

Skagit Valley Beekeepers



Seth Smith, President 770-0481
William Markus, Vice President 630-5086 or 661-0452
Mark Benson, Secretary 854-0046
Scott Rhodes, Treasurer 856-2652
Bruce Bowen, Board 422-5146

Rob Johnson, Board 770-6170
Steven LeBlanc, Board 202-2266
Charlie Langseth, Honorary Board 293-6853
Robert Niles, Editor robert@yakima.net

October 2015

Feel The Chill!

The next meeting will be **October 8th, 2015 at 7:00 PM** at the Skagit Farmers Supply CENEX Administration building, located at 1833 Park Avenue, Burlington WA. Speaker/Topic TBD.

Do you smell it!? Yes, Fall. It's here. Cool air, warm sunshine. Crisp and earthy. My favorite time of year.

This next meeting we'll be talking about board member elections among other things.

The SVBA Honey Report

Time to collect data for the 2nd annual SVBA honey report! So far I've received 6 responses and I'm hoping for a few more - so I'm delaying the honey report in order to give some of you more time to respond.

This year, I would like to know **how many pounds of honey along with how many hives you pulled honey from** and mail that to robert@yakima.net

No names will be mentioned, no companies mentioned. I just want to publish the low, the mean, median and the high amounts.

Thanks you all for participating! This should be interesting!

Things To Do This Month

- Make sure there's plenty of honey in the hive but that there is enough space for the bees to cluster.
- Make sure we do whatever we can to keep the hives dry, including moving the hives if needed to be in a place away from damp areas, in the sun, with good ventilation. **Bees can survive cold but**

moisture kills overwintering hives.

- Make sure there is an opening at the top which will allow moisture to escape from the hive.
- Make sure to not to restrict the flow of air at the bottom of the hive.
- Feed the hives if needed. While the temps are up during the day, we can still feed 2:1 sugar but when the temps drop (mid month), feed fondant (our Brad Raspet has a good recipe which can be found on our web site at: <http://skagitvalleybeekeepers.org/contact/BeeCandy2.htm>), sugar candy, or use the "Mountain Camp" method by simply pour a 4-5 pound bag of sugar on top of newspaper which is spread on the top of your upper most frames or on a "candy board". The sugar absorbs moisture in the hive while feeding the bees. See <http://goo.gl/Zjqzrw> for more details on the Mountain Camp method.
- Get those entrance reducers on and mouse guards ..those mice are looking for a nice warm place to nest for the winter and you don't want them in your hives. Those mice poop and pee in the hive, they eat your frames, they chew on the wax. Unsanitary and it's a pain to clean up!
- Make sure you tilt your hives forward a bit so that any moisture in the hive can drain out. The rains are coming!

