**Mountain Empire Beekeeper’s Association**

July 26, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by the Club President at 7:05 pm in Galax Hall.

Treasurer’s Report: The balance of accounts is currently $4970.50.

Summer Picnic: There was a bit of discussion about the plans and location of the picnic. It was also decided that the club would also provide BBQ at the August Picnic.

Beekeeping in July

* A few members have had issues with queenless hives.
* Pest Management: to keep wax moths out of the hive, keep a strong hive.
* Sources of honey: clover, thistle, stickweed, sourwood. Currently there is a lot of amber colored honey.

Guest Speak Alison Reeves gave a lecture *Happy, Healthy Honeybees.* She spoke about natural methods of keeping a healthy hive.

* Natural varroa mite controls: screened bottom boards, removing drone brood, and using queens from resistant stock.
* An alternative method of finding mites – put some honeybees in a mason jar with powdered sugar, cover with cheesecloth, and shake them out onto a cloth. For a more detailed how-to of this method go to - <http://www.mainebee.com/articles/March.php>
* Requeening: best to do in late summer to early autumn
	+ Weaker colonies accept queens more easily
	+ Easier during nectar flow
	+ Queens should be introduced slowly

Open Discussion: With the State Beekeepers Association there is no grace period for dues. If you fail to pay one year you’ll have to pay previous years. It is also $2 extra if you’re not a part of MEBA

The meeting ended at 8:17 pm.