

OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

September 2018



President: John D'Allaird

Vice Pres.: Bret Seiler

Board of Directors: Mark Mahoney (Chairman), David Langlois, Ray Phillips, Heath MacNeil

Treas.: Randy Burgoyne

Secretary: Tom Duclos

Our home on the Web - www.owlkill.org

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

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday**, October 16th at **6:00p.m.**

NOTE THE UNUSUAL DATE FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



President's Comments:

Autumn is here! And as usual will eventually yield to the blustery winter snows. BUT WAIT...

...there are still many days of the wonderful autumn here and now for us to get out and do the field hunts we wait all year for.

This weekend I finally had the scents of autumn hit me squarely in the nose and my mind is out there already.

*Last month I mused at why we go out to the field... but now- **we do it**- which explains itself once we're out there.*

-To shift gears to a weighty matter, necessity has dictated that the OR&G Club find a new source for liability insurance, as some of you know since it was announced and briefly outlined at the September meeting.

Our current policy is unable to be renewed- a casualty in the ongoing battle between our governor and the NRA. Any insurance policy in NY State connected with a particular underwriter tied to the NRA became a target and our policy was included- as well as the policies of many- if not most- of the ranges and gun clubs in NY State. Even NYSRPA- the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association- cannot renew their insurance and is currently hunting up a replacement policy. Sad that a state administration's personal animus can make such trouble without justifiable cause. But we will move on.

My purpose in highlighting this is not to wrangle or gin up negative emotions, but rather to reinforce- by my own findings during the search for a new policy- what had been my belief for the many years I have been a member of OR&G.

Searching for a policy requires that the very core nature of a group or club surfaces as those underwriting the policy need to assess them as a risk and get to know that club- to get under the skin of the group and see what makes them tick.

They all see a club that is in great working order, who take their memberships seriously, who engage with the effort and keep it going. After seeing the number of members, the function of the club, assets, our budgeting details and fiscal solvency (read- no debt), they all know that this does not happen accidentally. The fact that this is done for a mere \$75/year membership dues was always a noted fact in

their response. This shows us in a favorable light and reveals a solid group to insure. The Board will be choosing a policy from the search- and we will move on.

*-Our hats should come off to the Board- all Boards, past and present- for this. We should be grateful and operate from that impetus to join with them and all the members who go the extra mile beyond just writing a check for the annual dues, assuming ownership with pride, enjoining the tasks at hand. **This will impel us to good and effective stewardship of the club entrusted to us.***

***- To shift gears again- it seems to third gear counting the intro-** last month, our illustrious editor Lance included in the Newsletter an appeal for some of our members to help with the Lottery team- the Lottery that brings us so many benefits in funding our endeavors. I second that appeal with gusto... as this is a **NECESSITY- not a luxury**. Without it, we will see many upgrades and material gains stifled and much necessary maintenance flag.*

-STEP UP, TAKE A SWING AT IT AND LIGHTEN THE LOAD FOR THE ONE PERSON DOING IT ALL.

***-WORK DAY!** Summer and early fall have caught many of us by surprise, the weather being so hot and summer-like until recently. Our fall work day this year will be later than usual in keeping with the year itself, falling on November 3rd as the day we meet for a few hours to police the grounds and buildings for the coming winter. We will start early with the intention to finish and get back to our own tasks needing attention at home by lunchtime. Details to be announced*

The winner of the 30-06 Lottery last month was Ray Phillips

Congratulations Ray!

See you at the meeting, 7:00PM Thursday, October 11th.

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



EDITOR'S COLUMN

Note the change in the scheduling of the Board of Director's meeting this month. This was based upon the need to discuss and vote on a new insurance carrier for the club (see the President's comments).

Have you confirmed your zero on your hunting rifles? Now's the time. Get out there now and avoid the last minute zero lines!

Have a great month, and I'll see you afield. I'll be the one wearing orange.

