

# Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.

[www.falainc.com](http://www.falainc.com)

LATE SUMMER 2024

## Letter from the President

Hello FALA members,

For many of our FALA family farms, like ours, 2024 has been a devastating year after 3 major hurricanes hit Florida and other Southern states. Many are still recovering and because of their strength and love for their Camelids and community, they will return! Each day we get closer to returning to normalcy, getting strength from the very animals we protect.

We had a wonderful **FALA Fall Classic at the Fairgrounds** on October 26th and 27th at the Hernando Fairgrounds. Despite many farms dealing with cleanup from hurricane Milton we had a good showing of animals and humans. We actually had 4 first-time Classic participant farms at this show, that will hopefully be joining us in January at our 4<sup>th</sup> annual FALA Winter Classic. The show was a perfect example of how our Camelid community can come together and remind everyone we are one big family. Thanks to all the participants, FALA Board Members, and volunteers that made it a rewarding experience during a difficult time.

On November 10<sup>th</sup> we had our annual meeting. Special thanks to Tracy Weaver for finding and scheduling a new location at **Crews Lake Wilderness Park**, due to the flooding at the Withlacoochee River Park. The group and their llamas had a nice trek at this new location and gave two thumbs up regarding the adventure. The staff at Crews Lake Park were very welcoming so we may return for other events. During the meeting the results of the FALA Board were announced. Prior to the election, Vice President Claire-Marie had announced her retirement from the Board. We appreciate her many years of volunteering and helping make FALA what it is today. Congratulations to Sarah Strautmann who will move from Board Member to take on the role of Vice President. Charlene Braun was re-elected as a Board Member, and we welcome new Board Member Bella Wehner. I am humbled to be re-elected as President and look forward to an exciting 2025. With returning Board Members Mary Rose Collins, Tracy Weaver, and Andie Frederick, we plan to represent our FALA family and continuously strive to find new ways to communicate, educate, and grow our Camelid community.

We are hitting the ground running in January with our 4<sup>th</sup> annual FALA Winter Classic, once again at beautiful Florida Classic Park in Brooksville. This show will take place over two days, Saturday, January 25th, and Sunday, January 26th. Alpacas and llamas from our FALA farms will be participating in Halter, Obstacle, Public Relations, and Pack classes.

We welcome all first-time, novice, and experienced exhibitors! We are expecting a large turnout of animals, so please get your registration forms in by the due date! For those who have never shown your animals before, this is the show and year to start! Sign up and show off your beautiful animals. We have many very experienced exhibitors that will be happy to help you!

The facility offers overnight camping spots for a minimal fee and there are several hotels within 2 miles of the park. We will have some of your favorite food trucks serving their delicious food and vendors selling their products. Public admission is free. As always, we are looking for show participants, sponsors, vendors and volunteers. Please contact Mary Rose Collins at [Mrc604@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Mrc604@tampabay.rr.com) or me at [jprevite@verizon.net](mailto:jprevite@verizon.net) if you have any questions.

As you can see, we are starting the year off with a bang and we can't do it without you! Please attend, participate, or volunteer so we can continue to provide these events for our membership! Your assistance is greatly appreciated! PLEASE be safe and get your alpacas and llamas ready for our January show.

John Previte  
FALA President

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## 2025 Florida Winter Classic 4th Annual

### ALPACA / LLAMA SHOW

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> 8:00 – 5:00

Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 1:00

Florida Classic Park

5360 Lockhart Rd Brooksville, FL 34602



### FREE Spectator Admission!

*Alpacas, Llamas, Crafts,  
and Food Trucks  
A Fun Family Day!*



**We welcome all first time, novice, and experienced exhibitors in Halter, Obstacle, Public Relations and Pack Performance classes.**

**Be a Participant, Show Sponsor or Vendor!**

Go to [www.falainc.com/FWC25.html](http://www.falainc.com/FWC25.html) for forms/more information

This is a clickable link to the Participant form: [www.falainc.com/fwc25.html](http://www.falainc.com/fwc25.html)



**FALA Winter Classic**  
**4th Annual**  
**ALPACA / LLAMA SHOW**

*Saturday, January 25, 2025, starting at 8:00*  
*Sunday, January 26, 2025, starting at 9:00*  
*Florida Classic Park*  
*5360 Lockhart Rd Brooksville, FL 34602*

**SPONSOR FORM**

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual FALA WINTER CLASSIC show will be a two-day show at the Florida Classic Park in Brooksville, FL 34601.

We are looking for **Show Sponsors** to help support our next FWC show on January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

- **Gold Sponsor - \$100** - Your company name will be featured on all **FALA Winter Classic Show** advertisements, the **FWC onsite Sponsor Board** and **FALA website** as a **recommended vendor**.
  - You will also receive a vendor spot (\$25 value) for both days and may display business cards and brochures at the sponsor table and your company banners during the event.
- **Silver Sponsor - \$25** - Your company name will be added to the **FWC onsite Sponsor Board** and **FALA website**.

