

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

AUGUST 2016



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

What's happening at the Owlkill? Check out www.owlkill.org

Monthly Meeting: This month's meeting will take place on Thursday, August 11th, at 7:00p.m.

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday** July 26th at **6:00p.m.**

President's Comments:

As a follow-up to July's comment, a paean to the great form of governance we in the U.S. have inherited, our involvement in the political process is required. We as citizens are the deciding factor as we vote to fill the offices of representative government. That is our privilege and duty, and when exercised with knowledge of the candidate will yield representatives carrying our convictions in their decisions. That is our part and it is the best we can do. Not doing it will surely yield tyrannical oversight by leaders.

The current political and uncivil social climate we are experiencing heightens the passions of many, defying reason, creating more heat than light, with hard feelings and rancor, engendering no peace. We hear it on radio, blogs and television beckoning us to join the affray, creating bitter debate in all social settings, threatening all associations- even a club. But, we can leave fruitless argumentation to those who seek it. As in all associations and social settings: **WE ARE THE KEEPERS OF OUR OWN PEACE.**

It is a beautiful summer, vacations are either a recent memory, current joy, or are yet to come- which is all good during a summer full of possibilities.

- The 'dog days of August' are here, growing faintly shorter each day and are soon to yield to autumn.
- Gardens are already yielding and fruitful.
- Fishing is in full swing and in some waters the fish are plentiful; low water though in most streams.
- Our minds now move to preparation for the hunting seasons to come.
- Many deer have been seen and some large racks- triplet fawns seen in the 'Crik' again this year.

The Club is in good shape and is moving on, providing for us its main benefit and raison'detre: a place for the safe and unalloyed pleasure of participating in our favorite shooting sports.

- The skeet field is well attended and supplied with clays after the July delivery.
- The 1-¼"thick steel plate donated to the club by Cambridge Valley machining is here and ready to be allocated as backstops by the pistol and rifle committees. Thanks to Jim Moore for donating and to Lloyd Wetsel for moving the steel here with his equipment. The plate alone weighs in at about a ton.
- The grounds are well kept and inviting.

Jump in, the waters' fine.

A hearty thank you goes out to Senator Kathy Marchione and Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin for taking the time out of their busy schedules to visit our club on July 14th, to keep us informed of the real business of the state Congress- both Senate and House, the status of existing legislation and a working

knowledge of current issues of interest to our club in the motions of our state government. They are both faithful elected officials and are well deserving of our full support for their service to their constituencies.

One Lotto winner chose to receive the alternate cash value of a prize rather than the prize- a Thompson Center Encore Pro Hunter, Frame Model 6297 with .308 Win Model 4755 Barrel. The fortunate new owner will be decided at the September 8th Club Meeting Lotto drawing. Tickets can be purchased at the August 11th Club meeting, the August 30th BOD meeting (at 6PM), or at the September 8th Club meeting just prior to the drawing - **the tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00; or by mail ticket purchase- accepted ONLY up until Sept 1st post-mark to allow time for processing.**

There will be a Work Day in September – dates and details to be announced. Many hands make fast and light work so let's all pitch in and get 'r done.

See you at the meeting on Thursday, August 11th.

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



EDITOR'S COLUMN

As we come down to the wire on a rancorous election, I think it is time to clarify where we stand as an organization with regards to politics. We are not a political club – that said, we do, whether we like it or not - have an interest, firearms, which attracts politicians like flies to road apples. Firearms legislation attracts fire breathers from both sides of the aisle, whether out of genuine feeling or out of political opportunism. But their actions impact us individually and as a group, thus it is important that the club membership is aware of current issues and trends.

I try to keep our speaker program active. The speaker program is focused on bringing people in who will talk about firearms and shooting sports. We've brought in politicians who have been directly involved in opposition to the NY SAFE Act and they have brought us up to date on current legislative initiatives. We've brought in law enforcement to discuss implications and enforcement. We've brought in a District Attorney who was sponsoring anyone in his office to get carry conceal permits. I speak for the club leadership when I say that we welcome a speaker of any political stripe, so long as he or she is speaking about something which is of interest to the club and its members. As the program continues and has the blessing of the club leadership, I will be reaching out to law enforcement, politicians (both parties), manufacturers, and sportsmen and sportswomen in search of interesting speakers – so long as they will be speaking about matters that are in line with the Club's interests. Not in line with the "Club's politics" – which should be none – but with our interest in firearms, shooting sports, and yes – even fishing.

