



# Local Buzz

## President's Message

**Rob Slay, President**

Well the thistle is still blooming good at 1500' so I will still be waiting to extract. Get the mites knocked back, check the food stores - winter is just around the corner. Thanks to everyone who helped bring such a great success to our Fair Booth. A big thanks to Randy the bee hive demonstration.

## September 3rd Meeting - 7:00 PM

Grass Valley Veteran's Memorial Building  
255 South Auburn Street in Grass Valley

**Our Program is "Seed swap and honey tasting".**

## Bee Bits

**Randy Oliver, Contributor**

What a crazy season! No honey flow from the blackberries, and colonies starving. Then unusual late-season honey and pollen flows in many areas. We actually added supers to some yards in August, which is unheard of! The late honey was generally strong flavored, but in some areas the star thistle lightened it up. In any case, colonies in late August were generally looking good!

It is now time to get varroa levels down if you haven't done so already. If you are in a dry area, it may also help to start feeding pollen supplement, and perhaps a bit of syrup to stimulate some broodrearing.

## Fair Update 2012

**Randy Oliver, Contributor**

The NCBA bee booth went well this year—thanks to all who volunteered!

At the Fair's request, we also added a new exhibit in the Ag-Sperience—a hexagonal screened cage with a live hive inside for daily demonstrations. Thanks to Tim and Kathleen Madiera, Brion Dunbar, and Stephanie Hughes for help with staining and installing the cage, and to my sons Eric and Ian for helping me take it down. Tim and I designed and built the cage to be quickly assembled, and then be equally quickly taken down for storage in the Bee Booth. It works great!

I gave daily demonstrations of opening the hive for inspection each day at 3:00. They were a huge hit with both the public and the Fair staff—lots of positive feedback.

However, I bit off too much to chew. I've been the main guy for the Bee Booth for over 30 years, set up and taken down the observation hives and designed and managed the Booth details, as well as showing up each day to keep things running smoothly, plus staffing the Booth every Saturday and Sunday night since 1981.

This year I also maintained the Bee Cage, and gave the daily demos. Too much for one busy guy! I need help! We need to divvy up some of the tasks, and I'd like to start training some young person to eventually start taking over the tasks that I've been doing.

Next year I could really use volunteers who will take long-term responsibility for the observation hives, the post-Fair cleanup of the booth, and Bee Booth maintenance. I'd also like some others to train to give demos in the Bee Cage.

I typed up a list of the tasks that need to be done each year for the Fair. We will be discussing them at the next board meeting. If you are interested in taking on any of the responsibilities, please let me know.

## Fair Update 2012

Diane Benton, Contributor

On Saturday August 4th a small but hardworking group of Nevada County Beekeepers Association members turned out for the work party and potluck at the fairgrounds. The beekeeping booth was swept and scrubbed. Afterwards we enjoyed hamburgers and side dishes and luckily found shelter during the 5 minute thunder and lightening storm. Karla discovered that her hive tool worked great for flipping burgers.



Thank you to all the volunteers who braved a week of 100 degree heat to man the Beekeeper's booth at this years fair. Leslie Gault stands ready to serve tastes of honey donated by our members. A young man points out the Queen to his friends. Every year people stop by the booth and tell us it is the highlight of their day at the fair. Something new this year - Randy gave a daily presentation in the Ag/Science area on Beekeeping. Afterwards I noticed several of the audience came to the Beekeeping booth to look at the displays and sign up for beginners class.



## Raffle Prizes

Karla Hanson, Coordinator

Thank you all for bringing some great items for our raffles, keep it coming. Plants, eggs, jewelry, soaps, bee items, jams, beautiful metal garden art, the list goes on and on... Thanks to everyone!

## Article - Buzzed

**Jim Whitaker, Contributor**

A slightly embellished, but mostly true, story of my encounter with a bee swarm after the Nevada City Car show. I volunteered to help clean-up after the car show so at 3:00 pm I parallel parked my 1960 Alfa Giulietta Spider and went to collect barricades. Upon returning, 40 or so minutes later, I was BEE-wildered to see a large number of people looking at my car. Gee, I thought, this is the most interest the car has received all day. As I drew closer I was BEE-fuddled to find that they weren't looking at my car but at a swarm of bees which had decided to make a new home in the right rear bumper override of my car.



