

Outyard Policy and Process

The club's outyard near China Beach is an excellent location for bees to access fireweed, and is a popular benefit to our members.

LOCATION

- To locate your hives at the outyards you will need to register the apiary location with the Ministry of Agriculture, as you need to do with all your hives.
- To register your hives, go to: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/food-safety/bcpid - beekeepers faq.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/food-safety/bcpid_-_beekeepers_faq.pdf) (Easier: Google 'register beehives in BC' and this site will come up)
- The location of the outyards is: 48° 29' 10" N, 124° 57.4W

ALLOCATION PROCESS

The outyard has capacity for 75 hives comfortably, and allocation of these spots is done through the following process:

- **Access:** Due to both the popularity of the outyards and insurance liability issues, access to the outyards is restricted to **members only**. A member is not allowed to delegate or sell their spots to any non-member. Exceptions to this may be granted under extenuating circumstances by the Executive upon written application via mail or email.
- **Work Party:** At the beginning of each season, usually end of May or beginning of June, there will be a call to members for volunteers for a work party to ready the outyard; this group prunes back any foliage, repairs the fence, etc. Members of the work party will be given first priority in accessing up to 3 spots each. If there are more responses than needed for the work party, spots on the work party will be done by lottery.
- **Allocation:** A general call to members will be made in June for expressions of interest. Each member can request up to a maximum of 3 spots. First priority will be given to members of the work party as mentioned above. At the close of the call for expressions of interest, the number of spots requested will be tallied. If more spots are requested than available, access will be done by lottery. If additional spots are available after allocating these requests, a second call will go out to members for up to another 3 hives and allocation will again be done on a lottery basis, with an equity process included.
- Successful members will be charged \$10 per hive. If payment is not received by the specified deadline, those spots will be reassigned to any waiting members.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- There will be many hives in the outyard while yours is there. Each member **MUST** ensure that proper precautions and treatments are made for all apiary diseases:
 - Check your hives **BEFORE** you take them to the outyard! If you determine that your hives have a high mite count or any diseases, do not take them out to infect others' hives!

- At a minimum it is expected that members will visit their hive for inspection and treatment no less often than every 2 weeks.
- If you even *suspect* Foulbrood in your hives, you must immediately take them away, isolate them, and call the Outyard Manager or someone on the Executive so we can notify others that have hives in the yard. Also, you ***must*** contact our bee inspector (Tara Galpin 250-538-7355 or tara.galpin@gov.bc.ca)
- Due to summer fire hazard, NO OPEN FLAMES are allowed in the outyard!! This means **NO use of smokers!** Also be aware that oxalic vaporizers can trigger a fire within a hive so, if you are going to use one, take along a fire extinguisher!! We are currently in process of obtaining one fire extinguisher per yard; these will be kept in the box holding the fence battery so they're not visible.
- If you notice a fire, call 1-800-663-5555, or *5555 from a cell phone. Cell phone reception is unreliable there so, if necessary, get to Jordan River ASAP and call from the café.
- The quicker a fire is reported, the easier it is to put out!
- **NOTE: Club insurance does NOT cover members!!** We strongly recommend you carry your own insurance policy; BC Honey Producers Assn sells them.
- Since the cell phone reception is unreliable, as safety precautions:
 - Tell somebody where you are going, when you will be back, and let them know once you do get back.
 - Always pack a snack AND WATER!
 - If you are allergic to stings, remember that the outyards are remote, and even if you do have cell phone reception it will take a long time before somebody can provide any assistance! You should ***seriously*** consider always going out with a buddy (hard to drive out while having a reaction!), taking an antihistamine before you go out, and taking TWO Epi-Pens or Allerject kits (their benefit runs out after 20-30 min)
- Cell phone SOS:
 - iPhone 8 or later: Press and hold side button and one of the volume buttons, window will appear showing "Emergency Call" option
 - Androids: first need to set up through Settings/Safety then Emergency, after that, press side button 5 times
- There are bears and cougars in the area, so take precautions! Always better to go in with somebody and not alone.

