



Wildlife Action

PEE DEE CHAPTER

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MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Introduction:

Meeting was opened with Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 12 members were in attendance including Board Members Adams, Wade, Burrows, O'Harra, and Cox. Meeting was led by President K. Casper.

Notes from the April meeting published on the web page were accepted as written.

Visitors :

Clayton White (son of former park member Frank White) introduced himself to the group. Clayton lives in Florence and is interested in joining to have a safe place to bring his children. D. Wade is his sponsor.

Old Business:

D. Wade and C. Adams gave a quick review of the Shotgun Range status. Dennis shared there are still wish list items, but the facility is fully operational and in great shape. The following adjustments and maintenance items were completed:

- The hi house thrower has been shifted.
- #4 house has been moved back *so clays don't break over No.2 house.*
- New OEM springs for the trap machine pawl assembly are in hand to replace the 5 yr. old spring that recently failed. (Spring design has been upgraded on the Atlas 300)
- The #2 trap house (discharge) door was found open on Monday May 6th. Please make sure the facilities and related equipment are properly secured before leaving the premises.
- **Remember the trap arms may have stored energy that must be released that can cause serious injury!**

Dennis is also looking for members who may be interested in shooting clays on a regular basis...email solicitations will be sent out shortly. Also, a member wants to have a regular shoot for rifles and pistols during the week and has offered to provide a hamburger cookout for the first event.

Treasurer's Report

No report was given ...K. Wyrick was unavailable. Receipts for building materials and trap parts was given to K Casper.

CRSO Report

S. Cox shared we now have 97 members listed on the May Range Roster.

RSO duty optional work when no shooters are present:

- Cox reminded members that we are in the summer grass growing season. If you have been trained and issued Ford tractor key, please step up and help.
- If you are on site and bored waiting around for shooters to show, feel free to jump on one of the 42" lawn tractors. Lawn tractor keys are kept on a hook (under the ear plugs) in the sign in shed David Squibb trimmed grass last week. Thank you, Dave!
- Cox asked RSOs to please do a better job taking full trash bags home or to a county disposal site (as personal trash) We have a couple RSOs complaining they always find the trash cans to be full when they have a scheduled session. Trash removal is discussed in the SOP on pg. 15.
- Cox advised we will probably have our next RSO training class in October. We have approx. 5 members who have expressed interest so far.
- Kevin advised a new bullet hole has been found in the roof of the pistol range shelter. This is a serious situation...please share when something like this happens...there is usually a learning opportunity for all of us.
- Kevin also shared a couple rapid fire events recently occurred during his last RSO session. A visitor's binary trigger on his rifle went into full auto mode. Also, a longtime member had a similar issue with his new gun and will need to send it back to the factory for repair.

Binary triggers are not specifically mentioned in the current SOP but will be addressed in the next revision.

In addition, Kevin mentioned his SIG P320 pistol unintentionally discharged on the rifle range several months ago. May be related to a defective sear design. (While SIG has declined to institute a formal recall, they are offering an "enhanced trigger system" for striker replacement for owners of the affected P320 pistols. If you own one of these firearms, please call the manufacturer or use their website to determine if your pistol is eligible and double check if yours is included in these offers call (603) 610-3000.

Kevin reminded us that brass cleanup is still a concern on the pistol and rifle ranges. Please do better!

Kevin also shared we still have a couple items outstanding to complete from our April 13th workday including:

- South 100 yd backstop and plate support replacement.
- Brush trimming down to 200 yard rang.
- Pistol pit raking, etc.

You may be contacted to assist in a smaller work team!

Fishing Report

R. Burrows gave the group an update on fishing:

- Roger still advises avoiding ocean fishing due to excessive wind conditions.
- River, lake, and pond levels are high due to recent rain; however, crappie and bass are biting. D. Wade reported on a recent fishing trip with the Mt Pleasant Blue Water Fishing Club. Several Croakier fish were caught.

Hunt Club

D. Wade advised coyotes are still being observed again on the premises.... R Burrows will try setting out a few traps. He may need help to check the traps daily.

Environmental

J. Etheridge reported SCDNR will soon be sending out a turkey survey to license holders. Turkey populations have been declining significantly over the past few years due to construction activity, coyotes, raccoons, hawks, and owls. Please participate if requested.

New Business

Brief discussion on resuming emailing chapter meeting notes to all members. Group consensus was that members need to be looking at the web page this and other related information.

C. Adams shared that background checks will soon be required at SC gun shows for "commercial sellers". Legal definitions are not concise, and SLED may have discretion. Suggestion is to avoid conducting personal firearm sales at SC gun shows.

Kevin reminded the group we still need to hold a Pioneer Event (Festivus) for 2024. Thoughts are to wait until cooler weather in the Fall.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

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Post meeting notes

The Board approved Clayton White as a candidate for Park Membership.

C. Adams updated us on the status of security cameras for the facility. The basic choice is between a real time internet based system by Spectrum (with WI-Fi router and range extenders) or a trail camera system with cloud based static picture storage. Cameras and related hardware would need to be purchased with either system. J. Etheridge has offered to set up a couple of his trail cameras for us to experiment. The main issue is connectivity cost per month and one time hardware cost.

C. Adams has identified new a low-cost brass retrieval tool that may be helpful on the pistol range. The tool will be purchased for evaluation.

W. Floyd volunteered to spray for weeds in the pistol and rifle ranges. Please note once applied we should not rake or disk or the weed seeds deep in the soil will be turned back on top and re-germinate.