

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

June 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

Win today's Owlkill lottery drawing? Don't know? Check out
www.owlkill.org

Monthly Meeting: This month's meeting will take place on Thursday, June 8th at 7:00p.m.

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday** June 27th at **6:00p.m.**

President's Comments:

Gardens are in- or are going in, lawns need mowing every five days- otherwise they will need haying, shrubs and trees need trimming and cutting, schools are nearing vacation, swimming and hiking and camping are imminent and the hot, humid weather of summer is soon to be at hand.

Fishing the streams of Washington County comes to mind now; to soak in the grand, beautiful wilds and enjoy feeling the current against our waders, reflecting pools and ripples of dappled light and the fish straining the lines.

Speaking of fishing - and let's do so - the 'Rod' of Rod and Gun Club is for FISHING!

It is difficult to realize the fishing side of a Rod and Gun club if there is no big water flowing by or through the property but there are plenty of good fishing waters nearby via a short drive. The Battenkill River is of great reputation and the Mettawee and Indian Rivers, Black Creek, White Creek, and the adjacent county of Rensselaer County's Hoosick and Walloomsac Rivers are within a short drive- also Southern Vermont waters. The small Owlkill, from which our club derives its name, can be reached by a short walk west of the clubhouse on Center Road- even with waders on. Do not forget the overlooked feeder streams, which are often under-fished but grow a good supply of shy beauties just looking for a caddis fly or pretty spinner, bait fish or worm- if live bait is permitted in those waters/ consult stream specific regulations.

Southern Washington County streams have been stocked with 26,000 brown and brook trout this spring form NY State hatcheries. *Hopefully they will survive their first year without striking every hooked bait and will grow to be the large and frisky trout they were destined to be. For those not practicing catch and release- very tasty at any legal size!*

There is nothing quite like the experience of finding a remote stream and quietly going about acquainting yourself with it. The sights, sounds, scents and feelings experienced while chasing these elusive beauties is the real reason trout fishermen do it. I've run into deer, coyotes, bear, turkeys, beaver, mink, raccoons, all assorted raptor/ game/ woods/ meadow birds in the wild and have experienced the profoundest weather changes and conditions while in remote locations and have seen some treacherous and dangerous waters, especially in our beloved and neighboring Adirondack Mountains. All a big part of the thrill!

If you are a fisherman I hope this has incited and whetted your appetite- but I am guessing that is not necessary for you if the term 'fisherman' applies, you've probably been polishing gear since hunting season ended!

If you are new to fishing or interested in pursuing the finned creatures of the currents maybe this will nudge you a bit. Your first foray will do the rest. See you on the rivers!

With this mentioned- don't forget the Skeet, Pistol and Rifle fields, and the normally scheduled events (skeet, Silhouette, Long Range Rifle, etc., consult web page Calendar) that are going on as usual this summer! Keep sharp for the shooting competitions and hunting as well.

-THE ARCHERY COMMITTEE IS UP! Check your e-mail for a special note from the new Chairman, Heath MacNeil.

The May 21st Turkey Shoot has raised some funds for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry Ministry, even with a modest turnout. There were 19 shooters in the varied venues and a great time was had by all. The event raised \$325.00 for our chosen beneficiary and kept a crowd of participants occupied for the afternoon doing what they enjoy.

A special thanks goes out to Tim Barry for his great efforts as well as Dave Langlois, Brian Bliss, Randy Burgoyne, Mark Mahoney and Tom Duclos for all their work to make this event happen. Forgive me if I've left anyone out.

-Our Educational efforts are slowed a bit for the summer months but will resume in the fall.

-Club Range and Safety Officer's vests have arrived and will be seen on the fields as shooting events take place.

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

-FOLLOW THE LOTTERY using the New York State Evening Daily number. See web page. A prize per day!!

Again, Tim Barry is seeking to hand off Lottery administrative chair, though he will still be available in an advisory capacity. Please consider your part in the Lottery and contact me or Tim.

See you at the May meeting, Thursday, June 8th.

John D'Allaird

President, Owlkill Rod & Gun Club



EDITOR'S COLUMN

Okay, we didn't have the best attendance at the recent Turkey Shoot. But you know what? Those who did go had a great time, those of us who worked the event had a great time (and a few won some prizes), and on top of that, we had a few hundred bucks to hand off to the Food Pantry, a good cause. So, by those accounts it was a success. The attendance we will fix next time, but the lessons we've learned will improve the "product" we turn out. And I think we have a winning recipe for a way to raise money for the

community and have a good time. Now what better could we ask for from “our” community organization? Nice job, all.

L. A. Wang, Editor



**FROM SIRIUS, OWLKILL LOTTERY CHAIRMAN, AND HIS BOY SHERMAN
HIS OWNER, TIM BARRY**

Ladies and gentlemen, the game is afoot! Keep checking the Owlkill.org website and see if you are today’s lucky winner!!!! And great job on ticket sales, we increased almost 20 percent since last year’s lottery!



TRIVIA

Last month’s questions – thanks for all responses! Here were the questions:

1. Firearms: Many of our Presidents were avid shooters and firearms enthusiasts. Some took their passion a bit farther. President Jackson was evidently fond of dueling at one point in his life, and carried a souvenir of one of his duels with him until his death. What was the souvenir?

Andrew Jackson was wounded numerous times dueling, but the particular souvenir that was remarkable was the musket ball he carried in his lung and was never removed. It often brought up blood, and he perpetually had a hacking cough.

2. Military: The youngest Medal of Honor recipient earned his award at 11 and was granted it at 13 – New Yorker Willie Johnston, serving as a drummer boy in the 3rd Vermont Infantry during the Civil War. Who was the youngest awardee during the 20th Century, where did he earn it, and what was his act of valor?

The youngest Medal of Honor (note it is not “Congressional Medal of Honor,” a common misperception) winner in the 20th century was US Marine Jack Lucas, who earned it at the battle of Iwo Jima, a few days after he turned 17 years old. He was awarded it for diving on two grenades endangering his comrades during the fierce battle. He was severely wounded, but survived. Extra trivia – In 1961, 16 years after he earned the medal, he enlisted into the US Army’s 82nd Airborne in order to conquer his fear of heights. There he survived a training mishap where neither his primary nor reserve chutes opened during a jump!



17-year old Marine Jack Lucas receiving the Medal of Honor from President Truman.

3. Presidents: President James Madison holds the distinction of being the only President to actually take the field of battle with his troops as Commander in Chief (at the Battle of Bladensburg, during the War of 1812). However, he holds another distinction which is the opposite extreme of that held by President William H. Taft. What is it?

President Madison does indeed hold a distinction opposite that of President Taft. Taft tipped the scales at over 300 pounds, our heaviest President. After getting stuck in the White House bathtub, Taft had a new one installed which could hold four "ordinary" men. President Madison, however, was our lightest President. The 5 foot 4 inch President weighed less than 100 pounds.

Okay, this month's topics – we're going to go with firearms, sports, and Congress!

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



The connection between MLB and our nation's military is a fascinating one. In the picture at left, current NY Mets general manager Sandy Alderson, a Marine Infantry officer, sits in the cockpit, as his father, a USAF B-57 pilot, sits alongside. They both served in Vietnam.

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?

SCENES FROM THE OWLKILL TURKEY SHOOT – MAY 21, 2017



Club Secretary Tom “Duke” Duclos takes aim on the shotgun range



Brian Bliss takes aim. Scorer (and Club Treasurer) Randy Burgoyne takes note



Quien es mas macho? Senor Wiley con la pistola o Senor Montelban?



Owlkill Board Chairman Mark Mahoney and John Davies wait on the skeet range