



Wildlife Action

PEE DEE CHAPTER

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JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Notes

Meeting was opened at 2:30 pm by John Etheridge. Donnie Wheeler offered prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 23 members were in attendance including Board Members Mike Hopewell, Steve Cox, Roger Burrows, & Dennis Wade. Other Senior Leadership also in attendance included John Etheridge, Victoria Heath, Pete Kennedy Treasurer, Donnie Wheeler Secretary. Meeting led by John Etheridge.

December minutes were reviewed and approved.

New Business:

Donations funded a gift in appreciation and recognition for many years of dedicated service to the club for Kevin Casper. Presentation will follow at a later date. A gift in appreciation of many years of service as our Treasurer and a plaque was presented to Keith Wyrick.

Dennis Wade and Steve O'Hara have plans to construct an elevated trap house which will house a multi axis thrower. More RSO have requested Skeet RSO training to open and operate the Shotgun Range. Contact Steve Oharra to schedule the training...takes about 1 hour

Florence County Animal Control continues to monitor traps to remove a pack of 4 aggressive dogs that are often seen at WLA. They have been killing wildlife. Use caution if you come in contact with these animals.

CRSO report – Steve Cox

Current roster of 94 members. All current members who are RSO certified maintained their key privileges for 2026. There are several new candidates who may join in near future. There is potential for 6 to 10 current members that may drop for various reasons. The last late day for 2026 PUF payments being accepted is Feb 28th.

Please review range operating hours on Sundays... 2:00 pm until sunset. (SOP pg 15)
Training Trailer water is shut off. Pump is freeze protected. Pump has heat tape and incandescent lamps in place. Water for cycling the trailer toilets is still available from the freeze proof hydrant located at the tractor shed.

Treasurers Report was given by Keith Wyrick.

Club has approximately \$12,244.00 balance in checking/savings. Does not include Hunt Club balance of approximately \$3,216.00. The current club balance is favorable by \$1,200.00 at this time last year. The club is well funded beginning 2026. Pete Kennedy will begin serving as treasurer. Keith is assisting with the transition. 2025 income decreased due to separating hunt club income from WLA accounts and club did not receive one time large donations. 2025 non-discretionary spending remained flat and there were no non funded projects completed last year.

Old Business NA

Fishing Report Roger Burrows

Fishing activity is reduced due to cold weather. Best opportunities will be around February 15 thru March 31 during herring and shad runs. Best location is in St Stephens area. Limit is one bushel of herring per person per day. Soon after ocean stripers will begin migrating up local rivers. Some could be as large as 50lbs or more. Recent catfish tournament recorded catfish caught weighing in at 103lbs.

Hunt Club Report Dennis Wade

Members are encouraged to participate in planned Coyote and Raccoon management hunts and trapping. Contact Dennis for details.

Education report Bob Veasey

During WWII the largest glider training base was setup near Laurinburg and Maxton in Scotland County NC. The airbase was over 4,400 acres and had three 6500 ft long triangularly oriented runways to permit training in almost all wind conditions. A 500 acre field in the middle of this runway complex was used to practice landings in preparation for the D-day invasion. The training included 2 man up to 14 man capacity gliders in size. A museum is located at the

current FBO at the current airport. This airport is the current home of the US Army Golden Knights parachute team. Nearby in Wagram you can visit the largest gun store in the USA.

Environmental Report NA

Meeting adjourned 3:00pm

Post meeting.... Victoria and Rebecca served chili and cake to the membership in recognition of Kevin and Keith's service to PDWLA. Thank you, Victoria and Rebecca.