

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB
MARCH 2015



President: John D'Allaird

Vice Pres.: Bret Seiler

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

Treas.: Randy Burgoyne

Secretary: Tom Duclos

* www.owkill.org *** *Visited our website recently??* *** www.owkill.org *

Monthly Meeting: The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Owlkill Rod & Gun Club will be held on Thursday March 12th at 7:00p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING WILL BE ABBREVIATED TO ALLOW A 7:30PM PRESENTATION AND Q+A ABOUT CONCEALED CARRY BY CAMBRIDGE-GREENWICH POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF GEORGE BELL. LETS MAKE A GOOD SHOWING, SO WE CAN KEEP SCHEDULING GUEST SPEAKERS.....!!!

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting will take place at 6:15 p.m. prior to the regular membership meeting on March 12th.

President's Comments: The long, cold winter is yielding at last! Days are longer, brighter and warming- the great outdoors beckons us to enjoy a long season. The ranges are waiting! The Committees have much planned and some efforts have already commenced.

Be sure to attend this month's meeting on March 12. Cambridge/Greenwich Police Chief George Bell will be speaking about Concealed Carry laws after our brief monthly handling of business. Don't miss this opportunity to hear straight from law enforcement about how the laws apply to us.

The Bennington Police extend their hearty '**Thank You**' to the club for use of our facilities for their training. They were excellent guests and were taken with our hospitality and generosity in hosting them. The swinging targets were a special favorite of the trainees and instructors alike, registering contact by sight and sound. Thank you to Len Darcy, Randy Burgoyne and Brian Bliss for getting these targets up and running.

There is yet another assault on the Constitution's 2nd Amendment Rights bearing down on us like a freight train. The Administration and the BATFE (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) is seeking to ban M855 ammo (.223 / 5.56m) via **Executive Order!** **And this under the pretense of proclaiming them as pistol rounds, armor piercing , et al, to accomplish their ends. The BATFE is considering comments received by March 16, 2015 only- and not after that date.** Act now and help spread the word! Contact the BATFE via email at APAComments@atf.gov and express your opposition to the BATFE proposal to ban common rifle ammunition used by millions of legal gun owners.

The link below leads to a page sponsored by Cheaper Than Dirt that has gathered together several articles detailing the ban, and the effort to stop this over-reaching maneuver to ban a common and useful ammunition. Google and search for more if needed but **MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**
<http://blog.cheaperthandirt.com/top-articles-covering-obamas-backdoor-gun-control-effort/> .

This link from Cabela's is very informative about the proposed BATFE/Executive Order ban on M855 ammo. It is a real good presentation with links. This leads to the NSSF (National Shooting Sports Foundation) which is a great source including direct links to Congressmen.

http://www.cabelas.com/browse.cmd?categoryId=630609480&WT.tsrc=EML&WT.mc_id=email-nl&eid=15660162&cmp=EP20150225&seg=EPP0ALL&cnt=11516&ctb=SUBFEAT1

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Yes, I know I am exceeding my authority here, but I will write this as the immediate past president, not the editor! I want to congratulate John D'Allaird for stepping up and assuming the mantle of leadership for our auspicious club, and equally thank and congratulate Bret Seiler for assuming Vice President and David Lanlois for being elected to the Board of Directors. A fine group of individuals you all are, and I am a member who is quite confident with our new leadership. I will continue editing the newsletter for the foreseeable future, and truly appreciate the increasing level of contribution to the newsletter. Anybody have an unusual firearm with a story? Forward me a clear picture of it and a brief story, and perhaps it will be featured in an upcoming newsletter. Let's keep it interesting – you do your part, and I'll do mine....!

L. A. Wang, Editor

THE OWLKILL LOTTERY

We are going to build on the success of our lottery – and hold it in the Spring this time. The month of May will be prize-a-day drawings – and yes, we're changing up the roster of prizes. Different gift certificates, different firearms, different swag. Buy tickets. Sell tickets. You can even pre-purchase them with your membership renewal. Support your club!!!!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We have new membership application and renewal forms. Make sure you use the new forms! And make sure you include signed safety rules with the forms! You are required to recertify your understanding of these rules annually. Be safe. Protect yourself. Protect the Club. Everybody wins.... Remember, if you don't get your renewals in soon, you won't get the new combinations and will find yourself locked out. And that, well, that would just be a PITA all around...

TRIVIA

Trivia question from last month. **HOLD IT! STOP THE PRESSES!** Folks, we actually had a winner this time – our very own President, John D'Allaird, has led by example and actually answered last month's trivia question! Outstanding job, John! As you recall, last month's question was:

After American soldiers entered into combat during World War I, the war which brought us the flamethrower, poison gas, and aerial bombing of populations, German diplomats lodged a protest with the American government due to use of a weapon which caused "excessive injury" to its targets, and that the Germans would execute any American caught with this weapon. What was the weapon?