Fortunately, several people in the crowd were aspiring bee keepers and one of them took the initiative to call for someone to come and take away the bees. It was going to take 20 minutes for the rescuer to arrive but I decided to wait it out. The fact that the crowd was ABUZZ with the sentiment that the bees be saved factored into my decision. Now I'm not saying that this was a lynch mob but I certainly would have been the target of some STINGING criticism if I had left before the bees were removed from my car. Tsk, tsk, such BEE-havior.

As we waited, the crowd became a little restless and I was subjected to a barrage of bad puns. Things like “Your car is QUEEN for a day” and “that's one HONEY of a car”. I figured that the only defense against bad puns is an offense of bad puns. So, I replied “Yes, this is a SWEET car but to get parts I have to COMB the earth”.

Finally, the bee keeper arrived and began sweeping the bees into a slotted box with a set of broom-like devices. But, alas, she could not get the bees out of the bumper override due to a lack of access. By this time I was feeling a little FLIGHTY from a day in the sun. When the bee keeper suggested that the bees would leave on their own accord if I waited until dusk I had to draw the line. After all, this was cutting into my happy hour (I'm at the point in life where happy hour is a nap).

Feeling like I had to take some initiative I volunteered that I would try to take the bumper off. I would need something to lay on (I didn't want to ruin my Rubber Chicken Racing tee shirt - motto: Faster than a speeding pullet) and I would need a 17mm open end wrench. Someone came back with a shawl-like garment for me to lie on and someone else rounded up a tool kit. Image my dismay when all I could use was an adjustable wrench the size that might come in a Barbie and Ken doll house. To make an already too long story short, I got the bumper off and the bees got brushed into the box.

The bee keeper shooed me away saying that the bees would try to return to the bumper override as they leave a homey scent where ever they go. Great, I thought, I'm going to convince the Highway Patrol that the license plate is missing because I, as a warm, altruistic person, removed the bumper in order to accommodate the rescue of a bee swarm. Oh, sure, right! But, no such problem occurred and I BUZZED home without incident.

What a memorable day. I get the HIVES just thinking about it.

## Country Rubes Combo Screened Bottom Boards

Special NCBA Club Price! Call Janet for details. 530-913-2724 or [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

## Club Membership

**Janet Brisson, Treasurer**

If you are a new member and want to sign up but can't make it to the meeting, you can sign up on line at NCBEES.net.

You can always mail your dues.

\$20.00 (includes newsletter through mail)

or

\$15.00 (includes newsletter through email)

NCBA

c/o Janet Brisson

2093 Dog Bar Road

Grass Valley, CA 95949

Help us reduce paper and mailing costs, get your newsletters electronically and your family membership fee is reduce from \$20 to \$15.

Email Janet at [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

## Honey Extraction House

A to Z Supply has a honey extraction house available for rent. Equipment is provided and the room is heated and there's lots of hot water for clean up. For more information: 530.273.6608

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## For Sale - MITEAWAY QUICK STRIPS

I overbought and have some for sale at cost. They are \$3.80 per 2 strips.

I Can bring to them to the meeting or you can pickup. Call Brion Dunbar 530/470-8691

## Goodies Sign-up

**Karla Hanson, Coordinator**

Please let me know if you can bring a treat for any of the coming meetings. We still need treats for our September, October, and November meetings. Contact Karla Hanson, [queenbeez@att.net](mailto:queenbeez@att.net)

# NCBA NEVADA COUNTY FAIR TASKS

Prepared by Randy Oliver 8/8/2012

## NCBA/FAIR LIAISON PERSON

Handle all Fair inquiries during the year

Is sole representative of NCBA to Fair, all major decisions to be approved by NCBA Board of Directors.

Sign intent form with Fair

Sign contract with Fair

Donate honey to Fair staff

Take responsibility for booth key

Make sure that medical staff are prepared for bee stings

## TREASURER

Send check for \$90 for insurance to Fair each July

## BOOTH STAFFING

Make up list of Bee Booth staffing volunteers, with cell phone contact numbers

Twist arms to fill in holes

Place list in Bee Booth prior to start of Fair

Pick up tickets at Fair office and get to members at meeting prior to Fair

Arrange reimbursement for parking or entry at next meeting

Give opening/closing instructions to appropriate staffers (add stinging incident protocol)

## STAFFER INSTRUCTIONS

Openers

- Turn off two outside yellow lights at beginning of shift (two separate switches).
- Water planter, using bucket and hose bibb on side of Caramel Corn booth.
- Post show time of bee cage demo

Closers

### *At start of shift*

- Turn on two outside yellow lights (two separate switches) and the two small outside fluorescent lights over the observation hives.

