



INLAND BEEEMAIL

Monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Beekeepers Association

Volume 11, Issue 4 — April 2006 — www.inlandbeemail.com

Presidents
Corner:

April 2006

I'm actually writing this while on vacation in Canada. It is spring break for the girls and Barb so we all got to take a break. Most of March and the rest of April will be spent in California with the bees. Although it has been an above average rainy spring, the bees are doing great. The mustard has been blooming since the end of February and the bees love mustard pollen and nectar. With all this rain the mustard has been producing a good amount of nectar. Now we have fiddle neck, fillarie and two other plants whose names I cannot remember, plus apricot and cherry pollen. If there is a bee heaven than they are in it. The 23 nucs I started the first of March are going crazy. Almost all have two frames of brood (edge to edge) and have drawn out the inside of the two frames (foundation) to each side. Have not had to feed at all, which really helps the feed bill. So far the best price I have found for sugar is 43 cents (Costco & Cash and Carry). That is over 30% higher than last fall. No help in site either. HFCS is from 22 cents per pound to 28 cents depending on which type you get.

Effects of the Rain: I am getting worried about the quality of the CA queens the producers are going to have for packages. There are very short periods of no rain (still cloudy) for the virgin queens to get out and find the DCAs. I will not be surprised if there are delays in getting packages similar to last year. I predict there will be normal queen acceptance problems and higher supercedure rates due to queen performance. We will probably see more drone laying queens too.

Mite loads are much heavier than last spring. All of the commercial beekeepers I have talked to report this. They have been treating in the almond orchards prior to shipping. The almonds took 5 to 6 weeks to complete the bloom and produced good amounts of pollen and nectar. The hives came out in great shape. Some of the beekeepers still have their hives in the orchards if they are near mustard fields. With the hives in such good shape, they have been producing good amounts of drones. When I pull drones to get a mite count I will usually see two adult mites and one or two dudomites. I

have not seen loads this high in the spring so I'm really stressing IPM measures (remember, I'm one of the weird ones that will not treat with chemicals) and will push hard to get hygienic queens in all of the hives.

Nosema has not shown up yet and AFB is about normal. I have two AFB hives that are super strong. Huge number of bees with 8 to 10 frames of brood. John and I think the bees may have good resistance to AFB. Not only is the number of AFB infected cells very low but the mite count is extremely low. I'll see if Dr. Shepherd has any use for them before I burn the equipment (yes Linda the bees go onto foundation not into the fire).

John and I have lots of mating nucs going. The area we are in gets a little more sunshine than the Central Valley. We both plan on replacing these queens this summer/fall and continue with our fall queen program. I have two of last year's breeder queens still doing great and have two more coming in May (from Charlie Harper). John has some excellent breeders and we have both identified the drone mothers we want in the mating yards. The big question now is when do we get to bring the bees' home. We will have to wait until the dandelions are blooming and producing otherwise we will bring back strong roaring hives and put them in areas with no food. The queens would shut down and we would have to feed.

That is more than enough about CA.

Thanks to Rick Sherman for hosting and to all the members that showed up to build and paint the IEBA hives for our bee yard. All 48 boxes and 24 bottoms and tops are ready to go. Jerry Tate has ordered us 24 packages. Bob Arnold has the frames and is coordinating the yard. It looks more and more like we will have this project up and running this year. We also have 24 honey supers (6 5/8) ready to be put together and painted.

Once again I will be absent from our monthly meeting. I'm sure Frank will do another great job. See you in May. P.S. Just got another phone call and part of the discussion was about the problems the Northern CA queen producers are having. Expect delays. Boy am I glade that my first set of 23 nucs have Kona queens (Hawaii) in them.

