

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

DECEMBER 2015



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

Want to use the internet for something cooler than silly cat videos? Check out www.owkill.org

Monthly Meeting: The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Owlkill Rod & Gun Club will be held on Thursday December 10th at 7:00p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting will take place on Tuesday, 12/29, at 7:00pm at the Clubhouse.

President's Comments:

Thanks to a very mild fall we've had more time to address the wayward slates on the roof and mow the lawn yet again. Not to mention the warm weather hunting for which many had to dig out some less insulates clothes! There have been shooters on the skeet range and many walking about in shirt sleeves recently. Go figure!

That is about to change- with a vengeance- remember it is December in New England! **Mustn't Grumble!** Still, we are undeterred from our regular winter activities, inactivity, holiday plans, travels and our plans for next year.

At the time of this writing there still remains seven days of regular deer season, which is the focus for many in our number at this time of year. Good luck! The clock is ticking.

2015 has been a very fruitful and productive year for the Owlkill Rod and Gun Club!

Here's a quick review:

- **The Bennington Police used our facilities for winter tactical training** and Chief Doucette subsequently spoke at our monthly meeting this spring. He is a live wire for sure! Good to be helpful to local law enforcement.
- **Successful 2015 lottery**- leading to this year's many wonderful prize offerings and a Lottery Extraordinaire in the works right now. **This year's Lottery will allot much more time to sell tickets so get involved with it- see Tim Barry.**
- **Formation of a FANTASTIC web page**- thanks to Tim Barry- that is a wealth of information and a valuable recruitment tool. It has already brought in many new members.
- **New archery backstop**- Bill Zeppetelli's design- and a new Archery Storage Shed.
- **New Pistol Shed**- from a \$5,000 donation by the Greenwich Rod and Gun Club went for materials... all our own labor saved thousands! Thanks again to Mark Mahoney for spearheading and G.C.'ing the building of it.
- **Firearms Safety Awareness Clinic** on June 6th- Bill Z.'s brainchild bringing in the 'uninitiated in firearms use' to learn of proper safety and to debunk fear. The clinic led to several new members. The curriculum is being reviewed and tweaked by its author and hopefully will be taught in other clubs and venues as well as ours. An educated public votes sensibly.

- **Club Picnic/Flea Market/Swap Meet** where many good trades and sales took place. Thanks again to John Sheaff.
 - **Work Day** on October 17th accomplished all tasks by 3PM with many hands chiming in. Thanks again to all who came.
 - **We have a new Grounds Committee Chairman**- Charlie Kovage- he's been busy (and it shows) and has great plans for the future!!! Thanks to Charlie and Grounds Committee.
 - **Turkey Shoot** in October. The idea came up very quickly late in the year and with little advertising still broke even. Next year it will be promoted more heavily and will be larger with more offerings for the shooting sports.
- Note:** The Club had an opportunity to reach out to those in the community experiencing financial difficulties by donating the extra Turkey Certificate prizes- \$288 worth- to the local food pantry, 'Loaves and Fishes. It was greatly appreciated by the Director Rev. Jim Bartholomew and immediately went to their Thanksgiving feast and to homes in need in Southern Washington County. He formally thanked the Club in a press release in the Eagle. Thanks to all the Club members who voted to reach out this way.
- **Our former President Lance Wang** elected to the **White Creek Council seat - their gain!**
 - **We've grown with a bit in 2015- over 20 new members this year- welcome to all new members- glad you're aboard!**

Review is a GOOD thing and we've had lots of input this year to review and grow by. All these events, accomplishments and fulfilled plans happened because of the Club Membership joining in to get them done with volunteer labor, donations of time, planning, effort and money. Thanks to all.

Thanks go out to all the Officers and Board of Directors for their constant efforts.

We've also seen an esprit-de-corps here in the club and it will grow into the coming year and years. This will distinguish our club in all its efforts and the fellowship fostered by it.

See you at our monthly meeting on Thursday, 12/10.

Enjoy all the blessings of this season.

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

EDITOR'S COLUMN

So what have I bagged this hunting season? About a hundred squirrels (in my mind!), and a lot of fresh air. I don't know where the deer are, except to say that they are where I ain't. They are nearby, I hear the shots periodically in the hills. But go figure, it's been a tough season for me. Silver lining - I'm getting a lot a quality tree stand time, and the season isn't over yet. And I keep in mind that around Independence Day I was hoping that the Mets would play .500 ball, and by the time the season was over they were in the World Series. So, suffice to say that there is still plenty of opportunity for the situation to turn around!

