

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

OCTOBER 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

What club stuff have you been missing? Check out www.owkill.org

Monthly Meeting: The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Owlkill Rod & Gun Club will be held on Thursday October 8th at 7:00p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

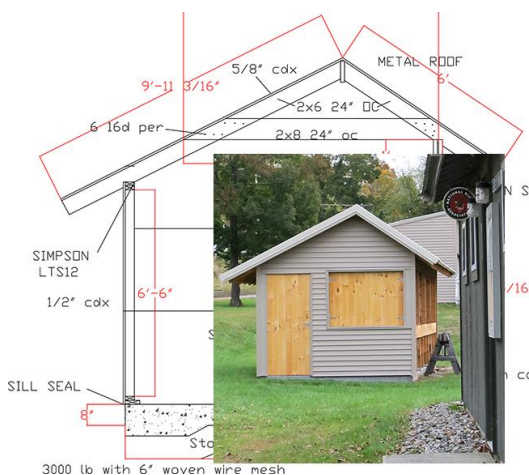
Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. on October 29th.

President's Comments:

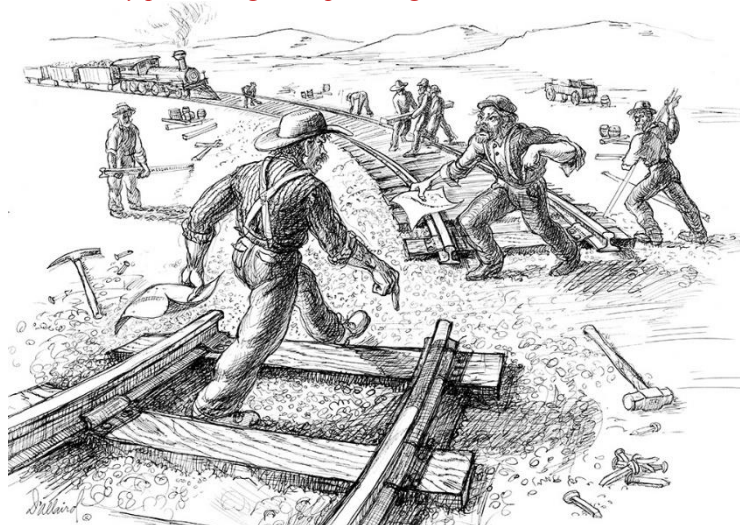
No interesting pics of work crews this month because the Pistol shed is up and running- with a couple of details left that we will finish up in coming days: ridge cap, painting shutters and doors, penetrating oil/sealer on the counter, etc. The fall season we are entering provides all the best views anyway- better than pics- so go over to the club if you haven't seen the Pistol shed and see what a great addition it is and will prove to be.

Also, anything that is designed can be done well or not. The pistol shed was very well designed so next time you see Mark Mahoney thank him for that. See examples below...

Excellent Design and planning...



... vs. very poor design and planning with the resultant troubles!



THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS WHO MANNED THE CREWS! The crew(s) that worked on the shed- from slab pour on up- were made up of members: Mark Mahoney, Bill Zeppetelli, Dave Fuller, Lloyd Westsel, Joe Ahrberg, Art Erbe, Nelson Eddy, Frank Sheldon, Brett Seiler, Gary Danforth, George Sigut, and yours truly- with others joining along the way: John Kapitan, Rich Allen and Charlie Kovage.

Please forgive if anyone was not mentioned or was left out- no running list was kept. **Remember too, the Greenwich Rod and Gun Club gave the donation making the Pistol Shed project possible.**

We have a new Grounds Committee Chairman: Charlie Kovage. As mentioned last month, he and his heavy duty weed whacker did a job on the overgrown vegetation around the target boards, grounds and club buildings. All such offending weeds **Beware!** The rest of the grounds are in Charlie's plans! ***Join the Grounds Committee with him.***

Work Day- Oct. 17, Come One- Come ALL! Bring your strong back, gloves, leaf rakes, shovels and we'll get 'er done early with many hands at the plow! Committee's will have a work list for their domains and the club-wide work list will cover the rest. More details and specifics regarding tasks /tools/materials will be e-mailed out as 10/17 gets closer and the lists get more refined, so set aside Oct. 17th for the fall tending of club properties. Start by 8:30AM and end when finished. Hot dogs for lunch. **The Sign-Up Sheet is in the Clubhouse so sign up for the tour!**

October 31st: Turkey Shoot at the club. Come to this month's 10/8 Club meeting at 7:00PM to hear more about this event! All shooting types- skeet, rifle and pistol- are part of the shoot. The current plan is for 5 people per squad with 1 per squad winning a Gift Certificate for a turkey. Fun and good odds for the skilled shooters.

Hunting Season: We are all now prepping for hunting season by this time. Small game season is open and deer season will soon be as well, so I'm sure all will be busy using the Club ranges this month. That's what they're for- so enjoy them, have fun hunting and be safe. Until, and if/when the game starts shooting back, tree stands and cliffs injure or kill more hunters than wounded or startled game.

Check out the pic below...

Mark's grandson Parker with his first duck of this- his second year- of duck hunting... a very happy young man.



