

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

JUNE 2015



President: John D'Allaird

Treas.: Randy Burgoyne

Vice Pres.: Bret Seiler

Secretary: Tom Duclos

Board of Directors: Mark Mahoney (Chairman), Tim Barry, David Langlois, Lance Allen Wang

* www.owkill.org *** GOT WEBSITE??? *** www.owkill.org *

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

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting will take place at 6:15 p.m. prior to the regular membership meeting on June 11th.

President's Comments:

I had an interesting experience fishing the Owlkill three weeks ago: I 'put-in' and noticed a beaver that was quite miffed, swimming away upstream. I gave a wide berth, exited the stream and politely went *way* upstream to give him space. I re-entered the stream and the wily little beggar swam up close and tail swatted the water surface two feet from me - it means '*buzz off, you big jerk*'. Since he can gnaw down a large tree, I moved. He was busy with his spring work detail.

Speaking of work details, the work of the club is proceeding through these few but excellent fair-weather months for catching up with the *stewardship of our physical plant*. **Join in** as we'll be building, patching, painting, cutting and sprucing- up with general upgrades and maintenance this year.

Clubs such as ours thrive only as the membership puts their energy and time in to build, clean and maintain our investment! This is critical to keeping our expenses low so if you appreciate our low dues, come and support the Club. Every work detail is gratifying, productive and fun! Sign-up sheets coming soon for specific tasks.

The past month was a good month for the club events and work:

Visiting Speaker: Thank you to Bennington P.D. Chief Paul Doucette who came for the May 14th meeting to share his knowledge and experience in law enforcement. *He makes the EveryReady Bunny look anemic and inhibited* with his spirited presentation and puts a more human face on law enforcement. It's a good practice to engage knowledgeable speakers to keep us informed, thinking, learning and reaching out.



Distinguished law enforcement leader and talented, energetic speaker Chief Paul “*Death before Decaf!*” Doucette presents to the Owlkill May 14th

The Pistol Shack is progressing on schedule. The slab was prepped with forms and mesh/rebar over a week ago and poured on Wed. 6/3, along with four replacement pads for the skeet course. Mark Mahoney and Bill Zeppetelli headed up this effort along with Dave Fuller, George Sigut, Lloyd Wetsel, Brett Seiler and yours truly putting their backs to it. The pour went quickly with two mixer loads needed to fill the forms and excellently ‘chuted’ by the mixer drivers- always a help. In the end, the Overseer was pleased! See pics of the artists at work below. ***Thanks to all workers!***



“Many hands make for light work”
 - Owlkill President John D’Allaird
 Scenes from the Pistol Shack Effort.....

***The Pistol Shack effort is moving ahead to the next stages and *WE NEED VOLUNTEERS*, so call Mark Mahoney, let him know the time you can put your hand to the plow and he’ll plug you into the right job on the schedule!**

Firearms Safety Awareness Clinic- 6/6: The FSAC is Bill Z.'s brain child, and coupled this year with the depth of teaching from club members John Wiley, Mark Mahoney, Tim Barry, George Sigut, Randy Burgoyne and Brett Seiler, those new to firearms were well introduced to the shooting sports we enjoy so much. There were 11 students- 10 ladies and one young man of 13 years- attending this year's event. The students had great time learning and were keen at every stage from the classroom introduction to firearms history starting at 9:20 AM through to finishing up just after 4 PM with their participation on the range with supervised instruction in .22 cal. rifle, 20 ga. shotgun and air pistol shooting.



Thank you to all who participated in this collaborative educational effort.

Thanks Tim Barry for the 2015 Lottery- which grew 42% from last year! The great prizes in this lottery are incentive to join in! One person who bought 5 tickets won 4 prizes! Next year's Lottery is already in the planning and prep stages. Give a hand with it- contact Tim!!

Remember the scheduled Skeet shoots and Silhouette matches and invite someone- see Calendar on web page.

Our first Silhouette match was Sat. 5/23 and a great time was had by all. Jon Barber won in the AM ‘scoped’ shoot *and* then again in the Open-Sight afternoon shoot with a 27/40 score! Congrats Jon! **Twice!!**

The Sportsman’s Flea Market is in the works for August 8th. Open your cabinets and closets full of all the extra hunting, shooting and fishing supplies and sign up for a table to sell those quality wares to those who may need your extra stuff! John Sheaff is planning this year’s Flea Market and all the details will be forthcoming next month. See you there.

Welcome to all our new members!

John D’Allaird
President

EDITOR’S COLUMN

All of those who care about the club should be really proud of the past couple of months – I need not repeat the itemized list of achievements of the club and its members that the President has so clearly laid out, but suffice to say that you have no shortage of answers for friends and acquaintances who ask “So what do you DO there?” And for an organization that depends on the work of unpaid volunteers to move things forward, that is no small accomplishment. Congratulations to all for their hard work.

L. A. Wang, Editor

TRIVIA

A couple of responses to last month’s trivia question, but hats off to Alex Hillis for his correct response – to review last month’s question:

So let’s take things in another direction. The .44 Special round isn’t really seen very much anymore. At one time, 100-plus years ago, rounds like the .44 Special and the .45 Colt were considered some of the more powerful big-bore pistol rounds, at least until the development of magnum rounds and specially designed high power pistol hunting rounds like the .454 Casull, .460 S&W, etc. overshadowed them.