IEBA Apiary Plans April 8, 2006

Bob Arnold

Our IEBA apiary plans have been completed and are on their way to becoming reality. A location has been selected and is agreed to by the land owner. The spot is located at the south-eastern edge of Stevens county. It can be reached by going north on Hwy 395 to Staley Rd (approximately 12 miles north of Spokane) and turn west and go approximately 5 miles to Wallbridge Rd. Turn south on Wallbridge Rd. and go approximately 1 mile south and turn west on Pruffer Crosscut Road. Go approximately one quarter of a mile to 5134 W. Pruffer Crosscut Road (*See Maps on Page 8*). The road will pass between some farm buildings on the south of the road and a house opposite on the north of the road. Immediately after the mailbox a small farm road leads south up a small hill between a small drainage pond and two farm buildings. The apiary site is on that road approximately 100 yards beyond the buildings.

The equipment is all ready to go and only needs to be put in place at the apiary site. Special thanks go to the group that assembling and putting the primer coat on the deep equipment and to Rick Sherman for applying the final coat. The packages for 24 colonies have been ordered and are expected in Sat April 15th. We will be installing these package bees at the apiary sited on Sat April 15th at 3 PM. We have some cleanup of the site to do before installing the packages.

The plan for the apiary is still as we discussed last year. We will install these packages and get the bees started using purchased queens. We will replace the purchased queens when WSU queens are available in June/July. The apiary site is to be used by IEBA for field days, education of members or IEBA class participants and for mating of queens raised from select WSU queen stock in participating member's nucleus hives.

Queen cells will be raised by IEBA members at this apiary site and provided to participating members for their nucleus hives. The nucleus hives will be brought to the apiary site by each interested participating member. Queen cells will be installed into each of the nuc's by IEBA/individual members. Care and feeding of each participating member's nucleus hives while at the apiary site is the individual nuc's owner responsibility. The nuc must be left at the site for the period of time needed for mating and until the queen is properly laying (approximately one month from the time the cell hatches).

We have not discussed or placed a limit on the number of queen cells that are available for each participating member. The limit is really a function of the number of drones available from the IEBA colonies. Note also that the goal here is to get WSU queens established though-out our area which requires that queens be mated to WSU drones. This requires that the nucs remain at the IEBA apiary site until the queens are mated.

Logistics on maintaining the apiary site and the bees have yet to be worked out. I expect this will be accomplished largely

using internet communications and perhaps a central site bulletin board such as Tate's Honey Farm (how about it Jerry?). We can discuss this at our next meeting. We also need to discuss what is expected to be a participating member. In any case we need to get a group together to be responsible for the apiary logistics. Our first field days will be this May and June.

Dry feeding pollen substitute

Warm early spring weather signals the start of another beekeeping year. As the queen increases her laying activity, the bees will be in need of more protein to feed developing larvae. If fall pollen stores are low, and the local area is not producing any pollen, many beekeepers dry feed a pollen substitute (such as Broodbuilder or BeePro). Here is an easy method to feed protein supplement that I found useful in my bee yards:

1. Cut a section of 4" PVC or ABS pipe to a length of 18"
2. Drive a T-Post or fence post at your selected feeder location
3. Affix the pipe horizontally to the post
4. Sprinkle pollen substitute onto an ice cube tray or 1/2 of an egg carton
5. Insert tray into 4" pipe

This method ensures that the feed is protected from the elements and the feeders are easily left in the yard for use anytime the bees will take pollen supplement. Mounting it on a post helps keep unwanted guests such as mice out of the feed. I have had better success with this method than with pollen patties, and it is a delight to see the bee activity in the spring.



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WSBA Website

www.wasba.org

APRIL

TED SWENSON

Agenda

Reports:

- ◆ The Secretary's Report - Linda
- ◆ The Treasurer's Report - Ky
- ◆ Joy in Beekeeping Report - Joe
- ◆ Fair Reports
- ◆ Inland Beemail Report - Dave / Frank
- ◆ WSBA Report - Jerry
- ◆ Four Corner Bee Reports – All

Old Business:

◆

New Business:

- ◆ IEBA Apiary Plans
- ◆ Donation to Dave Cushman

Presentation by Bob Arnold:

- ◆ **How to Increase Your Number of Hives**
- ◆ **Methods for Starting Nucleus Hive**
- ◆ **How to Introduce a New Queen into a Strong Hive**

Hive Care

April:

The Bees. The weather begins to improve, and the early blossoms begin to appear. The bees begin to bring pollen into the hive. The queen is busily laying eggs, and the population is growing fast. The drones will begin to appear.

