

## Central Coast Beekeepers' Alliance

### **MEETING MINUTES for Monthly Meeting – Monday May 16, 2016**

LOCATION: Oak Creek Commons Great Room, 635 Nicklaus Dr., Paso Robles, CA

ATTENDANCE TOTAL: 39

### **PRACTICUM: MOVING BEES**

*Presented by John Hupp*

- First step: Need proper equipment to secure bees before moving
- JH's experience is that bees don't sting in the car – they just want to get out and tend to cluster on windows
- When you move bees, you must move them far enough so they won't go back to the old location – this distance is typically at least 1-2 miles. More than 1-2 miles is considered a "far move". Very short distances (or anything less than one mile) is considered a "near move".
- If you move bees more than 1-2 miles you can let them out immediately
- If you move bees a short distance – less than 1 mile or more than 2-5 feet ("near moving") then they need to be held in the hive for 72 hours so they can reset their "GPS"

### NEAR MOVES

- If you move bees less than 2-3 feet, typically they can find the hive, definitely don't make move increments more than 4-5 feet a day or every other day or the bees won't be able to locate the hive
- Use an obstruction to "wake up" bees leaving the hive, so they are more aware of their location, this way foragers are more likely to notice the hive has been moved
  - The obstruction device can be: cardboard, screen, etc. – something they will have to bump into or avoid when flying out
- After a near move, a box with a few frames of wet comb can be placed at the old hive location where lost bees can collect. This can then be carried over to the new hive location and shaken – doing this for a few days should be enough time for bees to find new location
- John C. finds it takes bees about 5 days to reset their "GPS"
- Bees are wired to seek the rest of the bees – they will naturally cluster. If they fall to the ground when swarming, they will cluster back up
- When splitting hives and placing the new hive a short distance from original hive location – move the original hive to new location so that hive is stocked with honey, then place a new hive in original location so foragers will come back to this new hive and stay.

*Side note: Regarding the recent Concord bee incident: possibly may not have been Africanized bees, rather the hive was moved and forager bees came back to the empty hive location and were angry.*

- John C finds that feral swarms in North County tend to be Africanized as shown by Mitochondrion test of feral bees for both Paso area and Carrizo plains (while possibly not initially aggressive, these swarms tend to get more aggressive over time).

## FAR MOVES

- A far move is typically 2 miles or more
- #1 CONSIDERATION – Bees must have AIR. Closer hive with screen, NOT duct tape, boards, cardboard, or other solid materials that do not allow air to pass
  - John C. uses 1/8 inch hardware cloth (#8) that can be purchased at ace for screening
  - Can also use window screening material, but bees can chew so make sure it is metal screening NOT plastic or poly
- If hive has been bearding that is an indication that the hive is very full and the bees are out of the hive to allow space inside for air flow within the hive. If moving a hive that has been bearding, take this into consideration for the need to have plenty of air in the hive
  - Bees can cluster up and block the screen over entrance so that air is not getting into hive – so don't leave screen on any longer than necessary after moving
- Bees can get through ¼ inch opening, so want only 1/8 opening in any screen or only slight opening in lid. John C. suggests using popsicle sticks to prop lid open a little but not so much bees can get out
- Move times:
  - Move at dawn – bees will be clustered at that time
  - Move at dusk
  - Move in full dark is NOT suggested – bees will be very defensive and will swarm out to defend
  - Ideally, close at night to prepare for a move, then move at dawn – a good way to encourage any lingering bees to go in is to squirt with water in squirt bottle (make sure bottle have never been used for chemicals)
- JH builds wood framed screen that fits across entire entrance and attaches with rubber band.
- Do not move hives with friction strap (can't get them tight enough) USE RATCHET STRAPS.
- OR can screw or hammer lid, but noise from this can stress bees, so not recommended
  - John C. uses hive copper staples (2 inches long) – these can be tapped in without too much noise and the tapping can tend to calm the bees
- For large hives, it is necessary to ratchet strap and then use hand truck – when loading to hand truck, be careful to tip to back so frames inside do not swing from side to side. Try to be careful and smooth when moving hand truck
  - John C. says hives can also be split apart and moved in pieces, will just need lid and bottom for each part when splitting and moving – might need to prep ahead during the day,, scrape wax, etc
- Make sure all parts of the hive are strapped together before moving
- Slide hands under rather than grabbing to avoid possible stings
- Watch out for other wildlife near the hive – bee hives are 94 degrees day and night, so rattlesnakes like to lie underneath

