



Wildlife Action

PEE DEE CHAPTER

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November 2023 NEWSLETTER

November Chapter meeting was held 11/12/23. John Etheridge (Vice President) presided. Approx. 18 members were in attendance, including Board members Wade, Adams, Sprenger, Kirkland, & Cox (O'Harra absent) Meeting was started at 2:30 pm with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. October meeting minutes were accepted as published on the web page.

Introduction:

J Etheridge reviewed the Board approved candidates for the 2 board seats being vacated by Adams and Kirkland. Voting will be in January. Candidates are:

H.Docherty
C.Adams
R.Burrows
J.Kirkland

J.Etheridge advised he will be assuming the Environmental position vacated by A.Nunnelly several months ago. D.Wheeler will be assuming the Secretary position vacated by R.Caffery earlier this year.

Old Business:

- D.Wade and others shared highlights/comments regarding the NRA Banquet per request by J. Taylor
- Avoid scheduling during a USC (or Clemson) football game. Fall banquets are probably not a good idea.
 - 87 dinner tickets sold. Approx. 60 folx attended. 110 dinners were purchased. The extra food was donated to the House of Hope
 - Did not raise the \$7k anticipated by NRA. We did not sell out the card deck game but did sell out the gun raffle for \$700 firearm at Docs. S. Watson was the winner.
 - The committee did not lose money. Raffle funds also covered the Club purchase of a 20 gage youth shotgun. It will be made available for the Maranatha Clay Shooting team to borrow (as needed) for use during the competition season.

- e) The PDWLA event was more successful than the Mullins event. Mullins had approx. 30 attendees.
- f) Advertising was inadequate. Did not take advantage of call lists with known local NRA supporters. The 45-day lead time was not helpful.
- g) Dennis was appreciative of member support in setting up the banquet hall. (Slavik was impressed how quickly it was done)
- h) Attendees need to understand this is an NRA fundraising event, not a low-cost opportunity to obtain firearms

D.Wade shared activity discussed during the recent Board meeting. There is interest to purchase another thrower equipped with the wobble option (3 axis) He will be putting together a project scope around the Atlas 250 machine from Howell Traps. Dennis indicated there may be an opportunity to obtain a grant from Whitetails Unlimited for this. Dennis also shared there is interest to refurbish the 100- and 200-yard berms (improve safety). Quotes will be needed. Cox advised we do a better job stabilizing the added dirt to avoid premature washout. There was also discussion about a concrete pad for the Pistol Pit

D.Wade shared we have received \$600 from Reliance Bank to support Maranatha Clay Shooting Team clay and ammo purchases. We are to provide a Reliance Bank (sponsor) sign. S.Powers agreed to provide the sign. J.Hale added he has obtained a \$350 pledge from Anderson Brothers Bank for the same use.

J.Etheridge shared plans for the upcoming Festivus Event on Dec 9th. Activity will include a Turkey shoot, 5 Stand, and 22 plinking. Additional RSO help will be needed (to supplement what is already scheduled on the calendar) Folx are being asked to bring a dish to share. Bring your family and children. The club will supplement with burgers, hotdogs, and soft drinks. Plan on attending a short meeting that starts at 9am followed by festivities.

Treasurers Report:

Cox shared the Treasurers report for K.Wyrick

Checking Balance	\$8,100 (including \$3060 Hunt Club)
Contingency Savings	\$5,010
	=====
	\$13,110 Total

Largest expense last month was \$1784 payment to J.Lee (Landowner taxes)
 We have 18 members current with 2024 PUF Payments thru Nov 5th.

CRSO Report:

Safety update was shared by S.Cox based on the recent attempted theft at Sharpshooters (indoor range and gunshop) in Greenville. RSOs are being asked to be careful with all guests to the range and check names /credentials as appropriate. We are also advising RSOs to carry a pistol for additional personnel protection (ref SOP pg 17) and stay close to the firing area while others are downrange checking targets. If firearms are not being used, they should be secured in locked vehicles. (this info is posted on a bulletin in front of the sign in log). It was noted during this discussion the Skeet Range may be at increased risk during Maranatha team shooting with racked

shotguns and ammo readily being available. (This is a safety item that we will take up with the Coach/Team parents before the spring season starts- fall season was completed a couple weeks ago.)

Cox shared we now have 102 Park members on the roster with 2 potential candidates listed. Many RSOs are busy getting their RSO / Volunteer time in before year end. Please check the November Roster to see your hours posted thru Oct 31st. RSOs can transfer their "extra" hours to others or "pinch hit" . Just contact S.Cox to verify the transaction.

Cox advised struggling RSOs to consider the option to become a RSO w/o key privilege (keyless). There is no harm-no foul. This category does not require RSO or Volunteer hours. You still can bring guests. You can also return to "key status" at a later time if desired (see SOP) We have ample RSOs willing to open up / close the range facilities if requested.

It was noted the patterning backstop board on the Skeet Range has been blasted thru again. The roll paper easily shows the shot pattern. Remember, this is not appropriate behavior and should be challenged if observed.

On another topic, one case of Covid has been reported in the membership, so take appropriate precautions

Fishing Report:

R.Burrows presented the fishing report. Reds and big bull reds, trout, and black drum are being caught. Spots are being landed on the piers. Flounder are moving out. River levels are low, so this is affecting landing access as well as fishing activity. Check the DNR regulations for details associated with set hooks, jug fishing, and trot line use for your fishing location.

Education Report

B.Veasey gave the education report. Bob shared that DNR is still offering their fish tagging program. This helps DNR verify harvesting numbers, timing, locations, migration patterns, and related for our SC game fish species. Accepted participants must purchase the Amram tagging tool and T bar tags (suitable for small fish) Larger fish are tagged with a Nylon dart. Check the DNR web site page for additional details

Other Business:

J.Etheridge requested assistance or guidance on proper knife sharpening techniques. R. Burrows conducted an excellent knife sharpening class demonstrating various commercial and handcrafted tools after the meeting was adjourned.... well done, Roger!

B. Veasey asked if we could purchase slag or other suitable aggregate to repair low laying pothole areas on the park access drive. We may have donated access to a front end loader thru one of our Park Members. Senior leadership will follow up on this request.

S.Carroway advised the group he had a listing of firearms for a friends estate that are available for sale. Contact Simon for additional details.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm