

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

MARCH 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

There's nothing else to see on the internet, anyway. Right? Might as well check out our fine, fine website!!! Check out www.owlkill.org

Monthly Meeting: The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Owlkill Rod & Gun Club will be held on Thursday, March 10th at 7:00p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 31st at 7:00p.m.

President's Comments:

Spring is in the air, days are growing longer and it is time to gear up and move out into the outdoor activities we so look forward to.

Are we the only 'critters' motivated by the beckoning outdoors and the 'hunt'? On a walk Saturday, I saw on a not too distant hillside a coyote stealthily stalk several crows feeding on the ground. He approached quickly, screened behind a large ground cover scrub growth, then bolted around it *like lightning*, missing the startled crows by hardly a foot or two. The crows flew off in a flap o' feathers unharmed from this very optimistic canine. It all happened in three or four seconds.

Are we less optimistic when we venture out?

-Trout season opens April 1st and the streams are calling. We're trimming and polishing tackle already and threading new line, watching the very mild and meager winter run off leaving all the stream banks right where they were last year. Seems like the trout will be occupying the same holes as last year- no pleasant surprises in a newly cavitated channel in our favorite trout stream.

Well, mustn't grumble.

-Many of the turkey hunters among us are involved in early scouting and planning for the May 1st hunt of the other white meat. Lots o' turks around after such a mild winter, visible in so many fields.

-We do live in the best local for both of these activities- as well as so many other outdoor pursuits.

Though I do believe that winter weather still has a few surprises in store for us, we are optimistic and confident- ***SPRING WILL COME***- and in just over two weeks officially.

SPRING WORK IS IN THE PLANNING FOR AROUND THE CLUB AND THE LIST IS GROWING- SIMILAR TO THE HONEY-DO LIST AT HOME. We do have some great upgrades, improvements and add-on plans for the club this year for which we will need participation to bring to fruition. Details will be outlined in coming days but all who have checked YES to the "Are you willing to volunteer at club events or work parties?" can look forward to the opportunity to engage in the effort this year. All work opportunities will be posted ahead of time so we all can plan on it.

-THE “PIES AND LIES” NIGHT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS (thanks Bill Z. for the idea and making it happen). ***There were some tall tales- and many true ones too- as well as some of the most delicious pies!!!***

There were so many delicious pies in fact that everyone was very full and I think not even half of the pies were consumed. Not that we're complaining about that, after all, abundance rejoices. Lots of leftovers went home.

The point of this first of many such gatherings was to foster fellowship among the club membership- and guests too, and it was a wonderful way to spend an evening in March, a month in which cabin fever can set in so hard. We met some member's spouses as a bonus!

If you missed the event or were prevented by another commitment be sure to catch the next one.

-All 4 of the BOD who stood for re-election were again nominated and re-elected. A great team! Our gain.

-DEC Hunter's Safety Course -Anyone interested in training to become a certified DEC Instructor

- speak with John W., Mark M. or Bill Z. The more people there are certified to deliver this course- the more the load can be shared in the endeavor so necessary in preserving our heritage.

-Club labeled hats, apparel and accessories will become available March 11th via an online catalog link - details to come at Thursday's Club meeting

That sums up the PresComm for this month. **Be sure to appreciate the lengthening days, the long, warm, dark shadows of evening and the daylight savings time starting on March 13th.**

See you at Thursday's meeting.

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

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Much happening at the Owlkill – thanks to all who attended “pies and lies night.” I'm still working on finding out if anyone will offer discounted gym memberships to the “victims”!!!

I am proud to announce that our speaker program is getting geared up for 2015, and our May meeting will feature our friend Senator Kathy Marchione, who has treated defeating the SAFE Act as one of her core interests. So right off the bat, you know we'll have something to talk about with her. I'm still looking for speakers for the summer, so if you have any suggestions, let me know! I'm sure I'll have another club favorite, Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin on the docket – it's just a matter of when!

L. A. Wang, Editor

2016 OWLKILL LOTTERY!!!

Members can turn in any completed slips and funds at all regular meetings. As always you can purchase tickets on the spot, when renewing your membership or you may pick up folders of tickets to sell over the winter as your time permits. Ticket stubs that are returned are subsequently listed and may be viewed from our **Fundraising** page by clicking the **2016 Numbers in Play** button. The web page gives club members and the general public a view of how our sales are progressing. Updates to our numbers in play file will regularly take place shortly following monthly meetings and at other appropriate times as ticket stubs are returned. As always the Club thanks all of our retail vendors and ticket sellers for their efforts in making this year's fundraiser a success.

Tim Barry

TRIVIA

First of all, congratulations to Bill Zeppetelli, Rich Allen, and Bob Rooney for nailing last month's question. To review: The Ruger #1 is one of the most popular single shot rifles in the world. I have one in 45-70, and I love it. Its classy, elegant, and tough as nails. Now in production for about 50 years, its mechanism and look harken back to a simpler time, the 1880s, when the Winchester High and Low-Wall rifles were kings of the single shot world. In addition to a simple design, these type of "falling block" rifle actions are also extremely sturdy and can handle a very powerful load. One would think that the Ruger would be based on the Winchester, but actually its design is based on one which pre-dates the Winchester by at least ten years. What rifle was it based on?



British explorer and hunter Frederick Courtney Selous (1851-1917) in the 1890s. Check out the rifle on the right - is that a Ruger #1? Well, if this were 70 years later, maybe. But Mr. Ruger no doubt drew a lot of inspiration for his famous single shot rifle from the firearm on the right. What is it?

The answer is the Scottish Farquharson rifle, made between 1872 and 1910. A powerful action, the falling block; it is very similar to an artillery breech block and can handle the most powerful loads. As interesting as the rifle is, Frederick Courtney Selous in the picture above is an equally fascinating person. Having hunted and explored Africa, and with prior combat experience during late 19th century colonial wars, he found himself commissioned a Captain in the British Army during World War I, facing off against German troops in the depths of Africa, finally being killed in a skirmish in January 1917. His friend and fellow outdoorsman, former US President Theodore Roosevelt wrote, upon hearing of Selous' death:

“He led a singularly adventurous and fascinating life, with just the right alternations between the wilderness and civilization. He helped spread the borders of his people's land. He added much to the sum of human knowledge and interest. He closed his life exactly as such a life ought to be closed, by dying in battle for his country while rendering her valiant and effective service. Who could wish a better life or a better death, or desire to leave a more honorable heritage to his family and his nation?”

Onward ho to this month's question. This month is a matching test! With the release of the new Star Wars film late last year perhaps we can have some fun and take a look at the firearms which were the MODELS for the weapons used in the original trilogy (1977-1983). See if you can match the actual firearm named below with the picture of a Star Wars weapon shown after the list. So, may the Force be with You, and all that stuff.....!!

Actual Firearm

1. Vostok Margolin .22LR Target Pistol
2. Sterling L2A3
3. Lewis Gun
4. Mauser C96
5. Rexim-Favor Mk5

Star Wars (original trilogy) Weaponry



T-21 Blaster



DL-44 Heavy Blaster Pistol



X-30 Blaster Pistol



E-11 Blaster Rifle



SE-14C Blaster Pistol