Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association
October 5th, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Attendance

John Jacob Bill and Cara McEnany Bob Davis-Guy
Risa Halpin Kelly Leatherwood Bonnie Brown
Cheryl Housden Ken Olmstead Clem Stockard
Marianne Heater Nancy Olmstead Mike Hansen
J & Di Chambers Kella Matson Natalie Hansen
Wes and Mary Ann Wright Kate Womack Barbara Jones
Debbie Gent De Davis-Guy Dana Rose

Secretary's Report- Marianne Heater for Ellen Wright
A MOTION to accept the minutes from September was PASSED by majority vote.

Treasurer's Report- Cheryl Housden
The total amount in the bank account as of today - $8646

Old Business
The Grant Application form is complete and now on the website under Resources->Community Giving (www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org/grant-application). All members get to have a say how the money is spent so your input is valuable. John mentioned that for our area we have a thriving community of beekeepers and a great interest.

The Oregon State Beekeeper’s Conference is fast approaching - November 6-8 at the Oregon Gardens just south of Silverton. For more information visit the ORSBA website.

If you did not pick up your Drivert from the September meeting contact Scott Allison. If you did not pick up your pollen patties, contact Ellen Wright.

Announcements
The Oregon Honey Festival is on Saturday, October 17th. For more information: www.oregonhoneyfestival.com or contact Sharon Schmidt.

Bee School is currently scheduled for March. Stay tuned for developments on that.

New Business
Russ made a MOTION to donate $1000 to the OSU Honey Bee Lab. SOBA usually makes an annual donation to support the research at the lab. MOTION PASSED.

Cheryl informed club members that we have an abundance of club t-shirts. A MOTION was made by club members to sell t-shirts for $10. MOTION PASSED

SOBA would like to have guest speakers at our club meetings. If you have an idea for a dynamic, informative, interesting speaker, or if you want to suggest a topic, email sobeekeepers@gmail.com.
Career Day at Grants Pass High School is October 16th. Sarah Red-Laird volunteered to do a presentation to the approximately 1500 students from surrounding high schools. Perhaps you would be a volunteer next year! Beekeeping is a viable occupation and we need young beekeepers to keep this agribusiness going and growing! dberg@grantspass.k12.or.us is the contact person if you are interested in volunteering with Ag Education at Grants Pass High School, specifically in regards to beekeeping.

**Let’s Talk Bees**

John talked about issues in October in the apiary:

The window is closing for getting your hive ready for winter. Since this is a warm, long fall, you can continue feeding with heavier syrup.

Honey MUST be in contact with the cluster, on the sides and above, as the bees go into their dormant period.

Take your winter losses now. Get your winter beekeeping list together and subscribe to journals like Bee Culture and American Bee Journal.

If treating for mites this month use Apigard. John prefers using 1/2 dose followed by a 1/2 dose.

John shared a feeding system he built using a 50 gallon drum with gravel to keep the bees from drowning. He will bring pictures next time.

Club members talked about swarms, small hive and techniques for combining hives.
Club members asked John to bring photos of how to mark a Queen. He used a water based pen last year and some of the marks washed off.

**Wax Moth prevention.**

Guard your drawn comb like it is GOLD. Frames that you are saving for Spring are so valuable. It gives your bees a head start because they don't have to draw out comb. If you are storing those beautiful frames of comb left over from harvesting be sure you protect them.

Freezing is one of the best methods to kill Wax Moth eggs. Then store in an airtight container. Be careful that you are not creating a brood chamber for the moth by keeping frames in ice chests. Check often during the winter. There are chemicals like Para-Moth which is kin to the old Moth ball. But you must air frames before bees re-inhabit-it is a chemical and can kill bees too.

Rotate your least desirable frames to the outside edges of your boxes. Eventually you can rotate them out completely.

Remember; strong hives with just enough space to house your bees can control a wax moth invasion on their own. It's when the bees have to monitor too much space that the moth can get a strong hold.

In the winter DON'T break the seals on your bee boxes. If you have a need to check the bees, don't break the top seal. If the temperature is 50 degrees and bees are flying it is okay to check but BE QUICK. Use strategic moves to get frames with food next to the cluster.
Remember to PLANT FOR BEES. Now is the time to plan your spring garden.

Think about what your goals are for beekeeping. Are you interested in honey? Pollination? Commercial Ventures? Or do you just like to watch them do their thing. Whatever your goal is, make plans and keep notes.

Reminder for John - club members would like to be shown how to do a split at the winter meeting.

Meeting adjourned.