

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

April 2018



President: John D'Allaird

Vice Pres.: Bret Seiler

Board of Directors: Mark Mahoney (Chairman), David Langlois, Ray Phillips, Heath MacNeil

Treas.: Randy Burgoyne

Secretary: Tom Duclos

Have you renewed your membership yet? www.owkill.org

Monthly Meeting: This month's meeting will take place on Thursday, April 12th at 7:00p.m.

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday**, April 24th at **6:00p.m.**

President's Comments:

Spring... is no longer on the way but is *officially here*- even if the elements have not yet yielded to the fact.

This leads us to spring cleaning, painting, yard work... and fishing.

The Club also has plans to maintain, upgrade and beautify that will increase the Club's already effective utility.

-The Spring Work Day has been re-scheduled for **June 9th**. Last month's PresComm in the Newsletter announced that May 12th would be the day for this Work Day but scheduling conflicts required it to change.

-The senseless shooting on February 14th at a school in Florida briefly mentioned last month has created new efforts at legislation to further regulate firearm purchase, ownership, transfer and use in some states pushing for it, similar to the unfortunately successful effort of our governor in NY after the Sandy Hook incident of December 2012 which impulsively yielded the New York Safe Act in January 2013, with its mixed language, confusion and ill effects.

These efforts are rightfully causing push back from those who hold to the right to keep and bear arms guaranteed by the country's Constitution- not to mention all the other acknowledged rights so easily abrogated by over-reaching government officials who, to be generous, may be attempting to do right, but in the end remove other men's liberties without solving the problem at hand. All good sense agrees with this push back from the citizenry, considering the founding father's understanding of the absolute necessity of the legal citizenry (who is the government in our land) to hold full authority ultimately over an unchecked and all-powerful handful of elected government officials wielding power. Governmental offices are peopled by fallible men- and men would be tyrants if allowed the opportunity. Thank James Madison, Thomas Jefferson and several others for this formative insight, reminder and warning regarding the principle that ***'absolute power corrupts absolutely'***.

Thoughtful deliberation recognized our self-evident and stated rights in the first place and it is also the basis of our consent to self-government. Prudence doesn't come naturally. It is now incumbent on us to apply the same thoughtful reason to direct ourselves in our opposition to the overreach we oppose, guiding us in appropriate expression of our just opposition to un-constitutional encroachments by government on every right guaranteed by our Bill of Rights.

We must vigorously oppose these encroachments sought by uninformed, misinformed or misguided leaders at best, or by those given to the Machiavellian trickery of all Statists who subvert all things to their own dominating ends at worst.

Reasoning to safeguard the 2nd Amendment favors our side of the issue- even if it seems like an uphill battle- and we must act within our constitutionally defined parameters to affirm the continuation of these rights.

Also, our words and actions can win or forfeit the point.

There was a rally in support of the 2nd Amendment today at the Four Corners in Bennington, VT from noon 'til 2 PM. Vermont's Governor Scott currently has on his desk several bills from the Senate and House to either sign or veto and I am unsure of their status at this moment, though he has said he will sign them. Not having read the bills in full myself but having seen online posts of small passages, e.g. restricting certain types of magazines; mental state or soundness of purchaser, etc., I will not attempt to speak to the contents, just remark on what I witnessed at the rally today.

The Rally was peaceful and respectful, but was vocal- all three being necessary to win the ear and minds of those who are uncommitted to the issue, or uninformed. One passerby after expressing their opposition on a specific point was won over by conversation- a patient man explaining the conflicting terms they had misunderstood. The only senseless comments I heard came from people in two different passing cars who gave gestures commensurate to their two-word invective- comment from those who use neither sense nor reason and cannot discuss a point without being led by rancor. Most, certainly better than half of the passing cars eagerly indicated their loud support with thumbs up, shouts and a steady blaring of horns in favor of supporting the rally for the 2nd Amendment.

Peaceful. Respectful. Certainly a '**non-silent majority**', with at least one mind changed by the truth. A good day.

-4-H Shooting sports continues using the Club's facilities for training this spring. The ranges are still available to members with very little range down time. Look at the webpage and calendar for details.
-LOTTERY TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE! Support the club! Buy a ticket and sell some!

Volunteer to help with the Lottery. The time invested will be minimal but a helper is needed.

See you at the meeting, 7:00 PM Thursday, April 12th.

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



EDITOR'S COLUMN

A good April to all of you! Like John D. says above, Spring is officially here. I'm glad he told us, because you wouldn't know it outside! But we've had more than our share of mild winters over the last few years, so the debt has to be paid at some point.

I hope that you all are ready for a great year here at the club, as the weather warms up. The ranges will be active, we have a club work day coming up, and the birds will be flying on the skeet field. Ideas for other activities? Let someone know! We ALWAYS reserve the right to get smarter here at the club!

Have a great month!