Lance Allen Wang, Editor



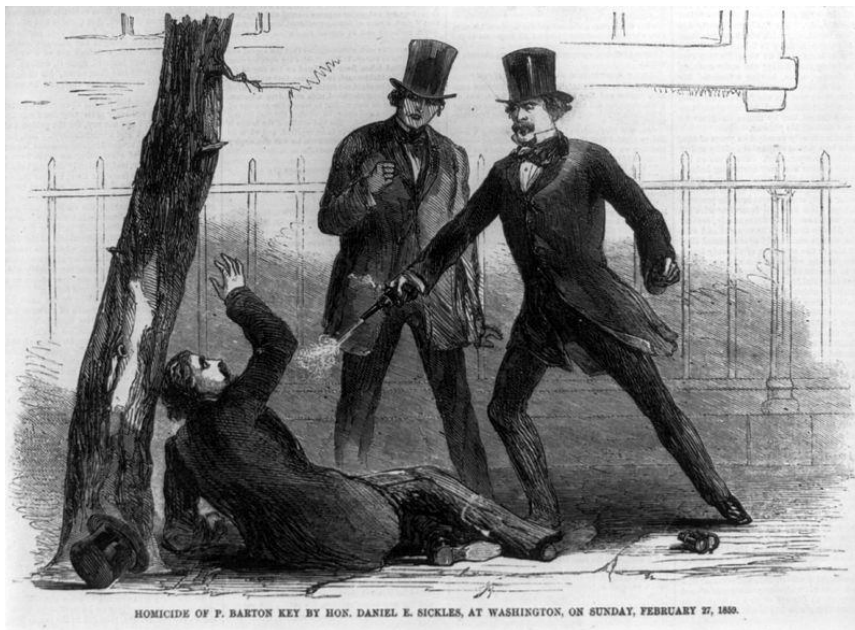
TRIVIA

OK, before we dive into last month's questions, and thanks RJ Allen, who can make the internet just sing (with answers for the trivia questions)!

Last month's topics were the insanity defense, semi-automatic firearms, and veterans!

1. For 3 points, this Civil War general, in his pre-military life, was the first person to successfully use the insanity defense. Who was he, who was his attorney, and who was the victim? All involved were either famous (or infamous!).

Daniel Sickles, a US Congressman at the time, shot Philip Barton Key (son of the author of the "Star Spangled Banner," Francis Scott Key) who he found was having an affair with his wife. Sickles was defended in court by Edward Stanton with an unprecedented "insanity defense." Stanton became Lincoln's Secretary of War during the Civil War. Sickles would be appointed as a General in the Union Army despite no military credentials of note.



Sickles shoots Key, setting in motion the first "insanity defense" in US history

2. For 1 point, the first successful semi-automatic rifle came out in 1885. By what country was the firearm developed, and by what company?



Austrian gunsmith Ferdinand Ritter von Mannlicher unveiled the Model 85 in 1885. Mannlicher still exists as Steyr-Mannlicher today.

← Hungarian soldier using a Mannlicher 31.M, the Hungarian variant of the Model 85, during World War II, almost 60 years after its introduction.

3. Last but not least, for two points – the winningest left handed pitcher in baseball history was also wounded at the Battle of Remagen in March, 1945. Who was the pitcher? Bonus – in 1965 he

played for two ballclubs, one of them where one of the team's announcers was ALSO wounded at the Battle of Remagen. Who was the announcer?

I thank Rich Allen for his answer to this, not because he was correct, but because I learned something new. The left handed pitcher was Warren Spahn, the winningest left handed pitcher of all time, as well as a combat wounded veteran of Remagen Bridge. He earned most of his fame pitching for the Milwaukee (now Atlanta) Braves. However at the end of his career, he pitched for the New York Mets for half a season. The New York Mets had a TV announcer named Lindsey Nelson, known mostly for his incredibly loud ties that he'd wear on Mets broadcasts! However, Nelson was also a wounded veteran of Remagen. Now, Rich Allen got Spahn, but he did not get Lindsey Nelson. But he did point out that Hall of Fame announcer for the St. Louis Cardinals, Jack Buck, was ALSO wounded at Remagen. The WW2 generation surely made their mark in baseball!



The Greatest Generation (a term I don't like, I prefer to think of them as the Greatest OF a Generation) made their mark like in baseball as described above and in many other pursuits as well. Many others quietly made their mark by returning home, raising families, and imparting timeless values to their children. One of them is sitting and grinning in the top left center of this picture of an M101 105mm howitzer and its crew training in Wisconsin (possibly Camp McCoy?) prior to shipping out for Europe. He is the father of our Club President, John D'Allaird. Thanks for forwarding this cherished picture, John!

Now on to this month's questions... Hunting, Firearms, and the Constitution

1. Hunting for two points: Most hunters agree that when a buck smells human scent that the chances of bagging the deer become extremely difficult. Therefore knowing when the scenting conditions are in the buck's favor may be critical to success. All things being equal is a buck more likely to smell a hunter in a tree stand in the morning or in the afternoon. Why?
2. Firearms for one: Mexico contributed the M1908 Mondragon rifle to the world in 1911. What innovation and distinction did this rifle have?
3. US Constitution for three: Did the US Constitution have to be adopted unanimously when it was proposed? If not, how many states had to ratify it for it to become effective?

BONUS QUESTION: Which one of these two founding fathers signed the US Constitution first – John Adams or Thomas Jefferson?

DOUBLE BONUS QUESTION: How many times is the word “democracy” in the US Constitution?



GET WELL SOON!

Get well wishes are in order for our friend and fellow club member Peter Zorio, who found himself injured out in the boonies while alone on a hunting trip. Let us remember what Peter did right in this case – number one, if you’re going to be out hunting alone – tell someone where you’ll be and what you’ll be doing. Let them know when to expect you back so they know whether to worry! Number two – bring a cell phone. Ideally have it on you, at very least, leave it by your car. The signal will help guide responders to your location. Peter may be out of commission for this hunting season, but an abundance of blessings include the fact that he will be able to go forth and hunt again!



LAST BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST

High School Skeet shooting has started again! Anyone interested in participating or assisting? Contact Mark Mahoney at (518) 677-3242.