



# The Bee Line

2008—Issue 10

October 2008

## 2008 Club Officers

- President: Ernie Buda  
 Vice President: David Ogden  
 Secretary: Ron Melluish  
 Treasurer: Dennis Larson
- 
- Other Committee Contacts:  
 Donations: Nancy Stewart  
 Hospitality: Mil Sutter  
 Library: Kathy Mallory  
 Mentors: George Bleekman  
 Newsletter: Georgianna Pfost  
 Inventory: Joseph Watkins  
 Nominating: Rex Parsons

## Inside this issue:

September minutes	2
Comb preservation	3
State Fair wrap-Up	3
SABA Election process	3
Recipe & Ads	4

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

[www.sacbeekeepers.org](http://www.sacbeekeepers.org)

## Mentors' Tips for the Month

Now that you all have removed the surplus honey from your hives, it is time to inspect the hives to determine what else needs to be done before winter. Check to determine the levels of Varroa mite infestation and treat as necessary. Check the colony strength and decide if you should combine weak ones with strong ones (it is very hard to successfully winter weak colonies). Arrange the frames so that the bees can get to the honey during the winter. If there is brood in your hives it should be placed in the center of the bottom story with pollen frames nearby and honey frames to the outside and in the second story. The second story should contain all honey since the cluster of bees will move up during the winter. If feeding is necessary, it should be 2 parts sugar and one part water (heating may be necessary to dissolve all of the sugar). Now is the time to treat for AFB. Apply TM a couple of times one week apart, dry with powered sugar formulation is best. Tilt the hives slightly forward so that water will run out if we ever get any rain. If there are any questions about what I have written, you may call me at 916.451.2337.



- Fred Stewart, mentor

## Coming Bee Events

**Tues., Oct. 21—SABA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.** Mentor George Bleekman will discuss honey extraction, bottling and marketing. Bring your questions & ideas!

**Sat's & Sun's Oct. 25—Jan. 4—Folsom History Museum (823 Sutter Street, Folsom) is having a "Garden to Jar" exhibit on beekeeping (and 4H, Master Gardeners and Master Cannery).** Area beekeepers are needed to help out as docents (talking to visitors about bees and what a beekeeper does) serving approx. 2-hour morning or afternoon shifts any of those Saturdays and Sundays. To sign up please call George at (916) 791-0448.

**Sat. Nov. 8—Deadline for 2009 Officer nominations** (see details on page 3).

**Tues. Nov 11—Thurs. Nov. 13-Calif. State Beekeepers' Assn. Conference,** at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. Registration fee \$80 if paid in advance. Pre-registration deadline is 10/28. For more info see [www.californiastatebeekeepers.com](http://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com) or call (209) 667-4590.

**Tues., Nov. 18—SABA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.** Topic TBD. Ideas? Contact David.

**Tues., Dec. 16—SABA Meeting and Holiday Potluck.** Watch for more info.

**Tues., Jan. 6—Sat., Jan. 10—American Honey Producers Convention,** Radisson Conference Center in Fresno. For more info go to [www.americanhoneyproducers.org](http://www.americanhoneyproducers.org)

**Tues., Jan. 13—Sat. Jan. 17—North American Beekeeping & American Beekeeping Federation Conference** at Nugget Casino Resort in Reno. Advance reg. fee is \$175 per person (\$200 per couple) or \$75 per day. Program includes a "Serious Sideliner Symposium" all day Friday and Saturday afternoon. For more info. go to [www.abfnet.org](http://www.abfnet.org) or call (912) 427-4233.

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!

\* \* \* \* \*

**Welcome new members—**Antonie Botes of Hawaii, Laurel Campbell of Sacramento, Rachel & Chris DeWein of Antelope, Cathy Johnson-Hughes of Carmichael, Patrick Jore & Sarah Lusher of Altaville, and Don Zimmerman of Granite Bay!



