

## Beekeeping Insights # 49 email notes

I am not sure what you have learned this week, but my plate is full. Saturday evening, I was invited to join a beekeeper move a single hive of bees about 7 miles from his back yard. He contacted me because of an article I wrote a month or so ago. I thought that I had moved bees in about anyway a person could. With just one hive, I left home with the notion that I would be of help. I had explained that I wanted to take pictures. He explained his hive was very heavy! He explained that his background was an engineer.

I am not sure how many of you would attempt to pick up a hive weighing 175 pounds. He had arranged for a friend "Dave" to help pick up the hive. The hive was to be picked up in the backyard, moved to a trailer 10 feet from the hive, and I would follow the trailer to the drop off bee yard. I attempted to lean the hive to get an idea of how much it weighed. I could not budge it! He had done all the things I had advised: Wait until the sun was about to set -- still have daylight to pick up the hive and move it to the trailer. The trailer was not what I expected -- we had to load the hive over the tongue. The trailer was to be pulled by a lawn mower tractor up a hill - maybe 75 yards to his truck waiting the pull the trailer 7 miles.

Glenn, the engineer had it all solved! The hive was heavy - he placed two moving straps under the hive -- have you seen two men moving a refrigerator? The moving straps were secured between the two men as I took pictures. Slowly they lifted the hive between them -- sharing the weight. And then step by step they moved to the trailer. Wow! The hive was firmly secured to the trailer as only an engineer would do it. That hive could not move forward, backward, or sideways. The headboard was placed on the trailer and the hitch was lifted to fit on the tractor ball. Off he went up the slope in his backyard. In minutes the trailer was ready to roll behind the truck.

I have new respect for the way the human brain works. "Why did he have to move the hive?" my wife asked! Another thing that impressed me! He was doing it to help a neighbor who had a hot tub experiencing bee problems during summer season. He located an ideal bee yard location and by what I saw, he has plans for more bees. It was a great example of being a good neighbor!

