

# OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

February 2020



*President: Bret Seiler*

*Treasurer: Randy Burgoyne*

*Vice President: Ray Phillips*

*Secretary: Tom Duclos*

*Board of Directors: John D'Allaird (Chairman), David Langlois, Mark Mahoney, Phil Couch, Heath MacNeil*

***Check in and see what's happening!*** [www.owkillrod-gunclub.org](http://www.owkillrod-gunclub.org)

**Monthly Meeting:** This month's meeting will take place on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m.

**Board of Directors:** Board of Directors meeting date – Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m.

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## **President's Comments:**

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone is having a great start to this new year and I hope everyone is following their New Years Resolutions!!! At the risk of sounding like a broken record, the first thing I would like to touch on is the Gear and Gun Lottery. From what I hear ticket sales have been going well but we need to keep sales going as strong as possible up until our April deadline. Tickets are on sale at Benson's Restaurant, Noble Ace Hardware in Cambridge, the deli at Cambridge Village grocery store, as well as some other vendors. If anyone believes they could sell some tickets for the club and would like to take a packet please contact myself or one of the officers or board members. We really do have a great selection of prizes this year and almost everyone I've shown the prizes to has purchased a ticket. As I've said in previous newsletters this is our best chance to raise money for projects and improvements to the club so if there is anyway at all you can participate please do so. I know Tom Duclos has said he would put aside an evening or two to be at the club to collect ticket money or to pass out more tickets to sell and I don't mind doing that myself as well.

I also wanted to just let members know that the Bennington Police Department will be using the clubhouse and ranges on February 17th and 18th from 3:30 on into the evening. They have used our facilities in years past for their cold weather and low light training. They asked us again this year and the board put it to a vote and it was unanimous in favor of letting them use our club. It's always nice for any gun club to have a good relationship with police departments. In past years they took care to notify the neighbors who live close enough to hear their shooting to alleviate any concerns.

In closing I'd like to talk about something that was brought to my attention after the last meeting. I was talking with Tom Duclos and he told me that our membership is down 40 or 50 people from the previous couple years. I'm proud of our little club and all it does and I tell everyone who I feel would make a good member and contribute to and enjoy our facilities about what we do here. I find that most people don't even know that the club exists let alone extent of the facilities and all the programs and activities that take place. The best advertisement is word of mouth from our members. If you know someone that you feel would make a good addition to the club please mention it to them. Maybe bring them to the club sometime and show them around. I know in the past years I've brought many friends to the club to show them around and all were impressed with the facilities and many ended up becoming members themselves. Let's try to get our numbers back up to where they should be!!!

Thank you,

**Bret Seiler**

President, Owlkill Rod & Gun Club



## EDITOR'S COLUMN

Happy February, friends! For those who were wondering, the first baseball spring training games will be on TV within 4-6 weeks. For those looking for hope in 2020, for me that is usually the first sign!

For those will not be watching baseball, there will be plenty of political noise on the television. While it may be good for your head to watch it (I can't see how), it may be bad for your indigestion. But here's a tip for you – don't complain unless you vote. If you are not registered to vote, now is a good time to get it done. Not sure how? Go to any post office or DMV and you can get the forms. Voting gives you a seat at the table. You know the old saying – "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." You also have time to learn the facts about the issues which you care about. Are you really going to take the word of people who you don't trust in 15-30 second sound bites?

I don't care who you vote for, nor is it my business. I do care that you vote!

Lance Allen Wang, Editor



## TRIVIA

Now let's dive into last month's questions... topics were –Allies, Famous Gun Collectors, and Bow Hunting:

1. For three points – this largely Muslim country was the first country to recognize the United States following its independence and signed a peace treaty still in effect today. What was the country?

*In December 1777, Moroccan Sultan Muhammad III included the United States in a list of countries to which Morocco's ports were open, so they were the first country with a head of state to publically recognize the United States. In 1786, the Moroccan-American Treaty of Friendship (also known as the Treaty of Marrakesh) was signed, and is the longest unbroken treaty relationship in US history.*

2. For two points, this famous sportsman is more famous as a musician. He says he is “just an average shot.” He also said “I’m never going to be a great shot because it’s not my first interest. Playing the guitar is my prime interest in life. That’s what I do. Shooting and fishing are hobbies, and you can never really become a master at a hobby.”



*This gunslinger is better known as a guitar slinger, and his name is Eric Clapton.*

3. For one point – there are three basic methods of bow hunting – what are they?



There are three basic methods for doing this.

*Three types of ground bow hunting are still hunting, stalking, and glassing. In **still hunting**, you move slowly and deliberately until you spot game (and before it spots you). In **stalking**, the game has been spotted, and you slowly and deliberately maneuver into shooting range and position. **Glassing** is sitting for a long time at vantage points and spot from afar with binoculars or spotting scopes. Hunting from a stand eliminates the maneuver into shooting range, but anyone who has ever spooked a deer from a stand knows that there is some challenge in getting into shooting position even when stationary!*

OK, lets move on to this month's questions! Topics are – the American Civil War, the United States Flag, and pistols!

1. For two points – Union General Ulysses Grant, was known to wear a common soldier's clothing, not particularly fond of all of the decorum and trappings of being a General. He also hated ceremonies and military music. He said he could only recognize two tunes. What were they?
2. For three points - The Pledge of Allegiance was first written in 1891 by a Mr. Francis Bellamy, a former New York minister who was trying to sell American flags to public schools to get subscriptions for the Youth's Companion magazine. The Pledge was accompanied by a salute, called the "Bellamy Salute," which has long since been replaced by the hand over the heart. What could be considered odd (or perhaps alarming) about the Bellamy Salute?
3. For one point - In 2017, the Army selected a replacement for the Beretta M9 (civilian 92FS) pistol, its standard pistol since 1985. What was the replacement, and what is its civilian model?



*Wounded US Marine First Sergeant Bradley Kasal armed with an Beretta M9 (middle figure) being helped following the fierce 2004 battle in Fallujah, Iraq. I used to use this picture for teaching, and we still can. Look at his trigger finger. It is off the trigger and along the side of the firearm. Even when the you-know-what has hit the fan (in this case, Kasal sustained wounds from seven bullets and 43 pieces of grenade shrapnel) the First Sergeant is keeping the firearm safe. Discipline, my friends – pass it on!*  
*POSTSCRIPT: Kasal survived his injuries, eventually retiring as the I MEF Sergeant Major in 2018.*



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