



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/>

March 2023 NEWSLETTER

The March Chapter meeting was held on March 12th, 2023. Fifteen members were in attendance, including Board members D. Wade, C. Adams, and S. Cox. K. Casper (President) led the meeting.

Meeting was opened at 2:30 in the Training Trailer with prayer led by W. Floyd followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Preliminary comments had been made prior to the meeting by D. Wade concerning progress on the 5 stand project. Those highlights will be captured in his later reporting on this subject.

Visitor Bryan Rabon was in attendance & introduced himself. Bryan is interested in joining as a Park Member. His sponsor is John Etheridge.

S.Cox gave the RSO Report. There are 89 folks listed on the March Park Roster. Garrett Berry's Park Membership was completed just prior to the meeting, so the number is now 90. K. Casper shared details on 410 shotgun hulls that were found at the Pistol Pit with turkey targets still hanging. Members were reminded shotguns are to be kept on the Skeet Range. There is a patterning frame located on the North end of the Skeet Range for this purpose. Cardboard backing and large 600 yard targets are located in the sign in shed to use for this purpose. Kevin reminded us brass is still being left on the ground at the Pistol Pit and Rifle Range. 22 and 9mm brass remain the main problem. Kevin is still checking on the availability of ground netting to make brass retrieval easier.

D.Evans shared highlights from the February Chapter meeting notes. Minutes were accepted as published.

Old Business

D.Wade shared details on the Board approved Phase 1 Five Stand project. Membership support for this

effort was reinforced today when K.Casper asked for a show of hands by attendees who will try using this new equipment? Almost everyone raised their hand. Dennis reported approximately \$3240 has been spent so far against the \$4500 max. spend approved for Phase 1. Eight receivers and 2 transmitters are in hand. Installation is underway at the low house, hi house, and trap house. Field installation by D.Wade and C.Adams has saved \$500. Additional phase 1 spends will include new 12 volt batteries for the 2 wagon mounted Bowman machines, charging equipment, and other misc. items. Voice command will be one of the new options for the trap house. "Flurry" clay programming will also be another option with this new equipment. The project installation will be "backwards compatible". That is the existing hardwired machine manual controls will still work if desired. Dennis hopes to complete the project electronics install, and wiring changes this week with help from C. Adams. He will also be recruiting member help to fabricate steel bases for the new (Phase 2) machine houses and complete "as built" wiring drawings to document the project installation for future reference. Phase 2 scope and required funding (for rabbit machine, additional throwers, etc.) is still fluid and will require Board approval before proceeding. R. Lochner reminded the group that the skeet range orientation and existing machine positioning was footprint limited. Care needs to be taken with proposed equipment positioning to maintain personnel safety on the adjacent ranges and avoid damage to the Trap house. In related discussion, an anonymous member has made a \$2000 donation toward phase 2 funding for 5 stand. The group expressed their gratitude for this donation. Additional monetary and material donations for phase 2 will be welcomed from the general membership.

Another related discussion was to designate a replacement Skeet Range manager for Ron Lochner. Ron is expecting to be moving in June. C. Adams was nominated for this position and voted in. Training will be one of the first priorities associated with the new 5 stand equipment. (after meeting March 19th 2-5 was agreed upon) Proper hi and lo house machine wood blocking (when not in use) will also be addressed.

J.Hale also shared he will be helping R.Howard and the Maranatha trap team this Saturday Mar. 18th. This will be their first Spring League practice.

New business

K.Casper advised we have renewed our CMP Membership. This will allow PDWLA members to continue purchasing ammunition (reliable supply) as well as purchase surplus military firearms if desired. Next, affiliated event we expect to conduct at PDWLA will likely be a CMP approved firearm clinic. (We are required/recommended to conduct 1 CMP event every year)

Treasurers Report

K.Wyrick reported the total balance going into the March meeting is \$12,303 in checking plus \$5000 in contingency savings (increased from \$4000 to better reflect PDWLA's minimal essential annual spend) K.Casper advised we still anticipate another tax bill for G.Lee's property (\$300-500 estimate)

Fishing Report was given by R.Burrows:

In March we should expect shad and stripers to start going upriver. Herring will also start to run. Limit is 129 per person (1 bushel) per day. Herring is prepped by wiping the scales off and cut the head to pull

the gills and guts out.

K.Casper shared the Environmental Report.

The red tide off the coast of Florida became a hazard to marine life and others because once it reaches a critical mass it emits toxins. This resulted in a massive fish kill.

Other business

The legacy scoreboard is ready to be hung at the Rifle Range. K. Casper expects this to happen sometime this week. B.Feley and D.Packard will be managing target availability and scoring.

Hunt Club

D.Wade gave a quick update. Trapping season is over. Hunt Club has harvested 22 raccoons, 4 possums, and 1 coyote so far. This is expected to reduce pressure on turkey and their eggs. K.Casper shared the US Interior Dept is discouraging 1 at a time wild hog harvesting due to hogs learning what areas to avoid and changing their feeding and grouping habits. Baited circular pen capture over corn is the preferred method to take out the herd. Some individuals use explosive Tannerite in feeding sites.

Other Business

Next Meeting will be Sunday, April 16 at 2:30. This avoids conflict with Easter.

K.Casper has the Docherty family and C.Adams helping out this year for the Annual Dog Hunting Trials at Camden. They will be launching and shooting ducks for elite trained dogs to retrieve during this 2 day event. S.Cox shared a member request to conduct a quarterly swap meet for unwanted firearm related, hunting, camping and fishing gear. First event will be April 16 from 2-2:30 pm....immediately before the Chapter Meeting.

B.Veasey shared the Education Report.

SCDNR reports the endangered Diamond Backed Terrapin (turtle) has been found in SC Lowcountry. It has a characteristic repeating pattern diamond shape on its back. If you observe one of these animals, you are requested not to disturb it but report details back to SCDNR.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.