

THE KENTUCKY CLASSIC 2003

Our walk away champion of this event was little *Velvet's Coco Pari*. She's just too cool for words. She's tough and straight from the Folie Bergere when it comes to kicking up her heels and flashing her shining fleece at the spectators. 1st in her class and then this tiny tyke won the Light Female Color Championship. She wouldn't stand for her photo so the opportunity was lost. She's staying incognito until the next event.

Magnum placed 1st in his class of Yearling Fawn Males but Judge Maggie Krieger, whom I have the utmost respect for, waffled between a reserve and 1st place championship. *Magnum also won the Reserve Grand Championship*. What matters to me was her comment when she opened his fleece... "hubba, hubba". She went on to say that this is what we should be breeding for... and I for one will.

I disagree with her assessment of his head. I think it's truly the most vicuna like, refined head I've ever seen. But, to each his own.. He also lacks in lower leg coverage and although I like to see coverage down to the toes myself, it won't make a bit of difference when the fleece buyers come around. This is political... and I hate politics, but if we are going to guide our industry, and compete in the world of alpaca fiber (note: not just the USA), then more emphasis should be placed on the fleece. Not much more, but it shouldn't be equal. Enough said. We will be breeding Magnum extensively this year. You all know that I want the best animals, and I like to place in the show ring... we think he'll deliver. Stud fee is \$2,500 to start this year.

My wonderful *Liberty Belle placed 3rd in her White Yearling class*. Judges' discretion..

She'll be bred after the National's. She's terrific.

Casanova placed 4th in his White Yearling Class. He's a stunning male with the shortest muzzle and dense fine fleece I've ever seen.

Limoges came in 3rd out of a class of about 14. But not before she threw my sister/handler, Anna, into the air and over her back. Limoges flew one way and Anna ended up flat on her stomach, mouth wide open in surprise. Not one for reading all the rules, I jumped the perimeter fence (well, sort of climbed over quickly), ran into the ring, retrieved Limoges who stopped, looking for solace at the other end of the beauty contest lineup, led her back to Anna, who stoically said she'd continue showing. Limoges, however, wasn't as relaxed. In fact, she stood there, wide eyed and stiff throughout the rest of the class. Poor girl was scared. She was beautiful and so sweet. We gave her lots of love after that episode.

Chickadee Chick placed 2nd in the Light Fawn Juvenile class. She really tries hard. She's an extremely personable alpaca and quite the little thinker. She figures out how to open gates amongst other antics and is a pleasure to own. She'll be bred to

Magnum this season. She's related to him through a female named Misty Maiden whose genetics are quite remarkable.

Justinian just made the cut for this show by one week. He was the youngest in the class and **placed** 4th **in his Juvenile White class** which was truly a surprise for us(I expected a 1st..See I admit it.) He'll be a champion, you can quote me. The magnificent look of his sire Caligula with very bundled fiber and the presence of a prince. He still has his baby fleece which weighs the fiber down. I'm allowed to trim the fuzz off by show rules...so I'll try it out for the next show. Watch for him. Eagle actually stood proud and came in 2nd in this class. We didn't stay for the Get of Sire class. The 3 representative animals should look alike...and mine do not.

All in all, it was a good show. The long drive for the alpacas doesn't thrill me. Does anyone know how much it costs to ship an alpaca by air? They're worth it.