

- I. President Roy Stark opened meeting at 6:38PM with Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed three new visitors, members and thanked Board members for attending.
- II. Roy summarized the short PBA Bee School Instructor meeting held just prior to this meeting. Purpose: to review and continue planning for PBA Bee School. Discussed agenda, curriculum. Reviewed proposed schedule and handouts. Rachel Payne has the paperwork nearly completed, and bee school is being advertised. Note to members: spread the word of bee school. (4/6, 4/13, 4/27)
- III. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Terry McFall not present at this meeting, no report available. Roy stated he is collecting dues which are \$10/year, due now.
- IV. Janet Haney, Program Coordinator: Needs input from members on future programs. Any ideas and/or suggestions on subjects are welcome. Program tonight is by veteran beekeeper Robert Jones on Raising Queens/Grafting.
- V. Picnic - Janet Haney announced that a venue and date to be determined. Anyone wishing to host picnic needs to contact Janet. Proposed June or July date.
- VI. Rodger Floyd blessed the food. Snacks and drinks enjoyed.
- VII. For March meeting, Bob Love and Jeff/Janet Haney volunteered to bring snacks.

#### PROGRAM:

Robert Jones gave an excellent and informative program on queen rearing, grafting, building queen cell builder, and splits. Spring is swarm time, though natural for the bees, is not favorable to beekeepers. May control natural swarming by splitting, creating queens for new hives. Hints: Mid—March: look for drones, crowded hives, queen cells. The earlier you can do a split, the better. Healthy hives should have about six frames of bees.

Advantages of queen rearing: you know your genetics, your own bees. New young queens produce more bees than older queens.

Robert explained how to build the queen cell builder; certain steps must be followed as the builder is the most important factor. Pick a strong hive for builder, with lots of nurse bees. You should be feeding syrup. The quantity of bees must match the number of cells being produced. Nurse bees should be shaken from several hives, so one hive is not overly depleted. Be sure your cell builder does not have a queen present. Timing is critical for grafting, larva should be grafted at Day #4. Must keep all grafts the same age or some will emerge earlier.

Step by step instructions were given for cell building box, grafting and splits, a lot of great information. Robert advised to replace poor queens early. Even a young queen is sometimes inferior and needs to be replaced if poorly laying.

Question/answer and discussion session followed Robert's program.

- VIII. Door Prizes and Adjournment 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanie Kochanek, PBA Secretary