

# OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

July 2017



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

***The lottery may be over, but the Summer has only just begun! See how we're spending it at the Owlkill - [www.owlkill.org](http://www.owlkill.org)***

**Monthly Meeting:** This month's meeting will take place on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m.

**Board of Directors:** Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday** July 25<sup>th</sup> at **6:00p.m.**

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## **President's Comments:**

***I hope all had a great July 4<sup>th</sup>.*** *We just celebrated the 241<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A big step, a formal declaration 'declaring' that we were not to be a serf colony of Great Britain- the most powerful nation on earth- with no vote in Parliament, but were a self-governing and independent people. Our founder's resolve and firm knowledge based on historical truths led to this, along with a new 'self-evident' absolute: that a government has no power to grant or deny 'unalienable' rights to its citizens. It stated that only God can and has done this, for all men. This led to our seizing these unalienable rights and to those of countless others in other lands who accepted and still do accept these truths on the same basis.*



**There was an earlier** 'Declaration of Independence' written approximately 25 miles from here on March 7, **1774?** **Abraham Jacob Lansing**, the founder of Lansingburgh (northern borough of Troy, NY) penned a document somewhat similar to Jefferson's. It was signed by 41 patriots in and around Lansingburgh, many of whom fought in the Revolution for that same self-governing resolution. Such was the resolve of our ancestors. Read the **Lansingburgh Declaration of Independence** at the following link:  
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/lansdec.htm>

**Speaking of fishing (after last month's blurb about fishing):** how many have caught some of the 26,000 trout stocked this year in Washington County streams? I confess that I haven't since June! The soles on my favorite old waders loosened and they had to be re-soled rather than duck flapping through the streams, so- no I haven't been out recently! This coming week hopefully. Come on out- the water's fine.  
**Maybe I'll see you on the river.**

**Wascally Wabbits?** In the autumn and winter months, the sight of lots o' rabbits is a good thing, bringing us back to our youth when hunting with bow or .22, we tried to get our family and friends to try this or that tasty recipe we had been working on for the delicious little critters. Those reluctant to try a taste

*(sisters mostly) had to be tricked into thinking they were eating 'chicken' cacciatore or some other delicacy. The idea that we were bringing home the bacon- or hasenpfeffer- caused us young 'uns a great swelling pride!*

*In the early summer months though, seeing a voracious horde of rabbits ranging about is not a good thing, unless of course you enjoy feeding them on your ostensible garden produce. Each glance out a window reveals an idealic scene of Peter, Flopsy, Mopsy & Cotton-tail- or 'Bugsy' Bugs Bunny more like- destroying your future salad, or c'munks Chip and Dale eating your wife's petunias and sunflower seedlings. The woodchucks dig and the squirrels and deer hover it seems just for a good laugh at your expense. A mild winter leaves an overpopulation of insatiably hungry little munchers.*

*Where's Elmer Fudd when you need him? Oh... rabbit season starts in September, in only two short months!*

*Let's hope some of our garden survives 'til then.*

### **Here's some of what's-up at the club:**

- There was a delivery of skeet 'birds' for the range this week- three pallets- so shoot some rounds to your heart's content. Check the web calendar for skeet days. Thanks Lloyd W. for the forklift and unloading them.
- Thanks to John Davey for fixing the high house machine. The Skeet field is humming and is waiting for you.
- The 25 yard rifle range backstop is in place. Check it out. The range looks great and neat! Many thanks go out to Brett Seiler and Warren Coolidge for wrestling the weighty beast into position with their heavy equipment. There is another backstop in process for the 50 yard rifle site.
- Thanks to Bill DiNunzio for painting the Pistol Range target discs.
- Other projects are progressing:
  - The 4-H safe is here, being installed and will be dedicated to the 4-H equipment.
  - We still need a volunteer to coat the closet at the far end of the kitchen with varnish.

**-THE ARCHERY COMMITTEE IS UP!** Archers, get in touch with the new Chairman, Heath MacNeil.

**-CLUB SEW-ON PATCHES ARE IN!** -\$3 each, buy at monthly meetings and at skeet shoots. Contact me or Tom Duclos.

**-Our illustrious Editor Lance would like to publish some of your stories in the Newsletter. Get them in!**

**-THE LOTTERY** was successful again this year, up 22% with 752 tickets sold and all prizes awarded.

The lottery is growing and this is another opportunity to give a hand in a club effort. **Tim Barry is seeking a Sales Manager to handle Lottery Ticket Sales and Distribution.** Tim will still be involved.

Talk with Tim and see how much can be done with a bit of effort in this position. **Please consider your part in the Lottery and contact Tim or me.**

See you at the meeting, Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

**John D'Allaird**

President, Owlkill Rod & Gun Club



## EDITOR'S COLUMN

Anybody ever hear of the Pareto Principle? The one that has been bastardized to basically mean that 10% of the people do 90% of the work? Well, that doesn't necessarily apply at the Owlkill – one only need look at the turkey shoot or some work days to see that its more than 10%. But we do have some who go over and above – one of those is our webmaster AND lottery chairman Tim Barry. For those who don't know – the lottery is our NUMBER ONE FUNDRAISER during the year. Dues keep us running, the lottery helps us improve the facility. So how about signing on to help with the lottery for next year? You won't need to do it all – you'll be part of a team. A team which includes Tim – the keeper of all knowledge regarding the lottery and who would love to share. We're grateful for all that our members do. But we'd sure like it if someone could help play this special request....