THE DRIVE IN

- Logging trucks are working on the roads Mon-Fri 0730-1630. Avoid those times! Logging trucks won't know you are there, they can't stop easily, and they are a lot bigger than your vehicle!
- The road is not very good. You will need a vehicle with a higher clearance, preferably a 4-wheel drive. There may also be some branches near the side of the road, so paint scratches are a risk. (Maybe take a saw and/or pruning shears with you? That way you can prune some back for the next person or your next time)

- Make sure your vehicle – and its spare tire! – are in good condition. It’s an 8-km drive in, so it’s an 8-km walk out if your vehicle fails...
- It’s bumpy! Strap your boxes down with TWO ratchet straps placed 90 degrees to each other. One strap will not be enough!
- The gate is not locked but needs to be kept closed, even if you’re in for only a quick visit; this keeps unauthorized people from entering the area.
- If you haven’t been to the area before, buddy up with another member and carpool in. If you don’t have someone in mind, contact the Outyard Manager for help in connecting you.
- Road:
 - Turnoff from Highway 14 on R is opposite China Beach campground turnoff on L
 - At 6 km mark take L fork
 - At 6.2 km go through orange gate and *close it behind you* when entering and leaving
 - At 7.5 km turn right onto narrower road. Now it gets a bit dicey
 - At 7.9 km mark road splits again; On L will be “J” and “A” yards, on R will be “M”

HIVE PLACEMENT

- **YOU MUST MARK YOUR NAME AND PHONE # ON THE BACK OF EACH HIVE SO THAT IT IS CLEARLY VISIBLE AND LEGIBLE. USE INK THAT DOESN’T RUN IN THE RAIN**
- Keep your hives close together with no large gaps in between, just enough room to squeak through between hives. The hives go around the outer perimeter of the yard, with the door of your hives facing towards the outside of the yard.
- Leave at least one hive’s length/one bear’s arm reach between your hives and the fence; this protects your hives and provides room for people to access the fence for maintenance.
- Leave at least 2 feet between hives and the fencing equipment to allow access for servicing
- ‘J’ yard can hold about 30 hives, ‘A’ yard about 35, and ‘M’ yard about 25
- Stacked hives count as 2. Keep your hives in individual towers (1 queen per footprint).
- Use only the number of hive spaces that you have been allocated. There is no room for extras!
- There are some pallets in the yards, but it’s always a good idea to bring your own, and some pieces of wood to level your hives, as some areas are sloped. Any pallets you bring should be just big enough to fit your hives and not extend to encroach on neighbour’s space.

ELECTRIC FENCE

- Do not take your hives out there before confirming that the electric fences are operational.
- It is each member’s responsibility to know the basics of the electric fence operation! Those fences are our bees’ only protection from the bears, and we can ill afford to leave them non-functional even for a few hours after humans have gone!!
- It is your responsibility to ensure that the fence is working before you leave! You should hear a snapping sound when you touch the end of a hive tool to the chicken wire on the ground (wear a glove...). And there should be a clicking sound coming from the charge box. The yards are remote, and it isn’t reasonable to assume anyone else can drop everything to drive out and fix a problem – so you will be on your own! Note to self: make sure you *do* know basic fence maintenance before you go out for the first time!. The club will be making

presentations on electric fence basics before each season and, if you need information in advance, contact the Outyard Manager

- THE FENCE EQUIPMENT BOXES
 - Hive boxes on ground near fence, solar panel on top
 - Big battery clips: battery to electric fencer; red to + terminal, black to – terminal
 - Small battery clips: battery to solar panel; red to + terminal, black to – terminal
 - From fencer: Wires lead out of box; red wire to fence, black wire to metal ground spike
 - SEPARATE NEARBY HIVE BOX WILL CONTAIN TWO FIRE EXTINGUISHERS. Make sure you know where they are before you start using a vaporizer!!!!
- Do not change the electric fencing or add to it without checking. The batteries we have are in good condition and should have more than enough charge to keep our bees safe.
- The chicken wire must stay where it is, completely surrounding the enclosures. You must resist the urge to move it away at the entrance – step over it instead. This ensures that the bear gets a good zap if he tries to get to your honey.
- While working in your yard, please always hook up the gate portions of the fence to the outside post without tangling or letting the wire touch the ground, as this would draw the battery down. Also, please check and clean any grass or vegetation from the wires as it grounds out the system.

FINAL NOTES

- Do not feed sugar or syrup to your bees in the yards as this promotes robbing. Do not discard wax on the ground; please clean up after yourself and take away any scraps and litter with you.
- For more information, visit the CRBA website at: www.capitalregionbeekeepers.ca
- Here is a link to a map showing the location of the outyards (You may want to share this with the person you advise when you go out and return!)
- https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?msa=0&mid=1j8Hou1ctmow1JWfHT39_LimVz3M&ll=48.479601184148684%2C-124.00541523210035&z=12