Enjoy the month, your hunting and the fall season, and see you at the Club Meeting on 10/8.

John D'Allaird

President; Owlkill Rod & Gun Club

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Happy autumn, y'all. This is my time of year. After this summer, which in my estimation was brutal, every time I step out into these 40 degree mornings I feel like I just took a bite of a York Peppermint Patty. The air feels clean, the insects are going into hibernation, the lawn does not need to be cut every week, and the deer are on the move. What's not to like?

You know, rather than going into my usual session hammering on the Governor and the SAFE Act, I'm going to give you a web address where you can see my political feelings up close and personal. It's a Facebook site: www.facebook.com/LanceforTownCouncil. I don't think you need to be a Facebook member to visit the site. Of course, if you are, please "like" and "follow" the site. I've made no secret that I'm a Republican running for Town Councilman in White Creek and sincerely hope that I've inspired enough confidence that you're motivated to one, go out and vote, and two, give me your vote. This is an off year election, which means that many people don't go out and vote, as though they're saving their vote for the "big" elections. Of course, this is ironic, as it is the local elections that you have the most control over and that most immediately affect your quality of life. Because there is low turnout, whichever party gets the most people to show up at the polls tends to win. Election Day is November 3rd, and voting is between 12 and 9. Please put it on your calendar!

L. A. Wang, Editor

PRIZE DRAWING

We will be doing a drawing for a box (500 rounds) of Remington 22 Thunderbolts at the October meeting. The cost of (1) ticket will be \$2.00 or (3) tickets for \$5.00. 100% of the proceeds will go to the Owlkill Rod and Gun Club for future improvements. We all know a box of 22 rounds is scarce to come by so please bring yourself and a \$5.00 bill to support your gun club! See you there!

2016 OWLKILL LOTTERY!!!

The Club has accepted a quote from *American Trade & Goods, Inc.* to supply the firearms for our next lottery. For our GPS users the store is located at 1213 Loudon Rd. Cohoes, NY 12047. That's US Route 9 a bit South of the Mohawk River on the East side for our dead reckoning navigators. Stop in to check out their store, they're open Mon-Sat 10-6. Tickets go on sale December 1st for the June 2016 Gear and Gun Lottery. Give Santa a hand, stuff a few of these in stockings this Holiday Season.

TRIVIA

No answers to last month's question!!! The Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award for military gallantry was first authorized in 1861 and has been awarded almost 3,500 times. During a Medal of Honor Board in 1917, 911 awards were revoked (for instance there was an entire unit during the Civil War which was told it would be given the Medal of Honor if they would extend their enlistment – needless to say, these were revoked). Anyway, one of the revoked awards was reinstated in 1977. Name the awardee, the war, the deed, and why it might have been considered controversial....

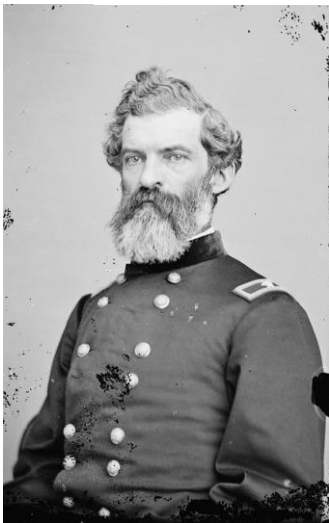


The answer is Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, a female surgeon from Oswego, New York. She volunteered for the Union Army, serving throughout the war, often crossing enemy lines to treat civilian wounded. After helping a Confederate Surgeon perform an amputation, she was captured and imprisoned for three months. She was eventually exchanged, and went on to serve during the Battle of Atlanta. Generals Sherman and Thomas recommended her for the Congressional Medal of Honor, which was awarded in November 1865. It was the first and only award of the Medal of Honor to a woman. It may have been controversial because she was effectively a civilian, a contractor. The award was revoked as part of the review board in 1917, along with many others, but was reinstated by President Carter with six others in 1977.

As for the bonus question, Sgt Frederick Mausert III was a Congressional Medal of Honor awardee from Cambridge, NY. The Marine was killed in the performance of his heroic deed during the Battle of the Punchbowl, 1951, Korea. However, Sgt Mausert was actually one of TWO Medal of Honor men from Cambridge, New York. Who was the other?

Seaman Charles Read, born in 1840 in Cambridge, NY was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism during the attack on St. Marks, Florida in March 1865. There is very little else I have found out about the man. His citation reads as follows:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Ordinary Seaman Charles Read, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving as Seaman on board the U.S.S. Magnolia, St. Marks, Florida, 5 and 6 March 1865. Serving with the Army in charge of Navy howitzers during the attack on St. Marks and throughout this fierce engagement, Ordinary Seaman Read made remarkable efforts in assisting transport of the gun, and his coolness and determination in courageously standing by his gun while under the fire of the enemy were a credit to the service to which he belonged.