The Beekeeper. If you have not done so already, pick a warm and still day do your comprehensive hive inspections. Can you find evidence of the queen? Are there plenty of eggs and brood? Is there a nice pattern to her egg laying? Now, or very soon, on a very mild and windless day, you should consider reversing the hive deeps. This will allow for a better distribution of brood, and stimulate the growth of the colony. If stores are getting light, begin feeding and continue feeding until the nectar flow. This is the time to treat for nosema, foulbrood, and tracheal mites to ensure that the chemicals will be off before the honey flow. April is also the month for packages. .

-adapted from
www.backyardbeekeepers.co



Go to
www.nhb.org
for more information

March Minutes

—Linda Carney, Secretary

Minutes 3/10/06

Due to so many officers being away, the meeting was rather short. Vice President Frank Seiler called the meeting to order, and noted that there would be no Secretary's Report as Linda was terribly sick. The February minutes were accepted as printed in the Inland Beemail. Ky was no present, and thus no treasurer's report was issued.



Joy in Beekeeping report was given by Frank and highlighted the need for any of this years' class who wished to be considered for an award to have their entries in soon. Next on the agenda, the need for a new Spokane County Fair Coordinator was discussed. Kelley McSheehy received a warm round of applause for her efforts last year, and she outlined the tasks needing to be performed. The discussion ended without a resolution for a new coordinator.

Inland Beemail Report was given by Frank, and it was reported that the web site appeared to be down. Frank agreed to inquire about the situation with the webmaster, John Pierce (Note: the problem was resolved the next day by John).

Jerry Tate gave a report on the recent WSBA meeting. Tentative dates for a June field day at WSU are June 24th & 25th. Also a reminder that the State Convention will be in Bellingham October 12th to the 14th. Eric Olson had reported heavy varroa infestations in the fall, and expects that many beekeepers will have high losses or weak colonies in March and April. Also, be prepared for many (perhaps thousands) of colonies coming to Washington State instead of going back to Texas because of extensive droughts in that state. Of course this raises the concern of rapidly spreading Small Hive Beetle.

Discussion ensued about the WSU queen North Yard. Bob Arnold has a site located near Deer Park, and it was decided to assemble and paint hive bodies and bottom boards at Risk Sherman's shop on 3/25.

The meeting was adjourned, and we enjoyed Jack Knox and Bob Arnold talking about spring feeding, disease recognition, and what to do for a queenless hive.

2006 Program

Program for 2006

April

- ◆ How to increase your number of hives
- ◆ Methods for starting Nucleus hives and using Nucleus hives
- ◆ How to introduce a new queen into a strong hive
- ◆ Purchase and install packages in IEBA Apiary

May

- ◆ How to control swarming
- ◆ What to do if your hive has swarmed
- ◆ Spring field day at IEBA Apiary

June

- ◆ How to set up and operate a queen bank
- ◆ Raising your own queens
- ◆ Late summer requeening

July

- ◆ Evaluating your hives for mites
- ◆ Treating your hives for mites
- ◆ Summer field day, mating nucs at IEBA Apiary

August

- ◆ Picnic

September

- ◆ Preparations for Fair
- ◆ Fall feeding of bees
- ◆ Fall field day at IEBA Apiary

October

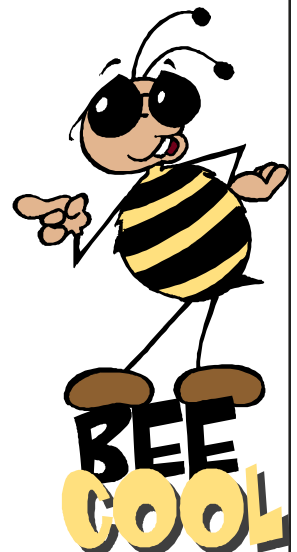
- ◆ Selection of hives for wintering
- ◆ Preparing your hives for winter

