

# The Bee Line

2009—Issue 02

February 2009

## 2009 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ernie Buda  
 Vice President: David Ogden  
 Secretary: Ron Melliush  
 Treasurer: Dennis Larson  
[www.sacbeekeepers.org](http://www.sacbeekeepers.org)

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Donations: Nancy Stewart  
 Hospitality: Mil Sutter  
 Library: Kathy Mallory  
 Mentors: George Bleekman  
 Newsletter: Brenda Terry –  
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 Web-Master: Ken Lee

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### **Mission Statement:**

*To promote interest in, and awareness of, the vital importance of the honeybee and beekeeping to agriculture, commerce, and the public at large.*

## Mentors' Tips for the Month

As the weather warms, get out to check your bees. Take a look at the brood pattern and quantity, and check the queen. Look for adequate honey and pollen stored around the brood. If necessary, feed your bees sugar water and pollen patties.

- Bob Sugar



## TAKE A LOOK!

At the January meeting, we were all bewildered by the works of Stephen A Engel. Stephen has developed Stephensapiary.com which is an Apis Mellifera—Experimental Bee Hive Medical Telemetry System. It includes digital surveillance including infrared light—IR, sound, climate and hive thermodynamics monitoring. These hives are monitored with a variety of sensors including temperature, airflow, relative humidity, weight, soil moisture, and a variety of ambient weather conditions at our apiary in Sacramento, California with our partner Cyberkinetics which provides the networking and technical innovations including the real time 24/7 monitor-

ing and data logging of all of the bee sensor data to a data warehouse server on the internet. Software provides for the graphic interpretation of the collected data as well as automated notification services when the data breaches pre-established thresholds.

Stephen is able to watch his bees from his cell phones as he travels.

Please check out this site as it will amaze you, the sound alone is amazing.

[Stephensapiary.com](http://Stephensapiary.com)

## FEBRUARY MEETING TOPICS

**Fred Stewart of the Sacramento Bee Supply, will be presenting to the club,**

**“What conditions should we see in our hives today” ?**

**“How did we get to here”**

**“And where are we going” ?**

**Don't miss these exciting topics!**

## SNEAK PREVIEW

**April's Meeting Topic:**

**“How to capture Bee Swarms” - Equipment and Techniques.**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

President's corner: By the time you receive this the first training session will be over. Despite concerns about the Feb 7 date being too early the class enrollment is thirty plus. The March class is at this writing about on half filled. (The March class has a maximum capacity of twenty five because of the classroom capacity.) So sign up soon if you want the March class. There are already a few signups for the April and May sessions - don't linger.

At the January meeting I asked if anyone had graphic arts skills - a new member stepped forward and is working on some suggestions for a professional looking letterhead and a logo design. I want to explore using the logo on a hat and/or polo shirts. With logo products, when we work booths at the various Fairs and community presentations, SABA will be prominently and professionally presented. A comment was made that a contest could be fun. That is true, but since I am not big on such things and hold the gavel I, probably somewhat rudely, did not run with that comment. However, that being said I would encourage others to present any suggestions that may have - I did commit that if the polo shirt process worked out the designer would receive a free shirt.

On another subject, we really do need volunteers to assist in keeping the membership roster current and coordinating their efforts with the Treasurer and Editor. If retention of current members is what is expected we are nearing 150 members. This task is becoming burdensome for the Editor and Treasurer to handle on top of their other duties. As part of this function or as a separate process we also need to assure that we have, at meetings and public presentations, materials about SABA including a membership application. Much of the process can be handled by email. Knowledge or willingness to learn basic Microsoft Word and Excel is necessary. You don't have to be an expert, or a long time member just willing to invest some time to get things set up. The time investment is in small increments with a peak at the first of the year when membership is due for renewal. As my mother used to say, many hands make for light work.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

-Ernie

## JANUARY MINUTES AND PROGRAM NOTES

The First Meeting of 2009 of the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association was called to order by President Ernie Buda at 7:30 p.m. on January 20th at the Belle Coolidge Community Center. First time visitors and new members included: Jim Lee from Virginia who grew up in California; Andy "the mailman" Lettington who wants to start beekeeping soon; Rich and Aricelli who are investigating; Arty Bolger who inherited "a bunch of bees" 15 years ago and is still at it; Paul who is just getting started by the airport; and Barry Olmstead of Elk Grove with 8 colonies for about a year and half. Welcome all.