## September 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 September 16, 2008, at the Belle Coledge Community Center. Ernie welcomed first time visitors and new members: Antonie Botes from Hawaii who ships complete beehives and colonies; Laurie Campbell who's been beekeeping for a year in the Little Pocket area; Cathy and Hugh Johnson of Carmichael who have always wanted to do this; Teresa Conley of north Sac started with 2 hives in the spring; Trevor Robinson, who wants to start in the Spring on a ranch in Lincoln; Patty who has been beekeeping for three years and came with Randy Kehoe; Chris & Rachel DeWein and their 2 children are just starting; and Doug & Gail Houch from Davis, accompanied by 2 Japanese horticultural students. Doug & Gail have worked the State Fair booth before and have been beekeeping for 12 years off and on, with captured swarms and inherited equipment. We also had Patrick and Sarah from Angels Camp; and Tom and Julie Broughan--2nd year beekeepers from Auburn.

**The Program** was a panel discussion by Randy and Ernie about **winterizing your apiary**. Randy Kehoe has been beekeeping since the early 80's, when there was no varroa. Back then you put some teramycin on and some honey let them go. Now winterizing is a "big deal" he says. He runs 40 hives in Vacaville and Lincoln and starts with the almonds in February. At the end of September he starts feeding a 1:1 syrup to promote queen laying--those are the bees to get you through the winter. He continues feeding until the cold sets in and they won't take any more. He wants to continue that cycle of laying as long as possible. He first used Fumidil last year to prevent dysentery, telltale signs of which are yellow waste on the front of the hive. He's going to try HoneyBeeHealthy nutrition supplement this year. Make sure the queen is laying--look for eggs. He leaves 60 to 70 pounds of honey with the bees to winter over. He says don't even open that box in the cold, especially in December. Leave them alone! He does treat for foulbrood, and with MiteAway especially for hobbyist. He likes to use as much "soft chemical" as possible, such as ApiLifeVAR for varroa. He produced about 800 pounds of honey last year. His two primary nectar sources are blackberry and star thistle. Three years ago a friend asked Ernie Buda if he could put some hives at Ernie's house while some work was done at this own house. Sure, that was fine with Ernie. He didn't know at the time "if beekeeping was one word, or two." Come spring, he wondered what those bees were up to; he stopped by the friend's workplace and they told him the guy moved to Idaho two months ago. Voila! Ernie was a beekeeper, one word! He did nothing for the winter the first year; by the next year he'd taken classes but didn't want to use chemicals. He got a screened bottom board to help with varroa control, and the next year he also treated with powdered sugar --seemed to help. Next he used a drone bait frame. He said it works well as long as you watch the timing carefully and remove the frame before the drones hatch; you destroy them by freezing and letting the bees clean it up, or scraping it off in the yard and let the birds feast on the grubs. Ernie also shared a handout of excerpts from Serge Labesque's beekeeping materials and some of his ideas for winterizing. For example, if you have two weak hives, combine them instead of trying to overwinter both. Destroy the queen of the hive with the least desirable qualities, OR just combine and let the queens decide. He uses follower boards such that his ten frame boxes hold 8 frames. This promotes good ventilation, and reduces moisture accumulation especially in the winter. They also give you room when you move the boards to work in the super, so you can take out bees with less danger of rolling bees against each other. Be very careful opening the hive when the temp is in the 50's. If you chill the bees you can easily damage the hive by promoting disease or even the sterility of the queen.