November

- ◆ Annual Thanksgiving dinner
- ◆ Invited speaker

December

- ◆ Elections
- ◆ Annual dinner
- ◆ Invited speaker



Classified Ads

Tate's Honey Farm has all of your extracting and packaging needs as well as spring packages and queens. Woodenware for all your winter projects and spring needs. Shop hours are 8:30—2:00 every Saturday at E. 8900 Maringo, Millwood. 891-7428
Contact us at 509-924-6669 or online at www.tateshoneyfarm.com

BEEBOXES BY LEE

Woodenware, standard or custom orders, IPM bottom boards, Hive top feeders, etc, select lumber. Order now to be ready for spring. Lee Berchtold (208) 687-1300

NUC's - For Sale

Now taking orders for 06 Queens and Nucs 4.9mm and standard cell sizes available. Contact Travis Sammons at 509-928-4326

Miller's Homestead

Jim and Jenine Miller

Cheney, WA 1-509-299-9085
14606 Stangland Rd., Cheney. Look at our web site for prices on all available items.
www.millershomestead.com

NUC's For Sale

RUSSIAN or KONA Queens

You Get:

Proven Queen

- ◆ 3 frames brood
- ◆ 1 frame honey
- ◆ 1 frame honey/empty comb
- ◆ 3 lbs. of bees

Chattaroy Hills Honey Farm
Ted Swenson 220-0185

Available: 21 or 28 April

Limited #, First Come First Serve



FOR SALE - Approximately 50 used westerns \$11.00 each Contact Paul Schultz @ (509) 926-8550

Wanted: Good - Serviceable Honey Extractor.
Contact: Dave Evans - 466-7572 (Home) 951-4857 (Cel)

Going Out of Business Sale: 8 & 10 Frame Hives, Bottom Boards, Excluders, Top Covers etc. (4-5 Hives) 2 Sets of suits and gloves, smoker etc. over \$500 new sell for \$250 Contact Penny, Sean or Brad Davis (509) 891-7428

Web Site of the Month

Each month IEBA member Bob Hegerberg is going to share the latest in his favorite web sites on Beekeeping. Take some time to check this month's selections out.

<http://listserv.albany.edu:8080/archives/bee-1.html>
Searchable Forum Archives

<http://www.beeginners.info/>
Bee FAQ's Home

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Beekeeping/weblinks.htm>
A Thousand Beekeeping Sites

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/w0076e/w0076e00.htm#con>
FAO Honey Facts

Farm Fair is Coming

In past years, the IEBA has supported this event under the guidance of Bob Adsit. It is held during the Junior Live Stock Show at the Fairgrounds and we will again need volunteers to talk to the kids this year. Frank Seiler will coordinate this year's event and can be reached at (509) 991-3019 or seilerbees@att.net.

The mission of the Farm Fair is to cultivate a better understanding of the daily importance of our agricultural, mineral, forest, and water resources by educating teachers and students about the science, economic, and societal aspects of our region's natural resources.

The dates for 2006 are Wednesday May 3rd and Thursday May 4th. The times will be the same for both days, with sessions starting at 9:25 am, 11:10 am, and 12:55 am.

The invitation states "Your display on Bees is a huge asset for us in educating these kids! ... It's amazing that since Farm Fair began in 1991, over 17,000 students, teachers, and parents have been educated about agriculture. Your dedication to this program is what has made it so successful! ... If you'd like to learn more about the NNRI and our other educational programs and workshops, please visit our website at www.nnri.org." Again, this is a great time for all who participate—kids just ask

Recipe of the Month

Honey Crispies

This is a great sleep-over snack.

- Makes 30 servings -

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1-1/2 cups crisp rice cereal
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup chocolate or multicolored sprinkles

Directions

Place a sheet of waxed paper on a cookie sheet so cookies won't stick. Combine powdered sugar, honey and peanut butter in a medium bowl. Stir until mixed well. Stir in cereal and raisins. Using hands, shape mixture into 1-inch balls. Roll balls in sprinkles and place on a cookie sheet. Refrigerate for 1 hour. Cookies should feel firm when touched. Serve right away or place in tightly covered container and store in refrigerator.

