

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

JULY 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

Want to find out more of what's going on? Check out www.owlkill.org

Monthly Meeting: This is an important meeting this Thursday, July 14th at 7:00PM! Our regular meeting will be abbreviated to maximize our time with two very special guests – so let's fill the clubhouse!



This is going to be a BIG meeting this Thursday!!! Our rescheduled appearance by Assemblyman Steven McLaughlin will be combined with an appearance by State Senator Kathy Marchione. Both of them are great friends to New York's shooting community and we look forward to this election year update from both of them!!!!

***** PLEASE JOIN US *****



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

President's Comments:

-We are slowly approaching the apex of summer, a dry summer.

Even so, the masses of green foliage are starting to vary in hue and intensity, less uniform than the green of spring. The wildlife is thriving- I've seen doe with twins. Gardens went in late but seem to be catching up even with the very dry conditions and armies of hungry chipmunks, woodchucks and rabbits- all with appetites.

As I write this it is raining which is a blessing for the crops and gardens- and with cooler air for us.



Our July 4th celebrations brought together family and friends from all quarters to celebrate our nation's founding by a group of 56 brave colonists who took a vow: "...we mutually pledge to each other our *Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.*", to venture out from the false safe haven and over-reaching tyranny of Great Britain to form a new Government recognizing a new governing paradigm... "*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights...*" , also: "*That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.*"
This government was and should continue to be... "...by the people and for the people...". That's us.

July 4, 1776



Our Club's own July 4th image, signifying our founding Document- The Declaration of Independence

Step forward in time to our day- July 2016. This is a time for us to review our good fortune at being citizens of a great and unique nation in the history of nations, formed not on tribal, ethnic or economic class distinctions but on the recognition of the unalienable rights granted to every 'citizen' by their Creator, with a view towards a small Federation of States as the model for our national government rather than a massive monolithic and tyrannical state from which our forefathers ventured to separate. Though we are experiencing an accelerated encroachment on this '*best of*' model by many would-be-statists, who grow government by empty promises, now is the time to stay true to our founding and be engaged in the political process, as complex and odious as it may seem to be at times. *We must engage it, and vote.*

Ronald Reagan said that "*Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.*"

May it not happen, and especially on our watch.

The events unfolding in the news these past few days with the ambush of police in Dallas TX, Minnesota and other places are tragic- especially for the families involved- and for what these atrocities are indicative of- lawlessness. All are losers where law is ignored or broken. Law as it is set forth and defined by our Constitution is the basis of our republic and all order. We should swamp our legislators with reminders of their vows to uphold law as our Constitution defines it, applied even-handedly to all for the sake of all.

The Club:

Many have been traveling, are, or plan to during these summer months but the club is still a busy place with many activities, work efforts and events keeping us busy:

- Our ranks grew again last month with new members and 5 new members are being presented to the club by the Board for a vote at this month's meeting!

- The 200 yard range is in process of being serviced and opened up and to be more hospitable to the High Power Rifle Shoots and all club members engaging in long range shooting. Thanks to Lloyd Wetsel,

Bill Zeppetelli and John Kapitan for work and ongoing efforts.

- Thanks go out again to Jim Moore and Cambridge Valley Machining for yet another donation of plate steel to be used for backing material on our rifle and pistol ranges. This material is still at CVM and arrangements are being made to get it onsite and in use.

- The Silhouette Shoot, Long Range Rifle Shoot and regular Skeet schedules are well under way this year. Look to the calendar on our club's web page for details.

- The 2016 Gear and Gun Lottery was a great success! Many thanks to Tim Barry for all his work!

- Get your Club Pin – each member gets a pin.

-There is much anticipation for July's meeting: a visit by both Sen. Kathy Marchione and Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin. Come with your questions.

See you at the meeting on Thursday, July 14th.

