



Wildlife Action

PEE DEE CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 5022 - FLORENCE, SC - 29502

www.WildlifeActionPeeDee.com

pdwildlifeaction@gmail.com

Join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WLAPeeDee/>

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

Introductions:

Lee White (son of Park Member DC White) introduced himself to the group. Lee lives in Florence and is interested in joining the park today.

Meeting

Meeting was opened with Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 17 members were in attendance including Board Members Adams, Burrows, Wade, Sprenger, and Cox. Meeting was led by President K.Casper. Today's meeting was shortened to allow time for the scheduled morning work activities and lunch.

Old Business

Notes from the March meeting published on the web page were accepted as written. K. Casper shared his continued concern with brass being left on the ground on the Pistol Range. Please pick up casings after shooting. Leaving the range cleaner than you found it is much appreciated.

Treasurer's Report

K.Wyrick shared there is \$8168 in checking and approximately \$5000 in contingency savings with a total of \$13285. (These numbers do not include Hunt Club funds which is another \$4k). Largest expenditure last month was \$380 for Maranatha Trap Team vests. That spend was funded by a grant received in the 4Q-23.

Cox shared the SEC monthly electrical peak use surcharges for winter (Nov-March) were successfully managed. This was done using the temporary "heated thermostat" setup in the Training Trailer. (Note- the "summer" peak use surcharge period is now underway... April thru October 4p-7p)

CRSO Report

S.Cox shared we now have 94 members listed on the April Range Roster. This is down slightly due to year end member loss and a smaller than expected Maranatha Trap Team for the spring season. Cox also shared SOP item that only RSOs are permitted to bring guests to the range. (ref pg 17 for more details)

Skeet Range Update

D.Wade gave the group an update on current range improvements. Metal roofs are installed on the skeet shooting stations. Two new thrower houses have been built. Metal roofs have been installed on all the thrower houses. A sliding roof has been installed on the original trap house to improve machine access. Two new solar panels have been installed on the new thrower houses. (to avoid hard wiring and maintain building portability) . Dennis advised the group that modifications are almost complete. He also shared RSOs who still desire Skeet Range certification can typically be trained after any monthly chapter meeting if requested. C. Adams and himself conduct the sessions.

Fishing Report

R.Burrows gave the group an update on fishing. The Hunt Club Pond is quiet except for the turtles. Santee is active with crappie, bass, and catfish presently biting. Roger advises avoiding ocean fishing due to excessive wind conditions. Roger reminded us that many of the bordering Georgia reservoirs you can be fished with a valid South Carolina fishing license. (Double check regulation details before doing this)

Hunt Club

D.Wade advised coyotes are being observed again on the premises. Turkeys are not as plentiful. As an example J.Etheridge was attracting coyotes with his turkey call when bow hunting.

Other Items

C.Adams gave an update on security cameras for the park. He reported the wi-fi camera option is more complex than initially thought. 5 g phone coverage (T Mobile or Horizon) does not necessarily translate to good wi-fi camera coverage. Spectrum offers hardwired internet coverage to the address (presumably the block house location). Actual camera placement plays into the equation. Stay tuned for more info....

R. Burrows inquired if we ought to offer programs like National does in McLellan Park like CWP classes and camps. Casper asked the group to read their National magazine and encourage parents with young children to attend the National summer camps. Also, please review the donor list that include patrons from Florence and reach out to them reminding them there is a Pee Dee Chapter.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.

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Post meeting notes

Work Day Achievements:

All attendees participated in the morning work session that immediately followed the chapter meeting.

Two backstop bays were rebuilt on the Rifle Range. Minor repairs and bush trimming was performed on the Pistol Range. At the Skeet Range new wood barriers were placed between the Skeet shooting stations, two new solar panels were installed on the new thrower houses, foam trim was installed on the new thrower houses, and a couple of the portable thrower houses were re-positioned.

Burgers, hot dogs, potato chips and potato salad were served for lunch. A good time was had by all.

Membership:

Also Lee White was accepted by the Board as a park candidate. He paid the PDWLA fees and confirmed his WLA membership. He is now a Park Member. Welcome aboard Lee!