- After moving:
  - Approach hive from back
  - Pull screen off in one movement
  - Leave screen near entrance in case there are bees on it
  - Bees may fly toward light (such as head lights) so avoid having head lights behind you
  - Confused bees crawl - be careful for bees that will crawl up pants legs

#### CLUB BUSINESS

- Anna needs someone to lead June meeting – Erin Holden offered to lead since meeting will be at her house
- If people want to be notified of club events, classes, etc., please put email on signup sheet
- Facebook – Rob’s old Facebook account for the club cannot be updated (locked out no password access) so please don’t use this account and don’t respond to comments to that account.
  - New Facebook page is “CentralCoastBeekeepersAllianceSLO”
  - New page has two administrators to avoid lock out situation

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

- Balance is \$479.53 as of today
- New member fee is \$10 – CASH ONLY. Dues are due now, please give to Dale
- Club now has enough money to purchase reference books to start a lending library
- Club has been borrowing tables from Oak Commons for a while – Anna is going to purchase club tables and table cloths so club won’t have to borrow anymore. Will still use Anna’s pop-up

#### SWARM LIST

- Still maintaining swarm list – add your name if you want to be called
- Swarms are slowing in May but will increase again in June

#### ROB KIMMELS BEES – ASSISTANCE TO KARYN KIMMEL

- Anna recently met with Karyn Kimmel about her areas of need
- Planning a work day to assist Karyn on June 11 from 10-3 pm
- Need help with the following:
  - Repairs
  - Pruning
  - Weed whacking (plan this ahead if to be done near hives)
  - Assembling bee equipment
  - Apiary visit
  - Food prep for lunch

#### OTHER ACCOUNCEMENTS

- John C. donated a hive to a fundraiser auction. Folks who won it live in Templeton have no bee keeping experience – John is looking for someone in North County to mentor them. Contact him

**Club Goals are:**

- 1. Networking – support each other in beekeeping**
- 2. Education**
- 3. Public Awareness**

*How we are meeting goals:*

**NETWORKING**

- Through club meetings

**EDUCATION**

- John H, will lead a month practicum
- Next practicum is May 21 in Atascadero – see John to sign up

**PUBLIC AWARENESS**

- Participation the recent events:
  - Earth Day – in El Chorro Regional Park. Had a table, talked to lots of visitors, was productive but A LOT of work, need more people to help, otherwise it is too long of a day
  - Conservation Celebration at Atascadero Zoo – good attendance
  - Cambria Bee Faire – decent attendance, fun group, Jon C. found out that Cambria High School would like to host bees, Anna would like to do this festival again – even more positive than Earth Day
- Upcoming Events:
  - Pollination Celebration – June 25
    - Need educators - people to sign up to host at table – see Anna
    - Need vendors – honey, candles, mead – see Anna
    - Need speakers – John C says he will speak
  - Golden Oak Honey Festival – October, Jodi is coordinating

**NEXT MEETING – June 20 at Erin and Scott Holden’s house**

- Will start right at 6:30 with hive inspection – bring veil, etc
- Will be outside to bring layers
- Bring chair

**OTHER**

- John H is teaching a Honey Harvesting & Packaging class July 9-23
- John C. will be extracting on May 22, people can come observe/help. In July he will harvest again and people can bring their honey to extract as well at that time