

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

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

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday** June 28th at **6:00p.m.**

President's Comments:

-This week I saw a newborn fawn in the field across from me. It must have been less than a day old, very wobbly on its pins and did not know quite what to do when it did rise and stumble in a feeble walk. Where mama doe was I could not tell and I was thankful that the field was not in danger of being mowed- too early for a yield with this particular crop so low. I kept an eye out for the rest of the day into the evening for marauding coyotes who would come for dinner if they knew of the helpless fawn.

-This winter was mild, deer abound, rabbits even more so, squirrels too and I saw a fair number of turkeys this spring. We live in the most interesting and productive location, seeing both flora and fauna come to life- a pleasure to watch. We are most fortunate to live here.

-The club has been adding to its numbers as well. Most every month new members are joining, seeking to learn new skills, hone their accuracy on the skeet / rifle / pistol and archery ranges and take part in the functions of the club. New members bring energy, interest and excitement as we look forward to the active months of summer and fall. **We welcome all newcomers to the fun and work.**

-Take some of the [Contact Cards](#) on the counter adjoining the kitchen and let people know that we are open for new members. We can incite further growth in numbers by justifiably bragging on our Club!

-The Silhouette Shoot, Long Range Rifle Shoot and regular Skeet schedules are well under way this year. Look on owlkill.org for calendars and schedules.

-The Pistol Shed and range are in steady use and were a great add-on to the club, the ground-breaking for it having started last year about this time.

-There will be some building and range work, general maintenance and grounds work going on all summer so get in touch with Grounds Committee Chair, Rifle, Pistol and Archery Range Committee Chairs and join in the effort. Special work efforts are planned so add your name to the 'Willing and Able' list.

-The Skeet field just keeps looking better with the new pads and awning. The awning already has provided shelter for the increasingly hot summer sun.

-Thanks to the Grounds Committee Chair Charlie Kovage- what can we say but **NICE JOB!** The clearing and attention to the property just keeps adding to its favorable appearance.

-Hats off to all busy members.

-The [2016 Gear and Gun Lottery](#) has already given out some great prizes. Watch the daily pick numbers on [owlkill.org](#) for your number. The Lottery has increased again this year and will continue being a major yearly draw for the club. **-Many thanks and Kudos to Tim Barry** for the Lottery's design, much leg-work and follow-through making it the coolest assemblage of prizes in scope and variety!

-Club Pins will be given to members at June's meeting.

-A tragic motorcycle accident early Monday afternoon claimed the life of Larry Couch (Philip Lawrence Couch III), beloved son of members Phil and Terry Couch. Larry and his sisters Trish and Heather were perennial attendees with their parents at so many events during their growing years. Larry was 36 years old and leaves behind his wife of ten years, Tara, and two daughters, Blakely and Tessa as well as many family members and friends who are fortunate to have known him. All of us in the Club send our deepest sympathy and condolences during this difficult time to Phil and Terry and family.

See you at the meeting on Thursday, June 9th.

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

EDITOR'S COLUMN

First of all, I bring apologies from Assemblyman McLaughlin who was called away on a personal matter and was unable to appear at our May meeting as planned. Thank you for all of those who came and were ready to provide a good showing on behalf of the Club. However, the cloud has a silver lining – we are rescheduling him for our July meeting, when we already have Sen. Kathy Marchione appearing. Anybody who has had the privilege of seeing them together knows that there is great chemistry between the two of them, especially on issues that we as hunters and shooters appreciate. So please get July 14th on your calendar and make it your business to attend our club meeting that evening! More to follow...

L. A. Wang, Editor

2016 OWLKILL LOTTERY!!!

The lottery is in progress and prizes are already being awarded! Follow the progress on [www.owlkill.org!](#)

NRA HOME FIREARM SAFETY COURSE

The **NRA Home Firearm Safety Course** will be taught Saturday 11 June 2016 at the Owlkill Rod & Gun Club, 312 Center Road, Eagle Bridge, NY. All students will receive the HFS handbook and Course Completion Certificate. HFS is a non-shooting course and there will be *no live ammunition* in the classroom. The course consists of four lessons, each taking roughly an hour to cover:

- I. Rules for Safe Gun Handling
- II. Identifying and Unloading Different Firearms
- III. Practical Exercises in Safe Gun Handling
- IV. Types of Ammunition + Cleaning and Storage of Firearms

Dummy ammunition and the following New York compliant firearms will be provided for the practical exercises.

- Single action revolver ■ Semi-automatic pistol ■ Semi-automatic rifle ■ Lever action rifle
- Double action revolver ■ Pump shotgun ■ Bolt action rifle ■ Break action rifle

The class will run from 8:30AM until 1:00PM with short breaks between lessons. You do not have to join the NRA to take this class and you do not have to own a firearm. The goal of the class is to maximize the safety of anyone who lives in or near a household where firearms are kept. What you learn in HFS could make a crucial difference for a neighbor, your family, or yourself.

We all recognize that firearms are traditionally somewhat of a male preoccupation. However, ignorance is not bliss when it comes to guns. *This course is being offered at a steeply discounted rate of \$40 for the first household member and \$20 for each additional household member attending the same class, payable in cash (no credit/debit cards or personal checks please) not later than the start of class.*

To register on-line for this course, go to www.nrainstructors.org click **FIND A COURSE**, scroll down and click **NRA Home Firearm Safety Course**, enter your **ZIP code** and (suggest) **50 mile radius**, then click **SEARCH**. For more information e-mail, text, or call **alex.hillis@hotmail.com** or **518-260-3258**

TRIVIA

First of all, last month's question: Hats off to John Wiley and Mark Mahoney for their responses. Wiley is the winner, with a 100% score....

As you may remember, the question was "See if you can identify these iconic Hollywood firearms --"



Lets start at "Easy": it.... ("Dirty Harry," 1970s)

If you said "S&W Model 29," you nailed



OK? That one was easy. Here's another "Easy." ("From Russia With Love," 1963)

Answer was Walther PPK.



OK, lets move to “Medium”:
was Colt Single Action Army... (“Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,” 1969)

Answer



Another “Medium”:
model) in .44 Henry Rimfire.... (“Dances with Wolves,” 1990)

Henry Rifle (1860



And at last, here’s the “Double Diamond” slope:
“Mare’s Leg” in 44-40... (Television show “Wanted, Dead or Alive,” 1958-61)

Winchester large loop

Now, as for this month – since we just celebrated Memorial Day, this one is for all of my old comrades in arms... 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?



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?

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

