

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

April 2017



President: John D'Allaird

Vice Pres.: Bret Seiler

Board of Directors: Mark Mahoney (Chairman), Tim Barry, David Langlois, Lance Allen Wang

Treas.: Randy Burgoyne

Secretary: Tom Duclos

Find out what we are all about - Check out www.owkill.org

Monthly Meeting: This month's meeting will take place on Thursday, April 13th at 7:00p.m.

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday** April 25th at **6:00p.m.**

President's Comments:

We will see 80° by mid-week, before the meeting! I wonder, will we see 120° when it should be 90° in July?

'Spring Cleaning' is the theme of this month's PresComm- and prepping for the year of using and advancing the offerings here at OR&G. Winter leaves a large and useful property quite messy - needing a good clean-up!

-Our Grounds Chairman Charlie Kovage has plans for upkeep and the appearance of the club's grounds.

-The Board has apportioned some funds for planting sapling Spruce trees which in time will grow to aid in screening the ranges for sound and sight from Center Road. A good preemptive thing to do and it will 'beautify' the properties. Contact Charlie to aid in planting the little seedlings when they arrive. It goes quickly and is a greater benefit than the sum of the effort. NY State DEC encourages this by extremely low cost saplings in the plan we've engaged.

- We all use the facilities and Clubhouse- so a bit of sweeping & straightening up after we track in the mud is the way to keep it always presentable. See Charlie to get on a **'Cleaning List'**, a **take-your-turn** list to keep the clubhouse up to par as a steady practice!

'Range Safety' was the theme of last month's PresComm and safe practice is always timely at all our venues. We've been extremely fortunate here at OR&G Club without injuries on the fields and ranges. Let's strive to keep it that way.

***TO FURTHER ENCOURAGE SAFETY** and to qualify as many as possible in the club for taking their turn as Range Officer, we will soon put on a **Range Safety Course** in the near future, geared for our club. We are still nailing down the date and details. An e-blast will notify all in ample time. **Come and qualify as a Club Range Officer.**

General Reports:

- **The storage closet for the 4-H Shooting Sports** is built at the far end of the kitchen and already in use for the 4-H materials. Thanks to Mark Mahoney for making the idea real by building it. It even makes the Clubhouse look better. **Polyurethane needed on fresh wood... willing volunteer step forward!**
- **Let's Get The Fishing Stuff Going**, the **'R' of OR&G Club**. There was a Fly Tying Course here at the Club on Friday, evening March 24th, given by Orvis Instructor Nathan Mackey with the materials, vises and equipment needed for the class donated by Orvis (***thank you to Dave Langlois***)

for arranging the whole deal). A **GREAT TIME** was had by all (including me) and it was a fantastic class. Nate has an enthusiasm which is very contagious and is a Master fly tier, guide and sportsman. Those unable to attend, and those who did, want more so Nate has consented to a repeat if we can find a time before he leaves to guide the wilds of Montana for the summer; if not- then next fall. An e-blast will notify of details. By the way, Nate started tying flies seriously at age **seven!!!**

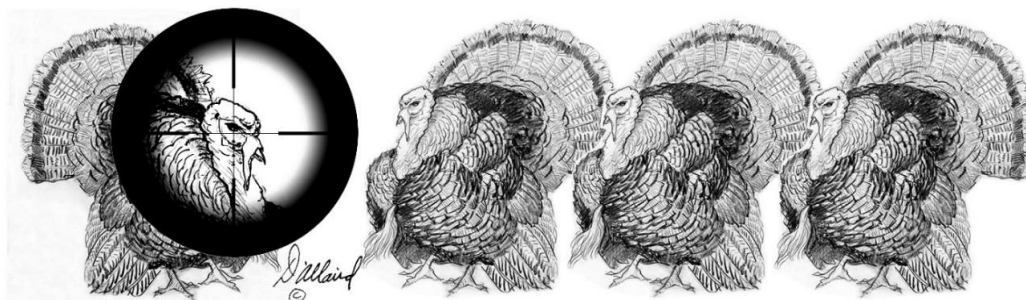
- **The new 25 yard backstop will soon be in place on range. It weighs well over a ton** so placing it during the wet, soft soil of spring will chew up the range. It will be moved in and put in place when conditions allow.
- **Check the calendar for:** Silhouette Shoots starting in May; High Power Rifle shoots and Skeet schedules.
- **Archers... we have ranges... enjoy them. We are in need of an Archery Committee and Chairman-consider it.**

-There have been three 4-H Shooting Sports courses here so far this year and there are three more between the April meeting and May 6th, then the 4-H Graduation on May 15th. This is the future of our sports and we are honored to be able to extend the facilities for this important use.

-The Buskirk Fire Dept. has donated nearly 1,200 ft. of old fire hose to use as an archery target backstop. We basically helped to broker the deal and will donate the material to 4-H for them to use in fabricating a large new backstop at their training facility. Thanks to Lloyd Moses at Buskirk FD for arranging this donation to our Club.

-Election of Club Officers took place at the March meeting. All 4 Officers will serve for 2 more years.

-Turkey Shoot: Sunday May 21, 1:00PM - 4:00PM, a Fundraiser for “Loaves and Fishes” food pantry in Cambridge. Planning is under way and Rifle, Muzzleloader, pistol and Skeet ranges are all participating in this event. Fun, affordable and all for a great cause- helping “Loaves and Fishes” in aiding families with food needs.