Mining bees – another native pollinator

by Frank Seiler



Mining bees, also called digger bees belong to the family Andrinidae, one of the five bee families. They resemble the typical honeybee in shape and size. The bees themselves are 1/4 to 1/2 inch long and variable in color (mostly dark, hairy thorax, but some with markings of white, yellow or reddish brown). An-

andrenid bees have chewing-lapping mouthparts used to manipulate and collect flower products such as nectar and pollen. The protruding 'lapping' mouthpart is shorter in mining bees than honeybees giving them the common name of short-tongued bees.

Unlike honeybees, mining bees are solitary and do not form large, socially organized nests. As their name suggests, mining bees dig single nests in the soil. In spring, adult bees emerge, mate and begin nest preparation. Bees select exposed, well-drained soils to nest in such as banks, hills and road cuts. At times, dry lawns also attract these bees. Although the bees are solitary nesters, they often construct nests in large numbers next to one another at a given nesting site. Each female mines out a cylindrical hole to raise offspring. Several females may cooperate to use a common entrance tunnel and corridor. The nest consists of a vertical tunnel and side cells along side the tunnel for hatching eggs. These brood chambers are specially prepared and are actually lined with a waterproof substance.

The name "mining bee" accurately describes their underground nesting habit. The bees nest in the ground in cylindrical tunnels dug by the females. A large group of bees frequently nests in a small area of the lawn in areas where the grass or ground cover is thin. Entrances to the tunnels are marked with small piles of soil. The hole itself will be approximately the diameter of a pencil to the size of your index finger.

The female mining bee stocks each cell with pollen and nectar she collects from flowers and then deposits an egg on the food mass. The larva will hatch and consume the stored pollen and nectar. When mature it becomes a pupa or resting stage and finally becomes an adult bee. The adult bees overwinter below ground in the burrow site. During the next spring or early summer the adults emerge, mate, and the females begin to burrow and excavate new nests. Bee populations can fluctuate dramatically from one season to the next. The threat of being stung by the andrenid bees is usually highly overrated. The males cannot sting and the females are docile and not likely to sting unless stepped on, handled, or threatened. While the entrances to the tunnels and excavated soil may appear disruptive to the lawn, they usually are not actually damaging to the lawn. It may appear that the grass is thin because of the bees, but it is more likely that the bees are in the area because the grass was already thin. Therefore, control is usually not necessary. To the contrary, because the andrenid bees forage to gather pollen and nectar, they are actually beneficial because they serve as pollinators.

Sources:

http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/homehort/pest/mining_bees.htm

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/1996/5-24-1996/miningbe.html>

www.hgic.umd.edu/pubs/online/mining_bees_ground_wasps_pfv.pdf

http://leon.ifas.ufl.edu/mining_bees_are_beneficial.htm

<http://bugguide.net/node/view/8267/tree>

IEBA Apiary Plans - In Action

As many of you know the IEBA is working on establishing an Association Apiary for IEBA membership where we can provide hands on training for beginning beekeepers and to provide us a working laboratory where ideas and beekeeping methods can be shared and tried. Over the last two weekends in March a group of IEBA members have met at Rick Sherman's to build the hive bodies for the IEBA Apiary. Participating members included Rick Sherman, Bill & Julie Watts, Carl & Kim Norwalk, David & Loretta Evans, Joan Nolan, Chris & Marilyn Carothers, Margarita Moore, Steven Gonzales, Brian Smith, Sterling Smith and Bill Moore. A great time was enjoyed by all participants and the pictures below highlight the event.



The Apiary will also provide IEBA members the opportunity to raise their own queens from WSU strains and improving the quality of the queens they can then use in their own apiaries. To aid our membership in preparing for this opportunity we have included 5 frame Nuc plans drawn up by IEBA member Bob Arnold on the following two pages.