### *At end of shift*

- Door over observation hives--unplug the small fluorescent lights, one person lift door slightly, second person remove two braces, then lower door.
- Door over window—inside people stand clear of braces, which will swing in. One person outside lift door slightly, allowing braces to drop. Close door, inside person stick in a nail at each end to lock.
- Wipe down any spilled honey and seal honey bears to avoid ant problems.
- Leave on outside yellow lights for security, except for Sunday closing night.
- Double check that key lock box is properly closed.

All

- If temperature is above 98 degrees, bees may overheat. Sign is bees go off combs and have bellies to glass. Glass feels warm to touch. Wipe glass with wet sponge or towel until bees go back to combs.
- At shift change, clean all trash, personal items, and wipe counter clean
- Do not leave large personal items (coolers, etc) that crowd the booth

## **FLOWER BED**

Purchase and plant flowers

Water during Fair

Remove flowers?

## **BOOTH STOCKING**

Fresh beeswax

Fresh combs

Honey

Honey bears

Taster spoons

Paper towels, soap, window cleaner, sponges

Sting kit? Benadryl, papain, homeopathic Apis

## **BOOTH PRE-FAIR CLEANUP AND STOCKING**

Uncover stained glass window

Prepare new members signup sheet

Make sure that observation hives are ready for bees

Dust and wash building

Unwrap bagged items

Clean counters, stock towels, soap

## **BOOTH POST-FAIR CLEANUP**

- Remove honey and any accumulated junk
- Cover all stored items with plastic for dust protection—take plastic wastebasket bags
- Sweep and wash down interior
- Cover stained glass window
- Clean observation hives
- Get signup sheet to newsletter person

## **BEE BOOTH MAINTENANCE**

- Stain sign and handrail
- Door maintenance
- Paint and roof maintenance

## **INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND REMOVE OBSERVATION HIVES**

- Install colonies with marked queens prior to Fair and arrange feeders
- Check back for problems before Fair begins
- Remove colonies after Fair
- Return for pick up of strays

## **AG EXPERIENCE BEE CAGE--INSTALL, MAINTAIN, STAFF, AND TAKE DOWN**

- Coordinate with Ag Experience staff
- Cut and stain new stakes
- Arrange helper and set up cage
- Install hive and trap stray bees
- Install PA system
- Remove bees at end of Fair
- Break down and store cage and rail

## **AG EXPERIENCE BEE CAGE—DAILY**

- Post show time(s)
- Answer board
- Maintain hive daily—water, stray traps
- Give demo(s) each day

The Nevada County Beekeepers Association is dedicated to apiculture education and promotion of the art and science of beekeeping among beekeepers, agriculturists, and the general public. This is a “not for profit” organization. Donations are welcomed.

Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7 PM at the Grass Valley Veteran’s Memorial Building at 255 South Auburn Street in Grass Valley. All visitors are welcome. Use the back entrance.

The newsletter is published monthly as a service to the membership. Articles, recipes, commentary, and news items are welcomed and encouraged. Contributions should be received by the 20th of the Month to be included into the next issue. Submit to [garyg@newpress.com](mailto:garyg@newpress.com)

Advertising space (3” by 2”) in this newsletter is usually available and need not be bee-related. Advertising rates are \$7 per year for NCBA members and \$16 per year for non-members.

## Nevada County Beekeepers Association



c/o Steve Reynolds  
10838 Ridge Road  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
First Class Mail

### **September 3rd Meeting - 7PM**

Program: Seed Swap and Honey Tasting

No host dinner at Lin-Q - 5:30PM

## Nevada County Beekeepers Association

### **Officers**

President: Rob Slay..... 263-5618  
Vice President: Jeremiah Farrell..... 743-2842  
Secretary: Jack Meeks..... 432-4429  
[jackm@nccn.net](mailto:jackm@nccn.net)  
Treasurer: Janet Brisson..... 913-2724

[rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

### **Board Members**

Larry Merritt..... 613-3923  
[lameritt@theunion.net](mailto:lameritt@theunion.net)  
Randy Oliver..... 277-4450  
Charlie Whittlesey.....292-3249  
or 755-0468  
Deborah Morawski...675-2924  
Karla Hanson..... 265-3756

### **Committee Chairs**

Swarm Hotline: Karla Hanson..... 265-3756  
Lynn Williams ..... 675-2924  
Librarian: Tynowyn Slattery..... 265-6318  
Newsletter Mailing: Steve Reynolds..... 268-2133  
Newsletter: Gary Gustafson..... 478-1216  
Honey Extractor: Karla Hanson..... 265-3756