**Thank you in advance for your support!**

Make checks payable to **FALA Inc** and mail to:

- **FALA - 26093 Olympia Road Brooksville, FL 34601**
- **NOTE – If you wish to pay by PayPal, send payment to John Previte via PayPal app.**

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Type:

Ranch: \_\_\_\_\_ Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Shearer: \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



**FALA Winter Classic**  
**4th Annual**  
**ALPACA / LLAMA SHOW**  
*Saturday, January 25, 2025, starting at 8:00*  
*Sunday, January 26, 2025, starting at 9:00*  
**Florida Classic Park**  
**5360 Lockhart Rd Brooksville, FL 34602**



**VENDOR/FOOD TRUCK FORM**

The **4<sup>th</sup> Annual FALA Winter CLASSIC show** is a two-day show. To be a vendor or food truck complete this form and pay the event fee by January 1, 2025. The event will be at the **Florida Classic Park in Brooksville, FL 34601**. Spectator admission is free.

- The gate opens at 8:00, the show starts at 9:00 AM on both Saturday and Sunday.
- The Vendor fee of **\$25** is for a 10 x 10 area **for both days**.
- All food trucks must be licensed and be insured in the state of Florida.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM BELOW AND EMAIL TO: [jprevite@verizon.net](mailto:jprevite@verizon.net)**

Vendor / Food Truck Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Products Sold \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **FALA Inc** and mail by **January 1<sup>st</sup>** to:

- **FALA - 26093 Olympia Road Brooksville, FL 34601**
- **NOTE – If you wish to pay by PayPal, there is an additional \$1 service fee. Pay to John Previte.**
- **NOTE: Payments after January 1, 2025, will incur a \$10 late fee.**

**DISCLAIMER:** The undersigned has read, understands, and agrees to abide by the rules and regulations established **FALA WINTER SHOW** and understands that failure to do so may result in loss of assigned space and termination of participation.

By signing below, you agree that once participation fees are paid, there will be no refunds if unable to participate at the event. You also agree to indemnify and hold harmless FALA Inc. and all their directors and volunteers from and against all liability (including personal injury, property damage and death) claims, suits, damages, costs, losses, and fees including attorney’s fees arising out of or related to any activities because of participation in this event. **Electric power will not be provided at the event.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# THE LLAMA REPORTER

By Terry Thorspecken

Today's report is on the wonderful show our FALA group put on at the Hernando County Fairgrounds. I finally have a trailer so I packed up four llamas and headed to Brooksville. The preparation was far more work than I expected. My two adult males load like pros. The yearlings, not so much. After much pleading and pushing, Tux went in for the grain. We had to lift Chisel into the trailer.

Just as I hit the road, I received a message from John Previte, our club president. I was planning to camp but the other person who was supposed to camp changed his mind, John and Paige didn't want me at the fairgrounds alone and graciously invited me to their home. Actually, it was far more than gracious. John and Paige had been setting up for the show all day and their well decided to stop working. Fortunately, it was fixed a few hours later. We've all been there, right?

I let the llamas out when I arrived to stretch their legs. Chisel was panting and shaking, poor little guy. I tied the boys on the outside hooks of the trailer and took each for a short walk. I thought my knots were fine, but Nocona found a way to get loose. The Prevites have a gate so he didn't go far and we got him back to the trailer.

The Prevites ordered a wonderful pizza and salad from a local restaurant. There was a ruckus outside and we went out to find Nocona had slipped the knot again and was visiting the alpacas and llamas through the fence. After a lot of gurgling, we caught Nocona and loaded the llamas back in the trailer, having to lift Chisel in again. After the long day, we chilled awhile and then I was offered a comfy bed. I have to admit I wasn't looking forward to camping and this was a cozy relief.

The next day, we arrived at the fairgrounds at the ungodly hour of 7:30 a.m. and it was already buzzing with activity. I put two of my boys in one stall and two in another and was joined on one side by Dawn Shaver and her gang. I had no idea how much work it would be to transfer all my hay,

etc. from my trailer. I was exhausted. Fortunately, Erin Greeley arrived with four of her seven kids in tow, and I recruited her son, Daniel, to take each of the llamas for a walk to get them acclimated.

It was a small show with about 28 llamas and alpacas but what a group of beautiful and talented people and animals. I had read the program and knew there was a judge's meeting at eight a.m., but it didn't sink in that there was a meeting for all participants at nine. I came walking back from the 10th trip from my truck to see everyone sitting and waiting for me. Groan. I don't know how long they were waiting.

I skipped Showmanship because I don't know how to do it well and struggled with the other classes. I followed people as much as I could. This local show is great because even though there are awards, the purpose is fun and learning. Also, Dawn gave me great advice and even better Claudia Hammack helped me with my four boys. The Halter classes went fast, and she would bring me the right llama at the right time.