There was a break, then the **Business Meeting** began at 8:52 p.m. Notice was given of the intent to present a **change to the By Laws** at the October meeting. The change is to amend the election time schedule such that nominations be accepted before the November meeting, and the election be held at that time, with the new board installed at December meeting and Christmas Pot Luck Dinner. Thank you to Rex Parsons who accepted appointment as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The **Minutes** for August were approved. Moved Russel Dalske; 2 nd Bruce Walsh. The **work day** and follow up day at Ernie's shop went very well. Participants made follower boards and screened bottom boards. **Treasurer** Dennis Larson reported SABA's balance at \$6,253.33. Recent expenses included bee classes and lots of new signage for shows and presentations. **New Business** The first SABA **Open House** last Saturday was a success. About 35 people interested in beekeeping attended and got all their questions answered and had lots of time to speak with members. Dick Williams regaled us with the story of the recent colony that he and Dennis **rescued** from a house being demolished. Ray Marler of the **SABA Library** recommended several classic beekeeping books for the library, including "A Years Work In An Out Apiary" from the beginning of the 20th century, "Bee Sex Essentials," and perhaps "Fifty Years Among the Bees" (which is also readable on-line for fee at the Penn State site.) Look for some of these in the library soon. Quartermaster Joseph Watkins reported on efforts to **inventory** SABA property. If you have equipment, signage, etc., belonging to SABA, please let Joseph know what and where it is! **Upcoming Bee Class** dates are in the works--as early as the first week in February. Instructors and dates are being coordinated by Bruce Walsh. Classes again will be held at the County Ag facility. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m. There were 49 members and guests present.

Respectfully submitted, *Ron Melluish*, Secretary

## Comb Preservation

A few years back, mentors George Bleekman and Bob Sugar shared some methods for saving extracted honey combs over the winter (and thus effectively giving the bees a “head start” on comb-building in the spring). For those who missed that info, I wanted to again share the “freezer” method which has successfully worked for me as a backyard beekeeper for repeated years now and which those with even just a standard refrigerator freezer space might try. So here’s the basic process I’ve used. After extracting the honey out of the combs, I set the frames outside for a day to let the bees clean (and rob) them off thoroughly. Then I gently batch (end up) about 6 frames at a time in plastic grocery bags (and put one bag over top of the batch of frames, too) and set them in my side-by-side frig freezer (after removing a shelf or two). I leave each batch there for at least three days (as recommended to kill wax moth eggs), then remove them carefully (the frozen wax is very brittle) and wrap them, grocery bags and all, in a kitchen size trash bag (which holds up to 8 frames per bag). I then tie the bag tightly shut, set it with the frames on end in a large heavy cardboard box, and set that in a closet out in the usually unheated “granny flat” for over-wintering. (A cellar, garage or other cool space will work.) I then retrieve them for first use (and before weather and storage area gets too hot) when placing supers on the hives in early spring.

As I recall, Bob also shared a method of storing the frames with mothballs and if you’re interested in that (doesn’t require freezing) you might check with him for more details. Anyway, it seems a simple way to help jumpstart your bees with at least a few combs “ready to use” in the spring.

- Georgianna Pfof

## State Fair Wrap-Up



The 2008 California State Fair booth was a great success but I am glad that it’s over & done. For those of you who didn’t get a chance to volunteer (or visit the fair) this year the booth looked a lot different than in the past few years in regards to designing & decorating. The booth was enclosed this time and this seemed to be quite a nice change. However, we weren’t as prepared with display items and information for the walls as I didn’t know what the booth would look like until I saw the structure and design only 1½ days before it opened (and they’d needed signage information back in mid July) but we “live & learn.”

And now I want to give thanks to all who were involved & especially to the emergency workers that came through in a clinch! *Emergency Workers:* Tom Ingles, Randy Kehoe & Patty Eaton, Mil Sutter, and Russel Dalske! *Observation Hives:* Tex & Anita Winn, David Ogden, and Ron Parsons. *Honey Donations:* Patrick Cassady, Tex Winn and Frank Lienert. And all our volunteers who did their part by lending a helping hand and making this year’s bee booth a big hit: Richard Cuny, Steven Christenson, Bob & Joann Rollins, Howard Mann, Frank Lienert, Jr., Patrick Cassady & Kate, Larry Bylard, Ron Parsons, Ray Marler, Kathy Mallory, Britt Floyd, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Price, Tex & Anita Winn, Joseph & Susan Watkins, John Foster, Matt Tucker, Don Mello, Karla Hanson, Jerry Kimbro, George Bleekman, Kate Morton, Jim Russell, Bob & Mathew Golling, Maria Rudolph, John & Maggie Harris, Bob Sugar, Alicia Renan, Emma Gunterman, Annette Werblow, Tauni Tharp, Rex Parsons, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dunkle, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Keeling, David & Mike Mansch, Phil Hofland & Family, Paul Baumeister & Family, Ron & Debbie Melliush, Dexter Thomas, Connie Rose, and to our wonderful President & lazy susan creator Ernie Buda! - Pam Hill, fair coordinator