However, while these newer and more powerful pistol rounds did not render the older big bore rounds “obsolete,” it did make them much more of a niche caliber than they were previously. Shooters of cowboy action, pistol-caliber carbines, target shooters, personal defense, and those who don’t want the large handguns with severe recoil still enjoy the .45 Colt and .44 Special.

Let’s talk about the .44 Special in particular now. It has a historical connection with New York. Anyone want to search the recesses of their memory and tell me its connection with the Empire State? Take half credit for knowing the connection with New York, full credit for identifying the associated firearm. Good luck!

Alex Hillis correctly identified the .44 Special as the weapon of choice for David Berkowitz, who was known as the “.44 Caliber Killer” in the tabloids during his crime spree during 1976-77 which terrorized New York City. Some of you might know him by the more popular nickname “Son of Sam.” His weapon of choice was the Charter Arms Bulldog, a compact .44 Special revolver.



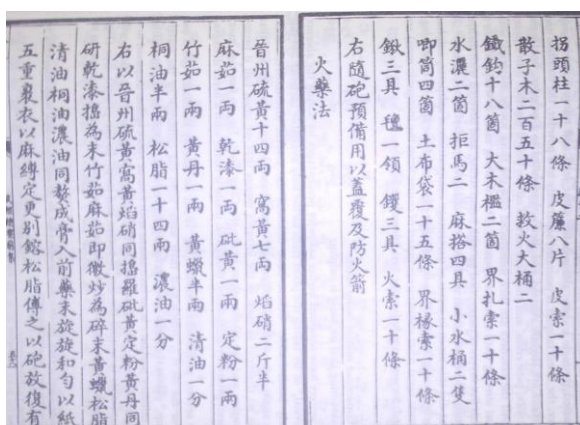
(Left) The Charter Arms Bulldog in .44 Special, one of the largest calibers you'll see in a carry-conceal pistol.

The Charter Arms Bulldog is still made, although Charter Arms has changed hands a number of times over the past 30 years.

Another little piece of trivia regarding Son of Sam – the case and the huge publicity it received resulted in “Son of Sam” Laws, which prevent convicts from making profits from their

crimes through publishing rights, exclusive interviews, licensing, etcetera.

So, this month's trivia question will turn away from the seedy world of crime and will take a walk back in time to the 9th Century (remember, kids?) 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?

And now, once again, Gary Danforth presents his regular feature, “The Big Hunt”....

THE BIG HUNT

By Gary Danforth

Preface: These monthly hunting stories are written by Gary Danforth as a means to keep the memory of his late brother, Richard “Dick” Danforth alive. Dick loved the woods, hunting and planning hunts. He hunted for over 55 years using bow, rifle and muzzleloader. To keep these stories going, I will need the help of others to furnish me with information and stories of their own to share. Everyone who furnishes me with a story will receive a framed copy of their story as a thank you which can be used as a conversation piece with family and friends for years to come. If you would like to furnish me with a story you can see me at a monthly meeting (yes, I'll be the guy with the New York Jets hat on) or call me at 686-5586.

This month, like most hunters do from time to time, I am taking a different path to get my message across and to inform you of a little more about myself. This month, in advance of your reading this message, I'll thank you for hearing me out and being patient with my viewpoint. Eventually, I will tell a short story. As

always, I hope you enjoy the story and continued healthy hunting.

I started writing these monthly stories in the February, 2015 newsletter to indeed keep my brother's memory alive. Obviously, I have talked with four persons but have had little luck in reaching out to club members. Then, it dawned on me that I was asking others to do what I had not already done. That is, share personal information about themselves, without me having done so with them. So here goes.

Another reason I had for doing these stories is that it would be my way of connecting the club members with one another. I thought, and still do, that if you knew just a little more about the guy sitting next to you at a monthly meeting, that you just might be a little more inclined to pitch in on a project or join a committee when the time came to get that job done. It worked for me. Last month, just before the meeting started, I volunteered to help with the building of the new pistol shed. I was asked if I had carpentry experience. I said, 'not really, but that on a good day I can swing a hammer and take direction.' I hope that and my enthusiasm will be enough to help get the job done.

Another reason for doing the stories is that, if, in my own way, by using any writing skills I have, I can help bring this club closer together, we will be that much more formidable to take apart when others make their push to do so. And, I believe, that day is near. Isn't it crazy to think that just a few short years ago, in this great country, that some people would start lining up to take your rifles, pistols, shotguns, and yes, archery equipment, away from you, just because, They, don't share your enthusiasm to own, use and enjoy same. And, just as serious as I and millions of others are about our right to own, use, and if need be, defend ourselves with these weapons, there is a growing number who would take these rights away. The funny thing is, when push comes to shove, those same people would ask us to defend them first against invaders, foreign or domestic. The pen is mightier than the sword. But, no war was ever won or lost or invasion repelled just by using a pen. The rifle, the musket, the handgun, the pistol, the tomahawk, the sword and the knife all spoke much louder when the time came for real action. That is why we need to stay strong as a club. It is much harder to break 200 pencils than a single pencil. In my own way, I am using what I have, to strengthen the club. Now it is on to this month's story.

My brother Dick, who had a great purpose and sense of humor, shared this short story with me. He had been out hunting one day and very early in the day had stepped in water up to about calf high. It was a brisk, somewhat cold day and he said he knew he might be uncomfortable for the rest of his hunt. So, I said, 'what did you do'? He looked at me with this grin on his face and said, "Well, I didn't want to walk around all day with just one foot wet and the other foot dry, so I put the other foot in, too." Yup, that was my brother.