April Meeting Topics: April 9, 2006

**How to Increase Your Number of Hives
Methods for Starting Nucleus Hive
How to Introduce a New Queen into a Strong Hive**

Splitting a Hive and Keeping Both at Same Location
by Bob Arnold

All of us have lost hives during the winter. The best time to replace them is during the spring when the bees are anxious to reproduce-swarm. So now is the time for you to make plans to replace winter losses or simply to increase the number of hives that you have.

The most difficult task is in replacing a queen in an older hive. Especially if the hive is one that has over-wintered and still has a lot of bees that are old. It is most difficult to introduce a queen to a hive that has mostly older bees. How do you know the age of the bees? Younger bees are present in hives that have had time to rear and hatch out lots of brood. Right now the queens have just started laying and often have not had much brood hatch out. The worker bees present were raised last fall and are definitely older. However, during the month of April these older bees will all be replaced and by May the hive will have mostly young bees. Thus in our area if you wish to replace an older queen it is best to wait until May when most of the bees are younger.

During April you should be making sure that your bees have adequate food and that the hive is cleaned up and ready for brood rearing. Move honey around to make certain each hive has ample stores. Feed honey in frames or sugar syrup if you do not have ample stores available. Feed syrup only if the hive is strong enough to take it. Weak hives will often ignore syrup but will do fine if given frames of honey.

Once May has arrived and queens are available it is time to make your new hives or nucleus hives. I am assuming that you want to split a hive and keep both the parent colony and the new colony in the same yard. You should get a new queen before you make the split as she should go into the split at the same time you prepare it.

A hive that can be split in the beginning of May should have two full boxes of bees with at least 4 frames of brood in all stages. It should have 4 frames of honey and pollen. The queen should be healthy and laying well.

The parent colony should be taken apart, the queen found, and the frame with the queen placed in one deep box. One frame of sealed brood can be placed in the box with the queen. Then place at least two frames of honey and empty frames to fill out the box. Shake enough bees to fill the box. Place the box on your bottom board in a new location. Since this box will be placed in a new lo-

cation it will become weak with many bees drifting back to the parent hive location. One frame of brood will often be all that can be safely placed in this box as any more will not be covered with bees and will get chilled.

The box you are going to introduce the new queen into is placed at the parent hive location with the sealed and open brood alternating in the center of the box. At least two frames of honey and pollen should be placed outside the center frames of alternately sealed and open brood. A feeder filled with 1:1 warm sugar syrup should be placed at the edge of the box. The new queen in the mailer cage should have the cork in the sugar end removed and placed with the sugar end up between two frames in the center of the box. Place the mailer cage just beneath the top bar with the screen perpendicular to the comb face. Press it into the comb so it will not fall out to the bottom board. The queen must be placed with sealed brood as the bees will cluster where this brood is centered keeping the queen warm and protected. This hive will be crowded with bees and should readily accept the queen. Keep feed on the hive as long as they will take it.

Now the old queen's hive will get quite weak and will look poor in a few days. Brood can be added from the new hive once the bees with the old queen begin to cover sufficient frames to safely add more sealed brood. This can be done gradually increasing the strength of the old queens hive up to the new queens hive.

If the old queen was a one year old queen she might do well for another year. If she has produced a good brood pattern before making the split she probably should be kept thru the honey flow and then replaced in July or August. If her brood pattern was poor before the split it will not get better and she should be replaced. As soon as the new hive queen at the original hive location is laying well, find the old queen in the new location and replace her with a new queen. When you put in the new queen put a feeder on the hive and feed a 1:1 syrup to get the new queen going.

Splitting a Hive and Moving Split to New Location

If you can move the split hive to a new location the split should be done differently. Here the drifting problem can be controlled such that the new hive strength can generally be maintained such that sealed brood does not get chilled.

