

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

MAY 2015



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

* 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 May 14th at 7:00p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

WE WILL HAVE A SPECIAL GUEST AT THIS MEETING! BENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF PAUL DOUCETTE (WHO ALSO MOONLIGHTS AT *LOST TARGET SHOOTING SUPPLY* ON OCCASION) WILL BE JOINING US AT 7:30 TO DISCUSS MANY ITEMS OF INTEREST TO CLUB MEMBERS!!!! PLEASE ATTEND, MAKE IT WORTH HIS WHILE, AND ENCOURAGE OUR FUTURE SCHEDULING OF MORE GUESTS!!!!

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting will take place at 6:15 p.m. prior to the regular membership meeting on May 14th.

WANT TO SEE WHAT ELSE IS ON THE CALENDAR? WANT TO SEE IF YOUR LOTTERY TICKET IS A WINNER? GOOD NEWS! WWW.OWLKILL.ORG NOW HAS AN ONLINE CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND YOU CAN CHECK THE DAY-BY-DAY LOTTERY STATUS AS WELL!!!

President's Comments: The Busy Season is here!

Lots going on with the Club and as the days go by- **the action is heating up.**

Bennington Police Chief Paul Doucette will be at our upcoming meeting on Thursday May 14th. He will start with a brief presentation followed by a question and answer period. If you have questions as to what is or is not legal in cross-state purchases, applicable laws or anything in our realm of interest/concern, bring those questions to the meeting. This is another chance for us to learn from a law enforcement officer. He'll start at 7:30pm after a short meeting.

The **Pistol Shed** project has advanced and is poised to break ground: approved and stamped by the Architect, the County (permit), and a detailed plan has been made by Mark Mahoney. He is filling out the club member **volunteer list so all members eager and interested in helping in the project should call Mark at 677-3242 or e-mail him at OCTFARM1@aol.com to get onto the list. Come and support your club! We all have needed skills.**

The new archery target backstop is up and in operation! The task was done on Mon. April 27th in about 3+ hours with a crew of seven, plus another ½ hr. for pick-up, then testing with Bill Z.'s compound: the 4 middle posts dug and set in the ground, 6 x 6 cross beam fabricated with scarf joints at 34' - 10" long (level to less than 1/32" variance over that span!), cutting and mounting hose sections, etc. **It catches arrows like Yogi Berra did baseballs.** The crew included: Bill Zeppetelli, Dave Fuller, George Sigut, Mark Mahoney, John Wiley, Bill Whitehouse and yours truly. Thanks to all who took part-

it was a great effort, plus it was a great time with fun had by all. We must not forget Arty Erbe and Jeff Estes from the Greenwich and Hoosick Fire Companies (resp.) who secured the material to make this idea become a reality! **Fantastic repurposing of materials and just a super idea!** Kudos **Bill Z.** - Overseer in the subtle colored bandana.



“Many hands make for light work”
- Owlkill President John D’Allaird

Archery Committee chair Bill Zeppetelli and club volunteers put up a backstop made of retired fire hoses on our new archery range on April 27th.

The Lottery is going very well. Tim Barry has shouldered this effort aided by those who helped in selling tickets- and the daily picks have gone very well- lots of winners so far. **Thanks Tim and all ticket sellers-** the Club appreciates it and the rewards are there for all the winners and all the club with the proceeds.

Our club is a Community oriented club and the events of the first half of this year reveal that yet again in the **programs for Education** in the outdoor, shooting and hunting disciplines. Six of the nine segments of the **4-H Shooting Sports Program for Southern Washington County** have taken place here at Owlkill R&G: April 4th, 18th, 25th, May 2nd, 9th and graduation on the 11th. This is a **major effort** by John Wiley, Bill Whitehouse, Mark Mahoney aided by Bill Zeppetelli. Getting our youth interested and properly trained in outdoor sports: capable, prepared and accredited for safe participation **and being the next generation’s AMBASSADORS for these sports** – well – this is the future for our sports!

This emphasis on education will also extend to the general public on June 6th with the **FIREARMS SAFETY AWARENESS CLINIC**, authored and conducted by Bill Zeppetelli, held here for the third year running. This event will be announced in NYSRPA e-mail blasts and the Next ‘Bullet’ newsletter; by Phil Bayly on Channel 13 WNYT NBC AM News as well as on posters already placed in many locations. If you know of anyone needing basic introduction and training in use of firearms or just to become acquainted with them, have them call Bill at 677-5292 and sign up.

