

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

JULY 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

Check out Owlkill Online! www.owlkill.org

Monthly Meeting: The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Owlkill Rod & Gun Club will be held on Thursday July 9th at 7:00p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regular membership meeting on July 9th.

President's Comments:

July 4, 2015: Foremost this month, the main point is to recognize the magnitude of the day we celebrate as a nation.

This weekend we celebrate **Independence Day, July 4th**- the day in history when the 13 separate Colonies in America officially united for Independence from all forms of the tyrannical governments of men, specifically against the monarchical government of Great Britain, on the basis of a new **'Declaration of Independence'**. King George III is said to have read the document and then flung it behind his throne to the floor, so great was the difference between the free mind and that of the old world monarchs. This document was assembled from all the best thinking of history, the rational thinking of governance and acknowledgement of the **'self-evident' unalienable rights derived from The Creator.** This laid a foundation for a people who recognize their individual responsibility to answer firstly to **The Highest Authority**, then as united in this, consent to a government among men, by men under a declaration of these truths. Not a government united by tribe, heredity, language, geography, commercial or other ties, but under the stated universal principles of freedom that apply to all who consent to them- their consent being the condition of their citizenship.

Patriotism was cynically derided by the Socialist George Bernard Shaw as the belief that one's own country is superior only because you were born there. For us, our patriotic tie to our country is the belief that this is the best form of free governance and this makes us determined to be its guardian citizens rather than to be puffed up by our citizenship.

For all of our lives we have been the beneficiaries of the blessings and responsibilities of this form of government, one whose benefits on the whole greatly exceed all that is required of us. FOR THIS WE SHOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL!

The freedom we enjoy exercises itself in many ways and- here at the **Owlkill Rod and Gun Club**- it finds us as an independent group who unite in mutually bearing the responsibilities of membership which also yields more benefits than any one individual can muster to create on his own in his own backyard. In recent months, we've highlighted some of the efforts currently under way here yielding benefits to all the club:

The Pistol Shed is progressing very well and will be a big asset for many members- thanks again to the Greenwich Rod & Gun Club for the donated finances. Mark Mahoney is organizing the effort on this and the work is progressing well solely with volunteer labor from club members.

Call Mark for dates and details of getting into the action. Take a look:



*From raw materials, to a wall, then to what you see at bottom in a little over 3 hours, with a crew of 8 working hard! See the satisfaction on the faces below! **More to be done – SO CALL MARK AND SIGN-UP!!!***



The 8 workers (l. to r.): Arte Erbe, Lloyd Wetsel, Nelson Eddy, Mark Mahoney, Bret Seiler, Joe Ahrberg, Frank Sheldon and myself (not shown- the cameraman). Bill Zeppetelli, Gary Danforth and Mark's grandson Parker were there as well the previous week to help set the sills in place. **THANKS TO ALL!**

-The Grounds are being nicely tended by Fred's Mowing Service, engaged last month by John Wiley.

******WE STILL NEED A GROUNDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN and members.*** See John Wiley or me to get into it. Thanks to John W. for filling this role in the absence of a Chairman and Committee of members.

- ***Swap Meet coming on August 8th at the club 10AM – 5PM.*** Thanks to John Sheaff. Bring items to sell or trade off with other club members. There's a luncheon of cold-cuts too as we get to meet new members and enjoy gab and fellowship.

-We have a speaker scheduled for the August meeting – Lance Wang has engaged ***Chief George Bell***

from the Cambridge/Greenwich Police Dept. and he will be addressing the club and fielding questions.

-There will be a [General Workday](#) in the months to come and some housekeeping tasks after some of the larger work efforts are done (Pistol Shed, et al). The details will be announced on the web page, in e-mail blasts and at next month's meeting so all hearts willing for work- keep at the ready.

-Check out the new Tab- ['News Worth Noting'](#)-on the Home Page of our growing Web Site. This tab will carry news items of special note that are of interest to the club members: notable laws and pending legislation, regulations, seasons, special news items, articles, etc. with links to web pages and contact info when available and needed. ***Read the first one for it may surprise you! Some of your own quick pics may cost you a bundle.***

-Let's all check to be sure that we have sent our dues in for the year 2015- our Membership Cards carry the date on the front and the new lock combo on the back. Some dues renewals for 2015 remain as yet unpaid.

The Club is currently adding members, it seems at every meeting. [Growing the ranks is a good thing!](#) Get your friends to join.

This month, with all the Club's events, concerns and notable items- some yet unmentioned in the interest of brevity- let's ponder the larger foundational things we spoke of at the outset: our fortunate Freedoms and from whence they come. All national benefits for us as U.S. citizens will unfold from that bedrock.



Have a great month and see you at the meeting July 9th!

John D'Allaird
President, Owlkill Rod and Gun Club

EDITOR'S COLUMN

As you gathered from our President's remarks, there is quite a bit going on right now, and a number of opportunities to volunteer. Keep in mind that one of the reasons that our dues are so low is that we rely on volunteers for most of our projects. If we are unable to gather enough volunteers to keep the club's initiatives moving forward, there will be little choice – it will be a choice of raise dues or abandon initiatives to improve the club. Neither of those are choices we want to make. So volunteer. ***Come run the Grounds Committee – or maybe just join the Grounds Committee.*** Come help finish the pistol range

shack. In particular – *we need someone who can build doors for our new pistol shed.* Now that I mention it, *we also need someone who can put a door on the high house on the skeet field.* *We need someone who can do a drop ceiling in the kitchen in the clubhouse.* So help out! Grab a couple of buddies and a hammer, and help the club out. Can you help with these construction projects? If you don't think you have the skills, well, we can decide that. We may just need the extra hands..... Reach out to our Board Chairman, Mike Mahoney, or our President John D'Allaird. Can't reach them? Reach out to me.

