

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

FEBRUARY 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

Have you checked out the website dedicated to some of the finest sportsmen and women in Southern Washington County? Check out www.owlkill.org

Monthly Meeting: The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Owlkill Rod & Gun Club will be held on Thursday, February 11th at 7:00p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 25th at 7:00p.m.

President's Comments:

We're having a wonderful spring this winter- I expect we will have an equally seasonable winter this spring!

-As long as the maple sap-run and sugaring season is not too disrupted, all is not lost. We all do so look forward to our real maple syrup!

-Good weather also makes possible early prepping for upcoming club activities.

-The weather has been so favorable that there have been well attended skeet and rifle/pistol target activities already, which is unusual for this time of year!

The theme of passing on our own joy, experience and desire in participating in the shooting sports, hunting and fishing, is the point of this month's comment. Many forces today seem so arrayed against the promotion and practice of all these historically ***'best-of'*** activities and the most vocal and harsh attacks come from the most uninformed and often unteachable sources, driven more by their political ideologies and agendas rather than by knowledge. Whether one delights in these, our favored outdoor activities or not, the liberty we've enjoyed as a birthright allows for- and historically encourages- the best of the shooting and outdoor sports, as our readers here already know. Our own Bill Zeppetelli's **FSAC** (Firearms Safety Awareness Course) was designed just for the purpose of informing the uninformed, safely familiarizing the uninitiated with the use of firearms, demystifying and taking from them the fear they have been inculcated with. ***It works for those willing to take part. Reason must win this battle for hearts and minds, winning one person at a time. Our club is making this effort! Calling all individuals to join this effort too.***

Today as I am editing this message to send it off to our Editor Lance Wang, the **DEC Hunter's Safety Course is going on at the Clubhouse**, being taught by John Wiley, Mark Mahoney and Bill Whitehouse.

The students signed up have come from near as well as quite far away, the course being hard to find in many areas at this present time. Those enrolled may not know how good they have it, being taught by these instructors- all three Club members- who individually and together have many, many years of excellent experience and knowledge to draw from in their instruction of all types of hunting and shooting sports. **This is another strength in which our club is so well equipped to engage, prepare and incite more people to join our sport!**

-Anyone interested in training to become a certified DEC Instructor (or 4-H / NRA as well) - in sending on the hunting sports to the next generation of eager hunters- speak with John, Mark or Bill. The more people there are certified to deliver this course- the more the load can be shared in the endeavor so necessary in preserving our heritage.

Busy times ahead:

-BOD Elections at this month's meeting. All four Directors (Tim Barry, Dave Langlois, Mark Mahoney and Lance Wang) have consented to stand for election so come out and vote.

-‘Pies and Lies Night’ (mistakenly referred to as ‘Cabin Fever’ in last month’s Presidents Comment) is coming on **Tuesday evening @ 7:00PM, March 1st at the club- bring a pie and some tall tales about your hunting, fishing, hiking and outings.** We will amuse and awe each other with our ‘believe it or not’ tales. Come and do not be shy about tales that may even show us with some human foibles if needs must- which can be very amusing too.

-Club labeled hats, apparel and accessories will become available in March via an online catalog - details to come at Thursday’s Club meeting.

The BOD and the Committee Chairs are mapping out a fruitful and busy season. Jump in – the water’s fine!

See you at our monthly meeting on Thursday, 2/11/2016

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

EDITOR’S COLUMN

Well folks, I’m going to keep the comments short this month. We have a heavy political season going on, one which does not give me the greatest feeling of encouragement. I have to wonder sometimes if our best and brightest are running, no matter which side of the aisle they come from. And I have to wonder – why would the best and brightest want to subject themselves to a process which seems increasingly designed to promote viewership and advertising rather than a free marketplace of ideas based more upon the rational good sense that our Creator has endowed us with rather than rigid ideologies and platforms which supposedly have “all the answers.” What does this have to do with the shooting sports, and why am I laying this out in here?

For this simple reason – if one wishes to bring another over to their way of thinking, on any issue, it won’t be by challenging their rigid ideologies and thus making them defensive. Rather – it will be by bridging the divide between you and them, and finding somewhere, somehow that common ground, that your rational good sense meets theirs. Then, and only then, can real communication begin. It takes work. But if we don’t do that work, then we are leading ourselves into a perpetual state of conflict. This applies to many issues – including protecting our 2nd Amendment rights.

I’m not saying it will always work – indeed, it may fail more than it succeeds. But I’d personally be

happier seeing folks on the other side of the aisle championing our 2nd Amendment freedoms alongside us rather than us simply enjoying a temporary majority where we can keep the other side at bay – for now.

Not a sermon, just a thought...

L. A. Wang, Editor

PIES AND LIES NIGHT



Tuesday, March 01, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

Every trip afield, regardless of the degree of success, always results in a story just waiting to be told to friends. Please come and join us at the Owlkill Rod and Gun Club Tuesday night, March 01, 2016 at 7:00 PM for an evening of storytelling and pie eating. Come and share a hunting adventure or an enhanced tale of what may have or not have happened in your trip afield this past season. Every story is worth telling! In addition to your favorite story, bring along your favorite pie to share with friends. Coffee and soft drinks will be provided.

We look forward to a fun and calorie filled evening.