V.P. Dave Ogden presented the very interesting Program--a Gadget Night featuring a show and tell of all the amazing gadgets and gizmos that our members and friends come up with to help with our beekeeping. Many of these items are inspired inventions that you cannot buy (yet!) from a manufacturer at any price, and others are homemade versions of handy tools that cost a fraction of the price if you are handy enough to make them yourself. Some highlights:

- frame holders that hang on the hive and hold a couple of frames while you work. You need to know how to weld.
- capping tubs and strainers made from WalMart tubs and costing under \$12.
- a small observation hive for one deep frame.
- an Eric Mussen inspired robber bee prevention screen that fits in your hive entrance.
- home made supers, screened bottom boards and entry reducers.
- a ingenious feeder top with rain cover.
- Ray Marler made an excluder with frame on 3 sides, thus creating an entrance midway up the hive. If the brood chamber does not need honey, he says, the workers start going directly up to the honey supers.
- George Bleekman sells a lot of his honey in the winter, and found a solution to it being too thick to bottle (due to the cold.) A commercial heating belt on a 5 gallon bucket works, but George uses a big cooler with a 25 or 40 watt light bulb mounted inside. He fills the cooler with honey, either in smaller buckets or in consumer ready jars, and it stays liquid and uncrystallized.

As our Mentor Coordinator, George spoke about "what you should be doing now:" feed them syrup if needed, and pollen. And medicate if needed, such as for nosema. Ernie went over the very aggressive bee class schedule SABA has set for this spring. It is exciting to see such an upsurge in interest in the keeping of bees. After break, Steven Engel showed us interior beehive photos and spoke about his project to put streaming video and other data about his hive online, all with the goal of sharing his hive with cousins in Switzerland. Check it out at [StephensApiary.com](http://StephensApiary.com)!!

Dennis Larson gave his Treasurer's Report that SABA has a balance of \$6,248.66, and that we have been reimbursed by the California State Beekeepers' Association for the State Fair booth and supplies.

The Minutes for December SABA meeting were approved.

Ernie reviewed the current beekeeping goings on in Elk Grove, meetings with the City, and the fact that three beekeepers are on the committee to work with City officials on a beekeeping ordinance (that would be Ernie, your undersigned secretary, and the above mentioned Barry Olmstead.) SABA is looking for help in these areas: someone with graphics skills; a membership coordinator; and people to help Bob Rollins with content on the website.

Fifty members and friends attended the meeting, which adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Melliush, Secretary

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SABA's regular meetings** are held the third Tuesday of *each* month at 7:30 p.m., at the Belle Cooledge Community Center, 5699 South Land Park Drive (on the southeast corner of Fruitridge Road and South Land Park Dr) in Sacramento. All are welcome!

**2009 Dues Reminder**—SABA dues for calendar year 2009 remain at \$15. Please use the form below to submit them via mail or at an upcoming meeting.

**Friday, January 23, 8:30 am to noon**—The Buzz in Butte County workshop: "European Honey Bees and our Native Pollinators—Speakers: Dr. Eric Mussen, Mace Vaughan, Sara Goldman Smith, Fred Stolp, for more information contact the Butte County RCD at (510) 530-0112 x116, Workshop located at: CSU Chico University Farm Pavillion. Learn the latest research on European Honey Bees.

**Saturday, February 7, 2009-SABA Training Class**—Sacramento County Department of Agriculture-4137 Branch Center Road, Sacramento.

**Saturday, March 7, 2009—SABA Beginning Beekeeping Class**-Come learn with Randy Oliver information on page 3-4.

### **The Art of Queen Rearing Workshop- March 25 & 26**

Taught by Susan Cobey, at the Harry Laidlaw Honey Bee Research Facility at UCD also the;

### **Instrumental insemination & Bee Breeding workshop, April 15, 16 & 17**

For information regarding either classes contact Susan Cobey at swcobey@ucdavis.edu or call 530-754-9390

#### Interesting Reads:

**The Monthly Extractor**—The Sonoma county Beekeepers' Associations newsletter. Contact Ettamarie Peterson at email: Peterson@svn.net

#### **Honey Adulteration Increases:**

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/394053\\_honey30.asp](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/394053_honey30.asp)



