



Wildlife Action

PEE DEE CHAPTER

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

www.WildlifeActionPeeDee.com

pdwildlifeaction@gmail.com

Join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WLAPeeDee/>

January 2024 NEWSLETTER

Meeting

Meeting was opened at 2:30PM by Charlie Adams with Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 35 members were in attendance including Board Members Wade, Adams, Sprenger, & Cox. Meeting was led by Board Member Charlie Adams.

Minutes and Agenda were approved.

Two visitors at today's meeting. Kennedy Breeden (sponsored by Wendell Jones) Ronald Nesmith (sponsored by D.Wade) Property owner George Lee was also in attendance. Cody Young with Whitetails Unlimited presented a donation of \$1,320.94.

New Business:

Shot Gun Range - RSO refresher course will be held after meeting today. Any new RSO can participate to get certified on Shot Gun range.

On 1/8 the Board approved accepting the \$380 donation from Anderson Bank for the Maranatha Team and the \$1320 grant from White Tails Unlimited for new roofs and upgrades on structures on the shotgun range. The Board also approved investigating the installation of security cameras. J. Etheridge was recognized for his donation and building of the new downrange trap house for position 2. D.Wade now has the new trap house powered with a 100 watt solar panel.
(previously approved expenditure)

Election was held for 2 open board seats. C. Adams and John Kirkland had completed their 3-year terms. Three candidates had been nominated for the two open seats. Candidates were:

- Roger Burrows
- Charlie Adams
- Harrell Docherty

Ballots were collected and tallied. The two candidates with the highest votes were elected to the Board. Charlie Adams and Roger Burrows were elected to the Board for 3-year terms.

Bill Feley was recognized as 2023 Contributor of the Year for his donation, implementation, and upkeep of the Legacy Board. He was presented with a plaque and a gift certificate for a BBQ dinner.

Old Business update

Kevin had reported that National had a break in with theft of many items including zero turn mowers. The responsible parties have been arrested and most of the stolen items recovered. Discussion regarding taking steps to better protect our site due to the potential for theft or vandalism to the property and improvements. D.Wade and W.Floyd will be investigating what is needed to extend WIFI to the site and determining if it is feasible to install WIFI cameras for some level of security.

In the last several years about \$24K in upgrades have been invested into the facility.

D.Packard has requested wood repairs on the rifle range and the areas around the berms be cleaned up. We will schedule a March workday at the February meeting.

CRSO report was given by S.Cox

Reviewed that PUF is needed to operate the ranges and for members to maintain their park memberships. PUF was due January 01, 2024. Approximately 30 park members have not paid their PUF for 2024. The PUF is still 75.00. Members who have not paid their PUF by Feb 29 will be dropped from the March Park Roster and subject to an additional \$75 reinstatement fee.

The Peak Period Surcharge from the Santee Electric is very high (6a-9am daily for the winter) Steps are being taken to reduce the utility cost. The water in trailer has been turned off for freeze protection and drained to help reduce use of heat and save costs.

National Wildlife Action dues have been increased for 2024. The new fee structure is posted on our web page.

Treasury Report was given by K.Wyrick.

Last year about this time of year the club had approximately 10 K in checking. The Hunt club about 4K. The club is about same place as last year this time with the hunt club having an increase to about 5K. This is very encouraging as a lot of money has been invested thru the last year and we are beginning the year in good place financially. Last year the National rebate was 1,700.00 and last year donations were about 4,200.00. Shot Gun range (not counting solar panel) had an investment of \$10,600.00 and the facility had around \$1K in utility costs. \$800 was spent to purchase another bush hog and \$900 on a new refrigerator.

Starting funds for 2024 not including Hunt Club is \$11,000.00 with some PUF still pending. Should have approx. \$14K available to spend this year not counting any additional outside donations or grants.

Keith advised he is going to start reporting Hunt Club funds in a different manner this year.

Fishing Report was given by Roger Burrows

Cold weather and high river levels results in generally tough fishing conditions. Boat fishing on Little Pee Dee with minnows for perch Santee will be deep fishing or at pilings due to cold temps.

Education report Bob Veasey

2023 was another successful deer hunting season SC had a high number of deer harvested. Processors had record numbers in this area.

SCDNR put a notice out on new invasive species - Tegus Lizard not hazardous. If sighted make note location and call DNR to report the sighting. They grow up to 2 ft long and are black & white.

Hunt Club

Dennis did not shoot a deer this year. Recently had youth hunt with one youth and he harvested a nice doe.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

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