## 2009 SABA Election Process

The election for SABA 2009 officers will be held by secret ballot at the November meeting. Ballots will be given only to those members in good standing who are present at the meeting. To facilitate the process several things must occur, primarily amendment of SABA standing rules. As required, notice of that intention was given at the September meeting and a vote regarding that will be a priority order of business in October. [See September minutes.]

Assuming that the motion passes, nominations for all of the officers’ positions (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) will be accepted from the floor at the October 21st meeting. At that time, you may place your own name into nomination for one (only) office, and/or you may place the name of another member into nomination for any or all of the four offices. You can also make these nominations up through **Sat., Nov. 8** by personally contacting Rex Parsons, the Chairman of the nominating committee, by phone at (916) 993-4245 (w) or 359-3309 (h - before 9 p.m.) or email at [planetparsons@yahoo.com](mailto:planetparsons@yahoo.com).

Persons placed in nomination by another will be contacted and have the opportunity to accept or decline the nomination, and should a member be nominated for more than one office they will be required to remove their name from all but one. Should there be no name(s) placed into nomination for any office by the deadline, the nominating committee chair will have the flexibility to solicit members for acceptance of a nomination after the stated closing date.

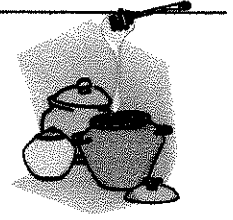
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# Honey Recipe of the Month

## Popcorn Balls

8 c. popped popcorn (about 1/3 c. before popping)  
1/2 c. light molasses  
1/2 c. honey

3/4 c. butter, softened  
pinch of salt (optional)



Make 8 cups of popcorn and put in a large bowl. In small saucepan, heat molasses and honey until candy thermometer reads 270°F ("hard crack" stage). Turn off heat and stir in butter and salt. Slowly add the honey mixture to the popcorn, stirring with a wooden spoon until all the popcorn is coated. Butter your hands lightly and shape the popcorn into balls (about 1/2 c per ball), then set the balls on wax paper to cool and harden. To store, wrap each popcorn ball in waxed paper. Makes about 16 balls.

- from *Cooking with Honey* by Joanne Barrett, Storey Publishing, 1981.

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## Bee Classifieds

**FREE:** 8 used honey barrels at Sac Beekeeping Supply. Call (916) 451-2337 to arrange to pick up one or more.

**FOR SALE:** Excellent condition (just some propolis stains) medium size Dadant bee suit (poly-cotton, zipper legs, Velcro ankles, zipper full hood veil) \$25 (plus approx \$10 for mailing or maybe can pick up). Note: Legs are hemmed up about 5" to fit 5'3" woman but can be seam-ripped back to regular size. (530) 666-0713

**FOR SALE:** Large uncapping tank on wheeled stand. Call for more details (916) 489-0340.

**FOR SALE:** 10 gal. Dadant stainless steel bottling tank.. \$80. (530) 677-2185.

**FOR SALE:** 100—150 colonies in Fresno County. Strong, healthy, double deeps, good equipment, on pallets, no spray. Email [bzzztom@gmail.com](mailto:bzzztom@gmail.com) or call (559) 355-4221 or 292-7161.

**ALWAYS NEEDED:** Your contributions of items for future newsletters. Email them to the editor by the 25th of the month at [dugongs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dugongs@sbcglobal.net) or mail to 3517 57th St., Sacramento, 95820. Please share your bee tales!

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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—  
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**Next meeting**

**Tues. Oct. 21 7:30 p.m.**