



# Wildlife Action

## PEE DEE CHAPTER

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## JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Meeting was opened at 2:30 pm in prayer by R. Armstrong followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 20 members were in attendance including Board Members Wade, Packard, O'Harra, Burrows, & Cox. Meeting was led by President Kevin Casper. This was a good turnout given the heat and threat of rain forecast for the afternoon.

### Visitors

Michael Gainey introduced himself to the group. He is interested in joining the PDWLA Park. Mr. Gainey is experienced with firearms and comes highly recommended by his sponsor Steve Oharra. Steve also submitted a recommendation for AJ Mabrey who was unexpectedly called out of town today on business just before the meeting. (Both candidates were later approved by the Board as Candidates for Park Membership)

Last month's Meeting Notes were unanimously approved as published.

### Presidents Comments

Kevin asked if the members thought the range was in good shape? General opinion was the range was in decent shape. It was recommended that the storage trailer primary entrance get redecked when weather gets cooler (minor repair was recently completed). D. Packard reports he thinks "someone" needs to cut the range. Was reported the Shotgun range can use another load of dirt adjacent the west downrange thrower hut. With the additional dirt and another round of disking / dragging we should be able to start using finishing mowers in this formerly wooded area. We can also use help cleaning the Training Trailer or restringing the rifle range sunshades. Volunteer hours are earned by helping around the facility completing tasks like this.

Kevin also asked if there was interest in having another open house for the membership, their families, and close friends this fall. Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> was recommended. We will have the normal October Chapter meeting scheduled for 9 AM followed by the Festivus. Shooting competitions and plinking challenges for all ages and abilities will be scheduled followed by a cookout.

### Treasury Report

Keith was out of town but left the following July financial information that was presented by K. Casper. We now have a total of \$13,849 in checking and contingency saving accounts. This is approximately \$3k favorable compared to the previous 2 years at this time. Next anticipated large spend will be an insurance premium typically paid in August. D. Wade added we may need to replenish some of the club sporting clay inventory this fall. He also wants to add another thrower...

### CRSO report was given by S. Cox

We now have 97 members listed on the Park Roster. There are also a couple pending candidates for park membership. With the year half gone, we only show approximately 25% of the RSOs who have completed their 6 minimum RSO and volunteer hours for 2025. Cox reminded members the club doesn't need a slug of scheduled RSO activity in November and December. Please try to complete any needed hours in September and October. We also have a couple members who need to renew their WLA National memberships...pls check the posted July range roster. Cox brought attention to the Security Roadcam Test presently underway adjacent the Shotgun Range (for reading vehicle license plates). If successful, a proposal will be submitted to the Board for expanding site security with a couple more Blink cameras and installing permanent chicane posts for roadway units.

### Education Report

B. Veasey provided an interesting discussion on the historical development of the Carolinas by King George II in the 1660s. Originally the new territory was to be patterned after the British model with Earls, Dukes, and related under 8 designated Lord Proprietors. These noblemen were William Berkley, John Colleton, Edward Hyde, George Monck, Earl Craven, John Berkley, Ashley Cooper, and George Carteret. Apparently, the Lord Proprietors altered the King's business model to better line their own pockets. Land Grants were offered in typically 50 acre tracts. Slavery was sourced out of Barbados to help staff the labor-intensive activity associated with the thriving rice and indigo plantations along the coast. King George II repurchased the Carolina Territory from 7 of the 8 Lord Proprietors. Under Royal rule the Carolinas were split into prosperous North and South Colonies. The slavery business model eventually collapsed with the Civil War. (for more details Google "Development of the Carolinas by King George II")

### Fishing Report

R. Burrows gave the group a brief fishing update. With the exception of the Little Pee Dee (fed from the Lumber River in North Carolina) most our rivers are low. When combined with the hot daytime temperatures, fishing during the day is currently poor. Wee Tee State Forest (near the Santee Diversion Canal) may offer some interesting fishing opportunities. Be careful of snakes and wasp nests dropping in your boat ...contact Roger for more information. If fishing with trot lines or jug fishing be sure to follow the specific state regulations. Roger also shared about a dozen historical SC state record fish catches. These can be found by googling Record SC Freshwater and Saltwater fish catches.

### Hunt Club Report

D. Wade gave the Hunt Club Report. If you are 65yrs old or more, you can purchase a lifetime SC fishing and hunting license for 9\$. This is a great deal! Hunt Club is presently full. Doe hunts are being made available to the park membership as well as youth hunting opportunities. Contact Dennis for more info.

### Environmental Report

J. Etheridge briefly discussed the unsuccessful inclusion of 3 million acres of federal land in the west for unrestricted public sale in the recently signed Big Beautiful Bill Act...original intent was to open land for expanded housing development. John suggests we need to be sensitive to future attempts to do this with federal lands east of the Mississippi. John also indicated public hunting privileges in some of the Eastern federal lands may be at risk due to political pressure from those influential with western federal lands. Stay informed. D. Wade shared his recent family experience visiting Yellowstone National Park. He was quite impressed with the natural beauty. Others cautioned if you plan to stay in the park, you need to make reservations 1 year in advance.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm