

# OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

JANUARY 2015



*President: Lance Allen Wang*  
*Vice Pres.: John D'Allaird*

*Treas.: Randy Burgoyne*  
*Secretary: Tom Duclos*

*Board of Directors: Mark Mahoney (Chairman), Bill Zeppetelli, Tim Barry, Bret Seiler*

**\* [www.owlkill.org](http://www.owlkill.org) \*\*\* OWLKILL ONLINE IS NOW LIVE!!! \*\*\* [www.owlkill.org](http://www.owlkill.org) \***

**Monthly Meeting:** The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Owlkill Rod & Gun Club will be held on Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

**President's Comments:** Happy 2015 to all of you! I'm expecting a great year at the Owlkill Rod and Gun Club – a place for sportsmen and women to practice their skills, enjoy the company of like-minded individuals, and help perpetuate the safe tradition of shooting sports. Looking back at 2014, I think our greatest success story was the continuing increased involvement of our membership as well as the revitalization of the Board of Trustees under the newly appointed Chairman, Mark Mahoney. The more involved the membership is, from the top and bottom, the better our club serves the members. Pretty simple concept, eh?

## **THE OWLKILL LOTTERY**

**We are going to build on the success of our lottery – and hold it in the Spring this time. The month of May will be prize-a-day drawings – and yes, we're changing up the roster of prizes. Different gift certificates, different firearms, different swag. Buy tickets. Sell tickets. You can even pre-purchase them with your membership renewal. Support your club!!!!**

## **ELECTIONS**

Folks, our February meeting will be our Annual Meeting which will include elections. Want to get more involved? I'll say you do! So consider joining our Board of Directors, or running for a position. We'll be looking for a new President, as I'm completing my fourth year and we have term limits you know..... If you're interested in a position reach out to me or John Wiley.

## **TO OWLKILL OR NOT TO OWL-KILL?**

Active member and personal friend John Sheaff has been chiding me incessantly for the interchanging of "Owlkill" and "Owl Kill" – so, you ask, which one is it? Well a little history courtesy of the Cambridge Valley Chamber – the Owl Kill (also known as the "Owl's Kill") was named for "The Owl," wise chief of the Mohicans, whose domain included Eagle Bridge on the south and the Cambridge Valley. "Kill" or "Kyl" is Dutch for creek or stream, hence "Owl's Kill." So that's where it comes from, and if we were using two words ("Owl Kill") we would certainly be historically accurate and would tip our caps to some of New York's Dutch and Native American roots. However, if you look at many modern maps, the Owlkill is listed as one word. And, on our legal incorporation documents, Owlkill is one word. So that is what we will be using, as it is legally proper. And as I find places where we have been using Owl Kill, I will make the necessary corrections, if only to keep John Sheaff from trying to slap me around.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

We have new membership application and renewal forms. Make sure you use the new forms! And make sure you include signed safety rules with the forms! You are required to recertify your understanding of

these rules annually. Be safe. Protect yourself. Protect the Club. Everybody wins....

### TRIVIA

Trivia question from last month. Almost a year ago to the day, a firearms legend passed away. He had several inventions to his credit. One of his most famous inventions was a rifle which he stated was “a weapon of defense,” and “not a weapon for offense.” Indeed, while accuracy is not the hallmark of his most famous rifle, reliability was.



*“Na-Zdrovyе!!!”*

Well, while alcohol and firearms don’t mix, we can certainly begrudge a toast to the late Soviet Lieutenant-General Mikhail Timofeyevich Kalashnikov, inventor of the AKM, AK-74, PK Machine Gun, and most famously the AK-47, weapon of choice for insurgents around the world. He was conscripted into the Soviet Army in 1938. His mechanical skills saw him assigned as a tank mechanic and eventually tank commander. He was wounded in 1941 and was hospitalized for six months. He heard complaints from soldiers about the poor Russian infantry weapons and decided to build a new rifle for the Army. His talents did not go unnoticed and ended up assigned the Red Army’s research and development division. Although some of his designs were rejected, in 1947, he hit paydirt with the AK-47. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Next month’s question: The US Army used the M60 medium machine gun for a number of years, 1957-1995. Often called the “pig” because it really was big, bulky, and generally a “pig” to have to hump through the woods (never mind the ammo belts, spare barrel, bipod or tripod, ugh....). The M60 was based on a weapon which got a great deal of use during World War II. What was the weapon, who used it, and what was one of the trademark signs that it was being used?

### **SUPPORT OUR EFFORT TO DEFEAT THE NY SAFE ACT ON JUDICIAL APPEAL** **Alex Hillis, Legislative Committee Chair**

NRA and NYSR&PA have each spent about \$400,000 on legal action against the so-called New York SAFE Act to date. The SAFE Act is an obvious and direct assault on the Second Amendment rights of all New Yorkers. Like so many other private political deals in NY it was introduced and passed into law through back-door maneuvering of special interest groups against the expressed will of the people, without appropriate and reasonable public review.

With the re-election of Andrew Cuomo to a second term, and considering his unrealistic views regarding "gun control" pointing toward further unconstitutional "SAFE Act II" legislation (i.e. oppression of law-abiding gun owners coupled with a strange reluctance to adequately punish those using guns for criminal purposes), it is evident we need the suit to continue climbing the rungs of the appeals ladder until it can be taken up by an objective court.

The Owlkill Rod & Gun Club, registered member organization of both the NRA and NYSR&PA, is putting together a collective member donation to NYSR&PA in support of the current legal action against the SAFE Act. Every dollar collected from our membership up to and including our January club meeting will be consolidated by our treasurer, Randy Burgoyne, into one check to be sent to NYSR&PA headquarters in Albany. We presently have seed money of \$100 and hope to send out at least \$1000 to start the New Year off on an encouraging note for NYSR&PA president, Tom King. Please support this important effort!

## HERE'S TO OUR SKEET SHOOTERS

What's a little snow to the Owlkill's skeet mafia? Clay pigeons are clearly a dish best served cold....



Hats off to John Wiley, Peter Zorio, Bob Preble, Tom "Duke" Duclos, and the many intrepid shotgunners who shrugged off the snow in order to break birds, or least get out of the house during 2014's Holiday Season.



**Board of Directors:** Board of Directors meeting will take place at 6:15 p.m. prior to the regular membership meeting on Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup>.

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\*\*\* Got something you want to contribute to the newsletter? Better yet – are you willing to step up and edit this monthly communication? Let me know, I always appreciate someone who is ready to grab on to an opportunity to excel and help the club.

Lance Allen Wang  
President and acting newsletter editor