As answered by John D'Allaird – "Is the answer 'pump shotgun'?" Well, your answer is one hundred percent correct. Americans in the Allied Expeditionary Force introduced the shotgun, sometimes called a

trench gun, in a short barreled variety for maneuverability. Normally, the trench gun was a Winchester 1897 or 1912 pump shotgun (with attached bayonet) and loaded with 6 rounds of hardened double-aught buckshot, and it was vital to General Pershing's strategy of rapidly moving through and

past the trenches. Pershing had no patience for seemingly endless stalemate and bloodbath of trench warfare. Victory, he felt (and proved) would be won only after getting past the trenches. The United States Government disagreed with the German finding that the shotgun was illegal, and warned of serious reprisals if they found out of any American being executed for employing the pump shotgun. Long a law



enforcement staple, the combat shotgun continues today as a vital part of our military's arsenal for breaching locked doors and clearing rooms.

Next month's question: By far, the most enthusiastic hunter amongst our Presidents was Theodore Roosevelt. He had a huge collection of firearms and equally huge collection of trophies. On his famous African safari of 1909 he singled out one of his firearms as "Big Medicine." What was the rifle, and what did he consider it a "cure" for?



President (or "Colonel" as he preferred to be called after leaving office) Theodore Roosevelt, the subject of this month's trivia question, felt that hunting was just a "bully" activity! So do I, as do many of you, and certainly our next writer, Gary Danforth, does....

"THE BIG HUNT"

By Gary Danforth

As told to me by Bill 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 and to keep the memory of my brother alive I will need the help of others. I will need folks to furnish me with information and stories of their own to share. This week, thanks to my cousin Bill Danforth, who was a lifelong friend and hunting companion of my brother Dick. I hope you enjoy the story and continued healthy hunting

I caught up with cousin Bill on the telephone as he was busy tending to his wife, Reta, who had just returned home from the hospital. Bill had a wealth of information to share and did just that. First, he told me of his first deer he got at age 17. "Dick and I hunted on the Ludwig property between Route 7 and Pine Valley Road in the Town of Hoosick. We walked in about one half mile, separated, and he heard my shot. I had borrowed a 30-30 lever action rifle from Bill Knapp, a farmer I worked for at the time while in high school. Dick used to help me with extra work on the farm. We had left my house early that morning. Actually, I had a flat tire and took my father's car. I remember he wasn't that pleased." Bill bagged a five pointer for his first buck. "We decided to drag that deer to the car. We dragged and dragged that deer. That deer, which weighed 140-145 pounds, was the second biggest deer I ever got."

Then, Bill told me about his and Dick's Maine bear hunt. "We were put up in a trailer on the St. John River in the Allegosh territory in the northern part of Maine. We paid \$650 for the week and guides took us into the wilderness where we were 40-50 miles from civilization. We used bows and arrows. We were placed in metal tree stands five miles apart with the tree stands being about ten feet off the ground. We would be brought out about 10:30-11:00 am and they would come and pick us up at 8:00pm that night. We were told not to come down out of the tree stands. A thunder and lightning storm blew up one night and we were also told that if that happened to get out of the metal tree stand. Dick did. He said he was standing at the bottom of his tree when he heard something crashing through the brush. Dick said he almost got run over by a bull moose who charged out of the brush with his antlers down. Dick said he got out of the tree stand for safety from the storm but then figured he was much safer back in the stand, storm or no storm. Never mind approaching wildlife. Bill said Dick carried a .45 caliber handgun and he carried a .357 magnum pistol, "in case a bear started up the tree stand after us." "Dick loved it up there in Maine. He went once and I went twice. I saw some 150-200 pound bears but I was looking for a bigger bear. I never did shoot one. That was the best hunt I can ever remember being on with Dick."

Bill also shared a story about Dick building a top over his four wheeler, complete with camouflage on the top. “I said to Dick, I think you’ll have trouble getting that through the woods. He took it out twice. I could hear him snapping off branches. Later, he said to me, ‘you’re right, I can’t take that through the woods.’ Bill also shared that he and Dick used to go up to Cabella’s professional writer Ed Hall’s place to shoot rifles and pistols and reload ammunition. “We used to shoot at bow shoots every Sunday at about 30 different clubs in different states.” Bill was pretty modest when he told me, “ I finished sixth out of hundreds of shooters one time. We went over and shot at the Big Expo shoot in Springfield, Massachusetts one year.”

As always, it was the memories and comraderie that Bill shared with Dick over the years that made their time spent together over a lifetime really something special.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



At 5 degrees and dropping, and with the sun setting in the background, Bennington Police engage targets as part of winter / limited visibility pistol training at the Owlkill Rod and Gun Club, February 24, 2015. The Police greatly enjoyed the swinging plates on the pistol range! The particularly appalling “cowboy coffee” made by your editor? Not so much....