Take the parent colony and find the queen. Take the frame with the queen and place it in a box on the parent colony stand. Take half the frames of sealed and open brood and place with the queen. Transfer the adhering bees without disturbance as they will be the only bees in this hive. Take the other half of the sealed and open brood with the adhering bees and place in the second

(Continued on page 10)

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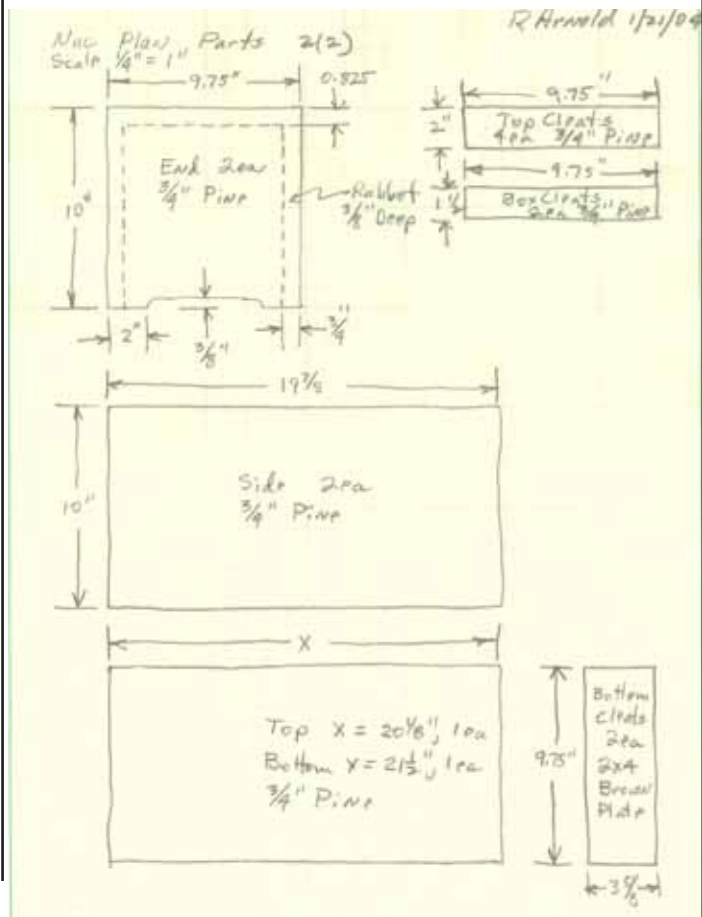
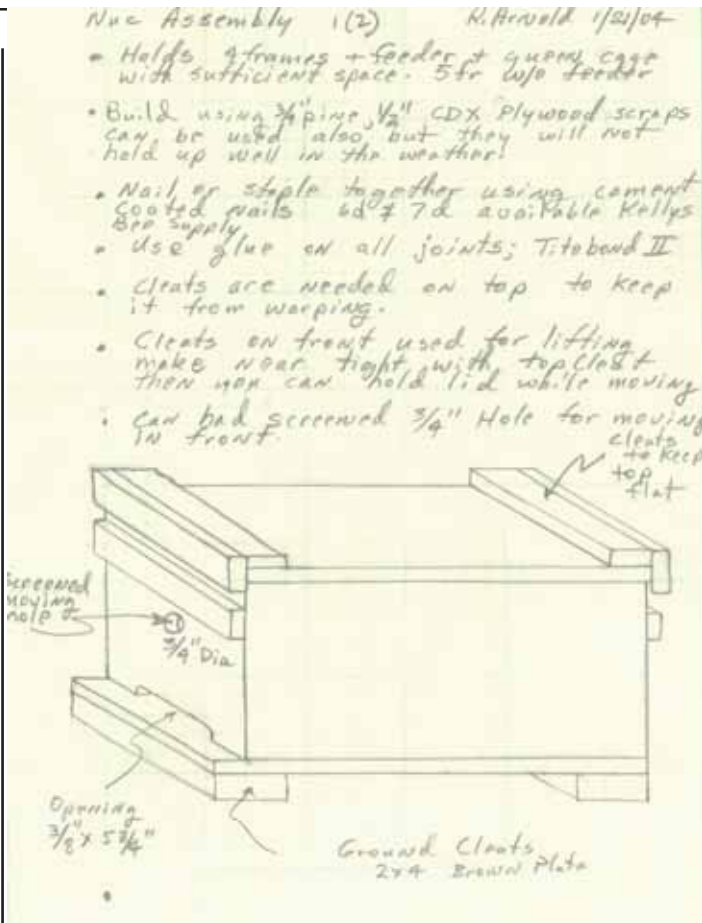
deep box. Take half the frames containing honey and pollen and place in each box. Put a feeder in each box with a gallon of 1:1 warm sugar syrup. (Wait on the feed for the box you are going to take to a new location until you get there.) Take the new hive to a new location and place a new queen in the mailer cage as noted above. You can move the hive with some soft paper towels or screen stuffed in the entrance during the day at temperatures in the 60's. Keep feed on both of these hives until they are ready for a second box. Don't place the second box on the first until the first is stuffed full of bees.

