



Wildlife Action

PEE DEE CHAPTER

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September 2023 NEWSLETTER

Approximately 28 members were in attendance. Meeting was opened at 2:30 PM with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Wade, Adams, Cox, & Sprenger. President K.Casper led the meeting.

Visitors Joe Shealy (sponsor Max Sitero) and Steve Powers (sponsor D.Evans) introduced themselves. Visitor Brandon Hylton (sponsor Donnie Wheeler) came later in the meeting. All three expressed interest in becoming a WLA park member.

The minutes from the August 13th Chapter meeting were accepted as published on our WEB site.

Kevin asked today's swap meet participant to share what they had brought in for sale, trade or giveaway. D.Evans won the best deal of the day for zero dollars for Kevin's Poulan Pro chain saw with case. It actually runs for a few seconds once in awhile! Good luck with that Dave!

PDWLA AND NRA BANQUET

D.Wade shared the status of the upcoming PDWLA hosted Friends of NRA Banquet. Date is Saturday Oct 14th at the Epic Center located at 260 West Palmetto. Dinner tickets are 50\$ each or two for \$90. Volunteers' that help with the event can purchase a ticket for \$25.

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 for dinner ticket holders. NRA North and South Carolina Rep Steve Slavik provided additional details. This event is an opportunity to support youth firearm related programs thru the NRA Foundation and help facilitate NRA grant opportunities for PDWLA. Additional volunteers are still needed to help.

The best way to support this program is to purchase and sell tickets! For more information regarding the event, grant information, fund disbursements and getting your

tickets to sell and purchase please contact Dennis Wade or Max Sitero. For those that want to bring a family or other group Sponsor Tables are available that can guarantee you a firearm.

To better plan our Banquet activities next month around this event, we have rescheduled next month's meeting for Sunday is Oct 8th. (already on the calendar)

CRSO REPORT:

S. Cox gave the CRSO report. We now have 91 members on the September roster with another new member effective Oct 1st. The 4th qtr. PDWLA Park Membership Special starts October 1st. New members during this period will receive up to 15 months of Park Membership (thru Dec 31, 2024) for the normal \$75 annual Park Use Fee. Cox also reported we have approximately 10 RSOs with 0 volunteer hours so far this year! He requested that RSOs not to be that guy who waits until December. Most of our RSOs are obligated for 12 volunteer hrs. (this includes one scheduled 3 hr RSO session on a weekend). This is to retain key privileges for next year. Reminder notes will be going out this week to these individuals. Cox also reported the Trauma kit (green ammo box stored in the sign in shed) has been restocked with several new items to replace that which had expired.

MARANATHA TEAM REPORT:

Rodney Howard reported the Maranatha Clay Shooting Team will start the Fall Season on Sept 16th. Rodney expects 14 shooters this season, up from 8 shooters last spring. There will be 2 groups... one shooting Trap and the other shooting 5 Stand (new option this season). K. Casper added there are now 1566 High School Clay shooting teams across the USA. This is now the fastest growing high school sport in the country. What makes these programs unique is there have been no reported accidents since inception. Mandatory Safety training, monitoring and strict league rules help assure this sport remains a safe and fun option for our youth. Please support our Maranatha team with much needed ammo or cash donations. Contact Coach Rodney Howard for more information. (Trap Shooters have seen shotgun shells cost from \$10 to \$14 a box of 25!)

K. Wyrick gave the Treasurer's Report. Keith reports we have \$8345 in checking (\$2560 are Hunt Club funds) plus a nominal \$5000 in contingency savings resulting in a total balance of \$13352. Keith stated we are financially at the same level as we were last year at this time. This is a great given the additional equipment outlays made this year for the new 5 stand program (completed both phase 1 and phase 2) and a new replacement refrigerator. Keith anticipates approximately another \$2300 expenditure this year to cover lease and trailer taxes.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Dave reports Lake Powell (Utah) is still 126 ft below full pool elevation. Dave Evans also reports that a Wisconsin deer farm is experiencing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). This is a neurological illness found in deer, moose, and elk. It has been reported in 30 states, but so far not in South Carolina.

R. Burrows said he heard a report that BovineTB has been found in Indiana deer. It looks like pea size nodules that are yellow to tan color typically located in the chest cavity or lungs. Some of the literature indicates it is highly unlikely a person field dressing or eating the cooked meet (minimum internal temperature of 165 F) would become infected with Bovine TB. Other literature indicates the airborne TB bacteria may possibly be inhaled when field dressing or thru an open cut.

HUNT CLUB REPORT:

D Wade reported the Hunt Club is now full, but if a member would like to harvest a doe, he will make the arrangements. He also is trying to work with the adjacent farmer to set up a dove hunt when the corn crop is harvested...stay tuned.

FISHING REPORT:

R. Burrows gave the Fishing report. Shrimp season is underway. Boat limit is still one 48 qt cooler per boat per day. Minimum net size is 1/2" square opening. There is still some confusion regarding the maximum distance between the first and last net pole... 100 yds? Roger is investigating regulations again. B. Veasey advised members to be careful in brackish water and estuaries. The CDC is reporting flesh eating bacteria have been found in the southeast. It can be fatal in 48 hrs. if not quickly treated. Kevin advises Lake Wateree is seeing algae blooms since the water has been lowered for dam repair. Avoid these areas that are toxic!

MISCELLANEOUS:

Kevin thanked Walker Floyd for spraying weed killer on the range flat areas!

Meeting was adjourned at 3pm

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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.