2016 OWLKILL LOTTERY!!!

Members can turn in any completed slips and funds at all regular meetings. As always you can purchase tickets on the spot, when renewing your membership or you may pick up folders of tickets to sell over the winter as your time permits. Ticket stubs that are returned are subsequently listed and may be viewed from our [Fundraising](#) page by clicking the [2016 Numbers in Play](#) button. The web page gives club members and the general public a view of how our sales are progressing. Updates to our numbers in play file will regularly take place shortly following monthly meetings and at other appropriate times as ticket stubs are returned. As always the Club thanks all of our retail vendors and ticket sellers for their efforts in making this year's fundraiser a success.

Tim Barry

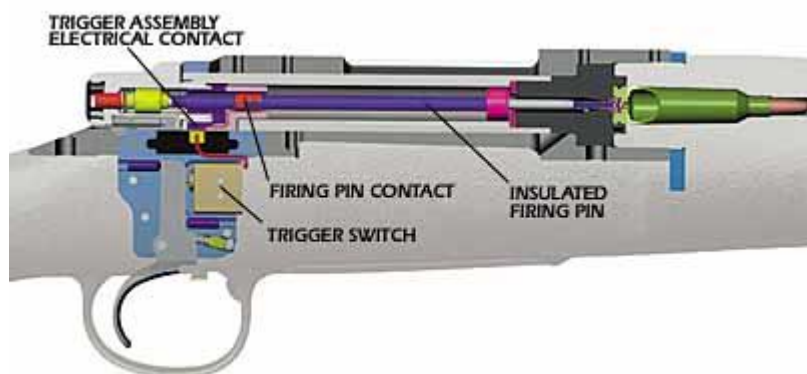
TRIVIA

Last month's trivia question didn't get much response – much like the Remington product that was its subject. Lets revisit the question: Technology can be a blessing, making our lives easier. However, it comes at a cost. Sometimes the cost is simply finding that something that we thought would make a simple task easier instead just makes a simple task more complicated, and the user ends up serving the technology as opposed to the other way around. Sometimes it becomes a solution in search of a problem.

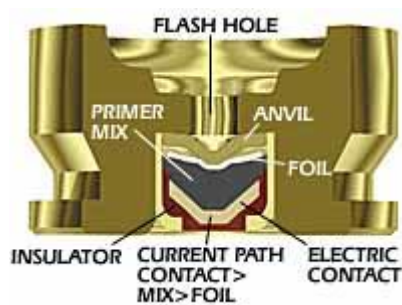
Well, Remington found a solution after lots of time and dollars sunk into a revolutionary new system they called the Etronix, and even released a new Model 700 designed to take advantage of the system (granted, with a two thousand dollar MSRP). Well, this hit the market in 2000, and was gone by 2003. So this month's question is – what the heck was Remington Etronix, and why was it gone by 2003? Well, the

Etronix was a solution in search of a problem. Squeezing the trigger should result in a “bang” about a millisecond or two later, right? Well, that millisecond can be eliminated if we avoid the chemical reaction of ignition, and instead have electronic ignition of the round. Hence Etronix. Electronic primers should ignite instantaneously upon the circuit being completed, right? Well, it sure worked. Except that no one was interested. Of course, Remington made mistakes in marketing it too. For instance, the people who felt that the efficiencies gained in electronic primers were going to boost their accuracy were not going to buy the low end Remingtons that were fitted with the Etronix. Rather, the people who are impressed with the small increase in accuracy tend to go for the higher end Remingtons, like the 40X. Yet, the high end rifles were not fitted with Etronix. So, within three years, Remington quietly withdrew this experiment from the market.

Hat’s off to Mark Mahoney, who did a bit of research to find the answer on this one...

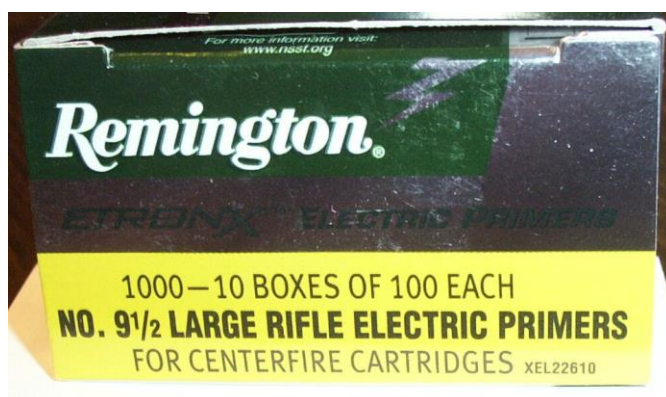


LEFT: Diagram of the Etronix mechanism mounted in a Remington 700.



LEFT: Diagram of the Etronix electronic ignition primer.

BELOW: A box of “large rifle” Etronix primers. These are still available on the secondary market. A box of 100 will easily cost over \$100.00. No thanks...



So, now for this month’s question. The Ruger #1 is one of the most popular single shot rifles in the world. I have one in 45-70, and I love it. Its classy, elegant, and tough as nails. Now in production for about 50 years, its mechanism and look harken back to a simpler time, the 1880s, when the Winchester High and Low-Wall rifles were kings of the single shot world. In addition to a simple design, these type of “falling block” rifle actions are also extremely sturdy and can handle a very powerful load. One would think that the Ruger would be based on the Winchester, but actually its design is based on one which pre-dates the Winchester by at least ten years. What rifle was it based on?



British explorer and hunter Frederick Courtney Selous (1851-1917) in the 1890s. Check out the rifle on the right - is that a Ruger #1? Well, if this were 70 years later, maybe. But Mr. Ruger no doubt drew a lot of inspiration for his famous single shot rifle from the firearm on the right. What is it?