



Texas Mini Rex Rabbit Club Newsletter

PRESIDENT TAMMY WHEAT

I sit here on the sofa just after my Christmas vacation has started. The tree is up, the shopping is mostly done and our neighborhood Christmas party has come and gone. Jackson, my 100 pound lab, is sitting next to me on the couch because he thinks he's a lab dog. Levi, my aussie, is in the hallway so he can see us and the 'perimeter' he needs to protect. My kids have all finished Nate, my son-in-law, and Kirsten are all attending universities. My family has some awesome blessings.

Another blessing is that the TRBA fall show has passed, and I have 3 weeks off from rabbit shows. Maybe for the Waxahachie show, I will not have to put ungroomed rabbits on the table.

Don't forget that our Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo entries are due December 30th. This is a pretty relaxed show and a great tradition for our hobby. Tom Barker and team always do a great job.

Some of us will be planning to attend the Mini Rex Nationals in Ohio this year. The Ohio club puts on a great Nationals, as I attended the 2012 show and had a great time. The venue is wonderful since the hotel and convention center are in the same building. Once you arrive, you don't have to leave again until the show is over.

We will be holding a specialty show in Waxahachie with Judge Kyle Yacobucci, in conjunction with the Blackland Prairie Double show on January 9-10. Join us!

If any of you missed our Hillsboro Show in November, we held our annual membership meeting there and re-elected officers.

President: Tammy Wheat
Vice President: Sue Dorn
Secretary / Treasurer: Gay Sparks

New Directors: Allison Ballinger, Becky Howell.
Re-elected: Misty Weathers, Justin Barbee, Diane Stovall, Sandra Neal.

Gay Sparks, our secretary / treasurer had a bit of a tragedy with her computer in November – she lost her hard drive and her backup was a few months old. We won't have a financial report this newsletter, but she will have something for us next quarter.

Mallary our newsletter editor for 2014 needed a little help this time since she recently took on 2 new jobs. I am substituting for her this newsletter, so nothing fancy. Justin Barbee has kindly accepting Diane's suggestion that he take the newsletter for 2015. Look for his first version in March/April.

Enjoyed making a very happy new Oklahoma youth breeder. Gifted her Queens' Candy Man and he won her a first place ribbon at Duncan. /Tammy



VICE PRESIDENT SUE DORN

It is that time of year! County fairs and livestock shows, big and small, we want to attend them all. Our family is busy helping our 4-H club to prepare for the county fair coming up in February. We have all skill levels in our club, brand new members with their first rabbits to the veterans who have been showing for years. Many buy a rabbit just for fair. Sometimes these are the shows that will turn on the fire and change a youth who owns one rabbit into next year's breeder with more rabbits than he can count. But, as with any show, it can also douse the fire. The youth that owns one rabbit and has it thrown off the table for a DQ or is first off the table can become discouraged and decide to pursue some other interest rather than spend his or her time and money on rabbits. I know several of you are always on the look-out to help youth who have been taken advantage-of or who made unwise decisions like buying a rabbit on craigslist or at the feed store. Taking them around to find rabbits from a reputable breeder is time consuming, but so worth it when he or she finds a nice show rabbit and gets "sucked in" to showing. I'd especially like to appeal to those who work the secretary's table to be patient with the new people who don't know how to fill out the entry forms or comment cards. It does take longer to help them out, but kind words can help them understand what to do and they will be the ones helping out new members at the next show. Investing our time in the new breeder will help our hobby stay strong in the future. It is also a great way to make more people into fans of Mini Rex!

DIRECTOR JUSTIN BARBEE

I can't believe 2014 is already coming to an end!



It's been an amazing year for Texas Mini Rex breeders as we were lucky enough to have Nationals and Convention in our own backyards. Thanks to all the members who made both of those shows a success. Special thanks to Tammy Wheat for stepping up as TMRRC President last year and guiding us through the Nationals process. I know she put in many hours after work and on the weekends and even a weekend trip to Kansas to pick up the awards!

With Nationals in Ohio and Convention in Oregon this year I know many people may decide it's just too far to attend but I would really like to see TMRRC youth members make a big splash at Nationals. Unlike the full week for Convention, Nationals is a pretty whirlwind event and requires less time out of school for the kids. It's a huge learning experience and a great chance to meet breeders/exhibitors from all over the country. I'm sure that as a club we could work out a car-pooling plan and make this trip an option for all to enjoy! If you would like to attend Nationals and would be interested in carpooling please email me at second_tri_rabbitry@yahoo.com

Merry Christmas!

Justin



DIRECTOR SANDRA NEAL

As this year comes to an end I reflect back on this year's highlights. The BOB win Fossati/Neal had at this year's 2014 ARBA convention and all the hard work that it took to get there. That being said I want

to impress on the youth and open breeders alike the importance of conditioning your rabbits. You can show the best rabbit that you own and if its not conditioned it will not be that winner that you are looking for. Everyone has a different theory as to what is the best solution to conditioning from worming with different things to feeding different feeds. Whatever you find that works for you and your herd stick with it don't try something new just because you heard it works. Select a few animals to try it on and see if it works before you put everyone on it.

Good luck with your babies and I hope you have winners in your best boxes.

Sandra



DIRECTOR DIANE STOVALL

Hi everyone, can anyone in Texas please tell me what season it is? Our poor Mini Rex have been having a time trying to either grow extra fur or get rid of it as fast as possible, at least in my barn. We have gone from 80° to 25° and back to 80° all in

the matter of days, if we are lucky. Sure does play havoc on the fur.

Nationals and Convention are all past now but Texas sure did leave their mark. Sandra and Janis took BOB at convention with a nice broken buck. I really don't know how everyone did but I sure saw a LOT of Texas breeder's names up there. Just getting in the top 20 at the big shows is a feather in your cap, so CONGRATULATIONS to all the Texas breeders. I hope everyone that was able to be there had a good time.

Now to our Texas club and shows. I hate to say it but I'm seeing new people getting in to MR and getting out almost as fast. I've personally asked why but have heard the same story, they didn't feel welcome. If our breed and club is to grow we have to keep an eye out for the new guys. Pitch in and help them learn the ropes, grooming, feeding etc. Our numbers are going south and if we don't all get these newbies feeling like part of our rabbit family they aren't going to stay with it. I know we all are busy at the shows but if we all give just a few minutes of our time to help them out they will enjoy it so much more. I remember going to one of my first show in Oklahoma by myself and when I walked in the cafe it was packed. I saw a table of rabbit people together so I asked if I could sit with them. To make a long story short one of them asked what breed I raised and when I said MR she laughed and asked me "Are you one of those MR B---es?" I said no I was just a B---h! We all laughed and are fast friends now but that is how as lot of people see us. We need to change that. If anyone of y'all see me acting like one PLEASE call me down! I for one don't want to be like that and would appreciate the help to change.

One more problem we all need to pitch in to help the

clubs, not just ours but all the clubs as much as we can. I know we all have tunnel vision getting ready to go on the table but all the clubs are having a hard time staying ahead. We, as rabbit breeders, need to help and make sure we don't lose anymore clubs if possible. We can all help out even if it's just a little bit. ALL help is welcome I assure you. I've missed a few shows lately, life gets in the way sometimes, but I hope to see all of y'all soon. Good luck on the table and be careful going to and from the shows.

Diane Stovall
Comanche, TX

