



Wildlife Action

PEE DEE CHAPTER

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MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Notes

Meeting was opened at 2:30 pm with prayer by R. Armstrong followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 22 members were in attendance, including current Board Members Roger Burrows, Mike Hopewell, Nick Carter, Dennis Wade, & S.Cox. Other Senior Leadership in attendance included President John Etheridge, VP Victoria Heath, Treasurer Pete Kennedy, and VP Education Bob Veasey. Meeting was led by John Etheridge.

Last month's Chapter meeting notes were accepted as posted on the web page.

No Visitors were present today

Old Business

Dennis shared the elevated clay throwing station is coming along well. He asked for

Assistance after the meeting to position and secure the roof. This project was funded by a \$1500 (NTE) Budget approved by the Board on Feb 8th, 2026. Dennis also delivered the low cost OSB target board sheeting (5\$ / ea.) on 2/28. This was a Board approved purchase NTE \$250 It has been cut into 2x4 sections and is stored in the back of the sign in shed and the semi-trailer.

John shared highlights from the 2/28 workday. Approx 25 members participated. Repairs were made on the 200 & 50 yd target backstops. A vertical post was replaced on a Pistol range target frame.

The semi storage trailer main entrance porch was replanked and reinforced. The elevated clay throwing station hut siding was completed. Shawn Carraway and his John Deer tractor helped repair the road washout at the overflow parking turn, smooth out the main entrance turn at Albany, bush hog the Shotgun Range downrange area, and cut back the north and south lane edges on the 200 yd Rifle Range area. Shoutout to Susan Evans and Kevin Casper for helping wrangle food and manage grilling burgers / hotdogs.

CRSO Report

Cox shared the 2026 PUF collection effort is complete. We dropped 6 members from the March Roster for nonpayment of PUF and other reasons. In the meantime, we picked up 3 new members (O'Shea, Perry, and Harness) This gives us 91 folx presently on the Park Roster.

RSOs are starting to make progress putting in their RSO and volunteer hours for 2026. Cox reminded the team to please refrain from waiting until December to get their 6 hrs logged.

A brief discussion was held concerning our Range Guest Policy. RSOs are the only members that can bring guests. The RSO must be at the range with the guest. A 10\$ fee is posted for guest shooters. Details are outlined on pg. 19 in the SOP.

Other Business

Cox shared that further conversations have been held with John Pecca at A&J Firearms / Training Center in Darlington. John is going to continue offering the NRA RSO Training Course when he has 6 clients interested in taking the course. His current charge is 75\$. This is a great option for our new members who do not want to wait until the Fall course at PDWLA. Cox will give folx who choose to do this a PDWLA SOP review as well as a related test before a gate key is issued. For more information, A&J phone number is 843.773.0241

Kevin also reminded folx that PDWLA is an authorized CMP affiliated club. Once initial paperwork is filed with CMP for your first order, follow-up purchases for ammo and firearms are fairly easy. No FFL is required for firearm purchases. Orders ship directly to your house.

Our CMP club id number is 037065

Another topic shared by V.Heath was the possibility of a new local range. Apparently, Florence County is going to be building a public range at Lynches River Park or on Paper Mill Rd (Not the multi-million dollar CMP facility that was discussed a couple years ago). John Etheridge volunteered to investigate current status of the Florence County project.

Mike Hopewell has donated a new flag for our outside meetings. Hardware was donated by P.Kennedy. The flagged is wrapped and stored in the back room of the sign in shed when not in use.

Treasurer Report

Pete Kennedy reported we have \$9254 in checking and \$5340 in contingency savings

Last major spend was \$540 for 2/28 workday materials / foodstuffs and approx. \$1500 on the Shotgun Range elevated platform project. Pete noted we are within 500\$ of funds from where we were last year at this time.

Education Report

B.Veasey shared interesting information from a recent trip to Hopsewee Plantation in Georgetown County. This original rice plantation was birthplace of Thomas Lynch Jr, the second youngest signer of the Declaration of Independence. It was built in 1738-1740s by Thomas Lynch and completed by Thomas

Lynch Sr. Location is on the North Santee River. It is the first South Carolina National Landmark. The house is in its preserved condition from when it was built. It is open to public tours. Reenactors from Britton's Neck Regiment offer demonstrations of various vocations as they were practiced back in the day. Bob shared seeing an armorer demonstrating various flintlock muskets and a land surveyor. The land surveyor used a "Gunters Chain" which was a 100 link chain to measure distances in 66 ft increments. Surveyors were typically paid for their services by bartering crops, livestock, or land. Tour information is available by calling 843.546.7891

Hunting Report

Dennis and Roger shared that the turkey season opens April 3rd. (Male birds only with 6" minimum beard length requirement) Only 2 birds may be harvested. Baiting is expected to be watched closely this year. Discing plots without intent to grow crop may be problematic. Turkey populations are believed to be down in many parts of South Carolina due to predators and land development. Consult the DNR regulations for accurate hunting details.

Fishing Report

R.Burrows advised fishing was improving despite the fluctuating river levels. Shell Crackers are being caught at Lake Marion. Use of a fishing guide is advised for best results. Fresh herring and brim are advised for fishing river inlets. Large Stripers are being caught in this manner.

In a related discussion R.Armstrong shared St Anthony's is offering "take out" flounder fish platters on Friday during Lent. Time is 4:30-7pm. Cost is 12\$. (not available on Good Friday) Follow the turn around drive to order and pickup. Funds are being used for various school and church projects

Environmental Report

No report given.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm

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Post Meeting

Board held a quick meeting to designate another new VP Environment. Dave Evans was appointed and accepted the role. J.Etheridge offered to provide backup.

Misc info - the water has been turned back on to the Training Trailer. Weather will be monitored the next couple weeks to avoid possible freeze damage.