



Wildlife Action

PEE DEE CHAPTER

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October 2023 NEWSLETTER

Please plan on attending our Friends of NRA banquet on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 6:00 PM located in the Epic Center. Contact Dennis Wade for advance tickets and details

Approximately 27 members were in attendance. Meeting was called to order at 2:30 P.M. with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance led by S. Cox. Board members present were Wade, Adams, Cox, Sprenger, and Kirkland. President K.Casper led the meeting.

Introduction:

Preceding the meeting D.Wade gave the group a quick overview on the status of the Friends of NRA Banquet scheduled for Sat Oct 14th at the Epic Center.

Presently the raffle tickets are sold out. Approx. 35-40 of the dinner tickets have been presold (100 dinners have been ordered) Of the \$2000 raised \$750 goes to PDWLA. (we will purchase two 20 ga. shotguns for Trap Team use)

\$600 goes to the Trap team

\$650 goes to Friends of NRA

Business:

Two visitors were introduced. Deb Rhodes and Pete Kennedy. Both are interested in becoming Park Members. Sponsors have submitted letters of recommendation, and the Board has approved them as candidates for membership. The minutes from the last meeting as published on the web page was accepted and approved as written.

Trap Team Update:

S.Cox and C.Adams gave an update on the Maranatha Trap Team. 13 shooters are on the Fall Team. The competition has been underway for approximately two weeks. This season shooters are participating in Trap as well as 5 Stand. D.Wade added Reliance Bank has donated \$600 for the team to purchase needed shotgun shells.

CRSO Report:

S.Cox gave the CRSO Report... The October Roster now shows 100 members. This is a new record for PDWLA since going to the RSO range staffing model. D.Squibb was recognized for keeping the grounds well mowed for the last month (thank you Dave) Cox advised members we still have approximately 7 RSOs with zero volunteer hours logged year to date. Waiting until December to schedule needed hours is ill-advised. We also have the old bush hog refurbished for use on tall grass around the range, blockhouse, and downrange on the trap field. B. Marrero has advised he has material spec'd out to repair the damaged section on the 100-yard range.

Treasurer's Report:

K. Wyrick gave the Treasurer's Report. There is \$9300 in the checking account (\$3060 is Hunt Club) and \$5010 in Contingency Savings....\$14,300 total. Expenditures were \$800 for a newer bush hog, \$150 for taxes, and \$80 for electricity. The electricity bills are almost 2x normal...it appears Santee Electric has started implementing demand charges for residential use. We are investigating this further.

Friends of NRA update:

D.Wade shared the status of the upcoming PDWLA hosted Friends of NRA Banquet. The date is Saturday, Oct 14th at the Epic Center located at 260 West Palmetto. Dinner tickets are 50\$ each or two for \$90 (these prices are at the door. Tickets purchased prior to the event are \$35 each or \$70 for a couple). Raffle tickets are \$20 each for a chance at a \$700 firearm of your choice from Docs Gun Exchange (total including tax) or \$500 cash prize. There will also be a special drawing. NRA North and South Carolina Rep Steve Slavik provided additional details. This event is an opportunity to support youth firearm-related programs through the NRA Foundation and help facilitate NRA grant opportunities for PDWLA. Additional volunteers are still needed to help.

Environmental / Hunting Report

D.Evans reports Portuguese Man of Wars has been spotted off the coast of Wales (UK). This is unusually further north than expected. It is also reported seagrass is now being observed in the Chesapeake Bay (Northeast US). No remediation is currently being performed. R. Burrows and D. Evans also report Chronic Wasting Disease is a major concern in North Carolina. Two counties where this is being observed borders S. Carolina. Hunters harvesting deer in NC now have two weeks to submit samples to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission for CWD analysis. R. Burrows reports SCDNR has recently charged two hunters for bringing in deer meat to SC from out of state. This violation is subject to a \$2500 fine and loss of hunting privileges for 3 years. Also, Apple Snails are being found off the coast of NC. They can carry rat lungworm which may be fatal to humans. They grow up to 6" in size and lay pink eggs (which are also poisonous) They are to be destroyed if found.

D Wade and R.Burrows gave the Hunt Club report. Young turkeys are being seen again after successful removal of coyotes from the property.

Fishing Report:

R.Burrows gave the Fishing Report. Fishing in the creek areas is reported to be good for red drum and spot tails. Spots are also being caught off the piers.

Meeting was adjourned at 3 P.M,

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Post meeting notes ->

Park members are starting to pay the 2024 Park Use Fee. It is still a bargain at \$75. The 2024 PUF is due January 1st, 2024. This money is used to provide the basic operating funds for the facility. We will start tracking your payment status starting with the October Range Roster. Remember, individual bills for the annual PUF are typically not sent out.