Lance Allen Wang, Editor



TRIVIA

Thanks to Rich Allen for his correct responses to last month's questions. Okay! Last month's questions. FIREARMS, BASEBALL, and AMERICAN POLITICS

1. Sometimes called "The Woolworth Pistol" this cheapo .45ACP single-shot pistol was made by the United States at a cost of about two bucks a piece, and was meant to be used by insurgents in occupied territories during World War II. It shipped in a little cardboard box with ten rounds in it and a little piece of wood to help extract fired cartridges. What was this pistol?



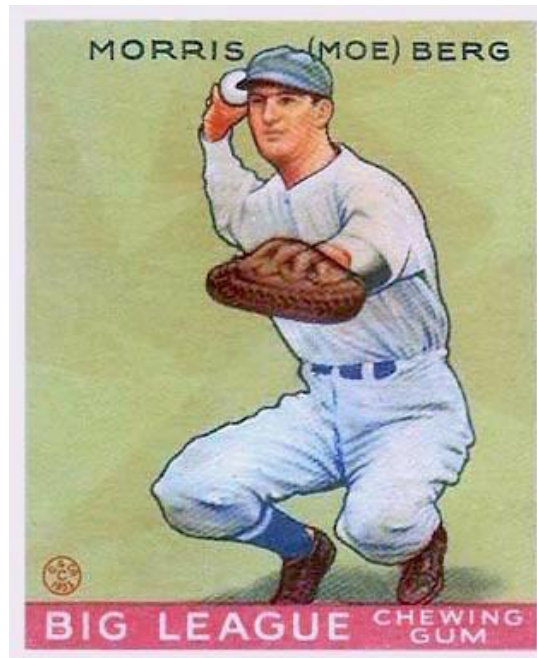
The FP-45 Liberator was often called the "Woolworth Pistol" after Woolworths, a major dime store at the time, due to its cheap construction

BONUS! In 1964, the US designed a follow up to "The Woolworth Pistol," but in 9mm for use in Vietnam. What was it?



The CIA designed "The Deer Gun" – note cocking knob to rear. Perhaps an improvement on the Liberator, but this weapon was determined to be unnecessary for Vietnam in 1964 as it became a wider war.

2. After a 16 year major league career, this catcher, who had played for Brooklyn, Boston, and four other teams, went on to serve in Europe with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the predecessor to today's CIA, during World War II. Among his other qualifications was that he spoke several languages and was a frequent contestant on "Information, Please" a 1930s radio quiz game.



Moe Berg, catcher for Brooklyn, Chicago, Cleveland, Washington, and Boston over a 16 year baseball career, before being contracted into the OSS and parachuting into Yugoslavia. He worked for the OSS until April 1945. A salute to Rich Allen, who dug up this quote from one of his former baseball teammates, Ted Lyons of the Chicago White Sox – "He can speak 12 languages, but he can't hit in any of them!"

3. In 1940, Franklin Delano Roosevelt ran for his third term as President of the United States. His Republican challenger that year was a gentleman named Wendell Wilkie. Wilkie had an interesting credential that may have given pause to long-time Republicans. What would that credential have been?

Wendell Wilkie was a lifelong Democrat prior to getting the Republican nomination, and he coined the phrase later used by Ronald Reagan – "I did not leave my party. My party left me."

OK! This month's questions – planes, cars, and boats.

1. Planes for 300 – The B-36 was a huge turboprop bomber which replaced the B-29 Superfortress, our largest bomber of World War II. This platform was our last major propeller-driven bomber, and was succeeded by the B-52, still in service today. One of the most interesting variants was the NB-36H "Crusader." What unusual method of propulsion was utilized by the NB-36H?



The NB-36H in flight. Want to do a ride-along? Nope...

2. Cars for 200: From 1896 to 1905, this car outsold all gasoline-powered cars, and was the second most popular brand of car. Its sales declined when the assembly line made gasoline powered cars cheaper and the electric starter made gasoline cars more convenient. What was the car, and what was its method of propulsion?
3. Boats for 100: What did all of these ships have in common? The USS Despatch, USS Dolphin, USS Mayflower, USS Potomac, USS Sequoia, USS Sylph, and USS Williamsburg.



4-H SHOOTING SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL SKEET

4 H high school skeet has added Hoosick Falls High school to the program. 15 Students attended the certification class and will be under the guidance of Trish Stefanovich and her Father Phil Couch. Want to know more about the 4-H High School Skeet program? Ask our Owlkill Board of Directors Chairman Mark Mahoney!



OWLKILL LOTTERY

Have you bought your tickets? Have you sold any tickets? Please do both. Remember – the lottery is how we improve the facility and deal with emergency repairs. Our budget – dues, etc. – is enough to keep the club running. But our lottery sales helps take our club to the next level, plus it really does offer some fantastic prizes for the winners. And EVERY DAY during the drawing is the opportunity for new winners! Sell the lottery. It really would sell itself, but it doesn't have a mouth and can't walk about... that's all of our job.