

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

September 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

The leaves are changing colors, and the deer and turkey are on the move – are you? - www.owkill.org

Monthly Meeting: This month's meeting will take place on Thursday, October 12th at 7:00p.m.

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday**, October 31st at **6:00p.m.**

President's Comments:

Autumn is still posing as summer- with warm temperatures, of course forfeiting the colorful foliage and making a too warm early bowhunting season. We'll have to go with the seasons we get... as if we could alter it.

The unseasonable weather has given us the opportunity to catch up on good intentions and realize some of the projects that slipped through the cracks during the busy summer months.

Our Fall Work Day on 9/23 gave us the time with cooperating weather to put in the walkway to the clubhouse from the parking lot, do general clean-up, straighten fence posts, paint where necessary, shore-up some wear and tear spots and just beautify the property. **Thank you to all who came and put their backs into the work!**

-Some neighbors have commented very favorably on the upkeep of our club and grounds.

See all the young fellers' on the 'crew' below: Left to right: yours truly, Dave Langlois, Ray Phillips, Mark Mahoney, Frank Sheldon, Lloyd Wetsel and Brett Seiler. Others were there too but had to leave before the pic was taken. Thanks to Charlie Kovage (not in pic) for the grounds work.



Hunter education being one of our main goals, the NYS/DEC Hunter Safety Course took place here on 9/15. There were students new to firearms, and some familiar but planning to go afield needing DEC training and a hunting license to do it. Our instructors are: John Wiley, Bill Whitehouse, George Sigut and Rich Allen. See pics below:



The students establishing 'eye- dominance' under Bill's guidance.



Instruction in shotgun technique and safety with Rich and Bill at top... and safely crossing a fence with John and George.

***Keep aware of DEC course offerings on DEC's webpage: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/> . Posted on our page as well.**

The 4-H High School Shoot Club meets every Wednesday, participants must be a Junior or Senior and certified with a course to take part. Contact Mark Mahoney for details.

- See our website Calendar for Skeet, Silhouette and Long Range Rifle shoots. Use our pistol and archery ranges.

- Archers, get in touch with Committee Chairman, Heath MacNeil.

-GET A CLUB SEW-ON LOGO PATCH! \$3 each; buy at meetings or at skeet shoots. Contact me or 'Duke'.

-Write a story from your experiences hunting or fishing for the Newsletter. Contact Lance.

-THE LOTTERY: needs a Sales Manager to handle Lottery Ticket Sales and Distribution. Tim will still be involved. Talk with Tim and see how much can be done with a little bit of effort. Consider your part and contact Tim or me.

See you at the meeting, 7:00 PM Thursday, October 12th.

John D'Allaird

President, Owlkill Rod & Gun Club



EDITOR'S COLUMN

Hunting season has sneaked (snook?) up upon us, and I still need to get myself zeroed – one should always know better than to trust last year's zero! Don't let it happen to you! Get out to the shooting shack and get yourself zeroed in.

Like all of you, I'm sure, I'm heartsick about the shooting out in Las Vegas, and if anything it perhaps has reminded us that in a civilized society no rights these sides of heaven should be absolute. Because the same rights all of us are entrusted with apply to those whose motives not as noble and not as pure, or whose capacity to employ those rights are compromised. The question is – should those who represent us, such as the NRA, or NYSRPA – find themselves at the table to participate in the discussion? The answer is yes, and if they are unprepared to enter a dialogue, then I question whether they are truly representing me. And I say this as a Benefactor Life Member of the NRA and a Life Member of NYSRPA. There is certainly precedent for the NRA participating in the dialogue, and they went on record in the 1930s, and again in the 1960s, supporting certain restrictions. After President Kennedy was shot by an assassin's rifle purchased by mail order, the Executive VP of the NRA stated, in a response to ban mail-order sales, "We do think that any sane American, who calls himself American, can object to placing into this bill, the instrument which killed the President of the United States." Principle and practicality need not be exclusive of each other.

L. A. Wang, Editor



TRIVIA

Last month's questions – and thanks to Rich Allen for his answer submissions! Last month's topics were

all about wildlife:

First question – does the color brown make me look fat? I often wonder if does think that. But when does a doe weigh the most? 2 years, 4 years, 6 years, or 8 years?



Question: Honey, does the color brown make me look fat?

The answer is 4 years! Does actually drop a little weight after their 3rd or 4th year, but they remain healthy.

Second question - what glands control the timing of the rut? Is it the tarsal, the pineal, the pituitary, or the pineal and the pituitary?

As Rich Allen noted, asking a question this way pretty much gives it away. The answer is the pineal AND the pituitary. Decreasing daylight triggers interaction between these two glands, which instigate fall breeding....

Third question – thinking about our national bird, the eagle. Ben Franklin, one our distinguished founding fathers, preferred another bird to be our national symbol. What was the bird?



Its not that Ben Franklin personally had anything against eagles, but...

Ben Franklin, our colorful founding Father, felt that the turkey would make a much better national bird of the United States, in a letter to his daughter in 1784. While I agree in geographic terms, having a national bird that makes me nearly collapse in fits of laughter when I see them running up my driveway is not a “strong” national symbol. Not exactly a majestic bird, but a tasty one indeed.

Bonus question – it's hard to believe, but this bird nearly went extinct in 1930. Now there are 9 million in North and Central America and there are even seasons for hunting it. What is the bird?

Well, turkeys nearly went extinct through overhunting and loss of forest habitat in 1930. However, recovery efforts have been very successful – a great example of how conservation can work when the sporting community pulls together.

This month's topics: Shooting, Congress, and the US Coast Guard.

SHOOTING (3 POINTS): When a bullet is in flight, what does “yaw” mean? What is a more conventional term used for it?

CONGRESS (3 POINTS): This Congressman, a former military officer, carried the “football” (briefcase containing nuclear launch codes) for two Presidents.



“The Football”: This chilling yet innocuous looking briefcase is guaranteed to hold more destructive power than anything we have in any of our gun vaults. Or shall I say, than everything we have in all of our gun vaults – multiplied by a very, very large number.

US COAST GUARD (2 POINTS): The United States Coast Guard picked up the responsibility of international ice patrol in the Atlantic in this year after what famous historical event?

BONUS (2 POINTS): Two famous members of “Murderers Row” used to hunt together. What was “Murderers Row,” and who were the famous members?

Good luck! See you next month!



AND JUST FOR GOOD MEASURE



Cap'n Cod's grandson Parker put his 20-gauge to good use here at Pencil Brook Farm. His 9 birds in 2 days included 3 doubles (!). This was Gus' first season and showed himself to be equally competent at his own canine specialty.

Youth hunting – ensuring that the future of the sport is in capable hands. “Nice job!” to Parker and Gus!