As a little bit of bonus trivia – there was also an awardee from White Creek during the Civil War. Colonel John Wilson Sprague was born in White Creek in 1817, eventually becoming the Commander of the 63rd Ohio, and promoted to Brigadier General following that. It was awarded after his death in 1894, so it was awarded posthumously. His citation reads as follows:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) to Colonel (Infantry) John Wilson Sprague, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 22 July 1862, while serving with 63d Ohio Infantry, in action at Decatur, Georgia. With a small command Colonel Sprague defeated an overwhelming force of the enemy and saved the trains of the corps.

*General John Wilson Sprague, CMOH
Of White Creek, NY*

OK, so with all of that shared – here is this month's question. Due to disagreements with Winchester,

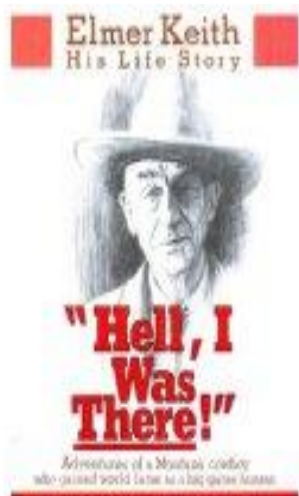
John Browning broke away and negotiated his own manufacturing contracts in 1898. In the past, Browning got a flat fee for his designs. He decided he wanted per unit royalties, so if the firearm was a hit, he got a piece of the profits. Winchester disagreed. The weapon that this disagreement surrounded was a new semi-automatic shotgun design which would end up called the Browning Auto-5. When Browning broke away from Winchester, who did he award the manufacturing contract to?



The Browning Auto-5, the first mass produced semi-automatic shotgun

Friends, to finish up this month's edition of our newsletter, simply let me call this next part "a story," contributed by our esteemed Club President, John D'Allaird:

I cited from memory via an e-mail to Mark Mahoney a story from a book I read over ten years ago about one of our countrymen we should all know something about, Elmer Keith. Many of us know him as the father of the .44 Magnum cartridge but there was so much more to him than that one fact. I do hope my memory has served me correctly on all points- certainly in the broad strokes regarding such a true soul. I do not own the book the account is printed in (shown above) but was allowed to borrow it from a friend with the agreed caveat of death for not returning it. He has an early edition hard cover that is worth a bundle if you can find one. Here it is...



"Have you ever seen a picture of Elmer Keith? He designed the .44 Magnum and many other firearms and mod.'s to firearms; .333 OKH; .280 Dubiel; worked the Franklin Armory designing/refining weapons during WWII, et al, and was one of the most interesting men in our country's lore. If you do see a picture of him look close at his left hand.

E.K. was in a serious hotel fire in Helena Montana when 11 years old where the floor burned out from under him as he slept soundly on the third floor and he fell through to the floor below, woke up injured and then leapt to the street below to get out. He survived but sustained an injury that all physicians of the day said he would need to learn to live with- a gruesome injury where his left forearm bones were broken just above the wrist, his hand bent back and the back of his hand was fused, melted by the flames to his outer forearm! It left a bulbous club like form at the end of his shortened arm. Docs said amputate or accommodate- no fix possible.

"By age 14 he and his dad- mountain men, trappers, meat hunters, guides, horse breakers, farmers, settlers, both; - tired of hearing the 'sissy-scardy-pants-of-liability' doctor's excuses- decided to fix it themselves seeing nothing to lose. They went down to town out of the mountains- to Helena- took out and ordered many more library books about anatomy, blood loss abatement, etc., studied the books, sharpened all necessary tools and implements, gathered materials: a mink pelt stretching board (re-carved into a mirror image of the lad's right arm to use as a mold to rebuild his left arm), rendered deer tallow (inert and antiseptic), mountain brewed liquor for anesthetic, needle and thread, et al, and fixed the terrible wound themselves!!! **WOW!** Dad liquored up the lad until he could no longer whistle, then a bit more, then started the repair which took many, many hours. This included re-breaking the bones, re-forming the arm, getting in place all the veins/arteries/tendons/muscles/tissue, then lashing the resultant rebuild to the re-carved pelt board covered in deer tallow- to prevent his arm from sticking to it and to prevent infection. This required weeks of constant attention to see through the healing. **IMAGINE THE TOUGHMINDEDNESS OF THIS KID AND HIS DAD!!!! DAD WOULD BE IN JAIL IN**

TODAY'S WORLD FOR DOING THIS!

“He grew up to be the stuff of legend for all those who knew him, loved and adored by his honest acquaintances and feared by the lawless all over the west because he added lawman / bounty hunter to his resume and sought criminals all the way to Mexico and always got his man. He was reputed to be the fastest draw when it mattered with a Colt pistol with either hand, and knew no fear (remember the kid who sought his own home brewed surgery). He stood down six pistoleros at once alone with witnesses on a Mexico border town because of this reputation- they were afraid to draw on him, withdrawing one by one. The one he was seeking came back to Montana for justice.

“Even Zane Grey, rich author- and a notorious deadbeat debtor- refused to pay a several year old bill of a couple thousand + dollars in 1930's due Keith after he guided him all through Alaska on a hunt. Grey did end up paying on the spot when Keith showed up in Grey's favorite bar in San Francisco brandishing his pistols and threatened him!”

This would be a great story if fiction- but it is true. Truth is stranger than fiction.