



# BEE LINES

OCTOBER 2011

NORTHWEST DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Regularly scheduled meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are held at 1305 Pine Avenue in Snohomish in the Christ the King Lutheran Church building.



**The Beginner Q&A Sessions have ended for 2011 and will start up again in January 2012.**

*The purpose and function of the Association is the promotion of interest in bees and beekeeping throughout the northwest district of coastal Washington and most particularly, Snohomish County.*

**Next club meeting  
Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 7pm.**

**Beginner sessions have ended for 2011 and will start up again next year.**

The main meeting will start at 7pm and is one you won't want to miss!

**Message from Vice President David Pearson:**

As promised at the last meeting, I have included a list of club positions and

their responsibilities. As you will see they are not excessive and no specific bee keeping experience is required for any position. We hold elections at our November meeting and it would be great if we get a good turnout with plenty of volunteers. Even if you are brand new this year, you will find that any member who has been on the board will always be there for help and advice.

If you cannot make the November meeting you can

still send in your request to run for office.

Here are the Club Officer job descriptions:

**President** – (1 year term)  
Runs the monthly meetings, calls board meetings as required. Officially speaks for the club when needed.

**Vice President** – (1 year term)  
Fills in for President when needed

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Are you interested in contributing content, photos or book reviews to the NWBDA Web site [www.nwdba.org](http://www.nwdba.org)? Help us make this an even better content-rich resource. Contact Dave Grimes at [newsletter@nwdba.fatcow.com](mailto:newsletter@nwdba.fatcow.com) with your ideas!

(cont.)

**Secretary** – (1 year term)

Takes minutes from club and board meetings

**Treasurer** – (1 year term)

Manages the accounts of the club.

**Board Members** (3 year

term 1 replaced each year)

No specific tasks, however they do take part and vote in all board decisions.

Currently we have a web master, newsletter editor, equipment manager as well as a 4H leader, these are not official club officers and the roles are filled by volunteers.

Additionally, the club takes part in several activities through the year and these tasks are managed by the board as a whole and/or by specific volunteers. The include but are not limited to the following:

- Meeting topics/speakers
- Evergreen State Fair
- Club picnic
- Club equipment orders
- Beginner classes
- 4H activities (new for 2012)

Due to work schedule conflicts I am unable to attend the October & November meetings so there will be NO beginner sessions for those months. This also means that our next beginner session will be in January.

*Hive house in Switzerland, 2010.  
photo by C. Brazil*



**Notes from the  
September Board  
Meeting**

The Board met on Saturday Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> and here are some key points from that meeting.

We have agreed to obtain a club mailbox through the UPS store in Snohomish. This will give us a single location for all club correspondence to go to and removes the issue of address changes every time we have a club officer change.

Due to the popularity of the two frame extractor we have decided to purchase a new 8 frame extractor to add to the club rental. We should have this in time for next years extracting season. The rental webpage will be updated once we have it. We have set the rental at \$30 for 3 days. This will include the electric uncapping knife and cappings scratcher. I have agreed to become the equipment manager and the webpage will also be updated to show where/

when and how to arrange extractor rentals.

Lisa Web has agreed to take on the role of 4H leader, she is already 4H qualified and I hope everybody steps in to help when she needs it.

We voted to purchase new color display photos for next years fair display, cost is about \$40.

***Don't Forget! October is an exciting month with two local beekeeping events!***

**Regional Beekeepers Meeting, Tuesday, October 18th, 7-9pm**

Our Annual District 1A Regional Meeting will be held at [The Skagit Valley Casino Resort](#). Heather Higo from The University of British Columbia will be talking to us about: *“Emerging Honey Bee Research in Western Canada and Expanding our Integrated Pest Management Tool Box”*.

All ages are welcome to attend the meeting however, you must be 21+ to enter the Casino or eat in the Casino restaurants.

Find the official Northwest District Beekeepers Association Web site at: <http://www.nwdba.org/>

**The Washington State  
Beekeepers Assn.  
(WASBA) Annual  
Conference Thursday,  
October 27 thru 29**

The event will take place at the Best Western Evergreen Inn & Suites in Federal Way, WA. The event's theme will be: *"Sustainable Beekeeping – Success for Commercial and Non-commercial Apiarists."*

Dr. Dave Tarpy, NC State Univ. will speak on the topic of colony genetic diversity.

See more details and description in August's newsletter or on the WASBA Web site <http://www.wasba.org/>

**NWDBA Meeting Minutes  
Sept. 13, 2011**

Beginner meeting began at 6PM. David Pearson discussed current issues including yellowjackets and mites.

General meeting was slightly delayed. Meeting called to order at 7:08PM.

Finances:  
John Bryant reported that at the end of August, the savings account total is \$838.92, and the checking total is \$2670.63.

Jim at BeezNeez donated a capping knife to the club. David noted that the club rental knife was burned out by someone, and we need to decide whether we will charge the individual when this happens. The knife needs to be turned off if not in constant use. Someone suggested the rentals need instructions handed out when they are rented out. If you are renting the items from the store, they need to be brought back on time.

Dave noted that there were plenty of extra information books and items from the fair, and if anyone has use for them, please ask. Otherwise they will be stored until next year. The fair went well, but there was one no-show volunteer, and one Saturday shift that the booth was unattended. Club involvement needs improvement. Someone suggested an earlier start with the sign-up sheet. It was noted that the email list needs work, and many emails do not go through.

One of the fair tents has a broken zipper and we need someone to fix it with velcro or sew a new zipper on it. Dave discussed usage of the nuc inside the tent. It went very well and many fairgoers were quite interested in the bees. Solar wax melter did poorly with kids sitting on it. The indoor observation hive was smaller than in the past.

Main topic tonight was "What went right or wrong this year" It was brought up that it has been a poor year for honey due to weather. Also Dave said the queens have been poor quality. Shannon discussed ideas on obtaining more reliable queens.

Tim wants to start a 4H beekeeping club and wants someone who can commit to leading a new club and to the time involved.

Dave read some suggestions for the club monthly topics. Also noted the upcoming WASBA conference and Regional Beekeepers meetings. Details available on website.

November board elections are coming up and all are one-year-terms. Dave asked that everyone consider attending to vote on these.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30-ish.

**Article in the News:**

The mysterious honeybee apocalypse: Up to 12 million bees found dead and dying in Florida and no one knows why. Read more:

<http://tinyurl.com/4xa2m3u>