

# Skagit Valley Beekeepers



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## Liquid Gold

The next meeting will be our Annual "Potluck" Barbecue on **July 10th, 2016 at 12:00 NOON** at Bill Markus' home, located at [5779 Brookings Road, Sedro Woolley, WA](#). Bring a food dish, eating utensils, beverage & family. Maybe folding chairs?

Last year, I was pulling frames and processing honey by July 5<sup>th</sup>. This year, I'm not so sure how I'll be doing. Warm weather caused the blackberries to bloom and once they did, cooler weather hit. Now I'm noticing a lot fewer blossoms on those blackberries. It has warmed back up a bit but I don't think I'll be pulling supers just yet.

Sampling posts from around the western part of the state, I think a lot of people are in the same boat – less honey than the previous year. Beekeeping is local and while cooler here, it might be a bit warmer where you are at. Some pockets of beekeepers are reporting good harvests.

## Things To Do This Month

- Blackberries will be done and over by the time you read this but I'm finding that the bees who were back-filling the brood's nest are now moving that nectar up.
- Maybe think about how and when you're going to extract your honey. The club has an extractor you can borrow. We might even have a new extractor if all went well. That would make two of them available to club members. Talk to the board members to see how you can obtain it. Or for those of you with a few hives, you can crush and strain ([small article in the August 2014 newsletter about Crush and Strain](#)).
- After removing honey supers, for those of you that do, you might want to check and possibly treat for mites. At least check. There's nothing wrong with knowledge.

- After the honey, It might be a good idea to re-queen if her majesty is an old one. In our climate, I hear that it is better to re-queen in the summer/fall and let her overwinter than re-queen in the spring.
- Watch out for any signs of a dearth. If they don't have enough honey, make sure they don't starve themselves. Feed the bees if needed.

## Newsletter Editor Wanted!

I'm looking to step down as newsletter editor and hope someone else is willing and interested in taking over and breathing new life into it. I've had a lot of fun being the newsletter editor. It has been a real honor!

If you're interested, please contact Seth Smith!