My Nocona did well but my two yearlings didn't place. Probably they would have shown better with a more experienced handler but like I said, it's a show for us newbies to learn. Chili Pepper was the only heavy wool llama, so he won all the ribbons. That was great but I would've liked more competition. CP, an intact male, was in the Best of Show class and for some reason, decided to rise up on his hind legs not once but twice. The judge, Tracy Weaver, gave me a withering look of shock and dismay. I got CP under control, and we finished the walk of shame. CP is a wonderful, beautiful and chill llama. It's up to me to learn how to show better. I was extremely proud of the yearlings, Tux and Chisel. At home, they won't walk five steps without stopping and digging in. They went right into the show ring and walked like perfect competitors.

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## The Llama Reporter, *continued*

The Halter classes went fast and there wasn't a lunch break. It was a warm day, and I was sweating into my egg salad that I scarfed down quickly to stave off hunger pains. I put Erin's other children to work fetching water and filling hay nets.

The PR and Obstacle classes went better than I expected in some ways. I only did the classes with the older males. My boys are cooperative but there were obstacles we'd never done. I wanted to show them because they're my llamas but in retrospect I wish I had asked Dawn, Claudia or Erin's children to go through the course. There were a few things I knew the llamas could do right if they had the right person to guide them. For example, turning on the bridge. I had no clue how to make that turn and walked off. Handler error. I wasn't nervous but wish I had done better. CP has stepped up onto a barrel about 100 times. Then one day he stopped. I still don't know why.

All in all, it was a good time. The members who put up the courses did a great job with some fun things and festive decorations for Halloween. Somehow, I guess because of exhaustion, I didn't take any pictures. I know others did and I hope they share them.

I went home Saturday night and missed Sunday because I wanted to be with my four-day old cria. Claudia helped me load everything which I was grateful for as I was hot and tired. We recruited Louis Pinkston and Doug Warner to lift Chisel back in the trailer. As for the incident on the way home with the trailer, what happens in Brooksville, stays in Brooksville. Everyone got home fine and the llamas happily grazing this morning.

Special thanks to John and Paige, Tracy, Mary Rose, Dawn and Claudia.



# 2024 FALA FALL CLASSIC AT THE FAIRGROUNDS



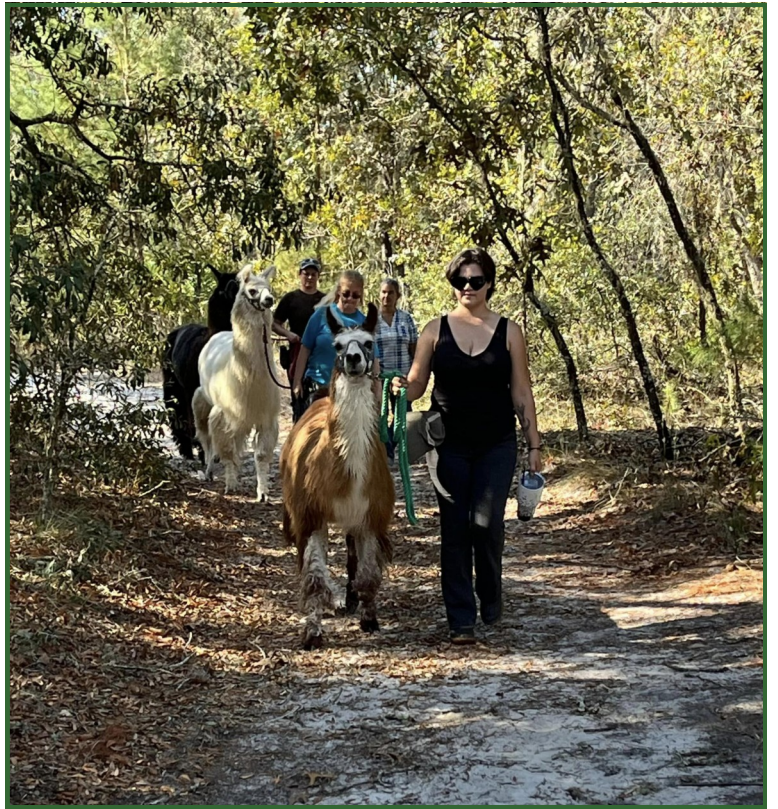






# 2024 FALA ANNUAL LLAMA TREK CREWS LAKE WILDERNESS PARK







## 2024 Calendar of Events

**December 1 — Entries due for the Florida State Fair Llama Show**

Visit the FL State Fair website [floridastatefair.com/llama](http://floridastatefair.com/llama)

**December 6 — Postmarked date for Florida State Fair Fiber Arts Competition Entry Form**

This is for the forms only; items are due January 7, 2025.

The FL State Fair website [floridastatefair.com/competitions/](http://floridastatefair.com/competitions/) has Fiber Arts specific information.

★ Need to re-home a llama or alpaca? Contact Claudia Hammack, [llamachick@yahoo.com](mailto:llamachick@yahoo.com)

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