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

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Folks, I'm heartsick with what is going on in this country. I have no qualms about telling people I'm a supporter of law and order. My best friend is a retired Baltimore police sergeant, and I have made many friends along the way who have increased the common ground I share with my friends in the thin blue line. When the police are upset, I am upset – when they are angry, I'm angry. However, as an American, as someone who knows that the same rules which apply in urban combat in Baghdad cannot be applied in an American city (or certainly cannot in such a way that we can maintain our identity as “the land of the free and home of the brave”) I cannot reconcile the images and stories from the television news with the promises of the land of my birth. This is a very trying time, and an unusual election year. Contentious political conventions, racially punctuated violence (and non-violence) in the streets of our cities, an increasingly ignored but escalating war overseas – well, we've been through this before folks, but the year was 1968. I often look to our history to remind me that the saying from Ecclesiastes 1:9 – “And there is nothing new under the sun” – is true. These times are not exceptional, we have weathered worse. However, we can endeavor to weather it better, and to live to our potential as a people – all of us.

As you make your decisions about your candidates for this year's election, I will suggest that you take a broader view. This year is a referendum about many things, not just the Second Amendment. It's a discussion about the role of government. It's a discussion about the role of the police. It's a discussion about the role of dissent. As much as I may disagree with some of the loud dissent in this country, here is something I keep in mind: The Constitution exists to preserve DISORDER as much as it does preserve order. That is, in my mind, part of the genius of the Founding Fathers.

L. A. Wang, Editor

2016 OWLKILL LOTTERY!!!

We owe a big debt of thanks to Tim Barry – a member of the Club's Board of Directors AND the man who has run the Owlkill Lottery two years in a row. Great job, Tim!!!!

TRIVIA

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

One of the sayings that the GI's had upon the initial fielding of the M16 in Vietnam was “You can tell its

swell, it's Mattel!" which, for you younger folks, was the slogan of the Mattel company in its toy commercials on television at the time.



Photo (left): *An early fielding of the M16 in Vietnam, in this case being carried by Lieutenant Rick Rescorla of the American 1st Cavalry Division carries an M16 during the Battle of Ia Drang, 1965. As an aside, Rescorla died in the World Trade Center on 9/11, after leading most of the 2,687 employees of Morgan Stanley out of the building prior to the collapse of the South Tower. Following the evacuation of his office, he went back in to find more survivors and perished when the building collapsed.*

After the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center he came up with an evacuation plan for Morgan Stanley and insisted that it be rehearsed, resulting in many lives being saved when the Towers were attacked on 9/11. Anyone who wishes to see the best that men are capable of would be well served to read about Rescorla's fascinating life.

Following repeated reports of the M16's failure in combat (primarily jamming), the Army was hauled over the coals by Congress, eventually resulting in an updated M16 model. So the first question is: What were the most important changes to the M16 when the Army undertook corrective actions in response to the Congressional investigation?

ANSWER: The most important changes were the chrome lined chamber and bore and new cleaning kits and solvents. Unfortunately, the powder for the new rounds was different than originally planned, resulting in firearms which fouled quicker and needed to be cleaned more often.



Photo (left): *A scene many soldiers are familiar with – breakdown and cleaning individual weapons in the field. In this pic, circa 1966, a soldier of the 101st Airborne cleans his XM-16E1 rifle. "X" normally indicates an experimental fielding.*

Of course this all raises my second question – why did we not leave well enough alone and use the M14? What were the limitations of the M14 that made it such a challenge to use in Vietnam?

ANSWER: The length of the weapon presented a challenge in the tight confines of jungle warfare, the wooden stock would expand and contract in the humidity (the M16 had already been fielded by the time that adequate synthetic stocks for M14s were issued for testing), and the 7.62x51 cartridge was considered almost uncontrollable when the rifle was in full-auto mode.

Picture below: *Platoon Leader, Lt. Johnny Libs, 2-16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, Vietnam, 1965, carrying an M14.*



This month's trivia: 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.

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

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.



General Benjamin Harrison leading his troops at the May 1864 Battle of Resaca during the American Civil War. General Harrison would later become the 23rd President of the United States.



Captain Harry Truman commanded an Artillery Battery in combat during World War I; he would later be the 33rd President.



G.H.W. Bush

George Herbert Walker Bush, later 41st President of the United States, was also the youngest Navy pilot during World War II. He survived being shot down, ditching at sea, and also was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross during his period of service.