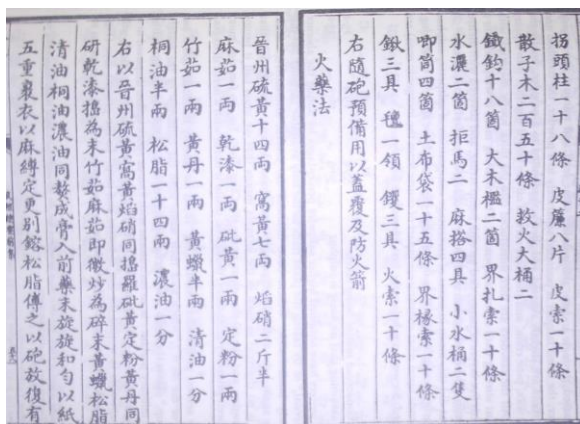
I also want to take my hat off to the Village of Cambridge and their Mayor, club member Carman Bogle, for passing an anti-SAFE Act resolution last week. That makes the 272nd county, city, town, or village which has formally voiced opposition to this ill-considered law. It's been a couple of years now – we can say that Cambridge was late to the party, but rather, I like the fact that it keeps the opposition in the news. The Governor was hoping we'd have forgotten about his signature, opportunistic folly. As a matter of fact, I bet he was counting on it...

L. A. Wang, Editor

TRIVIA

Hats off to John Wiley, John D'Allaird, and Tim Barry for their correct responses – to review last month's question:

Anyway, it is considered common knowledge that the Chinese discovered gunpowder during this general time period. Don't believe me? Here's the earliest known document containing the recipe, and it dates to 1044 A.D.:

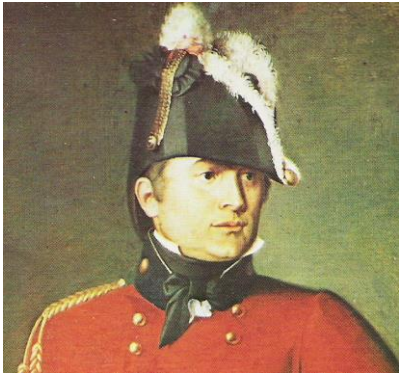


But like many famous discoveries, what they discovered was not necessarily what was sought at the time that they started work. So, I ask you – what was it that the Chinese were trying to discover at the time that they discovered gunpowder?



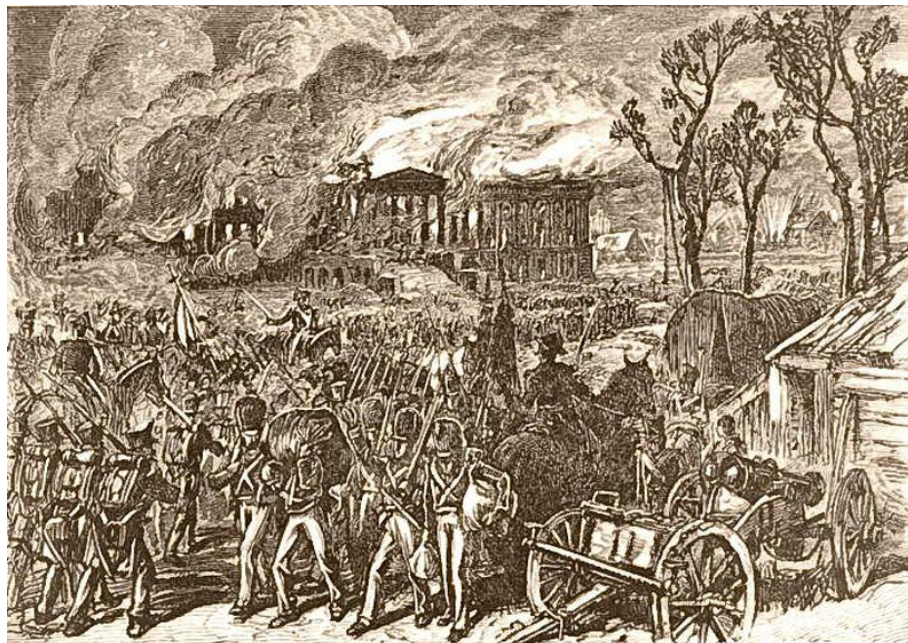
Well, as John W., John D., and Tim pointed out, they were indeed trying to find a formula for “an elixir for immortality.” Well, that didn't work out so well. However, as the surprised individuals in the sketch to your left found out, it had an entirely different effect. While there were a number of fire weapons that had been invented previously such as “Greek Fire,” and projectile weapons such as the catapult, the invention of gunpowder led to a revolution in military affairs as new technologies took advantage of the potential of this new compound.

So let's move to this month's trivia question. As it is Independence Day weekend, let's look at something uniquely American: "The Star Spangled Banner," and the War of 1812. After Washington was sacked by the British in 1814, with the White House and Capitol burned, the British didn't stop. They continued north and made an amphibious landing outside Baltimore. The sea battle that took place was chronicled in our National Anthem, written by Francis Scott Key while held by the British off shore as the British vessels bombarded Fort McHenry. The land battle which took place at North Point (just east of Baltimore) was led by British General Robert Ross, who when told he was being faced by American militia, reportedly scoffed and said he didn't care if it "rained militia."



Two American militiamen, Privates Daniel Wells and Henry McComas, apprentice saddle makers by trade, by many accounts had a pivotal role in the battle, and some might say had a tremendous impact on American history. What was that role?

British General Robert Ross



CAPTURE AND BURNING OF WASHINGTON BY THE BRITISH, IN 1814.

British Troops under General Robert Ross burn the White House in 1814 – the most significant foreign attack on American soil until September 11, 2001.