Unfortunately, world events have been pretty nasty this hunting season. Namely, several terrorist attacks – one home-grown (Colorado), and two jihadis (Paris and San Bernadino). Of course, you know when these things happen two things take place – there's a run on firearms, and then there's the cynical calculus in certain corners of government that gun control can fix it. The real question we need to ask ourselves as gun rights supporters is "Do we involve ourselves in the discussion or don't we?" The operative word, of course, is "discussion." Not slogans. Not shouting matches. The fact is that if we don't get involved in the discussion, the legislative train will leave the station without us on board. Our opponents provide what the uninformed public hears as a "sweet voice of reasonableness," especially times like now, and we seem tone-deaf. We've seen what happens in New York when legislation is penned by people who know nothing about firearms and we are not pulled into the discussion.

If the discussions about gun control take place and we don't come to the table, who's going to say, "Here are some laws that are on the books – why don't we try enforcing them?" (or better yet "Here is a plan for enforcing them"). Who are going to be the ones that say, "You know, gun crime prosecutions at the Federal level are at their lowest level in years – what are we going to do about it?" But if we don't participate in bi-partisan committees to address these issues, I'm quite afraid that we will end up, in the end, on the outside looking in as an increasingly fearful public, fed shocking images through the 24-hour news cycle, allow gun-control legislation to get railroaded through. And as we know, that's really not going to help anyone except gun-control supporters, who get to enjoy the illusion of action.

But you know what? It's the holidays. I'm going to give myself the gift of taking a deep breath, taking stock of my many blessings, sharing the love of family and friends – and wishing you all the same in a happy, healthy, and blessed season.

L. A. Wang, Editor

REMINDER ABOUT NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL POLICIES/FORMS FOR 2016

We published this last month – but its that important, folks...

1. Dues and renewals are due no later than the 1st of March. On that day, the combo to the clubhouse and ranges changes.
2. Renewals received between 1st of March and 1st of June have a \$20.00 penalty.
3. Renewals received after the 1st of June will be treated as a new membership, which means that the applicant will have to appear before the Board of Directors' Meeting and then the next Membership meeting before approval.

Please understand – *the goal is not that we want to collect penalties or have anyone jump through hoops.* The goal is to get membership renewals in before the 1st of March so we can manage our finances and pay the Club's bills. I'm sure I speak for our Chairman of the Board of Directors and our President when I say we would be happy to collect no penalties next year!

4. For those who are unable to participate in work details and/or committees, we have provided the OPTION to donate an additional \$25.00 with your renewal which will be allocated towards supplies and materials to support our work parties. In other words, if you can't do some of the physical heavy lifting, let Jackson and Lincoln do the lifting for you.
5. As with last year, we are offering the opportunity to pre-purchase Owlkill Lottery tickets for next year. The tickets have been printed and will be ready as stocking stuffers if you like! Pre-purchase, make your life easier, and we'll mail the tickets to you with your new membership card.

As always, please sign and date a copy of the safety rules and submit with your renewal form! They have been updated to correct a couple of typos from the earlier edition

2016 OWLKILL LOTTERY!!!

The Club has accepted a quote from *American Trade & Goods, Inc.* to supply the firearms for our next lottery. For our GPS users the store is located at 1213 Loudon Rd. Cohoes, NY 12047. That's US Route 9 a bit South of the Mohawk River on the East side for our dead reckoning navigators. Stop in to check out their store, they're open Mon-Sat 10-6. Tickets are on sale for the June 2016 Gear and Gun Lottery. Give Santa a hand, stuff a few of these in stockings this Holiday Season.

TRIVIA

No answers to this past month's trivia question!!!

As you may recall last month's question.... John Browning, designer of the famous Colt 1911 ".45 Auto" was later commissioned to produce a pistol for the French Army. Of course, he'd signed his patents over to Colt for his auto pistol design, so he had to start from scratch in some ways. He died in 1926 before the design was complete. What was the pistol that he came up with, and who finished the design after his passing? Hint – the alternative French name for the pistol they wanted was "*Grand Puissance.*"

The pistol, of course, was the Browning Hi-Power. John Browning passed away as he was finishing the



new semi-automatic pistol. The design was finally finished in 1934 by an organization that has had a long relationship with Browning – Fabrique National (FN) (see November's trivia column for more information on the relationship). The Hi-Power has had a long and distinguished history, and has a relationship with Europe's militaries very similar to our relationship with the Colt 1911. Much like the 1911, this pistol is still seen in service with military and police organizations throughout the world.

So – this month's question. The .45 ACP Thompson Submachine Gun, famed for its use by organized crime and police through the 1920s (with its trademark drum magazine and cliché violin case), and later by British and American soldiers during World War II (Americans with stick magazines, generally) was an elegant design though maintenance intensive, heavy as a Garand, and expensive to manufacture. It was replaced by a decidedly inelegant design at the end of the war – but cheap and easy to manufacture, primarily of stamped metal. This piece stayed in the inventory through the 1980s. What was the replacement for the Thompson? And what was its odd (though appropriate) nickname?

Semper Fidelis! 70 years ago – Marines advancing on Okinawa, May 1945. The Marine in the foreground has the Thompson Submachine Gun. The Marine on the right carries the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR).

