



WILDLIFE ACTION

PEE DEE CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 5022 - FLORENCE, SC - 29502

www.WildlifeActionPeeDee.com

pdwildlifeaction@gmail.com

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

2:30 Bill Bessinger, Vice President called the membership meeting to order starting with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance

FINANCIAL REPORT

Larry Davis, Treasurer, reported we had no major expenses.

FISHING REPORT

Roger Burrows, VP Fishing, the water levels in the rivers, lakes and ponds are still up. However the crappie are biting but you have to go deep to catch them. The west end of Lake Marion is a good area. The shed and herring are still running. Roger said his favorite spot is the Arrowhead landing on highway 25 outside of St. Stephens. The limits this year, five shed and 129 herring per person. March is the time to look for shellcrackers on Santee. Jacks landing is a good spot, using red worms on the bottom.

Dennis said The Friends of The River are going to have a rodeo on the 23rd at Fedders landing, fee is \$75 person. The funds are going to be use to make sleeping platforms along the River.

HUNTING REPORT

Dennis Wade, VP Hunting, was asked about a predator hunt. He said we still need to have a hunt. Someone mentioned that turkey season is upon us. Dennis reminded the club that although a number of turkey have been spotted, the birds seem to all have a calendar.

CRSO REPORT

Steve Cox recognized the new PDWLA RSOs that successfully completed the February 23rd NRA-RSO class. The other students that completed the course (not listed) were from the Horry WLA Chapter (5) and the Florence community (1)

Abrigail Osorio	Harrell Docherty (pending)
Mike Turner	Gatlin Docherty (pending)
Tommy Walker	Philip Musto (new member)
John Penny	Frank White (new member)

MARANATHA TRAP TEAM ACTIVITY

Steve Cox, told the membership that Maranatha school has contacted the club again. Maranatha Schools has completed their location assessment for their Trap Team and asked to join WLA and Shooting ranges. Students will range from 7th-12 grade (approx 12-17 yrs old) We're going to have to fast track this due to the tight deadline. Per the schedule, the school wants to start practice March 31. This means vetting 11 new Local Park family members and getting the trap range set up. Steve has asked Kevin if we could work on a dual path, one: that we use the existing trap machine; two: that we check into a conversion for the

existing trap thrower so it can oscillate. Board Member Dennis Wade said he has a fabricated thrower that can oscillate. It is almost complete. Steve said we need to look at it to be sure it is reliable. A board member asked the price of an oscillating base, another member said the price for an oscillating base was about \$600. Steve replied that Amazon had light duty units around \$270, with some required fabrication to mount our Bowman thrower. Ron Lockner said he thought this would be the perfect project to apply for an NRA grant. The grant could also fund a trap house. Steve suggested we get this program underway with minimal essential design and then go to the next level if desired with the grant application or other funding sources

Steve read the names of the 11 family members and their students to see if any members knew them to sponsor their membership. No members in attendance knew the proposed Local Park members

Board member Nick Osorio asked if a PDWLA RSO would be required for practice and meets? Steve chapter RSOs are required until additional RSOs are trained from the Maranatha group. Steve said that shouldn't be a problem with the number of retired Skeet Range Certified RSO members in our chapter.. These days would be reserved on the calendar. Historic Skeet Range use (extremely low) indicates this should not be a problem. The understanding is the competitions are typically electronic in nature. Other competitive teams would not be physically coming to the Local Park.

Dennis Wade suggested we get someone with a chipper to cleanup the trees we cut down. Charles Adams, board member, reminded the Board that a Maranatha's family has a landscape business and may be able to provide a chipper.

Steve told the membership that to make this happen by the deadline we will work with Maranatha to determine priorities. Kevin will be forming a committee and meeting with Maranatha School next week. Dennis suggested we go ahead with improvements to the Skeet Range and tie in with the school club using the range. Ron said that the fresh stumps in the new trap range area need to be leveled so we can mow the area. Ron was thanked for the tree clearing work he has already done.

PARK OUTLOOK AND RELATED

Steve Cox reported the potential for over 100 Local Park members including the proposed Maranatha families. Despite turnover, we have been averaging approximately 80 Local Park members the last year.

Dennis Wade requested reimbursement for repairs he had done to a gate and installing the new rifle range sun screens. He advised we install 3 new gates for improved Park security and suggested a work day for the ranges. Steve Cox said Kevin Casper would schedule a work day for the Skeet Range and other ranges as appropriate. Dennis suggested we put in the grant application funding for five stand controller. Dennis also suggest we do some fundraising.

Last week property owners, Jimmy and George Lee looked over the track of land for the proposed rifle range expansion and opportunities for improved Park housekeeping.

NEW MEMBERS TO LOCAL PARK

Following new members were proposed and accepted after the Board Members reviewed their letters of recommendation. WLA and Park Dues required before membership takes effect.

- Ronnie Summesett & Pack Packard - Sponsors Dan Packard / Kevin Casper
- Paul Docherty & Gatlin Docherty - Sponsor Jon (Doc) Dockerty

- Philip Musto - Sponsor Ron Lochner

FIREARM RECALL

Charlie Adams shared information from Smith and Wesson recalling their M&P 15-22 rimfire rifles due to inadequate breech face counterbore depth. This defect can cause the bolt to crush the rim case initiating the firearm to discharge and cycle, potentially causing multiple discharges without depressing the trigger (full auto). Smith and Wesson is asking owners to look at any M&P 15-22 rifles manufactured before February 1, 2019 for this defect (check their web page for more information).

APRIL MEETING

Members were asked what "fun activity" would be desired for the next meeting. After a brief discussion, consensus was to do another "Know your Limits" 22 rimfire rifle event. Nick will bring the target stand.

Bill asked if anyone had any more business to discuss. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:18pm.