

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association
Minutes
July 28, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Tim Service.

Pop Quiz questions from June, 2016 meeting by Tim Service. Only one question was answered correctly. [Read your minutes!]

Presentation: Adam Finkelstein, VP Queen Bees.

- Adam's company produces breeding stock for queen producers in the United States using artificial insemination. He works with USDA to produce hygienic Varroa sensitive stock. He uses 230 colonies and controls breeding. His bees have been untreated for 19 years, although he does use tetracycline to treat black queen cell virus in all bee colonies and all nurse bees.
- Adam feels that the health of bees are related to stress; to keep bees healthy, reduce stress. What is bee health? Colonies that survive and produce are healthy. Colonies that are healthy do well for honey production and as a hobbyist colony. Healthy colonies do well in queen production and pollination. Healthy colonies perform. Through observation and selection, we can breed colonies that will survive. A breeders goal is to select bees that are efficient using the resources of pollen, nectar, water, and feed. Bees that are resistant to mites and pathogens sense the mites and get them out of the cell; this disrupts the mite mating cycle and destroys mites.
- The selection and breeding process produces the healthiest bees. Having others test and approve the stocks ensures a "healthy reality check". Stock performs well in all conditions; remains consistent over time for multiple applications and produces profitably for others.
- Breeding process: normal breeding uses 10 micro liters of semen--the approximate production of 10 drones. Drones are his most precious commodity.
- Adam's queens sell for \$250 each. Detailed record keeping is important; all queens are number and recorded. His breeder queen sales grow annually.
- For further information, see Adam's website, vpqueenbees.com.

Break.

Bee Biology: not presented because of time constraint.

Bees in the News: not presented because of time constraint.

Double Nuc Demonstration. Tim showed how he makes a double nuc using a 10-frame body. Nail on a bottom board; make small bee holes on opposite ends; divide it in the middle so that you create two separate 4-frame nucs with separate lids that allow you to work one nuc at a time. Four-frame hive bodes can be added; cover ventilation holes with hardware cloth.

Minutes. Mick Cunningham moved, and Herman Hearn seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Balance \$4,811.11. Filed for audit.

Old Business: none.

New Business: Gary Tolley proposed that we create a listserv as an online members' forum. The idea was favorably received; Tina will check with our web master to see what is required to set one up, who should moderate. In the meantime, members interested in seeing a bee listserv can use beesource.com/forums.

What to do this month.

- Monitor for mites--use powdered sugar, alcohol bath.
- Harvest honey.
- Put robbing screens on to prevent robbing; don't use front feeders.
- Feed soon; use dry pollen, not pollen patties.

Adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Cunningham
Secretary, MEBA