For a sharp turn away from politics, for September's meeting, we will be having a presentation from waterfowl expert Steven Sanford about a lifetime of duck hunting in NY State...!

L. A. Wang, Editor



TRIVIA

First of all, last month's question: Hats off to Mark Mahoney and John Wiley for their answers....

As so much of our attention is devoted to the Presidential elections this year, let's look back to a time when our Presidents were military veterans. 26 of our 44 Presidents served in the military.

Bunny Slope: Name two of our Presidents who were 5-star generals.

This was a harder question than it looked. The only 5-star general who wore this rank and became President was Dwight D. Eisenhower. HOWEVER, the actual title to the rank of 5-star General is "General of the Army" (or "Armies") – a title which both Ulysses S. Grant (awarded by Congress in 1866) and George Washington (posthumously awarded by President Ford in 1976). Any of these three answers would be correct considering the way the question was written!

Intermediate: Name one of our Presidents who won the Medal of Honor.



Like father, like son: The only President awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor was Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, posthumously in 2001. Interestingly, his son, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Junior was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions as Deputy Commander of the 4th Infantry Division at Utah Beach on D-Day (he died of a heart attack several days after his heroic actions during the amphibious invasion).

Double Diamond Difficult: Name the only one of our Presidents who served as an enlisted man, and did NOT go on to become an officer.

James Buchanan served as a private in the Pennsylvania militia, fighting in the War of 1812 to defend Baltimore against British invasion.

Some random trivia for this month:

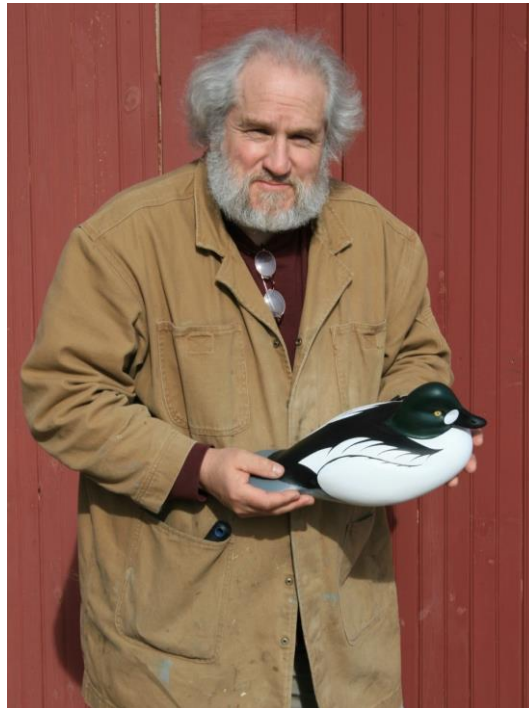
1. Sniper Chris Kyle recorded a kill at 1.2 miles. What caliber firearm did he do this with?
2. NYPD Officers can choose between three manufacturers for their sidearm – who are the three manufacturers?
3. In 1836 a patent was awarded for a “revolving gun” to this person.
4. The “Gun that Won the West” and the “Peacemaker” were made in what state?
5. This device, attached to the end of the barrel, vents emerging propellant gas from the cartridge to reduce recoil.



Navy SEAL Chris Kyle (1974-2013)



Coming in September:



From Timber Point to Pencil Brook Farm

An overview of duck shooting over a lifetime in New York State

Steve Sanford is a retired wildlife ecologist whose passion for waterfowl hunting was kindled along Long Island's south shore where he grew up. His presentation will introduce the audience to the basics of waterfowl hunting and will provide an overview of his experiences in pursuit of ducks, geese and brant from Washington County cornfields to the Atlantic Ocean. Outside of the gunning seasons, his waterfowl interests include drawing, painting and carving birds; designing, building and restoring boats; documenting the history of waterfowl hunting; and teaching about his favorite subject both locally and on-line. He has helped out with the 4-H Shooting Sports program for the past few years. In addition to a PowerPoint presentation, Steve will bring some water fowling paraphernalia and one of his duck boats.



AND LAST – BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST



Tom “Duke” Duclos, our esteemed Owlkill Rod and Gun Club Secretary reports: “... the grand daughter and I were on the Battenkill over the Fourth weekend and she caught this fifteen inch Brown trout. I won’t give away the location... and the trout is not talking.”