabric—was enough of a cover to gather information, and this tradition continued decades later during World War II. Again in Belgium, the resistance hired older women near train yards to add code into their knitting, to track the travel of enemy forces. “This enactment led to the Office of Censorship’s ban on posted knitting patterns in the Second World War, in case they contained coded messages,” Witkowski writes. Knitting used by the Belgian Resistance during World War II included dropping a stitch, which forms a hole, for one sort of passing train, and purling a stitch, which forms a bump in the fabric, for another, which helped the resistance track the logistics of their enemies.



A World War One poster to promote knitting for soldiers. [LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/LC-USZC2-670](https://www.loc.gov/165-WW-265B(17))

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The Wartime Spies Who Used Knitting as an Espionage Tool

Elizabeth Bentley, an American who spied for the Soviet Union during World War II and later became a US informant, [used her knitting bag](#) to sneak early plans for the B-29 bombs and information on aircraft creation.

Female spies during the American Revolutionary War also used the “old women are always knitting” stereotype to their advantage. Molly “Old Mom” Rinker, a spy for George Washington during the Revolutionary War, sat on a hilltop and pretended to knit while spying on the British, according to [An Encyclopedia of American Women at War](#). She then hid scraps of paper with sensitive information in balls of yarn, which she tossed over a cliff to hidden soldiers right below, under the noses of the enemy.

Knitting, spying and secret messages so often go hand-in-hand that knitters around the world have figured out ways you, or the knitter in your life, [can make your own secret knitting codes](#). Non-spying knitters make gloves and scarves from the [Dewey Decimal system](#), Morse code, and [binary](#) programming language for computers, treating knits and purls like zeros and ones. The possibilities are so apparently endless, it might even be worth learning to knit to give it a try. Plus, if you do pass on knitted code, you’ll be joining a longstanding tradition of textile-making spies.

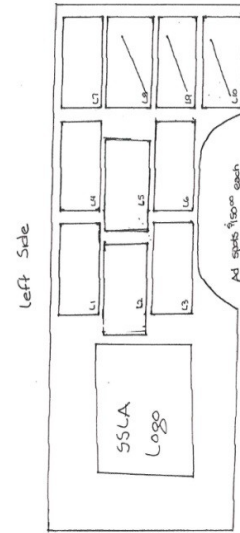
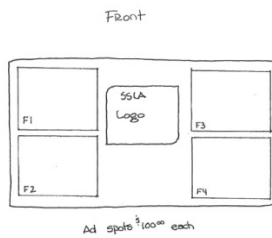
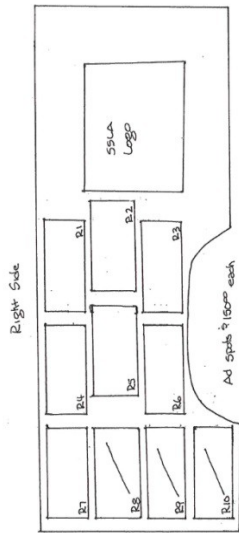
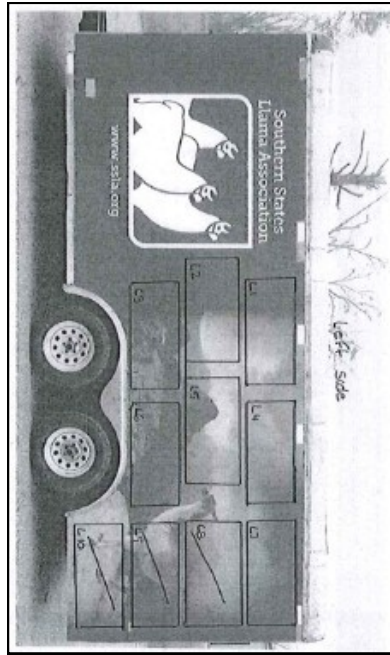
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LLAMA EVENTS

Date	What	Where	Contact
Oct 5, 2019	The Great Llama Race Fundraiser for Casa de Sara	Knoxville, TN	Deb Logan logan99.mail@gmail.com
Oct 11-13, 2019	GA National Fair Llama Show	Perry, GA	Kathy Devaul Kdevaul@bellsouth.net
Oct 11-13, 2019	ALSA SE Regional Championships	Perry, GA	Cheryl Lambert clambert5@tampabay.rr.com
Oct 25-27, 2019	Southeast Animal Fiber Fair	Fletcher, NC	https://www.saffsite.org/
Dec 6, 2019	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Christmas Parade	Atlanta, GA	Tracy Munroe witsendfarm@comcast.net
Feb 14-16, 2020	Florida State Fair Llama Show	Tampa, FL	
Feb 28-Mar 1, 2020	SSLA Hillbilly Hoedown	Perry, GA	Kathy Devaul Kdevaul@bellsouth.net
Mar 13-15, 2020	SSLA Educational Conference	UGA Livestock Instructional Arena, Athens, GA	Kim Kyst kim@kyst.org
Apr 18, 2020	Mellow Yellow Llama Show	Dixie Doodle Llama Farm Cumming, GA	Cathie Kindler llamajudge@gmail.com
May 23-24, 2020	NE Tennessee Llama Show	White Pine, TN	Kathy Devaul Kdevaul@bellsouth.net

Southern States Llama Association (SSLA) Obstacle Trailer Advertising



Southern States Llama Association (SSLA) Obstacle Trailer Advertising Form



SSLA is offering this MOBILE opportunity for visibility within the Southeast Region of the United States. Great limited space available opportunity to hit the roads, show rings, interstate, back roads, mountains and rest areas within the SSLA show area! SSLA is opening up the opportunity for marketing on the obstacle trailer! Limited space available. Artwork assistance available.

The profile photo of the trailer gives you a visual image of the opportunities available. The company that created the wrap artwork for the obstacle trailer is assisting with artwork design and installation.

Continued on next page

**Southern States Llama Association (SSLA)
Obstacle Trailer Advertising Form**

Advertisement is for a full year based on advertising contract. Ads for the side panels for \$150 per space. Ads for the front panel is \$100 per space. Payments must be received prior to space being reserved.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Space selection: _____

Please complete this form and return to Kathy Devaul.
kdevaul@bellsouth.net or mail 217 Donald Road, Leesburg, GA 31763.