We MUST win hearts one- or a few- at a time!!!

Summary: lots of forward momentum, participation and education. The Busy Season is Here. Take part, **SUPPORT YOUR CLUB !**

Cheers!
John D’Allaird

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Greetings fellow Owlkill members! For those of you who had a Spring season this month, I hope you enjoyed it. When you get a chance, tell me about it because I think I missed it. It's the second week of May and we're already knocking at the door of ninety degrees. I'm none too pleased about it, but who can you complain to? I remember in the Army when we were dealing with a bout of particularly bad weather, I gave the Chaplain a little bit of grief for it, to which he said, "Hey, I'm in sales, not operations!"

As our President said, there is indeed a lot going on at the club right now – volunteers are doing a great job at moving the club forward. Keep it up, let's have a great season. We're looking for volunteers to help build our pistol shed, our next major improvement. Reach out to the Chairman of our Board of Directors, Mark Mahoney, to volunteer. Our pistol shooters will thank you, as should all of us – because each time we improve the place, the people who drive by see a club that displays great pride in ownership, and that says a lot about our character and our place in the community.

L. A. Wang, Editor

TRIVIA

A lot of responses to the trivia question from last month: full credit to Rich Norman and Alex Hillis, as well as part credit to John Wiley and Mark Mahoney. The firearm was indeed the M-79 grenade launcher, and Rich and Alex pointed out the significance of the cartoon rabbit – the M-79 was indeed nicknamed "Thumper."

Although Mark Mahoney insists that he's dating himself by knowing the M-79 (which was mostly replaced by the M-203 grenade launcher, which is slung under the M-16 and M-4 rifle in place of the handguard), the M-79 has been making a comeback with some of our troops overseas because of its better range than the M-203. John Wiley sings its praises in his response: "*This weapon is one of my favorites since it has many applications from rubber bullets, bean bags, CN gas, willy peet (white phosphorus), high explosive, and flechettes. A truly all-purpose firearm.*" You are correct John – as usual, you know your gear....

NEXT 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!

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

THE BIG HUNT

By Gary Danforth

As told to me by Joshua J. Case

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. 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 for years to come with family and friends. If you would like to furnish me with a story you can see me at a monthly meeting or call me at 686-5586. This month, thanks to my neighbor, Josh Case, for his information and story about his first successful bear hunt. I hope you enjoy the story and continued healthy hunting.

It was the opening day of bear and deer season, October 2nd, 2011. Josh Case, age 26 at the time, said his hunt started quickly and ended even quicker. And, if it wasn't for modern technology, his bear hunt may have ended in an entirely different way. Case, hunting on the Matt Beck farm in West Hoosick, New York, was in a tree stand a quarter mile away from Beck, who was chopping corn in a nearby field. It was around 4:30 in the afternoon when Case got a text message from Beck that a bear had come out of the cornfield and was headed in Case's direction. Case, carrying a Hoyt 70lb compound bow, hurried down his tree stand and headed to another tree stand between Beck and himself.

Case, who started going hunting at age 10 with his uncle, Nate Case, had little time to spare. Or think. "I got to the next tree stand and the bear was 175 yards away, going over a stone wall. I was about twenty feet off the ground. I never got my backpack off. I nocked an arrow and she was 25 feet from the stand. She looked up at me. I shot. She rolled down a small hill and got up on her side and I put another arrow through her heart. I was shaking. After fifteen minutes I got down, walked to my four wheeler and dragged the bear to the edge of the field with my four wheeler. She made a noise like a baby crying as she died. I drove back down to Beck's and Matt, myself and another guy went up with Matt's truck and put the bear in Beck's truck. We drove the bear to my house and I hung it by its head and dressed it." Case, now 30, had more to say, "I had worked on Beck's farm and got permission to hunt there. I cooked the bear slow. We got hamburger and steaks. We cut all the fat off the meat. The bear had three inches of fat, most likely readying itself for the coming winter".

It was Case, who lives with his wife, Jena, and three children, Ava,8, Grayson,4, and Maddex,2, who got the bear on the first day of the first bear season in the Southern Zone. "I called the bear in by the number on my tag. The biologist came out and couldn't get a tooth out of the bear. I had my taxidermist take a tooth out and he sent it to the biologist. They said the bear was about three years old. It was Rick's Taxidermy out of Schaghticoke. The head and shoulder mount cost me \$475."

Case had little time to be scared of his 275 pound adversary. This was a Case of a bruin which didn't barely escape.