

Skagit Valley Beekeepers



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William Markus, Vice President
Mark Benson, Secretary
Scott Rhodes, Treasurer
Bruce Bowen, Board

770-0481
630-5086 or 661-0452
854-0046
856-2652
422-5146

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

September 2015

Around The Bend!

The next meeting will be **September 10th, 2015 at 7:00 PM** at the Skagit Farmers Supply CENEX Administration building, located at 1833 Park Avenue, Burlington WA. Speaker/Topic TBD.

Lots of things to do this month to get your hives ready for winter. We've had some good rains and some interesting winds recently, I'm sure the weather has made some interesting stories - we have to protect the bees from that weather too.

Things To Do This Month

- Make sure each colony has adequate pollen and honey stores. Each colony needs about 80 lbs of honey in Western Washington.
- You should have about 10 deep combs of honey or about 15 western combs
- You can extract now. Give wet frames back to the bees to clean. Removed partially filled honey supers. After extracting, store honey supers in a cool, dry place.
- If you need to feed, feed 2:1 syrup - they can store and cap that faster. Don't wait til the weather is cold and wet, get it done now.
- Remove queen excluders!
- Unite weak colonies, **be ruthless**. Perform a newspaper join. Do not try to winter weak or diseased colonies.
- There's still time to re-queen - if you do so promptly!
- Raise the back of each hive about one inch so that

any water can flow out of the hive.

- If you need to treat for mites, do so while it is still warm.
- Consider adding a mouse guard before the mice move in.
- If needed, move your hives to provide good wind protection and to get them out of damp areas or where pockets of cold air settle.
- Some suggest having a top and bottom entrance just in case the bottom entrance becomes clogged with debris or dead bees.

The SVBA Honey Report

Time to collect data for the 2nd annual SVBA honey report! Last year I thought it might be interesting to see how we are doing as a community.

Last year a good bit of you reported how much honey you harvest. 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!

Short and sweet again this month. I've got hives to get ready for winter and a backpacking trip in the Cascades!