-THE CLUB SEW-ON PATCHES ARE IN and available for sale at \$3 each. Personalize your favorite jacket, shirt, sweatshirt, soft gun/bow/fishing rod case or any other article with your club patch! There are 150 available.

- The final PUSH for the Lottery is on - Tickets selling until May 31st - Picks start June 1st!!!

Again, Tim Barry and is seeking to step down from the Lottery administrative chair, though he will still be available to help in an advisory capacity and some details. Please consider your part in the Lottery and contact Tim or me.

See you at the April meeting, Thursday, April 13th.

John D'Allaird, President, Owlkill Rod & Gun Club



EDITOR'S COLUMN

The grass is turning greener, and the Owlkill waits as the club returns to life after another Washington County winter! What better way to celebrate the warmer temperatures than some quality range time at the Owlkill? We have a great slate of programs for 2017 – from the Turkey Shoot, to silhouette, long-distance matches... but there's room for more! Hats off to Dave Langlois of the Board of Directors for his efforts in returning the "rod" to Rod and Gun Club with a fly tying program a few weeks ago. All good programs start the same way – someone gets a good idea and decides to put some "oomph" behind it to make it happen. In this club, it doesn't take much oomph, as we are always happy to support your ideas and help you bring it to life. Not all will become enduring programs, but the best clubs are the ones that say, "Hey, we'll try it. If it doesn't work, we'll try something else!"

L. A. Wang, Editor



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MARK MAHONEY:

Arrangements are being made with the Greenwich Rod and Gun Club to host High School Skeet clubs with the Greenwich, Salem and Cambridge schools. The program will be for Youth shooters in the 10th and 11th grades. Instruction and coaching will be accomplished by certified 4 H shooting sports instructors who are also Owlkill club members. The program will be indemnified by the Cornell Extension service. Funding for the program will be by the Greenwich Rod and Gun Club.

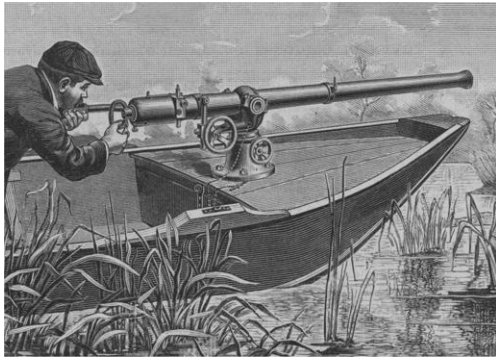


TRIVIA

Last month's question – lots of responses! Thank you to Mark Mahoney, Joe Ahrberg, John Wiley, and Rich Allen for your responses! Here were the questions:

1. *Hunting: What was a "punt gun" and why was it banned?*

A "punt gun" was a huge shotgun, often mounted right on a small boat and was used for duck hunting; okay, more like used for commercial harvesting of duck. It could literally take a flock right off the water. It was decided that there was nothing sportsmanlike at all in its use and it could result in the extinction of types of wild duck.



A punt gun, mounted and ready for action.

2. *Military: The 1860 Henry repeating rifle was one of the first lever action rifles used in combat. One of the employees at Henry was Oliver Winchester, who later created the Winchester 1866. It introduced two major and practical improvements over the 1860. What were those improvements and what was the practical benefit?*

Improvements in the Winchester 1866 – more conventional ammunition (the 1860 used a proprietary rimfire round); handguard over the barrel (kept dirt out of the spring magazine and protected the hand from burning on a hot barrel); spring actuated loading door on the right side of the receiver (made it far easier to load from under cover or in the prone position than loading at the end of the barrel).

3. *Presidents: Name a President awarded the Medal of Honor; a President awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross; a President awarded the Legion of Merit; and two Presidents awarded the World War I Victory Medal.*

Medal of Honor – Col. Theodore Roosevelt; DFC – Lt. George H.W. Bush; Legion of Merit – Gen. Dwight Eisenhower; and WWI Victory Medal – CPT Harry Truman and Gen. Dwight Eisenhower.

This month's questions:

Movies (this is for our Secretary and resident classic movie buff, "The Duke"): In the classic Boer War drama "Breaker Morant" (1980), an Australian officer was tried for unlawfully executing insurgents. When asked by what authority he executed the prisoners, he declared "Rule three-oh-three!" To what was he likely referring?

Military: US Marines have a number of nicknames, but one of the most enduring is "leatherneck." To what does this refer?



Photo: Circa 1900 - American soldiers in combat for what would be the first of many times in the 20th Century in Southeast Asia, in this case the Philippines. While these Americans were sweating in wool uniforms and firing 30-40 Krag-Jorgensen rifles, the British were fighting their own counter-insurgency war, but in southern Africa in the Boer War, referenced in the first trivia question for this week. The Americans rapidly ditched the wool uniforms and replaced them with tropical uniforms imported from Hong Kong...



USMC Recruiting Poster – based on these leathernecks’ uniforms, I’d say late 30s, early 40s.

Presidents: Who was the first President to die in office – and what other distinction does this President hold?



FLY TYING AT THE OWLKILL

By Dave Langlois

Pictures from the fishing side of first time fly tiers at the club in march. A good time was had by all... and thanks to all participants, without which a program just doesn't happen! And some trivia:

Question: What fly does the Adams imitate?

Answer: No fly at all but many May Flies, making it one of the best flies to have in your fly box when fishing.



