

SKAGIT VALLEY BEEKEEPERS



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May 2012

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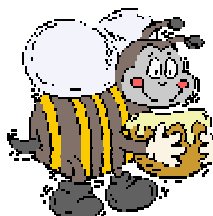
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Our Association meeting is Thursday, May 10th at 7:00 PM, the regular second Thursday of the month. We meet at CENEX at 1833 Park Lane, Burlington, 98233 over the train tracks at the KIA dealer on old 99 and right on Park Lane. Our speaker will be Dr Vanoy Smith from Burlington. Van is a long time member and beekeeper. He will speak once again on a topic critical to beekeepers, which we ignore to our peril, anaphylactic shock and its consequences. You need to hear this!

Yesterday's sun started putting bees in the trees here and I got a swarm call. I saw buttercups blooming too, which usually means food sources for your building bees are drying up and you should check stores. With all the recent rain there is a good chance you have hungry bees.

Mike Lundberg brought by some older and newer bee boxes from a relative. They can go to whom ever wants them. Some ten frame, some eight frame plus odds and ends. At the very least one could cut 2" rims for feeding patties out of boxes. I don't want to mess with them, come when I'm here, good luck with that! Donate \$ to the club treasury if you choose.



I ran across a method of raising queens that does not involve grafting. You can read about Mel Disselkoen at www.mdasplitter.com. A hive made queenless will raise queen cells on frames where you choose if you carefully break down the lower 1/3 of a cell containing larvae 36 hours old or less, to the midrib of the comb. A sharp hive tool carefully used can do the job. How do you judge age? Think really tiny! A half C shape may be too old. Done on four frames you may make four cells or more, some of which might make nucs. Choose your best stock. Check out the web site for more and better information.

- Swarm time. Give your bees room to grow. Look for queen cells. You may make splits. Add supers
- Check for mites.
- Package bees need room too, don't delay.
- Feed as necessary

Cookies M—Z

This newsletter is on-line.
Please e-mail your e-ddress