

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

May 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

Find out what we are all about - Check out www.owkill.org

Monthly Meeting: This month's meeting will take place on Thursday, May 11th at 7:00p.m.

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday** May 30th at **6:00p.m.**

President's Comments:

We seem to be receiving early March weather in early May- like we received the early May weather in March.

We're not deterred by the flip-flop in the intemperate weather because spring is here and buds are everywhere!

This spring has already seen the planting of 100 blue spruce saplings on the club grounds during the work-day on 4/29, looking forward to a fruitful season all round. *Thanks to Charlie* and all who did the planting. Now the secret ingredient of time will yield our own small conifer forest on the east side of the club to match that on the west side.

We truly are the stewards of our club and a steady small effort is yielding steady and greater results, as we see.

On Saturday, May 6th, there was another 8 hour educational course held here at the clubhouse - the NYS Bowhunter Safety course, taught by Mark Hebert. Five more young people- all 4-H youth- and three adults received their 'Bowhunter Certificate of Qualification', increasing the ranks of people prepared to become good and trained archers, woodsmen and ethical hunters. One more 4-H course, a Survival Course on May 13th taught by member and NYDEC Forest Ranger Michael Bodnar, will make six courses at our club this spring with 4-H graduation to follow on May 15th as noted last month in the Newsletter. This is our privilege as stewards and ambassadors of the shooting sports.

Stewards are faithful caretakers and ambassadors are those who serve a purpose larger than just their own. Owlkill Rod & Gun Club *is both* and is helping 4-H in this work. We will see a growing interest here and in all clubs and organizations working towards the same goal of passing along to others the interest and broad based educational groundwork necessary for safe, informed and ethical participation in shooting sports.

Many of us take for granted the knowledge and capabilities someone entrusted to us by teaching us.

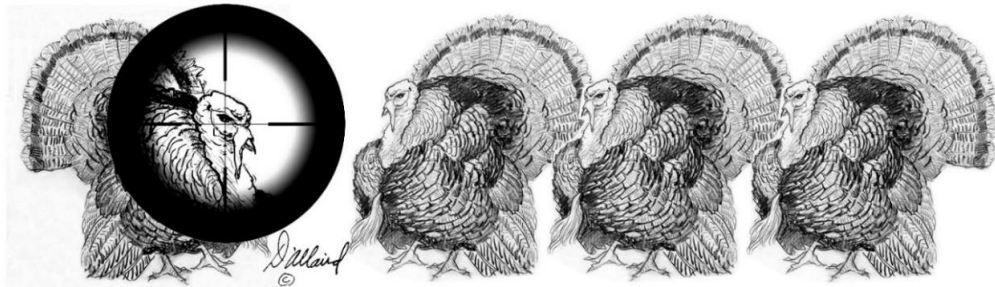
We've enjoyed great times afield using this imparted knowledge and hope to pass it along to those coming along after us.

The 'Range' and 'Safety' Officer's prep course mentioned last month will be taught on Thursday, May 11th at 5:30PM here at the clubhouse- just prior to the monthly meeting at 7:00PM. Lance Wang will be giving the course so look for his prompt further down in this Newsletter and respond. Come and qualify

as a Club Range Officer

- **Fishing Stuff:** We are hoping to have a 'Round Two' of the Fly Tying course before the Master tier Nate Mackey leaves for his summer guiding. We'll keep you posted via e-blast of the date.
- **Check the calendar for:** Silhouette Shoots starting in May; High Power Rifle shoots and Skeet schedules.
- **Archers...** We are in need of an Archery Committee and Chairman- consider it! Oh... **use the ranges!**

-Turkey Shoot: Sunday May 21, 1:00PM - 4:00PM, a Fundraiser for "Loaves and Fishes" food pantry in Cambridge. Rifle, Muzzleloader, pistol and Skeet ranges are all participating in this event. Fun, affordable and all for a great cause.



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

-FINAL PUSH- Lottery Tickets selling until May 31st - Picks start June 1st!!!

Make sure all who want tickets GET THEM. 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 Tim or me.**

See you at the May meeting, Thursday, May 11th.



EDITOR'S COLUMN

For those of you who serve as instructors, range safeties, etc. at the club, know that you are legally representing the club in these roles when it is at club events. Therefore the club finds itself in the position of ensuring that you are instructed on how perform these roles for your own well-being, the well-being of our shooters, and the legal well-being of our club. On Thursday, May 11th, we will have training for Range Officers and Safeties from 5:30p to 6:30p prior to our club meeting. Mark Mahoney will teach the first half of the course, which will focus on the Owlkill's Safety Rules, and I will teach the second half which will deal with the role of the range officer and range safety officer. This will best prepare us for the upcoming Turkey Shoot. See you there!

L. A. Wang, Editor



A MESSAGE FROM THE OWLKILL GROUNDS CHAIRMAN:

... the following are the club members I would like to acknowledge for their help in planting the 100 Norway Spruce saplings on Saturday, April 29, 2017 (Arbor Day +1): Brian Bliss, Tom Havens, Frank Downing, Rich Allen, John Kapitan, Jon Barber, Paul Harris, Dave Sharpe and Brett Seiler. Please include a "shout out" to them in this month's newsletter. Thanks...



FROM SIRIUS, THE LOTTERY CHAIRMAN, AND HIS OWNER, TIM BARRY

Lottery ticket turn-in dates are May 11 at and after the regular meeting, and Tuesday, May 30, after the Board of Directors meeting (around 7:00pm). If you cannot make it to one of these dates, please reach out to set up an alternative turn-in opportunity.



TRIVIA

Last month's questions - thank you to Rich Allen, John D'Allaird, for your responses! Here were the questions:

1. Movies (this is for our Secretary and resident classic movie buff, "The Duke"): In the classic Boer War drama "Breaker Morant" (1980), an Australian officer was tried for unlawfully executing insurgents. When asked by what authority he executed the prisoners, he declared "Rule three-oh-three!" To what was he likely referring?

Rule three-oh-three would be best written as Rule .303, in which case most firearms enthusiasts would immediately recognize .303 as the caliber of the British Martini-Henry, Lee-Enfield and Lee-Metford rifles and carbines used during this particularly nasty colonial war in Southern Africa.

2. Military: US Marines have a number of nicknames, but one of the most enduring is "leatherneck." To what does this refer?

Most descriptions of the term are not definite in its origin. It is believed to originate in the wearing of a high leather-lined neckband or collar around the neck which both kept the posture high and straight, and evidently was also protective of the neck from sword blows. Both British Royal Marines and US Marines claim the title "leatherneck."

3. Presidents: Who was the first President to die in office – and what other distinction does this President hold?

President William Henry Harrison, 9th President of the United States, died of complications from pneumonia 31 days into his Presidency. The former American military officer, and the last President born as a British subject, in addition to being the first to die in office was also the one, by far, with the shortest term as our Chief Executive.

Well, those were some fun ones. Lets see where we take it this month....

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?



Before he was President, and before he was a war hero at New Orleans, Andrew Jackson involved himself in a number of pursuits, one of which was dueling.

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?



Willie Johnston, Medal of Honor awardee during the Peninsula campaign (1862) was 11 when he earned it and was 13 when it was awarded. Personally recommended by President Lincoln, he was the youngest Medal of Honor recipient.

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?



BECAUSE WE ARE A “ROD” AND GAME CLUB!

By Dave Langlois

Club member Tory Myler with a nice rainbow trout he got on his recent trip to Idaho on the Madison river.

