



Wildlife Action

PEE DEE CHAPTER

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JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Wildlife Action Pee Dee
July 11, 2026

Meeting Notes

Meeting was opened at 12:00 pm by Steve Cox. Kevin Casper offered prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 15 members and 2 guests were in attendance including Board Members Mike Hopewell, Roger Burrows, Nick Carter, Dennis Wade, and Steve Cox. Also present was Pete Kennedy Treasurer & Donnie Wheeler Secretary. Meeting was led by Steve Cox.

June meeting notes as posted on the web page were reviewed and approved

Guests were introduced

Russell Wilson sponsored by Dr Harrell Docherty

Redden Coward sponsored by Steve Cox

Old Business:

Reviewed 200-yard rifle range capital project. Hay mats are installed on some of the refurbished berms. Discussion of options to hydro seed the berms, and types of grass best suited for the range. Discussed best time of year to apply the seed. Consensus was not to hydroseed at this time due to the anticipated hi summer temperatures and limited rain. Kevin volunteered to talk with local county extension agent for suggestions and advice. Discussed getting bids to add more topsoil to the berms to provide better environment for grass / weeds to grow and stabilize the refurbished berms. Volunteer foliage on the existing topsoil areas are presently doing very well. Dennis is going to follow up the soil and related handling equipment. Dennis had already seeded the berms with contractor mix fescue and organized the hay matting teams soon after last month's meeting

Targets built and installed on the 200-yd range and on the pistol range. Tables have been built to allow competition shooting of bowling pins on the Pistol Range. A rabbit fence has been installed on the south side of the shotgun range to collect intact rabbit clays. Dennis presented options to add a vertical thrower on the shotgun range. Cost to purchase a refurbished thrower from Backwoods is \$2,500. This would be the eighth and final thrower and all stations can be operated on the current remote system.

Dennis asked for the PDWLA members to participate in an upcoming event hosted by the Horry WLA chapter. Dennis also asked the membership to support the annual Whitetails Unlimited Chapter banquet event on August 1st. It will be held at Florence Darlington Technical College SiMT Building. Individual tickets are \$50 or \$30 for spouse /child. Kids will have an opportunity to win nice prizes. Dennis requests folx to contact him to get a table. This group has been actively supporting the Maranatha Clay Shooting Team and recently made a significant donation to help purchase a vertical clay thrower for the Shotgun Range. Contact Cody at 843.621.0953 for more information

New Business

Senior Leadership needs to update capital projects list and any major general maintenance items. All ranges are now open.

Reminder- Monthly meetings for July, August, and September will be held on the 2nd Saturday. These meetings begin at noon. Next meeting is August 8th.

CRSO report – Steve Cox

92 current members 2 New candidates.

Reviewed steel target SOP requires fifteen yards minimum shooting steel targets (ref pg11).

Cox suggests any members wanting to quickly take the NRA-RSO class contact A&J Firearms and Training Range in Darlington. They offer this class every couple of months (call Angie at 843.773.0241) The PDWLA class is typically held 1x/yr....usually in October.

Roads have been improved around the perimeter of the Rifle range with the recent refurbishment project. This opened access to the range berms. Cox plans to add additional signage in this area make it clear not to trespass onto range areas

Suggestion came up to revise the existing RSO Calendar signup model to a demand driven (RSO pool) model. After some discussion there was no volunteer willing to manage this process.

Treasurers Report was given by Pete Kennedy.

Club has \$9,741.51 in checking.

Savings has \$21,629.10 which includes the capital donation. At the time of this report the known capital project cost so far is \$8,730.12 Some additional expenses will be incurred.

\$2,500.00 donation from White Tail Foundation has come in.

Hunting – Dennis Wade

Deer season is coming soon. Hunt club membership is full at this time. Members can request opportunity to shoot a doe. Cost is two bags of corn.

Fishing – Roger Burrows

New state record flathead catfish caught at DeWitt's Bluff on Big Pee Dee River. Weight 113lbs 7oz and width 34 inches. Rivers and streams too low for boats. Temperatures are warming up for summer. Better time for lake and ocean fishing. Red fish is 1 fish per day, and the size limit was increased Red snapper 1 per person per day and max of two per boat per day.

Nick Carter shared that his son Holden caught his first fish at the pond 2 weeks ago and caught one just before the meeting today.

Environment Kevin Casper

Reviewed issues with solar farms in Darlington County. Solar farms are documented as contaminating land in several ways. These include broken glass, heavy metals chemical leakage, and heat damage to plant life and ground cover.

Education

Pete Kennedy shared the history of "shrapnel". A new artillery round was invented in 1784 by a British artillery officer. It was originally a hollow cannonball filled with smaller lead balls and a small black powder charge. A timed fuse detonated the shell midair and rained a deadly hail of bullets down on enemy troops. It was officially adopted for use in 1803 and used during the Napoleonic Wars. It was named the Shrapnel shell after the inventor Henry Shrapnel.

Meeting adjourned 1:44 pm

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Feedback from the County Agent → When the weather cools this Fall, try sowing some Rye grass. In the Spring overseed with Bermuda (or sprig). Bermuda grass is advised for our situation for several reasons...sandy soil, low nutrient level, and lots of sun. Established Bermuda grass has a deep root system that aggressively spreads and is excellent for stabilizing erosion prone areas. Addition of mulch will help minimize erosion.