### **SABA 2009 Membership Coupon**

Name(s)\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip:\* \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #\*: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ or Renewing \_\_\_\_\_      Want to receive newsletter by:    Email \_\_\_\_\_ or Postal \_\_\_\_\_ (*check one*)

Current level of beekeeping activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Privacy Notice: To facilitate sharing of information and carpooling, SABA publishes a member "phone list" each spring, including member names, cities or zips of residence (*not* street addresses), email addresses, and phone numbers. This summary list is *only* disseminated to current SABA members (never to other persons or organizations) and is *not* posted on the website. Your information (noted by \* above) will be included unless you check (following line(s)) that you do not want your \_\_\_\_\_ email address and/or \_\_\_\_\_ phone number listed. (Note that the complete membership list is made accessible to SABA officers and committees as necessary for them to do their tasks.)

*Complete this, clip it out, and mail it with your \$15 check (made out to SABA), to*

*SABA c/o Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies, 2110 X Street, Sacramento, CA 95818, Attn: SABA Treasurer.*

## NOVEMBER MINUTES AND PROGRAM NOTES

The meeting of the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association was called to order by President Ernie Buda at 7:30 p.m. on November 18, 2008, at the Belle Cooledge Community Center.

Ernie welcomed first time visitors and new members: Joe from Wilton with one hive (Joe the Beekeeper); Doug Hills of Folsom who keep 4 to 5 hives, some captured swarms, and his friend Stan Hall; Mike Lee and Jim Sheven from east Sacramento who would like to keep bees on rural property of his brother in law; and Robert of the Florin area who sees hives all over Florin and wants to know more.

Brenda Terry and Anita Winn are in charge of the Christmas Potluck Dinner at the December meeting. They passed out a signup sheet to get the ball rolling. The Club will provide ham and paper goods, and we will pot luck the rest!

The Program was introduced by V.P. David Ogden—a three member panel of SABA members who attended the California State Beekeepers' Assn. Conference on Nov. 11-13 at Harrah's Lake Tahoe: Ron Parsons (SABA representative to the CSBA), Bob Sugar, and Steve Engel. Highlights from what they learned and shared: the State is trying to put the Apiary Board back together; there will be at least 4 beekeepers on the board. They are considering a \$1 per hive maximum assessment or tax to fund, only for keepers with more than 21 hives.

The mandarin orange/foraging bees controversy has been favorably resolved. This had an importance far beyond the issue of the mandarin crop—it might have been "the camel's nose under the tent" in the development of laws or regulations that give anyone the "right" to prevent bees from foraging. As always, there was lots of interesting equipment and supplies being shown by vendors. And many presentations

about CCD. Spanish researchers think nosema cerana is the root. Others believe it's still a combination effect, including poor nutrition. Many experts are looking at nutrition as one of the best ways to control CCD.

Asked the omnibus question "is the tide turning on the CCD decline?", Bob Sugar replied "The experts disagree, but generally, no."

Following a break, the Business Meeting began at 8:45 p.m. Tex Winn moved to approve the minutes for October; approved.

The annual election of SABA officers took place on an uncontested ballot: Ernie Buda for President, David Ogden for Vice President, Ron Melluish for Secretary and Dennis Larson for Treasurer. SABA Election Committee Chairman Rex Parsons moved to elect the slate, Russel Dalske 2d, and the election was unanimous.

Ernie reminded us that December's meeting will be our Christmas Potluck Dinner and Honey Tasting. Please bring some of your honey for everyone to taste and enjoy. Ernie said that it looks like SABA will be back in the County Exhibits hall at the State Fair, after a long absence. Brenda Terry will begin duties as editor of the Bee Line in January. Many heartfelt thanks to Editor Georgianna Pfost for doing such a great job for so many years! The first beekeeping classes begin on February 7th. More details soon on the website and in the Bee Line. Speaking of the website, we'd love to feature more locally produced or organized content. Please make yourself known if you have skills and desires in that area!

There were 49 members and guests present. The Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Melluish, Secretary

## DID YOU KNOW?

All pollens do not have the same nutritional value. Protein levels of pollen from different plants range from eight to 40 percent. As a consequence all pollen does not have the same physiological effect on honey bees. Pollens are rated based on their influence on bee longevity and development of the hypo pharyngeal glands, ovaries and fat bodies. Rated as highly nutritious are fruit trees, willow, corn and white clover.

