

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, September 13th at 7:00p.m.

Board of Directors: Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday**, September 25th at **6:00p.m.**

President's Comments:

Autumn is coming, our season in the woods is soon to begin- has already started for some!

Wonder, contemplation and waxing lyrical come naturally with the shortening of the days. The brevity of all things.

-Do you go afield for upland game, migratory birds, feather or fur? Woodcock, pheasant, grouse, rabbit, squirrel, duck, goose, turkey? Bobcat, fox or coyote?

-Or is large game your choice for the hunt: deer, bear or moose?

-Do you take your dogs to chase the wily raccoon through the moonlit woods at night, your eyes eventually adjusting to see by slits of moonlight through the boughs? Or do you go out stalking for the sheer pleasure of being in the woods- the cold stiff breeze on your face, smells of autumn passing, all at the knife edge of dawn or dusk- magically lit times of the day, the 'golden time' as one friend calls it- making other moments of the day go pale, forgettable, unmemorable?

-I think most of us 'go afield' for a combination of reasons. Trying to explain it is not so simple. Meat in the freezer is a good, tasty and fulfilling prize but may at times be more a practical or partial answer- an attempt to explain the cost of the new gear we just bought vs. so many pounds of meat- when the fullest reason is the need to be in the raw natural places we crave all the yearlong but too seldom experience. Trying to explain it at all may be the wrong thing.

'Just take it in' is probably the best attitude.

-After witnessing the first glimmer of light bathe the chilly morning woods, or the last rays of day overlooking a field, mountain or valley we thought we knew but hadn't seen like this before- the hunting experience gets blended with the deeper, inexplicable fleeting things of the world we live in, nature and passing time. Oddly, the big picture seems clearer under less light at times.

We hold images in our own menu of memories as motivation for going afield.

-Freezing our extremities, getting soaked to the skin, scraped up, stiff in the bone, busting up gear and battling the ticks are some downsides of our excursions in the woods.

-But- none of us would change a minute of it after a quick thaw near the fire at day's end- and we cannot fully explain it.

We like the meat but that only in part answers the question as to why we navigate the autumn woods so

eagerly.

-So, as the season soon commences, keep lots of tick repellent on; avoid angry, careless or dangerous persons in the woods; bag what you need... but do not fail to drink in the indescribable color-tinged skies of first or last light, thankful for the stable ground we walk on, the sound and scents of every little thing in the woods... the larger, salient and complete stuff of the hunt.

-BREATHE IT ALL IN... SLOWLY AND DELIBERATELY. ENJOY EVERY MINUTE OF IT!

-WIN the **Remington Model 783 in .30-06 caliber with a Bushnell 3-9 x 40 scope**- at the Sept. 13th meeting drawing. Lance has a pic further below in the Newsletter. **Tickets: \$5 ea. or 3/\$10.**

Even if you own one already, another .30-06 is always a good idea and proceeds support the club.

See you at the meeting, 7:00PM Thursday, September 13th.

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



EDITOR'S COLUMN

I have to talk about something quite serious here – the Owlkill Lottery. It's a good news / bad news story. The good news is through the efforts of Tim Barry and all of those who have helped move tickets, the lottery has given us quite a bit of flexibility with our finances. The past years have seen a number of self-help projects to improve the club, but those projects can only be accomplished because we can afford the materials we need. We can afford the materials only because the lottery pays for them. That is the good news. The bad news is that a great deal of this rests on the shoulders of Tim Barry. We've asked far more of him than we should have to, but we've got to get a few other volunteers to make it happen, otherwise it is simply a matter of the lottery becomes too much to ask of one person. Do you think you can be one of a team that can make the lottery succeed? Are you organized? Are you willing to work? Do you seek the good feeling that comes with an important endeavor that makes our Owlkill move forward? Talk to Tim Barry, John D'Allaird, or reach out to me.

Have a great month!

Lance Allen Wang, Editor



TRIVIA

OK, before we dive into last month's questions, thanks to Rich "RJ" Allen for his responses – 3 for 3 this month Rich!

So last month's questions:

1. Shotguns for three – do the lands cast into rifled slugs help “spin stabilize” them? If they don’t, then what stabilizes them?

Full-bore slugs’ stabilization comes from the weight on the front of the slug (think of a badminton “birdie” or a Minie Ball). Saboted slugs get their stabilization through the plastic sabot engaging the rifling inside a rifled barrel.



Full bore shotgun slug

2. Hunting Dogs for one – what are the three main categories of hunting dogs?

Three main types of hunting dogs are Hounds, Gun Dogs, and Terriers.



RJ Allen and his hunting dog “COHIBA.” Allen believes the three types of hunting dogs should be “Labrador Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, and Labrador Retrievers.”

3. Congress for two – Who is the only President to go on to serve in the Senate AFTER leaving office?

In 1874, former President Andrew Johnson successfully ran for senate following his impeachment as President and two unsuccessful runs for the Senate. However, fate intervened and he died several months after his seating in the Senate in 1875.

Now then, on to this month’s questions!

We're going to go with 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!).
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?
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?



US Army Center for Military History painting of the Battle of Remagen, with US troops preparing to seize the Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine, 7 March 1945



AND ONCE MORE ABOUT THAT RAFFLE

Leftover Rifle Raffle 9/13/18 at the conclusion of our regular meeting.

We're pleased to offer the membership a chance to win the Remington Model 783 30-06 Sprg. Bolt Action Rifle with 3-9 x 40mm Scope which was declined in lieu of the cash alternative.

Tickets will cost \$5 ea. or 3/\$10. They will be available at the BoD meetings (7/31 & 8/28) and regular meetings (8/9 & 9/13). If you can't make it to one of these meetings you may mail a check to the club (postmark on or before 9/8/18); please include your name, current mailing info and your preferred means of contact.



Leftover Rifle Raffle tickets are on sale right now for THIS! Drawing on 9/13!!



AND FINALLY

Thanks to those who came out and supported a group of Masons who wanted to utilize the club for some team-building and morale support on Sunday 8/19! Not only did they have a great time, but we got at least two new members from the event...



Club Board of Directors Chairman Mark Mahoney gives a safety briefing prior to guests entering the skeet field.



New member Doug Gordon (left) gives instruction on use of a Henry .45 Colt "Mare's Leg"



Now look who appeared at your editor's house recently, perhaps reminding me that I've not spent NEARLY enough time at the range this year!!! Have you been taking advantage of YOUR membership?