Making a Nucleus Hive

A nucleus hive is any hive containing a small number of frames, preferably a maximum of five, in a smaller size box. Check the IEBA website for the design of a nucleus box (a diagram of the nucleus box I uses is shown on the right). This design must have sufficient room for either 5 full drawn frames or 4 full drawn frames and a feeder. A four frame nuc box size is too small as it will only be able to have 3 frames and a feeder.

Nucs should always be made up and moved to a new location. If you keep them in the same location an unpredictable number of bees will drift back to the parent hive reducing the nuc strength unpredictably. You can move the parent to a new spot, perhaps 6 feet away, and place the nuc where the parent was. This will work but creates a nuc that is generally too full of bees.

A single nuc can readily be made from a number of hives. If, for example you have 5 hives, you can take a frame from each and put together into a 5 frame nuc and move to a new location, place a queen in the box and you have your nuc. Or you can place a queen cell into the box and wait for the new queen to emerge, mate and begin laying (approximately 20 days for a mature queen cell). In any case, making up nucs is simply adding brood, honey and bees to a box and moving to a new location and adding a mated queen or a queen cell. Place three frames of bees and brood with two frames of honey or one frame of honey and a feeder into your nuc box. Shake a few frames of bees into the nuc to top it off in strength. It is best early in May to have the box full of bees to insure the brood stays warm and protected. Once this nuc is operating like a hive, eggs, open and sealed brood it can be used to replace a failing queen, strengthen a weak hive or just to expand and make a new hive.



GRADUATION
The IEBA sponsored Beginning Beekeeping Congratulations to the 2005 Class!

Congratulations
Bee Keepers





Next Meeting:
Friday April 14
7:00 PM Social Time
7:30 Meeting

The Inland Empire Beekeepers Association (IEBA) meets the 2nd Friday of every month at the Spokane County Ag Extension office by the County Fairgrounds, at 222 N. Havana. The association is affiliated with the Washington State Beekeepers Association (WSBA). IEBA membership dues are \$5.00 for an individual or \$10.00 for the entire family. This includes your receiving the *Inland Beemail*, which is published by the association every month.

INLAND BEEMAIL

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New: IEBA 2004 & 2005 CD Now Available

For the cost of \$5.00, you can now obtain a CD containing all of the 2004 & 2005 *Inland Beemails* in PDF format, as well as a good number of pictures that were taken at various club activities. This is a great resource for all the new beekeepers as many excellent management articles were discussed in the past 2 years. You can order your 2004/2005 CD by sending an E-Mail to seilerbees@att.net or calling Frank at

(509) 991-3019 and your CD will be waiting for you at the next meeting of the IEBA. All proceeds are to benefit the IEBA in expanding its educational programs.

I hope to build up the CD and reissue it every year with the latest information. Think of it as an IEBA library in progress. System requirements are fairly minimal and will work well for both Windows and Linux users.

Frank Seiler



Photo Courtesy University of Alaska Fairbanks

Strange, but true. A colony of honeybees apparently thought this cow skull would be a good location for a hive. Photo submitted by Wayne and Jeannina Vinyard of Glenwood, Washington.