Pollen use by a colony is said to range from a minimum 44 lbs up to 88 lbs. per year. Each larvae requires 66.5 mg of pollen and each bee a total 100mg to complete its development. One cell of pollen will be sufficient to raise 1.2 bees. (Excerpt from an article by James Bach, Yakima WA, as published in the November 2008, Journal of the Western Apiculture Society of North America.) Note the hypo pharyngeal gland is the gland that worker bees use to produce Royal Jelly.

Submitted by Ernie Buda

## Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association

### Beginning Beekeeping Classes

Saturday Feb. 7, 2009	Beginning Natural Beekeeping	Serge Labesque
Saturday March 7, 2009	Beginning Beekeeping	Randy Oliver
Saturday April 11, 2009	Beginning Natural Beekeeping	Serge Labesque
Saturday May 23, 2009	Beginning Beekeeping	Randy Oliver
Saturday June 20, 2009	Intermediate Beekeeping	Dr. Eric Mussen
Saturday July 18, 2009	Intermediate Natural Beekeeping	Serge Labesque

**COURSE INFORMATION AND FEE:** The course fee is \$35.00, SABA member fee \$30.00. Classes will begin at 8:30 am and end at approximately 4:30 pm. Classes **will** start on time so registration begins at 7:30 am. Classes are held at the Sacramento County Dept. of Agricultural building, 4137 Branch Center Road, Sacramento, CA.

#### COURSE COORINATORS:

Ernie Buda, email [2211budae@att.net](mailto:2211budae@att.net) 916-761-3802 or Bruce Waln, email [bruce\\_waln@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bruce_waln@sbcglobal.net)

## SABA IS LOOKING FOR A NEW FACE

Put your thinking caps on! Get your pencils out and design a creative LOGO for SABA. SABA is looking for a logo for our association that can be used on shirts, hats, bags, and our literature. Although this is not a contest, if your logo is used for the club, you will receive a polo shirt displaying the new logo. Bring your design to the meeting or submit it via mail to: SABA 8424 Arcaro Ct, Citrus Heights, CA 95610.



## HONEY HISTORY

Is it any wonder that honey is the most common term of endearment in the English language? In ancient Germanic countries, a new bride and groom licked honey from one another's hands as a reminder that only sweetness was to pass between them. In those days, time was measured by the cycle of the moon, so each month was simply referred to as one moon. The sweetest moon, of course, was first month after one's wedding, aptly named the honeymoon.



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Article submitted by—Kathy Mallory, SABA Librarian

# HONEY RECIPE OF THE MONTH

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## Whole Wheat and Honey Pizza Dough

1 (.25oz.) pkg. active dry yeast  
1 cup warm water  
2 cups whole wheat flour  
1/4 cup wheat germ

1 teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon honey  
1/4 cup wheat germ



Preheat oven to 350 degreesF. In a small bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Let stand until creamy, about 10 minutes. In a large bowl combine flour, wheat germ and salt. Make a well in the middle and add honey and yeast mixture. Stir well to combine. Cover and set in a warm place to rise for a few minutes. Roll dough on a floured piazza and poke a few holes in it with a fork. Bake in preheated oven for 5 to 10 minutes, or until desired crispiness is achieved.

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### BEE CLASSIFIEDS

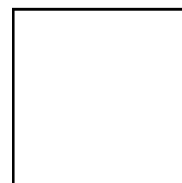
**FOR SALE:** Large honey holding tank; plastic with a heating belt and metal (perfection) honey gate. \$200 or best offer. Call Fred at (916) 451-2337.

**ALWAYS WANTED:** Your contributions of articles, websites, recipes, tips, questions, book reviews, ads and other bee-related items for future newsletters. Email them to the NEW EDITOR by the *25th* of the month at [btbuzz@gmail.com](mailto:btbuzz@gmail.com) or mail to B. Terry, 8424 Arcaro Court, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. Please keep sharing your stories. It's *your* local bee newsletter! (And thanks to all who've been sharing these past years!)

**GO TREELESS:** Sign up for the emailed (pdf) newsletter. Just email the new editor, subject-line "Treeless."

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**SACRAMENTO AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**  
c/o Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies  
2110 X Street,  
Sacramento, CA 95818



Website: [www.sacbeekeepers.org](http://www.sacbeekeepers.org)  
E-mail: [info@sacbeekeepers.org](mailto:info@sacbeekeepers.org)

Address Correction Requested

—The Bee Line—  
February 2009



Happy Valentines Day