L. A. Wang, Editor



## TRIVIA

Last month's questions – as usual, trivia-meister Rich Allen was in "Firstst with the Mostest." Last month's topics were firearms, sports, and Congress! Here's the answers....

1. Firearms: What is the longest serving military shoulder weapon?

*The longest serving firearm in military service is, or shall we say was, the .75 caliber smoothbore Land Pattern Musket, better known as the "Brown Bess." This musket was used for over a hundred years, from 1722 until 1838 was the standard shoulder arm of Britain's "redcoats" during the expansion (except for one notable contraction at Yorktown in 1783!) of the British Empire.*



*British troops, perhaps "Wellington's Invincibles," fighting using the by then nearly 100 year old "Brown Bess" during the Napoleonic Wars.*



2. Sports: Several professional baseball players served in the Vietnam War. Al Bumbry, 1973 American League Rookie of the Year, spent a year as an Infantry Platoon Leader in Vietnam. Ed Figueroa, former Yankee pitcher, spent a year in Vietnam with the Marines. However, only one professional baseball player was wounded in the Vietnam War. Who was it?

*Roy Gleason appeared in several games as a rookie late in the 1963 season and helped the Los Angeles Dodgers clinch the 1963 pennant. Because he was called up so late in the season he was not eligible to appear in the postseason, but his role in the pennant race was significant enough that the team still awarded him a World Series ring. He returned to the minors after the season for continued development. Before he could appear again in the major leagues he was drafted and would eventually be wounded in action during an enemy ambush. Following his discharge he was almost able to rehab himself back to playing form, but while a minor leaguer he would be in an automobile accident which would end his playing days for good.*



*Roy Gleason: With the Dodgers in 1963, with the Army (being promoted to SGT) in Vietnam, 1968.*



3. Congress: Who was the first former member of the House of Representatives to serve as the United States President? And who was the first former President to serve in the House of Representatives? Bonus: Who was the first former President to serve on the Supreme Court?

*Extra points for monthly trivia ace Rich Allen for “stumping the chump,” with the chump being your editor! The first member of the HOUSE OF DELEGATES, predecessor to the House of Representatives, to become President was James Madison of Virginia. The first former Representative to become President was James Buchanan of Pennsylvania.*

*The first former President to serve in the House of Representatives? Pres. John Quincy Adams, son of President John Adams.*

*First former President to serve on the Supreme Court was William Howard Taft, who would serve as Chief Justice.*



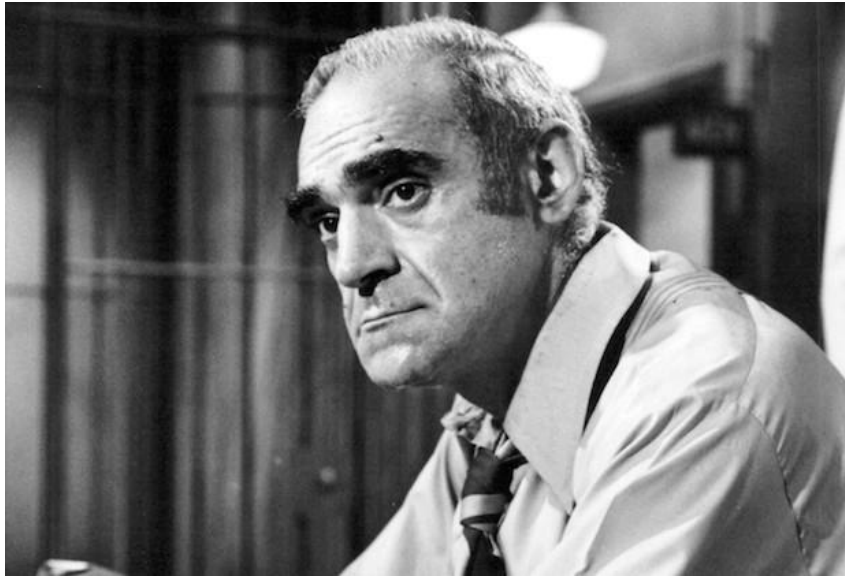
*Former President William Howard Taft takes oath of office as Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court in 1921. Following his presidency, he spent eight years as a professor of constitutional law at Yale University before being appointed to the Supreme Court. By most accounts he far preferred his role on the Supreme Court to being President of the United States!*

Enough of last month's trivial matters! This month's subjects are – fish, senators, and music.

First of all, fish.



This bugger, known colloquially as the “Frankenfish” started to greatly concern those who ran aquaculture farms in Florida because it is quite the predator when it encounters fresh fish stocks. What is it actually called?



Bonus question – what type of Fish is this?

Okay – second topic – Senators.

Alright, I tricked you here, but its in good faith, since it involves the Washington Senators baseball team and it ties in with one of the legends of Pres. George Washington. In 1936, a former Senators pitcher, known as the “Big Train,” attempted to duplicate a legendary feat of General Washington. Who was the pitcher, what was the feat, and did he succeed?



Useless hint – the pitcher was NOT the particularly large President William Howard Taft, here seen throwing out the first pitch for the Washington Senators on opening day, 1910.

Okay, last topic is music. Johnny Cash, George Strait, Willie Nelson, George Jones, and Kris Kristofferson were all famous stars from what some would call the “Golden Age of Country Music” in the 1950s and 60s. They share one honor in common as musicians, and another title in common as Americans. What are the two titles they share?